



# The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Northern California West Wight Potter Club

February 2010

## 2010 Potter yachters Annual Meeting



*Breakfast at the Oakland Yacht Club*

By Katie Taylor  
Photo by Jerry Kergan

It's that time of year again!  
On January 10th we made our annual migration to the Oakland Yacht club to see old friends, meet some new faces, and finalize this year's sailing schedule.

<u>Also in this Issue:</u>	
Commodore's Log . . . . .	Page 2
2010 Annual Meeting. . . . .	Page 1
2009 Annual report . . . . .	Page 5
2010 Event Calendar . . . . .	Page 6
Perigee Sail . . . . .	Page 7
Upcoming Events . . . . .	Page 2

With no visitors or new members present, business began right away with voting in of this year's officers. There was only one change, giving Jerry Kergan a rest after so much hard work at the computer, and introducing Katie Taylor as the new newsletter editor. Thanks for the good work, Jerry! Those are going to be tough shoes to fill.

### The Report

Pat Brennan showed his prowess with Excel with the annual report, as always interesting to see, with how many members are located where sailing what, and how much was spent when, where, and on what. Even when the economy around us crumbles, we are still going strong, being well in the black, and looking toward a great year to come. We decided to do one thing a little different and pre-paid the space at Lopez Lake. That's planning ahead!

*(continued page 3: 2010 Meeting)*



## The Commodore's Log

Well, our annual meeting is history, and once again we had a very nice turnout. The Oakland Yacht Club, as always, treated us in a grand manor. Our 2010 sailing schedule was finalized, and we have sail hosts for each event. The Potter Yachter sailing schedule can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

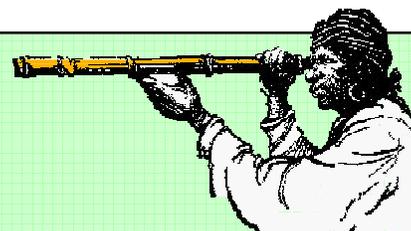
Speaking of newsletters this is Katie Taylor's first and Jerry Kergan's last. Remember, our newsletter is only as good as its content, so at our events take lots of pictures and notes and pass them on to Katie.

Speaking of Potter Yachter events, I am hosting the first one this year. It is at the San Francisco Bay Model in Sausalito. Kame Richards is giving a lecture on the tides and currents of the bay. If you have never heard Kame speak you are in for a treat. Besides making great sails, he is an expert on sailing the bay. Details on how to sign up can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Make sure you register early, they can only accommodate 100 people and his lectures do sell out

See you on the water,

Bud

### EVENTS ON THE HORIZON:



February 25 (Thursday) . . . Bay Model tour . . . Host: Bud Kerner

March 14 (Saturday) Redwood City Day Sail . . . Host: Carl Sundholm

March 27 (Saturday) Benicia Day Sail . . . Host: Jim "Goose" Gossman (Overnight for them what want)

April 3 & 4 (Saturday-Sunday) . . . Overnight cruise: Santa Cruz to Moss Landing . . . Host: Mike Swartz

## The Officer's Club

### Commodore:

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(2010 Meeting: continued from page 1)

Dues will remain the same this year, a low \$25. You can see the great slides Pat prepared on page five.



Hatching plans around the table. What a great sailing season this will be!

### 2010 Sailing Schedule

This year's sailing schedule was discussed thoroughly, and animatedly, roughing out details and hatching plans. Many of the events were copied over from last year, but some traded places, tweaked dates, and one was extended into a possible weekend trip. We also tried something new this year by posting the proposed schedule on the Potter Wiki page (<http://potter-pod.com/tiki/tiki-forums.php>) for everyone to discuss before the meeting. One thing that was talked about the most was whether to keep non-

club events on the calendar at all. I am glad to say a happy medium was found, and events not hosted by the club will still be found on the calendar, but on the bottom. This year looks like a lot of fun. The schedule can be found on page six.

## Potter Yachters of the Year 2009

by Don Person

Photos by Jerry Kergan

Rich McDevitt and Carl Sundholm were unanimous choices for 2009's Potter Yachter of the Year. The award goes to the Potter Yachter(s) who by their actions such as club loyalty, event participation, helpfulness to other members, willingness to share sailing experience, etc. were most notable for that year. This is a hard choice to make as all the members of the club share these traits. 2009's honorees each worked behind the scenes to further the history of the Potter Yachters and also displayed qualities of calmness, reason, assertiveness and diplomacy in a difficult, tense and emotional situation involving fellow Potters.

Rich has a long history with the Potter Yachters. Around thirty years ago he bought his first Potter, a 15. His family grew and after a few years they needed the room in a P19. His sons matured and moved so Rich sold the P19 and, a few years ago, returned to another P15, Minnow. Through all those years he has been a reliable and valuable support for our club. At one time or another he has served with wit and wisdom in almost every office including President, newsletter editor and master of ceremonies at the Cruiser Challenge.

(continued page 4: 2010 Meeting)

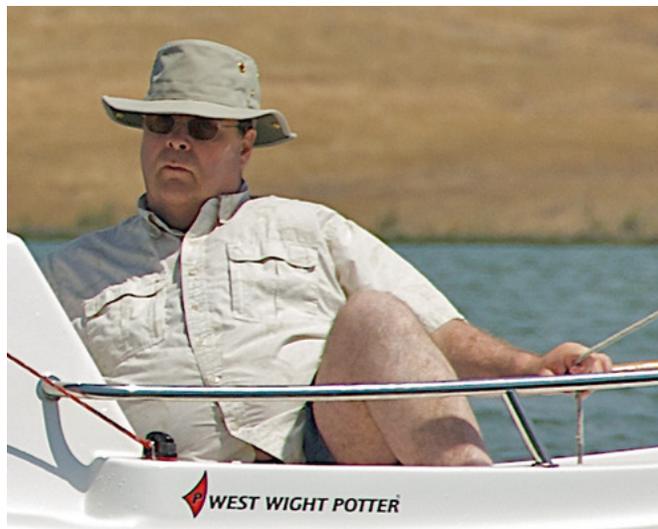
*(Potters of the Year: continued from page 3)*

Carl has a shorter history with the Potter Yachters but has shown an equal willingness to serve and contribute. He is an attorney and has freely offered his suggestions on club matters which had a legal aspect. Thank you, Carl. He is a gifted photographer and has provided striking newsletter and calendar pictures for us all to enjoy. The newsletter has been enriched by several of his articles. He has been a consistent and helpful participant in our club sailing events.



The first of the two actions which hoisted these two to the award level was the resurrection of the Potter Yachter newsletters. Rich collected, arranged and housed all the old copies still available. Carl took those newsletters and digitized them. This work is now being carried forward by Jerry Kergan who is reworking the old copies, some of which are barely legible, to make them all readable.

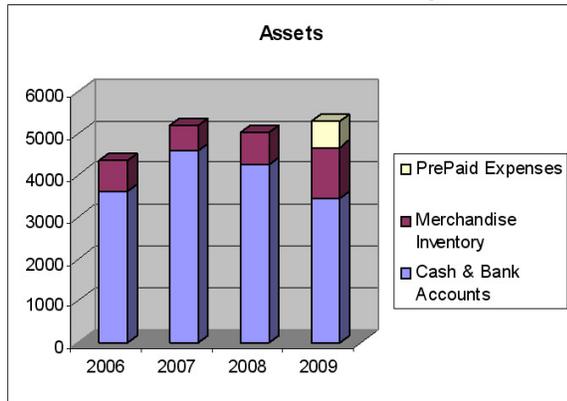
The second noteworthy occasion took place at Boyd's Marina on a Delta sail. The event, very well recorded by Dick Herman in the June 2009 issue of the newsletter, was a stage upon which both Rich and Carl demonstrated their maturity, judgment and skill in diplomatically dealing with a tense and ugly situation involving the docking arrangements of several Potters.



Congratulations and our appreciation to both.



### Potter Yachters Financial Summary



### Potter Yachters Fleet

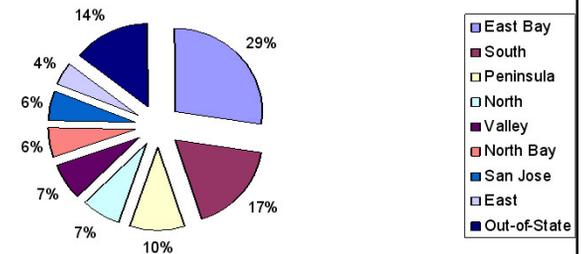
• Potter 14 & 15	38	59%
• Potter 19 & HMS 18	15	23%
• Montgomery 15, 17	3	5%
• <u>Compac 16, 17, Suncat</u>	4	6%
• Other	6	9%
»Total	64	

### Potter Yachters Out-of-State Members

- Connecticut
- Florida
- Idaho
- Nevada (2)
- New York
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Texas
- Virginia

### Potter Yachters Membership

•Where are they



### Potter Yachters Membership

- Active members as of January 1, 2010
  - Regular members 69
  - Life members 3
    - Don Bergst
    - Darrell Sandeen
    - Gwen Singh
- New members
 

Last Year	9
• 2008	13
• 2007	8
• 2006	13

### Potter Yachters Store

- Burgees - \$25.00
  - Patches (either shape)\* - \$2.50
  - Bumper stickers\* - \$2.50
  - Information Packets - \$15.00
  - Calendars + other PY stuff
    - See [www.cafepress.com/potteryachters](http://www.cafepress.com/potteryachters) for complete list
- \*One sticker and two patches given to each new member



Store merchandise is available from Pat Brennan



## 2010 Sailing Schedule

February 25 (Thursday) . . . Bay Model tour . . . Host: Bud Kerner

March 14 (Sunday) Redwood City Day Sail . . . Host: Carl Sundholm

March 27 (Saturday) Benicia Day Sail . . . Host: Jim "Goose" Gossman (Overnight for them what want)

April 3 & 4 (Saturday-Sunday) . . . Overnight cruise: Santa Cruz to Moss Landing . . . Host: Mike Swartz

April 17 (Saturday) Oakland Estuary Day Sail . . . Host: Bruce Hood

May 2 & 3 (Saturday-Sunday) . . . Overnight Delta Cruise . . . Host: Jerry Barrilleaux (Details TBA: Brannan Island SRA to Rusty Porthole, Bethal Is, or B & W Marina (Andrus Is.) to Bruno's Island)

May 15 (Saturday) Del Valle Regional Park Day Sail . . . Host: Kevin Crowder

May 22 & 23 (Saturday-Sunday) . . . Woodward Annual Camp Out . . . Host: Katie & Dory Taylor

June 12 & 13 (Saturday-Sunday) Lopez Lake Lake Annual Camp Out . . . Host: Gretched & Dan Ricker

July 2 - 4 (Friday—Sunday) Fourth of July Overnight Mandeville Island, Delta . . . Host: Don Person

July 24 - 25 (Saturday-Sunday) Cruiser Challenge XI . . . Host: Gretchen Ricker/Race Committee

August 7 (Saturday) . . . Richmond Day Sail to Loch Lomond Yacht Club . . . Host: Keith Hubbard

August 21-22 (Saturday-Sunday) . . . Huntington Lake camp out with SoCal Potters . . . Host: Wes Harrison & Bard Johnson

August 30 to September 15 . . . Messabout VIII . . . Host: Dick Herman

September 11 (Saturday) S.F. Bay Day Sail, Clipper Cove Picnic . . . Host: Harry Gordon

September 25 - 26 (Saturday-Sunday) . . . Tomales Bay overnight . . . Host: Eric Zilbert

October 16 - 17 (Saturday-Sunday) . . . Overnight cruise Moss Landing to Monterey . . . Host: Mike Swartz

October 23 (Saturday) . . . Richmond Day Sail . . . Host: Eric Zilbert

November 20 (Saturday) . . . Delta Day Sail: Buckley Cove to Windmill Cove . . . Host: Bud Kerner

FYI dates:

February 11-15 (Thursday-Monday) Havasu Pocket Cruiser's Sail and Poker Run, AZ Dan Phy

June 12 (Saturday) . . . Delta Ditch Rio Vista to Sacramento . . . Co sponsors: Richmond & Stockton Yacht Clubs



## A Perigee Sail in Redwood Slough

By Carl Sundholm

It all started with Harry Gordon's enchanting story entitled "Winter Solstice Moon" which he posted on the West Wight Potter Owners Home Port website. He recounted how in December 1999 he learned that due to a combination of a full moon, the winter solstice, and the lunar perigee, the moon on December 22 would appear the brightest it had been in 133 years.



What's a lunar perigee? The Moon's orbit around the Earth is not a uniform circle but rather is an elliptical orbit. The time when the Moon's orbit is closest to us on the earth is called the *perigee*, and the distant part of the orbit is called *apogee*. A full moon at the perigee appears larger than at any other time, and thus reflects more light. Anyhow, just before Christmas on December 22, 1999, Harry and his wife Sandy in *Manatee*, Dave Kautz and his wife Francesca in *Tilly Lucy*, and Judy Blumhorst and her husband David in *Redwing* sailed out into the night from the port of Redwood City down the channel toward San Francisco Bay and had a beautiful moonlight sail,

which Harry eloquently recounted in his article.

"The moonlight and the effortless sailing provided one of those rare instances where the reality of sailing approaches, even exceeds, the romanticized images of Hollywood. I put my arm around Sandy, and for the moment we were Bing Crosby and Grace Kelly sailing the *True Love* on the honeymoon flashback in "High Society.""

When all this was posted on the trailer sailor bulletin board, I commented: "Wonderful, when's the next perigee?" and Jerry Higgins responded "Carl, it's December 4th. Going to organize an outing?" So I posted a call for all interested sailor to come together at the Redwood City Marina ramp for a night sail on December 4, 2009 at 5:30 pm.

Although we knew it wouldn't be as romantic as Harry's "Winter Solstice Moon" sail a decade earlier, since many of us were going it solo, a night sail promised to be something completely different and fun.

When the appointed hour arrived and it was suitably dark, I roused my Potter 19 *Dagmar* out of the boatyard. I was pleased to see that Dave Kautz there, getting his Potter 15 *Tilly Lucy* ready as well.

The night air was crisp, cold and fairly still as Dave and I were rigging our boats, when the silence of the night was broken by the loud motor sound coming from the parking lot. of a hydrofoil boat. It was a girl on a water hovercraft who had started it up dry "on the hard" and began "doing donuts," taking several spins around the parking lot. I said to Dave "There's something you don't see everyday," and we continued going about our business getting our boats ready for the night sail.

A few other boats had gathered at the ramp. There was Jerry Higgins and his Bullseye sailboat *Lia*, sailing his Bullseye, which is a marconi rigged fiberglass version of the Herreshoff 12 1/2. His brother Mike Higgins was also there with his beautiful custom made Cape Cod catboat *Jean Alden*. It was great to



(continued page 8: )

(Perigee Sail: continued from page 7)

see Stanford professor Fabian Pease with his Sun-Cat *America's Teacup*, also joining the night sail. Harry Gordon, who started all this, strolled down the pier to wish us all good luck as we shoved off, but lamented that he had forgotten his boat and that it wouldn't be the same without Grace Kelly anyhow.

It was eerily quiet and still as we shoved off from the pier, with sails aloft to catch any faint breeze that may grace them. The dark seemed to magnify the sounds of the water lapping against the hull and made the Christmas lights on boats in the distance appear even more colorful.

Even though the breeze was slight, Dave Kautz in *Tilly Lucy* capitalized as a skilled sailor should and was the first off out the channel, followed closely by Mike Higgins.

The lights of a large ship loading at the dock appeared almost like colored neon, in the distance.

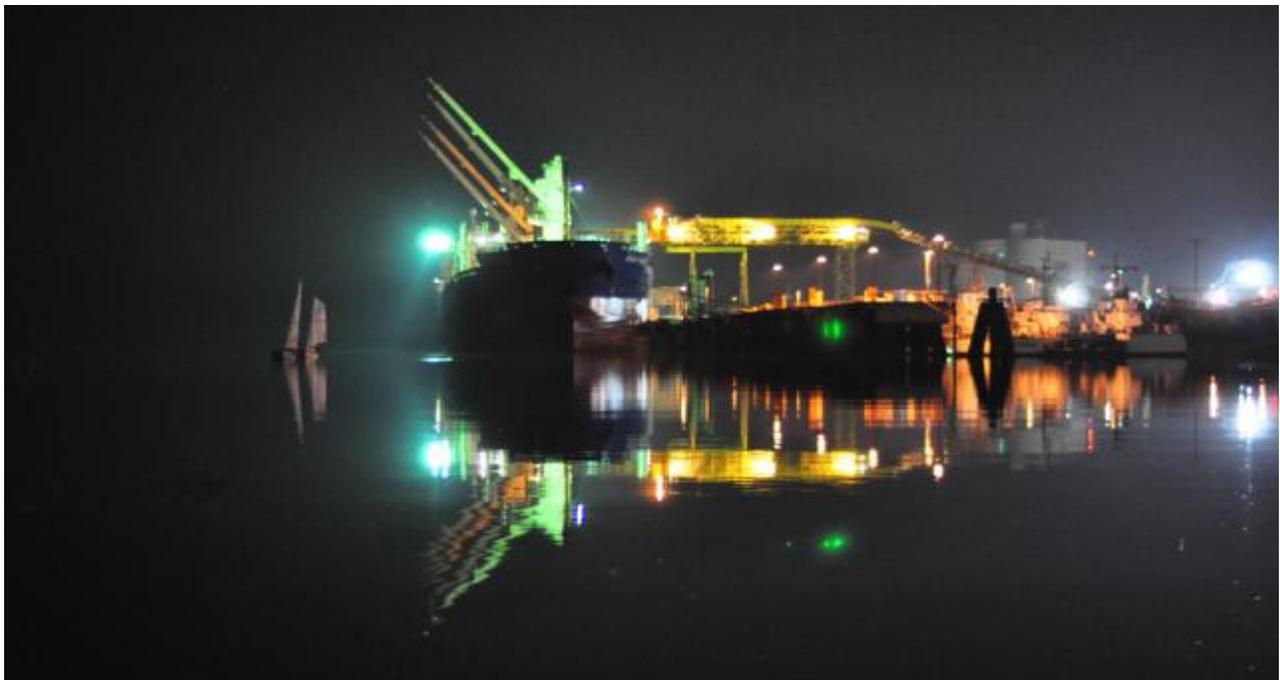


The winds likely didn't exceed 2 or 3 knots, but patient sailing made the night sail an absolute joy and totally relaxing and different experience. Not a motor was started on the entire sail!

Returning to the dock, it was ghostly quiet and a beautiful sight under the moon.

If you haven't tried night sailing, it is really fun and you should try it.

Next time we go, we will have to make sure Harry remembers his boat, because we can only blame him for the great experience that night sailing in the Redwood Channel can be.



## Bay Model Tour

Kame Richards of Pineapple Sails is giving a seminar at the Bay Model in Sausalito on Thursday, February 25th. The subject, useful to sailors, is tides and currents of the bay.

The program start at 7 PM and will last 1.5 to 2 hours.

The talks are comprised of two parts, the first using slides from U-2 over-flights for the Corp of Engineers, and the second using the Bay Model with static floats to help show the surface current movement.

There is a \$15 cash fee payable at the door which is shared with the Bay Model.

Kame's talks generally sell out, so reservations are recommended. For reservation email your request to Jim Tantillo at [jimtantillo@comcast.net](mailto:jimtantillo@comcast.net)



When I bought "*Follow Me*", she came with several boxes of stuff. One of the items was a little journal, a ship's log, that had this photo tucked away inside. This was Frank Winans in "*Sweetheart II*", with others behind him. Can you ID any one else in the photo? I can!

Rest in peace, Frank, and thanks!



## Come Enjoy Two Days of Sailing and Fun at the St. Patrick's Day Redwood City Weekend Sail

Saturday & Sunday, March 13-14, 2010

This year's St. Patrick's Day Redwood City Sail will be expanded into an overnight weekend of Saturday and Sunday sailing.

The Peninsula Yacht Club, which has participated in enhancing our past Potter Yachter Redwood City sails into St. Patrick's Day dinners and festivities at their clubhouse, has offered to expand the 2010 Redwood City sail into a complete weekend of fun. You can even come early on Friday and make it a three day weekend if you wish. The easiest place to overnight is by anchoring and/or rafting up on nearby "Lake Peninsula," but there are other overnight alternatives as

well, including possibly over-nighting in the boat on the trailer or berths (call Ed of Peninsula Yacht Club at (650) 771-1945 or email him at [helen-horn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:helen-horn@sbcglobal.net)) for alternative arrangements and for taxi service to get to shore.



On Saturday March 13, the plan is to have a skippers' meeting at 10 am and we can use the 7'6" High Tide to race counter clockwise from the Docktown Ramp near Peninsula Yacht Club out Redwood Slough and then left down Corkscrew Slough, left down Steinberger Slough, and returning to Peninsula Yacht Club via Smith Slough. If a race is not your style, you can simply follow along at your own chosen speed.

Refreshments and St. Patrick's Day dinner will be available at the PYC clubhouse for a reasonable cost (as they have in the past) and the Club has a bar and dancing for those who wish to partake.

After overnighting, breakfast will also be served at the Clubhouse for a reasonable cost, and alternative activities and sails for Sunday will be discussed and offered at that time.

One idea is a race from Docktown out Redwood Slough to buoy number 3 and back.

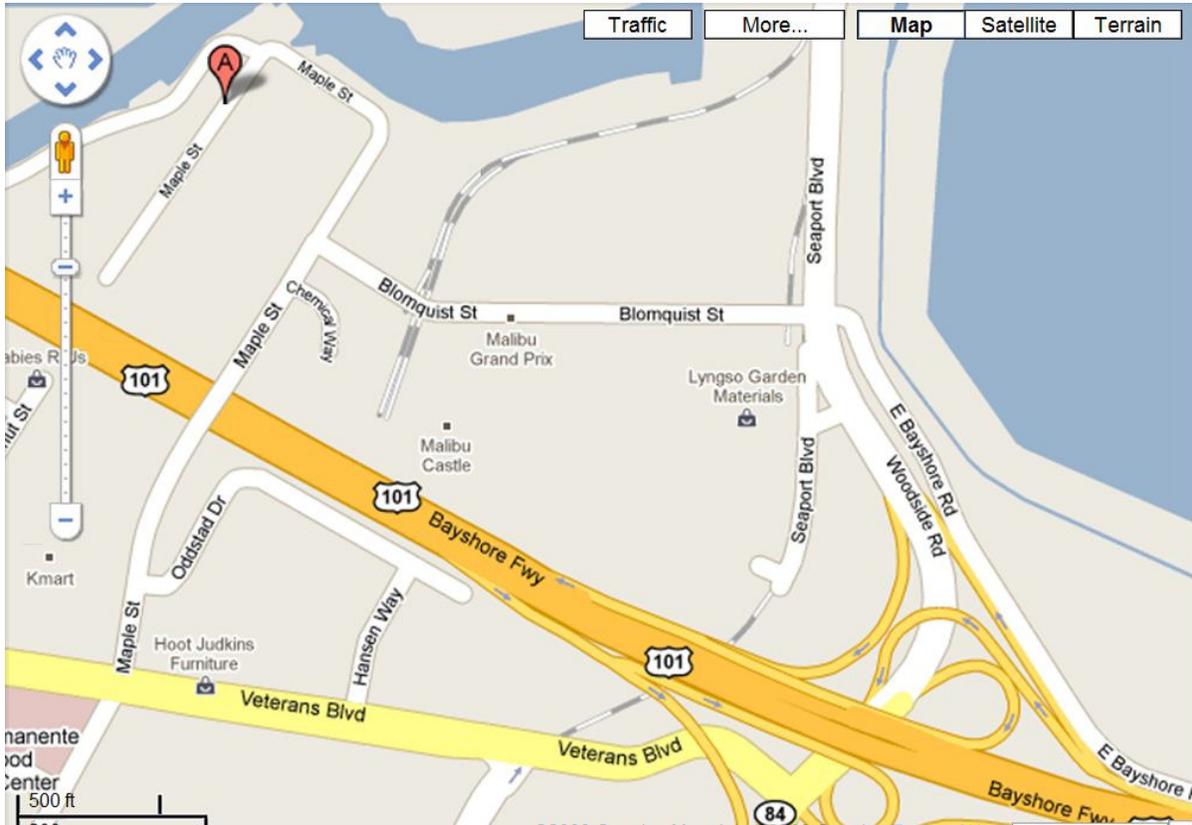
Whether you decide to join the activities or do your own thing, stay overnight or come for the day sails, be sure not to miss this great St. Patrick's Day weekend sail!

If you have any questions, feel freed to email Ed at the above address or email your Potter-Yachter Co-Hosts Dave Kautz ([dkautz@pacbell.net](mailto:dkautz@pacbell.net)) or Carl Sundholm ([sundholm@att.net](mailto:sundholm@att.net)) or Ed of the Peninsula Yacht Club, 536 Maple Street, Redwood City, CA (650) 369-4410.

Directions: From Highway 101 at Redwood City, take the Seaport/Woodside Boulevard Exit and follow Seaport Boulevard East, take a left (north) on Blomquist Street, a right (east) on Maple Street and at the second curve, turn into the parking lot until you see the PYC Silo, park, and you are there!

(continued page 11: St. Patty's

(St. Patty's Day: continued from page 10)





## A Call-Out For Newsletter Content!

Hey, guys, don't let me have **all** the fun! ~Ed

This news letter is read and enjoyed by Potter enthusiasts from coast to coast. It reflects what the Potter experience is, and is a wonderful conduit through which to share your perspective on the Potter experience. Any and all submissions are welcome. Tell us about that recent solo sail, where you scouted new territory. How about your latest mod? Articles don't have to be long . . . Much can be said in three or four paragraphs. Maybe you have some great photographs to share. But you may find when you set out to write a short piece, once you get rolling you can't stop.

## Your Photos Are Needed:

Don Person presented a slide show of photographs of the 2007 season at the January 2008 general meeting. This was repeated again at the 2009 meeting this past January. At a gathering in late November, to review photos acquired over the year, Don, Carl Sundholm, and your Editor came to the conclusion that we would like to see more contributions to draw from. This is not a call for everyone to sail with a hand on the tiller and a camera in the other, like Don, Carl and I, but rather an encouragement to contribute the pictures that you do take to what we hope will become an annual season review. You don't take picture on the water? How about those great people pix taken ashore before and after the sail.

### **A non-techie guide: How to send batches of photos**

- Step 1: Take Lots of digital photos!
- Step 2: Gather the photos that you wish to send into a single folder on your computer.
- Step 3: Zip the entire folder into a compressed Zip file using a Zip utility like JustZipIt available free at <http://free-backup.info/justzipit.html>
- Step 4: Send your Zip file to [littlegreennut@pacbell.net](mailto:littlegreennut@pacbell.net) using the free online service, YouSendIt.com (<http://www.yousendit.com/>) NOTE: There is a 100 MB limit to your file size when using the free version of YouSendIt.

That's it. It's just that easy.

One last little lesson. Many email servers limit their accounts to 5-10 MB in size. This makes it impossible to send very large files as attachments. Know too that you can use the above instructions to send any large files or group of files.

~Ed







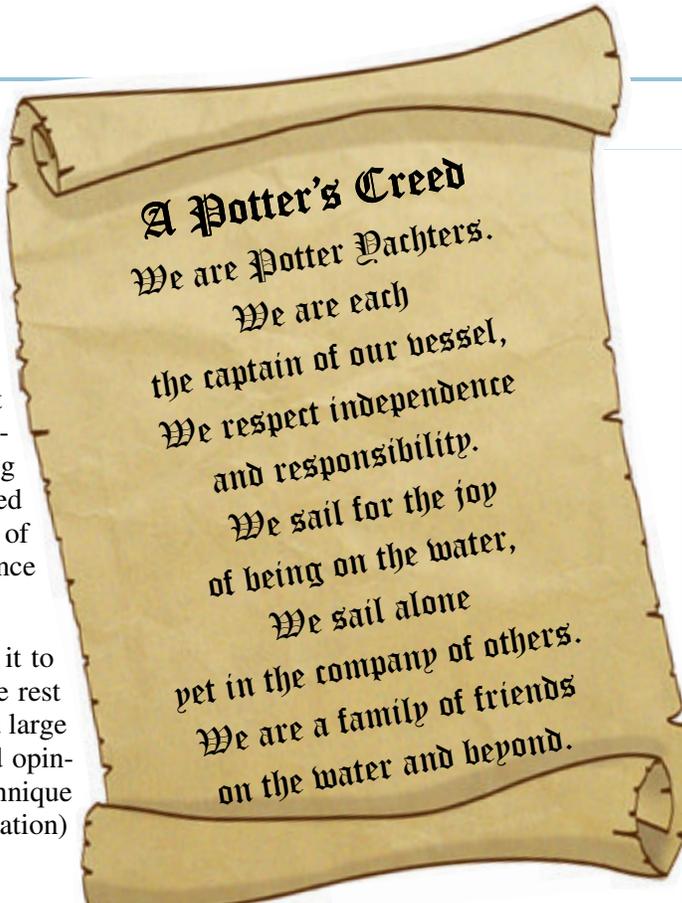
Patrick Brennan  
1305 Webster St., C205  
Alameda, CA 94501

## 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*



**A Potter's Creed**  
We are Potter Yachters.  
We are each  
the captain of our vessel,  
We respect independence  
and responsibility.  
We sail for the joy  
of being on the water,  
We sail alone  
yet in the company of others.  
We are a family of friends  
on the water and beyond.