



The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Northern California West Wight Potter Club

November 2006

Tomales Bay, Weekend

Sailing & Event Calendar 2006

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

January, Annual meeting

Contents

Page 1 Tomales Bay Weekend

Page 2 Drunk at low tide

Page 3 Thanksgiving letter

Page 3 Boat parade

Page 4 Emeryville Saturday

Page 5 Monterey Rendezvous

There were twelve boats that took part in the cruise. Seven of them were Potter 15's. Three were Potter 19's. followed by two classic Potter 14's.

Most arrived at the ramp by ten o'clock. One, a bright yellow P. 15, was from Nevada and been purchased from a pawn shop. Much work had to be done before she was ready to sail. That evening she was christened Bella.

This year, Tomales presented us with light winds and grey skies. This gave us some time to take it easy and really explore the shore line. Up on the hill above



Ron and Mona Reno and *Bella*

White Gulch, two male elk were doing battle for a herd of females. The females seemed less than interested as the defeated male was escorted from the area. As the day flew by, the fleet spread out over two or three miles with each skipper doing his or her own thing.

Finally we all began to gather around Don Person and followed him to the beach where we were to spend the night. A fire was started and oysters were cooked in their own shells. When the oysters ran out ribs

were put on the grill. They were delicious! The party wound down about nine-thirty and everyone returned to their boats. During the night, the tide went out leaving the boats high and dry, but all were afloat the next morning. Breakfast was made on various boats and ashore. The day had dawned showing pink scattered clouds and glassy calm water with a light breeze filling in. Pretty soon sails were going up to meet the new day and new adventures.



Keith and Alex Hubbard

I think everyone had a good time. I know I did!

Dave Bacon

Don't Launch Drunk At Low Tide

Last Sunday I went to meet a couple fellow Potter Yachters for a late fall sail. Our plans were to launch from the Encinal ramp in Alameda. As it turns out the docks were removed two weeks earlier so the other guys launched at Grand Ave. I was the last to arrive at the Encinal ramp and as a result I got a special treat. As I turned into the drive a pedestrian flags me down.

Boater: You can't launch because the docks are gone. (Smelling like a distillery)

Me: Oh, thanks. Well I need to drive down so I can turn around anyway.
Boater: (as he knocks down some Budweiser) Yeah, my truck is blocking the ramp too. It's in the water. It just kept sliding.

Me: Do you need some help?

Boater: Nah, my friend went to call someone.

Me: OK. You may want to kill that beer; there is a cop about 2 minutes behind me. He had to stop for a red light and I suspect he's on his way here.

Boater: Thanks (as he takes a big gulp and tosses the can).

So I drive to the ramp, park and grab my trusty digital camera.

Boater: Awww, you're gonna take pictures?

Me: Hey, you don't see this every day.

Boaters Girlfriend: Shoot we only have 3 beers left. We couldn't have gone fishing for very long anyway.

Alameda PD arrives on scene laughing.

(Continued on page 5)



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, *Lizzie 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*

Do You Want To Be In

A Boat Parade?

The 2006 Jack London Holiday Boat Parade is Saturday December 2 at nightfall. Last year Mary and I enjoyed taking part in the parade on a Blue & Gold ferry that departed from Alameda. I called Blue and Gold and details are still firming up but as it sounds now they will be conducting a similar excursion this year. You will board the ferry in Alameda at the ferry terminal located at [2991 Main Street](#) at 4:00 PM (there was a line in 2005). Bring a new toy for the Toys for Tots donation (one toy for each passenger) and you ride the ferry at no cost. The bar on the ferry was open but a lot of people had bottles in their pockets. Looked like, buy a drink and refill it yourself was the plan for most folks. It was chilly so wear appropriate clothing. We viewed from the upper deck in the open air but in case of rain there are two enclosed decks also.

Many of us sail the estuary on a regular basis but let me tell you, the view from the ferry was quite interesting, looking down instead of up at everything. Watching the Coast Guard and various police agencies stopping boats alone was worth the price of admission. After the parade we had dinner at the Pasta Pelican since the wait at Chevy's was too long. Chevy's has closed so it will likely be worse this year but maybe we can meet for dinner elsewhere. It makes for a nice non sailing social event so I hope to see some of my Potter Friends there and it sure beats the crowds at Jack London. This will be the last newsletter before the event so if I get more details I will post them on the Trailer Sailor Potter forum later this month.
Rich McDevitt

SENT TO THE EDITOR:

Thanksgiving has long been my favorite holiday. A simple message for us "Be Thankful". History tells us that the pilgrims took the time to thank God for their Blessings.

I wanted to thank all the Potter Yachters for the help they have given me this year since I "signed on". I am the "new guy" I guess and don't make it to a lot of events, but those I have attended I've been blessed with a "cornucopia of knowledge" and friendliness.

Jerry Barrileaux's telephone was ringing off the hook even before I purchased my boat. He patiently guided me through the buying process and has been a pillar of knowledge ever since answering questions.

I sailed with Steve Potter at Woodward Reservoir in June and he has helped me develop my sailing skills. Steve's a natural teacher and has extensive knowledge.

What a wonderful help Don Person was a Monterey in July. He really helped me with rigging issues and sage advice for a rookie sailor.

Just walking around and talking to you folds has been a great blessing for me. A kind word here, a helpful hint there, I've learned a lot.

I am grateful for all the help and I'm not sure you all know how helpful you have been. Just wanted to say "thanks".

I hope to be more active next year. Thanks for all the encouragement.

See ya "on the high seas"

Happy Thanksgiving

Ed Dove

Emeryville on Saturday

Potter Yachters will sail from Emeryville on Saturday, November 11. Bring a picnic, and we'll stop for lunch at one of the Angel Island beaches. Then we'll continue to circumnavigate Angel Island counter-clockwise and have a downwind sail past Alcatraz back to Emeryville.

Currents will be in the 1.5 knot range at most, and winds may be light. Bring plenty of gas.

David Meredith
Compac 19 Archimedes



Tomales Bay

Photos by Don Person and Dave Bacon



(Drunk.. Continued from page 2)

Boater: I need to swim out to get the keys to my other car.

Officer: You are not swimming out there. I'm not interested in getting wet saving you. I will call a tow truck for you.

Boater: Will I have to pay for it?

Officer: Uh, YEAH!

Boater: Oh, well I guess I don't have a choice.

Two tow trucks arrive in about 15 minutes. Both quote \$110 per hour, one hour minimum.

Officer: How did it happen?

Boater: I was backing in and it just started to slip. Even with the E brake on it wouldn't stop.

Officer: That's why you launch at high tide.

Know It All Bystander: They should close this ramp if they aren't going to scrub off the growth.

Me: I've never heard of that. This stuff grows in days and is slick in hours.

Know It All Bystander: Oh.

Boater and tow truck operator discuss a plan.

Tow: You are going go out and hook it up; I'm not getting that wet.

Boater: OK. (He walks the chain out, dives twice to connect it and the tow operator takes up the slack)

Boater's Girlfriend: (Loudly as she knocks back her 2nd beer since I arrived) Yeah, we should have stayed at the Fireside (local dive bar where they had a liquid breakfast).

Me: (I walked over next to her) Uh, you might want to keep that quiet. So far, Alameda's finest has been cool with the whole deal, but if he starts realizing how much you guys drank, thing could change fast.

Boater's Girlfriend: Oh yeah, that's a good idea. Thanks. (As she kills the rest of her beer).

The tow truck winched the truck out easily then after connecting the trailer to the tow rig, backed down the ramp and pulled the guys boat out. Actually kind of anticlimactic ending but what the heck, it was free entertainment.

I never did make it sailing that day, but I did have a good time at the launch ramp with my Potter.

Rich McDevitt P15, Minnow

Monterey Rendezvous

It was a quiet weekend, well the wind was quiet anyway. Ten to fifteen, picked up a little about a mile out, swells were enjoyable, up and over. Then the wind would calm and time was spent with other sailors on shore or napping. It wasn't all quiet.

This was the first time I have stayed over night in the Marina. I was not prepared for the blaring music coming from the nearby salty pub, until 2:00 am. It was my first night so it was very disturbing, others who had been there the night before seemed to be immune. When the music finally ended, those seals out on the break water were bawling. Not heard during the day, they were quite clear in the night.

Monterey is a wonderful venue, different from most places the Potter stay. Here all of the pleasures of the city are a short walk away. Many choices for a meal, you don't have to eat at the same place twice all weekend. And for those who like the movies, yes, movies are a choice for an evening ashore especially those who bring their children.

Monterey has a lot of wild life, as noted before those bawling seals and those much more quiet otters. The old one, was just off of the



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



Tomales Bay



Steve Potter *Stars & Bars*



Dave Bacon

There is a new feature on the Potter Yachter web site. A link has been added to the Potter Pod for access to the repository of photos of great outings past and present. I see there are some boats for sale and people looking for Potters. If you have any suggestions

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*