



# The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Northern California West Wight Potter Club

July 2007

## Sailing & Event Calendar

July 15, Richmond Day Sail, to Loch Loman

July 28 & 29, Cruiser Challenge VIII, Monterey. Annual fun race/social Weekend, sponsored by Potter Yachters and MPYC.

August 18, Richmond Day Sail, Angel Island Circumnavigation. Sail Host, Don Person

Sept 4 to 20, Usual Suspects to Pacific Northwest. Recommended for experienced trailer/sailors. Sail Host, Dick Herman

Sept 9, Delta Day Sail B&W Marina to Korth's

Sept 29 & 30, Tomales Bay weekend. Sail Host, Eric Zilbert

Oct 13 & 14, Monterey Overnighter. Sail Host, Mike Swartz

Nov 3, Richmond Day Sail. Sail Host, Dave Meredith



## Eagle Lake Campout



Ron Bell and *Least Tern* at Eagle Lake

Photo by Don Person

### Eagle Lake June 23&24, 2007

For the brave few who made their way north to Eagle Lake, they were treated to a glorious weekend of good sailing, good food and great camaraderie. The weather was not too hot, but cooling off after the sun dropped below the horizon, making the camp fire nice and the sleeping bag real cozy.

By 9am the morning chill was gone. The winds picked up about 10:30 and we had gentle winds for the rest of the morning. By 12:30 or so the winds started to build, reaching 15/16

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## The Commodore's Log

It's Cruiser Challenge VIII time! This is one of my favorite events of the year, and, if you haven't heard, is the weekend of July 28-29. Lots has been happening. Rich McDevitt has the trophies in hand and posted a pic in the Potter Forum on [www.trailersailors.com](http://www.trailersailors.com). Now if we can only pry the first place trophy out of his hand . . . But that's another story.

This is the first year of the International Marine Award. Ryan Forrest, the owner of International Marine, has donated an asymmetrical spinnaker made by North Sails for the first P15 and P19 in their class. Now that should get a few hearts beating fast.

Pat Brennan is doing yeoman labor handling finances and taking reservations. If you haven't registered yet, think about it. We provide the Harbormaster with a reservation list and those kind folks always find a slip in the Marina for those boats. Staying in the Marina is the best way to experience Monterey without breaking the bank. See above remarks about Pat Brennan and registering.

I was shocked, absolutely shocked, when I heard that the 40th Anniversary of the Festival of Love is being held the same weekend. The thought of over-the-hill Hippies descending in mass on Monterey, well, I won't repeat what scenes ran through my addled brain. Then Bruce Hood did a reality check and pointed out the festival was being held at the fairgrounds north of town, and other than making early reservations for a hotel, the only impact might be on finding a place for dinner Saturday night. Suddenly, things just got more interesting.

Hope to see you there!

### UP COMING EVENTS:

**Richmond to Loch Loman**— See the August 2006 Newsletter article for information.

**Cruiser Challenge**— Go to <https://home.comcast.net/~pat-brennan/>; all the registration info and prices are there.

The Monterey Marina does not take slip reservations, but we provide the Harbormaster with a list of all the entrants and he has been able to accommodate all of us in the past. This year should be no different.

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P-19 #266 *Redwing*

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mph with gusts of 25-26mph: on my hand held wind gauge I saw sustained winds of 19mph. Waves were 1 ½ to 2 feet at about 2 second intervals, This was a good time to test high wind skills, reefing the main, changing head sails, and even anchoring. The winds never seemed to be much up at camp. These wind patterns are the norm for the time we were at the Lake.

My family, wife Cheryl, son Theron, his wife Arlene, Wee Boat and I (David), arrived on Monday the 18th about 11:30 am. We were met by the camp host, Karin, who welcomed us back to her home, Aspen Grove campgrounds, like we were old friends. We had left Sacramento a little past 5 am, stopping for coffee in Chico, then again at Chester for breakfast at the “famed” Kopper Kettle. Then on to the lake.



We laid camp at our favorite campsite. Then I took *Wee Boat* down to launch her. I had every intention of doing some sailing,

but a nap sounded really good. After all, I had seven more days to sail. So I put her in the slip and went back to camp.

On Wednesday, Don Person and his P15, the bright beautiful *Sara Ann* from Pleasanton, arrived. *Sara Ann* is such a happy boat, she makes me smile just seeing her.



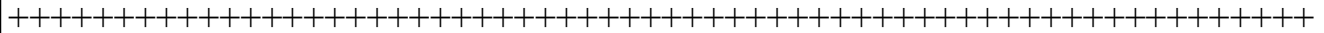
By Friday, we had five boats: my P19; Don & wife Judy’s P15; Charlie & Arlene Davison’s P19 *Second Wind*, looking like she just rolled off the showroom floor, hails from Willits; Pat Morrissey and his P15 *Toy Yot*, from the Bay area; and Ron Bell with his P15 *Least Turn* from Livermore.

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*Eagle Lake (Continued from page 3)*

I'll let Don Person take over from here, giving you the trip from his point of view. His last sentence pretty much sums up the trip.

David White  
*Wee Boat*



**I arrived** on Wednesday. My route was I-5 to Red Bluff then 36 to the lake. The trip from Pleasanton took 6 1/2hrs with the good food stop at the Kopper Kettle Cafe in Chester. There was very little traffic. The White's encampment was set up and they (you) had saved my favorite campsite for which I am very grateful. Unpacking, using the provided wheelbarrows, and getting the camp set up went well. Wednesday night, as were all the nights, was quite cool and I was glad to have some heavy sweats to wear in my sleeping bag. Thursday dawned bright and clear. A campfire quickly drove the chill away and coffee really hit the spot. The wind was fine for sailing so much of the day was spent doing that. Later in the afternoon I collected plenty of good dry firewood from a nearby area where there had been some logging and unwanted limbs were left.



Don Person and Sara Anne

Photo by David White

**The evening** campfire kept things cheerful. Dave White and Ron Bell came by for some yarning, cheese, salami, crackers and two buck Chuck. Friday was another grand day. Pat Morrissey P15 sailed with Dave P19, Ron P15 and me P15. That evening the rest of my pack, wife Judy, grandson Duncan and his friend Colton, showed up about seven. Saturday, after we all drove into Susanville to pick up supplies, the kids explored the miles of bike trails. Judy had an upset stomach which lasted the next three days so spent her afternoon reading in the tent.

**The sailing** was good with increasing winds in the afternoon. This was the pattern the next two days. Charlie and Arlene Davison had arrived with their Golden Retriever,

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Darby, and their almost new P19. Charlie had waxed the bottom and it shown like a mirror. Charlie has his boat, which is loaded with goodies, looking like it just came off the show room floor. Their previous sailing was limited to racing a Coronado 15 so Charlie wanted to try out reefing and heaving-to. He also wanted to get Darby used to the new boat.



**The highlight** of the trip, other than the sailing and the scenery, was Saturday nights pot luck. The group numbered about 14 . Four Whites, four Persons (minus Judy who still wasn't feeling well), three Davisons (Darby), Ron Bell and Pat Morrisey. Again Theron and Cheryl provided an unending supply of scrumptious prawn kebabs. They alone are worth the trip. They also brought forth delicious tri-tip seasoned with

Theron's secret seasoning. Arlene Davison's potato salad was a big hit and Don Person produced some ice cream to top things off. After dinner entertainment was provided by Marc, owner of Marc's Transmission in Winnemucca, Nevada. He arrived from a close by camp on his nephews dirt bike and kept us laughing until his brother drug him away.

**Sunday** up early after another cool night and a warm campfire going by six am. Ron and Pat dropped by for some coffee. Early morning the lake was very calm so I went for a paddle in the wooden canoe we had brought along. Duncan and Colton were up about eight so we cooked bacon, eggs and toast on the grill over the campfire. They wanted to do more bicycle riding so I went sailing. The wind really started to pick up after twelve o'clock so I tried to get my sailing in in the morning. The U.S. Forest Ranger reported the wind was 16 to 18 mph with gusts to 26. The boys tried their hands at marshmallow toasting over the campfire in the evening.

**Monday**, after the early campfire and coffee, Duncan and I went canoeing. The grebes and pelicans let us get quite close if we were quiet. Later on Judy, who was feeling bet-

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*(Eagle Lake, Continued from page 5)*

ter, and the boys visited an osprey nest where the adults were taking turns sitting on the eggs. The Forestry service has an overlook on a nearby promontory so visitors can look down into the nest. The area is a good one for bird watching as there are many varieties. The weather pattern had changed and all day the wind was steady around 6 mph from the north west. The boys went sailing with me in the morning and I had a grand sail in the afternoon. Most unusual for a mountain lake. With the helm balanced the boat stayed on a heading with the tiller untouched for an hour upwind and another hour downwind. My P15 has always been too squirrely to have that experience before. Since we were planning to leave the next day we took the boys into Susanville for dinner at the Black Bear Cafe and to see the movie "Surf's Up". Fun for all.

**Tuesday** we packed up with a lot of help from Bill Bechtle. He wants to get a lot of information about, and some sailing time in a P15 before going out with his friend who recently bought a used one. The trip home was uneventful.



**As always** we had a wonderful time. The weather was fine, not too hot and no rain. There was always plenty of wind for sailing. The bugs were minimal. We saw one yellow jacket and a very few mosquitoes. The Aspen hostess, Karen, warmly and efficiently, as always, patrolled the camp. The facilities; marina, store, showers, and laundromat were all in top shape under the care of the Lassen Community College. We didn't fish but saw several of the famous three to five pound Eagle Lake trout. Eagle Lake is a long drive which is probably the salvation of its quiet and uncrowded charm. For me it is more

than worth every mile and minute it takes to get there.

Don Person  
Sara Ann

*Photos by David and Don*

**Deja Vu**

Those of us who sailed from Brannen Island to Bethel Island in May, will long remember the return trip home on Sunday, through False River. The wind howled and the waters rose. It reminded me of the opening scene from "Victory at Sea".

I remember a time long ago in August of 1985 when The Potter Yachters did a one day sail from Brannen Island to Bethel Island. I was sailing with Tom Stanton (926), an old PY member. It was my first time to see, and sail a P-15. I remember telling Tom, "wow, almost room for one".

Tom's a co-worker and friend for the past 30 years. That morning we met at the airport parking lot when we worked in Napa, and headed to Brannen Island. After rigging the boat we had a nice sail to the Rusty Porthole where we enjoyed lunch with the rest of the PYer's.

The return trip was very slow. We headed up Fisherman's Cut, but there was very little wind. I learned later that we were also bucking the current. I remember thinking as we were tacking back and forth that we were doing well until I noticed a building on the shore in the same place after several tacks.

The sun was going down so Tom fired up his little motor and we started to make better progress. Then the sun set, the motor ran out of gas and it got dark. By then we were back on Three Mile Slough, sailing slowly and Tom our weather guy for the airline, pointed out Cassiopeia and other stars. It was a very restful easy sail. We finally reached Brannen Island about 9:30 long after the other boats had gone. We trailered the boat and headed home.

This was before the day's of cell phones, so our wives were concerned about us, but not too worried. All in all it was a great day. The story is archived in the August 1985 Potter Yachter Newsletter on the web site. I never sailed a Potter again until I bought my own 20 years later.

Ed Dove

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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*