



The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Potter Yachters

August 2010

Cruisers Challenged!

Barrilleaux and Kautz WIN!



Photo: Don Person

Another Cruiser Challenge is under our belts and by all accounts it was a success. Forty boats signed up for the event and something around twenty two boats completed both races. The weather cooperated with light breezes and two foot swells giving even the novice sailors a good time. "It was great conditions, perfect for small boats," was the assessment of veteran cruiser, Dave Kautz. "It was the best competition ever. One mistake and you lost your edge."

Bob Furney was again our race day organizer. I learned so much from listening to him critique the sail trim and racing tactics of the racers as they passed by. He wasn't shy about shouting out instructions to participants, once critiquing Jerry Montgomery on his vang tension. It was a hoot!

There were a number of new faces on the bay, including Joe Horswill and his lovely Precision, *Scallywag*, as well as Glenn Basore and his first mate, Dawn, sailing their newly acquired Compac Eclipse, *Shoot'n the Breeze II*.

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Charlie Davison and his Potter 19, *Second Wind*, made it to this year's event and was heard to brag that he didn't yell at his crew "too much." Although he would have had good reason a time or two when he was surrounded by big boats from another race being run concurrent with ours. The Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club was holding their PHRF Summer Spectacular, and both races had one mark in common. This could have proven disastrous if not for a huge amount of grace and

(CCXI: continued on page 3)



The Commodore's Log

Wow, the Cruiser Challenge is now in the history books. Despite having bruised ribs, from an incidence earlier in the week off Moss Landing, and being hit in the head by the boom during the race, I had a great time. How can you beat sailing on Monterey Bay? Gretchen Ricker and crew did a marvelous job. Being a glutton for punishment Gretchen has volunteered to be the host of next years Cruiser Challenge.

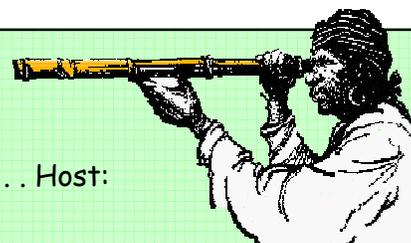
I missed the sail from Richmond to China Beach. I understand it got quite challenging on the way back to Richmond. San Francisco Bay can not be treated as a casual sail. I have, as some of you know, sailed in some pretty treacherous waters, but some of my most difficult sailing

was on the bay. My boat is setup for long distance cruising. That is long distance for a Potter. Besides carrying lots of wine for ballast I have a backup for almost everything on the boat. I even have a backup electric toothbrush. You can not be too prepared for San Francisco Bay. I think maybe because we can see shoreline most of the time we treat it like lake sailing, and it ain't that.

We have three new members to welcome this month Mark W. Elkins, Richard Whitehead, and Benny Sorensen. It is great to have you aboard. See you on the water,

Bud

EVENTS ON THE HORIZON:



August 7 (Saturday) . . . Richmond Day Sail to Loch Lomond Yacht Club . . . Host: Keith Hubbard

August 21-22 (Saturday-Sunday) . . . Huntington Lake camp out with SoCal Potters . . . Host: Wes Harrison & Bard Johnson

August 30 to September 15 . . . Messabout VIII . . . Host: Dick Herman

September 11 (Saturday) S.F. Bay Day Sail, Clipper Cove Picnic . . . Host: Harry Gordon

September 25 - 26 (Saturday-Sunday) . . . Tomales Bay overnight . . . Host: Eric Zilbert

Organized in Northern California in 1978, the **Potter Yachters** is the longest running West Wight Potter club. Membership is open to owners of West Wight Potters and anyone interested in Potters and other trailerable microcruiser sailboats.

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(CCXI: continued from page 1)

skill on both sides.

All the usual suspects were not in attendance at this year's Challenge. Conspicuous in his absence was Dick Herman, the previous organizer and veteran of numerous Challenges in the past. Also off the water was Wes Harrison and his cohort Bard Johnson, who were both injured the week before up at Huntington Lake. Wes did another amazing job on the logo for this year's event. Providing artwork that captured the essence of what the challenge is all about.

A couple of new sponsors stepped up to the plate to sweeten the pot at the awards ceremony. Among them were [Spyderco](#), [Railmakers](#), [Annapolis Performance Sailing](#), and [Sunset Ridge Vineyards](#). We truly appreciate all our great sponsors. The event couldn't happen without them.

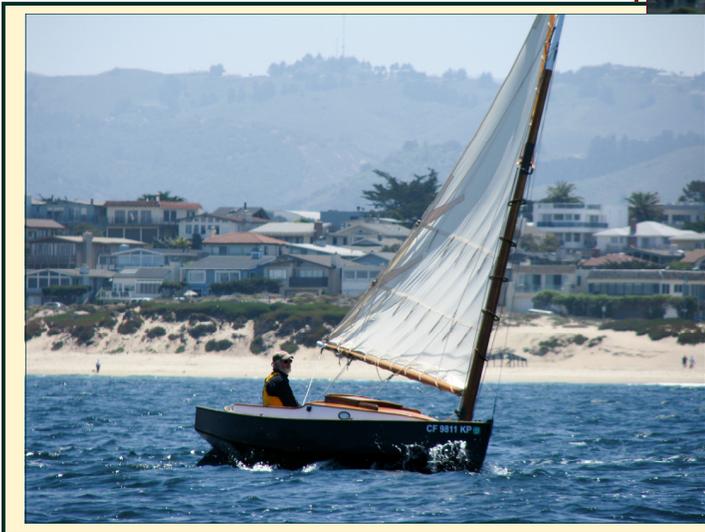
An added feature this year was dinner at the Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club. Somewhere on the order of eighty Cruisers bellied up to the buffet table and were treated to a wonderful meal, good friends great conversation. All in all, we had a fun time and



The race begins for the small boats
Photo: Don Person



Partners in crime: Mike and Jerry Higgins.
Photos by Dan Ricker



and
I

think
I can
speak

for everyone when I say I look forward to next year.

Editors note: There were many, many fabulous and fantastic pictures submitted by several fine photographers. One in particular, Dan Ricker, was very handy with his camera and posted his best pick online: <http://fullsailbooks.com/CruiserChallenge/index.html>, all 429 of them! When (not if!) you find some that you like, go here http://fullsailbooks.com/CruiserChallenge/Web_Gallery_Instructions.pdf to download your favorites.

The Results are IN!

Potter Yachter members in **BOLD**

Big Boat	sail #	model	name of boat	skipper
1	15673	Catalina 22	A Little Class	Heasley
2	615	Compac 23	Sevilla	Couch
3	N/A	Compac Eclipse	Shoot'n The Breese II	Basore
19's	Sail #	model	Name of boat	Skipper
1	48	HMS 18	Sunshine	Barrilleaux
2	1419	Potter 19	Strega del Mare	Dirado
3	909	Potter 19	Burgundy Splash	Swartz
4	918	Bull's Eye	Lia	Higgins
5	N/A	Precision 1	Scallywag	Horswill
6	1109	Potter 19	Ramblin Rose	Smith
7	653	Montgomery 17	Six	Phy
8	310	Modified Monty	Seas the Day	Kelch
9	1099	Potter 19	Wee Boat	White
15's	Sail #	Model	Name of Boat	Skipper
1	406	Mont 15	Sea Sprite	Price
2	477	Mont 15	Midget	Truman
3	361	Mont 15	Justus	Glesser
4	1632	Potter 14/15	Tilly Luch	Kautz
5	2636	Potter 14/15	ah Tiller the Fun	Bacon
6	14	Potter 14/15	Gale	Gossman
7	1560	Potter 14/15	Bateau Ivre	Koechlin
8	342	Mont 15		Dorf
9	2605	Potter 14/15	Pearl	Pisani

Let the Games
Begin!

Photo by Dan
Ricker



The Winners Circle
Photos by Carl Sundholm



Big boat winners L to R #3 Glenn Basore, #1 Ed Heasley, #2 John Couch



Medium boat winners L to R #5 Jim Smith #4 Joe Horswill #3 Russel Swartz #2 Dave di Rado #1 Kayliey & Jerry B



Small boat winners #6 Jim Goose Gossman #4 Dave Kautz #3 Sal Glesser #2 Mike Trueman



Small Boats #1 Bernard Price in "Sea Sprite"
Photo: Dan Ricker



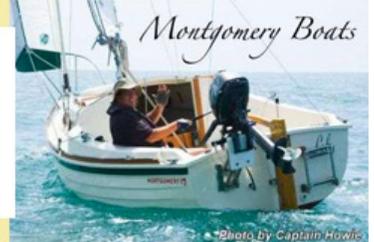
Small Boats #5 Dave Bacon



Bob Furney, a token of our appreciation for all your hard work, and long patience. Thanks! (Inset picture by Don Person)

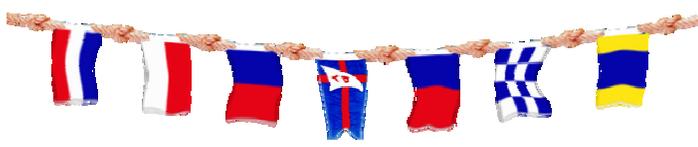


We all love our wonderful sponsors. Without them, Cruiser Challenge just wouldn't be the same!



SMALL CRAFT ADVISOR

Small Boats - Big Adventure



Fireworks and a Party!

2010 Fourth of July Sail

Don Person

Photos by Don Person



A small gathering for a great three day weekend, "The Usual Suspects" houseboat provided raft up accommodations for Dick Herman's Muddy Duck, Don Person's Sarah Anne and Neil Dorf's Monty 15. Dick and Neil launched at B&W marina, about six miles to the northwest, and sailed to the proposed meeting area off the east side of Mandeville Island arriving about noon Saturday, July third. The wind was fine for the trip. Neil's wife, Becky, accompanied him. Don Person with daughter Marthe Dalton as crew sailed/motored up from Tiki Lagoon, eight miles to the southeast. About half their journey was directly into the wind but the other half was fun sailing with plenty of breeze. The houseboat was delayed getting started and arrived about four thirty. Becky was getting seriously hot and nauseated so Neil motored her back to her car

at Korth's Marina. He then sailed back to rejoin the group while she drove home. Phone reports from Becky were that once on land and air-conditioned she recovered completely. Having joined up, the small flotilla, on Skipper Andy Lees suggestion, decided to anchor the houseboat about a mile to the southeast of the fireworks barge in a spot protected from wake wave action from the power boats buzzing back and forth. Earlier in the afternoon Steve Potter arrived and day sailed with us for a while. He had red, white and blue streamers tied to the top of his mast making his P15 a really patriotic picture. He took off to tour the party boats and see if he could make some new friends. Later on, after the houseboat was moved we spent time looking for each other but somehow missed connecting so he returned to Korth's to pull out. He had obligations Sunday so would have left Saturday evening regardless. Sunday was a beautiful Delta day. It was hot but breezy. The day sailing was great, and the swimming kept us cool and comfortable. The ice chest was full of cold drinks and the snacks never ran out. Judy Person produced another delicious dinner with help from Neil as the B.B.Q. chef.

(Fireworks cont. on page 8)





After the sun set, from the fly bridge of the houseboat, we could see fireworks in the distance from Stockton and Tracy. Then Baron Hilton's presentation started and oh and awed us with it's brilliance and color. Shortly after the display ended hundreds of powerboats started leaving and we watched strings of red and white lights motoring out the channels and listened to channel 16 reports of bumpings, bangings and various other boating mishaps. Congratulating ourselves on our protected anchoring spot we were unhappily surprised by a cigarette boat going about twenty knots throwing a huge wake which passed by about thirty feet away. The wake picked up Muddy Duck and Sarah Anne and smashed them into the side of the houseboat. Fortunately it was dark, we didn't have any guns and it was gone before we could get over the shock. In spite of several fenders for each boat Muddy suffered a damaging blow to the edge of her cabin which will need repair. The rest of the night was quiet and calm with a star show rivaling the fireworks. Monday morning was a beautiful delta dawn, warm and bright with a gentle breeze. After a Maxine Lees delicious egg, sausage, etc fry up, preparations were made for the sailboats to leave. Dick and Neil would motor part of the way into a head wind Back to B.&W. Don and Marthe

would have a grand seven hour downwind ride and sailed all over and around Middle River and Mildred Island before reaching Tiki Lagoon and joining up with the houseboat crew. A fine time was had by all.



Clipper Cove - Saturday, 9/11/2010
Harry Gordon



Clipper Cove was once where the Pan American Clipper flying boats moored. It is now a quiet cove on Yerba Buena Island, just 7.5 miles from the Alameda Grand Street launch ramp in the Oakland Estuary, where we will gather on Saturday morning, Sept. 11. There is no launch or parking fee at the Grand St. ramp. If the parking lot fills up, street parking is available.

We will depart the ramp at about 10 am and sail or motor out to the Bay.

When we reach the mouth of the Estuary, Yerba Buena Island is dead ahead. To port, behind the Bay Bridge, is a view of the San Francisco skyline. To starboard is the section of the Bay Bridge that connects Oakland and the island. Sail under that bridge near the island, bear left, and you will be entering Clipper Cove.

Sail all the way into the cove to the beach at the base of the cliff, and beach or anchor your boat. Bring a lunch for a picnic on the beach. There is a steep wooden stairway you can climb to the top of the cliff, where there is a small park, the road connecting Yerba Buena and Treasure Island, and a view of the open Bay on the other side.



Pan American Clipper flying boat in Clipper Cove

(Clipper Cove, cont. on page 10)

(Clipper Cove, cont. from page 9)



There is always a lot to look at in the Oakland Estuary

On our last Clipper Cove sail, some of us launched at the China Basin ramp in San Francisco. The distance is about the same, but you may have to cope with a powerful ebb current in mid-Bay on the return trip. Despite a good breeze, I found I had to power up the outboard to keep from being carried under the Bay Bridge by the strong current. And, of course, we would prefer to have your good company in the Estuary.



Potter Yachter Tomales Bay Trip September 25-26, 2010

Launching

The Tomales Bay Potter Yachter Trip is scheduled for Sept. 25 and 26, 2010. We will be launching from the ramp at Miller County Park near Nicks Cove, located on the east side of Tomales Bay, off Highway 1, north of the town of Marshall. The fee is \$5.00 to launch plus \$5.00 for overnight parking. We will have an oyster BBQ and pot-luck dinner on the beach one cove south of Tomales Beach at about 5:00 p.m. (Same location as last year). All the camping beaches have pit-toilets. Communicate on VHS Ch. 72.



NOTE: You a porta-potty is required on board for over night stays on Tomales Bay. I have been inspected by the rangers.



Tides and Navigation Notes

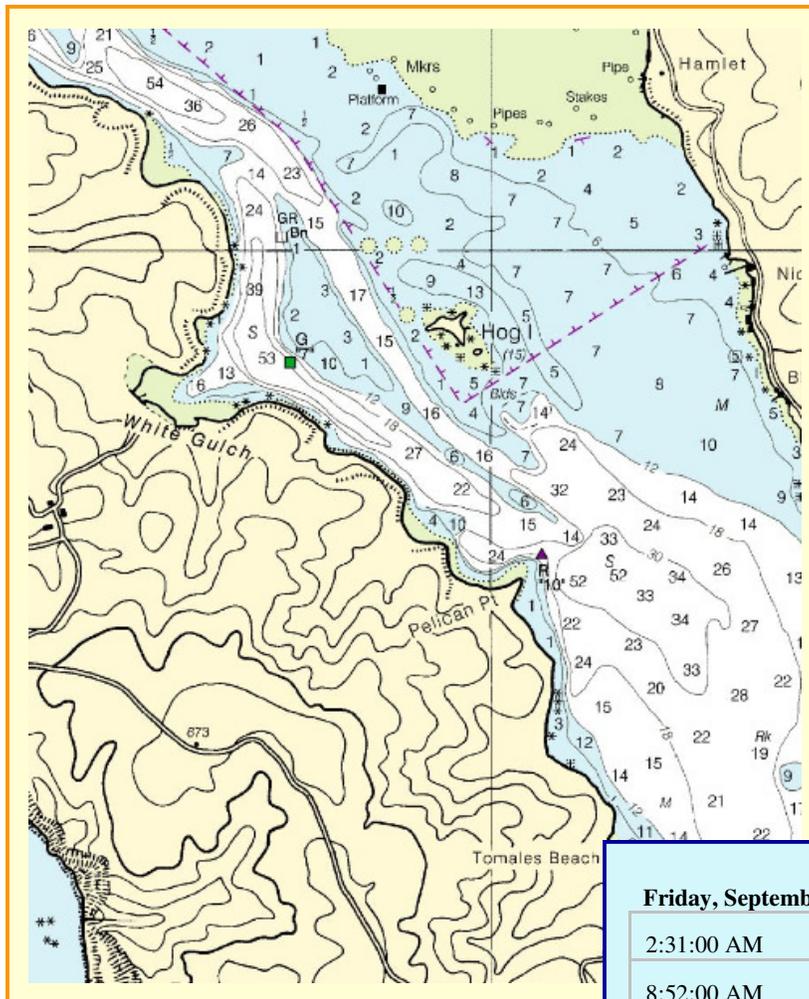
The tides this year are perfect for mid-day sailing. Launching and retrieving should be no problem. Boats should be floating at bed-time if you want to get off late in the morning.

Leaving from Nicks coves sailors seeking the channel on the west side of the bay going north should be aware that the bay is quite shallow on the east side north of Hog Island. There is also a shallow area to the west of Hog Island extending both north and south that contains large shoals of eel grass in the middle of the bay that can seriously slow your progress (see chart). The best way to get to White Gulch (where the Elk hang out) is to go well south of Hog Island and then head north.

The entrance to Tomales Bay is a legendary hazard, due to large sleeper waves that may break in the entrance. Boats should not anchor in the entrance, and should transit the area quickly and with great caution. The state of California's boating tips Web page on Tomales has more information (and stories) see <http://www.dbw.ca.gov/Pubs/TomalesBay/TomalesBay.pdf>

Tomales Bay is fairly shallow south of Marshall. The west side of the bay is deeper and with the predicted tides you should (Tomales, cont. page 12)

(Tomales, cont. from page 11)



be able to get to the Golden Hinde at any time other than the early morning lows; be sure to stay to the western side of the bay.

Accommodations

Boaters may anchor out, or camp on the beaches north of Marshall Beach on the west side of the bay. You are supposed to get a permit if you plan to camp on the beach. No permit is needed to anchor out. (a boat-in camping permit must be obtained from the Bear Valley Visitor Center near Olema on the south end of the park if you plan to camp on the beach). There are no car camping areas in the park, but there is a private campground/trailer park near Olema (no access to water). You can stay and launch at the Golden Hinde Inn and Marina (415-669-1389) located at the very south end of the bay on Sir Francis Drake Blvd., rooms range from \$60-\$150 per night. The ramp and marina should be serviceable on this weekend.

Dining

There are a number of restaurants on Hwy 1 south of Miller Park, and last year the restaurant at Nicks

cove was open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. I generally treat a trip to Tomales Bay as a camping trip.

E-mail (ezilbert@cde.ca.gov) or call to let me know if you plan to attend.
For more information you can call: Eric Zilbert: 530-757-6783 (eves)

Other Useful Numbers

Miller County Park: 415 499-6387
Golden Hinde Inn and Marina 415-669-1389
Bear Valley Visitor Center 415-663-1092

Friday, September 24

2:31:00 AM	5.40 feet	High Tide
8:52:00 AM	1.24 feet	Low Tide
2:26:00 PM	6.02 feet	High Tide
9:26:00 PM	0.56 feet	Low Tide

Saturday, September 25

3:14:00 AM	5.17 feet	High Tide
9:21:00 AM	1.51 feet	Low Tide
2:52:00 PM	6.09 feet	High Tide
10:01:00 PM	0.41 feet	Low Tide

Sunday, September 26

3:59:00 AM	4.92 feet	High Tide
9:51:00 AM	1.80 feet	Low Tide
3:21:00 PM	6.11 feet	High Tide
10:40:00 PM	0.32 feet	Low Tide



Hello, Potters!

Tue, July 27, 2010

Hi Ho Potter's,

It is with great excitement and anticipation that my wife and I pick up our first West Wight Potter, a P-19 this weekend. It is also with great excitement that, the check is in the mail, to the Potter Yachters for your consideration on allowing us to join your organization. In reading your newsletters we feel we will fit 'Wight' in and are looking forward to participating in as many of your events as we can.

My wife and I have enjoyed sailing for well over 30 years. Our only regret is that it has taken us this long to finally see the light and purchase our first potter. We look forward to meeting all of the 'Potters' in the near future and to the launching of our 2003 P-19 this weekend at Donner Lake near our summer home in Truckee CA.

Regards,

Mark Elkins, Annette Carney Hopefully two of your newest Potter Yachter's !





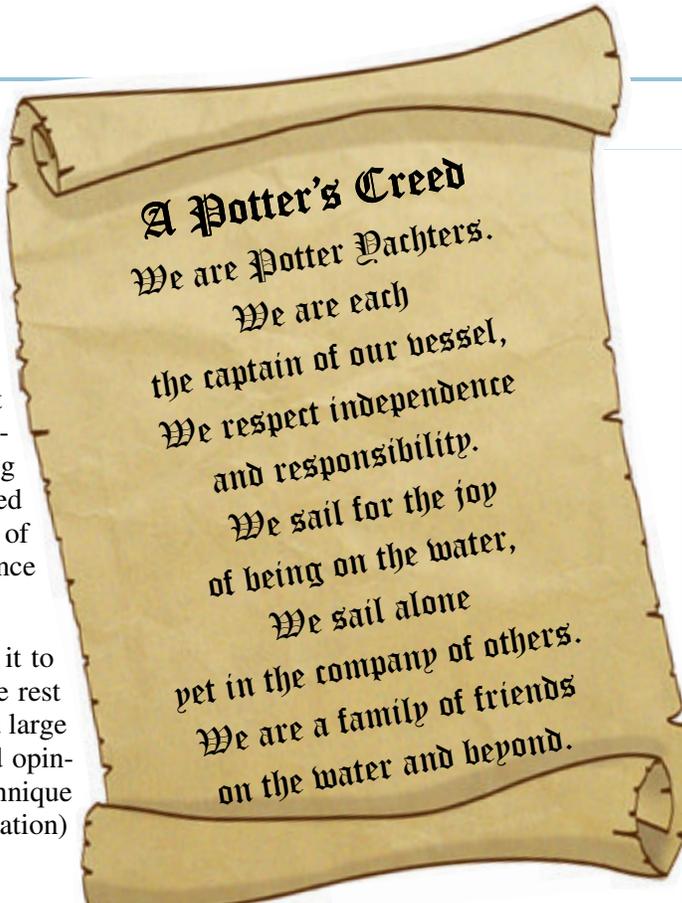
Patrick Brennan
1305 Webster St., C205
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With a Grain of Salt

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 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*



A Potter's Creed
We are Potter Yachters.
We are each
the captain of our vessel,
We respect independence
and responsibility.
We sail for the joy
of being on the water,
We sail alone
yet in the company of others.
We are a family of friends
on the water and beyond.