



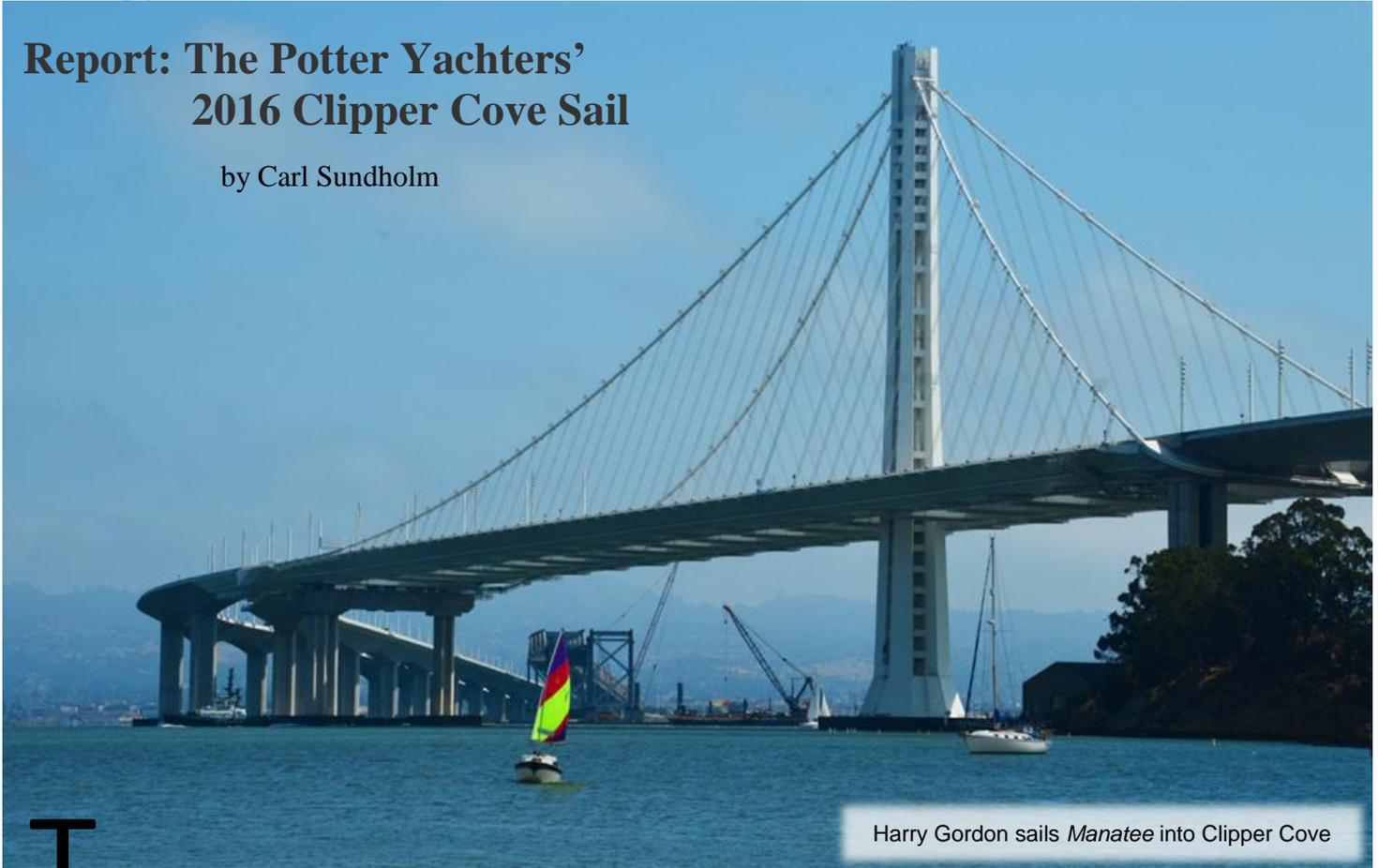
# The Potter Yachter

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

October 2016

## Report: The Potter Yachters' 2016 Clipper Cove Sail

by Carl Sundholm



Harry Gordon sails *Manatee* into Clipper Cove

**T**here is an old Swedish proverb: "Joy shared is twice the joy." And so it was with this year's Clipper Cove sail.

This year David Bardoff, a good friend of mine from high school and college, came along for the Clipper Cove Sail on *Dagmar*. David has always excelled at whatever he attempts, and sailing is no exception, so I enjoyed the freedom and relaxation of having the tiller in competent hands, and crewing for a change.

Phil Marcelis, who also similarly excels, sailed his West Wight Potter 19, *Family Time*, with Jude Hoffner, who recently completed some sailing classes and wanted to see how a Potter 19 handled first hand as he worked on deciding which boat to get. Another Potter Yachter in the making, no doubt.

It was good to see Oscar Koechlin who sailed on his Potter 15, *Bateau Ivre*, sailed with friend Steve Heimuli. Oscar had been crossing the Bay Bridge for years to go to work in San Francisco and every time had dreamt of the South Pacific when he saw quiet Clipper Cove underneath the bridge. On Wednesday morning he decided he finally would sail there for the first time with the Potter Yachters. His friend Steve, who is Tongan and has that Polynesian love of sailing and the sea, decided he'd like to come along. However, the first part of the sail (See *Clipper Cove* on page 6)

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## The Commodore's Corner

By Rob Sampson

We had a good cruise up north in Puget Sound with the 14th Annual Messabout. Potter Yachters who were there included Jim "Goose" Gossman, Dan Phy, Pat Brennan, Dick Herman, Don Person, Dick Galland and Dave Bacon along with John Chille, Tom Luque, Tom Whittingham, Jim Ferguson, Rick Ferguson, John Purdy, Dave Fetyko and Charles Jeremias.

I also attended the 2016 [Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival](#) which was sensory overload for anyone who likes boating or sailing. Lots of wooden boats of all sizes including many trailerable and home built boats. Some of us took a ride on the 133-foot gaff-rigged schooner "Adventuress" during the parade of boats on the last day of the boat show. This boat show is something you should try to attend at least once (or maybe many times) in your life.

Don't forget the last 2 "official" events on our calendar for the year, the Moss Landing to Monterey Sail and Overnight on Oct 15th-16th, and the Delta Bridges Sail and Overnight on Oct 22nd-23<sup>rd</sup>.

See you on the water,  
Rob — 



### Club Events on the Horizon

[Event Calendar](#)

- 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*

*The Potter Yachter*

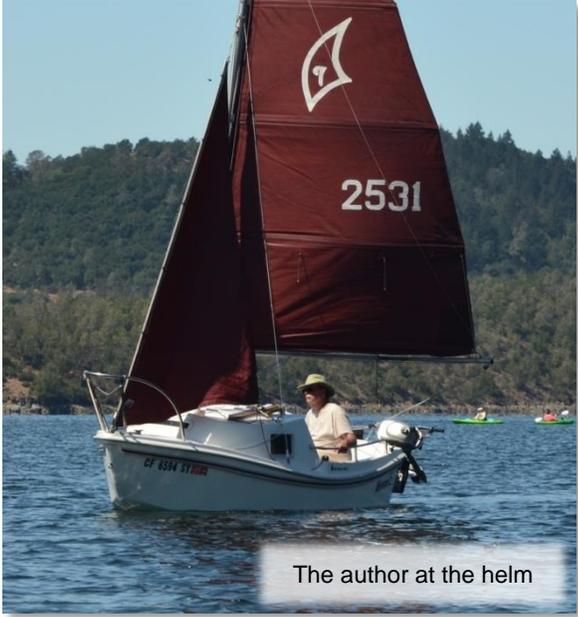
Report: The Yachters Enjoy A Lake

**Lake Hennessey Sail**

by Rich McDevitt; photos by Don Person unless noted

Five boats turned out for our relaxing lake sail at Lake Hennessey on Saturday, August 27th. Two P-15's: Don Person's *Sarah Anne* and Rich McDevitt's *Minnow*, and Harry Gordon's classic P-14 *Manatee*, an inflatable catamaran owned by Steve Potter, and Dave and Brenda's new-to-them Monty 15 on its first outing with the new owners. Carl Sundholm joined in as crew, and assisted Don with on-the-water photographer duty.

If you've never been here, this place might be worth the drive for you sometime. It's a very peaceful and serene lake, limited HP on the boats and best for smaller boats. This year for the first time the parking lot was full when I arrived. Apparently the word is out to fishermen and kayakers as to what a nice place



The author at the helm



At the boat ramp



Steve Potter

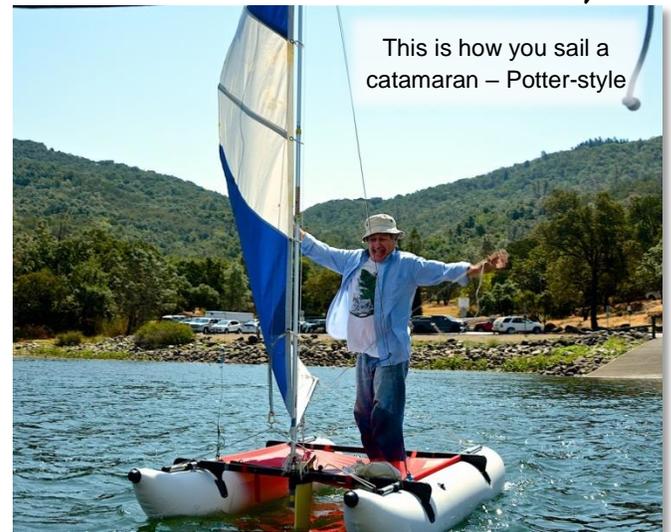
Request for Sailing Venues  
We'd like your input for the official *Sailing Event Schedule* of the 2017 sailing season. If there's a new place you'd like to see on the calendar, send your suggestion to [py.commodore.rob@gmail.com](mailto:py.commodore.rob@gmail.com)

Lake Hennessey is to spend time on the water. The kayakers all seem to be having fun but of the five fishermen I questioned, no one reported a single bite (that's probably why I stick to sailing; and fish at Safeway and Costco).



Brenda and Dave

The sun was bright but temperatures stayed in the very comfortable mid 80's with winds from 5 to 12 mph for much of the day. In spite of the mellow conditions we did manage to dismast Steve's catamaran but after Don towed Steve back to the ramp, Steve produced a backup sail and mast and returned to the water quickly. —



This is how you sail a catamaran – Potter-style



Rich and Carl



Steve Potter

Photos by Carl Sundholm

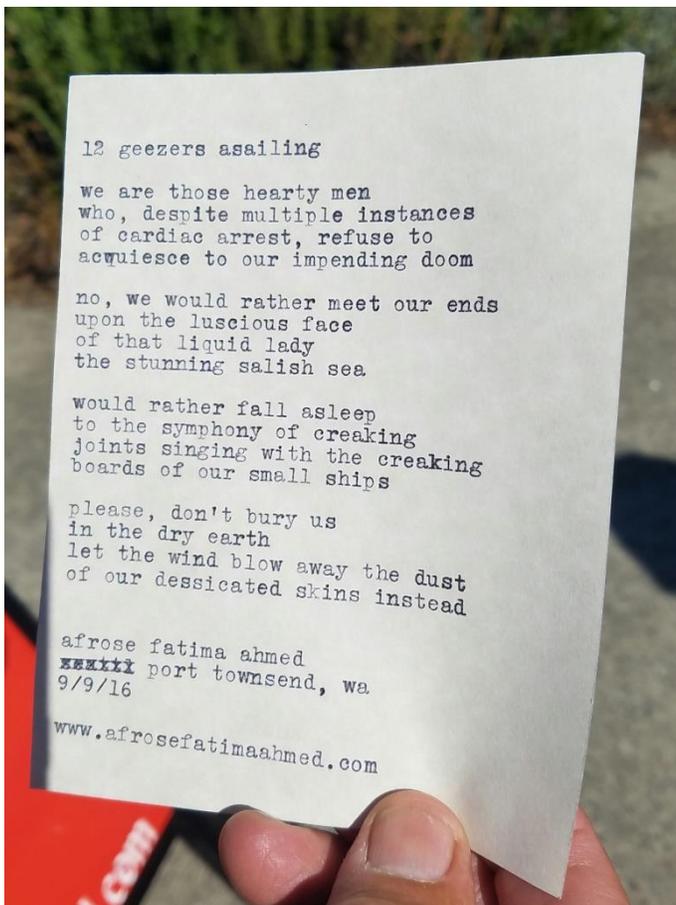


Don (left) and Harry

MA-XIV Photos by Rob Sampson



Dick Herman commissions a poem while in Port Ludlow



12 geezers assailing

we are those hearty men  
who, despite multiple instances  
of cardiac arrest, refuse to  
acquiesce to our impending doom

no, we would rather meet our ends  
upon the luscious face  
of that liquid lady  
the stunning salish sea

would rather fall asleep  
to the symphony of creaking  
joints singing with the creaking  
boards of our small ships

please, don't bury us  
in the dry earth  
let the wind blow away the dust  
of our dessicated skins instead

afrose fatima ahmed  
9/9/16 port townsend, wa  
www.afrosefatimaahmed.com



Upcoming: October 22, 2016  
**5<sup>th</sup> Annual 'Delta Bridges' Overnight**

Sail Host: Bud Kerner

**Come join the potter Yachters for a two day Delta sail, Oct. 22/23.**

The tides are somewhat against us, so we will do the same sail as last year. For those who don't remember or did not sail with us last year, we will launch at the Rio Vista launch ramp. We'll sail South to the Three Mile Slough Bridge and thru the slough to the San Joaquin River. We'll then sail towards Stockton with the tide against us, however, we should have a favorable wind to either run or reach with. In about 10 nautical miles, we will leave the San Joaquin and enter the Mokelumne River. There we will take a short break at Moore's River Boat bar and restaurant. They have plenty of dock space. Once we are refreshed we will continue the sail up the Mokelumne River to the Mokelumne River Swing Bridge. Just after passing the bridge we will turn to port to enter the Georgiana Slough. A short distance into the slough we will come to Ox Bow Marina. That will be our overnight destination.

This overnight will be somewhat different than previous ones. The Kerner's are treating the group to dinner and desert. Speaking of desert, it will be birthday cakes and ice cream. It just so happens I will turn **80 years old** that weekend. Man that is old! If you don't believe me, just ask Harry or Don. Some non-sailing folks will be there to celebrate me turning old.

Sunday morning the marina provides breakfast for us. This year it is in the marina building right by the boats. After breakfast we will continue up the slough past the Tyler Island Swing Bridge and the Georgiana Slough Swing Bridge onto the mighty Sacramento River. Entering the river we will turn to port leaving Walnut Grove to our starboard. On the Sacramento we will encounter our last two bridges, the Isleton Bascule Bridge and the Rio Vista Lift Bridge. For this portion of the sail we should have favorable tide.

- Rio Vista launch ramp is \$10 to launch, parking is free.
- Be in the water by **10am**.
- Motors are required for this sail. Your motor should be able to propel your boat at 4 knots or better.
- Ox Bow Marina charges \$.75/foot.
- Gas will be available at Ox Bow; the pumps open at 8:30am.
- We will leave Ox Bow at 9:30am. —

**Directions West on Route 12:**  
 Just after crossing Sacramento River, immediately turn right toward Rio Vista. Make first right to go under Route 12. Just after first stop sign (Main St.), turn left into launch ramp parking.

**Directions East on Route 12:**  
 Before crossing the Sacramento River, turn right at Chevy Dealer (N. Front St.) Turn right at the stop sign (N. Front St.) Just after the next stop sign (Main St.), turn left into launch ramp parking.

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

<b>Officer's Club</b>		
<b>Commodore:</b> Rob Sampson PY.Commodore.Rob@gmail.com P-15, #367, <i>Espero</i>	<b>Vice Commodore:</b> Carl Sundholm sundholm@att.net P-19, <i>Dagmar</i>	<b>Newsletter Editor:</b> Phil Marcelis sail@marcelis.com P-19, #1487, <i>Family Time</i>
<b>P-15 Fleet Captain:</b> David Bacon dbacon2636@me.com P-15, #2636, <i>Ah Tiller the Fun</i>	<b>P-19 Fleet Captain:</b> Eric Zilbert ezilbert@cde.ca.gov P-19, #629, <i>Riptide</i>	<b>Webmaster:</b> Mike Westfield westfield@potter-pod.com
<b>Secretary/Treasurer:</b> Pat Brennan pat-brennan@sbcglobal.net ComPac Legacy, #1, <i>Latis</i>	<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.potter-yachters.org">www.potter-yachters.org</a>	

(*Clipper Cove* continued from page 1) through the cold fog of the estuary was quite un-tropical, though the sun eventually broke through the fog once we were out on the Bay.



Jude (left) and Phil



David



Steve (and Oscar)

After attempts at sailing yielded little traction, we decided to motor-sail out the estuary.



Even when there is little wind on the Oakland estuary, it normally picks up as you leave the estuary. But this morning the bay was glassy too, so we continued to motor-sail to Treasure Island.



Photo by Phil Marcelis

We noticed that the old Bay Bridge demolition has progressed quite a bit, and there is just a small portion of the bridge left along with a few remaining piers.

As we turned the corner to port under the bay bridge, we went by the old aircraft hangars on Treasure Island (some of which are now wineries), and then headed for the beach.

We looked back to see the pleasant surprise of Harry Gordon coming in under the Bay Bridge.



On reaching the beach we all settled in to our folding chairs to enjoy our picnic lunches, great conversation, and a little ukulele music to add a touch of island style.

It really does feel like a little Polynesian island beach in the middle of San Francisco Bay. I especially enjoyed talking with Oscar's friend Steve about Polynesia and the South Pacific, with Bora Bora still stuck in my brain after recently visiting the island with my family this summer. Ah, but I digress . . .



Photo by David Bardoff

Some of our group trekked up the stairs to the other side of the isthmus and were rewarded by spectacular views of the Bay Bridge and San Francisco.



The shot of Alcatraz wasn't bad either.



As the group was returning from crossing the isthmus, Potter Yachter Bruce Mossman pulled up to the beach in his Compac 16, after circumnavigating Yerba Buena and Treasure Island.

Earlier at the ramp, Bruce had expressed concern about whether the 18-inch draft of his fixed shoal keel would require anchoring out, but that proved not to be a problem as he brought the bow to within a foot of the beach water line.



It is so relaxing hanging out in the sun on Clipper Cove beach that you tend to forget about time. But the afternoon southerly winds had begun to pick up and this is when we traditionally schedule our departure.



As we moved out beyond the wind shadow of Treasure Island, we caught a nice southerly breeze that provided a decent downwind run back into the estuary.



Once inside the estuary, the winds lightened, but still provided for a relaxing ride homeward. It was a fun day sail and a splendid time was had by all. — 

## 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](mailto: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*.



## 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*

