



The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Potter Yachters

March / April 2011

Corkscrew Revisited



By Carl Sundholm

Last year's 2010 St. Patrick's Day Weekend Corkscrew Adventure received widespread publicity, including write-ups in Small Craft Advisor and Latitude 38, largely due to the stranding of several boats in the mud of the unforgiving falling tide until 8 hours later that night when they were freed by the rising waters.

Resolving to "get back on the horse that bucked them," this year was going to be different. Tides were carefully examined: instead of last year's high tide at 11:00 am, this year's high tide would be between 1-2 pm. It was resolved that time would not be wasted trying to sail to the mouth of the slough if there was insufficient wind.

The initial vision was for a sunny weekend and two races: the first on Saturday would be a Buoy n' Back Race up Redwood Creek to the green buoy and back, and the second on Sunday would be Corkscrew II. It would be the season opener, and many expressed interest in participating.

But as the awaited weekend approached, a series of serious storms were forecast to pelt the Bay Area, and visions of a sunny opening day began to wash away. The National Weather Service issued a rare tornado warning for San Mateo County and a winter storm alert for Friday through Sunday, warning that sudden storm conditions, including high winds and cold rain, were expected to roll in on Friday, and that a second stronger storm system would be arriving on Sunday.

Also in this Issue:

Commodore's Log	Page 2
Corkscrew Revisited	Page 1
Revised Calendar	Page 5
Oakland Estuary Day Sail	Page 6
Delta Cruise	Page 8

In an attempt to salvage the Corkscrew II reprise, a decision was made to shift the Corkscrew II race/rally to Saturday, in the hopes that the "window" between the major storms would

(Corkscrew: continued page 3)



The Commodore's Log

This years sailing season is off to a "wet" start. There were only four boats at the Peninsular Yacht Club's St. Patrick's Day bash. I sailed on Carl Sundholm' P19 with Carl and Rob Sampson, it was my first opportunity to sail a Potter with roller furling. We had trouble unfurling the jib, I went

forward to do it manually. When the wind picked up we couldn't roll it up so Carl went forward and rolled it from the bow. With the option of sailing with the full jib or without it, we chose to leave it furled. With the full jib I couldn't keep Dagmar off the banks, on Corkscrew Slough they are not very far apart. The Potter 19 does not point very well without a head sail, so we motor sailed. Now we did finish first, but I think we were disqualified. Didn't matter it was a great day.

Our second sail the Benicia day sail was postponed because of high winds and rain. The new date for the sail is August 27th and we are adding the option of second day of sailing.

Some years ago we used to put on a sail out of Richmond for folks who were contemplating buying a Potter. Members of the Potter Yachters would take prospective buyers out for an hour sail. We called it the Salt & Pepper sail, not because our members are old, but experienced. We stopped doing it because of the small turnout. The last one we did had only one person show up. We are going to try it again. There will be a sign up sheet at the West Wight Potter booth at the Strictly Sail Show in Jack London Square this April. If we get any takers the sail will be out of Richmond at 10:00AM on April 23rd. I will arrange for the volunteers. Our own Don Person went out with Mike Westfield on one of these sails. When he got home he called IM and ordered his P15.

Speaking of the Strictly Sail Show, I will be at the West Wight Potter booth on Friday April 15th stop by and say hello. Jerry Barrilleaux will be there Saturday the 16th. Lets welcome new members Bud Newhall, John Couch, Ralph and Margie Carl isle. Welcome aboard we hope to see you on the water soon.
Bud



EVENTS ON THE HORIZON:

4/16	Oakland Estuary Day Sail	Pat Brennan
4/30-5/1	Overnight Moss Landing	Mike Swartz
5/14,15	Overnight Delta Cruise	Jerry Barrilleaux
7/23,24	Cruiser Challenge XII (Never too early!)	Gretchen Ricker/Race Committee

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:

Bruce Hood
21 Regulus Ct
Alameda, CA 94501
ViceCommodore@potter-yachters.org
P-15 #2229, *Eilidh*

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:

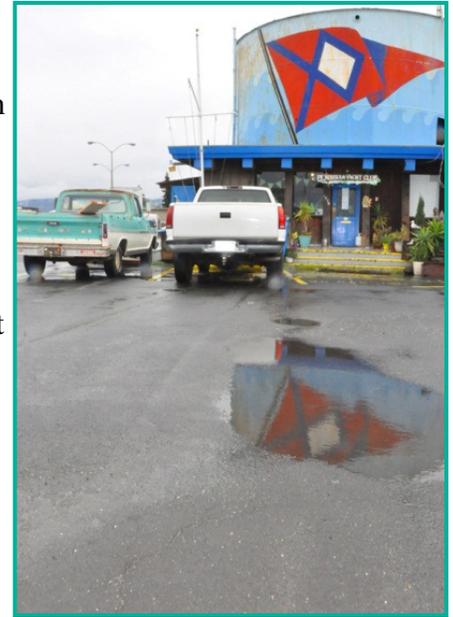
www.potter-yachters.org

(Corkscrew: continued from page 1)

be enough to allow it to occur.

When the storm system finally rolled in on Friday, cancellations also came in and it appeared problematic as to whether Corkscrew II would even happen. The next morning, it became clear that the so-called weather “window” between the storms was still going to be characterized by cold and rainy weather.

In the morning, I motored Dagmar over to the Docktown Pier in the rain. At the Peninsula Yacht Club’s blue water tower crowned clubhouse, I found Potter stalwarts, Commodore Bud Kerner, Dave Kautz, Rob Sampson, Jerry Higgins, and Chuck Lee (and his son Kevin). Four of us (myself, Dave, Jerry, and Chuck) were among those stranded in the prior year’s tide and were especially motivated to succeed this year. I raised the issue of the weather and asked if people still wanted to go forward with the sail. To a man, the attitude was weather be damned, we’re going to sail. These guys made me even prouder to be a Potter-Yachter.



So at 10:30am sharp, with Bud and Rob in Dagmar, Dave in Tilly Lucy, Jerry in Lia, and Chuck and Kevin in SS Squirt, we all headed out to sail out Redwood Creek, make the transit through Corkscrew Slough and then down Steinberger and Smith Sloughs back to the Peninsula Yacht Club.

The wind was variable in strength between about 5-15 mph, but was consistent in direction coming from the South, which is exactly opposite from normal conditions and from the 2010 Corkscrew Adventure winds.

On last year’s sail, the wind was mostly insufficient to move out Redwood Creek. While the normal northerly winds require tacking out Redwood Creek, this year we did not have to tack at all on our way out and sailed on a beam reach the entire way to the entrance of Corkscrew.

Then turning to port going into the entrance, this fine Southerly wind enabled us to sail on a run down the first part of Corkscrew Slough, and to sail the rest of the slough with virtually no tacking.

This made for a quite relaxed and enjoyable sail down Corkscrew Slough for the most part.

That is not to say there were no difficulties, since Dagmar’s foresail roller furler did develop a little “birds nest” that I tried in vain to fix on the water, and the lack of the foresail resulted in the wind blowing us into the shallows



(Corkscrew: continued on page 4)

(Corkscrew: continued from page 3)



in a couple of places, but we enlisted the assistance of the motor to avoid grounding. But for the most part it was smooth sailing.

When we approached the danger spot at the end of Corkscrew where it intersects Steinberger Slough where three boats grounded the prior year, we kept far to the right before making the left turn down Steinberger, and had a minimum of about 4 feet of depth going over the sandbar there.

I noticed a small island (shown looking back in the photo) along the axis of the sandbar at the west side of the end of Corkscrew Slough that I don't recall seeing last year, that

probably resulted from the higher tide we experienced at this point.

The rain got heavier and colder as we moved down Steinberger Slough towards the airport and then out Smith Slough towards Docktown, and it was a welcome luxury to be able to take turns at the tiller and thaw out in the cabin.

Finally, Docktown came into view and we could see the distinctive blue water tower of PYC welcoming us back. We were the first ones back, arriving back at 1:30 pm. I suppose technically we were the winners of the race, but it really wasn't a race and was more of a rally since the other boats took off in various directions enjoying the day despite the rain and exploring various twists and turns in the local labyrinth of sloughs.



Many thanks to Peninsula Yacht Club for the wonderful hospitality and the tasty Corned Beef Cabbage St. Patrick's Day weekend dinner.



The Potter Yachters
2011 Sailing Calendar
Updated!

4/16	Oakland Estuary Day Sail	Pat Brennan
4/30-5/1	Overnight Moss Landing	Mike Swartz
5/14,15	Overnight Delta Cruise	Jerry Barrilleaux
6/4,5	Woodward Annual Camp Out	Katie/Dory Taylor
6/25,26	Eagle Lake	Don Person
7/3,4	Fourth of July Overnight Mandeville Island	Don Person
7/23,24	Cruiser Challenge XII	Gretchen Ricker/ Race Committee
8/6	Richmond Day Sail	Rich McDevitt
8/20, 21	Huntington Lake camp out with SoCal Potters	Wes Harrison & Bard Johnson
8/27, 28	Benicia Two-Day Sail	Jim Gossman
9/10	S.F. Day Sail, Clipper Cove Picnic	Pat Brennan
9/6 to 9/21	Messabout IX	Dick Herman
9/24,25	Tomales Bay Overnight	Eric Zilbert
10/15,16	Moss Landing to Monterey	Mike Swartz
10/29	Richmond Day Sail	Neil Dorf
11/19	Delta Day Sail	Bud Kerner



Oakland Estuary Daysail

AKA: Strictly Sail Sail-by



The Oakland Estuary is always an interesting place to sail as there is always a lot of activity—container ships, tugs and barges, Coast Guard cutters and, of course, other sailboats. Our April 16 Oakland Estuary daysail is the same weekend as the Pacific “Strictly Sail” boat show at Jack London Square, Oakland. As in prior years we will attempt a Potter Yachter parade of boats by the show to demonstrate to the attendees strolling up and down the docks what actual sailing looks like. We will attempt to look sharp, and while this event does not require “full dress ship” you are urged to fly a Potter burgee and an ensign if you have them.

We will rig and launch at the Grand Street launch facility in Alameda opposite Coast Guard Island and plan to be underway between 9:00 and 10:00. We will sail to Jack London Square and attempt our parade by the show before breaking for lunch. The two best places for lunch are probably the Pasta Pelican on the Estuary directly opposite Jack London Square or Quinn’s Lighthouse in Oakland opposite Coast Guard Island. Both have guest docks. Keep your VHF tuned to Ch. 68 and we can decide on the water who is going where. After lunch we can sail some more before we haul out. After the sail it is quite likely that a number of Potters will find their way to the bar at the Oakland Yacht Club.

Several Potters have arranged for slips at OYC. If any other members would like to stay overnight and continue sailing on Sunday, OYC can probably accommodate them. The Potter Yachters is a reciprocal member of OYC so feel free to call the club.

Contact:
Pat Brennan
pat-brennan@sbcglobal.net
Cell phone – 925-708-6234

Grand Street has two well-maintained ramps and a parking lot. Both the ramp and parking are free. Tides and currents are not of real concern on the Estuary. We will be launching on a rising tide of about four feet and retrieving close to a low tide of about one foot. Currents will be less than 1 ½ mph.

Directions:
Take 880 toward Oakland. Exit at 23rd Street and follow the “Alameda” signs to the Park Street Bridge. After crossing the bridge make a right turn at the second light, Clement Street. Go straight on Clement until it ends and then turn right on Grand Street.



(Estuary: continued page 7)

(Estuary: continued from page 6)



This just in!

International Marine will have an exhibit featuring a pink P-15, Aka "Pinky". "Pinky" Is to be auctioned for the benefit of the Susan G Komen Foundation. <http://bbs.trailersailor.com/forums/potter/index.cgi/read/93966>

Also, IM and Hyde Sails are hosting a hospitality hour at booth #867 at 5:00 pm on Friday. You won't need passes to get into the area. It's outdoors, across from the dock with boats for the show. Booth 867 booth is at the east end of the outdoor exhibit area.



MAY 14 & 15 Overnite Delta Cruise

We will be launching from B&W Resort at 9 AM for an overnite sail to Bruno's Island. Launching fee is about \$15.00 and a overnite slip at Bruno's runs \$10.00. Try to be at the launch ramp on time so we can sail under the draw bridge together. We will be berthing our boats on the lee side of the Island away from the wind. There is a floating General Store nearby. Last year we had Sunday breakfast at the Pirates Lair Marina, or we can go to Spindrifft. The sailing is always good on the Stockton Channel. Bruno's has clean restrooms with flush toilets.

Bring folding chairs and you might want to bring your own grill. Last year Don Person and family met us there with the Houseboat The Usual Suspects.

If you have any questions call me at 925 685 4577 Jerry Barrilleaux

To get to B&W Resort take Highway 4 and go over the Antioch Bridge towards Rio Vista. This turns into Highway 160. When you come to the stop light on Highway 12 turn right. Go about 4 miles and just BEFORE you cross the bridge turn left on Brennan Island Road to B&W

See you There!



(Delta: continued page 9)

(Delta: continued from page 8)





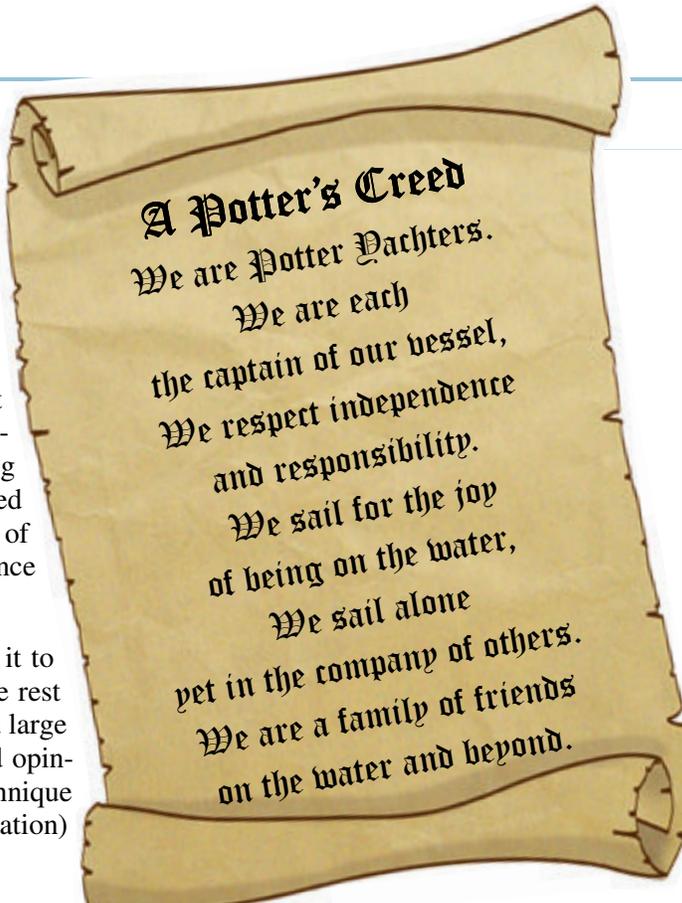
Patrick Brennan
1305 Webster St., C205
Alameda, CA 94501

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.