



The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Northern California West Wight Potter

February 2002

Sailing Calendar

February 23:
Richmond Marina, COB Class

March 17:
Richmond Marina, Brooks Is.

March 24:
Oakland Estuary, Quinn's Lighthouse Pub

April 6-7:
Bruno's Island/Delta Ditch Race

April 17-21:
Pacific Sail Expo

April 27-28:
Richmond Marina
Sat - Salt & Pepper Sail
Sun - Lecture on Safe Sailing on SF Bay

May 4-5:
Woodward Reservoir/Boat Rodeo

May 25-26:
Richmond Marina to Loch Lomond

June 1-2:
Delta Cruise (To Be Decided)

June 29-30:
Eagle Lake

July 20-21:
Oakland Estuary to South Beach Marina, SF

August 2-4:
Annual Lake Tahoe trip

August 24-25:
SCA Cruiser Challenge IV, Monterey Bay

September 14-15:
Tomales Bay

September 28:
Richmond Marina to Angel Is.

October 5-6:
Monterey Bay

November:
To Be Decided

Commodore's Corner: New Directions and Old Favorites for 2002

This club runs on "volunteer power" and, boy!, do we have some high-octane volunteers! We're planning to do more than we've ever done before, with new sailing destinations and some new initiatives.

We've got a great bunch of folks in this year's Officers' Club. Bruce Hood is returning as Vice Commodore (or is that Commodore of Vice?) and will again be leading a trip at Eagle Lake.

Jerry Barrilleaux, as P19 Fleet Captain, is planning to take us to some new places in the Delta and to visit old favorites like Bruno's Island.

Mike Westfield is our new P15 Fleet Captain. Mike sails more often than any club member I know, and he's going to lead us on daysails to new destinations, starting with a circumnavigation of Brooks Island near Richmond Marina, March 17.

After last year's popular docking class taught by OCSC at Richmond Marina, we've set a goal of organizing several educational classes for 2002. Over the winter months, David Meredith had taken the initiative of organizing a "Crew Over Board" class that Cal Adventures Sailing School will teach at Richmond on Feb 23. At the annual

(Continued on page 4)

Saturday, Feb 23, 10 AM - Richmond COB Class

February 23 (Saturday) 10-4 at the Richmond Marina. Cal Adventures will present a Crew Overboard (COB) Rescue class. Bring your boats--lecture will be followed by on-the-water practice supervised by instructors in power boats. Come early and launch before the lecture so we can all get sailing right after a lunch break. Guest docks will be available free.

Bring something like a gallon orange juice jug filled with a quart of water (so it doesn't blow around) and a short rope handle, or an old life jacket to use for your crew overboard. To avoid leaning out of your boat and becoming a COB yourself, bring a **boat hook** to rescue your pretend COB.

The cost of the class will be \$20 for each skipper. That means families get a break, but two skippers doubling up in one boat pay twice. The

club is already subsidizing this event pretty heavily. If more boats



show up than the teacher can handle on the water, single-handlers may be asked to double up.

Please RSVP to me at education@potter-yachters.org, 510-223-6291, if you plan to attend. You can pay at the class with cash or a check made out to Greg Yu.

In case of rain, class will be held on Sunday, February 24. I'll post an announcement on the WW Potter e-mail list and the TSBB forum if there is a postponement or cancellation. You can also call me for information.

David Meredith, Education Captain

(Directions on Page 7)

Sunday, March 17- Sail around Brooks Island

On Sunday, March 17 the P15 fleet will set sail to circumnavigate Brooks Island.

Brooks Island is the land that we pass on the Port side while leaving Richmond Marina for the bay. This will be an easy sail. The water is a little thin but we will have the tide to help. As always, wear a PFD and secure your centerboard down with a bungee cord. This sail is suitable for beginners, but if you feel this is more than you want to attempt, there is lots of room in the marina area for practicing all of your sailing skills.

Leaving the ramp, the way around the Island is opposite the warehouse with the broken windows. We will turn to port (east) and cruise out to

the bay towards Golden Gate Fields, and when well clear of the island turn about 180 degrees, then back through the entry channel to the Richmond Marina.

P-19s will have to be alert for bumping aground while passing around the island to the bay. It is suggested that P-19s sail out to the bay using the regular entry channel (west), and turn to port to meet the P-15s returning around the island. We can then sail back to the ramp together.

We will launch from Richmond Marina at 10:30 AM

Mike Westfield, P15 Fleet Captain

(Directions on Page 7)

Sunday, March 24 - Lunch Run to Quinn's



This is going to be a daysail to a beautiful old Lighthouse for lunch.

The Lighthouse is a historic landmark built in 1890. We will be going upstairs to The Pub. There will be good food, good Ale, and FREE peanuts.

Quinn's is located on the Oakland Estuary behind Government Island. You can launch from the Grand Ave ramp in Alameda, or Estuary Park, in Oakland. Try to be in the water by 9 AM, and we will meet at the Light-

house around noon. They will be expecting us! You can also drive to the lighthouse, It's located at 1951 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland Ca.

Oakland Estuary is usually a good place for less-experienced skippers because it generally has lower winds and smoother water than the rest of the Bay. But even less-experienced skippers must use good judgment to decide whether to launch, depending on conditions that day.

Please bring extra fenders and docklines for use at Quinn's guest dock.

If you can't join us sailing on the water, drive over to Quinn's and join us for a burger and beer on the balcony overlooking the water.

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The Officer's Club

Commodore:

Judy Blumhorst
228 La Pera Circle
Danville, CA 94526
(925) 820-0800
Commodore@potter-yachters.org
P-19 #266, *Redwing*

Vice-Commodore:

Bruce Hood
1418 Scottsdale Court
Chico, CA 95926-7739
(530) 894-7343
vice-commodore@potter-yachters.org
P19 #1176, *Catrina*

P19 Fleet Captain:

Jerry Barrilleaux
2724 Richard Ave.
Concord, CA 94520
(925) 685-4577
P19captain@potter-yachters.org
P15 #564 Breezy, HMS18 #48, *Sunshine*

P15 Fleet Captain:

Mike Westfield
33 Union Sq. #1212
Union City, CA 94587
(510) 675-0994
P15captain@potter-yachters.org
P15 #2248, *Watertoy*

Secretary/Treasurer:

Greg Yu
33855 Juliet Circle
Fremont, CA 94555
(510) 790-1228
Secretary@potter-yachters.org
HMS18 #63, *Sampan*

Webmaster:

Kent Crispin
Webmaster@potter-yachters.org
P19 #855, *Peregrine*

Historian:

Dory Taylor
PO Box 6443
San Jose, CA 95150
(408) 971-8016
Historian@potter-yachters.org
MKII #610, *Petite Liege*

Newsletter Editor:

David Blumhorst
(925) 820-0800
Editor@potter-yachters.org
P19 #266, *Redwing*

Education Captain:

David Meredith
877 N. Rancho Road
El Sobrante, CA 94803
(510) 223-62911
Education@potter-yachters.org
P15 #1060, *X(plore)*

Minutes of the Annual Potter Yachter's Meeting January 13, 2002

By Greg Yu, Secretary/Treasurer

After a sumptuous brunch at the Oakland Yacht Club dining room, we all went downstairs to the Regatta for the meeting. The meeting was well attended by 44 members and guests.

The meeting was called to order at 11:06 AM by Commodore Judy Blumhorst.

An agenda was passed out and discussed.

Election of Officers:

Before nominations and election of officers commenced, Ricardo Leigh made a motion for new officers to take office at the end of the meeting to maintain continuity. Motion was seconded and passed. Members discussed how, at some clubs, the Vice Commodore automatically becomes next year's Commodore.

Nominations and election:

Commodore - Judy Blumhorst was nominated and re-elected unani- mously.

Vice commodore - Dory Taylor, Jerry Barrilleaux and Bruce Hood were nominated. Bruce Hood was re-elected by majority vote.

P-14/15 Sail Captain - Mike Westfield and Harry Gordon were nomi- nated. Harry Gordon declined nomi- nation. Mike Westfield was elected unani- mously.

P-19 Sail Captain - Jerry Barril- leaux and Dave Norris were nomi- nated. Dave Norris declined nomi- nation. Jerry Barrilleaux was re- elected unani- mously.

Secretary/Treasurer - Greg Yu was nominated and re-elected unani- mously.

Web master - Kent Crispen was re-appointed.

Newsletter Editor - David Blum- horst was nominated and elected unani- mously

Jason Roberts made an outgoing editor's statement in which he urged more support and contribu- tions for the new editor. Dory Tay- lor encouraged members to send 'club related' articles to the news- letter editor instead of posting in the West Wight Potter Discussion Web.

David Blumhorst acknowledged that the newsletter editor's job is a tough one, and urged members who are hosting or coordinating events to get the information to him in time to post in the newslet- ters. Sail Coordinators and Sail Captains should submit a sail re- port after each event for the news- letter. Larry Costa noted that we had 46 people in the room, and that if each person would just contrib- ute half a page, we would have enough newsletter articles for a whole year.

Treasurer's Report:

Greg Yu gave an annual financial report. The Club has a very healthy surplus.

A discussion was held over dues and how to spend the surplus. The majority of the members felt we should maintain our dues at the same rate and use the surplus to subsidize events and educational functions. A suggestion was made for us to join US Sailing where we can gain more recognition as a club, and also purchase liability insurance. A motion to maintain dues at \$24 was seconded and

passed.

New Initiatives:

Another motion to support New Initia- tives (outlined in agenda) and subsi- dize them with club funds was sec- onded and passed.

Under New Initiatives, the positions of an Educational Captain and a Regatta Captain are created.

David Meredith was nominated and elected as our Education Captain.

Alex Hubbard was nominated and elected as our Regatta Captain.

David Meredith gave the group an oral presentation of the Crew Overboard Class he is coordinating in February.

Kathy Bullock inquired about multiple dates for education classes. It was deemed not financially feasible. How- ever, suggestions were made for par- ticipating members to take good lec- ture notes and possibly video the in- structions for members who could not participate.

Judy presented the Trip Coordinator guidelines and asked for suggestions for the Sail Schedule.

Suggestions for Sail Schedule:

Bruce Hood will coordinate another Eagle Lake Sail at the end of June.

Milt Lee volunteered to organize a swap meet.

Kent Crispen suggested more non- sailing activities (like the Bay Model visit last year) to include a dinner and a meeting.

Bruce Hood suggested Black Butte Lake as a possible alternative for-

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Commodore's Corner (cont'd)

meeting in January, the club members liked his idea so much that they unanimously elected him to the newly created position of Education Captain. Welcome to the Officer's Club, David!

David is already working with the officers on another class, to be taught by Kame Richards of Pineapple Sail fame, for March 28th. Kame will talk about Small Boat Handling for San Francisco Bay.

Rich McDevitt, a former Potter Yachters member who returned to the club last year with a new P15, Winnow, is planning a "Sailboat Rodeo" for our annual Woodward Reservoir Trip, May 4-5. There'll be skill-building events like knot-tying, COB drills, and some laughter-provoking, silly games. If you've got any ideas for the Sailboat Rodeo, contact Rich at 925-829-7792 or cad-cotsm@aol.com. Careful, Rich – this sounds so like so much fun, you could get "volunteered" to be an Officer next year!

Eric Zilbert has volunteered to lead a trip to Tomales Bay in September. Eric is one of the most intrepid skippers in our club. You can be sure this trip will be a real adventure!

This year's Cruiser Challenge is go-

ing to be bigger than ever – and we'll need volunteers again to make it run smoothly. This year, we've honored an ever-reliable volunteer, Alex Hubbard, with the title "Regatta Chairwoman". She will be helping me with the pre-registration record-keeping, logistics and pre-race correspondence. Welcome to the Officers' Staff, Alex! We couldn't do it without your help!

We've got some plans for the Potter Yachter website too. Starting with the next issue of the Newsletter, we'll be using the "Members-Only" section of the website for distributing the electronic version of the Newsletter. For the future, Kent Crispin and Dave Blumhorst are looking into starting a members-only forum on the website, where club members can communicate on-line.

We tend to take the Potter Yachter Website for granted, without thanking Webmaster Kent Crispin often enough. So, for all the members and myself, I'd like to send a huge THANKS to our esteemed Webmaster. The Potter Yachter website not only publicizes our events and keeps our favorite stories, it keeps the club vital by attracting new members.

But even more than our thanks, Kent really *needs* one or two enthusiastic volunteers to help him update the website with new articles and pictures when they're submitted. You don't need to be a high-tech wizard, but an aptitude for programming would help. We're looking for semi-technical volunteers. Volunteers should email Kent at webmaster@potter-yachters.org.

My final thanks goes to my First-Only Mate, Dave Blumhorst, who not only puts up with me, but also volunteered to be the Newsletter Editor. The position of Newsletter Editor is arguably the most important and time-consuming in the club. No matter how many fabulous events we organize, its all for naught if we don't get the word out in time to the members! It's a tough job, and a huge commitment of time and energy. Welcome to the Officers' Club, Dave, and thanks for taking on this tough job!

As I look over what I just wrote, I'm struck by how much energy people are putting into the club this year. I'm excited! I'm really looking forward to working with so many wonderful people and to our best sailing season yet.

By Judy Blumhorst, Commodore

Dues Reminder

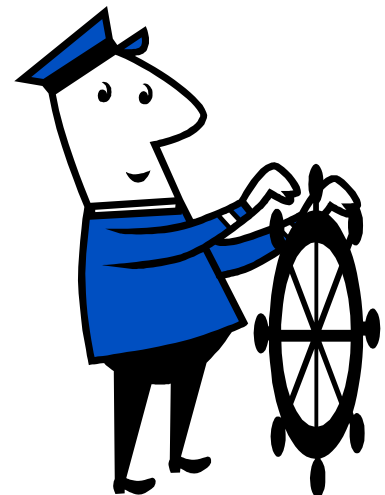
Ahoy Potter Yachters:

By majority vote at the Annual Meeting, we have elected to maintain our membership dues at \$24. To renew your membership, please make out a check to Greg Yu and send it to 33855 Juliet Circle, Fremont, Ca 94555.

Please also include any change in your data.....new boat, new e-mail address, new mate, etc.

Thank you for your continued support of the Potter Yachters.

Greg Yu
Secretary/Treasurer



The New P15 “J&J” Lapper

There’s been a gap between the small jib and the large genoa in the P15’s sail inventory for a long time. Last year, Jerry Barrilleaux and Judy Blumhorst teamed up to design a “lapper” for the P15 to fill the gap. Their goal was to produce a sail that would be a great all-around performer in winds from about 5 to 13 knots of wind – point like hell up-wind, give the P15 more power on a run or deep reach, punch through chop, be easy to trim, and, above all, balance well with the main across a large range of conditions.

Last fall, Jerry and Judy had a prototype build by Elliot Patterson sails. Skip Elliot has been making sails for the Potters since about 1970, and he really knows the boats. Skip tweaked Jerry and Judy’s rough design, and sent Jerry a sail. Jerry and Judy rigged the new lapper on Jerry’s P14 Breezy and discovered it was a real winner! Since then, nearly a dozen skippers across the country have ordered the new lapper from EP Sails. (You can contact Skip at EP sails 949 645-6697 or skip@epsails.com or visit www.epsails.com)

The dimensions of the new lapper are: luff = 11’, foot = 6’, leach = 9’6”, LP = 5’3”. Total area is 29 sf. The luff is almost full hoist on the forestay. It has an easy, rounded entry in the forward part of the draft to make it more forgiving in shifty winds, and to give it a little more power in light and variable winds, or in chop.

International Marine will soon be offering their own version of the new P15 J&J lapper, as soon as they have tested developed and test a prototype from their own sail loft. (Contact IM at 800-433-4080 or www.wwpotter.com).

Two Reviews of the New P15 “J&J” Lapper

Here’s how Jerry Barrilleaux described the new P15 lapper:

“Last Saturday, Don Person and I launched our P15’s into a foggy SF Bay. Our destination was Angel Island, five miles away. The wind gods were with us and we had a fast beam reach with good winds all the way. This is the first chance I have had to try out the NEW lapper on a long passage.”

“After a lunch on the Island (a really beautiful spot) we headed back. The current was very strong and we had to return close hauled in 12 to 15 knots of wind with 2 foot chop. The new lapper drove her into the chop like a torpedo boat. WOW! What a ride! We held the same course for over an hour with good speed.”

“At one point a forty footer was behind me, and he wasn’t gaining! Then he started to creep up on me, when he slowly passed me I noticed he was CHEATING, he had started his engine! What a Day!”

Dave Kautz had this to say about the new lapper:

“I’ve had the Tilly Lucy out five or six times with the new lapper and I’m impressed. This is a really nice “all-around” sail that gives improved performance on all points of sail when the wind is light.

“Just so that expectations are set correctly, the new sail is only 7 sq. ft. bigger than the old one so it isn’t as though the boat climbs up on a plane when you use it. The increase in sail area for the entire rig is 8%.”

“What I like best about this sail is how well the boat is balanced. With the standard rig, I would always leave my centerboard 10 to 15 degrees short of all the way down to achieve good balance on the boat. With the new lapper the centerboard goes down all the way and the balance is just the way I like it. If the wind is fairly steady, you can tie the tiller off and trim

the sails so that the boat will steer itself long enough to attend to matters like setting or retrieving fenders, grabbing a bite to eat or answering Mother Nature’s call.”

“In winds of 10 kts. or so, if I let go of the tiller the boat slowly heads up. I’m eager to try it in more gusty and windy conditions and see if the improved balance is still there. I foresee using the standard jib now only when the weather is downright stinky.”

“The down-side of the new jib is that visibility under the sail is decreased and off the wind it rubs against the pulpit leaving some unsightly marks on the sail. Its larger size also makes it a bigger pile of dacron on the foredeck when lowered and it’s harder to flake neatly on the cockpit seat when putting it away.”

“All in all, big kudos to Jerry and Judy for a great design!”

By Judy Blumhorst, Commodore



Minutes of the Annual Potter Yachter's Meeting (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

Woodward Reservoir.

Harry Gordon felt that we should continue the tradition of our annual sail at Woodward.

Jerry Barrilleaux proposed a couple of Delta Sails: Bruno's Island where we would launch at B&W Resort and sail approx. 9 miles to Guisti's Restaurant, and Brennan Island to the Sugar Barge Restaurant.

Jason Roberts suggested Lake Sonoma, to include a Wine Tasting Tour.

There was a suggestion to join the Memorial Day Regatta at Whiskey town, where they offer good slips and campgrounds.

Judy asked for a brainstorming session of favorite locations. The following were mentioned as favorites:

Monterey, Loch Lomond, Petaluma, Napa River, Tomales Bay, New Mellones Lake, Lake Tahoe, Angel Island, China Camp, New Hogan Lake, Richmond, Huntington Lake, the Delta, and Del Valle Reservoir.

Judy will meet with other officers within the next 2 weeks to create a sail schedule for 2002.

Other Items:

Harry Gordon suggested the creation of a 'Members Only' Forum discussion board on the Potter Yachters website. Dave Blumhorst and Kent Crispin will investigate to see if and how it can be done.

Dave will take over the maintenance of the new 'Members Only area' on the club website, and will upload copies of the Newsletter and other members-only documents.

Members suggested we should have more articles and pictures on the website. Kent Crispin asked for volunteers to help with the website updates. Volunteers should contact Kent via e-mail at webmaster@potter-yachters.org.

Barbara Simpson proposed and led a round of applause for the officers.

New members were introduced.

Gifts were raffled.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Yu
Secretary/Treasurer
Potter Yachters

Mark your Calendars for the Cruiser Challenge IV at Monterey Bay, August 24. Deadline for Registration is July 21st

This year's SCA Cruiser Challenge will take place August 24th at Monterey Bay. That's right, I said gorgeous MONTEREY BAY! Potter Yachters' club member Dean Lines will be our host at the Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club. The MPYC Race Committee will run the race for us and we'll be the MPYC's guest for the dinner and award ceremony in their lovely clubhouse right at Monterey Harbor. It's going to be our biggest party ever!!!!

Mark your calendars for the Cruiser Challenge at Monterey Bay on August 24th right now. We'll mail registration forms in May. YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER BY JULY 21ST if you want to stay in the Monterey Marina overnight. We're expecting around 50 skippers from all over the country to attend and the marina

management will be moving other boats to make room for our raft-up! We need to know exactly how

many boats will be there. This is one event you won't want to miss!
By Judy Blumhorst, Commodore



Directions to Richmond Marina

Richmond Marina, 1340 Marina Way South, Richmond, CA 94604
Phone 510-236-1013.

Coming from Berkeley, take I-580 WEST ramp towards Richmond. Merge onto I-580 W, travel approximately 3 miles. Take the Marina Bay Pkwy/S 23rd St exit. Turn right onto 23rd Street. Turn left onto Cutting Blvd. Turn left onto Marina Way South; you'll see Richmond Marina on your left-hand side.

Get the Potter Yachter Newsletter on the Internet!

Get your Potter Yachter the fast and easy way, with Internet download (and save some trees, and the club budget, too!) You'll receive email notification when the monthly newsletter is ready, before it would come in the mail! Then, follow these simple steps to retrieve the newsletter:

- 1 - On the Web, go to www.potter-yachters.org.
- 2 - Click on "Members Only".
- 3 - In the sign-in box, enter "members" for user, "potter" for password (all lower case).
- 5 - Click on Feb 2002 Newsletter, and it will open in Acrobat.
- 6 - To save it to your computer, click on the Save (diskette) icon. To print, click on the Printer icon.

To receive your monthly Potter-

Yachter via the Internet, we need your email address. Check the label above. If delivery method is "Internet" and your email address is shown, you're set to receive the newsletter via the Internet.

Starting with the March Potter Yachter, you'll receive the newsletter electronically instead of in the mail.

And, if we have your email address, you'll also receive last-minute notifications of sails, date changes, rain dates, etc.

If the information on the label is incorrect, or you prefer to receive a printed copy by US mail, send your updated information to Greg Yu at secretary@potter-yachters.org or call 510-790-1228.

Quinn's (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

Driving directions to Quinn's:

From 880 South:

Exit 5th Avenue and turn left on Embarcadero. Follow for two miles past 16th Avenue exit.

From 880 North:

Take 16th Avenue Exit. Turn left on Embarcadero. Follow for one-half mile.

Quinn's is on water side, set back from street. Address is 51 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland, CA 94606, tel 510-536-2050

Jerry Barrilleaux, P19 Fleet Captain

From the Editor

I'll be publishing the Potter Yachter monthly, hopefully before the first of each month. Each newsletter will contain at least the sailing calendar, details of the events of the coming month, and any other timely information for club members.

We also want to include your stories, sailing tips, etc. So, send in your tales of sailing adventures, misadventures, and other fun sailing times. They really make reading the newsletter fun! And don't fret about feeling you don't know how to write - would you send this story to your friends via email or letter? Well, we're your friends, aren't we? And we want to hear it!

Send your stories to me at [edi-tor@potter-yachters.org](mailto:editor@potter-yachters.org), or by mail. I'll let you know I received it, if/when I'll publish it, and edit it to

fit the available space. I'll also send you the edited version (time permitting) before publishing, so if you think I've botched your article, we can correct it.

See you on the water!

David Blumhorst, Editor





The Potter Yachter

FEBRUARY 2002

Greg Yu
33855 Juliet Circle
Fremont, CA 94555

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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*