



Potter to Potter

WWP NEWS!



AUGUST 1978

August 6th...The "Chicken Bay" sail was delightful! Five boats participated; #564 Jerry & Sharon Barrilleaux, #234 Harry and son Jeff Gordon, #182 Frank Winans (drove all the way from Sacto again!), #691 Hans Wolfe, and #604 Jim & Carol Mangels. We assembled at one of the docks after helping each other launch, agreed to keep in visual contact while on the Bay, then set off to motor up the Estuary (took about 45 minutes). Before we reached the Bay there was sufficient wind to hoist sail. As we rounded the point we steered toward San Francisco; it was so clear The City looked close enough to touch. Off the starboard bow loomed the Bay Bridge and Yerba Buena Is., and off to port some distance were three large ships at anchor. The sky was free of clouds, and since inland temperatures were oppressive (90's and 100's) the Bay was a capital place to be. Our mild breeze soon deserted us, and we DRIFTED with NO WIND (and you thought only reservoirs did that!). Riding the strong current (evidence of the flood tide) we glided along beside each other, exchanged some chitchat, and ate a leisurely lunch. Quite suddenly, the wind appeared again, and we trimmed our sails for a reach, heading SW past the anchored ships. The strength of the current became apparent as we watched the leeward slide of each others' boats measured against the stationary ships in the background. The wind (15-20 knots?) and current provided a steady, enjoyable sail, and once sails were set, all one needed do was steer. We continued on till almost abreast Candlestick Point; then we tacked and headed on a reach back toward Yerba. The current now pushed us toward the anchored ships, and we motored a bit to regain some sea room. (Except for #182; when Frank's motor balked, he sailed down and around to the other side of the ship.) A lovely steady breeze prevailed, and the swells were not high enough to be noticeable. The wind kept the boats on an even keel and once in

awhile the bow slapped the water to send up some spray, but we never got wet. It was a very manageable sail; we remarked to each other later that the Bay was easier to sail than some reservoirs, where the wind is gusty and continually changes direction, requiring constant adjustment of the sails. We sailed back to the mouth of the Estuary, where we rounded about to share a beautiful, peaceful run down the Estuary, wing-on-wing, with many other sailboats, some with yards and yards of canvas spread to the breeze.

It was about this time that #604 (guess who) laid claim to the Boner of the Month... As Jim and I rounded about to begin the run down the Estuary, we managed to park ourselves directly in front of a 29-foot sail. She was very good-natured about it and maneuvered with finesse, around us (heightening our embarrassment!). We learned again something we thought we already knew: running is the slowest point of sail, and changing from a reach to a run in light winds drastically reduces the speed of a boat. Having completed this lesson was not enough; next we managed to underestimate the speed of an oncoming tugboat until she was only a few boatlengths from our stern (do you know how large a tugboat looks when viewed from the waterline?!). As I plunged into hysteria Jim attended to the more productive business of adjusting sail and getting us out of her way; but not before she had had to slow her engines and sounded two angry short blasts (which officially means: 1) I am holding my course, and 2) I am overtaking you). Another lesson learned: give any fast approaching vessel loads of sea room from the minute you spot it, and watch its progress like a hawk! One of the best reassurances was to look up directly after this event to find #564 off our starboard beam only a few yards. It was great to know that had we needed help, fellow Potter sailors were nearby. (Plus, they didn't laugh at us!).

The run down the Estuary proceeded

uneventfully; it took about one hour. #564 and #691 (#234 too?) docked at the Rusty Scupper to share experiences, and most of us hauled out of the water by about 4 or 5 p.m. It was a relaxing, enjoyable sail; the winds were steady and not threatening, and the scenery was impressive--we have a lovely Bay! Thanks to Jerry & Sharon Barrilleaux for the "Chicken Bay" idea--it was great!

RESERVOIR ROULETTE

The September sail should by all rights be a reservoir sail, if we are to continue alternating bay/reservoir as originally planned. However, I have found out the hard way that 'tis the season to drain reservoirs. San Pablo Res. is closed to the public (drained as a precaution in case of earthquake). Lexington is being drained at this very minute and it's questionable whether it will remain open much longer (Vasona Ranger can advise definite closing date: 408-395-2729). Uvas and Chesbro will be 'diminished significantly' by Sept. 9th; County Park officer felt there might not be enough water to support a decent sail, to check a week before going out. Anderson will also be diminished, and since waterskiing is allowed, that leaves even less clear water for sailing. There is a 5 mph zone at Anderson at the Dunne Ave. approach, but that ramp will probably be high and dry, and the 5 mph area even smaller than it is now. Calero allows powerboats only (Booo). Stevens Creek is being drained, and Vasona and Lake Elizabeth are too small to support our fleet. That leaves us with someplace like Modesto (we were trying to avoid an overnigher) or Folsom (still hot in Sept). ("I just hate shopping for reservoirs; nothing ever fits!")

Now, I know Del Valle wasn't everybody's favorite sail--what with 20 knot flukey winds and boats getting stomachaches from the gravelly beaching area--but, folks, Del Valle is not being drained, is not an overnigher, is a reservoir, does have a picnic/swimming area, and is centrally located for most of our fleet. Therefore:

ANNOUNCEMENT

SEPTEMBER SAIL: SATURDAY, SEPT. 9,
Lake del Valle (Del Valle Res.). Follow

enclosed map. Entry fee about \$2.50. Skippers' meeting at 10 am. at the launch area. Bring a picnic lunch; there are many sites available. If you'd rather not beach your boat, maybe we can raft together at the dock; bring fenders. Bring the family!

IT'S MORRO BAY!

The "First Annual Joint Sail for Northern and Southern Calif. Potter Owners" (FAJSNSCPO) will be held October 14-15 (an overnigher) at Morro Bay. The S. Cal. group chose the site and date when we demurred to their greater expertise in the matter, and we're all looking forward to meeting each other.

Morro Bay is a shallow bay protected by a long sand spit, site of Morro Bay State Park. The Bay is about midway between Los Angeles and San Francisco and furnishes good protection for small craft. However, the tide runs at from 2-4 knots along the docks in the main channel, and the force of the tidal current is definitely a factor in sailing any part of the Bay. Boats can be moored on buoys or at anchor, but usually rest in the sand at low tide. Yachts and small craft may tie up to the city pier (there is a free city launch ramp); otherwise they must either anchor in the bay or go to the small boat basin at White Point which is administered by Morro Bay State Park. (There is a marina in the Park which has a free--I think--ramp, also).

Leaving and entering Morro Bay Harbor can be a tricky proposition, depending on tide, fog, current, and harbor shoaling conditions. Check the "Northern Calif. Pacific Boating Almanac" (the library has a copy) for particulars. It warns not to leave the harbor if waves are breaking over the jetty, and not to beach your boat outside the harbor.

Accommodations: you can camp, stay in a motel, or anchor your boat and sleep aboard. Camping: The State campground fills up very rapidly, and you're advised to make reservations immediately, through Ticketron only. The Park Ranger told me the weather in Oct. should be pleasant, not too foggy (varies) and not yet too cold at night. Motels: The AAA Tour Guide book is a good guide; some motels have slips. Sleeping Aboard: A yacht club member told me someone at the club can point out the calmer anchorages (or try the harbormaster). Also, some local marina shops

have slips; check Pacific Boating Almanac. Tide and current are a factor in Morro Bay mooring, so it's wise to check with a local.

Phone numbers: Morro Bay State Park Ranger (does not accept reservations; call your local Ticketron)--805-772-2560; Marina at the State Park-805-772-8796; Morro Bay Yacht Club-805-772-9946; Harbormaster-805-772-8942.

I've never sailed Morro Bay; I compiled all the above from various boat and camping books and a neighbor who used to sail there often (17-footer), and many phone calls. If you've sailed there your experience is worth a lot; drop me a letter. The yacht club told me there are two Potters in the club (didn't get their names), so maybe we'll see some of our own out on the bay!

T-SHIRTS

Dory Taylor, venerable T-Shirt Chairman (and recovering from elective surgery), notifies us that the T-shirts order was submitted, and the shirts should be available at the September sail. Southern Cal. already got theirs, and Chuck Holden told me they are spiffy.

FOR SALE

Tom Turner's #584 is for sale (last I heard; haven't been able to reach him by phone). It's a Mark I with main, jib, trailer, and Tas 2-horse motor. Contact Tom at 408-374-3421 or write 1336 Charnwood Square, San Jose 95117. Keep trying; he's leaving the area and is available off and on, he said.

While in Santa Barbara on vacation, Jim & I chanced to discover Potter #213 in the lot of Starboard Yacht Sales on State St. They're asking \$1900 for boat, sails, trailer, & motor.

Dory Taylor still has a forward mast carrier for sale, still "no reasonable offer refused".

NOTES--MISC.

Chip & Piera Shackelton, who helped organize the very first dinner meeting, wrote to say they're settled now--a home on the Truckee River in Nevada. Needless

to say, they love it, and Chip enjoys his new Reno job.

Jerry Barrilleaux sent an article written by a fellow who cruised the San Juan Is. (in his Potter, natch)--it broadens one's views as to the capabilities of the boat. Also, the June S. Cal. letter has a great account of a 10-day coastal cruise taken by some of their members...a sail to drool over. Both articles are in the blue "WWP Book", along with all issues of both North and South WWP groups, our fleet roster, photos, etc. I'll bring the book to every sail; ask me for it if I forget to share.

Hot Mystery revealed! Reliable sources tell me that it was Harry Gordon who originated our name "Potter Yotters"! (He's the same guy who suggested spelling it "Potter Yachters". Are we going to let him have his way?).

The dealer for Potters is now Clara Clipper Sails, San Jose. In the interest of informing all Potter owners of the existence of our group, how do you feel about supplying our newsletter to Clara Clipper for their bulletin board? They're friendly people, and were interested to hear of the Potter Yotters.

Rediscovering an old classic: Try reading Richard Henry Dana Jr.'s Two Years Before the Mast. Although a seagoing brig of 1834 is a far cry from our Potters, it is awesome to read of the author's sail to the very waters where we held our August sail together, and uncanny to read his impressions of Angel Is., Yerba Buena, etc.

WWP AUXILIARY

And now, the perfect solution for all spouses who love their Potter but don't enjoy sailing--a feeling shared by quite a few members. Sandy Gordon has come up with an organization she calls the "Shorebirds"--a kind of WWP Auxiliary group made up of Potter non-sailors who will enthusiastically remain ashore at all gatherings! Sandy says there will be plenty of activities, like sitting in the shade, helping skippers launch and retrieve boats, taking pictures, gossiping about various skippers, chilling the beer, etc. (Projects could include: making Potter Yotter blotters; supervising Potter Yotter daughters on teeter-totters; spotting otters; and bottling Potter Yotter water; and, of course the fleet could use a good navigator, so

someone could be our Potter Yotter plotter). Harry, Sandy's husband, who has a way with names (need your boat named?) suggested the group be called the "Potter Yotter Notters", but Sandy thought that was "rot"...and with all this tomfoolery, you can see where this organization is headed for!

Nevertheless, Sandy is the charter member, and if you're interested, be on shore at any of our next sails for a rollicking good sail-not with the Shorebirds. (If you're a fella, you're still welcome to join, maybe as a Shorebloke?) Contact Sandy at 964-9245 if you need assurance it's all for real (it is).

Harry, who recognizes Sandy's fear of sailing (sheer terror is pretty easy to spot), supplied her with a camera so she'd have an interest to pursue while he Pottered. Accordingly, Sandy is our kind of unofficial Official Photographer, along with Herb Orford, who takes a pretty spiffy 'snapshot'. But film & devel. costs what they are, we won't leave all the work to anyone.

Note: After I said that 'guest editorships' of this newsletter were available for the asking, John Graham remarked (at the Modesto sail) that he was a poor typist, otherwise he might be interested. Wellll, I think that anyone who can simultaneously smoke his pipe and launch his Potter (all the while looking like the true seasoned veteran) can probably "hunt 'n' peck" as good as the rest of us! So, if you detect a change in newsletter style soon, it may be John. From the likes of his letters, he's a natural, believe me.

(Any other takers? Let me know!)

AN INVITATION

In the interest of getting to know everyone a little better, Jim & I are having a potluck dinner at our house Saturday, Sept. 23, starting at 3 p.m.-- dinner at about 5:30. We hope everyone can come! We'll show the movies we took at the first (Del Valle) sail; and bring your pictures, too. We'll just trade stories and enjoy ourselves. Bring the family! Please RSVP either by phone (408-255-8579) or mail (below).

Please bring your own marinated cubes of meat for a shish-ke-bob barbeque. We'll have the barbeque coals ready and some skewers, and you can either cook your own or Jim can play Chef. (If you'd rather, bring hamburgers, etc.) Please also bring one potluck dish--circle your choice below. All utensils, etc. provided. We'll also provide beer, wine, coffee, and fruit punch. Sure hope you can come!

Carol & Jim

- yes, we'll be there
- no, sorry, we can't come

Choose one dish to bring to the potluck along with your meat:

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Jello salad | Green salad | Hot dish or casserole | Desert |
| Fruit salad | Potato/macaroni salad | Pickles, olives, etc. | Chip & Dip |

Name _____ Phone _____

(Mail to Carol Orford, 7-790)