



The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Northern California West Wight Potter Club

February 2008

2008 Annual Meeting Astern;
Sailing Season
Dead ahead!

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The Commodore's Log

Point presentation on the status of the club.

The weather cooperated, more or less, and forty hearty souls gathered at the Oakland Yacht Club on Sunday, January 27, for the annual meeting celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Potter Yachters. As usual, the brunch upstairs was excellent, and at a very reasonable price. By 10:30, all had wandered downstairs and gathered in the Regatta Room for the business meeting. Pat Brennan discovered that Murphy's Law was in effect when his computer refused to power up for his Power

Dory Taylor, one of the original "plank holders," opened the meeting by recounting how the club began 30 years ago. In the back of the room, Harry Gordon, another of the original founders, smiled and nodded as the memories came back. Bruce Hood, a long-time member, picked up the narrative and recalled the members who had contributed so much to the Potters over the years. Being of a modest nature, he omitted himself, but his name is right there with the others. The new members introduced themselves; Kevin Crowder, Carl Sundholm, Vince and Linda Henley, Dave Myers, and Katie Lea. Pat then over-



EVENTS ON THE HORIZON:

Refer to the *2008 Sailing & Event Calendar* elsewhere in this issue for Potter Yachter club events.

Other events of interest . . . Tall Ships galore!

The *Hawaiian Chieftain & Lady Washington* will be in the bay area for the next seven weeks: Feb. 21-March 5, San Francisco; March 6-23, Oakland; March 24-April 6, Redwood City; April 7-13, Sausalito.

The Privateer *Lynx* will visit northern California in a April and May: April 2-17, Monterey; April 19-27; Pillar Point/Half Moon Bay; April 28-May 4, Oakland; May 5-13, Antioch; May 14-21, Rio Vista; May 22-27, Encinal Yacht Club.

The Officer's Club

Commodore:

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P-15 #2248 *Watertoy*

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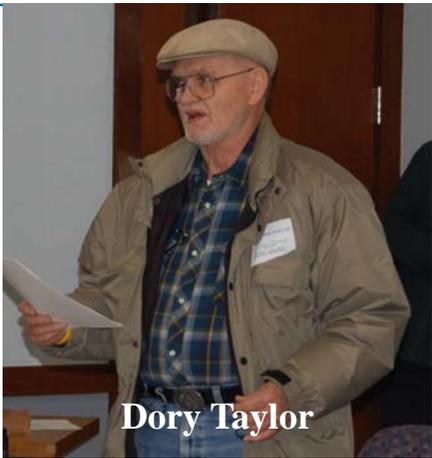
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COMMODORES LOG (Continued from page 2)

came the above mentioned adversity and gave his report from memory sans Power Point. For the geezers like me, it was an impressive show of memory. Pat then continued with election of officers and the nominations were readily approved. I'll be serving as Commodore for one more year, Bruce Hood agreed to stay as Vice Commodore to keep me on track, Pat Brennan will continue as Secretary Treasurer, and



Dory Taylor

Don Person as P15 Fleet Captain. The two new names are Mike Swartz as P19 Fleet Captain and Jerry Kergan as Newsletter editor. Mike sails a P19 that is one half of his fleet, the other being a Chinese-type Junk, and Jerry sails the only cutter-rigged P15 that I know of. Jerry is taking the newsletter over from Mike and Janet Dolan who have done yeoman labor for two years. Many, many thanks.



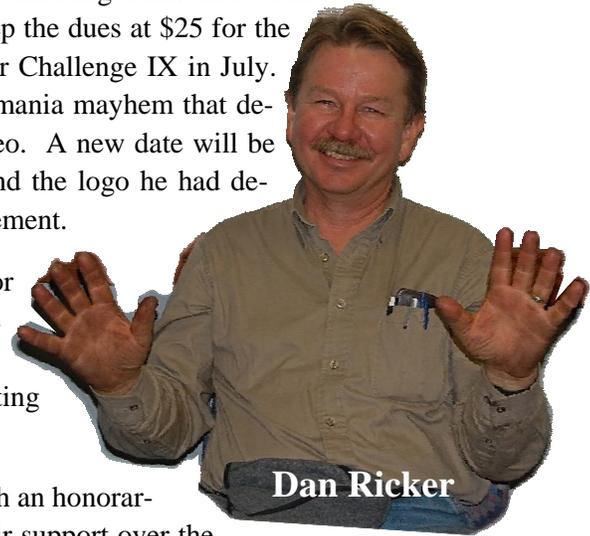
Mike Swartz

Don Person then presented the Potter Yachter of the Year award to Dan Phy. Besides being a stalwart of the club and showing the club burgee literally all over the United States, Dan is loyal. He sold his P15 for a Montgomery 15 but missed his P15 so much he bought another one.

The business part of the meeting came next. The membership voted to keep the dues at \$25 for the year, and sponsor Cruiser Challenge IX in July.

Unfortunately, the dates I had chosen coincided with the motorcycle mania mayhem that descends on Monterey for one weekend each year, and the Salinas Rodeo. A new date will be arranged and posted as soon as possible. Wes Harrison passed around the logo he had designed for the Challenge. To say it is neat and cool is a gross understatement.

Two latecomers, Dan and Gretchen Ricker, popped through the door with big smiles on their faces. They had just returned from Reno where they had acquired a 1996 P19. The coming year's schedule was briefly discussed and everyone was invited to join the scheduling meeting immediately after the gift exchange.



Dan Ricker

The membership then voted to present the Oakland Yacht Club with an honorarium of \$500 and our thanks for their support over the years. Lacking any other business, the meeting was adjourned. The gift exchange went off smoothly. A well-attended scheduling meeting lasted for less than an hour and the results posted in this newsletter.

From The Credit Where Credit is Due Dept. . . .

Thanks go to Don Person and Carl Sundholm for their photos, and to Don again for his 'Yotter of the Year yarn.

Looking back over the year, I am convinced that Pottering is not about the boat but the people who love and enjoy mini cruisers, especially the West Wight Potter. For thirty years, our club has proven that. Please join us when we celebrate our 30th anniversary at Del Valle Regional Park on May 18th, the site of the very first Potter event held on Sunday, May 21, 1978. See you on the water!

Ed.

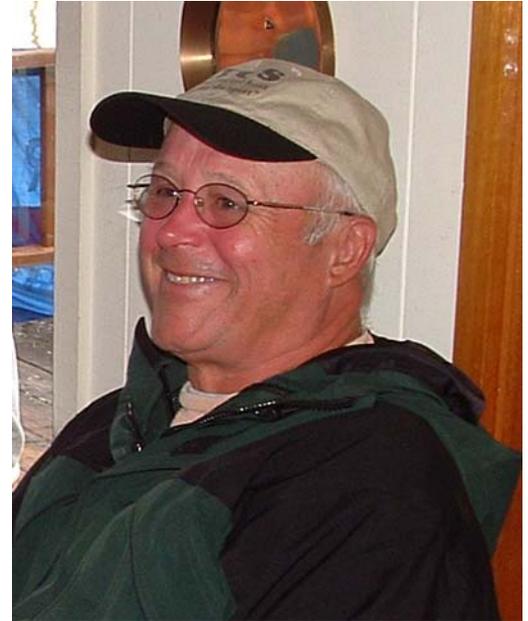
Dick Herman

Potter Yachter of the Year!

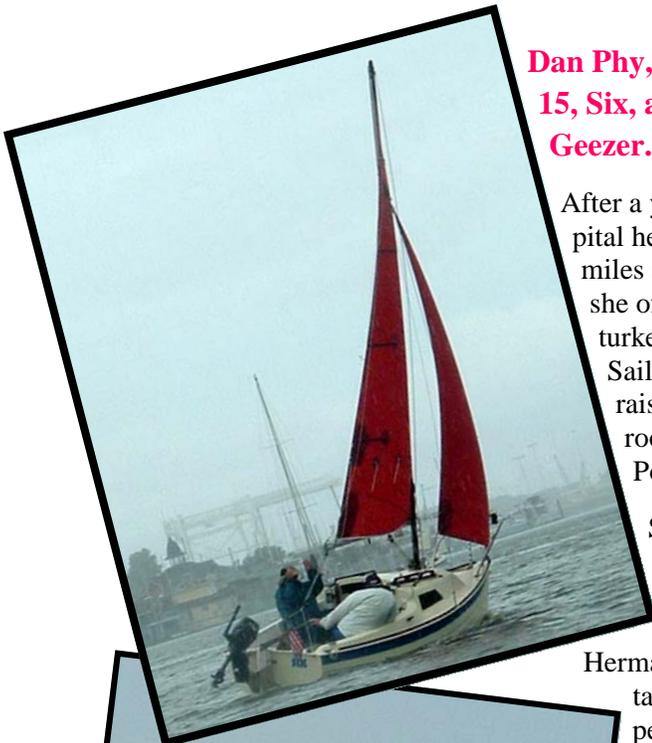
Enthusiastic, energetic, good natured and always ready to go for a sail, Dan Phy is this years "Potter".

Perhaps his willingness to make the four to five hour commute from Fort Bragg to the bay area for the Potter sails as well as impromptu visits to spend a few days sailing out of a slip at the Oakland Yacht club is what lifted him to the top of the list.

A career as a fire fighter in Los Angeles, during which he lived on a sailboat for a while, ended after surgery on both knees. This led to a second career as an E.M.T. and then to E.R. surgical nurse.



Dan Phy, his Montgomery 15, Six, and Potter 15, Ol' Geezer.



After a years tour of the U.S. he found the small town with a good hospital he was looking for and settled in fort Bragg. His home is two miles out of town, a small ranch, where he and his lovely wife Mary, she of the delectable biscotti and regal Arabian horse, enjoy the wild turkeys, deer, scenery and country life.

Sailing was on the back burner the next several years while he raised his two children and ran the Fort Bragg Hospital emergency room. Retired again he realized a long time desire, bought his first Potter 15 and joined the Potter Yachters.

Soon after, he and friend Jim Kirwan took their P15's to Puget Sound, which they had previously explored by kayak and Jim's Bayliner. The trip was so enjoyable they both wanted to do it again. The following year he, Jim and our Commodore Dick Herman led a group of P.Y. sailors back to Puget Sound. This spectacular trip has become an annual affair for "All The Usual Suspects".

Bothered by his knees getting in and out of the P15 cabin, he sold the P15 and purchased a Monty 15. As we all know Monty's are fine boats and sail a little faster than P15's,(2' longer water line), but in every other respect are just that much more hassle.

His next big adventure, with P.Y. John Wheeler in his motor boat, was a circumnavigation of the southern half of Florida. He took his Monty, which was a poor choice as it spent a large portion of the trip stuck in the mud.

After sailing the Monty for a while he realized that it was just too much extra trouble for day sailing and got another P15. For extended trips he does take pity on his knees and uses the Monty. With it's yellow hull and fluorescent lime-yellow sails his P15, "Ol Geezer" is by far the most colorful P15 around.

Congratulations, Dan, we will be looking for that dazzling sail.



2008 Sailing & Event Calendar

February, Date TBA : Training class.

Saturday **March 15**: Redwood City Day Sail to USS Thompson. Sail Host: Dave Kautz.

Sunday **March 30**: Delta Day Sail. B&W Marina to Korth's Pirate Lair Marina. No host.

Saturday **April 5** & Sunday **April 6**: Overnight cruise Santa Cruz to Moss Landing.
Sail Host: Mike Swartz.

Wednesday **April 16** to Sunday **April 20**: Strictly Sail exposition, Jack London Square.

Sunday **April 20**: Oakland Estuary Day Sail.
Sail Host: Bruce Hood.

Saturday **May 3** & Sunday **May 4**: Overnight Delta cruise Brannon Island State Park to Lundborg Landing, Bethel Island.
Sail Host: Jerry Barrilleaux.

Sunday **May 18**: Day Sail Del Valle Regional Park Day Sail. (Very first Potter event held at Del Valle on Sunday, 5/21/78).

Sail Host: Kevin Crowder.

Saturday **May 31** & Saturday **June 1**: Woodward Annual Campout.
Sail Host: Rich McDevitt.

Saturday **June 14** & Sunday **June 15**: Eagle Lake Annual Campout
Sail Host: Dave White.

Thursday **July 3** to Saturday **July 5**: Fourth of July overnighter Granville Island, Delta.
Sail Host: Don Person.

Saturday **July 26** & Sunday **July 27**: Sat/Sun: Cruiser Challenge IX, Monterey.
Sail Host: Race Committee

Saturday **August 2**. Richmond Day Sail to Loch Lomand.
Sail Hosts: Dan Phy, and Vince and Linda Henley.

Saturday **August 16** & Sunday **August 17**: Huntington Lake campout with SoCal Potters.
Sail Hosts: Wes Harrison & Bard Johnson.

Monday **September 2** to Thursday **September 18**: Messabout VI -All the Usual Suspects to Pacific Northwest
Sail Host: Dick Herman.

Sunday **September 14**: Delta Day Sail. Buckley Cove, Stockton, to Windmill Cove.
No host.

Saturday **September 27** to Sunday **September 28**: Tomales Bay overnighter.
Sail Host: Eric Zilbert.

Saturday **October 11** & Sunday **October 12**: Overnight cruise Moss Landing to Monterey.
Sail Host: Mike Swartz.

Sunday **October 26**: S.F. Bay Day Sail, Clipper Cove picnic. Launch Grand St. Alameda.
Sail Host: Dave Kautz.

Saturday **November 22**: Richmond Day Sail to Golden Gate.
Sail Host: David Meredith.

Notices:

From: Patrick Brennan [mailto:pat-brennan@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2008 5:59 PM
Subject: Potter Yachters secretary/treasurer's report

To all of you who attended the annual meeting, my apologies that I was not able to use my PowerPoint presentation because my computer died. It has been fixed so I am at least able to send you copies of the slides I wanted to use.

A number of you asked how to order copies of the calendar shown in the "Potter Yachters Store" slide. The calendars are available directly from the printer, CafePress. Go to <http://www.cafepress.com/potteryachters> for more information.

Those of you who were not at the meeting should know that all the candidates shown in the "Election of Officers" slide were elected and that the dues for 2008 remain the same - \$25.00.

Pat

Interested members can e-mail Pat for a pdf copy of Pat's report.

Better Late Than Never:

The morning of the Potter Yachter annual meeting, January 27, I assumed an opportunity to serve this club that I have enjoyed so much these past two years; I became editor of this publication. At the passing of the software, I learned from Mike Dolan that the transition period concluded at sunset, and that I would be responsible for publishing the February newsletter due on the 1st.

So began my scramble of the next three weeks to learn the software (Microsoft Publisher) and actually assembling the February news letter. The last time I saw a copy of Publisher, over 10 years ago, the application was in it's infancy. My use of Publisher today might be equated to taking my P-15 sailing skills to skipper the likes of Balclutha . . . A formidable undertaking, but not imposible.

For the record, the success of this newsletter is more dependent on contributions from readers than it is on my editorial and publishing skills. In other words, without content, I can't edit or publish. This can be construed as a not so veiled solicitation for your articles and pictures. Keep 'em coming in. Preference for publication will be given to Potter Yachter members, but all readers are encouraged to submit articles that may be of interest to the Potter/Pocket Cruiser community.

Send contributions to jerrykergan@comcast.net

Document Format: plain text (.txt) or MSWord document (.doc) files are preferred.

Images: PDF (preferred) or GIF files. Should you crop your images for formatting in a submitted article, please send along raw copies straight out of your camera. This will allow me to reformat images as might be dictated for publication.

Lastly, e-mail attachments can carry malicious executable applications. If you wish your attachments to be considered, follow the following criterion for e-mail attachments:

1. Identify the files that you attach to the e-mail by file name.
2. Include a brief description of the content of each attached file. (i.e. transpac.doc = article on sailing my P-15 San Francisco to Brisbane)
3. Clearly identify yourself in your e-mail . . . Use your full name; not just an online "handle" (i.e. John Smith vs SailSmith101)

Attachments not meeting these guidelines will NOT be opened.

Kudos to Don Person for the slide show of the 2007 sailing season that he prepared for showing during the breakfast that preceded the Potter Yachter annual meeting.

Don has made the following offer to the membership:

"I have several CD copies of the slide show photos that were shown at the Annual Meeting. If any one would like one e-mail me your snail mail address and I will send one to you.
Don Person <dnjperson@comcast.net>"



Patrick Brennan
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Alameda, CA 94501

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*