



The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Northern California West Wight Potter Club

May 2004

Sailing & Event Calendar

February 25, 7-9 pm
Tides and Currents of the Bay at OCSC

February 28, 7-9 PM
Weather for Bay Area Sailors at OCSC

March 6 & 7
Docking and Marina Procedures Classes
RSVP Required.

March 20
Delta Day Sail. Launch at B&W sail to
Korth's Pirates Lair for lunch, and re-
turn to B&W.

April 2-4
Potter Rendezvous at Coyote Point
Yacht Club. Dinner with guest speakers
from International Marine. RSVP req'd.

April 24
Salt and Pepper Sail on Estuary. Launch
at Estuary Park and/or Grand Ave. Ala-
meda.

May 1-2
Brannen Island to Lundborg Landing @
Bethel Island.

June 5-6
Lake Sail and Overnight Campout at
Woodward Reservoir.

July 17-18 SCA Cruiser Challenge in
Monterey.

August 7-8 Eagle Lake Sail and Camp-
out.

September 18-19 Tomales Bay Sail and
Beach Campout.

October 2-3 Monterey Bay Over night.

November 6-7 Richmond Over night.
Sail to Loch Lomond on the 6th and
Angel Island on the 7th.

Island Hopping With No Wind

Around 20 boats participated in the annual island hopping cruise from Brannen Island to Bethel Island. This years trip had a few complications. The bridge on 160 just south of Brannen has been open and closed to traffic for repairs the past few months then just a few weeks prior to the cruise the bad news arrives that the Restaurant at Lundborg Landing will be closed and so is the neighboring standby, the Sugar Barge. In spite of these behind the scenes difficulties we had a blast. Shortly after launching the fleet we were sailing out

Three Mile Slough in winds under 5 knots into a knot or so current. While we slowly moved one by one in front the Outrigger suddenly comes this loud voice "You are in a five mile per hour zone. Please speed up!". So we chuckle since it was a little funny. Then about 30 seconds later he's back with "whhhhoosshhh" as he blows into the microphone trying to give us wind. Laughter and

Continued on page 4

Wacky Weekend at Woodward June 5 and 6

You don't want to miss this. If you can't come for the camping, you can still make the treasure hunt on Saturday afternoon, stay for dinner, and be out of the park by 10:00 PM on a day pass.

The Treasure Hunt schedule is on page 5. Rules will be handed out at the event check in. It's a fun, non competitive event (that's why it's a POTTER treasure hunt). Beaching may be required. Woodward is fresh water sailing and shore camping. You can sleep in your boat or pitch a tent on the shore. If you tent, I suggest a sturdy ground cloth. RV's are also welcome but need to be self contained. Pit toilets are close, flushers may be available at the ramp a short walk away. Potter Yachters

are providing the charcoal, hot dogs and condiments. You provide your appetite and the rest of the pot luck.

Good things to bring include: Swimsuits, sun screen, anti bug juice, towels, camp or beach chairs, things that make shade, coolers full of drinks, kids, firewood, screens, jackets, something for the pot luck, beach shoes or sandals that can be worn in the water. See the April newsletter for additional details.

Inside this issue...

Delta Island Hopping Report

Ramp Reporters

Woodward Treasure Hunt

From the Commodore

Well, the year's almost half over and my days as commodore are ticking past so just like a good breeze, I'm enjoying it while it lasts

We are getting consistent 20 boat turnouts for our major events like this months delta cruise and that makes me very happy. Although it can be challenging to find places for our fleet to go sailing, eating, and socializing in these numbers, it is not much more work than if 5 or 10 boats show up. The real reward for me, the other officers, and the trip sponsors is the smile on each of your faces we see as you have a good time and get back to port safely and a little better sailor.

By the time you are reading this several of our members are up in the San Juan Islands on an extended cruise and hopefully meeting up with some of the Northwest Potter folks. I'm looking forward to their reports upon their return. The San Juans has always been a fantasy sailing area for me but there is so much here, I seem to never get out of CA with my boat.

Can we set a record for Potters at an event? I think we need about 30+ Potters to really clinch a record. The Woodward sail and campout usually has a heavy turnout so keep your fingers crossed. I know it's a busy time with graduations, etc. but if you can make it, at least come out for the Treasure Hunt on Saturday. You can stay for the pot luck and weenie roast, you just need to be out of the park by 10:00.

Cruiser Challenge VI is just around the corner also. Although this may look like a "race", it's really a "party". So in any information you see about Cruiser Challenge VI, if you're intimidated by the term race, just substitute party. Seriously, this is a blast and I just can't say enough good about it. Monterey Bay on a West Wight Potter is simply something you should not miss. The nature, the food, the friends ... I can't wait.

Every one of you should be proud of this club. Other Potters around the country would be overjoyed to have what we have with each other. The small seed of this club that started in 1978, the first sail at Woodward the following month and it just keeps reaching on and on. If you haven't been out sailing with us yet this year, come on out, don't be shy. We are envied by many (sometimes I think they imagine more than we really are) and emulated by several. Any volunteer sailing organization that has survived economic swings, extended droughts, and over 25 years must be made up of some pretty decent members. Now put this down a minute and give yourselves a round of applause because you're the sailors that make it all happen. See you on the water soon.



Lundborg Landing full of Potter Yachters photo by Harry Gordon

Rich McDevitt, Commodore

The Officer's Club

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Island Hopping *continued from page 1*

applause came from the fleet as I thought to myself, *welcome to the delta where if you are serious, you are in the wrong place*. So the winds are light and the current is going to plague us further but it's a beautiful warm sunny day and we're off to have a blast for the weekend. If you thought the current was stiff in Three Mile Slough boy were you in for a surprise when we hit the main channel. When the winds eased you were going backwards at 2 knots. Several of us passed this trailer three times and then kicked on the motors for a while. Once into False River, the current was with us and we were scooting along at 4 knots with less than 1/4

throttle. A nice change and considering the little bugs and spiders flying over, on, around, under, and through the boats it was a good thing. Soon we are entering the maze of confusion that can be the delta. By now the fleet is spread out over a mile with the variety of boats, skippers, winds, and motors. We had a couple of bumps with the bottom but no real problems. John Choi did contact something pretty good with his rudder but soon we were back heading towards the Rusty Porthole for lunch.



Passed 3 Times

Harry Gordon had launched behind us and Don Bergst was one of the last to start his motor. As a result I had a special treat when Manatee and Ms. B met up. I know that Don and Harry had not sailed together in a few years, but it was a little over the top when the boats were giggling with delight at this chance meeting. Maybe it was the gurgling of the water under the stern, but it sure sounded like giggling to me.

After a few hours we're pulling into the Rusty Porthole and slammin' back the burgers and beers. It had been a warm journey so we deserved a break. Following lunch the fleet continued it's leisurely cruise down to Lundborg Landing. A few folks opted to sail a little more before tying up at Lundborg. I went out into Franks Tract and had about 45 minutes of wonderful sailing before heading into the harbor.

Soon "The Usual Suspects" pulled into the harbor and not a minute too soon. They were loaded with smiles, kids, chairs, and BATHROOMS that were not close to being condemned. A wonderful dockside happy hour (s) started up with hors de orderves to boot. The longer the dockside party went on the more sketchy dinner got. I was not too excited at the idea of getting all of us back to the Rusty Porthole so thanks to Jerry and Dick, we came up with a phone number from Domino's in Oakley. It's too long to write here but the process of ordering pizza for delivery to a marina when you have no address and no idea how to give the driver directions was interesting to say the least. Some folks took The Usual Suspects ferry up to the Porthole and reported back to us about a good dinner and music.

The mosquitoes came out but Dave Lawson shared his insect repellent and along with a breeze, we were not attacked too bad. I was ready though. If they kept biting me, I was going to escalate the single malt sampling I was participating in and get the little buggers drunk when they bit me. Thank goodness it never came to that. *(continued on page 4)*

Cruise Photos



New boat storage on Fisherman's Cut?



Janet and Mike Dolan start to lead John Choi out of the rough in Piper Slough



Manatee and Ms B a chance encounter

Island Hopping *cont'd from page 3*

Soon it was off to bed and I must say, the best I've ever slept on the Minnow. Morning comes with clear skies and little wind. I fired up the stove and started the coffee. After a long slow awakening the fleet is moving towards breakfast back at the Rusty Porthole (if you didn't have the bacon, go back, it was fantastic).

The return trip was a motor trip against the current most of the way. Fisherman's' Cut provided some interesting new scenery or boat storage ideas. I'm not sure what is going on there, but the photos speak for themselves. Once in the main channel again we're motoring and sailing when we were soon awakened by the approach of the Gaz Major. It was neat to see but I was a little concerned on where I should head for cover. I prepared for her to pass while hailing everyone I could to make them aware of what was coming. Soon we were out of the way and she came steaming by with no problems.

We continued to make steady progress into the current of about 2 knots through Three Mile Slough and soon arrived back at the ramp. FYI, a small stand in the corner of the parking lot sells fantastic lemonade smoothies for \$3.00. It was warm so we slowly prepared the boats for the road. A few lucky folks spent Sunday night and departed on Monday well after the crowds of the weekends. Soon the delta will be hotter and buggier.

You can have a lot of fun on the delta all summer long, but go prepared and as always, bring charts and use them.



The view from Manatee's cockpit of Dave Kautz and Tilly Lucy as the Gaz Major steams past

photo by Harry Gordon

We are still in need of someone who can go to Woodward a day or two early and save us a spot. If you think you may be able to help call or email me. Also needed are two "ports of call" crews. These folks will be shore side at 2 locations to distribute treasure.
Rich McDevitt

Ramp Reporters Needed

You have been drafted and there is no escape. A lot of us have sailed for years but some folks are just getting started. Many depend on our Potter Yachter web site for ideas on where to sail. Take a peak, it is a bit stale and now it has been reported to me by three separate Potter Yachters on two separate ramps that our info is out of date and inaccurate.

Let's start the update process by getting current info on the places we sail and we think others may want to sail.

Write a small review of what you found why you like or don't like it. Parking, bathrooms, fees, hours, traffic, sailing conditions, water levels, winds, weather, other boaters, mast eating trees or obstructions etc. It's good to include local knowledge of the area, good eats, historical facts and points of interest, etc. You may want to include photos also.

I will accumulate the reviews so we can get your new info on the web site. Perhaps we should publish for the club "The Many Places To Potter".

You can mail or email the reports to the commodore at the addresses on page 2 of this newsletter. Please include your contact information in case there are any questions (or rewards for a new secret sailing location).

Do I hear a volunteer to compile the information? If your interested and think you can help, let me know.

Rich McDevitt

Salt 'n' Pepper Report

The Potter Yachter's Salt and Pepper Sail April 24th was well attended by eight Salts and one Pepper. It was one of those perfect days when the winds have blown the smog away, the temperature is around 75, and the breeze five to ten knots. The U.C. Crew was hosting a rowing competition so the Jack London Aquatic Park parking lot was jammed and the ramp was obstructed by an aging stink pot that couldn't get on its trailer. These were minor matters and soon overcome. Zac, the Pepper, is interested in a P19 so Jerry Barrileaux gave him a ride in Sunshine. As we left the crew launch area, a totally out of contact power boat skipper plowed through the sculls in spite of loud-speaker warnings from its committee boat, which it nearly swamped. We played dodge it with the crews down to Grand Marina where we picked up more Potters that launched there, including John Choy with his new P19. A relaxing beat up to Jack London Square found the docks overflowing with boats from the Power Boat Show. There was guest docking room across the channel at Chevy's where we enjoyed good Mexican eats and drinks. After lunch the fleet split up. Some heading toward the bay and getting more spirited action as the wind picked up, and others running back to the launch areas. Too bad there weren't more Peppers around as it was a perfect day to show off the Potters. On the return trip we sailed past three races, El Toros, Lidos and Melges scows. Beautiful.

Don Person

We're still in need of someone that can squat a spot for us at Woodward by maybe arriving a day or two early. Let me know if you can help. Rich



Zac and Jerry just look miserable, don't they? Can't tell who is having more fun the salt or the pepper.

Schedule for Woodward Treasure Hunt

Saturday June 5th sometime in the AM, arrive to Woodward's **BACK** ramp (towards the unimproved campgrounds), rig, launch, sail to campsite.

Lunch is on your own. There is no food to speak of for sale at the lake so come prepared.

11:00 AM-12:30 PM Check in at camp. If you are unable to arrive/check in by 12:30, you can still play. Report to camp, check in and arrangements will be made.

12:30-12:45 PM Fast skippers meeting. These are loose rules, so how many questions can you really have!

12:45-1:00 PM Launch from beach, hover in starting area (this will be just off the camp site to enable everyone to be in each others way so we can have a proper and confusing start.).

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM Treasure Hunt (If you finish early, report to camp as orders indicate, and you have free time).

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Sail back to camp (check in if you have not already done so).

5:00 PM- 6:00 PM Happy Hour

6:00 - ? PM Pot Luck, weenie roast (charcoal will be provided).

0:dark:30 PM – Campfire, and the usual bedtime stories of sailing and life's adventures with the Potter Yachters. Maybe some night sailing?



The Potter Yachter

May 2004

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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*