



# The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Potter Yachters

August 2011

## Cruiser Challenge



By: Gretchen Ricker

Photos: Sam Sundholm

Cruiser Challenge XII is officially in the rear view mirror. It was a whirlwind of activity again this year on land as well as on the water. We changed things up just a touch by extending the course all the way out to the Point Pinos bell buoy. That was a bit of a stretch for the smaller boats but everyone, well almost everyone made it up and back without incident. This new course was the brain child of Mike Swartz, the official race committee in toto. The scoring contingent then set up shop atop the Yacht Club and scored the race from there. Jo Mulligan, Bob Eeg, and Bob's daughter, Natalie helped identify the finishers as they rounded the buoy off the end of the warehouse pier. Mike also acted as liaison to the Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club and ran interference with the Harbor Masters Office. He was Johnny on the spot during the whole planning season. Thanks, Mike.

The weather was ideal for the race with good wind and moderate swells. We did, unfortunately have another race going on at the same time and both races rounded the same mark again. But by the time our racers approached the mark, they were spaced out enough to make things manageable.

As folks returned from the race we gathered at the Yacht club to enjoy happy hour and then each captain was treated to dinner at the Yacht Club courtesy of our great sponsors, International Marine, Montgomery Boats, Sage Marine, and Spyderco.

The awards and raffle was handled by Eric Zilbert who did a superb job of handling the rowdy crowd. Overall we had a wonderful time. The list of folks that helped pull this together is as long as the roster for the event. Everyone pitched in at one point or another and I am grateful to every one of you. But, on a personal note, the thing that pleased ME the most was how the event blended all our cruisers together.

It was a privilege to once again organize this great day where such a diverse group of folks came together harmoniously. We had fun, got some sun, and enjoyed the warm camaraderie that is the hallmark of this event.

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## The Commodore's Log

*One thing you will notice about this newsletter is that it is kind of thin. The glue that keeps this organization together is the newsletter. Katie does a great job, but she needs our help. If you are hosting a sail you should give Katie input about the sail so she can publish it, and while your at it send it*

*to Mike for the Potter Yachter Web site. Let's keep those articles coming in so we have an interesting newsletter for our members.*

CC XII is in the history books.. I don't know about you, but I think this was the best CC ever. Gretchen did an absolute fantastic job. I really liked the long sail format, and the number of sponsors and their contribution were the best. Wes Harrison did it again, each year his CC logos get better. We are sure lucky to have a talent like that in our club. Monterey Yacht Club's support in managing the race, providing the yacht clubs facilities, and providing a delicious dinner was the icing on the cake.

I had an opportunity to try out my self inflating life preserver. Man did it ever work, it inflated so fast that the top of my hat

never got wet. It kept my head well above water without any effort from me. I have had conversations with fellow Potters about why they don't like the self inflating type of preserver, but let me tell you after my recent experience I am sold. I wish all you Potter Yachters who sail in the bay or ocean would get one. I know they are not cheap, \$100+, but if you wind up in the drink you will find it well worth it. I am going to get a second one for the times I have a passenger.

Our next sailing event is the Richmond sail hosted by Rich McDevitt. He told me he is thinking of a sail to Angel Island. There will be several guests sailing with us. They are the people who signed up for a test sail on a Potter at the Strictly Sail Show in April.

Lets all welcome new members Kim Austin, John Cawley, David Soule, and Bo Tretta.

*Speaking of members, it has been brought to my attention that we have some folks who were members, still participate in our sails but quit paying dues. Now everyone knows you don't have to be a member to sail with us, but we do use the money to support the yacht clubs that support us.*

See you on the water,

Bud

### EVENTS ON THE HORIZON:

8/6	Richmond Day Sail	Rich McDevitt
8/20, 21	Huntington Lake camp out with SoCal Potters	Wes Harrison & Bard Johnson
9/10	S.F. Day Sail, Clipper Cove Picnic	Pat Brennan
9/6 to 9/21	Messabout IX	Dick Herman



Organized in Northern California in 1978, the **Potter Yachters** is the longest running West Wight Potter club. Membership is open to

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Committee boat ready to count Potterers

## A Meeting of the Tribes and Spectacular Time

By: Carl Sundholm

Photos: Sam Sundholm

In past years, I have not been able to arrive a day early on Friday but rather have traveled to Monterey with the boat early in the morning on Saturday, the day of the race.

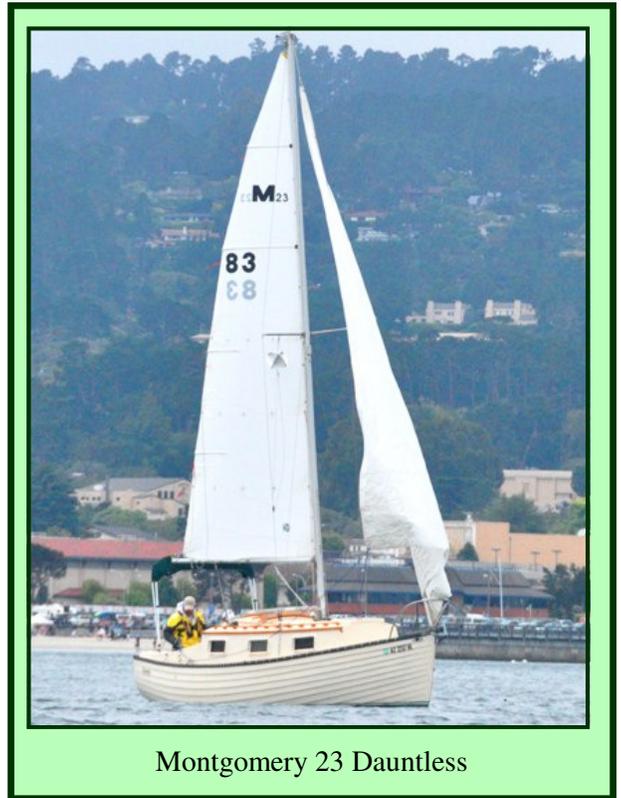
The difficulty with that is that, by the time I arrived, it made for a hurried boat set-up, check-in for a slip, and then a rush to the Captain's meeting, sometimes arriving

too late to get the benefit of

learning the layout of the race course and tips ahead of time.

But this year was different. I arrived a whole day early on Friday with my son Sam, and it was wonderful. A leisurely slow-paced boat set-up and check-in with plenty of time to chat and catch-up with good friends.

The first thing I noticed when I pulled into the Marina was that the Depot parking lot, where we usually park our trailers, had been preempted by a gigantic motorcycle racing enclosure that had bleachers, banners, and racing motorcyclists, with loudspeakers blaring rap music and motorcycles racing their engines: Vrrrooom, Vrrrooom. It was the annual Red Bull Grand Prix XDL, a two-day event where the street freestyle motorcycle riders pop wheelies, do handstands and perform other stunts, which seemed to be an adjunct to the Red Bull Grand Prix at Laguna Seca Race Track. Seems that these Grand Prix events used to be held during the Fourth of July weekend at Monterey until 2010 when they switched to the next to last weekend in July; the very same weekend as our Cruiser Chal-



Montgomery 23 Dauntless

lenges have traditionally been held.

So, instead of parking at the Depot lot, we parked our trailers at a local school parking lot a few blocks away in exchange for a small gratuity.

Although the thunder of the motorcycle zombies and the throbbing of the rap music in the background was a bit of a distraction, the Cruiser Challenge nonetheless again made for a great "Meeting of the Tribes" and pleasurable sailboat racing in a picturesque forum. Most importantly it was a great opportunity to hang-out with some of the best sailors (and human beings) I have had the pleasure to know; wonderful folks who came from near and far away. Great times before and after the race.



Rob Sampson Rounding the Mark in "Esp"

(CCXII: continued on page 4)



Small Boat Winners

The day before the race on Friday, we had fun hanging out with friends, pre-registered, and Sam and I even had dinner at the wharf, before turning in to sleep on the boat. Thank goodness Sam had no problem sleeping in the quarter berth, so I could sleep in the v-berth as usual. In contrast to the prior years, on Saturday morning we already had the boat in the water and were registered, so after breakfast it was no problem to get to the Captain's Meeting on time. We were even able to hang-out and chat with friends at the Monterey Bay Yacht Club. It was fun to watch the Amazing Magiceaux (also known as perennial Potter First Place Champion Jerry Barrilleaux) amazing this youngster with his magic rope trick in which he turns 3 different sized pieces of line into 3

equal segments, etc. I get such a kick of watching the looks of astonishment on the faces of the kids (and adults) he does his magic tricks for.

At the Captain's Meeting, Mike Swartz explained that this year the race course would be different. Instead of two or three races, there would just be one long big one. We would start near the wharf at the race boat and then tack out to the far red bell buoy at Point Pinos, about 5-6 miles out and then head downwind back to the finish, with the little boats starting first. This long course seemed like an interesting concept and it would avoid the criss-cross confusion in the prior races where boats nearly (or actually) collided, although the old format did make for easier photography since the boats were clustered closer together.

With the new race organization, it seemed more organized at the starting line as the little boats coalesced and then took off, and then we followed five minutes later in the medium sized boats, with my Potter 19 "Dagmar." Sam focused on taking photos (so he gets credits for all the photos this year) and I mostly dealt with doing the sailing. At the start I was able to keep Jerry Barrilleaux's boat "Sunshine" in my sights for the first third of the race keeping in a more or less straight line along the coast toward Point Pinos, until the first tack towards the ocean.



Medium Boat Winners

After that the distance between the boats started to grow as the tacking race was on, and different skippers took different tacks. Although the new course is about 10 miles total, "as the crow flies," it's probably at least 15 miles with all the up-wind tacking. I think I probably took too many tacks and did not make them long enough, not knowing that the current and wind as you near the Point Pinos Buoy pushes you back unexpectedly. You think "Oh I'm going to be able to go around the buoy no problem" and then the straight line which you thought you were sailing bends drastically to the leeward side of the buoy and you miss making the port turn around the buoy,



Colorful Potter 19 approaches the mark



Potter Otters

and have to go back again. As you approach the elusive buoy, first you hear the ringing of the bell on the buoy and then the barking of the sea lions, only to hear them fade into the distance, as you resolve to come back and give it a better try. Well, this happened several times, watching Muddy Duck and Rob Sampson make the buoy, until finally I resolved to go way out to sea before coming back for the Point Pinos buoy. That did the trick.

The downwind sail was very nice, until we sailed into the kelp beds near the Monterey Aquarium area, which slowed us down considerably as we engaged in our own little kelp relocation project.. After that, we belatedly arrived at the end, but the outboard wouldn't

start and since it was clear we could not sail back into the harbor because the wind was coming straight out of it, Rob Sampson was kind enough to give us a short tow back to the slip. Those little P-14 Honda outboards are tough little motors!

Notwithstanding all of that, we had an absolutely great time and got back in time for the awards and dinner at the Yacht Club. Great band, great fun.

After the race, a group of us had a few beers with Jerry Barrilleaux at a local establishment and when it came time to pay, Jerry did a trick where he turned a bunch of magazine scraps into dollar bills!

On the way back to the boat, Sam and I saw these two otters sleeping on the gangplank on the way to the boat; one put his paws over his eyes as I took flash photographs.

Monterey is a fantastic place and Cruiser Challenge XII was a whole lot of fun! Thanks to everyone who made it happen, appreciation to those who un-glitched the glitches, and congratulations to those whose sailing won the prizes and made this a memorable and spectacular success!



Big boat Winners



## Winners, All!

### First Potters

<i>Boat Name</i>	<i>Boat Type</i>	<i>Skipper</i>
Sunshine	Potter 19	Jerry Barrilleaux
Gale	Potter 15	Jim "Goose" Gossman

### Big Boats

<i>Place</i>	<i>Boat Name</i>	<i>Boat Type</i>	<i>Skipper</i>
1	Dauntless	Montgomery 23	Sean Mulligan
2	Jack Tar	Marshall Sanderling	Hank Benjamin
3	A Little Class	Catalina 22	Ed Heasley
4	Elli E	Balboa 21	David Soule

### Medium Boats

<i>Place</i>	<i>Boat Name</i>	<i>Boat Type</i>	<i>Skipper</i>
1	Goshawk	Sage 17	Jerry Montgomery
2	Moto iti	Montgomery 17	Eldor Seisen
3	Air Born	Sage 17	Dave Scobie
4	Sunshine	Potter 19	Jerry Barrilleaux
5	Pequena	Montgomery 17	Paul Bear
6	Chiquita	Cape Dory Typhoon	Tim Derry
7	Burgundy Splash	Potter 19	Russel Swartz
8	Strega Del Mar	Potter 19	Dave DiRado
9	Riptide	Potter 19	Eric Zilbert
10	Rablin Rose	Potter 19	Jim Smith
11	Good N Plenty	Compac 19	Dan Ricker
12	Wee Boat	Potter 19	Dave White
13	Mystic 2	Potter 19	Andrea Brown
DNF*	The Potter's Vessel	Potter 19	Kevin Mayor
DNF*	Latis	Compac Legacy	Pat Brennan
DNF	Dagmar	Potter 19	Carl Sundholm
DNF	Muddy Duck	Compac Suncat	Dick Herman

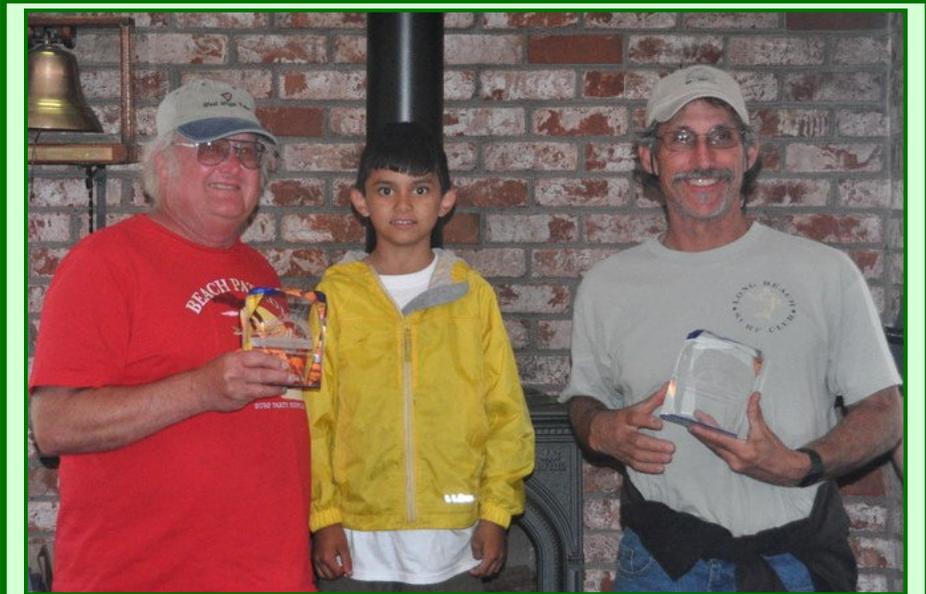
\*Crossed wrong side of the finishing mark.

(More Winners, Page 7)

(Winners, continued from page 6)

<b>Small Boats</b>			
<i>Place</i>	<i>Boat Name</i>	<i>Boat Type</i>	<i>Skipper</i>
1	Midget	Montgomery 15	Mike Trueman
2	No Name	Montgomery 15	David Grah
3	Gale	Potter 15	Jim "Goose" Gossman
4	Two Can	Montgomery 15	Neil Dorf
5	Manatee	Potter 15	Harry Gordon
6	ESP	Potter 15	Rob Sampson
DNF	Minnow	Potter 15	Rich McDevitt
DNF	Bateau Ivre	Potter 15	Oscar Koechlin

**Good Job,  
Guys!**



Jerry Barrilleaux to the Left, Goose Gossman to the right.



Goose Gossman in "Gale"





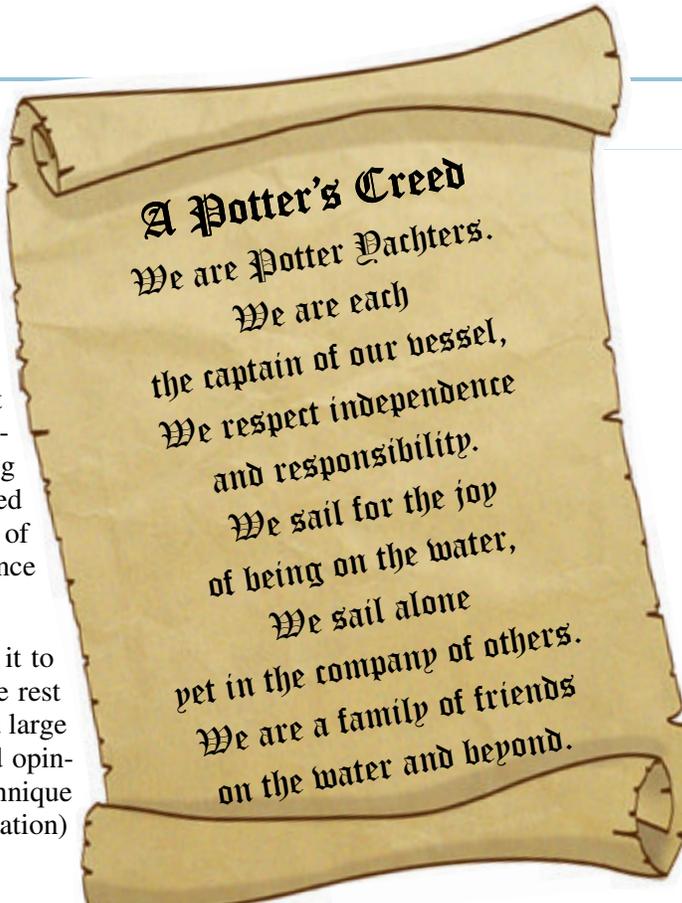
Patrick Brennan  
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## With a Grain of Salt

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.