



# The Potter Yachter

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

August 2017

## Report: Party in Monterey! The 18<sup>th</sup> Cruiser Challenge

by Phil Marcelis



On the Starting Line – Ron Dietel, Eric Zilbert, Dick Galland, and others

Photo by Bud Kerner

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Potter-Yachter’s Cruiser Challenge was the place to be this year on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. With 25 boats registered, and more than 35 people showing up to enjoy the festivities, this year’s Challenge was a great chance to rub elbows with some truly wonderful people. We even availed ourselves of a little friendly racing, which is, after all, the only kind of racing known to most of the *Potter-Yachters*.

The Monterey Bay venue, which has been selected for Cruiser Challenge since (See *Challenge* continued on page 4)

### 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>

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## The Commodore's Corner

By Eric Zilbert

Greetings sailors and friends. Here are some post-*Cruiser Challenge* musings for you.

August is here and it looks to be a fine warm one in Davis "Not-by-the-Sea", California, where I live. It is a strange place for a home port, but truth be told, I can launch and sail within 10 miles of my house in Lake Washington, which is the terminus of the deep water channel for ships from the Bay. A little further away from home, I can launch directly into the Sacramento River at a number of locations. Both of these waterways connect to the Bay and the Pacific Ocean. One of my great sailing memories is traveling with my father from Sacramento to Rio Vista, then to Vallejo, followed by Richmond, and finally a day trip out the Gate and back to Richmond (with a stop at Angel Island) for another night.

This is the beauty of our sport, if I can call it that, which I have decided is *trailer sailing*. Trailer sailing allows for all kinds of varied destinations and sailing possibilities. Each phase: planning, preparing, transporting, launching, sailing, retrieving, returning and cleaning up, requires a certain amount of knowledge, concentration, athleticism, skill, coordination, strength, determination, and patience! Trailer sailing is part travel planning, part fix it project, part road trip, part picnic, and when conditions are right, way fun. I even found battling the chop in Monterey Bay (as a number of us did before and after the Cruiser Challenge) both exhilarating and challenging. Trailer sailing allows one to test oneself against the elements and the foibles of man and machine. What other activity allows us to demonstrate so fully our capabilities as humans? Who has not come through a flat tire, melted wheel bearing, or collision with a stationary object at sea, and not come out of it a better person!

Perhaps what we do in trailer sailing is more of an art form or craft than a sport. Watch someone like Dave Bacon who really sails well, and you can appreciate the care and attention it is possible to put into our boats and our sailing. Each trip, from conception to clean-up is an opus, a work of art. Like a play or an opera it has a beginning, a middle, and an end. And each time we create one (for each trip is a creation), we have the opportunity to perfect our technique.

Sport or art form, it certainly seems to be something you can pursue with passion to an advanced age! Our membership includes a number of members that have seen more than 80 summers, and still place in our races. So carry on, get planning that next adventure, and thank goodness there are so many like-minded people to help us along our way.

We had a phenomenal time at Cruiser Challenge 18! A big thank you to Mike Swartz who served as primary liaison with the yacht club and the harbor master. Thanks to Dick Herman and his ever-ready race crew, we had a great start, and reasonably accurate results. The fine mugs we presented as awards were designed and obtained by the very talented Jim "Goose" Gossman. Finally, I want to say thank you to Gretchen for lining up our sponsors, and to Dave Scobie from Sage Marine for the very fine knives they donated for the raffle.

An event like the Cruiser Challenge can only be successful with a dedicated crew and great leadership. If you are interested in contributing some time and effort to the event, please contact any member of the officer team and we will let you know how you can help. If you are interested in coordinating or co-coordinating the event, please let us know. Please. Volunteers for race committee are also appreciated. Very, very appreciated.

Eric — 

### Club Events on the Horizon

[Event Calendar](#)

Sept 23 (Sat-Sun)	Clipper Cove Picnic Sail <i>typically an easy day sail, although it can be intermediate windy on occasion</i>	(Carl S)
Sept 30 (Sat-Sun)	Tomales Bay Sail and Overnight <i>generally easy, often windy; overnight at anchor, on beach, or in tents; we have group camp permit for tents, so you don't need your own; great family sail!</i>	(Eric Z)
Oct 14 (Sat-Sun)	Moss Landing to Monterey Sail and Overnight <i>intermediate to advanced; overnight at docks; open water sail <u>not for beginners</u></i>	(Bud K)
Oct 28 (Sat-Sun)	Delta Bridges Sail and Overnight <i>generally easy; motoring (bring fuel) ; intermediate when windy; overnight at docks</i>	(Bud K)

Upcoming: September 23, 2017

## Clipper Cove Sail & Picnic

Sailhost: Carl Sundholm

The Potter Yachters are scheduled to do the annual “Grand Street Alameda Ramp to Picnic on Clipper Cove Beach” sail on Saturday, September 23, 2017.

We should meet at Grand Street Marina Boat Ramp around 9:00 a.m. Be sure to bring picnic lunches and supplies, beach chairs, sunscreen, etc. And gas, in case we have to motor. We’ll head back by 2 p.m.

There’s a surprisingly well-stocked store and a food cart vendor up the stairs from the beach, in case you want to buy lunch. — 

[See [Oct-2016 PYN](#) 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 23rd Ave/Alameda, merge onto Kennedy St., then follow **Cross Bridge** below.  
**Northbound:** Exit at 23rd Ave, U-Turn at the light. Take 23rd Ave over the freeway, then...  
**Cross Bridge:** Continue slight right onto 29th 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 2016 PYN](#), page 3.

### Officer's Club

**Commodore:**

Eric Zilbert  
ezilbert@cde.ca.gov  
P-19, #629, *Riptide*

**Vice Commodore:**

Rob Sampson  
PY.Commodore.Rob@gmail.com  
P-15, #367, *Espero*

**Newsletter Editor:**

Phil Marcelis  
sail@marcelis.com  
P-19, #1487, *Family Time*

**P-15 Fleet Captain:**

David Bacon  
dbaon2636@me.com  
P-15, #2636, *Ah Tiller the Fun*

**P-19 Fleet Captain:**

Carl Sundholm  
sundholm@att.net  
P-19, *Dagmar*

**Webmaster:**

Phil Marcelis  
sail@marcelis.com

**Secretary/Treasurer:**

Pat Brennan  
pat-brennan@sbcglobal.net  
ComPac Legacy, #1, *Latis*

**Website & Facebook:**

www.potter-yachters.org  
fb.me/PotterYachters

(Challenge continued from page 1)

way back in 2002, is a superb location! And, over the last 15 years, we've been very lucky to have the support of the [Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club](#). They have always welcomed us, and the staff has been very helpful. Our gratitude goes out to them for providing us with a place to hold the Cruiser Challenge year-after-year.

Registration and check-in began around 8am, and folks slowly trickled in until the room started getting crowded. The skipper's meeting started promptly at 9am with the ceremonial ringing of the yacht club's bell. Then Dick Herman went over the race rules and procedures in a clear and methodical way, answering all questions that were brought up. In fact, it ran so smoothly that we were out of the yacht club by 10am, and "off to the races", as it were.

It wasn't the usual herding of cats, which is the typical Potter-Yachter hallmark, but rather a determined corralling.

There was some uncertainty regarding the placement of the club's 'G' mark, which was to be a part of the race course, so we left that for further clarification over the radio once the committee boat took up its position.



Bud offered the services of his *Cat's Meow* for committee boat, since the club's committee boat was experiencing problems.

As most people sailed around and got their bearings, they would have noticed that the fog was burning off and the wind was starting to fill in a little, but the waves were calm and manageable.



Pat (left) uses his 'paper laptop' for check-in while Mike reviews race details with Dick



Dick Herman explains all the race procedures at the skipper's meeting

Photo: Rob Sampson



The starting line between MY7 and the committee boat, *Cat's Meow*



*Upbeat, Minnow, and Manatee*

Photo: Bud Kerner

With a few blasts of the horn and calls over the VHF, the first class of boats got started. Then the big boats got their start.

Everyone jockeyed for position and did their best to trim and sail a good course. I know I tried.



Dick Galland's Marshal Sanderling 18



Harry Gordon sailing *Manatee* and Don Person sailing *Sarah Anne*



'Goose' checking sail trim on *ReGale*



*Pala*, *She-Said-No*, and *Nighthawk* in the crowd



Photos on this page: Bud Kerner



Photo: Carl Sundholm

Mike Higgins leads Class C, small boats, to a 1<sup>st</sup> place victory

Class C got sent through the starting line first, followed by the bigger boats. I was trying to stay away from the fray while I concentrated on figuring out what to do about this concept of “racing”, so I didn’t see the small boats start. But it seems clear that Mike got a very good start and held on to it to take first place in Class C, small boats.

From my vantage point, it looked like Jerry’s *Goshawk* got a very good start in the larger class and kept the speed up. The ‘pin’ end was favored and he stuck to that side of the course. Obviously, the tactic paid off and he claimed first place in Class B, medium boats.

I seemed to be doing well just before the start, but then I thought I was going to cross the line early so I mistakenly ended up nearly in irons just as the starting horn sounded. Headed in the wrong direction at the start, I never even saw *Nighthawk*, who took the lead and took first place for Class A, big boats.



Photo: Carl Sundholm



*Nighthawk* takes 1<sup>st</sup> place for big boats

Photo: Carl Sundholm



Commodore Zilbert presents 1<sup>st</sup> place for medium boats to Jerry Montgomery



Mike Higgins gets 1<sup>st</sup> place for *Jean Alden* in small boat class

Thanks to Mike Swartz for the time and effort he put into making this huge event happen. Thanks to Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club! And thanks to Gretchen Ricker for lining up the sponsorships, Pat Brennan for handling accounting and check-in, Dick Herman for preparing the racing procedures and briefing all the skippers, and thanks to all the great sponsors and everyone else who worked behind the scenes to make Cruiser Challenge an event that we all enjoyed. — 



Rebecca & George Corrigan take 2<sup>nd</sup> in small boats



The scene by the yacht club



Rob Sampson w/ Carl as crew get 2<sup>nd</sup> in medium boats



WWP-19 Family Time



Jens Kaemmerer earned 2<sup>nd</sup> for Pala in big boat class



Photos on this page: Carl Sundholm



Balboa 21 Nighthawk



Dan Phy, Rob Sampson, Ron Dietel, Don Person, Dick Herman relax Friday night on Dick's boat



Goose talks with Jerry and Bernard



Rob Sampson and Dan Phy



Phil plays banjo before dinner



Eric, Mike, and Dick handle post-race paperwork

Photos on this page: Rob Sampson



Phil Marcelis with his P-19, Family Time

Photo: Jon Barber



Rich McDevitt with Minnow

Photo: Bud Kerner



Photo: Jerry Kergan



Blue Moon and She-Said-No

Photo: Phil Marcelis



Photo: Bud Kerner



Santana 22, Pala

Photo: Phil Marcelis



Photo: Jerry Kergan

**Cruiser Challenge 18 Race Results****Class A: Big Boats**

Place	Skipper	Boat Name	Type	Time
1st	Sharon & David Soulé	<i>Nighthawk</i>	Balboa 21	43:00
2nd	Jens Kaemmerer	<i>Pala</i>	Santana 22	
3rd	Jim Hunt	<i>Blue Moon</i>	Santana 22	

**Class B: Medium Boats**

Place	Skipper	Boat Name	Type	Time
1st	Jerry Montgomery	<i>Goshawk</i>	Sage 17	45:00
2nd	Rob Sampson	<i>Vagabond</i>	Vagabond 17	46:00
3rd	Jon Barber	<i>44</i>	Monty 17	46:30
4th	Bruce McDevitt	<i>Senior Center</i>	WWP 19	
5th	Phil Marcelis	<i>Family Time</i>	WWP 19	
6th	Eric Zilbert	<i>Riptide</i>	WWP 19	
7th	Ron Dietel	<i>She-Said-No</i>	Precision 16.5	
8th	Gretchen & Dan Ricker	<i>Good &amp; Plenty</i>	ComPac 19	
9th	Dana Suverkrop	<i>Shiksa</i>	Monty 17	
10th	Jim 'Goose' Gossman	<i>ReGale</i>	WWP 19	
11th	Pat Brennan	<i>Latis</i>	ComPac Legacy	
12th	Marilyn & Bruce Mossman	<i>Bonkers</i>	ComPac 16	

**Class C: Small Boats**

Place	Skipper	Boat Name	Type	Time
1st	Mike Higgins	<i>Jean Alden</i>	14' catboat	54:30
2nd	Rebecca & George Corrigan	<i>Upbeat</i>	Monty 15	
tie 3rd	Harry Gordon	<i>Manatee</i>	WWP 14	
tie 3rd	Don Person	<i>Sarah Anne</i>	WWP 15	
4th	David Iler	no name	Monty 15	

**Special Award****The Potter Yachter Senior Moment Award**

Due to circumstances beyond human control, the announced race course was changed to a shorter course as the downwind marker could not be found. However, two boats did not get the word and sailed the original, and much longer, course (and did find the downwind marker that had been cleverly moved). Without doubt, both boats were the fastest on the course and would have swept the race had they sailed the shortened course. As the skippers performed in an exemplary manner, displayed exceptional sailing skills, and upheld Potter Yachter traditions, the race committee awarded The Potter Yachter Senior Moment Award to:

CLASS B

*Goshawk* (Sage 17), we can't remember the skipper's name

CLASS C

*Sarah Anne* (WWP-15), ditto

## The Cruise to Cruiser Challenge

by Phil Marcelis

This is the second time that I've counted myself in the group of intrepid Potter Yachters who have launched in Moss Landing for the sail to [Cruiser Challenge](#). Having made this trip twice now, I can say it's a **lot** of fun. [See last year's write-up in [Aug-2016 PYN](#) page 10. -Ed.]



Four boats rigged Friday morning



Four boats launched on Thursday

Luckily, we've enjoyed reasonably good weather each time. The fog threatened, but our intrepid flotilla stayed in radio contact and made it through without incident. And our flotilla of 8 boats was larger than last year, so there were plenty of intrepid sailors to keep track of.

(Our illustrious [CoE](#), Don Person, has been said to insist that adventurous Potter Yachters refer to themselves as 'intrepid' as often as possible.)

The local wildlife made the usual appearances, as cute and wondrous as ever. Mike reportedly had a whale come within feet. Eric was actually **hit** by one. My whale sightings were thankfully far enough away not to scare the daylights out of me.



There was some fog as we left Moss Landing



Jim Hunt's huge Santana 22



Mike Higgins sails the beautiful Jean Alden

Once out of the harbor, everyone took up whatever course they thought was best. Mike Higgins went straight out to sea and we didn't see him again until we reached Monterey. The others basically followed the shortest route along the coastline of the Bay. I wandered a bit until the intrepid Jon Barber caught up with me and we started sailing in generally the same direction; heading towards Monterey. It made for a nice opportunity to play with sail trim in preparation for the next day's race. I was immediately able to see if my changes made me slower or faster.



Jon Barber sailing his Monty 17, Old 44

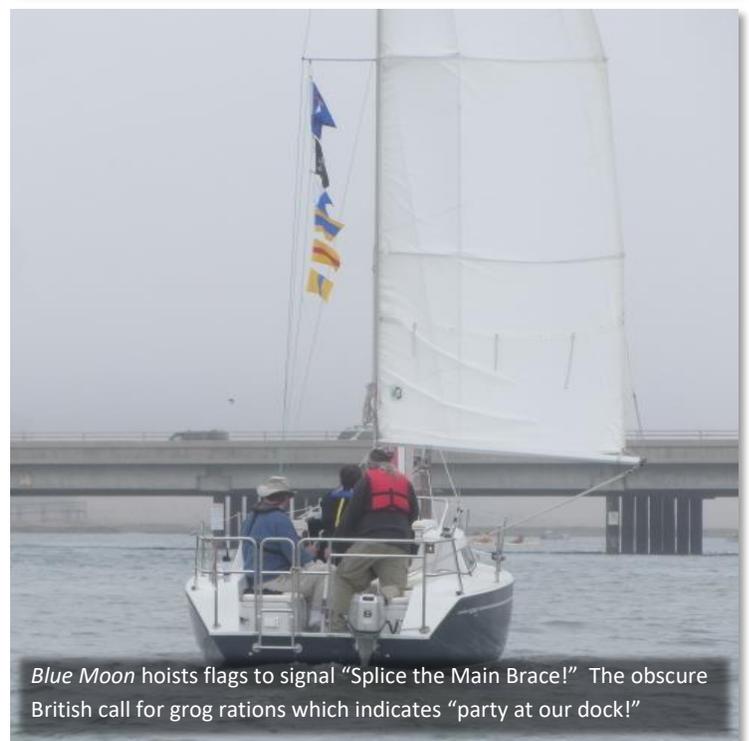
To my knowledge, this is only the third time the intrepid Potter Yachters have sailed to the Cruiser Challenge from Moss Landing. In any case, it's the largest contingent to have done it. (Bud Kerner sailed from Rio Vista to Monterey in 2003 [See [Aug-2003 PYN pg 5](#)], then Bud and David White sailed from Moss Landing as the final leg of a voyage out the Golden Gate to Cruiser Challenge in 2015. [See [Nov/Dec-2015 PYN pg 13](#)])



'Goose' motor-sails ReGale on Friday morning



Bud sailing Cat's Meow



Blue Moon hoists flags to signal "Splice the Main Brace!" The obscure British call for grog rations which indicates "party at our dock!"



ATUS dining at London Bridge Pub on Friday night - Photo: Jerry Kergan

After arriving safely, we met on Friday night with the rest of the Cruiser Challenge attendees who had arrived and parked in Monterey. We had dinner at the usual place, [London Bridge Pub](#).

This is a stellar group of folks to sail with; responsible and concerned for everyone's well-being. If you can work up the skills to brave the swells, this is a great trip to try! — 🚤

## **An Unofficial Award**

### **Cruise to Cruiser Challenge Awards**

Eight intrepid skippers, some with one or more crew, sailed their boats from Moss Landing to Monterey on Friday, raced on Saturday, and braved the initial fog on the windy sail back to Moss Landing on Sunday. For going above and beyond expectations while sticking with the spirit of a "Cruiser's Challenge", these fine sailors each received a medal of honor (which they wore at every opportunity). The inscription on the back reads:

Moss Landing to Monterey  
Cruise to CC18  
2017



(from left) 'Goose' Gossman, Eric Zilbert, Phil Marcelis, Mike Higgins, Jon Barber, Kevin Crowder, Jim Hunt, Alan Roberts, Larry Tkach, Bruce McDevitt, Bud Kerner

Photo by Carl Sundholm

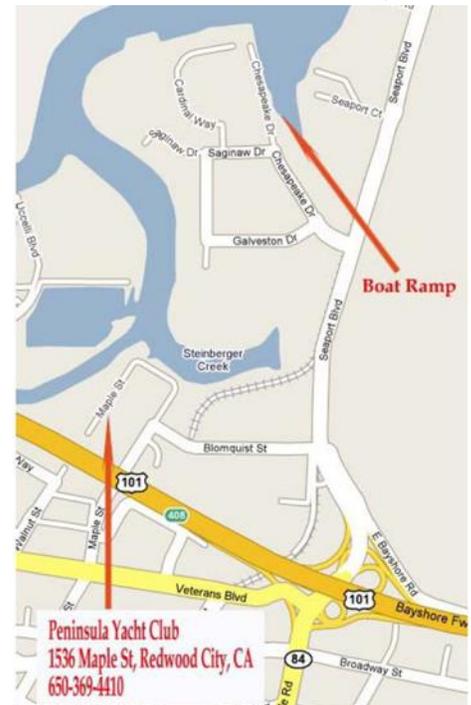
Upcoming: Replacement Sail for Cancelled Beardsley Lake?

## Invitation to South Bay – August 5, 2017

It's our understanding that the road leading to the launch ramp at Beardsley Lake was damaged in the winter storms and has not been repaired, yet.

So, in addition to the unofficial Humboldt Bay sail suggested by Dan Phy (see [July-2017 PYN](#), page 4), here's another opportunity to find friendly sailors to keep you company.

Helen Horn of [Peninsula Yacht Club](#) (remember the great hospitality of those St. Patrick's Day Sails? See [April-2017 PYN](#)) has invited the Potter Yachters to join their cruise-out planned for August 5<sup>th</sup>. They'll sail down to Alviso, in the South Bay, join the [South Bay Yacht Club](#) for dinner, and raft up overnight. — 



**Directions:** Highway 101, Redwood City. Take Woodside Road/Seaport Blvd. exit. Take Seaport Blvd. eastbound (towards the Bay). Continue on Seaport Blvd. until you take a left on Chesapeake Drive and follow it to the end. Parking lot on your left and the ramp on your right.



### From Helen Horn: AUG 5, 2017 – PYC AND SBYC WEEKEND CRUISE

There is a cruise-out planned on August 5, in which [Peninsula Yacht Club](#) will be sailing to the South Bay town of Alviso, to [South Bay Yacht Club](#), and sailing back on the 6th. The tides are really good for this event. South Bay has asked us to invite the Potters to join us. Sail from PYC where you can leave your trailers. Raft up at the SBYC docks with us overnight. Dinner, breakfast, fun. Talk it up with the Potters and call me.

Helen Horn, PYC port captain.

**From Katie Taylor:** Peninsula YC and Alviso YC have been having an overnight get-together for quite a few years now, and now the Potter Yachters are being invited to join them with much enthusiasm. Sail in, raft up, and enjoy some good food and good company. There will be a light, early breakfast on Sunday morning before everyone scatters.

There are a number of ways to get there. Launch and sail with Peninsula; launch and sail from Redwood City; launch and sail from your favorite alternate location; or launch the car and drive to the yacht club and join the festivities that way. This is the option I'll likely be taking. (Anyone want crew?)

Please shoot me an email if you're going, so I can let Gus know, the AYC commodore, and Peninsula if you're going that way. - Katie Taylor

[see the announcement online at [http://forum.trailersailor.com/post\\_gb.php?id=1457106#1457106](http://forum.trailersailor.com/post_gb.php?id=1457106#1457106) –Ed.]

Attractions in the Alviso area include the old Dumbarton Railroad Bridge (on the trip down), the ghost-town of Drawbridge, nice hiking on the old salt pond levees and great Baja fish tacos at Maria Elena's Mexican restaurant. Alviso itself is an interesting old town, the former "Port of San Jose", there are old canneries that are now protected by levees and are below sea level. Depletion of the aquifer below has caused the town to drop approx. 14 ft.

My only word of caution would be that we get a fairly early start for the trip back. While the conditions in the far South Bay are milder than those in Redwood City, this time of year it can get pretty gnarly between the Dumbarton Bridge and the Redwood City entrance. We should shoot to have everybody back in the RC channel by 2:30PM. I suppose launching at the Alviso ramp is also a possibility but it would need to be confirmed that the small facility would permit overnight parking. I know that they close a gate at the entrance at night.

Dave K

**News** from  
the **forum**





From 'Goose' Gossman on 7-27-2017 at 7:40am:

Catalina Cruising Continuation. No SoCal folks at Avalon, I'll catch them at Two Harbors.

[The CCC is apparently what you do after Cruiser Challenge. We'll call it a **CCCCC!** –Ed.]



**Hey!** When was the last time you made a backup of the data on your computer?



I'm not saying that anyone's computer recently crashed and all the Cruiser Challenge data had to be restored, but...

Do yourself a favor and make a backup right now. Go on! The newsletter will still be here when you've finished.

You don't know how?! Windows and MacOS both have backup software built-in. Do an Internet search for "Backup Windows 10" or "Backup MacOS". –Ed.



## 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 can join us on sails in person or vicariously through our stories. Annual dues are \$25 per family.

Make checks payable to "Pat Brennan", or use PayPal to [pat-brennan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pat-brennan@sbcglobal.net), or try this link: <http://www.paypal.me/WPatrickBrennan/25> and include "Potter Yachter Dues" in the notes.



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*

