



# The Potter Yachter

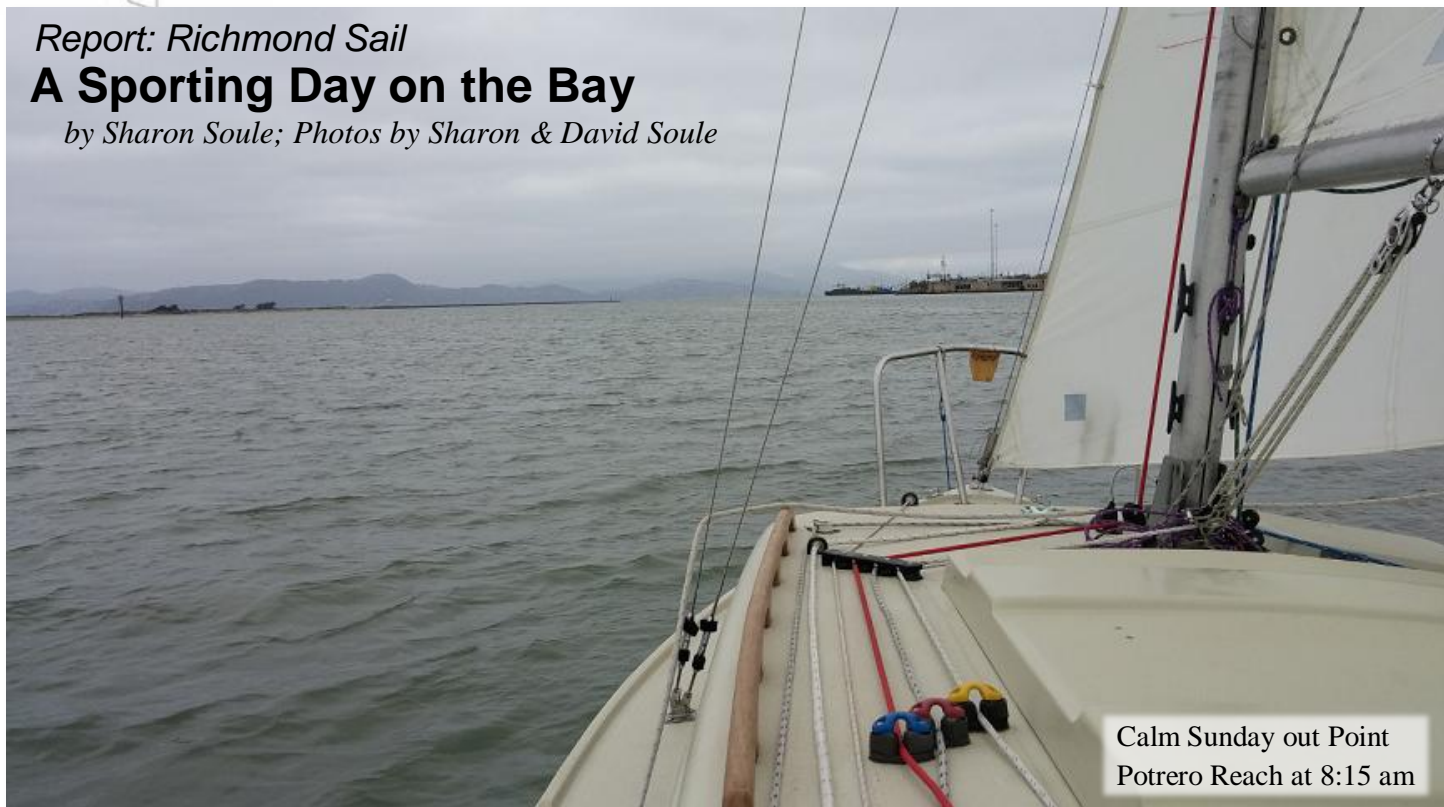
Newsletter of the Longest Lasting West Wight Potter Club in the World

September 2015

Report: Richmond Sail

## A Sporting Day on the Bay

by Sharon Soule; Photos by Sharon & David Soule



Calm Sunday out Point  
Potrero Reach at 8:15 am

**A**s usual, the debate raging in our house was whether to drive down late, late Friday night or early, early Saturday morning. In the end, after 15 or so phone calls and emails, we were able to arrange to have a slip waiting for us Friday night. Jerry B was kind enough to pick up the all-important bathroom key and leave it waiting in a safe place. The traffic gods even smiled upon us and we made it to Richmond by about 9:30. Of course, we promptly took a wrong turn and an impromptu tour of some of Richmond's more questionable neighborhoods... but, in the end we were set up and on the water by around 11.

It was pretty windy when we arrived. We discovered that motoring around a dark marina in a high wind in the middle of the night is just a little bit creepy. On the other hand, it was also quite magical with the lights of San Francisco twinkling out at us from across the bay under a fog bank. If we had been brave enough, we might have headed out for a night sail. Instead, we quickly found that F-dock encompasses most of the marina complex and that it is impossible to spot berth numbers from the water – even on the brightest day. Fortunately, we knew we were berthed next to *Sunshine*, so we motored randomly around

(Richmond continued on page 5)

Got the right dates? [Check the event schedule](#)

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## The Commodore's Corner


By Rob Sampson

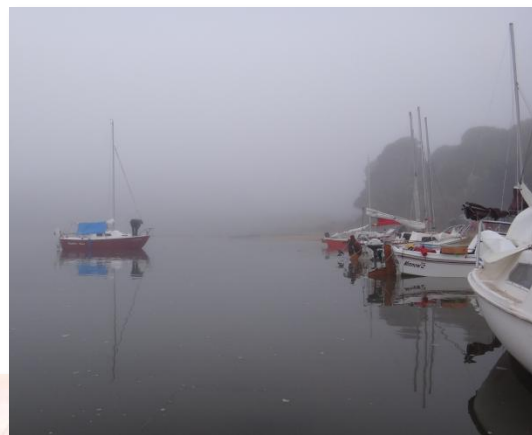
Summer has turned the corner and we have fall on the horizon. We start thinking about Tomales Bay, cool mornings and barbecued oysters cooked over an open fire on the beach. One can sail the same waters – or at least near the same waters – that Sir Francis Drake sailed, and roam the lands of the Miwok Indians. Tomales Bay still feels surprisingly wild, with frequent sightings of sea lions, seals, many sea birds and the occasional marauding raccoon. Tomales is one of my favorite sails and campouts. This year the

Tomales weekend is September 26-27 with some arriving earlier. See the details elsewhere in the newsletter.

Even before that, the Alameda to Clipper Cove picnic sail is coming up quickly on September 12. Check out how the old Bay Bridge demolition is going, while sailing under the new bridge.

Jumping into October there is the Moss Landing to Monterey Sail and Overnight on October 3 and later, on the weekend of October 17 and 18, the legendary Delta Bridges Sail and Overnight. Who says sailing ends with the end of summer.

See you on the water,  
Rob — 



### Club Events on the Horizon

- Sept 12 (Sat) Alameda to Clipper Cove Daysail (Carl S.)  
*typically an easy day sail with a picnic at Clipper Cove, although it has been intermediate due to wind on occasion; picnic usually ends before wind strengthens*
- Sept 26 (Sat-Sun) Tomales Bay Overnight (Eric Z.)  
*generally easy; the overnight is spent either anchoring-out off Tomales Beach or in the boat pulled up to the beach; parking fills up early; sporadic cellphone service*
- Oct 3 (Sat-Sun) Moss Landing to Monterey Overnight (Mike S./Bud K.)  
*intermediate to advanced, depending on the weather; again it should be noted that most open ocean sails are advanced and not for beginners; overnight at docks*
- Oct 17 (Sat-Sun) Delta Bridges Sail and Overnight (Bud K.)  
*generally easy, perhaps intermediate on windy occasions; the overnight is usually spent in the boats moored at a dock*




Upcoming: September 12, 2015

## Come Enjoy the Clipper Cove Sail and Picnic on the Beach

By Carl Sundholm, Sail Host

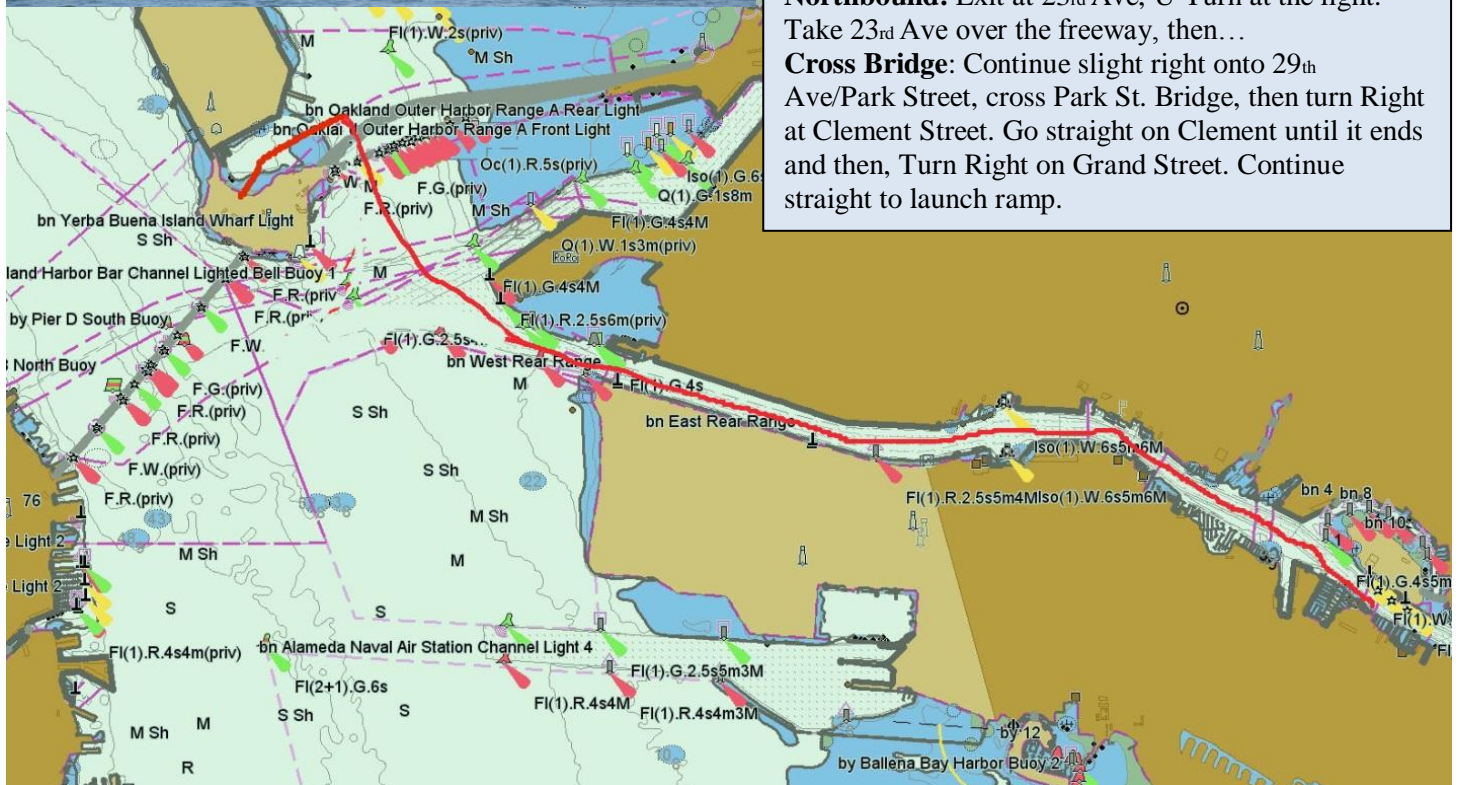
The Potter Yachters are scheduled to do the annual “Grand Street Alameda Ramp to Picnic on Clipper Cove Beach” sail on Saturday, September 12, 2015.

We should meet up at Grand Street Marina Boat Ramp around 9:00 a.m. Be sure to bring picnic lunches and supplies, beach chairs, sunscreen, etc. Also bring extra gas in case we have to motor. — 

[See [Oct-2014 PYN \(page 3\)](#) for last year’s report. —Ed.]



Photo: Phil Marcelis



**Directions** to Grand St. Ramp, Alameda  
**Take I-880 toward Oakland/Alameda, then...**  
**Southbound:** Exit at 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave/Alameda, merge onto Kennedy St., then follow **Cross Bridge** below.  
**Northbound:** Exit at 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave, U-Turn at the light. Take 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave over the freeway, then...  
**Cross Bridge:** Continue slight right onto 29<sup>th</sup> Ave/Park Street, cross Park St. Bridge, then turn Right at Clement Street. Go straight on Clement until it ends and then, Turn Right on Grand Street. Continue straight to launch ramp.


Participation in Potter Yachter events is subject to the guidelines published in [March 2015 PYN](#), page 4.



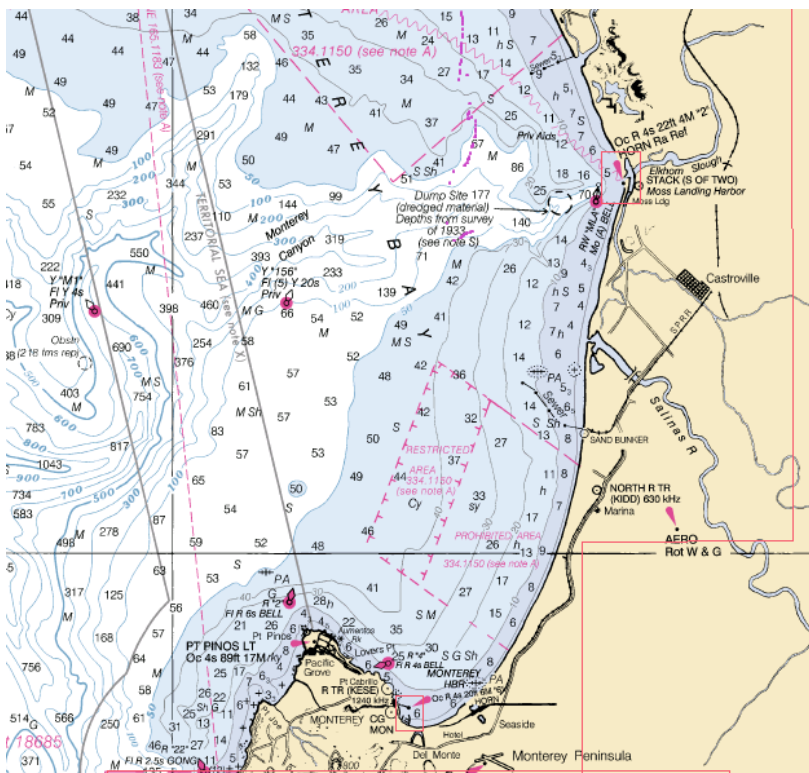
Upcoming: Moss Landing, Oct. 3-4, 2015

## Moss Landing to Monterey

Sail Hosts: Mike Swartz & Bud Kerner

Come join the Potter Yachters for a sail from Moss Landing to Monterey. We will leave Moss Landing at 11AM on Saturday and overnight in Monterey. There's usually plenty of parking in the city lot for about \$10/night. Some folks park for free at EYC, if there's space. Please let us know if you will join us so we can reserve slips in Monterey. — 

Directions: Get onto Hwy 101, then Take exit 336 (Hwy 156) towards Monterey Peninsula, take Hwy 183 through Castroville to Hwy 1 north, then turn left into the parking lot just after the bridge over Elkhorn Slough.



The NOAA Chart for the area is available online for free:  
<http://www.charts.noaa.gov/InteractiveCatalog/nrnc.shtml>

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### Officer's Club

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(Richmond continued from page 1)

looking for her. We spotted Bud's distinctive Code Zero as we motored up the wrong finger and saw *Sunshine* tied up in the next slip, so after a careful and hopefully quiet about-face, we found our slip on the right finger and made it into bed before midnight.

And the wind blew all night long, alternately howling, squealing and moaning across the bay and through the rigging of hundreds of sailboats – heaven!

It was a small group that set out from the boat ramp Saturday morning – Jerry Barrilleaux on *Sunshine*, Bud Kerner and son on board *Cat's Meow*, Dana Suverkrop on *Sip*, Mike Truman on *Midget*, Goose on a patched up and improved *ReGale* ready for a test run, and Harry Gordon who launched *Manatee* about the time the rest of us began motoring out. Our friend Denny joined us on *Nighthawk* along with the dynamic dog duo.

The plan was to head over to Angel Island, have lunch, maybe take a tour or just look around, and then head back in the afternoon.

We had a good wind coming off the bay and were able to hoist sails almost right away. Bud must have put up the Code Zero because all we ever saw of him was tiny sails way ahead in the distance. As we made our way past the breakwater, I looked back and saw a strange foaming monster headed our way – Goose! He came charging out on *ReGale*, sails up and water boiling all around. It was an impressive sight! You can watch Goose powering up to us in this video: <https://youtu.be/jqUJnm98Uac> At that point, the only boat not in sight was Harry's. Mike and Dana were there and Jerry was just behind us on *Sunshine*.



The Dynamic Dog Duo

You can see *Nighthawk* sailing to Ayala Cove here: <https://youtu.be/3-727nyeiHW>

Once we cleared the breakwater, the wind picked up. As we neared Angel Island, it picked up some more. We changed to a smaller headsail. Then it picked up even more. Less than 5 minutes after the headsail change, we decided to reef. It was sporting! We had fun watching all of the other boats dealing with the conditions.

We escaped the wind when we pulled into Ayala Cove on Angel Island. The cove was full of boats tied up to the dock, boats tied up to moorings, and boats jockeying for spots at the dock and moorings. The shore was crowded with tourists walking, riding Segways, loading into shuttles for tours, having lunch at the cafes, lining up at the bathrooms, and accosting rangers with crazy touristy questions. Dogs aren't allowed on the island and it was too hot to lock them up, so David stayed with the boat while I scouted the café situation. Fifteen dollars for a hamburger seemed a wee bit steep,

**From Jerry Barrilleaux:**

Of the 6 boats, two P19's and the Balboa 21 made it to Angel Island. They still have live music, good food, and cold beer. I had a wild ride back to Richmond in *Sunshine*. I'm keeping her in a slip for five days to see if she is leaking after hitting a rock very hard several months ago. She still has a small leak. The good news is that I spent the day sailing with my grandson, James, for the first time. He had a blast and loved being at the tiller. James is three years old.



so we ate the lunches we brought on the boat and did some boat/people watching and swapped nautical stories with Jerry on the dock.

Only three of the boats in our group had made it to Angel Island. Dana had radioed early on that he was heading back in, but we never heard from Mike or Harry. Since it was blowing 18 and gusting to around 20 inside the Richmond breakwater, we figured they had wisely headed back in as well. In comparing notes, we all thought *ReGale* had passed us, only none of us ever saw her again. Perhaps Goose had so much




Spirited discussions in Ayala Cove

juice that he just motored on past Angel Island and headed for San Francisco and points beyond.

The wind hadn't abated one bit as we headed back. Jerry decided to do the leg under main alone. We think Bud did the same, but we couldn't quite tell since again, he was just a tiny dot in the distance. David and Denny thought it would be "fun" to poke our nose out into the slot. The dogs and I did not. After about 1 second in the slot, it was obvious that the only way we would survive was if we had a smaller headsail (which we do) and several more reef points (which we don't.) Instead, we had ourselves a marvelous downwind run back to Richmond and the marina.

David and I stayed Saturday night, as did Bud. *Sunshine* stayed, but Jerry went home to Concord for the night. Amazingly, the wind built up even more as the evening wore on. We had to shut ourselves inside our cabins just to cook dinner. The idea of getting cleaned up and presentable enough to try out the Italian Restaurant just didn't appeal to any of us. The wind dropped to reasonable level overnight.

Sunday morning dawned grey and still somewhat breezy. David and I headed out around 8 for a morning sail. The wind was perfect. We managed to sail almost all the way out the Point Potrero Reach on one long tack. We really had to resist the temptation to just keep on sailing – it was so nice! After clearing the breakwater, we regretfully jibed and headed on back in. *Nighthawk* was back on her trailer by 10:30.

It was a wonderful sail – plenty of wind, a quiet Sunday morning sail and as usual, great company. — 

### **Bud Kerner's perspective:**

Jerry and I got there Friday. Jerry and Carol sailed briefly on Friday. Gerry Nolan drove down and sailed with me Friday afternoon. We sailed to Red Rock and back. There was not a lot of wind on the Bay, but the water was very rough. The closer we got to the marina the more wind we had. I am guessing 25 knots. Late Friday night the Soule's arrived from Nevada with their Balboa 21.

Saturday we had the following boats launch: Goose (P19), Dana Suverkrop (P15), Harry Gordon (P14), and Mike Truman (M15).

Jerry, the Soule's, my son Rob and I sailed to Angel Island for lunch. Goose had sailing problems with his 19 and came back to the marina. Harry and Dana turned around because it became too rough for them.

Upcoming: September 26-27, 2015

## Potter Yachter Tomales Bay Trip

Hosted by Eric Zilbert

The Tomales Bay Potter Yachter Trip is scheduled for Sept. 26 & 27, 2015. We will launch from the ramp at Miller County Park [near Nick's Cove](#), located on the east side of Tomales Bay. The fee to launch is \$5.00 (plus \$5.00 for overnight parking in a space in the parking lot). Unfortunately, a large bicycle group will use the upper parking lot, so parking will be more difficult than usual. Those who arrive on Friday, including myself, will secure set-up spots for Saturday, and we'll shuttle drivers to parking along Hwy 1 or between Tomales-Petaluma Rd. and Tomales High School on Irvin Rd. where there is

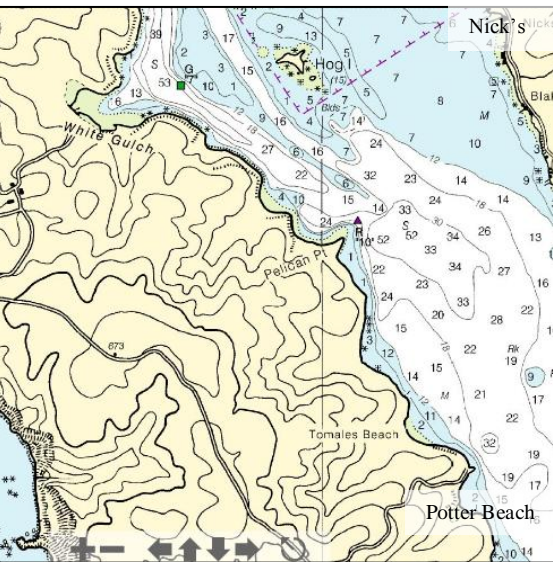


free parking away from traffic. We have ferried people to overnight parking along Hwy 1 in the past, and it seems to work well enough.

[Park Service maps](#), Google, and [official chart 18643](#) each have a different name for the beach we use. On Saturday at about 5 PM, we will have an oyster BBQ (I have a [CA Fire Permit](#)) and pot-luck dinner on what we'll call [Potter Beach](#) (same location as last year). This beach has pit-toilets but no access to drinking water. We'll communicate on VHF Ch. 68.

### ACCOMMODATIONS

No permit is needed to anchor out or sleep on your boat while beached, but a [boat-in camping permit](#) must be obtained if you plan to camp in a tent on the beach. Reserve ahead or check with the Bear Valley Visitor Center near Olema on Saturday morning to see if you can get a permit. There are no car camping areas in the park. [Check the tides](#), but it should be fine for overnight beaching.



### ABOUT THE AREA

Leaving from Nick's Cove, sailors seeking the channel on the west side of the bay going north should be aware that the bay is quite shallow on the east side north of Hog Island.



The entrance to Tomales Bay is a legendary hazard due to large sleeper waves that may break in the entrance. Transit the area quickly and don't anchor there. For more information about Tomales, see:

<http://www.dbw.ca.gov/Pubs/TomalesBay/TomalesBay.pdf>

Tomales Bay is fairly shallow south of Marshall. The west side of the bay is deeper and with the predicted tides you should be able to get to the southern end of the bay at any time other than the early morning lows. Be sure to stay to the western side of the bay.

### DINING

There are a number of restaurants on Hwy 1 south of Miller Park. Last year, Rob had Friday night dinner at the restaurant at Nick's Cove and they let him dock his Ranger Tug overnight. However, I generally treat a trip to Tomales Bay as a camping trip.

NOTE: A porta-potty is required on board for overnight stays on Tomales Bay. The rangers have been known to do inspections.

#### Other Useful Numbers:

[Bear Valley Visitor Center](#) 415-464-5100

[Nick's Cove](#) 415-663-1033

"Your cellphone won't ring out here, but we have landlines if you need to make a call." - Nick's

E-mail ([ezilbert@cde.ca.gov](mailto:ezilbert@cde.ca.gov)) or call to let me know if you plan to attend. For more information you can call: Eric Zilbert: 530-757-6783 (eves) or 530-665-0698 (cell). —



**From Bud Kerner, Delta Bridges Sail host:**

Hold the weekend of October 17-18. The Potter Yachters are having a leisurely, two-day sail through the California Delta. We'll leave the Rio Vista city launch ramp at 10AM and sail down the Sacramento River to Three-Mile Slough. From there we'll connect with the San Joaquin River and Sail to the Mokelumne River where we'll stop at Moor's Riverboat for a beer break before continuing up to Georgiana Slough for an overnight at Ox Bow Marina. I believe there will be Pulled-Pork for dinner and free breakfast. Slip fees are \$.75/foot. We'll leave Ox Bow at 10AM on Sunday and continue to the Sacramento River. We might stop in Walnut Grove for some great ice cream, and then it's back down river to Rio Vista. Watch for the full announcement in next month's newsletter.

**From Rich McDevitt:**

Here's a shot of Bud Kerner (lower right corner in photo to the right) towing Cat's Meow in a parade. The Trilogy Rio Vista Sailing Club (which has 3 Potters) was entered in a 4th of July parade; looks like Bud won a banging \$25. This was the second year he entered – maybe the final year. Some trees are growing to block his direct route around the 2.5 mile loop. It's pretty much a golf cart parade, showing once again that you just can't contain Potters very well. -Rich



Thanks **Jay** for posting this on *The Trailer Sailor's West Wight Potter Forum*:

Goose got ink in 'Lectronic Latitude!

<http://www.latitude38.com/lectronic/lectronicday.lasso?date=2015-08-12>

**Judy B** replied:

I like any story that says people in their 60's are "mere pups".



While some folks were at the official Hennessey Sail, **Dan..Ft.Bragg** spent the weekend with "Admiral Herman" and Jim K. on Tomales Bay where the "smok'in" wind had the Admiral's SCAMP down to a third reef "and doing very well, thank you!!"

**News from the forum**

**Ship's Stores for sale. Send orders to Pat Brennan:**

Show your colors! Fly an official Club Burgee on your next sail!

Burgees	\$25.00	
Bumper stickers	\$ 2.50	(just shows the burgee; no text)
Patches	\$ 2.50	(Both round and burgee shaped)
Info Packets	\$20.00	(Primarily P-15 information)

Or head over to our CafePress website and buy a Cap, Stein, or T-Shirt with the club logo on it.

Visit: <http://www.cafepress.com/potteryachters>




Report: Scotts Flat Lake

## A Getaway from the Valley Heat

by Mark Conry

By the time I arrived around 2pm on Friday afternoon, Cheryl and David already had their lakeside campsite set up. While they watched my son's dog Sam, a Siberian Husky, I headed to Nevada City for provisions. Cooler temperatures and a constant 8 knot breeze cooled the busy August campsites surrounding this end of the lake. We enjoyed hearty hamburgers, grilled by David White, with a large side of baked beans cooked at the White's folding camp galley. Cheryl and David stayed up late Friday night to observe the forecasted meteor shower and were delighted with the show!

With the drought conditions the ramp at Scott's Flat was unusable for anything bigger than a raft or canoe. So we spent Saturday hiking around the campgrounds and nearby pines with Sam the dog. Later in the afternoon we were joined by Neil and Becky Dorf and enjoyed a meal of Dutch Oven Beef Stew cooked over the coals. Dave opened his famous "Floating Bar" so happy hour was well-timed with an early dinner. After a few of Dave's "Fog Cutter" cocktails, stories of exploits far and wide were shared around the campfire. It was a great get-away from the valley heat to enjoy new friends among the cool breezes in the pines. Thanks to all who made the trip!

Mark Conry  
Ex-Potter 19  
Catalina 26 – Wing Keel  
Lido 14 — 



Above: The Whites' Camp Galley

Below: David's "Floating Bar"



## 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".



Or see us online at:  
[www.potter-yachters.org](http://www.potter-yachters.org)

Send your payment (with  
your name and address) to: Pat Brennan  
1305 Webster Street #C205  
Alameda CA, 94501

**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

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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 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*

