



The Potter Yachter

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

March 2015

Upcoming: Potter Yachter Season Opening
St. Patrick's Day Weekend Sail
Saturday, March 21st at 9:30 am



by Carl Sundholm

Sailing season is upon us. It is time to pull the boat out of storage, dust it off, figure out what needs fixing, and get it all together to get your boat out on the water. Time to rally the troops and set sail with the tide.

Come kick off the 2015 sailing season with the Potter Yachters on Saturday, March 21st for the Redwood City/St. Patrick's Day weekend Sail. Let's meet at the [Redwood City Marina](#) at 9:30 a.m. Given the tides, and depending on weather conditions, we will either sail out onto S.F. Bay heading for the [Old Railroad Bridge](#) by the Dumbarton Bridge to anchor and picnic there, or if the weather is crappy and the bay is too choppy, then we will sail in the protection of Redwood Creek and possibly some slough exploration, all to be decided at the Captain's meeting before we set sail. Listen on Channel 68 in case conditions call for an en-route change of plans. Sailors should (St. Pat's continued on page 5)

Also in this issue:

Commodore's Corner	Page 2
Boat and Trailer Prep.....	Page 3
Sailing Event Safety Guidelines ..	Page 4
Events on the Horizon	Page 4
Upcoming: Oakland Estuary	Page 6



The Commodore's Corner

By Rob Sampson

One of the reasons I got into boating and then sailing was to explore the south of San Francisco Bay. I had been doing a lot of walking on the shore, but you can't really see much or get close because of all the marshlands. I first started out with a motorized kayak and then got my Potter 14. The Potter is great for shallow water exploring. You have multiple modes of propulsion, you can get into very shallow water and you have a cabin if you decide to stay for a while.

The south bay is a fascinating place. In the middle of Silicon Valley and only a few miles from the Facebook and Google headquarters, you can feel like you're in a wild and remote place. I've sometimes sailed for hours without seeing a single other person. There are lots of migratory birds and sometimes hundreds of harbor seals during breeding season. Who knew there were still ghost towns in Silicon Valley and the wreck of a World War 1 destroyer? There is an arterial network of sloughs and channels to explore and get lost in.

Most of us know of nice places to explore near where we live. One great thing about being a member of the Potter Yachters is discovering other members' favorite places to sail and explore.

See you out there,
Rob



It's the Start of Another Sailing Season

Prepping the Boat, Trailer, and Sailor

By Phil Marcelis

As the season begins and you're busily cleaning up the boat, don't forget the trailer. Consider repacking the bearings and checking the condition of the tires (including the spare). Read *Snatched From the Maw of the Storm* ([PY March 2008](#), Page 3) and *View From the Side of the Road* ([PY June 2008](#), Page 4) for lessons learned from horror stories of good trailer bearings gone bad. Has the tongue jack rusted solid, yet? Shoot some grease in there, if you're lucky enough that it's still working.

If you're anything like me, you probably take your engine for granted but you always expect it to start on the first pull. Now would be a good time to service that puppy. You'll thank yourself later for changing the impeller, spark plug, engine oil, gear oil, and fuel filter. And, since you're at the chandlery anyway, you may as well get some Sta-Bil to put in the tank and fill up with fresh gas. Many Potter Yachters have reported that their engine problems never came back after adding Sta-Bil every season, so it may be a good preventive measure.

There's no way we can expect to have a comprehensive checkout list in the newsletter, but there are a massive number of documents on the Internet which can prove useful:

The Coast Guard publishes a Boater's Guide:

<http://www.uscgboating.org/images/420.PDF>

The Division of Boating and Waterways offers a free boating safety correspondence course:

<http://www.dbw.ca.gov/BoaterInfo/BSClassesAndCourses.aspx>

...and includes the book online: <http://www.dbw.ca.gov/PDF/DBWBoatCourse.pdf>

It's a good idea to let someone know where you're going and when you'll be back with one of the myriad Float Plans you'll find on the Internet:

<http://www.dbw.ca.gov/PDF/FloatPlanForm.pdf>

or <http://www.coastalboating.net/Resources/Tools/FloatPlan.html>

Once you've assured yourself that you and your boat are ready for a season of sailing, sign up for a free **Vessel Safety Check** and get reassurance from someone trained to spot problems: <http://cgaux.org/vsc/>

Fair Winds and see you on the water! - 🚩



Terry Gotcher forwarded an article about Woodward Reservoir from the Manteca Bulletin. It says Woodward could be closed to surface water recreation in the coming months due to the continuing drought. Water reserves have been steadily dwindling. New Melones, for example, is designed to hold 2.42 million acre feet of water, but since 2012 the levels have gone from 1.975 million to 1.624 million to 1.047 million and in January 2015 hit 556,000 acre feet, which is no longer enough to operate the Stanislaus River. We may need another venue for June 6th. See the article at: <http://www.mantecabulletin.com/section/1/article/119974/>

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>



Participation in Potter Yachter Sailing Events

Recommended Gear and Safety Equipment Guidelines

For Potter Yachter sails, we recommend that you bring the necessary gear in working order to ensure that you are able to control your vessel under the conditions at hand. We further suggest that you bring sufficient safety equipment to deal with adverse circumstances and meet applicable laws and United States Coast Guard regulations. Our guidelines for gear and safety equipment include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. U.S.C.G. approved Personal Flotation Device for each person (Type I, II, III, or V)
2. U.S.C.G. approved Visual Distress Signals (e.g. flares, etc.)
3. U.S.C.G. approved efficient Sound-Producing Device (e.g. Air Horn, etc.)
4. U.S.C.G. approved B-1 type hand portable fire extinguisher.
5. U.S.C.G. approved throwable device (e.g. boat cushion, ring or horseshoe buoy).
6. Working Motor (with sufficient clean gas)
7. Tow Line (150 feet)
8. Marine VHF Radio
9. Anchor, chain, and 250 feet of line, sufficient to secure the vessel
10. First Aid Kit
11. Manual Bilge Pump and Bailing Bucket

Sailing can be a dangerous activity so please be careful, be prepared, and be safe.

Vice Commodore

Carl Sundholm



Caveat: The Potter Yachters are an informal, non-litigious, sailing club. Therefore, participation in any Potter Yachter event constitutes agreement to assume the risk of injury or damages arising out of that event as it concerns the Potter Yachters and their members, and an agreement to waive any claims against the club and its members relating thereto.



Club Events on the Horizon

- Mar. 21 (Sat) St. Patrick's Day Sail/Dinner at Peninsula Yacht Club (*Carl*)
easy to intermediate, depending on how far out into the Bay we go and on how windy it is; this may be our last chance to enjoy the Peninsula Yacht Club in Redwood City
- Apr. 11 (Sat) Oakland Estuary Sail and [Strictly Sail Boat Show](#) Apr. 9-12 (*Pat*)
easy sailing around the protected estuary; launch at Grand St. ramp where parking is free but you may have to get a spot on the street; some folks overnight at [OYC](#) during the show
- Apr. 18 (Sat-Sun) Benicia Sail with overnight option (*Goose*)
easy to intermediate, depending upon the winds and destination; overnight possible at dock or at anchor for individuals who choose to; plentiful parking and nice ramp

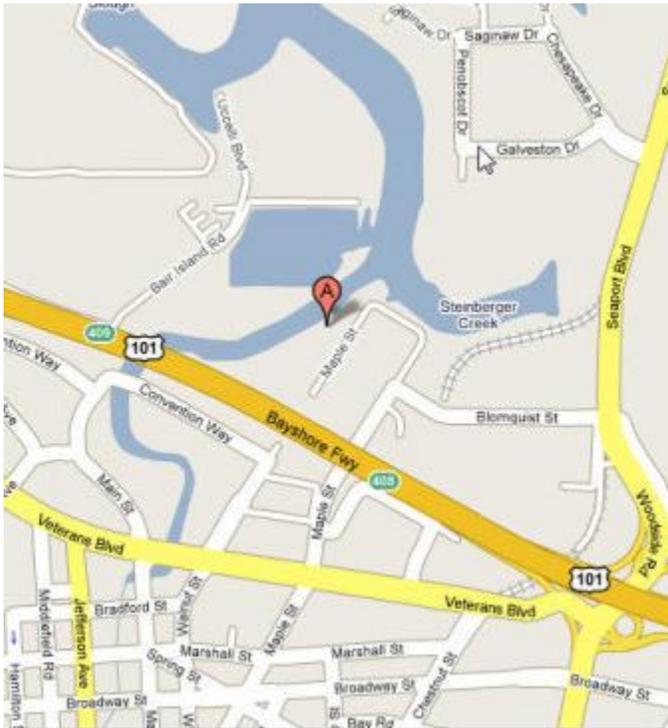
(St. Pat's continued from page 1)

bring a picnic lunch and anything else necessary to anchor out.

That evening at 7:00 pm, the Peninsula Yacht Club is inviting the Potter Yachters to their Saint Patrick's dinner, music, and optional dancing. Dinner runs \$12 for adults, \$6 for children under 13. These events have been really fun and we're not sure how much longer Docktown will be around, so be sure to attend if you can. The Peninsula Yacht Club is located at 1536 Maple Street, Redwood City, CA 94063, inside Docktown Marina. Phone number (650) 369-4410. If you wish to stay overnight, docking is available at Docktown; please call PYC Port Captain Edward Stancil at (650) 771-1945 for information and input. - 



Reminder: Participation in Potter Yachter events constitutes agreement to assume risk of injury or damage and is subject to the guidelines published on page 4 in this newsletter.



Directions to Peninsula Yacht Club

From Highway 101 South bound:

Take the Whipple Road Exit, and continue down Veterans Blvd. until you reach the Maple Street stop light. Turn left, and cross over the 101 freeway, pass the Redwood City Police Department on your left. Follow the street as it curves left twice. After the last hook and it looks like the road straightens, jog slightly to the right, over a large speed bump, and between two fenced in areas. Turn abruptly left, and continue 100 yards to the club, look for pedestrians and our water tower.

From Highway 101 heading North:

Take the Seaport/Woodside Road Exit. Then head East (towards the Bay and East Bay hills). Follow this street to the first stop light. Turn left on to Blomquist Blvd, and follow this street across the two railroad tracks to where it dead ends into Maple Street. Turn right, follow Maple street as it curves left. Two hundred yards later, the road will straighten. You jog slightly to the right, between two fenced in areas, and over a large speed bump. Turn abruptly left, and continue 100 yards to the club, slowing to look for pedestrians, and our water tower.



The PYC of Redwood City, CA is hosting its annual Potter Yachterfest and St. Patrick's Day dinner March 21st, 2015 at 7pm. Ramp access at Docktown. Docking is available for 5 days before and after the event at no charge for the first 30. Contact PYC Port Captain Edward Stancil at 650-771-1945. We would appreciate an RSVP for the dinner. Special incentive for those who have towed their boat over 500 miles to reach the event, it is \$250 to be divided amongst those who come this far. This should get snow shovels out!! - Helen Horn

Upcoming: Saturday, April 11th, 2015

Oakland Estuary Daysail

by Pat Brennan

As in the past, the Oakland Estuary day sail is the same weekend as the [Pacific "Strictly Sail" boat show](#) at Jack London Square, Oakland. The boat show runs from Thursday through Sunday.

This has always been a pretty undisciplined event, but here are some general guidelines. We will rig and launch at the [Grand Street launch facility](#) in Alameda opposite Coast Guard Island and plan to be underway between 9:00 and 10:00. We will sail to Jack London Square and attempt our traditional Potter Yachter parade by the show before breaking for lunch. You are urged to fly a Potter burgee and an ensign if you have them and also be prepared to make some noise with your horns as we pass the Strictly Sail docks. Instructions and guidance, if any, will be broadcast on Channel 68.

The most popular place for lunch is [Quinn's Lighthouse](#) in Oakland opposite Coast Guard Island. There is also the Rusty Pelican [now the [Pasta Pelican](#) – Ed.] opposite Jack London Square. Both have guest docks. Some may decide to continue on out to the Bay. Keep your VHF tuned to Ch. 68 and let us know where you are going if you leave the main group. In the afternoon, after sailing, quite a few will head over to the boat show followed by a visit to the [Oakland Yacht Club](#) bar. Ken Lange of [International Marine](#) has for the last few years hosted a reception at the Potter Yachter booth on Saturday afternoon. Nothing has been announced so far, but if we learn of anything we will let you know by email or in the West Wight Potter [Forum on the Trailer Sailor](#) website.



If anyone would like to stay overnight and continue sailing on Sunday, OYC can probably accommodate them with a slip. Potter Yachters have always been welcome at OYC so feel free to call the club to reserve a slip.

Tides and currents are not of real concern on the Estuary, but it is advisable to keep in the channel while heading for Quinn’s because there are many snags close to Coast Guard Island.



Directions to Grand St. Ramp, Alameda
Take I-880 toward Oakland/Alameda:
Exit at 23rd Street.
Follow the “Alameda” signs to the Park Street Bridge.
Cross the bridge.
Turn Right at the second light, Clement Street.
Go straight on Clement until it ends and then,
Turn Right on Grand Street.
Continue to parking lot and ramp

Grand Street has two well-maintained ramps and a parking lot. Both the ramp and parking are free.

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Secretary/Treasurer: Pat Brennan pat-brennan@sbcglobal.net ComPac Legacy, #1, <i>Latis</i>		Website: www.potter-yachters.org

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*

