



The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Northern California West Wight Potter Club

October 2004

Sailing & Event Calendar

February 25, 7-9 pm

Tides and Currents of the Bay at OCSC

February 28, 7-9 PM

Weather for Bay Area Sailors at OCSC

March 6 & 7

Docking and Marina Procedures Classes
RSVP Required.

March 20

Delta Day Sail. Launch at B&W sail to Korth's Pirates Lair for lunch, and return to B&W.

April 2-4

Potter Rendezvous at Coyote Point Yacht Club. Dinner with guest speakers from International Marine. RSVP req'd.

April 24

Salt and Pepper Sail on Estuary. Launch at Estuary Park and/or Grand Ave. Alameda.

May 1-2

Brannen Island to Lundborg Landing @ Bethel Island.

June 5-6

Lake Sail and Overnight Campout at Woodward Reservoir.

July 17-18 SCA Cruiser Challenge in Monterey.

August 7-8 Eagle Lake Sail and Campout.

September 18-19 Tomales Bay Sail and Beach Campout.

October 2-3 Monterey Bay Over night.

November 6-7 Richmond Over night. Sail to Loch Lomond on the 6th and Angel Island on the 7th.

Tomales Bay Report

Wind, water, waves, and fun were plentiful at Tomales Bay for our annual outing on September 18-19th. In total 10 boats enjoyed the event. Several arrived Friday and had a windy night with challenging sleeping conditions, dragging anchors and probably not a lot of sleep. Mary and I arrived on Saturday and it was blowing 15 knots + in the parking lot while I rigged at around 9:00. Dave Lawson was returning to the ramp after the nasty conditions Friday had taken a toll on him so he was heading home. Dave White and I discov-

ered that the same size cork I use to plug the Minnow's cockpit scupper works great in the bilge drain if your plug is missing. Soon I loaded up the Minnow and Mary and I cast off for some spirited sailing towards the mouth of the bay. We saw sea lions aplenty and of course the fantastic flying skills of the pelicans. We stopped ashore for a nice quiet lunch and then back onto the water.

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Monterey Bay Sail October 2 and 3

Monterey was cool and overcast for most of our visit in October but the sailing was fantastic. I saw more otters in this trip than every other trip I've taken to Monterey combined. A special treat was seeing John Wheeler sailing HMS 18 #2. What a classic and as far as I know, the oldest P-18/19 still sailing. Good luck on the restoration John and let us know how it goes. Herb Stewart, the founder of HMS Marine and the guy who brought Potters to the US no doubt was on that boat early in her life so John possesses a real piece of Potter History.

Our sailing was in mostly light winds below 10-12 knots with very gentle wave and swell conditions. Saturday's sailing was a little better

than Sunday as the wind kind of pooped out by noon Sunday when I pulled the Minnow out. A nice lunch at the pub and I was on the road behind Dave Lawson heading up Hwy. 1. Boy oh boy did we hit traffic as we headed off towards 101. I never did see the cause of the slowdown but it was a lot of 2 mph. driving, at least I had a nice weekend of sailing to think about as I sat looking at tail lights for an extra 45 minutes.

Inside this issue...

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From the Commodore

Rich McDevitt, Commodore

Well the end of 2004 is closing fast. November 6 and 7 we have our final scheduled sail for the year at Richmond. You can day sail either or both days, get a slip for the night, or crew for someone else if you'd like. Weather and tides permitting, we can sail to Loch Lomond, Angel Island, Tiburon, or just cruise around. Richmond provides access to some great areas and even if the winds are over 20 knots, there is a lot of protected area to sail in before you leave the breakwater (actually often the reach/run up and down Protrero reach behind the jetty is some of the best sailing of the trip here).

I plan one more newsletter before the end of the year with some details on our annual meeting in January. If you have any items you would like on the agenda let me know. I hope to have that planned and distributed to you by early December.

There is still a lot of opportunity to get out and go sailing in the fall and winter months. Long onto the West Wight Potter forum on the Trailer Sailor website and you can often find a few folks with plans for mid week or weekend sailing agendas. If there are none, start your own. Sometimes it's almost impossible to get out and sail alone.

Rich McDevitt, Commodore



Cruising San Rafael in August

The Officer's Club

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Tomales Bay Report *continued from page 1*

Tomales Photos

Most of the day was spent reefed and sailing in 15-20 knot winds. I sailed by Pat Brennan and he commented that of course I showed up for the good weather (if only we knew what was coming in the next 18 hours). By late afternoon we had toured a lot of the bay and we reached over to the campsite beach and unloaded copious amounts of food, gear, and our shared feast of 36 fresh large oysters from Tomales Bay Oyster Co. just south of Marshall. As the boats began to come in for the day, the firewood piled up we saw a few majestic deer that were either going to Iraq or had a nice rack depending on who you listened to. Eric treated us to a BOB (bowl overboard) show. How fast and how far can a bowl sail at Tomales? You'd be surprised but Eric's recovery skill made us all proud as he brought everything back to the shore, even his now wet hat.



We BBQ'ed oysters for about 2 hours until we had our fill. Eric wins the "I like oysters" award. Many knew they liked them and several folks tried them for the first time. These were beauties and the sauce Mary made for them was a real treat. Thanks to Dave Lawson for the sauce recipe I only wish you could have tried them. Lots of wine, salads, vegetables, potatoes, chips & dip, chocolate, and cookies rounded out the feast. It was chilly and breezy but we managed to share the fire and stay ahead of Mother Nature for the time being.

Dave White sailing past Hog Island at the Tomales Bay sail on September 18th.

The tides required that we keep a close watch on the boats so we did not end up on the real hard in the AM so we periodically pushed the boats back a bit and returned to our party on the beach.. The evening was topped off with some fine Bushmills provided by Pat Brennan. By 10 or so, Mary and I retired to the Minnow to spend our best night aboard the P-15 ever. Also the first night for the two of us and probably the last night onboard for Mary, but what the heck, it was the end of a great day with great company.

House burnt out and boat aground and awash at high tide. Looks to be the end of someone's dream at Tomales, or maybe the beginning of a new dream.

At 4AM we were awakened by a short light shower. I moved some gear in the cockpit and tried to sleep. Then the rain came back and kept up for some time. Daybreak brought us some light intermittent showers, more campfire on the beach to warm and dry ourselves with. Pat made an early departure and I sure hope he did not get by the downpour that hit shortly after he left the beach. It was so heavy we heard it across the bay before we saw it. We were blessed when it blew out before it hit us so we kept making coffee and spicing it up with the small amount of Bushmills that remained. In time we were out sailing again. Sunrise was stunning and the drama played out in the skies just added to the natural beauty that Tomales Bay provides. Sunday was more brisk windy weather so after a few hours of sailing we pulled the boat and started our trek back home. Later that evening we found out that our rainy experience was small compared to the storm that dumped up to 1.5 inches around the bay area and even lots of hail and snow by the time it reached Sacramento and the Sierras.



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Random Shots from the Potterazzi



By now, most of us know, keep weight and crew forward for better performance on our Potters. On September 11 Jerry took this to an extreme I never dreamed he would. Apparently while we were eating fish & chips at Bobby's Café at Loch Lomond,, Jerry was recruiting an egret for crew and training it where to sit so he could squeeze an extra .005 knot out of Sunshine. The photo on the left is by Dave Meredith and the right is by Dave Lawson.



Dan Richert and Pat Brennan enjoying Eagle Lake together in August. Winds were light, but smiles were huge. Victor E is not a Potter but it is a very cool boat. Photo by Rich McDevitt

Patrick Malone heading out of Richmond for Loch Lomond on August 14th. This was one of Festina Lente's first bay crossings. Photo by Rich McDevitt



Tomales *continued*

We got home to Dublin and the garage door was open and I instantly noticed that the mirror on Mary's car was broken (don't you think you can leave an 18 year old home alone for one night????). At first I started to get angry then Mary reminded me of Keith and Alex's new fence story (their son's BBQ got out of control. Do you smell smoke?) I smiled and thought to myself, ahhh aren't kids wonderful!

This was a record turnout for our recent years' Tomales sails and thanks to all who helped make that happen. For those that have not been there, it is a bit of a drive, but the natural beauty is worth it. Tidal influence and shallow launch ramps mean you need to do some research before you plan your trip. If you're just driving up for a day trip sans boat, I noticed that Tomales Bay Oyster Co. sells charcoal, sauce, and everything you need to BBQ oysters. They even have several BBQ/picnic areas with a fantastic view for you to utilize. Generally September brings great weather here but this year we just got a little extra natural drama for our money.

Pottering & Preparedness

Dear Pat,

Here are some thoughts on how I use my Potter, I'm also invoiced with emergency preparedness in my small town. it is a different take on how to use a potter. I thought Potter Yachters in California might find it useful.

Fair Winds!

Hank Kindell

Pottering & Preparedness

My Potter #511 (The Ginger K) is a great micro-cruiser that has provided many great adventures! It also is my family mobile preparedness center.

Now hang with me! Many of the ideas used to make successful cruising can be used to prepare for emergencies (natural & manmade). A boom tent is essential in providing additional shelter & living space, A simple design can be homemade (cheap) or bought (expensive). Small Boat Journal #41 has an easy to build design.

Because of limited space I buy freeze dried food in #10 cans It tastes great. Beef Stroganoff at \$1.45 a serving, Broccoli Cheese Soup at \$.50 are examples of the many items available. When my boat is at home there are two boxes with enough food to feed my family for three weeks!

The down side is you must carry enough water for drinking & preparing the food. I store & rotated water on the boat and keep a water filter aboard as backup. I also can canned fruits in juice. I don't carry an ice chest.

There are two online stores that I use (but there are many more) - www.BePrepared.com & www.nitro-pak.com. Most Potters are thrifty people. Do you need a portapotty but don't want to spend \$70? Try a Lugable Loo for \$19. Need a solar shower but don't want to spend \$21 or more? Try a Solar Spray for \$9 and it holds 5 gal. Even with postage you can save money from BePrepared.

For lighting I use an LED fixed to the compression post (100 hrs per battery). I carry a Dietz oil lamp for light & heat on cool, rainy days. A dynamo powered 5 band radio provides info & entertainment.

A great item I recommend is the Coleman Space Savers (Wal-Mart) \$9.95. They are like giant zip lock bags you fill with clothes or blankets, squeeze the air out. They store compactly and are waterproof.

Last of all is the abandon ship bag which is a soft sided cooler that floats. Alone with flares and other required safety items it has an extensive first aid kit. Put some thought into assembling a personalized medical kit that meets your family's needs. Include a bottle of long shelf-life vitamins, which can speed healing.

There are indeed many ways to Potter!

Hank V. Kindell

Spanish Fork, UT

Hank and Pat Brennan submitted this months ago. This is one of the few things I recovered (or discovered) after my computer crash. Thanks to both of you for submitting this and I'm sorry for the publishing delay. RM



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October 2004

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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*