



The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Northern California West Wight Potter Club

February 2003

Sailing Calendar

Feb 15 - Safety Day and overnite at Sequoia YC. Courtesy Safety inspection by USCG Aux. Organized by Dave Norris. Call (408)-828-0415

March 1-2: Weekend at Richmond Marina. Navigation Class at OCSC

March 15-16: Weekend at Richmond Marina. BBQ and Seamanship Class at OCSC

April 5-6: Delta weekend- Brannon Island to Lundberg Landing

April 23-27: Sail Expo at Jack London Square in Oakland. Party for Bill Teplow sponsored by Potter Yachters and Latitude 38.

May 3: Oakland Estuary Salt and Pepper Sail from 5th Street ramp

May 17 and 18: Woodward Reservoir. Boat Rodeo

June 7 and 8: Richmond overnight with a day sail to Angel Island.

June 28 and 29: Eagle Lake (make it a long weekend.)

July 3 through 7: Delta anchor out and fireworks cruise. Extension up to 7 days.

July 18-20: SCA Cruiser Challenge, Monterrey Bay

August 10 Redwood City Day Sail

August 23 and 24 Richmond to Loch Lomond with overnight at Richmond Harbor

Sept 6: Oakland Estuary Day Sail

September 20-21: Enchanted weekend at Tomales Bay

October 5: Daysail at Richmond

October 18-19: Monterey Harbor

Commodore's Corner

Greetings from your new Commodore! This looks to be a great sailing year and I want to start off by thanking everyone in the club for making it what it is.

Special thanks to Commodore Emeritus (her new title) Judy for her years of service to the Potter Yachters and all of her efforts for the club and the sailing community at large. For such a petite skipper, Judy sure leaves some big shoes to fill.

Congratulations to all of the new officers and hearty thanks to the outgoing officers. Thanks to Judy Blumhorst, Jerry Barrileaux, and Mike Westfield for helping me plan the 2003 schedule.

Our sailing schedule is packed with great sailing adventures you won't want to miss. We start with two educational weekends in March, fol-

lowed by a Delta weekend at Lundberg Landing. and a Potter Party at Sail Expo in April.

Things really heat up in summer with the SCA Cruiser Challenge, 4th of July Fireworks Delta Anchor-Out, and the Eagle Lake trip.

I encourage all of you to make as many sails as you can. It's great fun to sail with the group, you learn a lot, and build great friendships.

Whether you are a new member, active member or an old-time member who's gotten away from sailing, there is fun and adventure in store for you on the water. So come on out and join us!

If you can't attend and event for the weekend, come for a day sail - nothing beats a day sailing with friends!

Rich McDevitt, Commodore

March 1-2 and 15-16 Navigation and Seamanship Classes BBQ

Olympic Circle Sailing Center, Berkeley
Overnight at Marina Bay in Richmond Harbor



We've planned two exciting weekends to start the new year off right! You'll have a chance to sail on your own and to attend classroom lectures at OCSC, SF Bay's premier sailing school.

You can sail as much or as little as you'd like (or as much as the weather this time of year permits). You don't have sail to attend the lectures, or vice versa. It's entirely up to you.

Olympic Circle Sailing Center in Berkeley (www.ocscsailing.com) has an excellent lecture series which is part of the US Sailing's certification courses for Basic Keelboat and Basic Cruising Certificates.

The Basic Keelboat Certification Course prepares you to be a competent crew member in challenging

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July 1st-7th: Fireworks On The Delta

[Editor's note: Pete's been a certified Delta WaterRat for years and knows the Delta well. More details on this trip will be coming, but for now we just want you to mark the dates for this incredible trip on your calendar!]

Warm water, warm wind, great sailing, and fireworks. What could be better?

The fireworks show at Mandeville Tip is quite spectacular. It is put on by the Hiltons (of hotel fame) and is free to anyone who can get there. We use the fireworks show as an excuse to spend four or five days cruising (anchoring out) on the Delta and rafting with friends and fellow sailors.

Mandeville anchorage is large but when there are around 1000 boats anchored/rafted/etc. it is quite a scene. The most fun we have is visiting other boats and joining battle with our water cannon arsenal.

During the day before the fireworks you can find just about any flavor of floating humanity at Mandeville Tip. From mega yachts with helo-pads to folks hanging out on their funky fishing boats to a jet boat showing off to someone offering rides on his motorized ultra-lite seaplane.

This year we will start on Tuesday 7/1 at Brannan Island and stay on the water until the following Sunday (or 'til the supplies run low). You can arrive later (or earlier!) if you wish and meet us on the water.

If you are arriving on Thursday or Friday, give us a hail on the VHS when you get close. If you are having trouble finding us, we'll come out to meet you.

This cruise is appropriate for well-prepared intermediate sailors. Beginners should have experienced crew or close buddy-boat support.

Tuesday (7/1) 10am (low tide ~1pm) Launch at Brannan Island and proceed about 14 miles upriver to Mildred Island. Mildred Island offers a very nice protected anchorage and good beaches for the kids to play on. There is lots of room for sailing. There is no camping on the beach so you must be self-contained.

Mildred Island is an old island that flooded about 25 years ago. It was never pumped out. Snags are few and well marked and depths are ~15 feet and not less than ~10'. It is an idyllic anchorage. It is large and quiet and protected from main channel traffic (wakes). There are a few small beaches and plenty of room for daysailing or exploring what's left of the old levees.

Wednesday (7/2) Play Day. Sailing, dinghy exploring, playing on the beach, relaxing.

Thursday (7/3) Another Play Day. Perhaps up anchor and go exploring.

Friday (7/4) 8am Up anchor and head for Mandeville Tip. Exact timing will depend on tide & currents & hangovers.

Saturday (7/5) Fairly early.

Some folks head home. The rest of us depart to find a quiet corner of the Delta to spend another day or two.

An Interesting Option: Pete Pillsbury is tentatively planning on launching from Alameda on Saturday 6/28 and shuttling her trailer to Brannan Island. Sunday and Monday are for sailing from Alameda to Decker Island (near Brannan Island). This would not be appro-

priate for beginning sailors. Let me know if you are interested in joining us.

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(This month's newsletter was produced by Judy B. Bruce is learning the software)

Richmond Weekend / OCSC Classes

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conditions or a skipper on protected waters. The Basic Cruising Certification prepares you to skipper a 30 foot boat with outboard in challenging conditions like those found on SF Bay.

We will be taking only the classroom part of the certification courses (none of the on-the water training). The courses will be tailored especially for our club's schedule and the needs of the small boat owner. The complete courses, including On-the-water instruction in OCSC's J-24 sailboats cost about \$800 each .

For just \$50, you can learn all the classroom material on Navigation and Seamanship taught in the Basic Keelboat and the Basic Cruising Certification Courses. It's an incredible bargain!

Cost for each course

- \$25 per skipper
- \$10 for each additional adult crew member.
- Free for children under age 18.

- \$5 per person for the BBQ on March 15, 4 pm at OCSC

Children must be mature enough to be able sit through two 3-hour lectures, with 2 short breaks.

Members experiencing financial difficulties may attend for \$5 per class (includes skipper and all crewmembers in the family).

RSVP and PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

- RSVP TO Judy Blumhorst at by email Sailing@Blumhorst.com (preferred) or call 925 997 0786
- Pre-pay by Feb 20. Send a check for your tuition(s) payable to Judy Blumhorst, 228 La Pera Circle, Danville, CA 94526
- Include the names of participants and indicate which course(s) you are paying for.

Weekend Schedule

Saturday Schedule (both weekends):

9:00 am - Launch at Marina Bay Harbor in Richmond, CA. Launch fee is \$5. Slip fees are \$12/night. Pay at Harbormasters' Office.

3:30 pm - Return to Marina by 3:30, so you can drive to Berkeley for dinner and classes.

4: pm Dinner both Saturdays

4-6 pm, March 1st: Buy your dinner at the Sea Breeze Grocery (or pack it), an inexpensive roadside open-air market serving great chowders, fish sandwiches, hot dogs, salads, beer, wine, etc. Picnic tables available.

4-6 pm, March 15th - BBQ at OCSC \$5 per person

6:30-9:30 pm - Lecture I at OCSC Club House. Don't be late. The class will start promptly at 6:30.

9:30 pm - Return to Marina Bay in Richmond to sleep on your boat.

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OCSC Course Descriptions



Navigation I & II March 1-2

Navigation I: Saturday March 1, 6:30-9:30 pm OCSC Club House

- Aids to Navigation (Buoys, lights, range markers, etc)
- Chart Reading
- Chart Symbols
- Reading and Interpreting Tide and Current Charts

Navigation II: Sunday, March 2, 1:30-4:30 OCSC Club House

- Taking Bearings/Fixes
- Charting Conventions

- Plotting Fixes, Courses
- Current/Leeway Corrections



Seamanship I & II Mar 15-16

Seamanship I: Saturday, March 15 BBQ at OCSC 4-6 pm, \$5 extra. Lecture 6:30-9:30 pm

- Right of way rules
- Lighting requirements & interpreting lights on other craft
- Sound Signals
- Safety equipment
- Medical/Hypothermia
- Line Handling/Basic knots

Seamanship II: Sunday, March 16, 1:30-4:30

- Skipper Responsibilities
- Harbor Procedures
- Handling Emergencies
- Weather

Important Note: *Lecture attendance may not be credited towards any US Sailing certification. The lectures are presented by the Potter Yachters and OCSC at nominal cost solely as a public service*

Richmond Weekend / OCSC Classes

Sunday Schedule (both weekends):

Morning: Go sailing or pull your boat out.

1:30-4:30 Lecture II at OCSC Club House. The class will start promptly at 1:30

Sunset is at approximately 6 pm. in case you haven't pulled your boat out yet.

Make-ups & cancellations:

If you miss a lecture, you can make it up at any of OCSC's regularly scheduled lectures for an additional cost of \$15 per lecture. See OCSC's regular schedule at <http://www.ocscsailing.com/schedule/index.htm> or call 800.223.2984

Cancellations must be received by Judy by phone or email by Wednesday preceding the class. If we have collected enough to cover the club's cost, we will refund your tuition. We can't promise a refund, but we'll try our honest best.

Driving Directions:

To Marina Bay Harbor Marina, Richmond:

From Marin: Take I-580 Richmond/San Rafael Bridge to Harbor Way Exit. Make a right on Harbor Way and a left on Hall. Follow Hall to the marina.

From Oakland: Take I-580 to Harbor Way south. Make a right on Cutting Blvd. and a left when you reach Hall. Follow Hall to the marina.

From Sacramento: Take I-80 to Cutting Blvd., San Rafael Exit. make a right on Cutting to Marina Way South. Make a left on Marina Way South and a left when you reach Hall. Follow Hall to the marina.

To the the Sea Breeze Deli at the Berkeley Marina

Heading East (North) on US 80/580: Follow US 80 East to University Avenue Exit in Berkeley. Follow University Avenue toward Berkeley to the first signal, Sixth Street (.2 miles). Make a U-turn at the first place where it is legal (7th Street, just past the first signal).. After the U-turn, follow University Avenue over the freeway to the four-way stop (.5 miles) . The SeaBreeze Deli is on the far left-hand corner.

Heading West (South) on US 80/580: Take U.S. 80 to the University Avenue Exit in Berkeley. At the stop sign at the end of the off ramp, turn left onto University Avenue. There will be four-way stop sign immediately after you turn onto University. The SeaBreeze Deli is on the corner at the

four-way Stop Sign.

From SeaBreeze Deli to OCSC at the Berkeley Marina

Go straight through the four-way stop and stay on University Avenue into the Marina (.3 miles).

At the fork in the road, bear right onto Marina Blvd. Follow Marina past the Radisson to the north side of the marina (.4 miles). The road will turn 90 degrees to the left. You are now on Spinnaker Way. Follow Spinnaker Way (.2 miles) until you see the Berkeley Marine Center and the sign for OCSC on your left. Turn into the yard, drive through the rows of boats on cradles and you'll see our two story clubhouse on your right. Park only in designated areas.



POTTER YACHTERS 2003 ANNUAL MEETING

January 12, 2002, Oakland YC

[Ed. Note: Reported by Greg Yu, who is continuing as our outstanding Secretary-treasurer. Greg reminded everyone 2003 DUES are due.]

Elections:

Commodore - Rich McDevitt and Bruce Hood were nominated. Bruce Hood declined. Rich McDevitt was elected as commodore.

P-15 Sail Captain - Mike Westfield nominated and re-elected.

P-19 Sail Captain - Jerry Barrilleaux nominated and re-elected.

Secretary/Treasurer - Greg Yu nominated and re-elected.

Newsletter Editor - Bruce Hood nominated and elected.

Web master - Mike Westfield nominated and elected.

Rich McDevitt presented a plaque to Judy Blumhorst honoring her as 'Commodore Emeritus' for her contributions to the Club.

A handsome plaque of appreciation, similar to the one given to Commodore Emeritus Judy, was awarded to Kent Crispen for his contributions as Web master. Kent was not present to accept the plaque but members applauded anyway.

Alex Hubbard will be contacted re: re-appointment as Regatta Captain.

Dory Taylor volunteered to assist at regattas and serve as Club Historian.

Secretary/Treasurer report was presented by Greg Yu. We are still in a healthy financial situation.

Discussion on suggested uses of club funds: Educational classes. Software for newsletters & web site. Plaques & awards for regattas. A Resolution to spend club funds for above purposes was raised, seconded, and approved. Suggestion for "feedback" page on website was made.

Rich McDevitt solicited and received following suggestions for educational classes: Docking (sail & power). Man Overboard. Navigation, especially in fog. Reefing Dealing with currents

Judy volunteered to co-ordinate education classes and asked for volunteers to assist. Pat Brennan & Dory Taylor both volunteered.

Discussion of Sailing Calendar: Participation at Woodward dwindling due to loud noises from power boats & jet skis. Bruce Hood suggested Black Butte Lake as alternative.

Tomales Bay was again suggested. Lots of praise for last year's trip. Eric Zilbert volunteered to co-ordinate.

Peter Pillsbury suggested anchoring out at Delta on July 4th weekend to watch fireworks. Also suggested an 'Alameda to Delta' option.

Eagle Lake - June 28 & 29 co-ordinated by Bruce Hood.

Safety Day at Redwood City, Feb. 15. USCG Auxiliary will offer free safety inspections. Overnight at Sequoia YC. Dave Norris will co-ordinate.

Brennan Island to Antioch was suggested. Don Reilly will research, re-

port to officers, and co-ordinate.

Lundborg Landing at Delta to be led by Jerry Barrilleaux.

Sail Expo (3rd weekend in April) - Latitude 38 will host party for us with Bill Teplow as guest speaker.. Judy Blumhorst will co-ordinate.

Additional suggestions for club sails: Ray Lozano suggested having someone (trip co-ordinator) wearing distinctive regalia to assist and direct members at parking lot and launch ramp. Dory Taylor suggested 'Buddy Sailing' to watch out for novice sailor. Peter Pillsbury cautioned against false sense of security with the 'Buddy Sailing' system. You are ultimately on your own out in the water. Judy Blumhorst suggested picking locations that are suitable to both novice and experienced sailors. She stressed the importance of "RSVP's" so we know who's participating even if they arrive late. Eric Zilbert and Dee Bernreuter both suggested using VHF to keep everybody informed.

Trip co-ordinators for 2002 were recognized: Bruce Hood - Eagle Lake. Dean Lines - Monterey Bay. Eric Zilbert - Tomales Bay. Jerry Barrilleaux - Delta trips. Mike Westfield & Don Person - P-15 Day sails. SCA - Judy Blumhorst & Alex Hubbard.

Gifts were raffled, and a lot of novel sailing books and accessories were exchanged.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:35 pm.

Greg Yu, Secretary/Treasurer



The Potter Yachter

February 2003

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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*