



# Potter to Potter

## WWP NEWS!



SEPTEMBER 1978

Saturday, Sept. 9...the Del Valle sail was a good one (or so I hear; #604 spent the day at home; skipper had a ~~hangover~~...headache.) Herewith a report from our man on the scene, Jerry Barrilleaux: "Four boats showed up: my #564, Dory Taylor's #610, Dee Marsh's #512 and Frank Winan's #182. Hans Wolf was coming but he fell asleep while he was getting his boat ready. Due to Prop 13 Del Valle has raised their rates; \$2 per car and \$2 per boat (RIP OFF). The winds were as always, wierd, 0 to 25 knots. Stan and Dorothy Butler were there also, and Dee's sons. Dee's sons can really sail the Potter. I didn't stay too long; I had to be back early. I guess everyone had a good time; I sure did." (Thanks for the letter, Jerry!)

Also talked with Dory Taylor, who said the winds were indeed the same ole' flukies we've all come to know and love. Dory does enjoy reservoir sailing; he said he likes to sit in the boat, idle sails, and just watch the "cat's paws" (rippling of the water caused by oncoming wind) creep toward him, then BAM, react immediately as the wind hits his sails. He and Dee's sons gave each other some good sailing, from what I hear.

Also talked with Dee's wife, Sydney, who confirmed all the above, and identified the ubiquitous "Dee's sons" as Tom and Robert Marsh.

Sounds like the Potter Yotters managed a good sail, despite the unpredictable winds.

### MORRO BAY

October 14 and 15 is the weekend of the combined northern and southern Calif. Potter sail. The Adair and the Marsh families plan to be there to represent the Potter Yotters. If you are going, please plan to contact either Bob Adair (408-265-7817) or Dee Marsh (415-471-4467) to let them know you'll be there. Originally, quite a few more of us had planned to go, but we've all had to back out for one reason or another. Those

who plan to attend the group sail should make arrangements with Chuck Holden, presiden of the Southern Calif. group, as to where on Morro Bay the two groups should meet. The rest of us will be thinking of you and wishing you a good sail! (Chuck's address: 1004 9th St.; Hermosa Beach, CA 90254 phone: 213-372-7896.)

### NOVEMBER SAIL - FOLSOM

Frank and Inez Winans (he's the fellow who sails at practically all our monthly sails, coming all the way from Sacramento; and Inez is the gracious wife who lets him do that) have suggested that we sail at Folsom Lake in November. Frank sails there often and has information regarding the camping accomodations; there is one area which can be reached only under sail and another accessible by car/sail. Frank has spent the night in his boat at the lake. The lake is large enough, Frank says, for nice long reaches, and the weather should still be reasonable (not too foggy, cold) in November; also, the crowds should have disappeared by then. So set aside November 4 and 5 for an optional overnighter to Folsom Lake. Frank says it's about 1½ to 2 hours from the Bay Area.

### NO BONER???

There were no reports of a September Boner of the Month at Del Valle, but surely there must be some suitable award for Ann Bell, who was sailing (different day, different place) with her husband Norton on #230. As they ended their sail that day and headed toward the dock, Ann went forward to grab the painter (bow line) and prepared to jump ashore. As the boat reached the dock a kindly young man, already on the dock, offered to take the line and help the Bells in. Ann thanked him and threw him the end

of the line, and then as the boat glided closer, she hopped expertly onto the dock herself--holding in her hand the other end of the same line! Although this little maneuver certainly left Ann securely 'fastened' to the dock, it left Norton and #230 peacefully drifting out to sea! Norton calmly converted his sailboat to a rowboat and stroked his way back to the dock, reserving for Ann his best perplexed smile. (Norton is a veteran of level-headed thinking; he's the fellow who bicycled 1600 miles alone recently up through Canada.)

#### NEW OWNERS

Welcome to Bud and Sandy Nelson and daughters Karen and Becka, who are the proud new owners of #584. Bud has sailed before (he grew up in the Cape Cod area) but is just beginning his acquaintance with Bay Area waters. Sandy has a checklist "a mile long" of Potter things to buy and do, and the whole family is definitely infected with Potter fever, thanks to Bob and Sharen Adair, neighbors and friends of the Nelsons. (Sandy thinks Bob Adair makes a nifty Potter salesman.)

#### MISHAPS

Dee and Sydney Marsh vacationed in Washington state and got in some good sailing, including Puget Sound, Columbia River, and Hood's Canal. But unbeknownst to them, when they hit a chuckhole in one of the roads toward the end of the trip, a trailer bolt managed to poke a hole the size of a 50¢ piece through the bottom of #512. Dee made some emergency repairs and floated her, then made permanent repairs once at home. You might want to check out #512 and her trailer to see if the situation could happen to you.

Jerry and Sharon Barrilleaux and two preschool sons were sailing at Richardson's Bay (Tahoe); but as #564 sailed in to beach, the lines controlling the centerboard slipped, and the board, instead of being pulled up, suddenly dropped back down, throwing the full weight of the board onto the centerboard housing. Just at that moment the Barrilleaux' youngest son, Todd, had rested his fingers at the spot where the centerboard hits the housing. After a harrowing emergency situation Todd underwent surgery. He lost the tip of

one finger, but has thankfully regained the use of his hand. Jerry has modified his boat to prevent a recurrence of the situation. (Maybe at some later date the newsletter could include drawings or a description of both Jerry's and Dee Marsh's repair work.)

#### POTLUCK

The Potter Potluck was delicious; sorry if we missed you! My husband Jim and I hosted the get-together; "thanks again" to those of you who provided the goodies: Bob & Sharen Adair and daughters Diane, Tammi and Mary; Sandy & Bud Nelson and daughters Karen and Becka; Jerry and Sharon Barrilleaux and sons Todd and Mike; Norton and Ann Bell; Dee and Sydney Marsh; Art and Judy Roberts and Kelly and Craig; Lee and MaryAnn Mortenson and daughter Winter; Walt and Hilda Nobs; Hans Wolf; and Frank and Inez Winans.

It was fun to welcome back Lee and MaryAnn with Winter; they now own a sleek motor cruiser berthed on the Delta. They encouraged us to sail the Delta (perhaps Frank's Tract) and offered to be our 'Committee Boat'! We also enjoyed the chance to meet the Nelson family. And we especially enjoyed seeing the Roberts family and the Nobs, who haven't been able to attend many sails so far.

We saw movies of the first group sail (May, '78) at Del Valle and the Bells provided some color slides of the same outing.

Judging from the bevy of pretty teenage gals at the potluck (the "ubiquitous Dee's sons" missed their chance!), we have a good crop of junior sailors on the way. Bob Adair's daughter Tammi now sails confidently enough that one time her father fell asleep while crewing (great example, that), which was okay with Tammi 'til she tried to tack, and discovered he was sprawled comfortably on top of the main and jib sheets! (Watch out if Adair wants to crew your boat...)

Jim & I enjoyed having everyone at the potluck, and hopefully we all got to know each others' names, families, and interests a little better. "Potter People" are the best!

P.S.: The Herb Orfords sent postal greetings in lieu of themselves to the potluck; they're vacationing in New Zealand. The picture on the card of a sloop under full sail looked more than inviting...

BUMPER STICKERS

Ann Stewart (she and husband Herb own HMS Marine, Inc. of Inglewood, where our boats are built) sent us some great looking blue and white bumper stickers which say "I'd rather be sailing...a West Wight Potter". Most of them were distributed at the potluck dinner, but there are still eight left. Let me know (255-8579) if you want one.

T-SHIRTS

The T-Shirts are beauties! Are you satisfied with yours? Do you want more? Did you miss out on the first order? If you have a complaint or would like to order some T-shirts, please contact Dory Taylor, T-Shirt chairman. (And thanks, Dory, for handling the ordering and distribution of the shirts.) Dory will find out if "Shirt Tales" still requires a minimum order.

(Dory's #at work: 984-1234. m-F 7:30-5:30)  
(or write P.O. Box 6143, San Jose 95150.)

INTERESTING READING

Walt Nobs sent a reproduction of a fascinating book he obtained from Stanley Smith, the designer, from England, of the West Wight Potter. The little book is "An account of a fairly eventful cruise in a 14' 0" West Wight Potter, from the Isle of Wight to Kloster Fjord, Sweden, October 12th to November 17th, 1965." The phrase "fairly eventful" is a gross understatement; the man almost got himself killed. It is very revealing to read a work authored by the man who designed and developed the boat originally. His feelings about the Potter and how it should be sailed are very valid suggestions even though the fiberglass boats now produced differ from the plywood boats of 1965.

Walt and Hilda have visited the site in England on the Isle of Wight where the first Potters were built, and the book they were given carries the autograph of Stanley T. Smith. It's titled, "October Potter".

Note: Apologies! September has been a busy month for me, so this newsletter barely squeaks in ahead of October.

More apologies: I put John Graham on the spot without meaning to; he is also extremely busy with the start of school and faces a busier-still schedule; his hand won't be visible in the newsletter for some time to come, and, sadder still, he feels he must curtail his sailing activities for the time being. Sure hope to see you and Barbara once in awhile, John.

