



The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Northern California West Wight Potter Club

March 2007

Sailing & Event Calendar

March 24, Day Sail. "USS Thompson," Redwood City. Sail Host, Dave Kautz

April 14, Oakland Estuary Day Sail, launch at Grand St. Alameda. Sail Host, Bruce Hood

April 18 & 22, Strictly Sail, Jack London Square, Oakland.

May 12 & 13, Delta Cruise, Overnight, Brannon Island to Lundborg Landing. Sail Host, Jerry Barrilleaux

June 2 & 3, Woodward Annual Campout, near Oakdale, CA. Sail Host, Rich McDevitt

June 24 & 25, Eagle Lake Campout, near Susanville, CA. Sail Host, Dave White

July 15, Richmond Day Sail, to Loch Loman

July 28 & 29, Cruiser Challenge VIII, Monterey. Annual fun race/social Weekend, sponsored by PotterYachters and MPYC.

August 18, Richmond Day Sail, Angel Island Circumnavigation. Sail Host, Don Person

Sept 4 to 20, Usual Suspects to Pacific Northwest. Recommended for experienced trailer/sailors. Sail Host, Dick Herman

Sept 9, Delta Day Sail B&W Marina to Korth's

Sept 29 & 30, Tomales Bay weekend. Sail Host, Eric Zilbert

Oct 13 & 14, Monterey Overnighter. Sail Host, Mike Swartz

Nov 3, Richmond Day Sail

Second Annual USS Thompson Picnic Sail

March 24, 2007

Redwood City, CA

Come kick off the 2007 sailing season with the Potter Yachters on March 24th for the 2nd annual USS Thompson Picnic Sail. Weather and conditions permitting, lets plan to set sail at about 10:30 AM from the Redwood City launch ramp. We'll head out the channel to Mark #5 at which point we will turn due East across the Bay for the Thompson. The Thompson should be visible on the horizon from Mark #5. The 24th is a very low tide day, which is good for viewing the Thompson since more of it will be above water, but we will also get to view some "islands" where we normally sail. The more direct route to the Thompson is not advisable given the low water, hence the course around Mark #5.



Should it be too windy or bumpy for a sail across the open Bay to the Thompson, or for sailors who would prefer not to go that far, Redwood City offers a sailing venue that includes several miles of sheltered water sailing in the Redwood Creek shipping channel, the harbor turning basin and adjacent sloughs. Sailors planning to make the trip to the Thompson should bring an anchor, a picnic lunch and a camera. Folks staying close to the harbor can convene for lunch at the Waterfront Restaurant at Pete's Harbor. Visiting the new basin for Westpoint Marina is also a possibility. This was created from one of the old Cargill salt

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The Commodore's Log

Oh boy! Now this is a first - a non-Potter Potter Yachter commodore. All I can say is that I firmly believe Pottering is a state of mind. I love the easy camaraderie of the Potters, like in a race when we all go the same way the same day, or when we gather around and talk about our nautical adventures. Maybe Mike Westfield got it right when he said, "When you are on the water, you are there." If that is what Pottering is all about, then I'm a Potter Yachter.



There is a heart here that beats every month when Mike and Janet Dolan publish the newsletter. It is the glue that holds us together and I cannot say thank you enough. There is also a definite intelligence lurking behind the scenes here. It is a thankless job, but Pat Brennan does it and thanks to his labors as Secretary-Treasurer, we exist as an organization.

We have our own guru who expounds on NOG-dom, NOGs are the nautical order of geezers, and he happens to be the P-15 fleet captain. I won't identify Don Person to save him embarrassment, but he keeps everything in perspective and he does sail a lot.

Dave White is our P-19 fleet captain. Besides sailing a neat boat, go camping with him because he takes the cook! We have our own raconteur and golden tongue devil, Bruce Hood, who is always here, mainly because he lives just around the corner. And thanks for serving as the vice commodore.

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Dear Friends and fellow Potter Yachters..

Especially those preparing for the Cruiser Challenge July 28 2007

Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club has a very nice webpage online where one can download and print their race course information sheets, and a great deal of useful information, concerning flags, the committee boat, etc. Just put Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club in to your web browser or go to...<http://www.mpyc.org/>.

I am in touch with MPYC club Manager Jerry Mayo, concerning the dinner on Sat. etc. and will have more information for you as we go along..

Cheers, Bruce
Bruce Hood, Vice Commodore

The Officer's Club

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Sailing Hosts Help

The key to a successful Potter sailing event is the host. A prime example is the Tomales overnighter in September, which is one of our more popular events. Eric Zilbert puts it together every year and the Potters keep coming back. If you've sailed much with the Potters, you'll notice that the same stalwarts keep hosting or helping with the same events. Jerry Barrileaux, Rich McDevitt, Dave Kautz, Dave White, Don Person, Bruce Hood, and Pat Brennan come quickly to mind.

Maybe you've noticed that three of this year's sailing events do not have a host. Please help us out. It doesn't take much to be a sailing host. Do a little homework; work out directions to get there, check the tides, devise a tentative sailing plan, make sure the event is publicized in the preceding newsletter (Mike and Janet Dolan are more than willing to help); and be there when people show up. Then it is just a matter of getting everyone talking to each other. Things pretty much take care of themselves after that. If you feel like it, write up an after action report for the newsletter.

It's pretty simple and can be fun. Hey, folks, help if you can. It is one of the things that make the Potter Yachters work.



USS Thompson (Continued from page 1)

ponds and is rumored to be the biggest hole ever dug in Redwood City. Westpoint Marina, when completed, will be a full service facility with docks, a boatyard, a new launch ramp (yay!) and dry storage.

To get to Redwood City, take freeway 101 to the Woodside Rd./Seaport Blvd. turnoff and follow the signs onto Seaport Blvd. Make a left onto Chesapeake Dr. (you will be entering an industrial park) and follow Chesapeake straight down until it ends – at that point the ramp will be on your right and the parking lot on your left. The launch fee is \$5 which is paid via self-service envelope, so bring exact change.

Come on out and have a good time!

Dave Kautz

Tilly Lucy



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We also have a resident curmudgeon and Webmaster who lives 3000 miles away. Now, everyone who has sailed with Mike Westfield has a Westfield story. He may not be among us physically, but he is with us. Thanks for still being a Potter, Mike. And now you've got me, a guy who loves catboats and Potters. I'm going to need a lot of help, so help!

Hopefully, the coming year will be pretty much the same as last with lots of good sailing and friends getting together. I do have two projects in mind. First, I would like to put the race back into the Cruiser Cup this year. Some of us got together with Commodore Judy and talked about what we had to do. Thanks to Bruce Hood, the Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club has agreed to host the race on Saturday, July 28. And we have some volunteers: Pat Brennan who is handling the finances and paper work; David Bacon has volunteered to head the race committee; and David Blumhorst will lend his considerable expertise to the effort. Rich McDevitt and Don Person are helping to get the goodies. But we need to know how you feel about it and need to talk about it in new business.

Also, I would like to hold a seminar on safety and trailer maintenance this spring, and Bruce Hood has volunteered to head that project. I can't think of anything that will help more in getting us all to safe harbor.

The turnout at the Annual Meeting was very encouraging and we are looking good, folks. So let me close with Rich McDevitt's immortal words when he served as commodore.

HAVE FUN!

Dick Herman, Commodore



Steve Potter flying

Fair Winds, Sunny Skys !!!

Patrick Brennan
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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 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*