



The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Potter Yachters

November 2011

Richmond to Angel Island



Tora! Tora! Tora! Potters Invade Angel Island!

All lined up and ready to GO!
Photo by Katie Taylor

Story: Neil Dorf and Goose Gossman
Photos: Don Person

It's true...even the battleship Iowa could only sit and watch from shore as an impressive fleet of 18 Potter Yachter vessels sailed from Richmond Inner Harbor into San Francisco Bay on a beautiful fall day. Temps reached into the low 70s but mid afternoon, and winds were light, but sufficient to get us moving especially once the fleet exited Portrero Reach and into more open water.

The morning started with the usual staggered arrival of boat and crew, meet-and-greet, and coffee and danish to start the day. Brad Evans and Jim Kirwan had arrived a day earlier so were already setup and in the water, and Dan Phyl came without vessel, instead taking turns crewing with Brad and Jim. There were a several new guests joining us. Daniel Rich brought his M15 down from Sebastapol with his buddy Sal, and Bruce King came over from the Sacramento area with his M15 as well. Dave, Linda and Katie Elkins also came with their Potter 15. Darrel Heirendt left Sweet Georgia

Brown at home but drove all the way up from the Paso Robles area to join us and sail with in Kevin Crowder in Aurora.

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Katie and Dory could not sail but were kind enough to drop by the marina to say "hello" to everyone; that was nice.

Carl S., Admiral Dick, Tim, Jerry & Mike, Dave W, Eric Z, we missed you guys out there; sorry you

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The Commodore's Log

This could be my last Commodore's Log assuming we will not have a newsletter in December. It has been an honor leading those who can not be lead for the last three years. I hope I leave the club in as good a

shape as I received it.

Last weekend we had our Richmond to Angle Island sail. I think we had the best turnout of the sailing season. Neil great job, all though a little wind would have been nice.

Speaking of wind there wasn't much for our annual Moss Landing to Monterey sail. I arrived in Moss

Landing on Friday the day before the club sail. I did get out on the bay Friday afternoon and had a nice 10 knot breeze. Saturday there was some wind and we had a leisurely sail towards Monterey. Mike Swartz and I decided we would not leave Monterey until the wind picked up. Sunday morning it was dead calm. Most boats left early. We left in our P19's late morning and were able to sail slowly all the way back to Moss Landing.

Wind or no wind you just can't beat a day on the water.

See you on the Sacramento River, and if not there at the annual meeting in January.

Bud

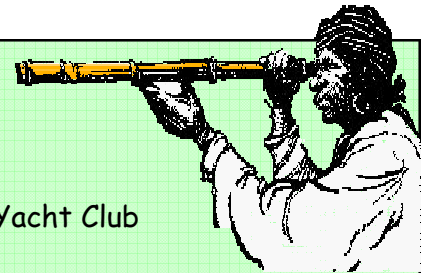
EVENTS ON THE HORIZON:

11/19 Delta Day Sail

Host: Bud Kerner

Date TBA: January Meeting

Host: Oakland Yacht Club



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.

Commodore:

Bud Kerner
592 Summerset Dr.
Rio Vista, CA 94571
Cell: (209) 815-7542
bizmodel@frontier.com
P-18 Cats Meow

Vice Commodore:

Rich Mc Devitt
11595 Manzanita Lane
Dublin, CA 95346
ViceCommodore@potter-yachters.org
P-15 #2531, Minnow

P19 Fleet Captain:

Carl Sundholm
750 Menlo Ave #100
Menlo Park CA 94025
Cell: (408) 858-7057
sundholm@att.net
P-19 Dagmar

P-15 Fleet Captain:

Don Person
1651 Ramblewood Way
Pleasanton, CA. 94566
P15captain@potter-yachters.org
P-15, #2472, Sarah Anne

Secretary/Treasurer:

Pat Brennan
1305 Webster St. #C205
Alameda, CA 94501
(510) 769-1246
Secretary@potter-yachters.org
P-15 #621, Eaglet

Education Captain:

Dave Bacon
1043 Rio Vista Drive
Pacifica, CA 94044
BaconEgg@earthlink.net
P-15, #2636, Ah Tiller the Fun

Newsletter Editor:

Katie Taylor
733 Spindrift DR.
San Jose, CA. 95134
Cell: (408) 621-4592
PYnewsletter@hotmail.com
P-14 #691, Follow Me

Commodore Emeritus

Judy Blumhorst
228 La Pera Circle
Danville, CA 94526
(925) 820 0800
Education@potter-yachters.org
P-19 #266 Redwing

Webmaster:

Mike Westfield
Webmaster@potter-yachters.org

Website:

www.potter-yachters.org

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Here's the more-or-less complete list of vessels and crew in attendance:

Neil Dorf	Montgomery 15	TwoCan
Daniel Rich	Montgomery 15	Kestrel
Jim Kirwan and Dan Phy	Montgomery 15	Surprise
Mike Trueman	Montgomery 15	Midget
Bruce King with friend Jerry	Montgomery 15	Hull #484 No Name
Don Person and Marthe	Potter 15	Sarah Anne
David Myers	Potter 15	Salty Dog
Goose Gossman and Larry	Potter 15	Gale
Jerry Barrilleaux	Potter 15	Sunshine
Harry Gordon	Potter 15	Manatee
Dave Bacon	Potter 15	Ah Tiller the Fun
Dave, Linda and Katie Elkins	Potter 15	
Rich McDevitt and Darrel Heirendt	Potter 15	Minnow
Kevin Crowder	Compac 19	Aurora
Bud Turner	Potter 19	Cat's Meow
Pat Brennan	Compac Legacy	Latis
Brad Evans	Vagabond 17	Mosey
Dave and Francesca Kautz	O'Day 192	Trailer Trash

couldn't make it.

After having a brief skippers' meeting on the dock, it was decided to head for Angel Island. Jerry was "volunteered" to lead the fleet with Sunshine, what with one of the taller rigs and easily identifiable sail number 48 for all to see.

A few boats opted for a different itinerary, but most headed across the Bay to the island. It took roughly 2 1/2 hours in light (and occasional no) breezes to make the crossing; I think most of us had kicked on our outboards several times throughout the day. But the weather was perfect, and vistas were grand, and everyone was in fine spirits.

There were tons of sailboats out on the Bay. It looked like there was a regatta going on south of us towards Berkeley.

As we starting arriving at the dock at Ayala Cove on Angel Island at about 12:30pm, we gathered on the patio at the cafe for lunch and storytelling, and compared notes on our routes and search for wind during the crossing. Ayala Cove is as very pretty setting with a great vista across Racoon Strait, plenty of foliage, a grassy green picnic area, and concessions. I think we should think about maybe organizing a pot-luck for next year; it is possible to hold a group reservation for the picnic area where there are tables and even BBQ pits. This, of course, would require a much earlier departure from Richmond, and um, well, being as we are the Potter Yachters, well, maybe that might be a tall order to organize and leave earlier. Just a thought. Many of us would have to launch our boats on Friday and overnight first at the Marina in Richmond. Well we can discuss a the January meeting.

Departing from Angel Island, most of us decided to head to the North towards Red Top, in order to both exit the island's wind shadow and to compensate for the ebb current. The current didn't really turn out to be much of a factor, and many of us wound up nearing the east shore near Pt. Richmond where the wind promptly decided it had blow enough for the day. By this time, nearing 4:00pm, I decided it was time to fire up the Yamaha and head for the docks.

Thanks again for everyone for coming and making this such a great turnout!

-Neil and Goose



Three salty Potter Yachter vets. Terry Gotcher, Jerry Barrilleaux and Rich McDevitt

(Angel Island Pictures continue on page 4)

(Angel Island, continued from page 3)



The Elkins,
the Rich-
mond-San
Rafael bridge
and Red Rock

Dave Bacon,
Neil Dorf,
Mike True-
man and the
newcomers
Dave, Linda
and Katie El-
kins. Another
yellow boat.



Goose
Gossman and
his crew
Larry

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(Angel Island, continued from page 4)

Dave
Bacon



Jerry Barril-
leaux in Rac-
coon Strait.



Western
Sandpi-
pers
leaving
Rich-
mond



A Foggy Day on Tomales Bay

By Carl Sundholm

In mid-September, sail host Eric Zilbert put out the word that the long-awaited Tomales Bay sail, beach party, and overnight campout was on for Saturday, September 24, 2011, with the launch point being Miller Park, otherwise known as Nick's Cove and the destination being Tomales Beach.

As I was driving to Miller Park on Saturday with Dagmar in tow, the sunny weather on the inland route I took led me to envision a sunny day on Tomales Bay.



But, in the words of Forrest Gump, "Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get." And as I reached Tomales Bay, I began to see the wisdom in those words: the weather on the coast was far different with a thick marine layer of fog covering the coast, including Tomales Bay.

When I pulled into our Potter-Yachter rendezvous point at Miller County Park, I could see that all the boat parking places were taken, and I was happy to see that my good friend Rick Keith had nailed down a parking spot for Dagmar. Rick was to be sailing Dagmar with me and was kind enough to have also procured the camping permit for the tent. I

It was great to discover that those parking spaces were populated by familiar Potter Yachters Rich McDevitt, Jerry and Marty Higgins, Jim Kirwan, as well as a few new to me faces in Daniel Rich and his Montgomery 15 "Kestrel" and Rafael and Mark with their beautiful Sun Cat. Jerry and Marty Higgins had stayed the night in their interesting roof top tent, atop their car.



So we de-trailerred the boats and got them to the docks. As others set off sailing into the fog, Dagmar's motor had difficulty starting and flooded. Rather than waiting for the flood to evaporate, and having seen at Benicia how expertly Jerry Barrilleaux handled his Potter-19 Sunshine without using his motor in significantly windier conditions, I was inspired to just sail away from the docks and deal with the motor later.

(Tomales continued on page 7)

(Tomales, continued from page 6)



It was really interesting and fun sailing in the eerie silence of the fog. It didn't affect the wind, which was sufficient for getting some good sailing in.

Rick did an excellent job sailing Dagmar through the fog. It was great to have company on the water.

By the time we reached Tomales Beach, the fog began to raise, but it did not disappear. While we were contemplating how, if the motor would not start, to use the direction of the wind to sail onto the beach, I gave it a few pulls and it started. So we pulled down the sails, revved the engine, made a bee-line for the beach, and raising the centerboard

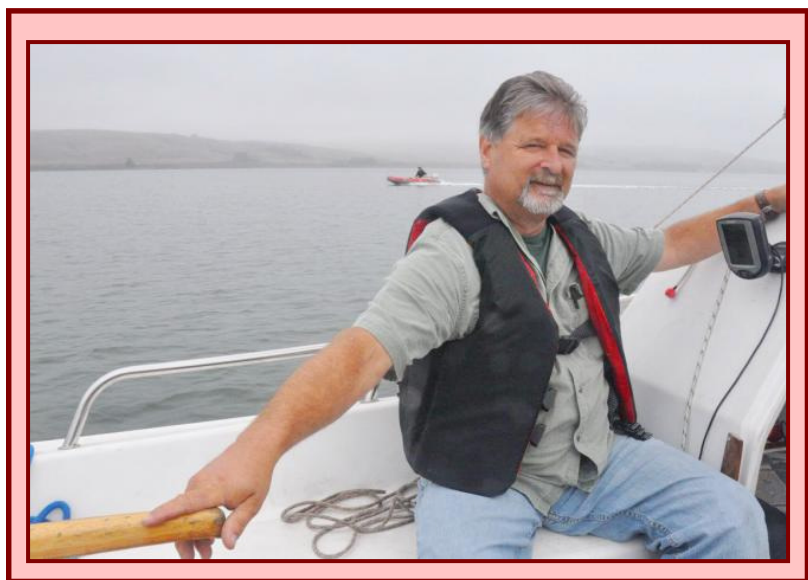
and kick-up rudder, slid Dagmar's bow up on the soft sand of the beach head. Rich beached Minnow and we began the Potter Yachter colonization.

We found the beach occupied by numerous Boy Scouts on the south side, and some kayakers on the north. There must have been about 30 Boy Scouts who had set up their tents. The beach population density thinned considerably when the Boy Scouts learned that they were on Tomales Beach rather than on Marshall Beach which was the one written on their camping permits, so they pulled up their tents and headed for the next beach to the south. With that our prospects of a good camping spot improved considerably, so we set up the tent in a



strategic location and Rich McDevitt took affirmative action and secured the picnic table for the Potter Yachters. Then the troops began to arrive. Jerry and Marty Higgins anchored out and rowed in, as did Jim Kirwan. Dave White and Eric Zilbert arrived with their families and set up camp. Newcomers Rafael and his son Mark also joined us, as did some of the kayakers.

We gathered up the firewood, and started the fire. Rick Keith, who is a vitner extraordinaire and has his own "Leaf & Vine" line of wines, broke out the wine he so generously provided, and the beach party was on. Wonderful conversation and fun!



(Tomales continued on page 8)

(Tomaes continued from page 7)

Eric broke out the grill and Rich began shuckin' oysters and jivin' with David White and the guys.

And with Rich's culinary skills, those oysters were transformed into the magical delicacy that brings us all to Tomaes every year: "Oysters McDevitt." And they were McDDeeeee-licious! Thank you Rich, we are not worthy. There was plenty of other vittles as well and we enjoyed a sumptuous feast on the beach.

Then we relaxed and watched the tide go out and sun go down, taking careful note of the tide tables to ensure we would have water under our boats when we wanted to leave.



Then we settled in by the glowing campfire, the bar was opened, stories were spun, and the night was filled with splendid conversation and campfire guitar music continuing into the wee hours, until the last few revelers wandered off to turn in for the night.

And when the dawn broke, the boats were still there, and there was a big jellyfish marking where high tide had reached during the night..

However, soon that "chance of rain" the weather people had mentioned, and I had ignored, suddenly became a reality as the rain came down and the campers scurried to get their rain gear and cover up those things that shouldn't get wet. It

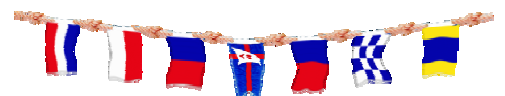
was about that time I remembered that I had forgotten the rain fly for the tent, but things all worked out. No one was really bothered by the rain and it did not dampen the good spirits we had one bit.

Tomaes Bay continues to be an excellent Potter Yachter sail and campout, the environment is so magical, and the people that attend are such fantastic folks that it doesn't even matter what the weather is. We had an absolutely wonderful and memorable time and look forward to doing it again next year and see what Nature brings to us.



(Tomaes continues on page 9)

(Tomaes continued from page 8)



Delta Day Sail

November 19, 2011

Bud Kerner

Come Join us for a Saturday sail on the mighty Sacramento River. Weather permitting, I really mean wind, we will sail from Rio Vista, down the river to the south end of Decker Island, where we will turn to port, sail past the San Diego ferry to Three Mile Slough, where we will rejoin the Sacramento River and sail back to the Point Restaurant in Rio Vista for lunch. The Point Restaurant is at the marina and there is guest docking in the marina. The Point has a dock but it is closed. The launch fee is \$10, however, if you let me know in advance, bizmodel@frontier.com, I will have a \$6 token for you.

To get there:

Coming from the Bay Area on CA 4 take the Antioch Bridge which is CA 160 to CA 12. Turn left and cross the Sacramento River and make the first right just over the bridge. Turn right again to go under CA 12. Straight thru the first Stop sign, then left into the ramp area.

If coming from I80 take the CA 12 East exit. Just before you cross the Rio Vista bridge bear left at the Chevrolet dealer and then right at the Stop sign. Straight thru the first Stop sign, then left into the ramp area.

If coming West on CA 12 cross the Rio Vista bridge and follow the Bay Area instructions above.



The Sampsons take aim at Woodward Reservoir. Crewman Paloma looks on.
Photo: Katie Taylor



ATTENTION! CALENDAR PICTURES NEEDED

All who have photos of Potters at Potter Yachter events please send your favorites to the Calendar Committee care of Don Person, dnjperson@comcast.net

Select the ones you like and forward them. We hope the calendar will represent as many photographers as possible. Last year we had ten. This year we hope for more. Selections will be the day after Thanksgiving so send the your pics before that. Do it! Send your pictures!





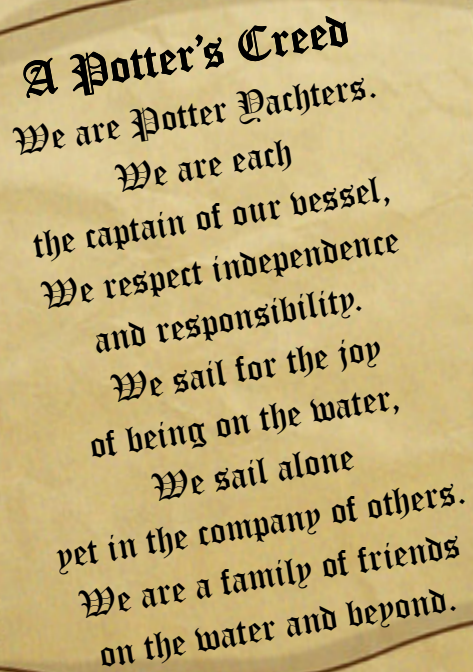
Patrick Brennan
1305 Webster St., C205
Alameda, CA 94501

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*



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.