



November 1984

# POTTER TO POTTER

Newsletter of the Northern California West Wight Potter Assn.

COMMODORE: Bill Sprietsma (408) 379-5474 SECRETARY/TREASURER: John Ockes (415) 656-2984  
HISTORIAN: Jerry Barrilleaux



## Sailing Schedule

Sat/Sun, December 1-2    Overnight At Treasure Island  
Tuesday, January 1      Pete's Harbor, Brunch & General Meeting



## At The Helm

On Sunday, November 4, there was a window in the weather. We had a warm, sunny day with light breezes for our group sail at San Leandro Marina. The winds were so light that some of the skippers motored out of the harbor while others sailed out, working their way from one little puff of air to the next.

We planned the sail to leave at high tide so that there would be no need to stay in the two mile channel leading out into the bay. A direct course was set, led by Phil and Tom Sullivan, for Oyster Point Harbor and South San Francisco. The wind picked up and we had a gentle chop with a few white caps for about three hours. Ideal sailing conditions for our great little yachts.

At about 5 or 6 miles out, the fleet started to come about one by one and headed for home--all except De Marsh and his son Robert who continued on to get the very most out of a great day. After pulling their boats out of the water and derigging, Tom & Marjorie Stanton, Dave Grant, George Colman, Gail Frankel & Bill Sprietsma headed for Tia Maria's Restaurant where we watched the end of the 49er's game on large screen TV. The game was followed by a Mexican feast.

On deck for this sail was John Graham & Ray Johnson (312), De Marsh & Robert Marsh (512), Stan Butler (850), Mike Bartunek & Claudia Hassler (748), Tom Stanton & Marjorie Stanton (926), Phil Sullivan & Tom Sullivan (1051), Dave Grant & George Coleman (1053), and Bill Sprietsma & Gail Frankel (1205).

Bill Sprietsma, Commodore

## Southern California Potter-Yachters

Very shortly our sailing committee, who are made up of former commodores, will be making a schedule of sailing events for 1985. The schedule is mainly in the Northern California area. What is needed is a committee of one or more Southern California members to make a schedule to be printed in the Potter-To-Potter newsletter. We Northerners would like to sail in your area from time-to-time.

For help in getting started, contact the commodore at P.O. Box 9785, San Jose, CA 95157.

**WEST WIGHT POTTER**

Next Sail: Treasure Island Cove, Saturday & Sunday, December 1 & 2, 1984

This sailing event involves an overnight raft-up in Treasure Island Cove. The cove is located on the east side of Treasure Island just north of the Bay Bridge. If you plan to stay overnight then your Potter must be self-contained. Bring food for dinner and breakfast. There will be two big boats there (Wights & Armatage) that we can raft to.

This cruise is a rendezvous sail. Plan your sail for a 12:00 to 1:00 pm arrival in the cove. Launch from your favorite ramp in Berkeley, Emeryville, Estuary Park in Oakland, or Grand Avenue in Alameda. The noon to 1:00 pm arrival in the cove will allow time to set anchor etc. and also allow skippers who are not staying overnight time to join us for the afternoon.

Those who attended the sail last year remember the merriment, refreshments, and sea stories after dusk aboard the Wight's yacht. Also, this is an excellent cruise for newer skippers to try the Bay waters.



Isle of Wight

October Potter is quite an adventure story of the designer and builder, Stanley Smith, of the West Wight Potter. This pamphlet has been provided by Norton Bell.

Last August, Anne and I landed at Heathrow Airport outside of London and bought a combination bus, train, and ferry boat ticket to the Isle of Wight. The Isle is about 9 miles wide and 13 miles long and is a tourist attraction among the British Isles. The weather is much milder the year around as compared to the main island.

We landed at the town of Ryde on the northeast side of the Isle of Wight and the tourist board at the ferry terminal found us a bed & breakfast establishment. After getting settled, I looked in the telephone book yellow pages under boat builders to find Stanley Smith. He was not listed so I called another boat builder to find where he was located. The boat builder said Stanley Smith was lost at sea about 1 1/2 years ago and didn't know the circumstances.

Stan Smith's boatyard was located on the west side of the isle at Fort Victoria about a mile from the town of Yarmouth. Although there are many double decker buses that travel around the island, we would have had to rent a car to get to Fort Victoria. I wasn't about to learn how to drive on the left side of the road the first day in England. Before joining our tour group in London, we saw Osbourne House, Queen Victoria's huge mansion and Carisbrook Castle that goes back to the Norman era.

John & Anne Ockes



**GET A GRIP  
ON BOATING SAFETY**

**For Pleasure On  
California Waterways**

(cut here)

"Knot" knowing how to secure your boat for safety is no excuse this year. It's easy. Just send for the Adventure Afloat, Home Study Boating Safety Course. You and your crew can learn more about the new rules of the road, changes in aids to navigation, proper safety equipment, and more. The course, which includes a colorful handbook, can be completed at your own pace. While the final exam is optional, some insurance companies will reduce your premiums if you pass the course.

To get your grip on boating safety, send this coupon along with \$2.00 (checks or money orders only) to:

**Department of Boating and Waterways  
Home Study  
1629 S Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-7291**



(Please Print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

## NEW MEMBERS

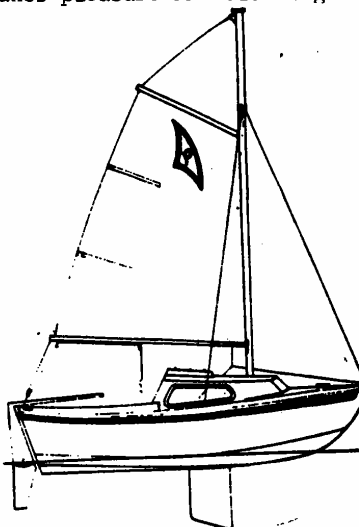
## "Welcome aboard..."

The Northern California West Wight Potter Association takes pleasure in welcoming the following new members.

Alan and Patricia Hackett, Deckhand: Scott  
832 Valley Crest, La Canada, CA 91011  
Telephone: (818) 790-0328  
Sail # 289, "Tyke"

Bob Frisbee  
520 Wellington, Santa Ana, CA 92701  
Telephone: (714) 543-3280  
Sail #793

Bill and Betty Stryker, Deckhands: Terri, Greg  
22880 Santa Cruz, Highway, Los Gatos, CA 95030  
Telephone: (408) 353-1314  
Sail #1146, "Boop"



## 1985 Membership Dues

Still a great price at \$8.00 dollars and no/100 cents. Make your check out today to John Ockes and mail it to 40915 Cantare Place, Fremont, CA 94539. The treasurer does not keep a separate checking account for the Northern Cal WWP Association due to the small amount of dues collected.

The following are members in good standing for 1985:

Armitage  
Bassarear  
Burnham  
Butler  
Cocks  
Ellis

Adams  
Bell  
Gotcher  
Grandt  
Gray  
Rodger

McClain  
McKechnie  
Nearing  
Stanton  
Wheeler  
Zoener



## Sails for Sale:

Here's a chance to purchase an extra set of sails or renew the one's you have. Sam Sokol recently passed away and his wife has these sails: 1 WWP Spinnaker with pole, \$200; and a main and jib, \$300. The sails were slightly used on a P-15 gaffed rigged Potter. Also, a 10½ foot canvas is available, \$60. Contact Beverly Sokol, 732 Glen Arbor Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024. Telephone: (619) 436-7744.



## "The Many Ways to Potter" Update

Last year De Marsh put together a manual for upgrading the West Wight Potter P-15. De put this publication together from contributions by the membership as well as his own ideas for modifying his own yacht. The manual has 13 chapters with some 50 articles ranging from heavy weather sailing, safety tips, self-steering techniques, sail trimming aids, to the galley and others.

Perhaps there is a modification or rigging that you use that has been successful to you that is not in "The Many Ways . . ." Send De a sketch, picture, or written description by January 1, 1985 to be included in the 1st revision. Send your material to 212 Revere Avenue, Hayward, CA 94544.

New members receive a copy of "The Many Ways to Potter" when their membership dues and application are received. In the event you did not receive a copy, send the editor a postcard at 40915 Cantare Place, Fremont, CA 94539.

## THE VOYAGE OF THE LOTTIE RUTH

### Part 2

An account of a 600 mile journey from Belleview to Melbourne, Fla. in 1889.

Tuesday, December 3, 1889. Long before daybreak, camp was broken at Delk's Bluff and the three mariners cast off into the Ocklawaha River and progressed at five knots with oars and a swift current. As Hart tells it- "The first rays of the morning sun made pearls of the dew drops. The water's glossy surface reflected the blood red hues of the autumn leaves that decked the branches of the sweet gum trees. The huge fan shaped dark green leaves of the palm trees spread themselves in all the luxuriance of their semi-tropical verdure at every turn of the crooked river. The birds chirped a carol to the young day and the fish leaped from the watery depths to greet the morning."

By 6 AM the boat passed Grahamville. A long day of rowing brought them past Eureka, an orange and cotton center. They pushed on another 7 miles with the help of bright moonlight.

Wed. Dec. 4. The Lottie Ruth pushed off in the pre-dawn darkness as loud puffing sounds were heard. It was the steamboat Eureka coming down the river. As Hart tells it- "Suddenly as she rounded a bend a ghastly glare from some unseen light revealed to sight the ghostly tree trunks. Then as she rounded another bend and wheeled into sight a weird and wonderful picture presented itself. At first sight one could easily imagine some furious beast approaching with jaws open wide, bearing a torch upon its head with which to seek its prey. ---the electric search light is a modern invention---."

"By the time the sun was up high enough to kiss the dark waters of the Ocklawaha nearly ten miles had been placed between us and camp. ---That day we made forty-five miles by the river and when we went into camp that night 12 miles from the St. Johns River we felt as tho we had done a days work."

Thurs. Dec. 5. The Lottie Ruth had so far been propelled solely by oars and current. The mariners had expected sailing winds on the St. Johns River, but found the winds light and unfavorable. Camp was made 4 miles past Buckalew's Bluff on the St. Johns River.

Fri. Dec. 6. The party reached San Mateo and purchased supplies. They rowed past Devil's Elbow and approached Palatka at sunset. More supplies were bought, and camp was made across the river.

Sat. Dec. 7. Twenty eight miles of rowing, past mansions and orange groves. Camp was made between Tacoi and Ficolata. Hart describes it- "It was a delightful spot to camp. A little wharf jutted out into the stream just far enough so our boat could lay along side. From the water's edge a clean green lawn of St. Augustine grass sloped gently upward toward an unoccupied cottage. ---After supper the Mate and Capt. borrowed a cypress dugout that was tied to the wharf and went fishing by moonlight. Luck, like the wind, failed to favor us and we caught nothing."

(To be continued)

