



# The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Northern California West Wight Potter Club

May 2005

## Sail Calendar 2005

April 13-17 Sail Expo, Jack London Square (FYI, not exclusively a Potter event.. But the Potter Factory folks will be there)

April 16,Sat. Daysail. Cruise on the Estuary , Launch at Grand St. Alameda.

April 30,Sat.,May 1 Sun. The Delta Cruise, overnight. Launch 9:00am, at Brannan Island, sail to Lundborg Landing, overnight at Lundborg.

May 7,Sat. Daysail. "Shifty Winds" at Del Valle Reservoir, Livermore.

May 11- 26 Usual Suspects head North to Puget Sound. (FYI, recommended for experienced sailors only..)

June 4,Sat. June 5th Sunday, Woodward Reservoir, Annual overnight campout near Oakdale, CA.

July 1,2, 3 Eagle Lake Campout, Susanville CA.

July 16,17 ,The Cruiser Challenge, in Monterey. Annual fun race/social weekend, sponsored by Potter Yachters ,MPYC, and Small Craft Advisor Magazine

July 30 Richmond Daysail

Aug.20 Richmond-Loch Lomond

Sept. 10th, 11th, Tomales Bay weekend

October 1,2, Monterey Overnighter

October 8 fleet week, Estuary to T.I. Cove

October 29 Buckley Cove to Windmill Cove

## Potters Had Fun at Coyote Point!



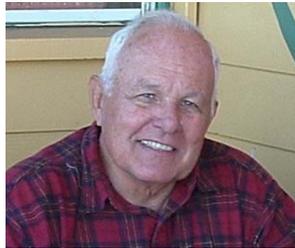
At the Coyote Point gathering old friends had the chance to socialize in between some exciting high wind sailing. Above, L.to R. Dan Phy, Club Treasurer Pat Brennan, and Dave Lawson enjoy the afternoon on Dave's P-15 "Schatzi".



Coast Guard Auxiliary inspectors including Potter Skipper Dave Norris, and P-15 Skipper Don Person on the dock at Coyote Point. Note Don's soaked jacket and trousers!!

*The Commodore's Corner*

Because the Potter Yachters have a number of Sail dates early in May, I decided I had better get going on this month's newsletter a bit sooner than I have managed to do so far.. So .... Here goes: Don't forget the Brannan Island to Lundborg Landing in the Delta sail which will be an overnighter.. P-19 Fleet



Captain Jerry Barrilleaux checked with the folks at Lundborg Landing Resteraunt and Dock, and they will be open April 30th and May 1st and looking forward to seeing us there. Launch time will be 9:00am at Brannan Island State Recreation Area which is on Highway 160 about 2 miles from Rio Vista. Jerry's number is 925 685 4577, and you can call him if you have any questions..

Past Commodore, Rich McDevitt will lead a daysail Saturday, May 7th, at Del Valle Reservoir near Livermore. Rich is reviving this sail, which used to be a regular one on the Potter Calendar. Rich's directions are on page five in this issue of the newsletter.

P-19 Skipper and Potter Club member Dave Norris is very active in the Coast Guard Auxiliary as a Master Safety Inspector. Dave and some of the new inspectors he was training were present at Coyote Point and so a lot of the Potter Skippers on the dock for the Rendezvous were able to be inspected and get their safety stickers for 2005 from Dave and his group.

Special thanks to Coyote Point Yacht Club Officers Carter West and Jeff Eastman, and all the CPYC Staff who made us feel so welcome, and to Dan Phy, Don Person, and Rich Mcdevitt who helped get keys checked out, returned, boats tied up carefully, etc.

In Memoriam:

Long standing Member, and Past Commodore of the Potter Yachters, John Simpson passed away April 6th. Our sincere condolences to Barbara, and John's Family. John will be missed by all of his friends in the Potter Yachters, but not forgotten.

Founding Member, and an author of "The Many Ways to Potter", De Marsh, we have just learned, passed away last year. All Potter skippers will be forever grateful for De's contribution to the Safety of all his fellow sailors.

**The Officer's Club**

2005

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## *Coyote Point Gathering, April 2,3, 2005... High Winds Again!*



*Above, P-19 Skipper Eric Zilbert and "Riptide" enjoy a brief lull in what was to be a weekend of 20-25kn winds at Coyote Point.*

*A group of P-15 Skippers, Rich McDewitt, Pat Brennan, and Don Person, sailed in from San Leandro Marina across the South Bay, encountering winds in the 20-25kn range, and getting some good experience in sailing reefed down and bashing through the steep chop. Lots of water over the bow was the order of the day. When the San Leandro fleet arrived with Skippers pretty well soaked, and ready to have a breather on the dock, they were met by Dan Phy, who trailered down from Fort Bragg, P-15 Fleet Captain Dave Kautz, and several others who launched at Coyote Point public ramp for the Potter Gathering at Coyote Point Yacht Club.*

*This year we had 11 boats on Coyote Point Yacht Club's long guest dock, and twenty-two Potter Yachters enjoyed an excellent Spaghetti dinner on Saturday evening. Special thanks are in order to CPYC Dockmaster Jeff Eastman, and CPYC Carter West for providing a warm welcome to the Potter Club, and great assistance in putting on another fine Potter Gathering. Bruce Hood*

**Eric Zilbert Reports...** "We had quite a sail on Sunday on south San Francisco Bay. The Potter Yachter Coyote Point trip was winding down on Sunday, and we set out at about 10:00 a.m. to see off a group of P 15s that had launched on the opposite side of the bay. After about half an hour we said goodbye and decided to head North, to San Francisco's South Beach Harbor for lunch. We took turns driving, while I made coffee, and the boys (my 14 year old son David and a buddy of his) made quesadillas, as we set up the fishing pole and trolled for salmon (no luck). We got up the Bay in record time because of a favorable 3 kt current and a following wind of 10 knots or so. At times we had over 8 knots of speed on the GPS.

Starting back at about 2:00 the wind started to build from the SW, directly, on our nose. For the first hour things went well, we were having a good time, beating to weather and making about 4.5 to 5 knots. Conditions deteriorated significantly between 3 and 4 p.m. We were taking considerable quantities of spray over the bow on starboard tack. By 4:00 it was clear we were standing still, even though we were hard pressed with the engine on, and seemed to be sailing well. Just not going anywhere due to the square chop and winds gusting to 30 knots on the bow. I decided that we would have to tack, and head closer to shore to get out of the big chop. We were getting very wet from the spray, and over the next hour proceeded to reef, then douse the jib, and finally, take down all sail.

Going inland was the right thing to do. We tacked again off Oyster Point, and, under motor, finished the trip by 5:00, just as it started to rain. Now I had one very wet son, and a sleeping guest! David never complained, alternately driving and helping with the sail changes. Got a shower and a drink at the Coyote Point Yacht Club, changed into dry things, and went out into the rain to take her out and take down the rig. In the car on the way back I apologized to the boys for the uncomfortable trip back. The guest replied that he had enjoyed it! (Not so surprising as he slept through the worst of it, saying he did not know we had docked until I told them to get out of the boat!). I wound up taking half the day off on Monday to unpack and clean up. One benefit was that I washed the sails as they were covered with salt spray on the trip back. All in all a tough trip back, but no damage to the rig, captain or crew. In fact, I think the worst part was the 40 minute wait in traffic to get across the Bay Bridge in pouring rain. Happy spring sailing!" *Eric Zilbert*

*Sometimes Sailing Your Potter Can Keep You Really Busy...!*



And sometimes, it can be very restful.

Above, Steve Potter prepares to fly a second headsail while out on the South Bay at Coyote Point for the April 2,3 Potter Gathering. At left, Steve enjoys a break and a good book.

Behind the Coyote Point breakwater and side tied to the dock, the Potter fleet Skippers were able to rest between busy sails in strong winds gusting to 25 knots at times.

*Rich McDevitt explains how to get to.....*

## ***The Potter Yachters***

### ***Del Valle Reservoir***

#### ***Day Sail***

***Saturday, May 7th***

***Launch Time 10:00AM***



Over a quarter century ago Lake Del Valle (south of Livermore) was the site of the very first Potter Yachter sail. In the past few years it has fallen off the calendar of events for the club. I taught myself how to sail at Del Valle in the 80's and I have enjoyed many days there. Del Valle in spring offers nice views of oak covered hills, deer, and many types of birds including Bald Eagles. If you haven't been in a while, or have never been, come on out and (re)discover Del Valle with me on May 7. Launch will be around 10:00 AM. Vehicle entry fee--\$6 per vehicle;

Boat launch fee--\$3/day trailered boat; \$2/day car-top or inflatable; \$1/day windsurf board.

The launching facilities are nice and usually not too crowded. Winds can be shifty and follow the lake and/or the canyons. If you want practice sensing where the wind is, this is a great place to work on it. There is a small store by the launch ramp but I suggest bringing a picnic lunch. A motor is a good idea as the best sailing is in the upper reaches of the lake by the dam. If you can sail to the dam with no motor you are among the rare, but it can be done. I have accomplished it but I have also spent hours sailing in circles trying to find the sweet spot in some of the narrows. There are also some great coves to explore and a motor makes that a lot easier.

Speed is limited to 5 or 10 mph. no problem for us and it keeps away ski boats and PWC's. Del Valle is a popular fishing hole so you will be sharing the lake with some "tolling long liners". If you're the fishing type, bring your gear. There are no charts available that I know of but the entrance kiosk will give you a map of the lake (sometimes you need to ask for one). The lower lake has a small beach and enclosed swim area. I usually find a more secluded spot up towards the dam to beach or anchor out and have lunch. There are flush toilets by the launch ramp, but once on the upper lake, you are on your own so being prepared is a good idea.

To reach Del Valle, find your way to 580 through Livermore. Del Valle Regional Park is located on Del Valle Road off Mines Road south of Livermore (parking fee). Exit I-580 eastbound or westbound in Livermore at North Livermore Avenue. Head south and proceed through town (North Livermore Avenue will become South Livermore Avenue in town). About 1.5 miles outside town, turn right at Mines Road, go about 3.5 miles and continue straight on Del Valle Road (Mines Road turns left). The park entrance is about four miles ahead. Just past the entrance kiosk you will make a right turn on the road that takes you to the launch ramp.

East Bay Parks has a nice info page on the lake at <http://www.ebparks.org/parks/delval.htm>

See you there! Rich McDevitt



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May 2005

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## Inside the Potter Yachter

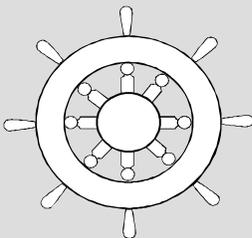
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## With a Grain of Salt

The **Potter Yachter** is a forum for exchange of ideas and information among West Wight Potter (and other mini-yacht) sailors. But we Potter Yachters are mostly a bunch of amateurs finding our way by trial and error and luck.

You will probably find some very helpful tips or ideas in the Potter Yachter that will enhance your sailing experience, but you may also find some ill-advised suggestions or ideas that just don't work for your particular boat, your sailing environment, your level of sailing experience, or your boat-working skills. So please understand that any sailing tutorials, suggested boat modifications, recommended cruises, etc., are the opinion of the author, based presumably on his or her personal ex-

perience and judgment at the time the article or letter was written.

If a Potter Yachter believes s/he has a good idea and submits it to the newsletter for publication, we will usually pass it on to the rest of you in the newsletter, but take it "with a grain of salt" and a large portion of your own good judgment, and perhaps get a second opinion before undertaking a modification or cruise or sailing technique you read about in the **Potter Yachter** (or any other publication) - *The Editor*

