The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Northern California West Wight Potter Club August 2008

The 4th of July Delta Fireworks Raft-up

Report by Don Person
Photos by Don Person

Whump, swoosh, bang and then a spectacular blazing fireworks explosion, repeating for an amazingly brilliant thirty minute show, awed the spectators in hundreds of small boats at Mandeville Island the late evening of July 4th.

Hundreds of power boats, 15 foot ski boats to seventy foot gold platers, and about 150 sail boats lined the shores of the north/south channel east of the island which is more or less in the center of the San Joaquin River Delta. The Stockton ship channel runs east/west and cuts off the tip of the island, and the intersection of the channels made an ideal spot for the fireworks barge.

Skipper Andy Lees, First Mate Maxine, Midshipman Duncan, his friend and passenger Colton and Judy Person had powered the houseboat, The Usual Suspects, against strong headwinds to a mooring a few hundred yards south of the main ship channel. They arrived about two pm Thursday, July third. Two large anchors, carefully deployed, and stern ties to trees on shore kept the boat firmly in position the next three days.

They were met by Dave and Cheryl White in their P19 Wee One, Dave Bacon in his P15 Ah Tiller The Fun, and Steve Potter's P15 Stars and Bars. These intrepid sailors had had a very sporting beam reach-downwind run from B&W Marina some miles north of Mandeville Cut. Winds were in the 20+ mph range all day. Sailing into the same winds but coming from the southeast, Don Person and daughter Marthe Dalton had an exhilarating seven hour sail. A deep reef and small jib kept the sail fun. The ride was a little longer than necessary as they spent some time in the wrong channel. A cell phone call from Skipper Andy straightened them out. By then they were getting tired and hungry so they motored the last half hour.

For happy hour, Dave White brought a full bar in a box, followed by a great meal of Judy Person's chili and fixin's, and to bed. It was still windy enough that Steve elected to motor around to the lee of the berm for a quieter night.

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Friday morning was bright and quiet with the wind just beginning to rise again. Houseboat coffee, bacon and eggs and Dave White's special Sumatra coffee all hit the spot and the day was off to a fine start.

This was a time for exploring all the party boats which were moored side by side for blocks. Most of them were gaily decorated with American flags and lots of red white and blue bunting and streamers. With laughter and music coming from all

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The Commodore's Log

This is getting old, sitting at my computer, staring out the window, and watching the season pass by. I indulged in more than a little masochism and eagerly read the posts on Cruiser Challenge IX as they appeared on the Trailer Sailor forum. By all reports, it was a great day and there was wind! The gentle breezes that characterize the Challenge were gone and that fantastic logo created by Wes Harrison came true.

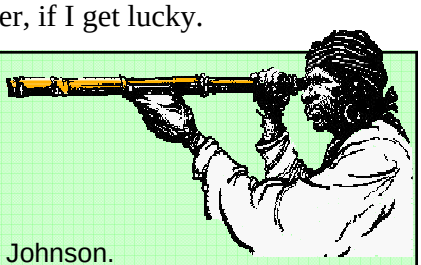
Many thanks are due the race committee: Pat Brennan for managing registration and finances, Bruce Hood and Don Person for manning the committee boat with Bob Furney from the MPYC, Rich McDevitt for the trophies and being the master of ceremonies at the awards ceremony, Gretchen Ricker and Don Person for handling the logo ware, and Mike Swartz for being the local liaison. Without them, it would not have happened.

As always, the Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club and the staff at the Monterey Harbor Masters office were kind and considerate hosts. Ryan Forrest at International Marine came through like gangbusters with the IM Awards for the first P15 and P19, along with the kind folks at Ida Sailor and West Marine for some great door prizes. Steve Chambers donated an Origami 6, a foldboat that fits inside a Potter 19 cabin, for a door prize, which is almost as big as a door.

By all reports, this Cruiser Challenge set a record for smileage. What more can be said? And I envy the lucky skippers and crews who made it.

Now if I can just make a few of the remaining events. In August, there's the Richmond day sail to the Loch Lomond Yacht Club for lunch. Let's see, the GPS coordinates for the dock at the yacht club are 37-58-22N and 122-29-02W. And there's the get-together and campout with the SoCal Potters at Huntington Lake. Now is my chance to meet Captain Howie and his new Sanibel 18 from International Marine.

See you on the water, if I get lucky.



EVENTS ON THE HORIZON:

Saturday August 2:
Richmond Day Sail to Loch Lomand. Sail Hosts: Dan Phy (Richmond side,) and Vince and Linda Henley (Loch Lomond.)

Saturday/Sunday August 16 & 17:
Huntington Lake campout with SoCal Potters. **Sail Hosts:** Wes Harrison & Bard Johnson.

Monday September 2 to Thursday September 18:
Messabout VI -All the Usual Suspects to Pacific Northwest **Sail Host:** Dick Herman.

SoCal Potter Events

Saturday August 30:
Oxnard / Anacapa Island—see the SoCal Potters website for details—http://www.howies.net/socalpotter/

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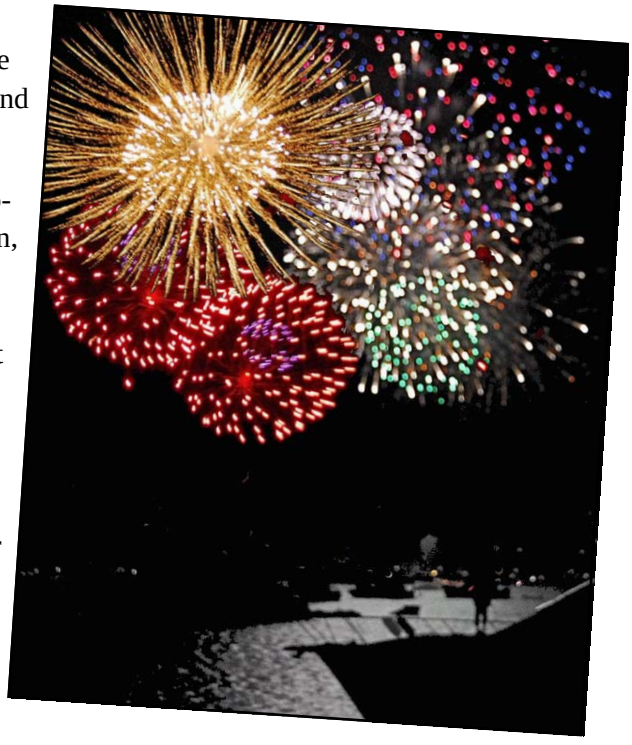
directions it was obvious these folks were here to have a good time. There were many houseboats and plenty of youngsters. The atmosphere was festive but not raucous. After sightseeing for two hours Don and Marthe headed up the channel to see if they could find any incoming Potters. By now the wind was quite brisk again and the channel very choppy from wind and wakes as boats were arriving constantly. Sure enough about one pm two small sails were spied in the distance and became Dave Myers in his P15 Salty Dog and Rob Sampson with friend Ming Kun in his gunter rigged P14. They were flying downwind with full sails and were a grand sight. Following Don's Sarah Anne they were soon rafted alongside the Houseboat and had come aboard.

Lunch was a treat provided by Ming. Sushi with fruit and various nuts. Delicious.

The rest of the afternoon and evening was an entertainment of boat people having fun. Boats were coming and going, friends visiting friends boats, power boats making noise, jet skis buzzing around. anchors dragging and always a Coast Guard presence. There were two C.G. RBBIs and a 60' Cutter all the time we were there. One pontoon boat loaded with young people was outfitted with several high velocity pumps and hoses and was doing a fine job of starting water wars. After that went on a while the Coast Guard shut them down and transferred several people off to other boats. Duncan and his friend, Colton using the outboard rubber dinghy, attacked our houseboat with water balloons. We defended ourselves well with pump water cannon giving them a good dousing. The only casualty on our side being Dave Bacon who, supposedly safe behind the cabin, was hit in the face with a ricochet.



As the sun dipped over the yardarm we relaxed with, among others, coconut rum and pineapple drinks, Supper was a feast of turkey tenderloin, salads and French bread. The fireworks started about nine thirty and were just awesome. Lots of oohing and ahhing going on. The colored light reflections on the water were breathtaking. Following the last shot a steady parade of small boats started heading out. They were going from our starboard to our port and were a stream of low green bow lights with higher white stern lights. After an hour or so the channel was quiet and we all turned in. Friday morning arrived clear and calm and with a Northern Harrier posing on a bush just off our stern.. Earlier we were serenaded by coyotes, owls and a bird call that sounded like a rail. Again fine early morning coffee and later on breakfast of a baked egg, cheese, zucchini and

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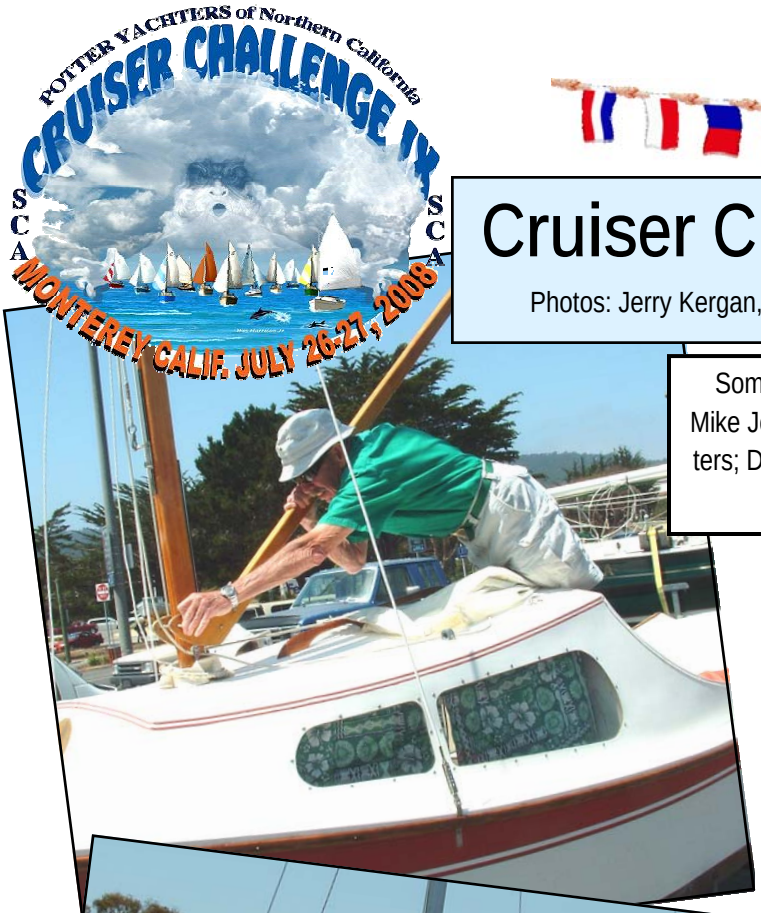
bread cube casserole. Replete and relaxed the sailors slowly rigged their boats and reluctantly prepared to leave. it was around ten am and the tide, flowing south to north, would give those returning to B&W a good push. The wind was light so the tide was welcome. Finally, after a round of goodbyes and "let's do it again next year" the Potters departed leaving the houseboat looking a little empty.

Thanks to those who were able to make it. We had a blast and hope you did too.



Cruiser Challenge IX

Photos: Jerry Kergan, Dan Phy, Robert Sampson

Some of Friday morning's early arrivals prepare their boats to launch: Mike Johnston (P-14 LEFT) and Mitch Carnes (P-15 BELOW) rig their Potters; Dennis, prepares Guppy, the first of two to sail; and Don "where's my parking space" Person (BOTTOM)

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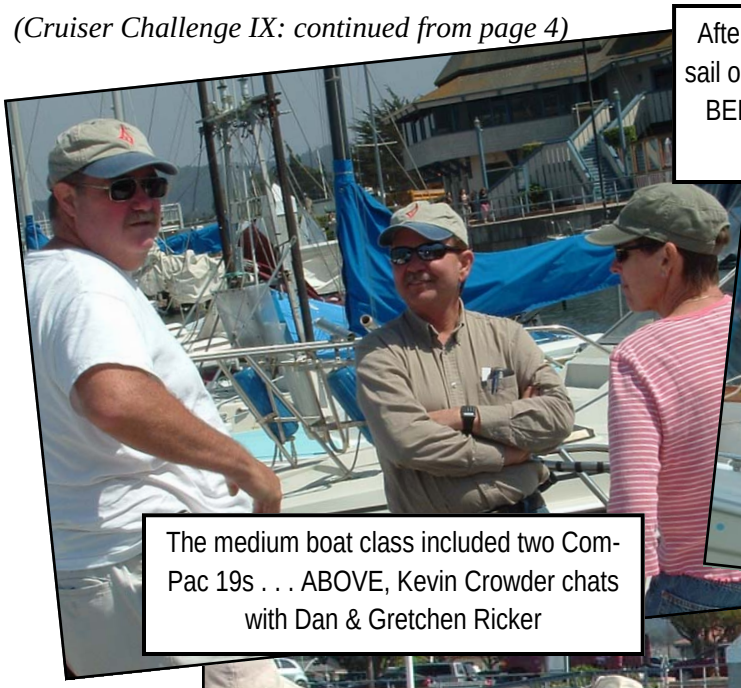
(Cruiser Challenge IX: continued from page 4)

After the boats were launched, and most took a little time for a shakedown sail on Monterey Bay, Friday's activities focused on some quality social time. BELOW, Dave Bacon's *"Ah Tiller The Fun"* gets a close inspection; likely looking for Dave's secret speed inducing modifications.



The medium boat class included two Com-Pac 19s . . . ABOVE, Kevin Crowder chats with Dan & Gretchen Ricker

Left to right: SoCal Potters Shawn Mulligan & Cap'n Howie, Dave Bacon, Bruce Hood, Don Person, Dan Phy, and Ron Bell

ABOVE LEFT: Bartender Dan Phy uses his measuring cup jigger to make some of the best Vodka Collins to be had. ABOVE RIGHT: Monterey Marina's resident otter acted as the evenings entertainment

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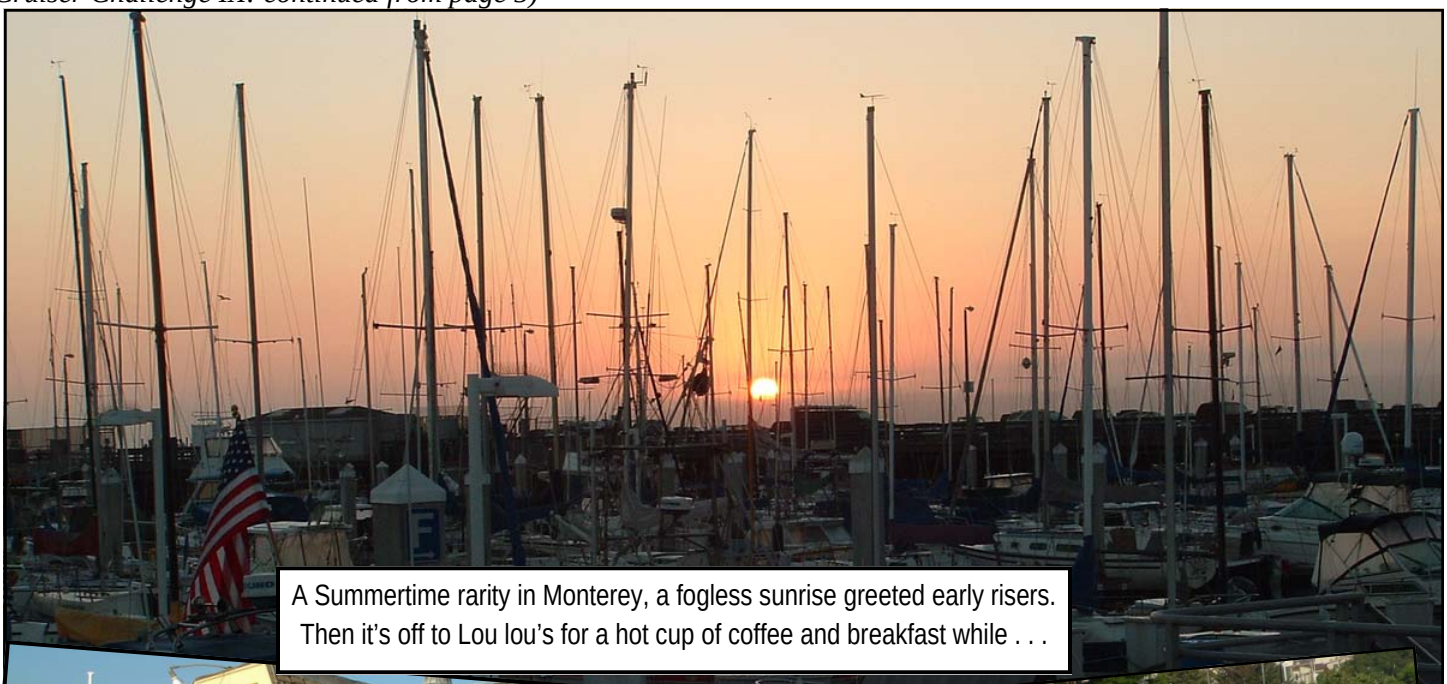
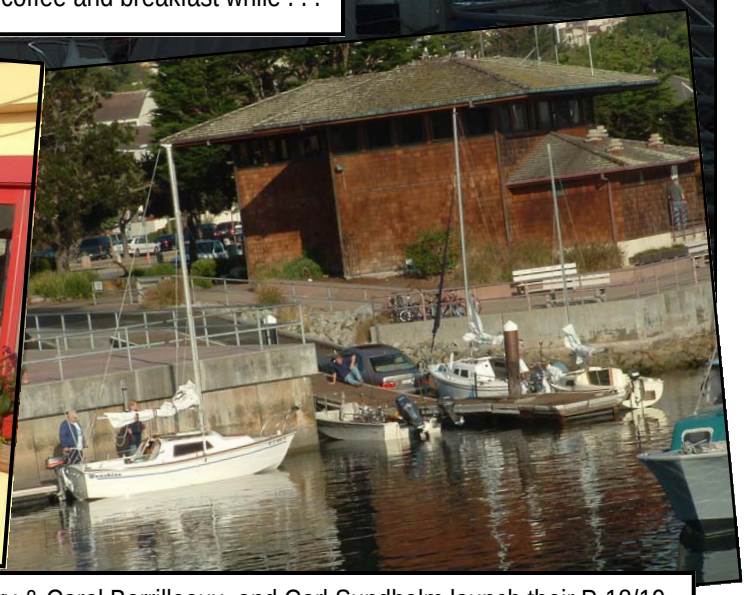
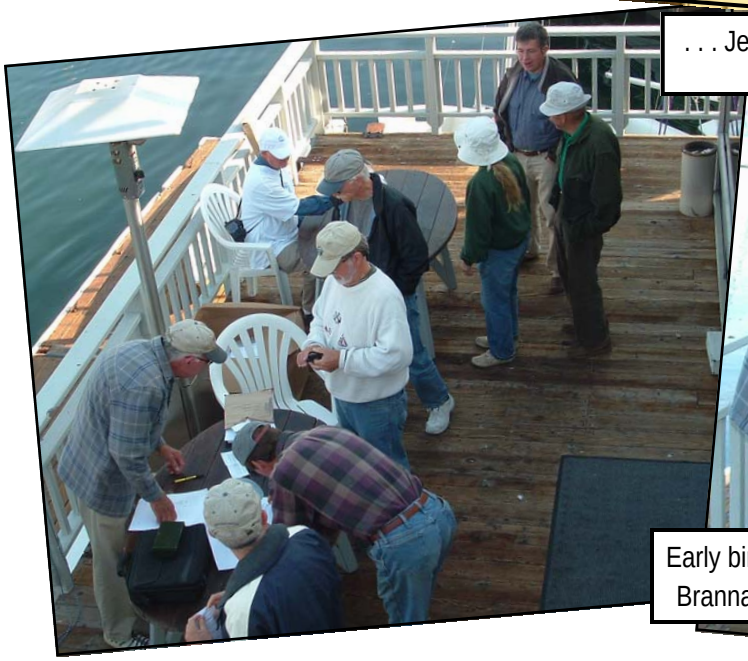
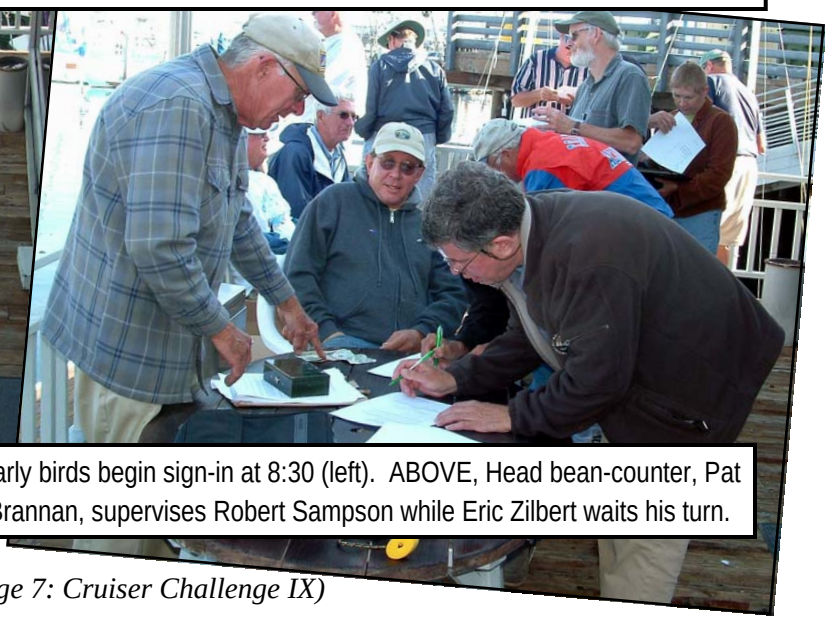


A Summertime rarity in Monterey, a fogless sunrise greeted early risers. Then it's off to Lou lou's for a hot cup of coffee and breakfast while . . .



. . . Jerry & Carol Barrilleaux, and Carl Sundholm launch their P-18/19.





Early birds begin sign-in at 8:30 (left). ABOVE, Head bean-counter, Pat Brannan, supervises Robert Sampson while Eric Zilbert waits his turn.

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(Cruiser Challenge IX: continued from page 6)

Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club's Bob Furney (LEFT) outlines the events of the day to the assembled Skippers & crews of 34 the registered boats

(BELOW) Don Person, Bruce Hood and Bob Furney settle in to their chores for the day.

(RIGHT) The Medium Class, dominated by P-18/19's, is off and running!

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Harry Gordon tends to his broken mast (ABOVE LEFT)
Dave White & Steve Potter negotiate the windward mark (ABOVE RIGHT)

Little Boat class beating to wind (ABOVE,) Bud Kerner leads a line of Medium Class boats to the windward mark (LEFT) Cap'n Howie and Sean Mulligan (BELOW)

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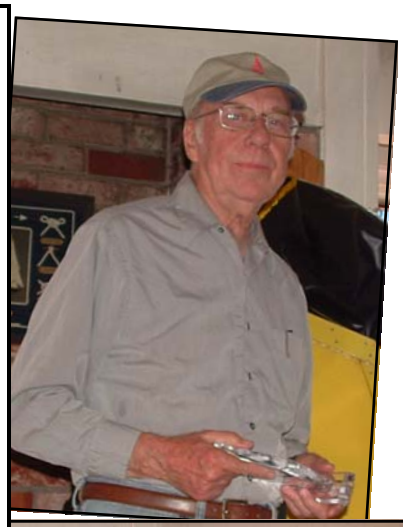
(Cruiser Challenge IX: continued from page 8)

Mike Swartz, Jerry Barrilleaux , and Bruce Hood tally the results (LEFT)

RIGHT: Harry Gordon receives the "Guts 'n' Glory" award

The Medium Class winners (BELOW): Unknown & Mike Swartz (5th), Evan & Eric Zilbert, the Kautz Brothers (3rd), Dave White & Steve Potter (2nd), Jerry Barrilleaux & Gene Hersome (1st)



The Little Boats class winners (BELOW): Dan Phy (5th), unknown (4th), Rich McDevit (3rd), Dave Bacon (2nd), Mike Truman (1st)

BELOW: Jerry Barrilleaux and Dave Bacon win the International Marine P-19 & P-15 prizes, respectively

BELOW LEFT: Steve Potter displays the blisters that resulted from some aggressive sailing of Dave White's "Wee Boat" without gloves.

Potter Yachter/SoCal Potters Joint Sail (Huntington Lake)

Host: Bard Johnson & Wes Harrison (SoCal Potters)

When: Saturday/Sunday, August 16th & 17th (Overnight camping) Our hosts will be in place Wednesday to Wednesday.

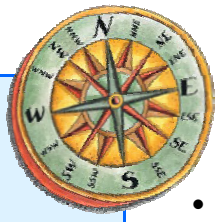
Where: Rancheria Campground. The Marina is at 62311 Huntington Lake Road, Lakeshore, CA.

Meals: Bring your own. Join in with others

Distance: 70 miles north-east of Fresno.

Phone #s:

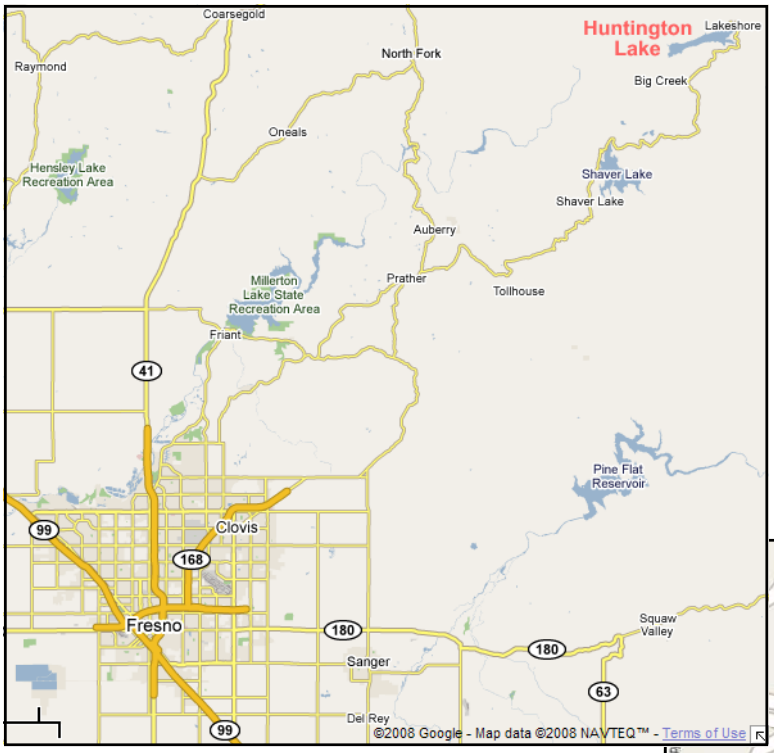
Rancheria Marina . . . . . (599) 893-3234 ask for Mark Richards and mention you are friends of Wes and Bard.
Wes Harrison can be reached at 408-245-3218



How to get there

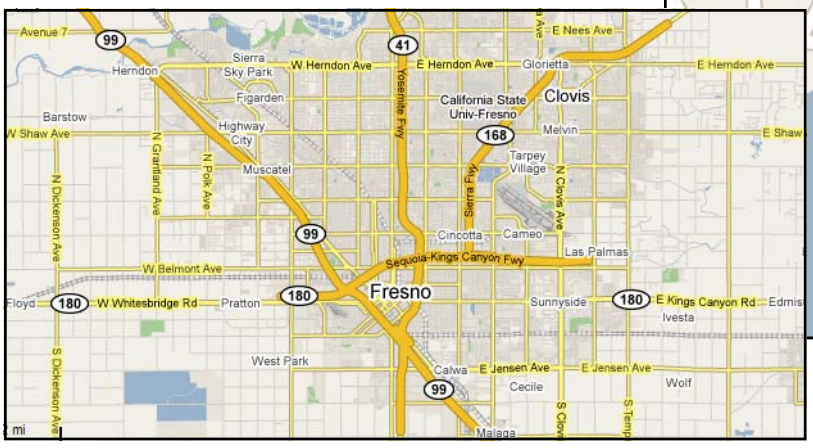
From Northern CA:

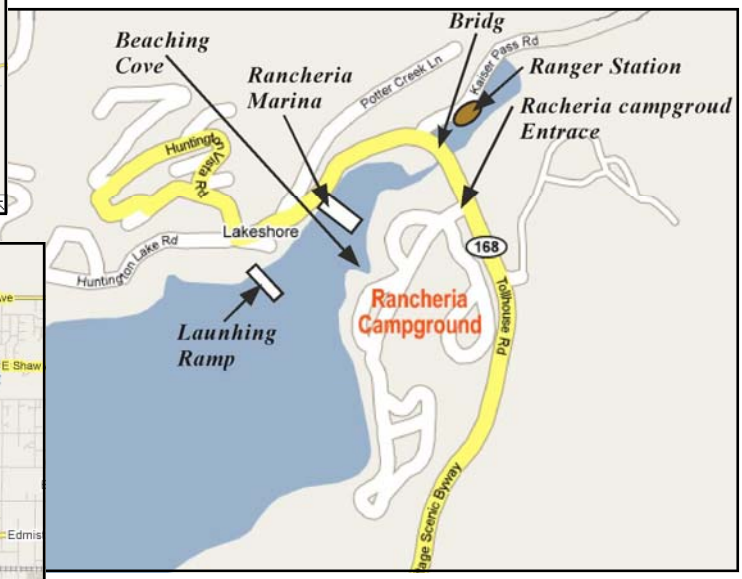
- Get ye to SR 99 Southbound toward Fresno.
- Exit SR 99 (Exit #143) to West Herndon Avenue, at Herndon, turn left, eastbound, onto West Herndon.
- Continue East on Herndon (12 miles) to the intersection with SR 168 (Sierra Freeway.)
- After passing under the Freeway, take the northbound Freeway onramp onto 168 (Sierra Freeway.) The ramp will be on the right.
- Continue East on SR168 60 miles to Huntington Lake/Lakeshore.



From Southern CA:

- Take I-5/SR 99 Northbound toward Fresno.
- Exit SR 99 (Exit #131) onto SR 41 (Yosemite Freeway) northbound for 2.5 miles.
- Exit SR 41 (Exit #128A) onto SR 180 (Sequoia-Kings Canyon Freeway) Eastbound for 1 mile.
- Exit SR 180 (Exit #60A) onto SR 168 (Sierra Freeway)
- Continue East on SR168 65 miles to Huntington Lake/Lakeshore.





(continued page 11: Huntington Lake)

Words from our host:

Bard and I have reservations at Rancheria Marina. We will be camping at the un affiliated Rancheria Campground. Those who would like to anchor and sleep on their boats are able to do so.

Winds come up about 10:30 and die anywhere between 6 and 7PM.

We like to tack south to Huntington Lake Resort, about 4-5 miles, and buy lunch and sit on their veranda and look over the Beautiful view of their moorings and forest.

By the way, fishing is very good for Rainbow Trout and Kokanee Salmon.

Wes—I can be reached at 408-245-3218

July 30. 2008 re: Huntington Lake Rancheria Marina availability

I just got off the phone with Mark Richards, head of the marina. There will be a couple of slips and a couple of end-ties available during the time that we are going to be at Huntington Lake. We are going to be there on August, Wednesday the 13th through Wednesday the 20th.

For those that want to get a slip or end-tie you need to call Mark as soon as possible and reserve yourself a space.

There is a small protective cove near Rancheria Campground that you can beach or anchor at. There are other areas that you can beach or anchor at as well, but they are not as close to where we are camping.

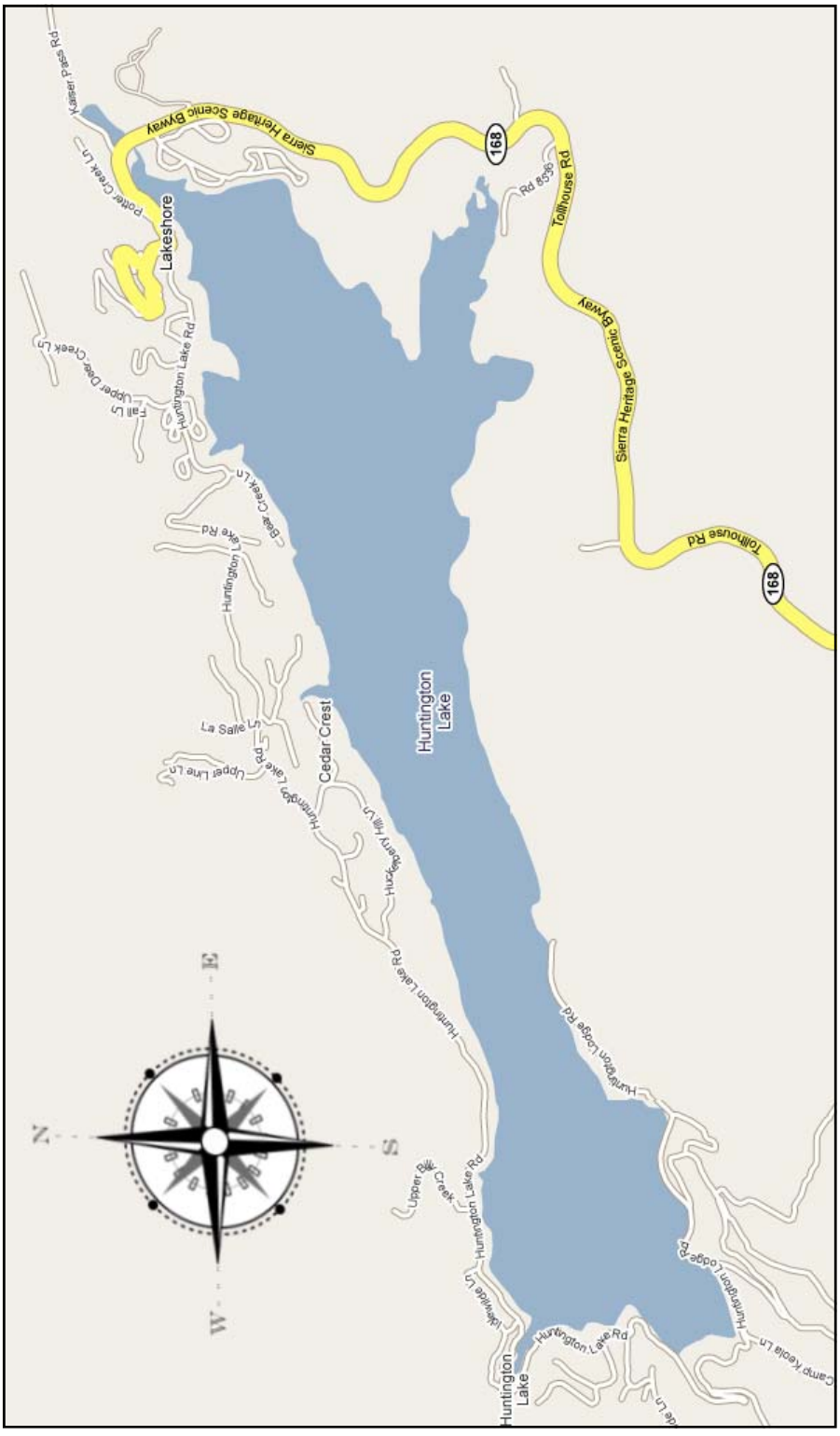
We will be camping at Rancheria Camp. (http://www.reserveamerica.com/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=71593 for online campground availability) The entrance is just before the bridge at the north of the lake. It comes up very suddenly to your left as you are coming down a steep grade. If you pass it there is room to turn around just past the bridge.

Just to the right of the campground entrance there is a Billboard that we will leave a notice at what campground number we are at.

Not knowing exactly yet who is coming and what days and time makes it difficult to know when we will be at our campsite or when we will be out sailing. We generally sail from 10:30 to about 3 or 4 o'clock. We sail up wind to the South end of the lake, approximately 4 miles, and stop and have lunch at Roy's place and after down wind back to our slip.

Be sure to bring lawn chairs to sit around the fire at the campground.

Wes



Patrick Brennan
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Alameda, CA 94501

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 experience 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*