



The Potter Yachter

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

September 2016

Report: Richmond Sail

by Phil Marcelis



Goose and Larry on the distinctive yellow-hulled *ReGale* with Mark and Cynthia in the foreground on *Half Fool* (Sun Cat 17)

Some of the Potter Yachter contingent chose to show up for this year's Richmond Sail a little earlier than the officially published date of Saturday, August 20th. I thought I was the first to show up on Friday morning with my P-19, *Family Time*, since all was quiet and calm in the parking lot when I got there at 7 a.m. But when I talked with the harbormaster when the office opened at 9 a.m., I found out that Dan Phy had already had his Monty 15, *Six*, there for the night. Jerry B showed up to sail his P-19, *Sunshine*, with his friend and crewmember, Jose, just about the time I was putting my boat into the water. And we were joined shortly thereafter by Eric Zilbert (P-19, *Riptide*), Bruce McDevitt (P-19, *Senior Center*), Mark & Cynthia (Sun Cat, *Half Fool*), Bud (P-19, *Cat's Meow*), and Goose (modified HMS-18, *ReGale*) for a total of 8 boats.

Friday was windy already by 9 a.m. and was still quite windy through the evening. In typical Potter Yachter style, we all sort of sailed at our own pace with the majority of the group eventually meeting up in the evening at [Salute](#) (one of two restaurant within walking distance) and those who hadn't already had a bite to eat from [Bubbaloo Café](#) (the other restaurant in the marina) had some dinner, while the others just enjoyed a drink, and we leisurely sat around chatting Friday night away.

We tried to make some plans for the next day, but that all fell apart as soon as the sun came up and it seemed like there was enough wind to go sailing. So a few of us started sailing out before 9 a.m., instead of waiting for the skipper's briefing at the traditional 10 a.m.

Just as it was on Friday, Saturday greeted us with plenty of wind, and what cloud cover (See [Richmond](#) continued on page 4)

Also in this issue:

Commodore's Corner.....	Page 2
Events on the Horizon.....	Page 2
Upcoming: Tomales Bay	Page 3
Call for Photo Submissions	Page 6
Upcoming: Moss Landing/Monterey..	Page 6
Potter Yachter Membership	Page 7



The Commodore's Corner

By Rob Sampson

As I write this I'm en-route up north for a few weeks cruising in Puget Sound with some of the usual suspects. I missed the Richmond sail due to business, and I also missed Lake Hennessey (High School Reunion weekend).

As we are starting to drift towards fall, I'm thinking about the sailing calendar for 2017. If you have any suggestions for new sailing venues, send me an email at py.commodore.rob@gmail.com with the suggestion.

Remember the Alameda to Clipper Cove sail on Saturday, September 10. Check out the demolition progress on the old Bay Bridge. Brace yourself for 3 events in October; Tomales Bay camp out on October 1-2, Moss Landing to Monterey Sail and Overnight on October 15-16 and the Delta Bridges Sail and Overnight on October 22-23. Be ambitious and do all 3!!

See you on the water,
Rob — 

Request for Sailing Venues

We'd like your input for the official *Sailing Event Schedule* of the 2017 sailing season.

If there's a new place you'd like to see on the calendar, send your suggestion to py.commodore.rob@gmail.com

We'll publish a proposed calendar and then agree on the official schedule at the club's annual meeting.



Here I am on the way to Puget Sound for a few weeks with ATUS

Club Events on the Horizon

[Event Calendar](#)

- Sept 10 (Sat) Alameda to Clipper Cove Picnic Sail (*Carl S*)
typically an easy day sail with a quick picnic at Clipper Cove, although it has been intermediate windy on occasion; free parking lot fills early, additional parking on street
- Oct 1 (Sat-Sun) Tomales Bay Sail and Overnight (*Eric Z*)
generally easy, often windy; overnight at anchor, on beach, or in tents; we have group camp permit for tents and fire; parking fills up early; sporadic cellphone service; great family sail
- Oct 15 (Sat-Sun) Moss Landing to Monterey Overnight and Return Sail (*Mike S*)
open ocean sail about 16nm (3-6 hours); only for experienced sailors; overnight at docks
- Oct 22 (Sat-Sun) Delta Bridges Sail and Overnight (*Bud K*)
generally easy, perhaps intermediate on windy occasions; overnight moored at docks

Upcoming: October 1, 2016

Tomales Bay Sail & Overnight

Sail Host: Eric Zilbert

The Tomales Bay Potter Yachter Trip is scheduled for the weekend of October 1 & 2, 2016. We will launch from the ramp at Miller County Park [by 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).

[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 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.

Directions from East Bay:

- I-980 east toward CA-24
- Merge I-580 west toward San Francisco
- Merge on 101 North
- Exit Washington Street, Petaluma
- Head west on Washington
- Washington becomes Bodega Ave
- Bodega Ave becomes Valley Ford Rd
- Turn left at Tomales-Petaluma Road
- Turn Left on Highway 1
- Miller Boat Ramp is at 23240 Hwy 1



ACCOMMODATIONS

[Check the tides](#), but it should be fine for overnight beaching. No permit is needed to anchor out or sleep on your boat while beached, but you're required to have a porta-potti. (Rangers have been known to do inspections.) This year, we've reserved a group permit for [boat-in tent camping](#) so anyone who wants to pitch a tent on the beach can do so.

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. *Cellphone service can be unpredictable in the area.*

DINING

BBQ Potluck on Saturday! For before and after, there are restaurants south of Miller Park. 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.

For more information you can call: Eric Zilbert: 530-757-6783 (eves) or 530-665-0698 (cell). — 

Other Useful Numbers:

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

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

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

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

Officer's Club

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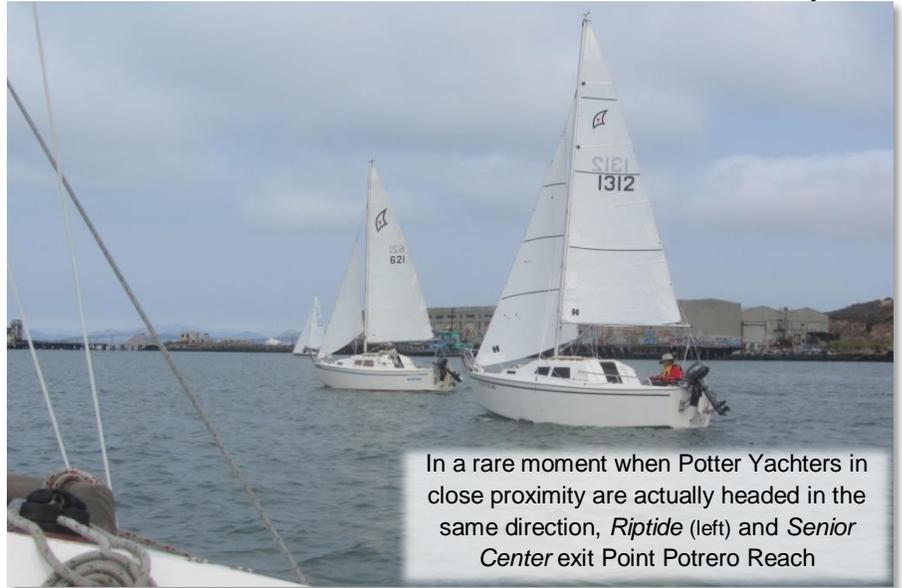
www.potter-yachters.org

(*Richmond* continued from page 1)

there was at the outset eventually burned off during the day.

Eric, Bruce, and I made our way out Point Potrero Reach, testing the current to see where we all might end up that day. Bud was joined by his son and grand-daughter for a bit of sailing lessons, and the rest of the fleet joined us. Eric let the current speed him ever closer toward Red Rock, while the fleet spent a few hours trying to get to Angel Island. Alas, the current and winds were not cooperative, and only Bud (who had dropped the fore-sail and started his engine) made it there.

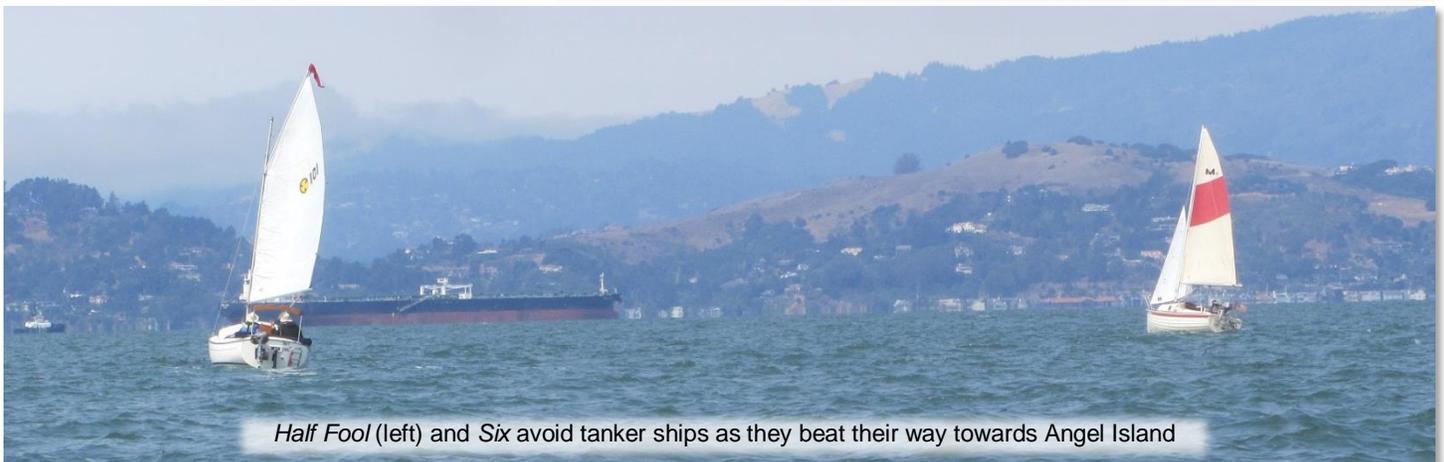
Goose, with Larry Tkach as crew, did a great job speeding around on his souped-up *ReGale* to keep tabs on all the Potter Yachters. Then Jerry B announced over the radio that there was a wine-tasting venue calling his name, and one by one, folks made the determination that it would be more fun to sail with the conditions than try to fight them. I didn't want to start my engine but still almost made it to Angel Island (just close enough for a picture) before finally turning around. The up-wind/up-current slog that had taken



In a rare moment when Potter Yachters in close proximity are actually headed in the same direction, *Riptide* (left) and *Senior Center* exit Point Potrero Reach



Jerry B on *Sunshine* with *Cat's Meow* near Brickyard Cove



Half Fool (left) and *Six* avoid tanker ships as they beat their way towards Angel Island

hours to accomplish, slipped under the boat in the opposite direction in what seemed like minutes by comparison.

Back at the docks, it was time for a beer as we discussed dinner option. Since **Salute** was the only place open on a Saturday, I had the harbormaster enable my slip key for the parking lot gate and disconnected my trailer while the others continued drinking their beer.

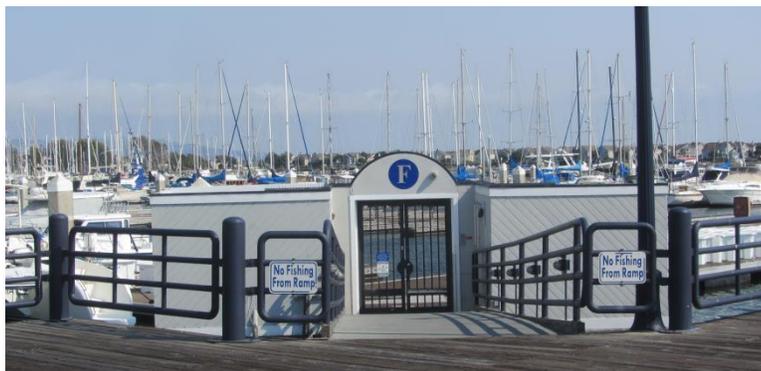


The view of Ayala Cove on Angel Island

The Potter Yachter

A short time later, we found ourselves at [The Up & Under Pub and Grill](#), which turned out to have friendly staff, lots of character, and great food.

Early the next morning, I pulled my boat out and derigged so I could get home for a family BBQ. Some of the other Potter Yachters enjoyed a nice Sunday morning sail before heading home. It had been another successful weekend sail with the Potter Yachters. — 



Goose powers around *Sunshine* near Brickyard Cove



Larry (in light blue), 'Goose', Eric, and me

Windy Saturday morning at Richmond's Marina Bay harbormaster's office and launch ramp



The Golden Gate Bridge seen from the area of Southampton Shoal looking through Raccoon Strait

Upcoming: October 15 & 16, 2016 Moss Landing to Monterey Sail and Overnight

Sail Host: Mike Swartz

Here's another chance to gather with fellow Potterers in Monterey. If you haven't been there with the Potter Yachters, you don't know what you're missing, so plan on joining us for a weekend of good food, good sailing and good friends. Weather permitting, we will have a group sail from Moss Landing to Monterey on Saturday the 15th with an overnight at the docks in Monterey. We'll sail back on Sunday the 16th if the weather holds, otherwise we'll figure out a way to shuttle our trailers from Moss Landing to retrieve and derig in Monterey.

We'll plan on gathering in Moss Landing early on Saturday, Oct. 15th so we can all be rigged by 10 a.m. With an eye on the tide and current, we'll exit the harbor somewhere between 10 or 11 a.m. for an arrival in Monterey around 4 p.m.

There's plenty of parking in Moss Landing, but the [fee schedule](#) is a bit confusing. Once you decide what to pay, you put exact change into the "iron ranger" using the envelopes provided. Our best guess so far is that it's about \$35 for launching and two days of parking. It's a long walk to the Harbor Master's office if you need to make change.

See the [August 2016 Potter Yachter](#) (page 10) if you want a recent, firsthand account of this trip.

Of course the option is always available for anyone who wants to launch at Monterey and sail out to greet us there. It should be said that Monterey Bay sailing can be challenging, so it's not recommended for beginners. Keep in mind that YOU are the final authority on whether you can make the trip, so study the chart, check on the weather, and be ready to drive your boat to Monterey, if necessary. Either way, we'll probably all meet up at the [English Pub](#) for dinner on Saturday night.

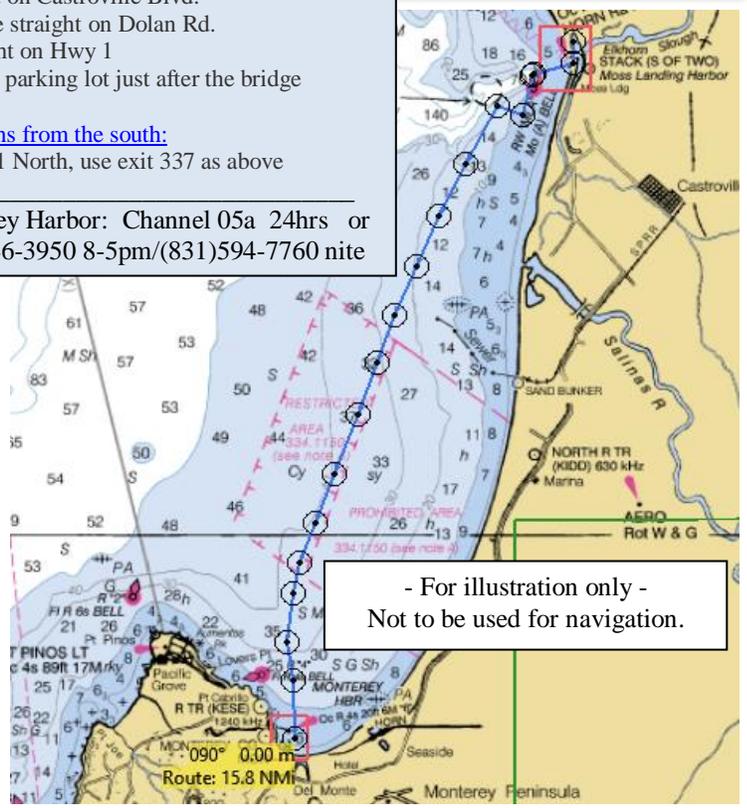
Looking forward to seeing you in Moss Landing! — 



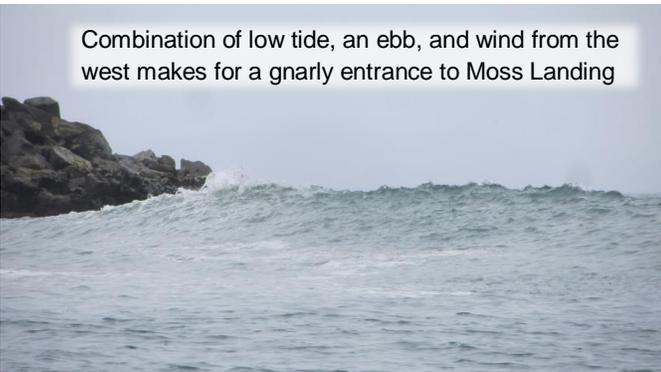
Directions from the north:
Take 101 South
Right on San Miguel Canyon Rd (exit 337)
Turn left on Castroville Blvd.
Continue straight on Dolan Rd.
Turn right on Hwy 1
Left into parking lot just after the bridge

Directions from the south:
Take 101 North, use exit 337 as above

Monterey Harbor: Channel 05a 24hrs or (831)646-3950 8-5pm/(831)594-7760 nite



- For illustration only -
Not to be used for navigation.



Combination of low tide, an ebb, and wind from the west makes for a gnarly entrance to Moss Landing

The [NOAA Chart for the area](#) is available online for free: <http://www.charts.noaa.gov/InteractiveCatalog/nrmc.shtml>



Dinner at the London Bridge Pub. photo: Phil M



An otter early in the morning in Monterey. photo: Phil M



Mike Swartz on *Burgundy Splash* photo: Don Person



The newer launch ramps at Moss Landing. photo: Phil M

Call for Photo Submissions!

If you have any particularly stunning photos of the Potter Yachters in action, please send them to me (the editor, sail@marcelis.com) or to Don Person.

We'll try to assemble this year's calendar if we get enough usable photos. We need pictures from each sail event. So don't hold back! Or this may be the year without an *Official Potter Yachter Calendar*.

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>

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, 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

Send your payment (with Pat Brennan
your name and address) to: 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

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*

