



The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Longest Lasting West Wight Potter Club in the World

July 2014

Join The Potter Yachters at Cruiser Challenge XV This Month!

Cruiser Challenge 15 is coming fast, and registrations are coming in at a great rate.

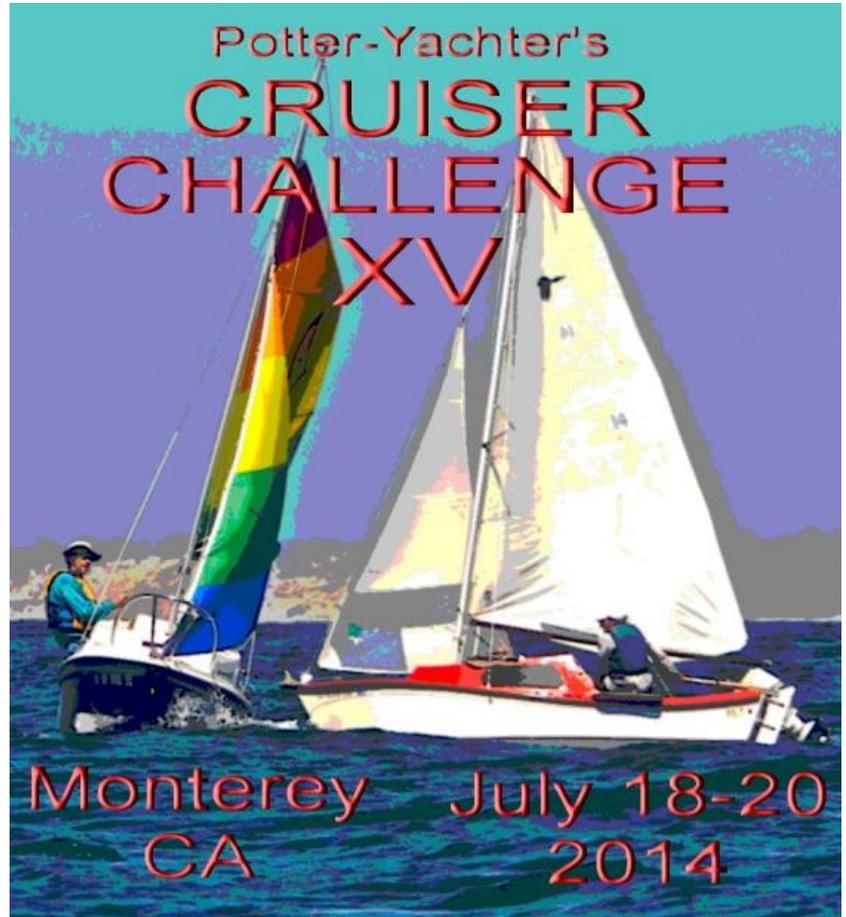
This year we have reserved parking arranged for the first 35 boats for three days, so get off the fence, sign up, and psych up.

Several new and hot-rodded boats are committed, so the racing will be interesting. A good mix of new and returning skippers keeps the event fresh year after year. This is a great venue for newbie racers/non-racers to have a front row seat by sailing with some seasoned salts in a magnificent arena.

Monterey Bay is a special place, not to be missed. Typical conditions offer up cool foggy mornings with glassy water, making coffee and breakfast taste remarkable. After breakfast, the sea breeze starts up and we amble out to the starting area, where it usually fills in to about 10-14k. There is a gentle ocean swell, and the sounds and smells of adventure. Some years it's different, but this is the typical weather pattern. The amount of sea life will amaze you, and you are guaranteed to feel more in-tune with nature than ever. Check out the website for details:

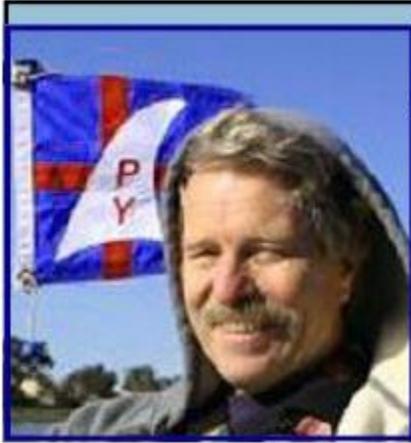
<http://www.cruiserchallenge.com>

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The Commodore's Corner

By Carl Sundholm

As we enter July, we have turned the corner on the sailing season and are looking at the Cruiser Challenge and Dory Taylor Memorial Sail in Monterey hosted by Goose coming up on July 19-20, 2014. If you haven't registered, it's time to get it together and get it done.

As for June sailing, Woodward appears to have been a success, although I was disappointed that this year I was not able to attend.

At this writing, we are looking forward to the Oakland Estuary sail hosted by Kevin.

Lake Hennessey was cancelled because the Napa County Water Department took the old dock away and is waiting for grant money for a new one. Anyone who has experienced the unreliability and delay of getting grant money knows how long this may take.

In driving over to check on the Lake Hennessey situation, I noticed there a boat ramp we



haven't tried (in my recollection, although a review of the Potter Yachters may show otherwise). This is on the Petaluma River under the Highway 37 arched bridge, is named the Black Point Boat Launch, and is described here:

<http://www.marincountyparks.org/depts/pk/divisions/parks/black-point-boat-launch>.

The Potter Yachter

It is on the west side of the bridge as shown by this photo. However, it looks very tide sensitive.

From the west you drive over the Highway 37 Bridge and take the first



exit and there is an abandoned marina with a Port Sonoma sign.

It appears that silt problems and the recession

caused the abandonment of this marina.

See http://www.petalumarhc.org/files/traveling_narrative%20for_trip_down_river.pdf for a brief history of boating on the Petaluma River.

So, subject to further review, we may want to check this out as a potential Potter Yachter



adventure day sail on a good tide day, to sail or motor into Petaluma for lunch and return. But the tides must be figured pretty precisely to make it workable.

Looking forward to seeing you all at Cruiser Challenge XV and the Dory Taylor Memorial sail in Monterey, where the tides are not as much of a make or break situation and which have proven a reliable and fun “gathering of the tribes” for West Wight Potters and other small boat sailors.



Club Events on the Horizon for 2014

- | | | |
|--------|--------------|--|
| July | 19 (Sat-Sun) | Cruiser Challenge XV & Dory Taylor Memorial Sail (<i>Goose</i>) |
| | | <i>Can run the gamut from easy to advanced, depending on winds and course</i> |
| | | -- See cruisetchallenge.com for more information and to fill out a registration form |
| August | 2 (Sat) | Richmond-SF Bay Day Sail (<i>Neil</i>) |
| | | <i>Generally intermediate, but again depends on the destination and the weather; generally we sail to Angel Island or north to San Rafael depending on the tides, but the closer we get to the Golden Gate or going out the Golden Gate, we are talking advanced; but mostly individuals decide for themselves on getting the feel of the conditions</i> |
| August | 9 (Sat) | Dingy Delta Ditch Run – Rio Vista to Lake Washington |
| | | (NOTE: not a Potter Yachter Event) |
| August | 30 (Sat) | Huntington Lake Sail cancelled due to lack of water |

CC XV Schedule

Friday, July 18

5:30 Bar Opens at Monterey YC

Saturday, July 19

Before 8:00 am: Rig and Launch

8:00-9:00 am: Event Registration

9:00 am: Skipper's meeting - MPYC

11:30: Start of the first race, followed by lunch on the water if conditions permit

4:00 pm: Bar opens at MPYC

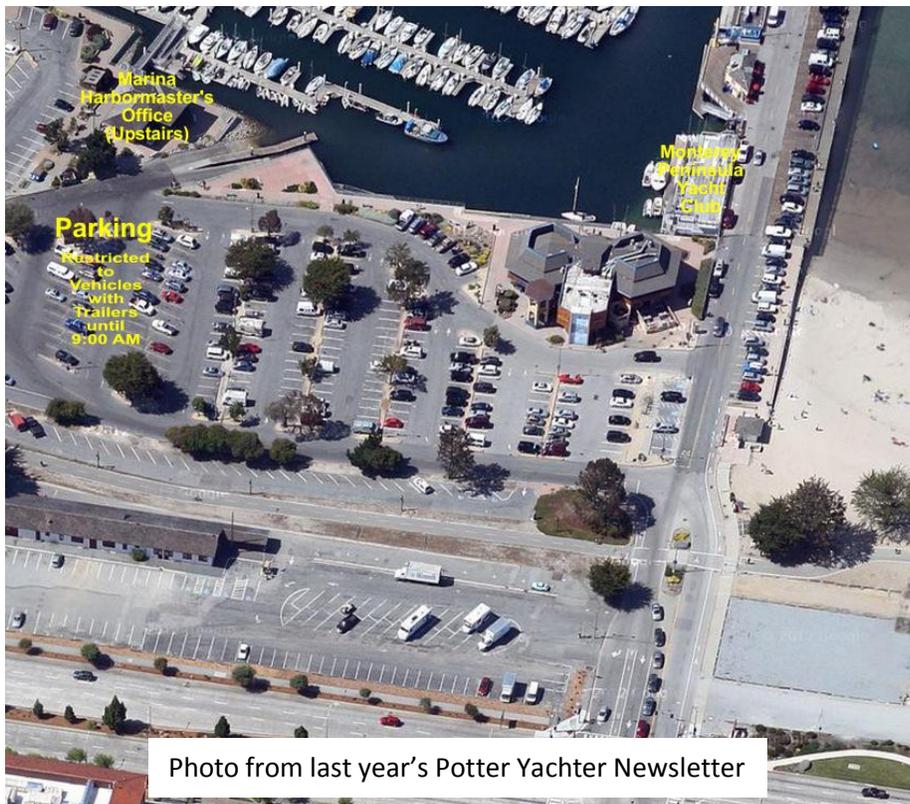
5:00 (or when results are compiled):

The Awards Ceremony

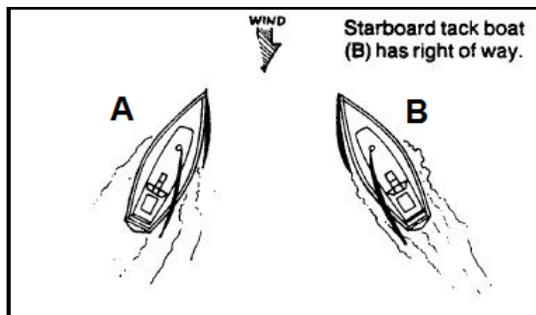
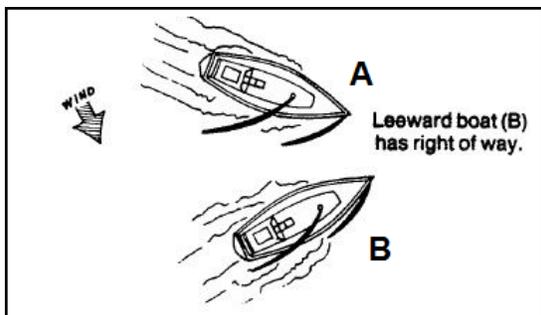
Dinner at MPYC immediately following the awards ceremony.

Sunday, July 20

The Dory Taylor Cup Race. — 



Rules of the Road



Officer's Club

Commodore:

Carl Sundholm
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P-19, *Dagmar*

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ComPac Legacy, #1, *Latis*

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Report: Missing Dock Means Missing Boats

Lake Hennessey Daysail Was Cancelled

[By Carl Sundholm, from his post on the forum]

I took a drive up to Lake Hennessey to check on the lake, ramp and dock condition. The Lake is fine, although a little low.

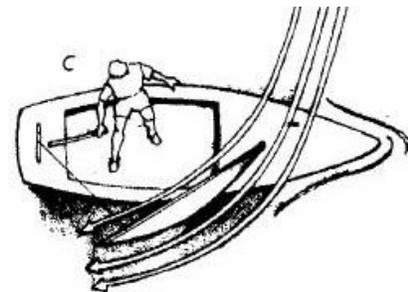
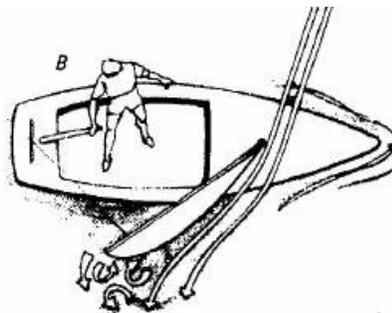
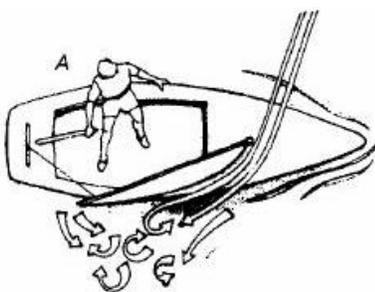
However, the dock with cleats is gone. That makes it difficult to tie up several P15s there while parking the trailers.



The dock was removed for repairs, subject to grant money, which still has not arrived. So what is there now is a so-called "primitive ramp", which means a cement ramp and nothing else.

With no place to tie your boat to while you park or un-park your car and trailer, this is not a workable sail.

I've contacted Napa County Water and they will advise when the boat dock is back in service, so that we may possibly re-schedule. —



With an overtrimmed mainsail on a reach (A), the air flow breaks away from the leeward side of the sail. Similarly, with a closed leech (B), the air flow also breaks away from the leeward side of the sail. Both result in inefficiency compared with a correctly trimmed main (C) over which the air flow is smooth



Report: **Sailing the Oakland Estuary and Beyond**

By Kevin Crowder

The Oakland Estuary sail and stay at the Oakland Yacht Club was a good weekend. We had 11 boats in all: Dana Suverkrop, David and Sharon Soule, Pat Brennan, Carl Sundholm, Dan Phy, Harry Gordon, Dave White, Dennis Vaders, Mike Trueman, myself and Goose.



Photos by Carl Sundholm

We got to give Goose's wonderdog, Ginger, a pet and a scratch behind the ears.

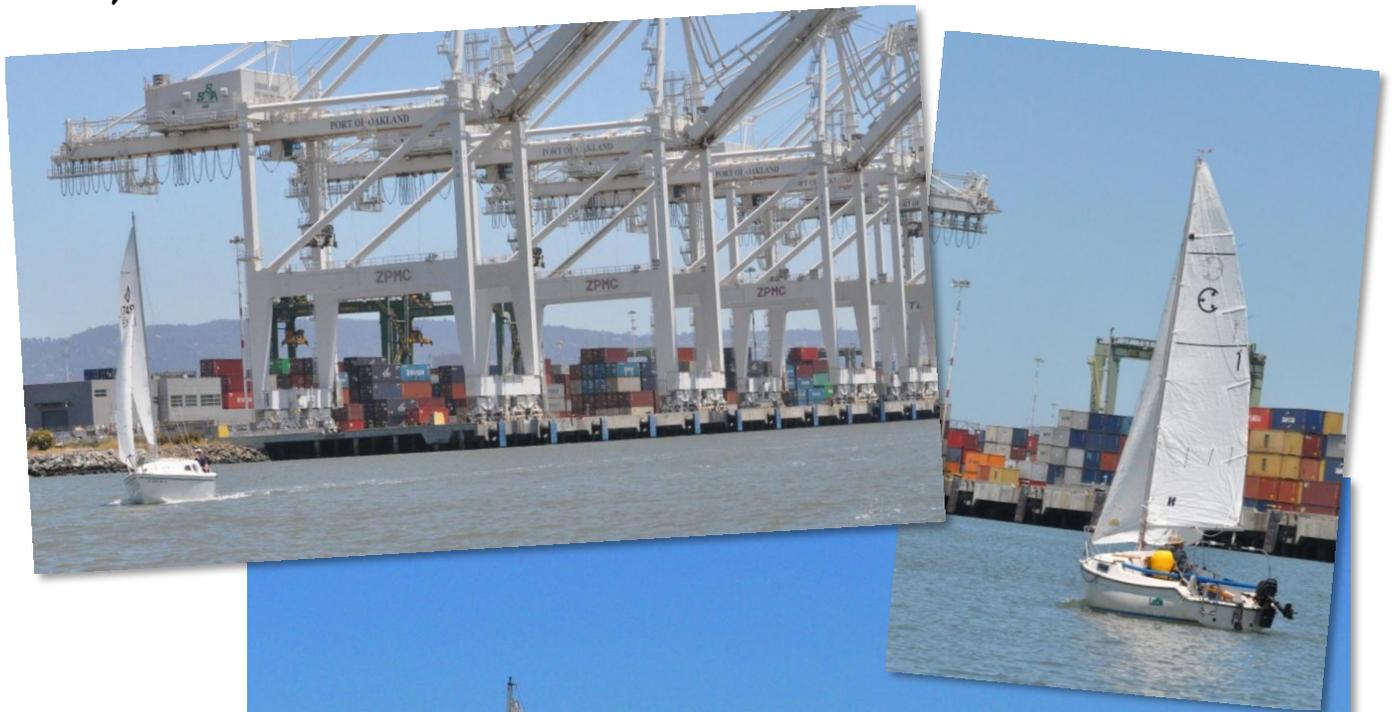
We circled out in front of the Oakland Yacht Club until all were ready and then headed north out the estuary.



We had a nice cool breeze and plenty of water to tack out the Estuary.



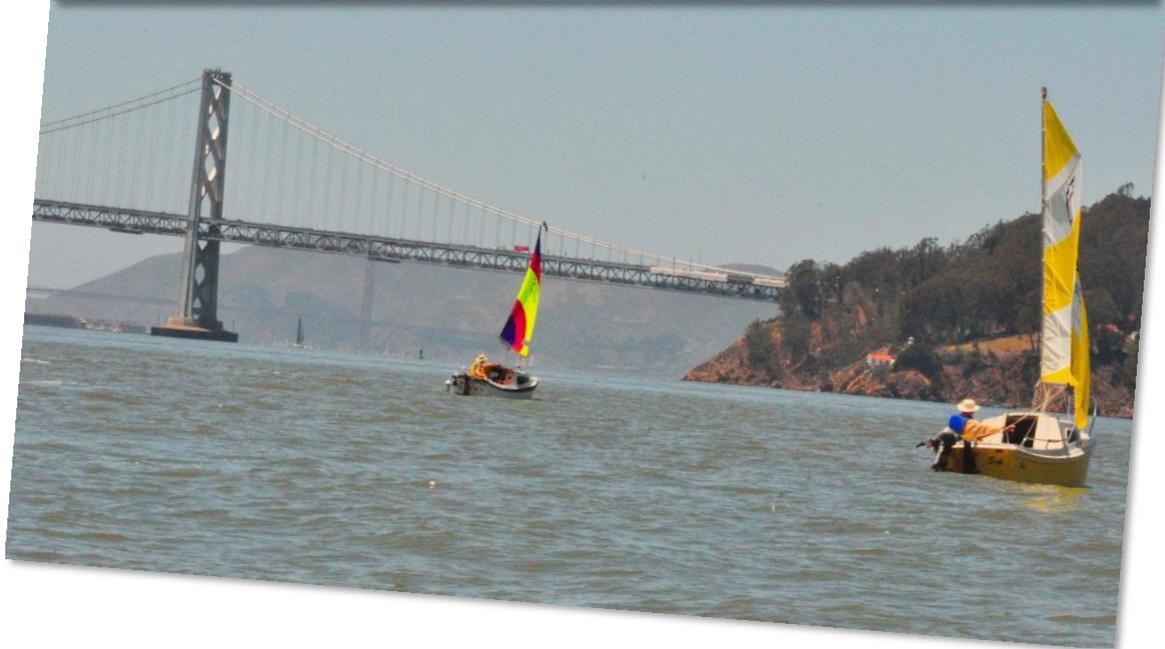
Photo by Dan Phy



Once outside the Estuary we tried to sail to Clipper Cove but no wind had us head south so we could tack and go round the island on the west side.

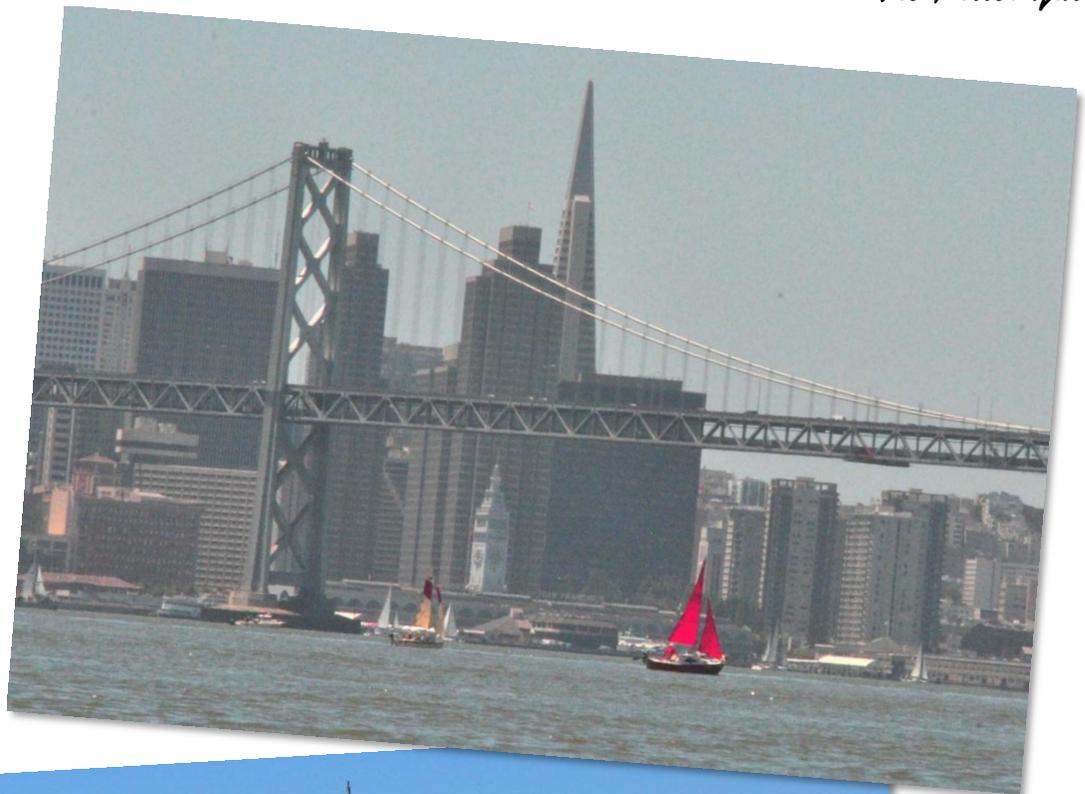


Around Treasure Island, Harry and Dana in the two P15s decided to go back.



Dave White headed out by the west span of the Bay Bridge.

Dennis Vaders in the Potter 19, David and Sharon Soule in their Balboa 21, and I, in my Com-Pac, all sailed around Treasure Island.



We stayed well clear of the rocks and had a nice and slightly challenging sail. Dan Phyl reefed and I thought about it. Once under the bridge I found myself with no wind and drifting toward the bridge pillar. I did not want to risk damaging the pillar, so I fired up the outboard until I found wind in the entrance to the Estuary, set my spinnaker and sailed in. David White had set his but was too far in front for me to see.

Once tied up at the Oakland Yacht Club, we went upstairs for a drink and the club was serving a delicious prime rib dinner. So we all had a nice dinner, enjoyed talking about the day and other adventures. Then I took advantage of the nice clean and refreshing showers at the club.



Sunday after breakfast there was a light breeze so I tried to sail out, but because of the current and light air, I often drifted back to my last tack. I finally got as far as the Alameda Ferry dock, met up with Dan and we ran back to end the weekend.



Photo by Dan Phy

I had a great time and thank you Oakland Yacht Club and members for letting us use your club. It's a great place to sail and return to. — 

Report: Potter Yachters at Woodward

Woodward Reservoir "A Fine Party"

By Don Person

We had, I think, 12 boats and twenty people. It was hot but there is good shade under the trees and it cooled off at night. The wind was fair all day, better in the mornings and evenings. It was a fine party topped off by Neil Dorf's pulled pork sandwiches and home-made coleslaw. Here are some pictures.



Herman Ward

Partial fleet looking west (below):

Herman Ward sailing past Dan Phy's Pelican, Rob Sampson's Gunter P14, Bud Newhall's P15 and Jim Smith's P19



The Killdeer;
A local of the
Woodward
Reservoir area.



Main camp

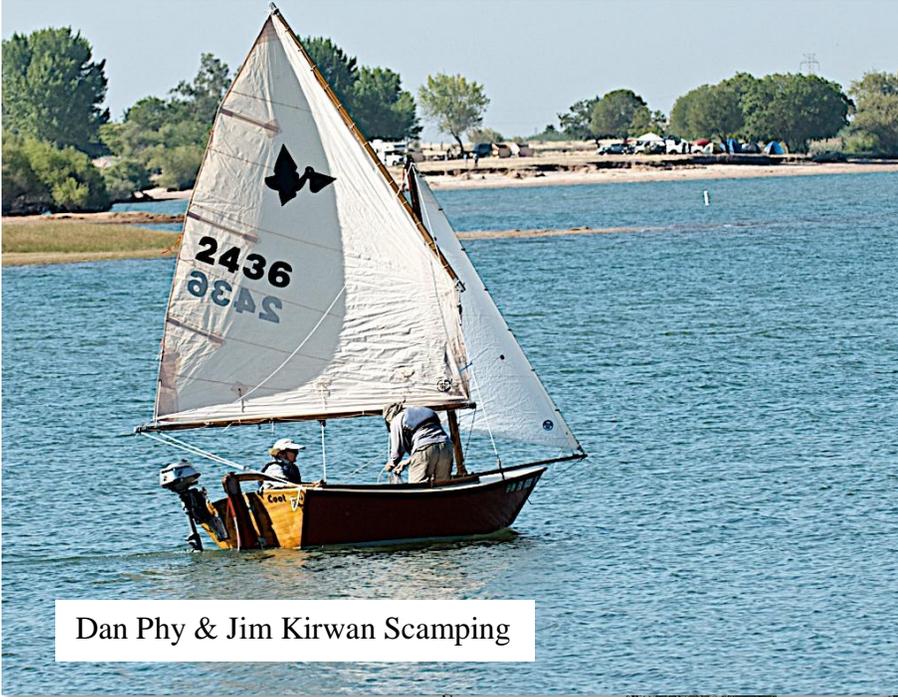
I think this is all the fleet except Cindy B's P15, Bud Kerner's P19 and Kevin Crowder's Com-Pac 19.



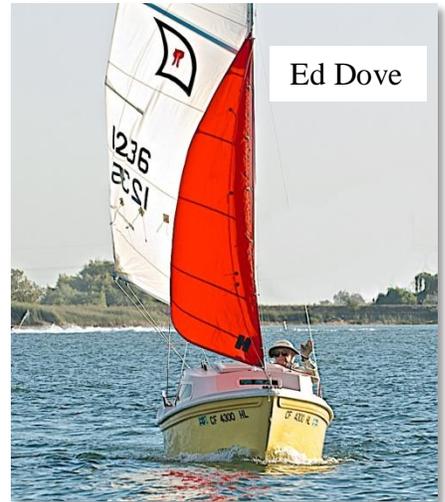
[The lake level is clearly far below that of last year. -Ed.]



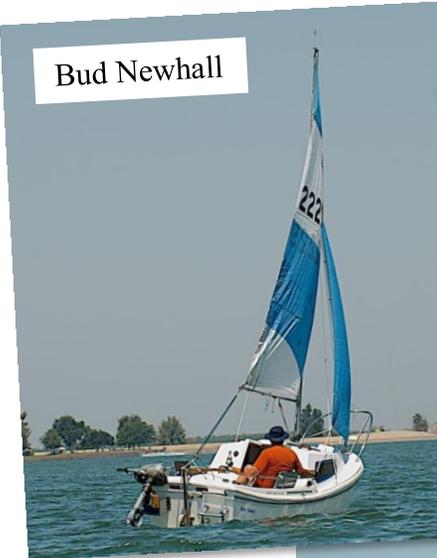
Another camp



Dan Phy & Jim Kirwan Scamping



Ed Dove



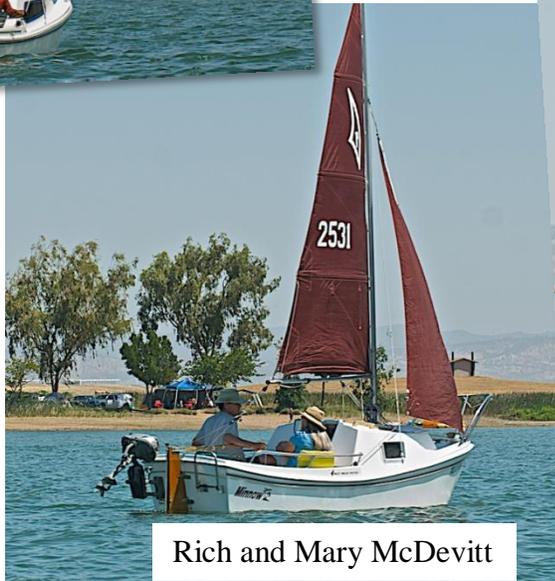
Bud Newhall



Beach looking east



Another local:
Western Grebe



Rich and Mary McDevitt



Kevin Crowder (Com-Pac 19)



Bud Kerner



Rob Sampson



Great Egret



Canada Geese and goslings



Jim Smith



[Potter Yachter Membership

Join the *Potter Yachters* – the club that has been around since 1978 and, with your participation, will continue to withstand the test of time. We're really a bunch of nice folks who would just love to have other nice folks join us. Your dues help support club activities and publish the newsletter, so you'll be sure to know when we're out sailing, whether that's in the San Juan Islands, Monterey, the SF Bay, or elsewhere. Annual dues are \$25. Make checks payable to "Pat Brennan".

Send your payment (with your name and address) to:

Pat Brennan
1305 Webster Street #C205
Alameda CA, 94501

See us online at www.potter-yachters.org

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



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

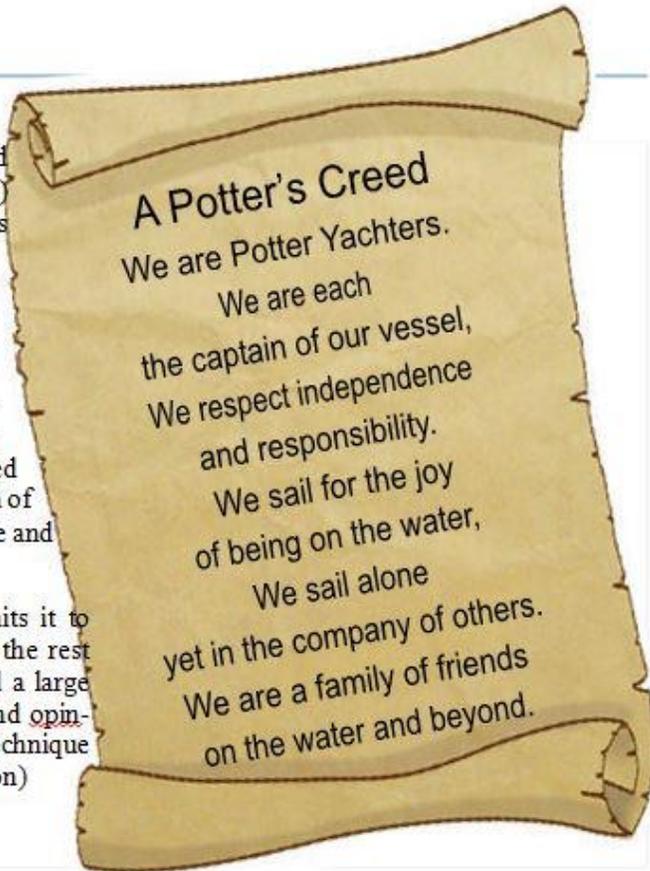
With a Grain of Salt

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.