



The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Northern California West Wight Potter Club

February 2005

Sail Calendar 2005

March 13, Class, Sun. Island Yacht Club, Alameda. "Basics of sailing the Bay." 10:30-3:30 Potter Club event, free .

March 19, Sat. Daysail. Launch at B&W Marina in the Delta, sail to Korth's Pirate's Lair for lunch, return to B&W.

April 9, Sat. April 10, Sun. South Bay Potter Rendezvous. Coyote Point Yacht Club. Overnight, dinner at club Sat evening

April 13-17 Sail Expo, Jack London Square (FYI)

April 16, Sat. Daysail. "Usual Suspects Cruise" on the Estuary , Launch at Grand St. Alameda.

April 30, Sat., May 1 Sun. "The Delta Cruise, overnight. Launch and Venue TBA.

May 7, Sat. Daysail. "Shifty Winds" at Del Valle Reservoir, Livermore.

May 11- 26 Usual Suspects North to Puget Sound. (FYI) recommended for experienced sailors only..

June 4, Sat. June 5th Sunday, Woodward Annual overnight campout near Oakdale, CA.

July 1, 2, 3 Eagle Lake Campout, Susanville CA.

July 16, 17 "The Cruiser Challenge" in Monterey. Annual fun race/social weekend, sponsored by Potter Yachters/ MPYC.

July 30 Richmond Daysail

Aug. 20 Richmond-Loch Lomond

Sept. Tomales Bay weekend. Date TBA

October 1, 2, Monterey Overnighter

October 8 fleet week, Estuary to T.I. Cove

October 29 Buckley Cove to Windmill Cove

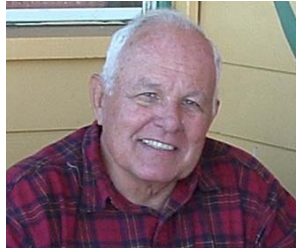
Another good year in Sight



An excellent turnout for the Annual Breakfast and Business meeting of "The Potter Yachters" was held on January 9th, new officers were elected and another fine season of sailing was launched. The Oakland Yacht Club in Alameda provided a lavish Breakfast Buffet, and after an hour or more of socializing , over the white tablecloths of OYC's handsome dining room, everyone descended to the "Regatta Room" to vote in the club's new officers, do some calendar planning, and exchange some nautical new year's gifts. The roster of newly elected officers is inside on Page 3. The Sail calendar for 2005, at left, is still being revised and polished further so be sure and watch for updates as the season progresses. Plans for the July "Cruiser Challenge" on July 16, 17th, in Monterey are going forward as well as plans for the annual Woodward Reservoir Overnight campout on June 4th and 5th. These dates are ones you well may want to put on your calendar now. The internet, and the Trailer Sailor website in particular, continues to be a great way for club members to co-ordinate sailing plans with one another. This is also a place where tips on how to refine rigging and equipment, for both Potter 15's and 19's can be found from all over the country.

The Commodore's Corner

My first duty as Commodore is really a pleasant one. A chance to express appreciation for all the friendships I have been able to form with my fellow Potter Skippers and their families during the past twenty years. Also it's now my chance to express my appreciation for all the other officers of the club, past, and present, who continue to nurture the warm and supportive environment that is such an outstanding characteristic of "The Potter Yachters".



I really appreciate the great work done by my predecessors, Rich McDevitt, and Judy Blumhorst, and over the years by Jerry Barrilleaux, Greg Yu, Harry Gordon, Pat Brennan and many others. In recent years, ever since he took up sailing, Don Person has been a sparkplug and an inspiration for me in particular. The sailing skills and technical knowledge freely shared and discussed by such excellent sailors as Dave Kautz, and Dave Bacon, and Jerry B. and Dr. Judy have enriched the fund of knowledge for all the rest of us so that we all can enjoy our beloved Potter Sailboats that much more. Certainly a club like ours is a great gift to each of us. I hope 2005 will prove an equal to all the fine years that have gone before!

The 2005 PY event Calendar has been developed, and still is being refined, but we wanted to get the initial draft out to you so you can begin to plan your sailing season. As time progresses we will publish further details and any changes so be sure to check the Calendar over carefully, each month.

Please notice the appeal for calling or e-mailing notice of your to attend the "Tips on how to Sail S.F. Bay" class, and for the Coyote Point South Bay Potter Rendezvous. Having a head count is always necessary to make planning a better event possible.

Thanks in advance.. And cheers! Bruce



At left, 2004 Commodore, Rich McDevitt motorsails "Minnow" in light air during a recent club outing. Winter produces some of the smoothest water and lightest winds on San Francisco Bay. When motoring, having the headsail down keeps it from flogging and wearing prematurely, and provides better vision looking forward.

The Officer's Club

2005

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FIRST ANNUAL POTTER YACHTER OF THE YEAR AWARD GOES TO TERRY GOTCHER

Recently, the officers of the PY decided to institute an annual recognition of a member who has contributed something very special to our group.

This year being a little slow off the mark, the notice is here in this newsletter and a plaque is being given to Terry. In future years the award will be made at the annual meeting in January.

One of our members, Dave Lawson, was suddenly taken seriously ill, and unable to drive for several weeks. Terry and Dave had been sailing almost every Wednesday in the Oakland Estuary and Dave missed the outings with "The Usual Suspects". As Dave began to recover, Terry elected to drive from San Jose to Sunnyvale to pick up Dave up and take him to Oakland, for the Wednesday sail. The first few weeks Dave didn't feel up to sailing, so Terry and he waited ashore, and met the group for lunch at Quinn's Light-house. Then in time, as he recovered, Dave was ready to crew, so Terry brought him along to the Estuary for that. Needless to say, we were all pleased to see Dave getting back on his feet again.



Terry and his P-15, "John B"

Happily, Dave is now back to sailing on his own in "Schatzi" his P-15, and Terry will go back to his usual routine. But everyone in the group was moved by Terry's staunch friendship for a fellow Potter Yachter.

Terry has been a Potter Yachter Mark II P15 skipper since 1979. His boat is the "John B". And Terry has been a Potter Yachter since then. His sailing experience also includes several years of racing Lido 14's with his wife, Mary, as crew. He has hours and hours of sailing experience in San Francisco Bay and the Delta as well as many California lakes. Terry was one of the group that sailed ten days in Puget Sound in 2004. Spending a week or ten days hanging out, sailing the John B in the Delta is a favorite vacation.. Terry is a quiet, unassuming, and agreeable man; helpful and always willing to share his sailing knowledge with new Potter Yachters. Well done, Terry, and congratulations.

Story by Don Person

Please Let Us Know If You Are Planning On Attending Sunday March 13 Class, and if you Plan on Attending the April 9, 10 Coyote Point Gathering...

If you are planning to attend or probably will attend, please e-mail, or phone in your "reservation".. Tell us:

1. No. of Persons who will attend the March 13 class, Sunday from 10:30 to 3:30, Island Yacht Club, Alameda
2. No. of Persons and boat, who will be at Coyote Pt. Yacht Club Sat. April 9th, ... and 10th?
3. No of Persons who will attend Spaghetti Dinner (\$18 plate) evening of April 9th.
4. Boat size, and if overnighting on boat E-mail bruce.hood@sbcglobal.net Phone 510 846-4306



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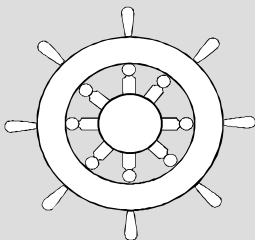
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Inside the Potter Yachter

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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 ex-

perience 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*

