



The Potter Yachter

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

March 2017

Report: from the Regatta Room at OYC **Potter Yachter Authors Speak**

by Carl Sundholm

The Potter Yachters are proud that their members include creative, innovative, and accomplished authors, Dick Herman and Dave Bacon.

On February 12, 2017, Dick Herman and Dave Bacon gave an interesting and enjoyable talk for the Potter Yachters at the Oakland Yacht Club on their books on small boat sailing and on how they wrote and published their works.

Dick Herman gave a talk about his book "A BOAT CALLED SCAMP". "SCAMP" is an acronym for the "Small Craft Advisor Magazine Project" which produced the 11 foot 11 inch original wooden (and later fiberglass) mini-cruising lug rigged sailing dinghy of the same name. Small Craft

Advisor Magazine editors Craig Wagner and Josh Colvin teamed up with famed New Zealand boat designer John Welsford, to create a "Mini Microcruiser" sailboat. (See Authors continued on page 5)



It's time to pay dues (\$25/family) – Now accepting PayPal.

Mail a check to Pat (see *Potter Yachter Membership*, page 7) or send it by [PayPal to your friend](#) pat-brennan@sbcglobal.net indicating "2017 Potter Yachter dues" in the notes.

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

It has been quite a winter. Yours truly has not been on the water yet this year, but I plan to be shortly. If you are like me, you may be a little rusty on your set-up routine. If you have read the trailer-sailor posts over the years you know that there are people among us with complete checklists for preparing and setting up their boats for a sail. I am not one of those people. I trust to memory and special streamlining techniques adopted to minimize how much I have to remember.

Now, toward the end of the sailing season things are pretty much together. All the parts are in the boat. Simply add food, beverages, and (rarely) gas, and you are ready to go. However, after winter passes, some elements might be missing. Here are some questions you might want to ask yourself prior to heading out to sea (based on mistakes made by myself and unspecified imagined others).

1. **"Did I remove any tools or hardware from the boat over the winter?"** This pertains especially to things like: The MAINSAIL HALYARD, MAINSHEET, and BLOCKS FOR THE BOOM (yep, left it all behind once). Also a good question is: **"Do I have the RUDDER?"**
2. **"Did I charge the battery?"** I was once late for the start of the Delta sail. I headed down the Mokolumne River and came to a draw-bridge, unaccompanied by any fellow Potters. I had no radio, no horn, and no action from bridge! In the end, certain hand signals communicated my need, but I felt rather incompetent.
3. **"Did I replace the trailer tire that partially delaminated after the last sail of last year?"** And also, **"Is there any air in the spare?"** And also, **"Do I have the big lug wrench, jack, and WD 40 needed to change the tire???. . ."**
4. Procedures are important to remember after you launch as well as before you start out. I was highly surprised once when, after leaving the ramp, I went from a downwind tack to a reach and my boat fell over sideways! The unasked question: **"Did I lower the centerboard?"**

Looking back on my experience, I think I will put together a checklist, if only a short one. Happy Sailing!

Eric — 

Club Events on the Horizon

[Event Calendar](#)

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Mar 18 (Sat) | St. Patrick's Day Sail with Dinner & Overnight(s) (Carl S)
<i>easy to intermediate, depending on how far out into the Bay we go and on how windy it is; Peninsula YC in Redwood City is inviting us to St. Pat's Dinner on Friday as well as hosting dinner for the Potter Yachters on Saturday and offering free dockage for attendees.</i> |
| Apr 8 (Sat) | Richmond Sail and Strictly Sail Boat Show (Pat B)
<i>easy to intermediate, depending on how far out into the Bay we sail. Boat Show is Thursday through Sunday (April 6-9). We'll plan on doing a "sail-by" (with horns!) on Saturday afternoon.</i> |
| Apr 22 (Sat-Sun) | Benicia Sail w/ Optional Overnight and/or Mini-Cruise (Goose)
<i>intermediate when wind picks up; folks usually overnight at the dock; chance for possible mini-cruise before and/or after in the style of a MessAbout.</i> |
| Apr 29 (Sat-Sun) | Moss Landing/Elkhorn YC Sail with Overnight Option (Bud K)
<i>can be advanced; open ocean sail typically not for beginners; moor overnight at EYC dock</i> |

Upcoming: Marina Bay YH – Saturday, April 9, 2016

Richmond Sail & Pacific Boat Show

Sail Host: Pat Brennan

Join the Potter Yachters in Richmond for the boat show festivities on Saturday, April 8th. Since the boat show runs from April 6-9, some folks may want to show up on or before Friday and stay past Sunday. Make arrangements directly with [Marina Bay Yacht Harbor](#) (510-236-1013).

We will be launching at Marina Bay Yacht Harbor and expect to be underway by 10am. This event usually involves a parade by the [Pacific Sail & Power Boat Show](#) which is being held again at the Craneway Pavilion. Last year, our parade was rained out, but this year should be better. If you have a horn, use it as we pass in review.

After the parade, some will probably stop for lunch and attend the show, while others may take the opportunity to sail over to [Angel Island](#) (weather permitting). Note there is a \$15 fee for daytime dock use. We'll use VHF channel 68.

If you are going to get a slip in Marina Bay, Jerry B. says to see the Harbormaster before you enter the parking lot. You might get a passkey to the lot, which saves you \$10.00 on parking. [Check if you need a parking permit for your dash. –Ed.]

We're advised to make a reservation ahead of time, due to the boat show, and a 2-night minimum applies to guest slips. See their [Guests webpage](#) for an application form. You can fill it out and email it back to get instructions for paying in advance via website or phone. The website says that Boat/US members receive a 25% discount on slips, so slip fee is \$9 per night.

Tide in Richmond on Saturday will reach a high of 5.5 feet at 11:00 AM dropping to a low 0.5 feet at 5:00 PM. Sunday high and low times will be about ¾ hour later so launching and retrieval should not be a problem. (Note there is a paddle-board race scheduled for 11am on Saturday at the launch ramp.)

There are two restaurants at the marina: [Assemble at Craneway Pavilion](#) (11:30-2:30) is only open to boat show attendees and [Salute e Vita Ristorante](#) (11:30-9:30) for Italian. You may want to bring your own food and drinks. Or try the [Angel Island Café](#) (10-4). See you there!

We launch at [Marina Bay Yacht Harbor](#):
1340 Marina Way South, Marina Bay, CA
Phone: (510) 236-1013
Hours: Monday - Sunday 9am to 5pm
Guest slips are typically available:
\$.50 / foot, minimum \$12 / night
(Webpage indicates 25% Boat/US discount)

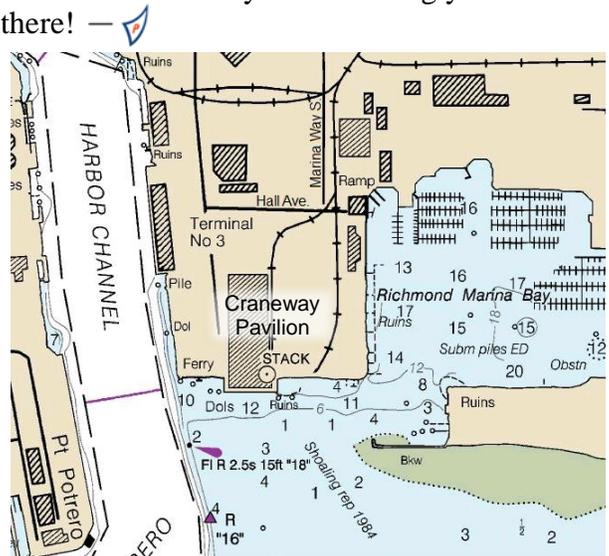
[Directions](#) to Marina Bay ([www.mbyh.com](#))
Cross street: Marina Way South and Hall Ave.
From Marin:
I-580E over the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge (towards Richmond/Oakland)
Exit at Marina Bay Parkway
Turn Right onto Marina Bay Parkway
Turn Right onto Regatta Blvd.
Turn Left onto Marina Way South
From San Francisco/Oakland:
I-80 E/I-580 W
Take Pt. Richmond/San Rafael Exit to I-580 W
Exit at Marina Bay Pkwy/S 23rd St
Turn Left onto Marina Bay Pkwy
Turn Right onto Regatta Blvd.
Turn Left onto Marina Way South



Use Promo Code **MARINAPBS17**



Two-Can and Latis parade past the famed **Craneway Pavilion**



The NOAA Chart for the area is available online for free: <http://www.charts.noaa.gov/InteractiveCatalog/nrnc.shtml>

Upcoming: Sat/Sun, April 22-23, 2017 Benicia Weekend Sail

host: Jim "Goose" Gossman

On April 22-23 we will once again gather in Benicia, confront the Carquinez Strait, and visit the dwindling Mothball fleet. Free launch and parking at 9th Street ramp in Benicia. Those staying at the [Benicia Marina](#) (707/745-2628) can also use their ramp. Main Street, just a few blocks away, has lots of shops, antiques, and art for non-sailors.

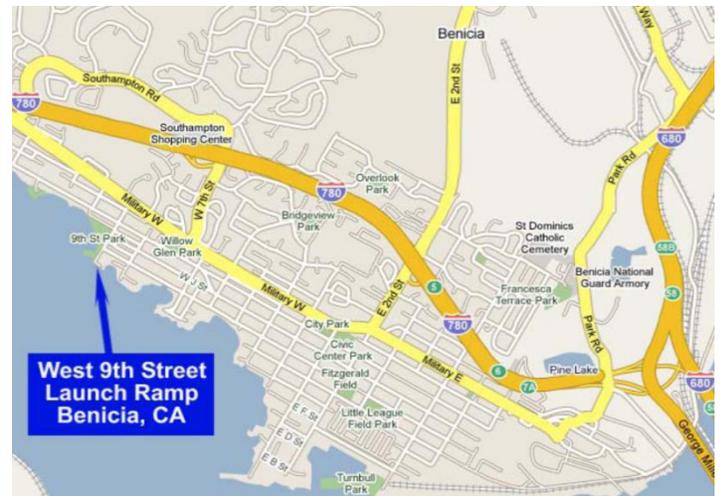
We will launch at the 9th Street Launch ramp with skipper's meeting (and donuts) at 10am. Each year, more and more boats have elected to make this a weekend affair by staying at the Benicia Marina. Good idea. Sometimes we gather for dinner at my home on Saturday, and other years go to the Benicia YC. Or, maybe a "dockluck" party at the marina.

Directions to 9th Street Ramp, Benicia
From I-680:
Exit onto I-780 West towards Benicia
Exit at Military East
Stay along water until 9th
From I-80:
Exit onto I-780 East towards Benicia
Exit at Southampton Rd
Head toward water (veering by Taco Bell)
Turn Right immediately onto W. K St.
Turn Left onto W. 9th St.
To Benicia Marina:
Exit 5th Street and ramp is at end of 5th.
Marina office for check-in is on 2nd Street.

This year, we will be inaugurating the first **Bay Area Messabout (BAM)** by going to Napa on Sunday 4/23, and returning to Benicia on Tuesday 4/25. The tides dictate a start of around 8-ish to reach the mouth of the Napa River, where we will ride the flood and morning breeze past the Vallejo YC (for brunch?), under the Mare Island Bridge, and up the Napa River (20mi.) We should get a couple hours of good sailing before arriving in downtown Napa early afternoon. Overnight at Napa public docks Sunday, and/or [Napa Marina](#) Monday (for tour of the famous "boatyard of broken dreams." Anchor out might also be fun. I fully expect the weather to be glorious and the views spectacular as we make our way into wine country. Leave Tuesday about noon to catch afternoon ebb. Note: We must hide \$2 Chuck in bilges in case we are boarded by Napanese wine police! Details discussed on [TrailerSailor forum](#). Goose. — 



Napa Valley Marina

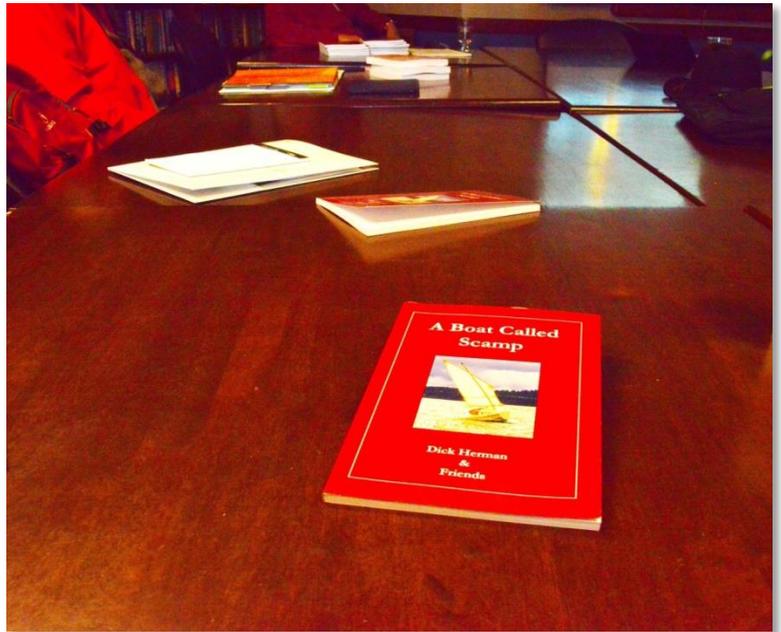


(Authors continued from page 1)

Some early plan details were revised by Kees Prins and the Northwest Maritime Center, working towards the emphasis on "minimalism, efficiency and ease of use." Welsford began the design process in January 2010 and building commenced six months later at the Northwest Maritime Center.

On November 11, 2011 SCAMP #1 was formally launched and test sailed on Port Townsend Bay in Puget Sound. Howard Rice assisted by running SCAMP through sea trials and capsize testing.

Builder's plans were released for sale, as well as CNC-cut kits. Using the wooden prototype, Gig Harbor Boat Works completed the first fiberglass production SCAMP in July 2013 and is currently the only manufacturer of fiberglass SCAMPs.



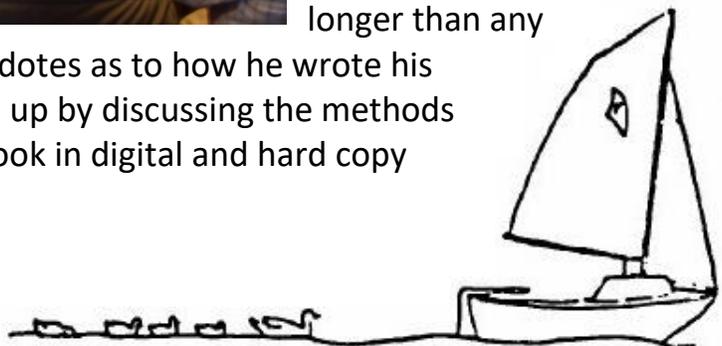
It is an incredibly well-designed boat that is fun to sail and can be overnighted with a specially designed sub-boom tent.

Dave Bacon gave a fascinating presentation detailing the creative process and techniques he used to write his landmark book, "The Gentle Art of Pottering."

Dick Herman, who has been in the authoring business longer than any

other Potter Yachter, added interesting anecdotes as to how he wrote his sailing odyssey "Caly's Island." Dave finished up by discussing the methods used for self-publishing and marketing the book in digital and hard copy form.

All in all, it was a very informative and interesting presentation that was enjoyed by all who attended. — 



Invitation from Encinal Yacht Club

EYC Commodore Doug Perry invites Potter Yachters to stay at the EYC guest dock for their Cinco de Mayo party, May 5 & 6! (Friday/Saturday, or up to 5 days)

No charge for overnight berthing at the guest dock for PY members who make advance reservations. May have to raft together, depending on how many show up. Keys to the baths are available, with deposit. Fly your PY burgees!

I encourage everyone to patronize the bar and restaurant in return for the courtesy. They offer [Lunch, Dinner, and Sunday Brunch](#). Drinks and food are very reasonably priced, and the food is awesome! [More info in April PYN – Ed.]

RSVP to the host: Judy Blumhorst
judy@hydesailsdirect.com



Vessel Safety Check Website



What do you mean you've never had a VSC?! It's free, convenient, and safe! Sign up on their website for an appointment. Did I mention it's free?
<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=V-DEPT&category=i-want-a-vsc>
 (Save some typing and use this URL: <http://bit.ly/1syhbDA>)

Too busy for an official Vessel Safety Check? Try the [Virtual Safety Check](#).

New Safe Boating Card – a posting from the TrailerSailor Forum

Starting in 2018 California will require boaters have a California Boater Card. This is a good thing to make things safer for us Sailors. Several years ago I was sailing my P.14 in Lake Sonoma. It was very early and I was slowly sailing downwind enjoying a cup of Coffee. I heard a roar coming from behind me just as a PWC passed me, missing Breezy by just a couple of inches.

The new cards start out with those under 20 years old. I won't need one until 2024. Check out CaliforniaBoaterCard.com

Jerry B. Sunshine & Breezy

Note the launch ramp activities ... and the special events scheduled for the boat show:

- Friday, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Party!
- Saturday, 11 a.m. start: SUP racing at the launch ramp.
- Saturday, starting at 6:00 p.m.: Bob Bitchin's **Cruiser's Party** with food, music, and raffle prizes.
- Sunday, 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.: Inflatable Extravaganza (jousting, etc) at the launch ramp.

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



(above) Mike Westfield with his P-15, *Water Toy*.
 (right) Tarp-sail for his toy.
 (below) Mike's shirt reads, "Legend in my own mind."



Eight Bells – Mike Westfield

We recently lost a good friend and member of the Potter Yachters, Mike Westfield. Many of you knew Mike, and for those of you who did not know, Mike was our Webmaster almost until his dying day. Mike appeared to be like most Potter Yachters (male, myopic, and middle aged) but he was an iconoclast, not defined by any common standard. First off, Mike was ageless; at one moment he was the old warhorse-sage, relating navy stories and lore of old; in the next instant, he could be as excited and impulsive as a 15-year-old. I remember he once showed up at a sail with his P-15 canvased with a blue nylon tarp. He was not embarrassed at all by this rudimentary, junk rigged sail. No, he was radiant with pride at what he had made. I remember he was always ready: with a story, with a smile, with any equipment or help you might need (invariably, if you asked for something, he had two on board). Once he decided to empty out his P-15 to re-balance his load: He had two televisions on board. I have been missing Mike for a while, and I will miss him more now. He moved back to the east coast a few years ago, but maintained his relationship with the club through his management of the website. We will publish a fuller tribute to Mike in the next edition of the newsletter. I'm sure there are many who would wish to contribute stories and photos for a memorial piece. Fair winds. - EricZ

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 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

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*

