



The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Longest Lasting West Wight Potter Club in the World

Jan-Feb 2014

Oakland Yacht Club - January 26th, 2014

Record Attendance at Annual Meeting

Despite any "occupancy limit" to the contrary, it's clear that the Regatta Room at the Oakland Yacht Club in Alameda can certainly accommodate 48 adults. If that's not a record for attendees at the annual meeting then it must be pretty close!

This year's Sunday Brunch and Annual Potter Yachters Meeting found Commodore Sundholm once again "herding cats", as he likes to call it.

He does it so well that it might seem to any mere outsider as though he's simply following the crowd. But for this crowd on this day, it works. Having had our fill of breakfast, we all sat down to business.



With chairs against the walls, it's 'sitting room only'

Carl made some introductory remarks and turned the floor over to anyone who wanted to introduce themselves. There were quite a number of folks who did so, including some who have been members for a while but hadn't made it to any meetings for an "official" introduction.

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Potter Yachter of the Year Don Person

It was with few words and much applause that Don Person humbly accepted his selection as Potter Yachter of the Year.



photo: Phil Marcellis

Don Person (right) accepts his award.

If anyone is deserving of such an honor, it is most assuredly Don. He has patiently guided many a new Potter Yachter and we thank him. – 

More VSC Program information:

<http://cgaux.org/vsc/>
and
www.usps.org/national/vsc/

Our very own Dave Norris has provided this information for the benefit of all members. To contact Dave about any VSC matters, send email to:

Dave Norris, w6ctm@aol.com

Safety First!

Vessel Safety Check

The Vessel Safety Check program of both the US Power Squadrons and US Coast Guard Auxiliary is a very worthwhile activity to assist boaters to maintain their safety standards each year. These organizations have what we call Vessel Examiners (VEs) trained and qualified to administer these check activities which are at no charge to any boater be that on a power, sail, or paddle craft. –Dave Norris, S/V "Wings" & past P-19 (#1004) "WightCap"

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The Potter Yachter

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After the introduction of some mighty interesting folks, we moved on to the Treasurer's Report, "elected" any officers not quick-witted enough to escape, Carl presented our club's highest honor (the Potter Yachter of the Year award), and we worked out a sailing schedule. Somewhere in there, it was decided that dues would be held to the current level, announcements were made (not necessarily in this order: Dave Bacon's book, mention of the VSC Program, and a call to buy Potter Calendars – "oh, too late... sold out"), and we posed for a "group photo".

If you're down in there counting, you may notice a discrepancy between faces and the number of attendees previously cited. Not pictured are: Eric Zilbert, Terry Gotcher, and Mike Trueman. I'll leave you to answer the question, "How many Potter Yachters does it take to operate a camera?" – 



photo: Carl Sundholm

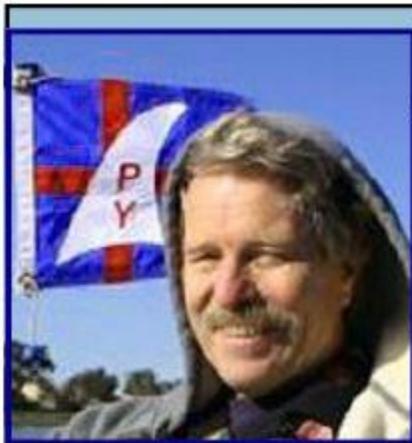
Goose and Eric fork over their cash before Don sells the last calendar.

A Pod of Potter Yachters at the Annual Meeting



photo: Carl Sundholm

Far back row (from left): Cindi Baumgard, Rafael Davidson, Dan Ricker, Dave Soule; *Middle rows:* Kjeld Molvig, David Myers, Mike Dolan, Chuck Lee, Neil Dorf, Harry Gordon, Dana Suverkrop, Rich McDevitt, Dick Herman, Gretchen Ricker, Bruce McDevitt, Dave White, Cheryl White, Jim Smith, Bud Kerner, Bobbi Kerner, Kevin Crowder, Judy Blumhorst, Dave Blumhorst, Bud Newhall, Rob Sampson, Dave Candey, Pat Brennan, Phil Marcelis, Michael Greenberg, Jim "Goose" Gossman, Carol Barrilleaux, Jerry Barrilleaux, Dave Norris, Bart Kylstra
Seated: Herman Ward, Larry Tkach, Katie Taylor, Sharon Soule, Carl Sundholm, Don Person, Judy Bacon, Dave Bacon, Dan Phy
Seated on floor: Danny Ward, Becky Dorf



The Commodore's Corner

By Carl Sundholm

Well, Spring appears to be underway and as the sap rises in the trees, sailors' thoughts turn to new adventure catching the wind.

We have plenty of great events and sails scheduled this year, as you can see from the Potter Yachter 2014 Event Schedule posted in this edition of the Potter Yachter.

I would like to devote the rest of this month's Commodore's Corner to respond to an issue that was brought up recently by newbie Potter Yachter Michael Greenberg of Inverness, who recently made the following post on the West Wight Potter Forum on the Trailer Sailor Bulletin Board. Michael posted:

Hi all

I really enjoyed the annual meeting, but I was hoping to ask for a favor from the group. When we post the 2014 calendar, would it be possible for the hosts (or anyone else if this is a big ask) to write a few sentences about the relative difficulty of the sail and what sort of overnight it would be (docked or anchored)?

I'm not worried about most of the sails although I would probably save the open water ones until next year. I ask now because I know the details are sometimes posted a week before each trip but that doesn't give some folks enough time to clear the calendar for the ones they want to try. Is that a reasonable request?

I don't want to make work for anyone but I need some help here, and I can't be the only one, can I? 😊 Then again I could be!

Generally speaking (and there are always exceptions), the answers to your questions are:

- (1) Redwood City/St. Pat's Day Weekend Sail (*easy to intermediate, depending on how far out into the Bay we go and on how windy it is*);
- (2) Oakland Estuary Sail & Strictly Sail Boat Show (*easy, just sailing around the protected estuary*);
- (3) Benicia Sail (*easy to intermediate, depending upon the winds whether the destination is more open water towards the bay; sometimes overnights at dock or at anchor for individuals who choose to, but not an organized group overnight generally*);
- (4) Moss Landing/Monterey Spring Sail (*intermediate to advanced, depending on the weather – note most open ocean sails are advanced and not for beginners, but this year we are planning to hang out at the Elkhorn Slough Yacht Club, so it should be easy; overnighting in boat moored at the docks*);
- (5) Jerry Barrilleaux's Delta Overnight Sail from B & W Resort (*easy but sometimes intermediate when it is very windy; the overnights are on the boats moored at the docks*);
- (6) Woodward Reservoir Campout (*easy to somewhat intermediate if windy; overnight in boats moored on the beach, or bring a sleeping bag & tent and camp on the beach*);
- (7) Lake Hennessey (*easy day sail*);
- (8) Cruiser Challenge XV in Monterey Bay (*can run the gamut from easy to advanced, depending on winds and course*);
- (9) Richmond Day Sail (*generally intermediate, but again depends on the destination and the weather; generally we sail to Angel Island or north to San Rafael depending on the tides, but the closer we get to the Golden Gate or going out the Golden Gate, we are talking advanced; but mostly individuals decide for themselves on getting the feel of the conditions*);
- (10) Bud Kerner's Delta Bridges Sail and Overnight (*generally easy, perhaps intermediate on windy occasions; the overnight is usually spent in the boats moored at a dock*);
- (11) Clipper Cove (*typically an easy day sail with a picnic at Clipper Cove, although it has been intermediate windy on occasion*);

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- (12) Tomales Bay Overnight (*generally easy; the overnight is spent either anchoring-out off Tomales Beach or in the boat pulled up to the beach*); and
- (13) Santa Cruz to Moss Landing/or Moss Landing to Monterey Fall Sail (*intermediate to advanced, depending on the weather; again it should be noted that most open ocean sails are advanced and not for beginners*).

Hope this helps. If you have any specific questions about any of our sails, please feel free to email the sail host or me, and you can also review the corresponding months of past years' issues of The Potter Yachter Newsletter at potter-yachters.com to look at the reports and photos of the sails you are interested in. – Carl



Dave Bacon's Book

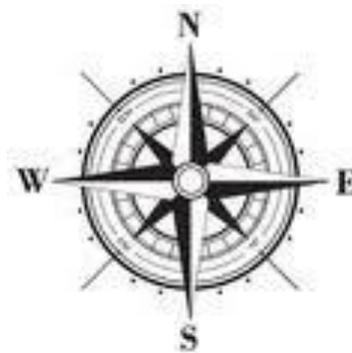
Gentle Art of Pottering now available online

The book, *The Gentle Art of Pottering*, is finally finished and available for sale at Amazon.com. *The Gentle Art of Pottering* covers everything from buying a P15, putting it in the water, day-sailing, cruising, and racing. Also covered are modifications that make sailing your P15 easier while increasing its performance. If there's something you've always wanted to know about a P15, you'll probably find it in this book. – Dave Bacon

[This book would also appeal to P-19 owners. – Ed.]



Photos from Brunch on Jan 26th



Thoughts on the Gentle Art of Pottering

Dave Bacon is going to give a talk about the topics in his book on February 22 at 10am in the Regatta Room at OYC. In August 2010, people came from near and far to hear Dave Bacon's talk on sail trim and how to sail faster and more intelligently. The wealth of information presented in that talk truly underscores the depth and breadth of his knowledge on the subject. And Dave is one of those people who possess the eloquence to impart this information in the clearest way possible. - 



COMMODORE CARL SAYS:

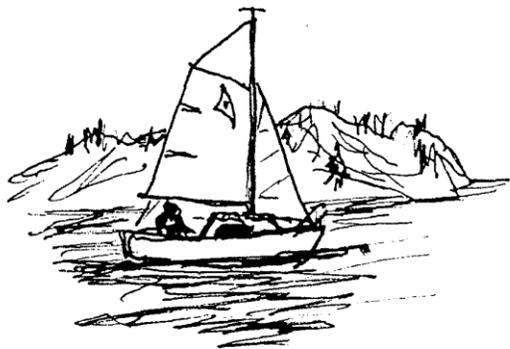
photo: Carl Sundholm

Holy Cow!
If you EVER
get a chance
to hear
Dave Bacon
give a lecture,
do not miss it.



Archive photo of Dave's 2010 Sailing Talk

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY



Jerry Barrilleaux often included his own original artwork in the newsletters.

Let's get an excerpt from the Potter Yachter of Feb-92

A NEW LAKE TO SAIL

Bruce Hood and Don Herbst decided to go for a Sail in the first week of January, [and] noticed a lake on the map they hadn't tried before. It was Camp Far West Reservoir at Lincoln, California. [They] sailed up Bear River Canyon, and tied up in a graveyard of treetops exposed by the lower water level.

We want to hear about YOUR sailing! Send any stories to the editor.

Events on the Horizon for 2014

February 22 (Sat) Lecture/Talk at OYC at 10:00 a.m.

Dave Bacon "Thoughts on the Gentle Art of Pottering"

March 15 (Sat) Redwood City/St. Pat's Day Weekend Sail (Carl)

easy to intermediate, depending on how far out into the Bay we go and on how windy it is

March 29 (Sat) Richmond North Bay Sail (Neil)

generally intermediate, but again depends on the destination and the weather; generally we sail to Angel Island or north to San Rafael depending on the tides, but the closer we get to the Golden Gate or going out the Golden Gate, we are talking advanced; but mostly individuals decide for themselves on getting the feel of the conditions



We're still afloat!

Treasurer's Report

You can all breathe a sigh of relief with the knowledge that, according to Pat Brennan, we've paid all our bills and still remain solvent.

Here's a rundown of the numbers:

Income from Dues & Merchandise=\$1,924. Expenses (Gifts: [OYC, Get Well, Trailer Sailor software], Events, Newsletter, Postage, Webhosting, and Inventory Changes)=\$1,995. Cruiser Challenge net profit of \$173 puts our income at \$2,097, so we made about \$100 for the year. Year-end cash balance is roughly \$4,500, which is a bit higher than our 9-year running average.

We voted to hold the club dues steady at \$25 per family, and to increase our donation to OYC from \$250 up to \$500.

As of Jan. 1, 2014, the club has 71 regular members and 3 life members: Don Bergst, Darrell Sandeen and Gwen Singh.

Out-of-state members live in Nevada (3), New York (2), Oregon (1), and Iowa (1).

There are 72 boats reported to be in our fleet. Of those, 47 are listed as **small** (<=15'), 21 are **medium** (>15' but <20'), and 4 are **large** (>=20'). The majority (58) are reported as *West Wight Potter*, then *Montgomery* (4), *ComPac* (3), and 7 are *other*.

We share reciprocal club privileges with Monterey Peninsula YC, Oakland YC, Peninsula YC, Coyote Point YC, Elkhorn YC, and Muncie Sailing Club. [Any mistakes in this report are the editor's. -Ed.]



Officer's Club

Commodore:

Carl Sundholm
sundholm@att.net
P-19 *Dagmar*

Vice Commodore:

Rob Sampson
rsampson@des-ae.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

Pat Brennan
pat-brennan@sbcglobal.net
P-15, #621, *Eaglet*

P-15 Fleet Captain:

Don person
dnjperson@comcast.net
P-15, #2472, *Sarah Anne*

P-19 Fleet Captain:

Eric Zilbert
ezilbert@cde.ca.gov
P-19, #629, *Riptide*

Newsletter Editor:

Phil Marcelis
sail@marcelis.com
P-19, #1487

Webmaster:

Mike Westfield
westfield@potter-pod.com

The Potter Yachters

EVENT SCHEDULE FOR 2014

01-26-14 Sat	Potter Yachters Annual Meeting at the Oakland Yacht Club
02-22-14 Sat	Lecture/Talk at OYC at 10:00 a.m.: Dave Bacon "Thoughts on the Gentle Art of Pottering"
03-15-14 Sat	Redwood City/St. Pat's Day Weekend Sail (<i>Carl</i>)
03-29-14 Sat	Richmond North Bay Sail (<i>Neil</i>)
04-12-14 Sat-Sun	Oakland Estuary Sail & Strictly Sail Boat Show (<i>Pat</i>)
04-19-14 Sat	Benicia Sail (<i>Goose</i>)
05-03-14 Sat-Sun	Moss Landing/Elkhorn Yacht Club Sail & Overnight (<i>Mike/Bud</i>)
05-24-14 Sat-Sun	Delta Overnight Sail from B & W Resort (<i>Jerry B</i>)
06-07-14 Sat-Sun	Woodward Reservoir Campout* (<i>Rich</i>)
06-21-14 Sat	Lake Hennessey* (<i>Don/Carl</i>)
06-28-14 Sat	Oakland Estuary Sail (<i>Kevin</i>)
07-19-14 Sat-Sun	Cruiser Challenge XV and Dory Taylor Memorial Sail (<i>Goose</i>)
08-02-14 Sat	Richmond-SF Bay Day Sail (<i>Neil</i>)
08-09-14 Sat	(Dinghy Delta Ditch Run – Rio Vista to Lake Washington)**
08-30-14 Sat	(Huntington Lake?)
09-06-14 Sat	Clipper Cove (<i>Carl</i>)
09-13-14 Sat-Sun	[Possible Morro Bay Overnight - <i>Gretchen</i>]
09-27-14 Sat-Sun	Tomales Bay Overnight (<i>Eric</i>)
10-04-14 Sat-Sun	Santa Cruz to Moss Landing Sail & Overnight (<i>Mike</i>)
10-18-14 Sat-Sun	Delta Eight Bridges Sail and Overnight (<i>Bud</i>)

* Drought conditions may make reservoir sails subject to change.

** Events in parentheses are non-Potter Yachter events.

Potter Yachter Membership

Join the *Potter Yachters* – the club that has been around since 1978 and, with your participation, will continue to withstand the test of time. We're really a bunch of nice folks who would just love to have other nice folks join us. Your dues help support club activities and publish the newsletter, so you'll be sure to know when we're out sailing, whether that's in the San Juan Islands, Monterey, the SF Bay, or elsewhere. Annual dues are \$25. Make checks payable to "Pat Brennan".

Send your payment (with your name and address) to: Pat Brennan
1305 Webster Street #C205
Alameda CA, 94501

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



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.