



The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Northern California West Wight Potter Club

February 2006

Sailing & Event Calendar 2006

March 5, 'Secrets of the Sails'
Oakland Yacht Club

March 19, Day sail. "USS Thompson", Redwood City.

April 8 & 9, Launch at B&W Marina in the Delta, sail to Korth's Pirate's Lair .

April 23, Sail Expo, Jack London Square, on the Estuary , Launch at Grand St. Alameda.

May 6 & 7. "The Delta Cruise, overnight. Launch and Venue TBA.

(TBA). Usual Suspects North to Puget Sound. (FYI) recommended for experienced sailors only.

June 3 & 4, Woodward Annual campout near Oakdale, CA.

June 24 & 25, Eagle Lake Campout, Susanville CA.

July "The Cruiser Challenge" in Monterey. Annual fun race/social weekend, sponsored by Potter Yachters/ MPYC. (TBA)

Aug. 19, Day sail, Richmond-Loch Lomond.

Sept. 2, Day sail, Richmond to Pier 39.

Sept. 30 & Oct. 1, Tomales Bay weekend.

Oct. 14 & 15, Monterey Overnighter

Nov. 11, Day sail, Emeryville, day on the Bay.

New Potter Yachter Club Officers for 2006

Sunday, January 8, 2006

After a very pleasant buffet breakfast in the Oakland Yacht Club's elegant dining room overlooking row on row of beautiful yachts in the estuary, the 24 members in attendance at this year's Potter Yachter annual brunch and business meeting proceeded to OYC's Regatta room.

Retiring Commodore Bruce Hood greeted the assembled members and during his opening talk, commended members Jerry Barrileaux, Rich McDevitt, Pat Brennan, Steve Potter, Don Person, Dave Bacon, Dr. Judy Blumhorst and husband Dave, Dave White and family, Alex Hubbard and family, for their unique help and services offered during the 2005 Sailing Season. Bruce then went on to reveal the recipient of the "Potter Yachter of the Year" Award, and presented it to Don Person for his many services to the Club and in recognition of Don's countless hours on the water as one of the most enthusiastic P-15 skippers in the Club. Don received the trophy plaque with his usual good humor and humility to the acclimation and great applause of all his Potter club friends in the room. Dick Herman was also recognized for his generous contribution to the Club from his published article on the Cruiser Challenge.

Pat Brennan gave an excellent treasurer's report, and in turn was commended by several of the members present for the great job he does as Secretary/Treasurer. The treasury reserves are ample for the various activities the club contemplates in 2006. After a brief discussion annual dues were agreed upon, to continue at twenty-five dollars per year.

The next order of business was election of officers for 2006. There was considerable

hesitation at the call for Commodore nominations. So that post was deferred from further consideration for the moment. Bruce indicated that Pat Brennan was willing to serve again as Secretary/ treasurer, and Pat was promptly returned to office by a unanimous vote. Rich McDevitt reminded everyone of the great benefit that individual club members provide when they serve as hosts for various club events, and also by writing up reports afterward. A number of the Potter skippers present volunteered to help organize particular sails at locales like Tomales Bay, and Eagle Lake, and the Delta.

At the conclusion of the hosting discussion, nominations for Fleet Captains were made, and Jerry Barrileaux once again volunteered to be P-19 Fleet Captain, and Don Person stepped forward to be P-15 Fleet Captain.

The election process then turned to a call for Newsletter Editor, and Potter Skipper Mike Dolan and his wife Janet volunteered to be editors for 2006. Mike and Janet are both very computer savvy, and their evident enthusiasm was one of many bright moments for the meeting.

Commodore Emeritus, and Education Captain Judy Blumhorst agreed to continue in that role, which she performs so well, and also pleased everyone by agreeing to lead the organization of the "Cruiser Challenge" at Monterey again this summer. Finally, toward the conclusion of the meeting Potter Yachter in long standing (a founding member of the club) Dory Taylor , volunteered to serve as Commodore, and was promptly elected.

The meeting concluded with the usual gift exchange...and with evidence of another great Potter sailing year ahead.

A Perfect Day of Winter Sailing on the North Bay

Sunday, January 16, 2006

Don Person and Dave Kautz had sent out the rallying cry via the trailer sailor website, for a Potter Sail from Richmond on the East side of upper San Francisco Bay over to Loch Lomond Marina on the West side. Dave Meredith in his Com-pac 16 chimed in with a plan to sail up from Emeryville to join the P-15 skippers for the crossing and return.

Sunday morning Pat Brennan and Bruce Hood arrived at Richmond with Pat's P-15 "Eaglet", with Don Person and "Sarah Anne" right behind them. Mike



Dolan, our new PY newsletter editor, came along to crew for Don, and Dave Kautz appeared soon thereafter. Mike Swartz and his son arrived to crew for Dave on "Tilly Lucy". Dave Meredith's boat sailed up to the dock, and very quickly the boats were in the water and underway. The sail is about eight miles each way and requires paying close attention to tide tables and strong tidal currents as they rush

Northward under the multiple spans of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. The current can run 3.5 to 4.0 knots either way, so it can be important to have the outboard motor at the ready, in order to buck across and against the tides. The Potters left Richmond about 10:30, and enjoyed a great long diagonal tack right on across to the Richmond Channel markers, with the GPS handhelds registering 4.5 to 5kn the whole way across in a steady 7-8mph wind. The sun was shining and the air clear as crystal. The whole fleet arrived in the Loch Lomond channel, tied up, and went ashore for a delicious round of fish and chips for lunch, all nine members present

talking away about the great sailing conditions. An hour or so later the fleet headed back to Richmond, this time with about a 3kn ebb tide current carrying everyone back down to the bridge. The sailing wind was dropping away to nothing, and soon everyone was starting their motors in order to punch across the channel and not be



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The Officer's Club

Commodore:

Dory Taylor
733 Spindrift Drive
San Jose, CA, 95134
(408) 432-6340
Commodore@potter-yachters.org
MKII #610, *Petite Liege*

P19 Fleet Captain:

Jerry Barrilleaux
2724 Richard Ave.
Concord, CA 94520
(925) 685-4577
P19captain@potter-yachters.org
P-15 #564 Breezy, HMS18 #48, *Sunshine*

P-15 Fleet Captain:

Don Person
1651 Rambelwood 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*

Webmaster:

Mike Westfield
Webmaster@potter-yachters.org
P-15 #2248 *Watertoy*

Editors:

Mike and Janet Dolan
16670 Buckskin Ct.
Morgan Hill, CA 95037
(408) 778-5655
Editor@potter-yachters.org
P-15 #2571, *Lizzy D*

Commodore Emeritus & Education Capt.

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

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carried south of the entrance to Portrero Cut and the Richmond Yacht Basin. Pat Brennan's motor sheared a pin just south of the center span, after passing under the bridge, and with no sailing wind, "Eaglet" was being carried down the bay fairly quickly on the strong ebb.

Pat was able to raise Dave Kautz using VHF Radio, so Dave and Don Person as well, turned their P-15's back into the channel under motor power and towed Pat and Bruce back northward to the Richmond entrance, in a daisy chain, with Dave in the lead boat.

The current was still so strong that it was hard to make good more than 2 kn. toward home so it took almost two hours to get everyone back at the dock. Arriving just as the sun was setting on the far side of the bay in a spectacular display beyond the Marin headlands, the tired, but very happy, sailors de-rigged their boats and headed for home.

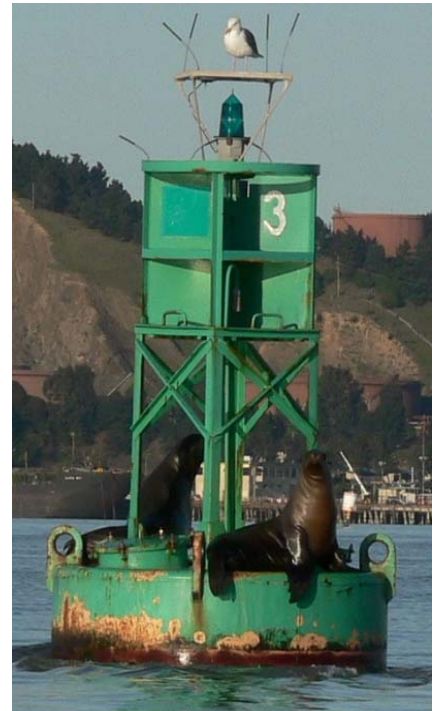


Don Meredith joined the Potters with his ComPac

with the skippers as they de-rigged in the winter dusk by the Richmond Launch Ramp!

Report by: "The Scotsman"

Dave Meredith (who is a former P-15 owner) realizing the current was going to help him home in his Com-Pac, on straight south under the Bridge and made it back in record time to his berth in Emeryville on the East side of the bay. The reason the P-15 fleet members know Dave got home so quickly, is that he had time to jump in his car and drive back up to Richmond to visit



The Audience



The Pet



The Potter Yachter

The Secrets of Sails

On Sunday March 5th, Kame Richards of Pineapple Sails will give us some insight into sails and in particular his new sails for the Potters. This talk will be held at the Oakland Yacht Club, with the Sunday Brunch between 9 and 11 am, and then at 11:15 we will meet on the dock, where we will have Dave Bacon's Potter 15 in a slip, with his handsome new Mylar Pineapple Sails, and listen to Kame's expert advice on various sail questions. If the weather is bad, we will be able to retreat inside to OYC's "Regatta Room", for the talk, etc.



Pat Brennan
20 Crest Rd.
Lafayette, CA 94549

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*