The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Potter Yachters June 2010

Gales of Fun in the Delta

The 2010 B&W Bruno's Island Bash
Don Person

And bash it turned out to be. All started well enough with seven P15's and three P19s successfully launching from the mast grabbing trees at B&W marina by ten o'clock. Following host Jerry Barrilleaux like chicks after a rooster the fleet motored through the timely opened swing bridge, on highway 12, and headed down the Mokolome River toward the Stockton channel. The moderate breeze began to build and was up to 5 or 6 knots by the time we made the channel and turned starboard toward Bruno's. Over the next hour wind speed increased to 12 to 15. Some of the fleet took advantage of the barrier tules to sail inside while others stayed in the channel for an exhilarating ride. We were all tied up in well protected slips by one o'clock.

Skipper Andrew Lees was bringing the houseboat "All The Usual Suspects" with family and crew to join us. A few boats sailed out to meet him. The wind was now in the 15 plus range and conditions getting sporting. Bruno's dockmaster had opened a long side tie for the house boat which was helpful. With the increasing wind maneuvering was getting tricky. Once it was docked we all gathered on the house boat for

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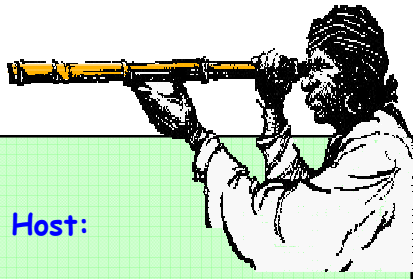
The Commodore's Log

Starting this month I am going to recognize new members in the Commodores Log. Since last September the following people have joined the club:

Russell Handler, Northport ME
Ed Whitehead, Lincoln CA
Thomas Emery, Glendale CA
Neil Dorf, Roseville CA
Rudy Doormann, Napa CA

Welcome aboard, we hope to see you on the water soon. I have always joked about joining the Potter Yachters saying for your twenty five dollars you get a business card with your name on it. To some degree that is true. Any body can sail with us member or not. In fact we encourage folks to sail with us. We did buy breakfast for all members in good standing at this year's annual meeting, but that is not the rule. For the most part the benefits are subtle. Something became apparent to me when we were at the Elk Horn Yacht Club in April. We had free docking, and use of their club and all the facilities. We are treated very well by the yacht clubs we have associations with. One of the reasons, besides being good guys and gals, is we have been quite generous with contributions to their clubs treasury. So next time you sail with us and are not a member you might think about joining to help us support the yacht clubs that support us.

See you on the water,
Bud



EVENTS ON THE HORIZON:

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

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

*Organized in Northern California in 1978, the **Potter Yachters** is the longest running West Wight Potter club. Membership is open to owners of West Wight Potters and anyone interested in Potters and other trailerable microcruiser sail-*

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Sunshine picks up some company at Korths. Photo: Katie T.

snacks, drinks, supper and evening visiting. Marthe Dalton's birthday was celebrated with a huge delicious cake. The wind was now really blowing, well over 20, and we were thankful for the sheltered slips as we climbed into our boats and sleeping bags.

Morning found the wind as strong and more so. Now gusting well over 30. Jerry led a skippers meeting and it was decided the prudent course was to ferry the P15 skippers back to B&W on the house boat, get cars and trailers, return to Bruno's and take out there. The three P19's and Goose's high powered P15 would motor back to B&W. On the way we stopped at Korths for a fine breakfast. Andy did a masterful job of easing the houseboat into Korths in the face of the wind.

The next leg, up the Mokolome into the wind and current was a real bash for the 19's, Carl, Jerry and Dave White and Goose. There was plenty of chop and where the water hit a dock the churning and turbulence a warning of the force they were dealing with. With the houseboat following along all made it relatively easily. Once more the bridge tender was kind and all motored through the bridge and into B&W's protected slips. P 15 skippers collected their cars and trailers and headed south for Bruno's while the others prepared to haul out and de-rig.

The houseboat crew headed home, about ten very windy miles to home base Tiki Lagoon. It was down-wind and they reported an easy trip.

Hauling out at Bruno's was a mini adventure because the ramp is narrow and primitive. Although somewhat in the island's lee it was still windy. With plenty of help from Potter buddies, Steve Potter, Dave Candy, Pam Greg, Dory and Katie, Marthe Dalton, and others the P15' were up and onto trailers and rigs stowed without serious mishap. As far as I know everyone made it home safely.

Because of, or in spite of, the wind it was a fine and fun event. A real adventure and one that will be long remembered. Thanks to Jerry and all who participated. Lets do it again next year!

All the P-15 skippers dis-embark at B&W, ready to drive back to their boats. What a ride! Photo: Katie T.

May 15 Del Valle Regional Park Day Sail

Well it was an excellent day. Temperature in the low 70s grass still green with a hint of turning brown. The Mussel inspection only took a few minutes. Then it was rig the boats off in to a nice 5-10 knot breeze.

Who was there? We had a total of 1 boats. Rich took me along and we had a great sail. Rich's Potter 15 was comfortable for the 2 of us. My fist sail on a Potter 15. As you all know it's a great boat and Rich had it rigged in no time. Even with me talking and in the way at times. Managed to sail 3/4 of the way to the dam. Then decided to make the run back. Saw one other sail boat. A catamaran very high performance. After a friendly wave they where gone. Could almost feel the vacuum from their speed. One great day of sailing. Thanks Rich you made my day.

Kevin Crowder

Well, no, this isn't a picture of Del Valle. We went to a party in Sebastapol, and took the scenic route to get there. When we saw the Potters getting ready for a weekend in Tamales Bay, we couldn't resist stopping for some pictures. This is Rich Mc Devitt and Ed Dove. Photo: KT

Woodward 2010

May 23 - 24

A Windy Time at Woodward
By Carl Sundholm
Photos, too

Remembering recent Potter Yachter outings earlier this year that were on the challenging side of windy, I figured that my best chance at getting some decent sailing in at this year's Woodward Sail and Campout would be on Saturday morning before the winds started cranking up.

So my son Sam and I headed out with my P19 Dagmar in tow from Silicon Valley for Woodward probably a little too late Friday evening and, due to a little confusion with the car GPS, ended up pulling into the Woodward campsite in the wee hours past midnight.

And it was a good thing too, since the best sailing was to be had on Saturday morning. The winds started out between 5 to 15 mph, and dramatic clouds provided a great background for photos. We got in some really fine sailing Saturday morning. After early afternoon, the winds picked up considerably. Most folks got off the water, secured their boats and made for the campground and warmer clothing. In the campground, the air buzzed with interesting conversations and sumptuous vittles began to appear on the picnic tables. People sheltered in the wind shadows of RVs and around the campfire and were able to keep warm despite the winds.

Familiar faces around the campfire included Commodore Bud Kerner, P15 Captain Don Person, David and Judy Blumhorst, Don Bergst, David Candey, Kevin Crowder, Neil Dorf, Charlie Davidson, Ed Dove, Harry Gordon, Paul Gregory, Darrel Heirendt, Keith Hubbard, Dave Kautz, Mo Kelly, Rich McDevitt, David Meyers, Dan and Gretchen Ricker, Rob Sampson, David White, their families, and many others. Katie and Dory Taylor were excellent hosts and nobody went hungry. After a beautiful sunset, the wind subsided and folks began to warm their feet by the campfire, entertained by our best Potter Yachter story telling and banter. Being a little sleepy from coming in so late the night before, we wandered off to bed early.

(Woodward: continued on page 6)

(Woodward: continued from page 5)

On Sunday morning it was clear that it was going to be a much windier morning than Saturday, so my son and I decided to pull up our tent and leave early. Before we left, someone pointed out a mother Great Horned Owl and her babies were nested right above our campsite.

It was only later that I learned that after we left on Sunday, Dave Candey and his P15 Ranger turtled in the strong gusty winds and Darrel Heirendt, and later others, rescued and recovered skipper and boat, with neither seriously the worse for wear.

Five Turtles, One Boat at Woodward reservoir

Story and photos by Katie Taylor

The weather at Woodward this year was a surprise to all, and was colder than typical for the season, and the location. Brrr! Add to that the incessant winds, and all swimming is off, and the jackets are ON. Like everyone else there, Dory and I decided to call it quits early, and packed up Sunday morning. It was pretty lucky that there were still folks back at the campsite packing up, and that they were watching the three boats out on the water, just in case something went un-planned. It was even luckier that just when they got worried, a ranger came by to make sure everyone was OK. They told him about a suspected capsize, and he took off to go help them out.

The winds got pretty sporting that weekend, and just as Dave Candey in *"Ranger"* was thinking of reefing, he got hit by a hefty gust, and over they went. Darrel Heirendt was right there in his Com Pac to help out, but with the centerboard left un-secured, it was very difficult to right the boat, and keep it upright. Once they got the boat upright, the wind and waves would conspire against all and knock her down again. The boat rolled five times, I was told. The ranger was able to tow the boat to the ramp, but it was slow going, as any speed would send even more water shooting up into the cabin through the centerboard trunk. At some point early on Dave White showed up in *"Wee Boat"*, stuck with the stricken boat, then beached, and helped sort things out.

We arrived after the ranger left, and it took five men, three manual bilge pumps, a rag stuffed into the CB slot, the complete removal of a jammed centerboard and a FIAT to get the poor boat back onto it's trailer. Halfway through the recovery process, Dave and Darrel were starting to get hypothermic, and they were removed from the water (protesting all the way), partially stripped and bundled in the lee of our FIAT, for which we found another good use, since it was parked in just the right spot….

July 4th fireworks on the delta

Host: Don Person

When: Friday, July 2nd, Monday, July 5th.

Where: North-East Mandeville Island (aka Mandeville Tip)

Fees: $15.00 launch & parking at B&W

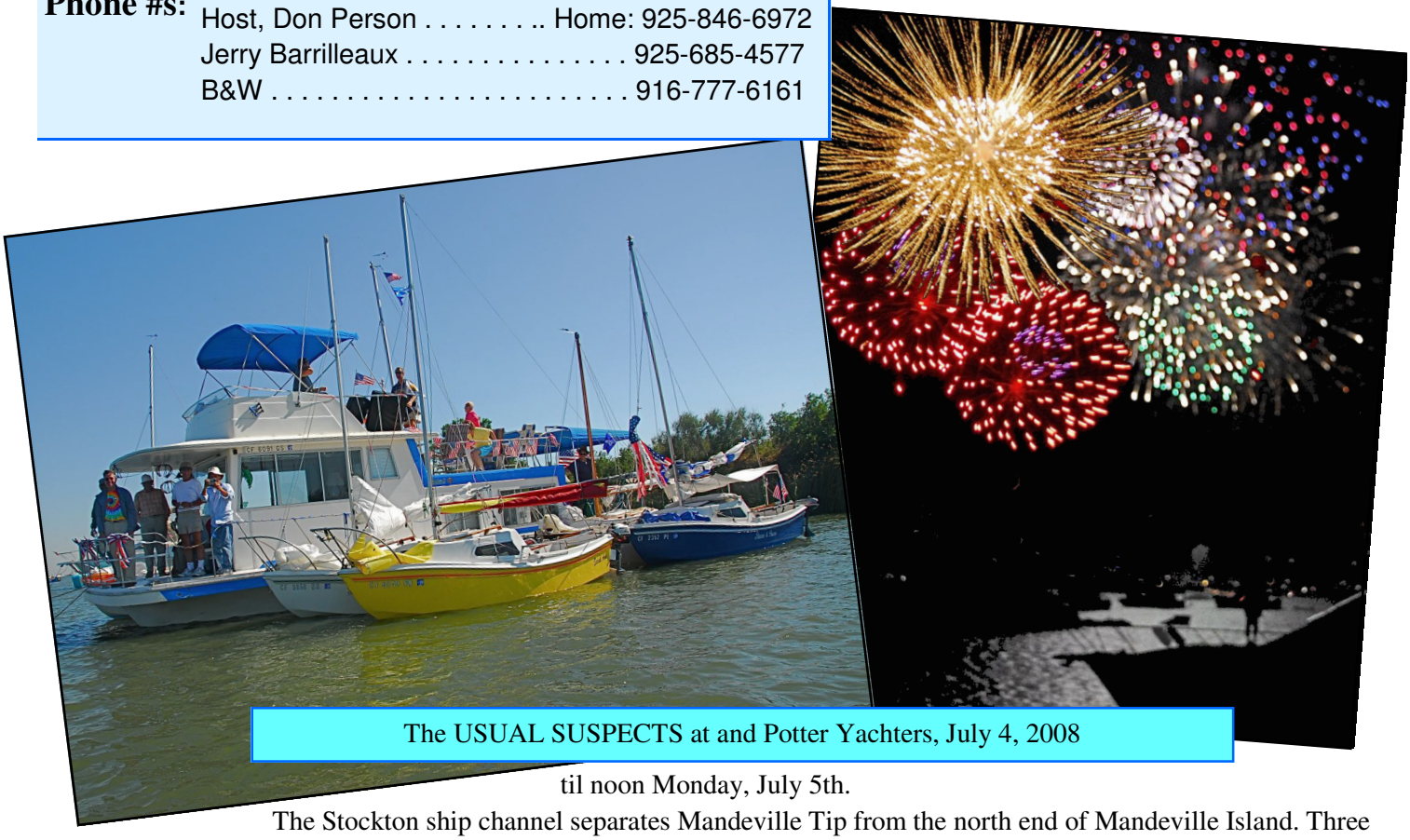
Meals: See text

Distance: 8 Miles — B&W to Mandeville Tip.

Phone #s:
Host, Don Person . . . . Home: 925-846-6972
Jerry Barrilleaux 925-685-4577
B&W 916-777-6161

Each year Barron Hilton gives a grand fireworks display at the northeast end of Mandeville Island in the San Joaquin River Delta.

Again this year Andrew Lees, Don Person's son, plans to have his blue and white houseboat available as a raft up base for any Potter Yachters who would like to attend. It will be available from Saturday afternoon, July 3rd until noon Monday, July 5th.



The USUAL SUSPECTS at and Potter Yachters, July 4, 2008

The Stockton ship channel separates Mandeville Tip from the north end of Mandeville Island. Three mile Reach is the slough that runs down the east side of Mandeville Island. The houseboat should be anchored about 100 yards south of the ship channel on the east bank of Mandeville Island. There are so many boats that finding a particular one may be difficult. The houseboat has a large sign on the stern that says **"The Usual Suspects"** and there will be an oversized **Potter Yachter burgee** flying from a pole on the bridge deck. Also Don plans to sail in Friday afternoon and if it isn't too windy will leave his red and yellow mainsail up.

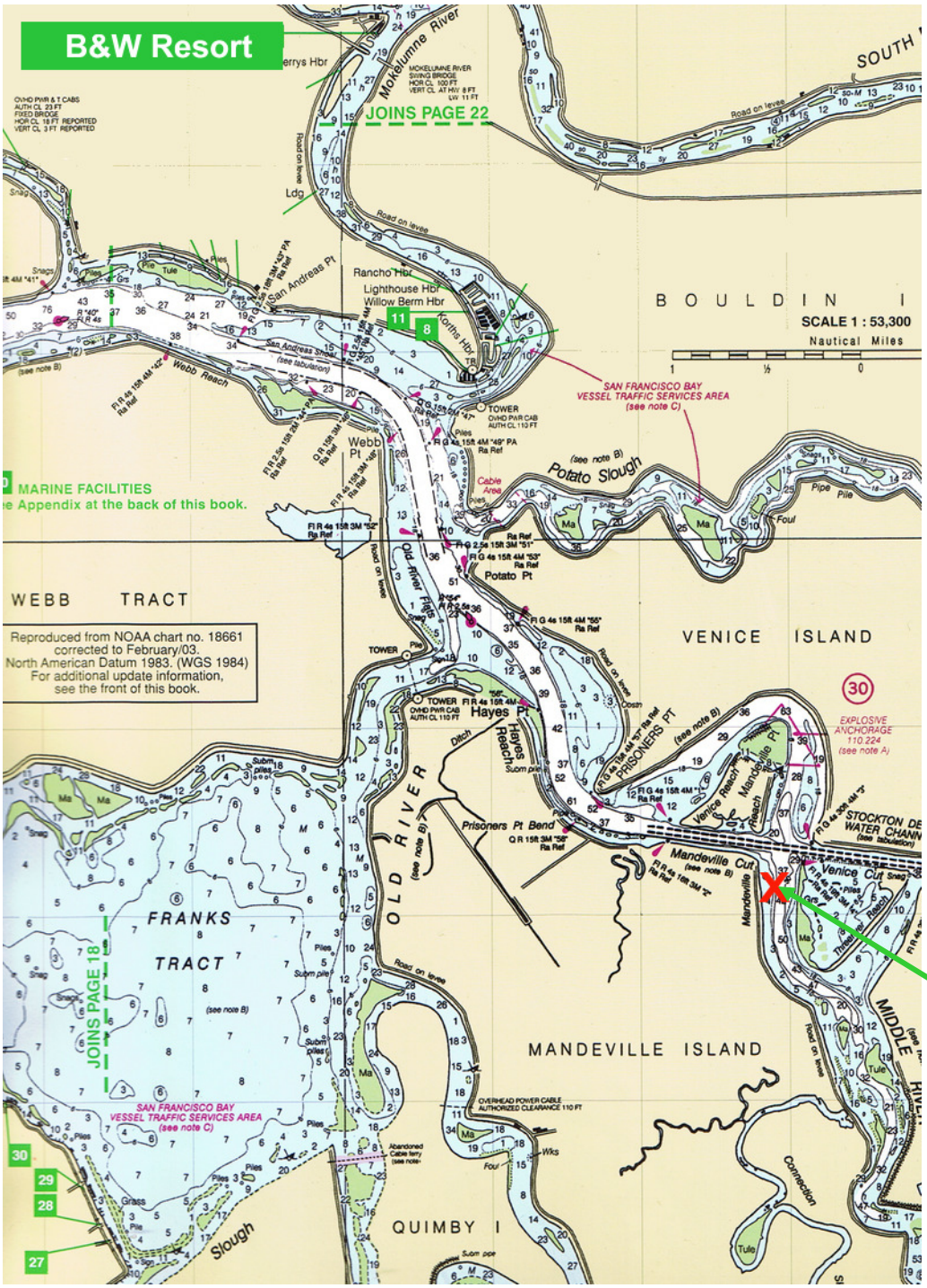
You are welcome to spend as much time as you wish hanging out on the houseboat. Sleeping space will be limited so plan to sleep on your boat. The toilet holding tank is also limited so bring you own porta-potty.

Sunday evening, July 4th, a happy hour will be held aboard THE USUAL SUSPECTS. There will be soft drinks, beer, and snacks on the boat. If you have a favorite drink or dip bring it along. Hamburgers will then be served. Saturday and Sunday morning early coffee and later breakfast will be offered. There will be plenty of food and drink on the houseboat but bring some snacks and water as your own back-up.

(continued page 9: July 4th sail)

(July 4th Sail: continued from page 8:)

There are several possible launch sites for access to Mandeville Island. Jerry Barrilleaux will lead a group from B&W Resort (964 Brannan Island Road, Isleton) which has a good ramp and good parking. They will enter the Mokelumne River and pass under the Hwy 12 bridge. Those planning to sail in Saturday morning should meet at B&W for a launch time no later than 10:00 AM. If you would like a longer sail, Brannon Island, Herman and Helen's Resort, and Buckley Cove are possible launch sites as well.



The event is attended by hundreds of small boats and boaters. Most of them anchor on the east side of Mandeville Tip so the activity down Three Mile Reach is moderate. Almost all of the power boats leave after the fireworks. There has been lots of partying and there is always lots of confusion getting underway. **Don't plan to depart Sunday night**, it wouldn't be safe in a little sailboat with all those high powered tipsy motorboats running around.

This should be a lot of fun so come on out!

Please contact me with any questions.

Don Person

Cruiser Challenge XI

Saturday, July 24

It's Getting Closer!

I hope you've marked the weekend of July 245-25 on your calendar because the eleventh running of the Cruiser Challenge is on again this year at Monterey. We've got some great sponsors lined up, the Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club is hosting the regatta, and the folks in the Harbormaster's office are expecting us. The race on Saturday will be the same format as before. The only question is: Will you be there? So far the sign up has been slow, which has us scratching our heads a bit. I figure it must be the economy, but there is no better way to sample the delights of Monterey than the Challenge (think cheap).

As always, it will be a laid-back regatta for cruising skippers who sail mini and pocket cruisers and don't race very often, not hard-core racers. We will be using ordinary "Rules of the Road," not racing rules, since most of us don't know what they are. Mini and pocket cruisers 25 feet LOA and under are eligible to compete. All boats must have a suitable cabin for accommodating two adults to sleep inside, equipped with an anchor and safety equipment, and the largest headsail permitted is a 155% genoa. You can check out the details and register at http://cruiserchallenge.com/

So come join the fun!

New Alviso Launch Ramp!

June 5, 2010

It has been an event many years in the making: the re-building of the Alviso launch ramp. The project began in earnest in 2003, but funding issues shelved the project until mid 2009. Then the construction finally began!

Harry Gordon, Carl Sundholm and I were there, along with 600 other enthusiastic canoists, boaters, hikers, bicyclists, bird-watchers, fishers, and anyone and everyone else interested in using the new facility. I even bumped into a couple of square dance friends there, to discover their other hobby: kayaking. I had NO excuse not to be there, being that I live a terribly long five minute drive away. A horrible commute ensued, and after much grieving and cursing my terrible luck in leaving late, I parked far away from the ramp and slogged the five whole blocks to the festivities under a perfectly blistering sun.

A special treat, with perfect weather for these great costumes. Photo: Harry Gordon

I truly was late, and arrived in time to see the last shade being raised over a table, and all the tables, booths and displays already five deep in curious on-lookers. I was lost in a sea of un-familiar faces, blundering from table to table, looking for something to do when I literally bumped into Carl. It was a sort-of "Hi! Bye!" moment, as Carl had to leave early for a child's fencing tournament. Cool! Before he could make his escape, I tortured out of him the location of Harry. Unfortunately, he escaped shortly before I got much more out of him. I spied Harry in the distance, eyeballing the belly dancers, and we proceeded to systematically reconnoiter the lot. After a couple hours, both of us were ready for a break, and sat down to listen to the speeches, talks, lectures and presentations. It was long, but occasionally amusing. At the very end was a fun belly dance, with bells a-jingling, and "coins" a-sparkling. All the fellas were entranced!

All the children were armed with chalk, and told to get scribbling. I wonder how THESE got here???

There was only one thing keeping us there, after the ladies were done, and that was the raffle! Sports Basement was to give away 100 bike helmets, and they did so in an agonizingly slow manner. This is where I got my sunburn, and how I was late to a hoedown I was to help set up that evening. It took a while, but they finally called out the hundredth name: Harry Gordon. Yay, Harry! My name was never pulled, and Harry remembered that I said earlier that I needed a bike helmet, and gave me his pretty new green helmet. Thank, Harry!

This really was a fun event, and I look forward to someday using the ramp, even though it's an all-day trip just **getting** anywhere from Alviso.

See ya out there! ~Katie Taylor

Sail Trim

Saturday, August 14, Oakland Yacht Club

There will be a class on sail trim at ten-thirty in the Regatta Room at the Oakland Yacht Club. This class will run about an hour or so, ending before lunch. There will be a sail in from the Grand Street launching ramp to the club. Reservations must be made at the club for docking during the class. To do this, call Craig at the club. The phone number is (510) 522-6868. The club does not serve lunch that day. You could either bring your own, or we could sail out to lunch. The afternoon could be spent practicing what we have learned about sail trim.

If you have any questions please e-mail me.

Thanks, Dave Bacon Ed. Captain

This configuration isn't going to get you there in time for cocktail hour. Learn how to set your sails straight, and be there before everyone else!

Drifting with Dory

Recollections and remembrances of two recent sails, Bruno's Island and Woodward.

Bruno's Island. OK, it was windy. Katie couldn't understand all the wind on our motor sail to the Island until she came around a bend and saw, not too far away, the forest of electrical wind mills on the valley floor. Yeah, the place gets a lot of wind. We dropped the sails and slogged to windward under the iron sail (good Honda, don't stall on us). After an eternity of bouncing off one wind driven wave to another, we finally arrived at our destination. A very nice Island with lots of trees and wind. Lots of wind. I wonder if it is less windy later in the year. It never stopped in all the time we were there, and there have been many comments posted on the forum regarding the wind and our non-sailing trip back for all of the 14s (all right, some are known as 15s, but that is another story). What hasn't been mentioned was our gracious hosts at Bruno's; Michael, Shirley and Danny and most especially, two of the nicest little dogs you ever want to meet. The amenities were very good for a rustic spot, showers, flush toilets, etc. I, for one, would like very much to revisit Bruno's later in the year, when hopefully, there might be less wind. Much has already been written about our ride back in the houseboat. I wish to take this moment to say that our pilot was the most competent skipper of any non-commercial power boat I have ever been on.

Dave White in *"Wee Boat"* and Goose Gossman in *"Gale"* braving a gale of another sort— the windy kind. *Photo: KT*

Woodward, again, there has been a lot of material posted on the forum and I will have more on it later, but here is a reprint of the write up that appeared in the June FIAT America's newsletter, the FAST:

CAMP/SAIL EVENT

What is it we like about sports cars? Is it the feeling of freedom? Is it the wind in our hair (what's left of it), the scenery rushing by? Well, there is a lot of that in common with sailing. Thanks to the efforts of Dory and Katie Taylor, the members of FIAT America had the chance to experience the thrill of sail first hand. Besides the time Dory and Katie spend with their FIATs both are avid aficionados of SAIL. They are members of a group called the Potter Yachters. They planned a joint event that would allow FIAT America and the Potter Yachters to share their favorite past-time.

If anyone thinks of Yachters as being, well.., stuffy. I can assure you this is a very fun and warm group of people. The Potter Yachters held a weekend sailing/camping event at Woodward Lake in the eastern part of Stanislaus County. Members of FIAT America were invited to attend. This years fickle weather threatened to cast a shadow on the event. Sailors are use to dealing with the weather. Chance of rain? Eh, you frequently get wet when you sail. Chance of Wind? Duh, what do you think makes the boat go? The intrepid members of the Potter Yachters were there in good form. Just break out your foul weather gear, just in case. It never really did rain. There was plenty of wind to fill your sails. Don't feel like braving the water in such conditions? No problem, the bar opens at 8 bells. I like a time system where 8 bells happens six times a day! Maybe those bells were only in my head.

(Drifting: continued on page 14)

(Drifting: continued from page 13)

The attendance of FIAT America was a little on the light side. Niels and Joy arrived early Saturday. Brian Paland, Steve and Maritsa Shonk rolled in a little later in the afternoon. Chairs were circled up in the campground and stories were exchanged. I don't know if any of the FIAT bunch tried sailing. There was plenty of wind. You could have the feeling of a top down convertible ride right there in camp. As evening approached most of FIAT America made the drive back to the Bay Area. Those of us who stayed enjoyed good food, music and laughs. A few extra layers of clothing kept the wind at bay. Eight bells rolled around again and helped to keep your insides warm.

Sunday morning brought a little extra sun and a bit less wind. People broke camp and most got a few more hours of sailing in. A little after noon brought the only real excitement of the weekend. One of the Potter Yachters had an incident on the other side of the lake. I'm not sure of the exact cause. Not quite a capsize but the end result was a swamped boat. *

With the assistance of a couple of fellow yachters and the Sheriff patrol boat and the stricken vessel was towed to a boat ramp. A lot of work bailing, pumping and sort of careening the boat and they were able to get things right so the boat could be placed back on its trailer. Hey, they don't call them bailboats, er sailboats for nothing.

I had a great time. If any of you should have the opportunity to attend an event with the Potter Yachters, I highly recommend it. Less exhaust, more water, same great attitude.

Glenn Swarner

* *Editors note: Well, actually, it WAS a capsize. In fact, five full 360° turtles. Read the full story on page seven.*

A call-out for Content!

Do you have some neat pictures to show off, a fun event coming up, or maybe a nifty mod to share? How about a tale to beat all tales yet told? Send it in! Just one picture can say a whole lot. Take these two from Harry Gordon, for example:

These ladies were at the Alviso boat ramp dedication this month.

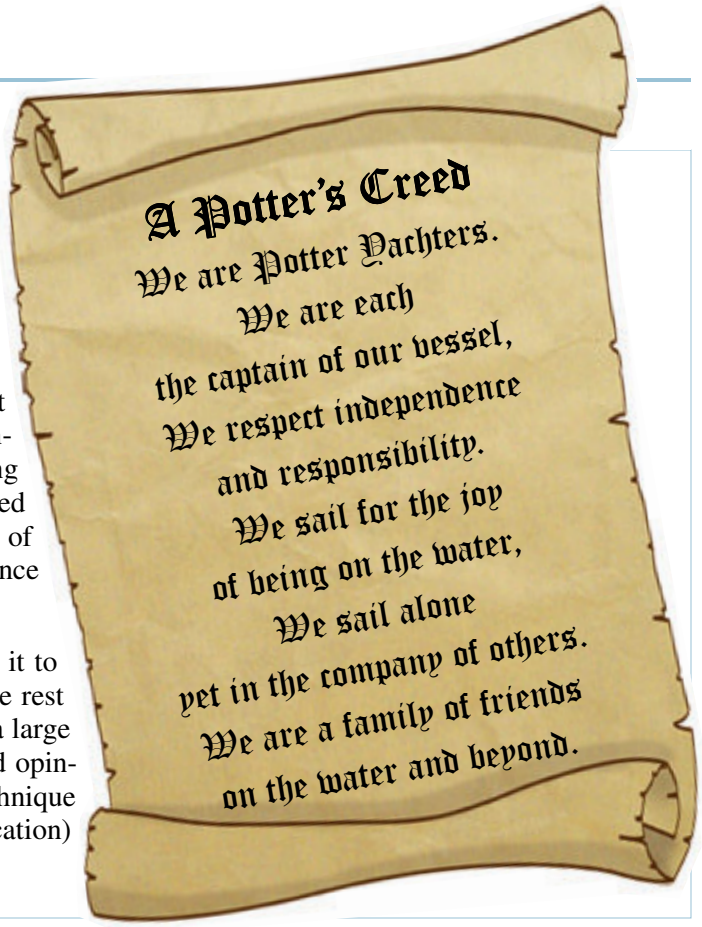
Ok, ok, I went a little off-topic with the belly dancers, but I just HAD to find a spot for these last two pictures.

Enjoy!

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*