



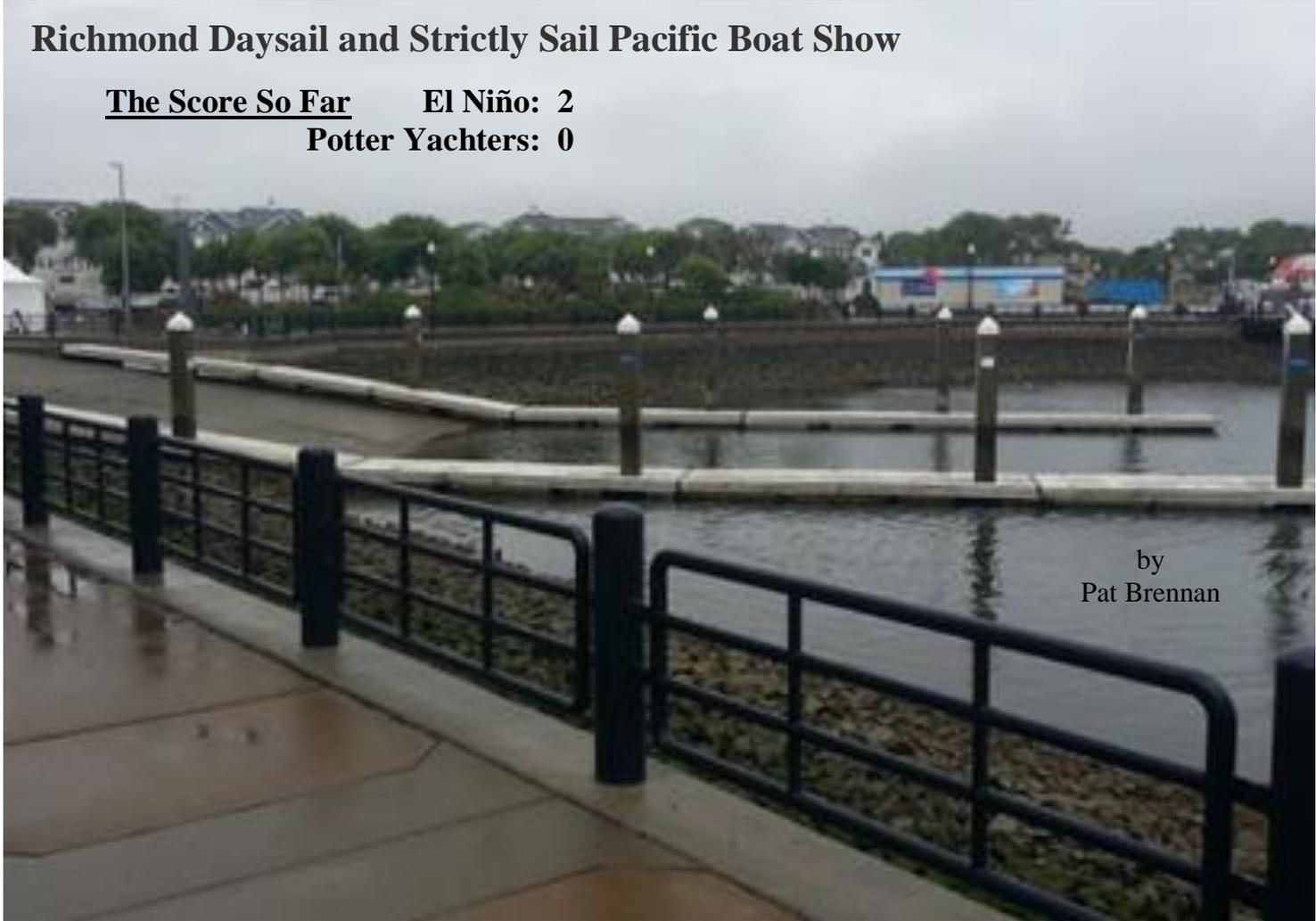
# The Potter Yachter

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

May 2016

## Richmond Daysail and Strictly Sail Pacific Boat Show

**The Score So Far**      **El Niño: 2**  
**Potter Yachters: 0**



by  
Pat Brennan

I had high hopes for the day sail scheduled in conjunction with the Strictly Sail Pacific boat show in Richmond but there was a light but steady rain falling Saturday morning. Being a fair weather sailor, but also sail host for the event, I set out for Richmond Marina Yacht Harbor without my boat. When I arrived a little before 8:00 AM no one was rigging in the parking lot and the launch ramp was deserted.

There were some Potter Yachters who had arrived the day before tied up in the marina. Phil Marcelis' P19, Rob Sampson's Vagabond, and Jerry Barrilleaux's *Sunshine*. Dan Phy was aboard his Monty 15, *Six*. He had neglected to put up a proper boom tent and his cockpit was too wet to be comfortable so we descended on Dick Herman, who was nearby in his ComPac Suncat with a watertight boom tent keeping the cockpit dry. The three of us sat in *Muddy Duck* drinking coffee, telling sea stories and watching the steady rain until 10:00 when the show opened.

The exhibits were in the "Craneway Pavilion", part of the old Ford assembly plant right on the water, and we were delivered to the front door (See *Richmond* continued on page 6)

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# The Commodore's Corner

By Rob Sampson

April was a busy month for the Potter Yachters. First we had the Richmond/Strictly Sail weekend on April 8 to 10. Another rainy weekend courtesy of El Nino. Saturday morning was a washout for sailing but we all decided to go to the boat show instead. It's nice to have a backup sailing related activity available when the weather doesn't cooperate. The weather was better on Sunday and some Potters managed to go out sailing for a while.

The next weekend was the Benicia sail. The weather was the opposite of the week before, sunny and warm. Several of us stayed Friday and Saturday at the guest dock at Benicia Marina and lots more showed up Saturday morning at the 9th Street launch ramp. (16 boats and Steve Potter on a wind surfer) Sailing was great in light to medium winds.

April 30th was the Moss Landing Sail. I missed that one, so I'm waiting for the write-up too. Reports are that the conditions were "sporting".

Don't forget the Delta Overnight coming up on the weekend of May 14-15. The Delta is a fun place to sail, and Spindrift Marina is a nice place to stay overnight, with the restaurant/Bar right there. I'm looking forward to Conch Shell Shrimp Cocktails, and a Steak and Eggs breakfast.

Hope to see you out on the water,  
Rob — 

Clockwise (from top left): Phil, Dick, Pat, and Guy in front of *Aurora*; Rob gets his picture with Bob Bitchin' as Phil gets captured by Bob's camera; Goose, Dave, Bud, Rob, Phil, and Dan dine at Union Hotel in Benicia; the official boat show story from Dick Herman: "this cute blonde insisted on tattooing us! We didn't complain."



# Report: Potter Yachters Owned Carquinez Strait Great Benicia Weather for Potters!

by *Goose Gossman*

The weekend of April 17 was the annual Benicia sail, hosted by my wife Gail and me (Goose). The clouds and rain of the previous two outings had everyone itching for some water time. 16 boats and one sailboard were treated to Benicia's "usual" 75 degree weather and clear skies this time of year. About half the fleet spent the weekend, staying at the guest dock of the Benicia Marina. Those who arrived Friday were treated to steady 10-12 knot winds, coming atypically from the North. Bud (P19) and Jim (ComPac 19) sped down from Rio Vista with the help of a strong ebb tide. At close to thirty miles, they made it in just over 4 hours, sailing the whole way.

Heroes! (Note: this isn't "usual", as normally the westerly winds set up short chop on the nose for a good part of the trip, and the Delta Breeze – which starts in Benicia – regularly builds to 25+ knots by the time it reaches Rio Vista.) They joined Dan Phy, Phil M, Rob Sampson, and I for dinner at the Union Hotel, open since 1850.

Saturday morning boats started showing up at the 9th street launch ramp near our house, and after a doughnut-laden skipper's meeting (thanks



*Cat's Meow leads Ralph and Al (MacGregor 26x)*

Don!), we attempted to sail past the Carquinez Bridge to the remnants of the Mothball fleet. Well, the wind didn't show up as promised, but we were still able to sail at about three knots, which would have sufficed to reach our destination at about five miles away. Unfortunately, the tide tables LIED, and instead of a favorable flood current, we were faced with a solid 2+ knot ebb... resulting in a treadmill experience. Still, the scenery was awesome, and the time on the water left nothing to complain about.



*Phil's Family Time chasing down Don's Sarah Anne*



*Steve Potter sports the Potter logo on his sail with Rob downwind on his Vagabond*

Back at the marina, we dominated the hot, sun-drenched docks. After unwinding, everyone headed over to my house, where some unwound even more. Big hugs to my wife Gail for laying out a sumptuous PY'er spread of pizza and lasagna, and topped off with Bud's wife Bobbie's famous brownies.

Sunday morning was beautiful. After strolling over to a local cafe for breakfast, we decided to head up to Napa in *ReGale* for lunch with Tri Chi Charlie from the Messabout. His house is right on the River so we powered up there at 10k, having to forego some terrific sailing conditions to make the day trip possible. I forgot to look at my new chart-plotter, or

## Club Events on the Horizon

[Event Calendar](#)

- May 14 (Sat-Sun) Delta Sail from B&W and Overnight at Spindrift (*Jerry B*)  
*usually easy but intermediate when very windy; overnight on boat moored to docks*
- June 4 (Sat-Sun) Woodward Overnight (*Kevin C*)  
*easy to somewhat intermediate if windy; overnight in boats moored on the beach, or bring a sleeping bag & tent and camp on the beach*
- June 18 (Sat-Sun) Union Valley Reservoir Overnight (*David W*)  
*winds mostly from southwest; wide launch ramp; anchor or beach near campgrounds for just the cost of launching*
- July 23 (Sat-Sun) [Cruiser Challenge 17](#) (*Goose & Dick H*)  
*runs the gamut from easy to advanced, depending on winds and course; overnight at dock*

remember what Charlie warned about a 'salt pond'....so of course, we managed to miss a turn and go several miles until we learned that *ReGale* needs more than six inches of water to float, even without a keel. After a quick wading session to pivot the boat, we managed to get back on track. (I need a stainless prop.) After Charlie made us lunch, we all hopped



Gathering at Goose's place after a day's sailing



Cooling down in the shade of *Nighthawk* and *ReGale*

into *ReGale* to go to the Napa Marina and boatyard for ice cream. It's a really interesting place, and definitely should be a future overnight destination for the PY'ers. With time flying, we dropped Charlie off at his dock and blasted back to Benicia. Against the current, naturally! Really fun weekend. — 🚤



Potters packed into 150-feet of Benicia's B-Dock



Bud handles the docking situation



*ReGale* powers on plane, giving Goose plenty to smile about

Photo: Don Person

Attendees: Harry Gordon (P14), Larry Tkach (Peep Hen), Bud (P19), Eric Z (P19), Pete (Balboa 21), David and Sharon Soule (Balboa 21), Ralph and Al (Mac 26x), Dan Phy and Rafael Davidson (M15), Steve Potter (Windsurfer), Dave Bacon (P15), Jim and Cindy (Compac 19), Dana S (P15), Phil (P19), Mike Higgins (Catboat), Don and Marthe (P15), Danny (M15), Goose (P18).

### Cruiser Challenge



Cruiser Challenge 17 is quickly approaching!

Registration is OPEN.

Go to:

[CruiserChallenge.com](http://CruiserChallenge.com)

Upcoming: June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016

# Woodward Reservoir Overnight

Sail Host: Kevin Crowder

!!! Remember to print the inspection permit !!!



Woodward is a great place to bring your water toys, kids, sailboards, kayaks, etc. And, don't forget some sunscreen and bug repellent. Weather is typically warm to hot with great sailing winds. Construction is finished so camping is allowed again. We camp about 10 yards from the shore. Some sleep in tents, some in boats, and some in RV's. Restrooms are pit toilets at the campsite, and you can commute to flushers & showers, if you want. No potable water at the campsite, so bring your own. Portable tables and chairs for the Potter campfire are a good idea.

Nothing is for sale in the park, so if you need it, bring it with you. Count on at least **\$27 per night in fees.**

**Launch at Bayview Boat Ramp.** It's a short walk to "Camp Potter" and you will need to park your vehicle at the campsite overnight. Deputies patrol for license plates and DO leave "notes". Quagga Mussels are not welcome here, so make sure you print the [self-inspection permit](#) ahead of time. (See <http://bit.ly/1rHeGX3>) Camp at [Area T by Pelican Cove](#), this area has a nice stretch of shore for our boats and provides good wind direction for landing and departing from the shore. This is the same location we've been at for many years. Campsites are first come first served, so if any early birds can arrive Friday (or even Thursday!) to plop some camp chairs down and stake a claim, it will really help out.

**Pot Luck and Happy Hour.** Depending on the wind, heat, mood, we start the pot luck with a happy hour(s!). We'll shoot for 6:30 PM. If you are early or late, don't fret... we'll still eat your stuff. See you there! — 🍷

Participation in Potter Yachter events is subject to the guidelines published in [March 2016 PYN](#), page 3.

**DIRECTIONS:** Woodward Reservoir, CA.  
 Take 580 East/205 East to Tracy, continue on I-5 North, then take 120 East to Manteca and follow it through Escalon, finally turning left at 26-Mile Road. Woodward Reservoir is located at: 14528 26-Mile Road, north of Oakdale off Hwy 120. Look for **Area T**.



## Officer's Club

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 P-19, *Dagmar*

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 P-15, #2636, *Ah Tiller the Fun*

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 P-19, #629, *Riptide*

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**Secretary/Treasurer:**

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 ComPac Legacy, #1, *Latis*

**Website:**

www.potter-yachters.org

(Richmond continued from page 1)

by shuttle bus. The new venue for the boat show seems to work well. Exhibitors we talked to assured us that business was brisk although the crowds seemed modest. Noticeably absent were International Marine and West Marine. We spent a couple of hours touring the exhibits and ran across quite a few boatless Potter Yachters – Goose Gossman and Gail, Dick Kautz and Francesca, Dave Bacon, Dave Norris . . . Dan Phy was accompanied by Guy Light, the purchaser of Jim Kirwan's Montgomery 15. Guy apparently was so impressed with our comradery and boating knowledge that he joined the Potter Yachters on the spot. We had a hearty lunch in the Assemble Restaurant located in one corner of the craneway building. It has a very industrial look owing to some old equipment left over from the Ford plant. After one more circuit of the exhibit we boarded another shuttle bus (this was a black party bus complete with flashing colored lights and music) and returned to the on-the-water part of the show. I took in all the floating gold-platers and departed for home. The rain had finally stopped by then and Phil Marcelis and Dan Phy actually got in a little sailing.



The Craneway Pavilion, with 45,000 square feet of space and an adjacent, 20,000-square-foot open-air patio, started off as part of a Ford Motor Co. assembly plant.

The [Ford Richmond Plant](#) was the largest assembly plant to be built on the West Coast and its conversion to wartime production during World War II aided the United States' war effort. The plant is part of the [Rosie the Riveter](#)/World War II Home Front [National Historic Park](#). Built in 1930 during the Great Depression, the assembly plant measures nearly 500,000 square feet. It is an outstanding example of 20th-century industrial architecture designed by architect Albert Kahn, known for his "daylight factory" design, which employed extensive window openings that became his trademark. The main building is composed of a two-story section, a single-story section, a craneway, a boiler house and a shed canopy structure over the railroad track.

The Richmond Ford Assembly Plant switched to assembling jeeps and to putting the finishing touches on tanks, half-tracked armored personnel carriers, armored cars and other military vehicles destined for the Pacific Theater. By July 1942, military combat vehicles began flowing into the Richmond Ford plant to get final processing before being transported out the deep-water channel to the war zones. Approximately 49,000 jeeps were assembled and 91,000 other military vehicles were processed here. [Search [self-guided](#) on the NPS.gov website for a tour with much more info. –Ed.]

After the war, the last Ford was assembled in February 1953, with the plant being closed in 1956. In 1989, the Loma Prieta earthquake severely damaged the plant. After the earthquake, the City of Richmond repaired and prepared the Ford Assembly building for rehabilitation. In 2008 the building's rehabilitation was completed. The craneway ("Craneway Pavilion") of the building is also used for banquets, weddings, and corporate events. — 



**Have you found the hidden message?** The hidden message in last year's June issue of the *Potter Yachter Newsletter* [see [PYN 2015-06](#)] was admittedly quite well-hidden. You had to be an "old-school" radio-type who recognizes Morse code. For those who are still befuddled and curious, go to page 4 in that issue and copy the row of slashes just above "Officer's Club", then paste it into the word processor of your choice. [Send me email](#) to let me know whether you can decode it or not. –Ed.



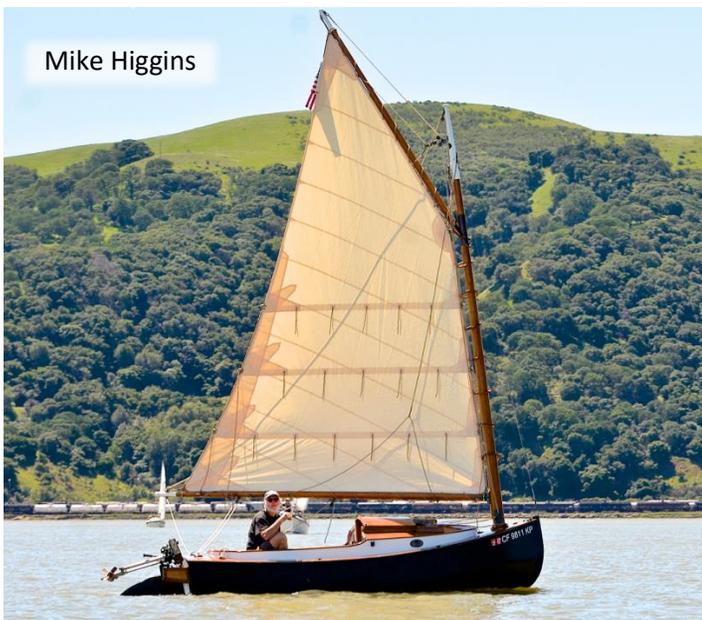
Steve Potter



Dana Suverkrop



Larry Tkach



Mike Higgins



Rob Sampson

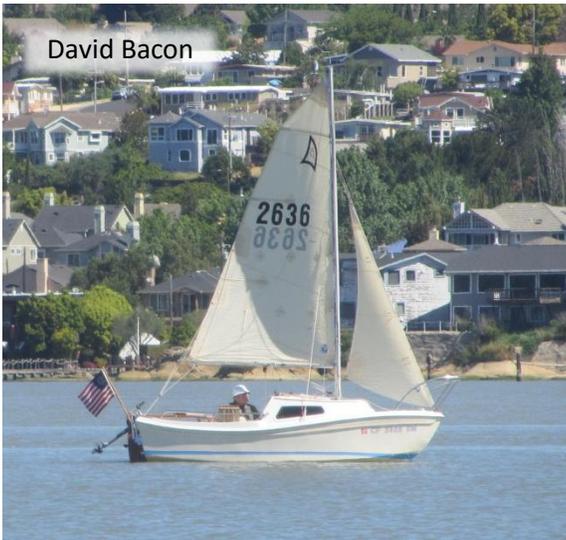
Photos from Benicia  
by Phil Marcelis



Don takes photos with Marthe as crew on *Sarah Anne*



David Soule runs a spinnaker on *Nighthawk*



David Bacon



Mike, Goose, and Bud



Pete & Julian



Sea Gypsy

Photos from Benicia

by Rob Sampson



Harry Gordon enjoys Carquinez Strait on *Manatee*



Part of the gathering at Goose's place as seen from his cupola

### Union Valley Reservoir Sail

Union Valley Sail and Overnight is still scheduled for June 18<sup>th</sup>. The campground doesn't open until Memorial Day, so nobody is available to answer questions. Prices haven't even been decided by the operators, yet. David White will go to the lake to make sure it's full enough for us. Assuming all is well, he'll plan on arriving Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup> and staying through June 20<sup>th</sup>. There will be the usual potluck on Saturday night around 6:30-ish (Potter Time).

More detailed information will be published in the next issue of the *Potter Yachter Newsletter*.

### 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>

### Sailing Get-Togethers in Rio Vista.

Several Potter Yachters are putting their boats in at Rio Vista for what seems like regularly occurring, impromptu sails organized by Bud. They generally launch from Delta Marina at 10am. Your sailing plans can be announced in *The Potter Yachter*, too! Just send your info to the editor: [sail@marcelis.com](mailto:sail@marcelis.com)

## 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*

