



The Potter Yachter

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

September 2017

Report: Richmond Sailing Sail to Angel Island

by Phil Marcelis



Jerry Barrilleaux waves from the cockpit of his P-19, *Sunshine*

We descended upon Marina Bay Yacht Harbor on Saturday morning, August 19th. Some folks were just arriving to launch their boats, while others had already launched the day before. When I pulled into my slip, I found Bud and Jerry B's boats already tied up there, and met Mike Trueman with *Midget*, his Monty 15, and Ed Dove with his yellow-hulled P-15 at the ramp. (I had launched Friday morning and sailed over to Angel Island, where I grabbed a mooring for the night, but that's another story.) (See *Richmond* continued on page 4)

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>

Also in this issue:

- Commodore's Corner..... Page 2
- Report: Lake Hennessey Sail Page 3
- Upcoming: Tomales Bay Overnite . Page 6
- Report: Alviso Cruise-In..... Page 7
- Upcoming: Moss Landing Overnite Page 9
- From the Forum & Mailbag Page 10
- Potter Yachter Membership Page 11

The Commodore's Corner



By Eric Zilbert

Happy September! I hope everyone has had a great summer of sailing. I am looking forward to our Tomales Bay trip and hoping for cooler weather. My one outing in August consisted of participating in the Dingy Delta Ditch Race, which is sponsored by the Washington Lake Sailing Club, of which I am a member.

This race begins in Rio Vista just north of the drawbridge and proceeds 30 nm up the deep water shipping channel to the port of Sacramento and Lake Washington. The trip entails a fair amount of logistics as cars and trailers generally get pre-positioned in Sacramento, so sailors can retrieve their boats and go home. This means you launch in Rio Vista (at the Point Marina) then drive to Sacramento, and finally catch a ride back to Rio Vista with the wonderful volunteers from the Lake Washington Club.

A few years ago (5, I believe) Jim "Goose" Gossman and I raced in his modified P-15, and came in second in our class (we could have won, but Goose insisted on taking down the spinnaker after we inverted the mast). I thought it would be fun to do the race in my P-19, and Goose consented to come along as crew.

This race is basically a downwind drag race, and the format is that of a chase, in which the slowest boats start first. That said we had nearly the first start and things looked promising, good wind and a following sea. The small technical challenge was the start required the mariner to do a short, upwind leg and round a buoy before heading for Sac.

Well, the current was against us and fairly strong, the wind was good but not that good, and I had the smallest jib up as I hoped to point high, get around the buoy quickly, and then set the spinnaker. To cut a long, disappointing and frustrating story short, it took us three passes to make the buoy, as the wind was fickle and the current strong. We ate up practically all of our head start, but finally got the spinnaker up and began a fun day of chasing Dave Candey in his Montgomery 17 all the way to the finish. I was so intent on catching Dave that I never let go of the tiller (my apologies, Goose). We were nearly dead last (which is really obvious, in this format).

The food and party were great, and there was a good band as well. All in all a great outing, in fact the shoreline was prettier than I remembered. Maybe we can get a class of P-19s next year.

Safe sailing to all. See you at Tomales.



Eric — 

Club Events on the Horizon

[Event Calendar](#)

Sept 23 (Sat)	Clipper Cove Picnic Sail <i>typically an easy day sail, although it can be intermediate windy on occasion</i>	(Carl S)
Sept 30 (Sat-Sun)	Tomales Bay Sail and Overnight <i>generally easy, often windy; overnight at anchor, on beach, or in tents; we have group camp permit for tents, so you don't need your own; great family sail!</i>	(Eric Z)
Oct 14 (Sat-Sun)	Moss Landing to Monterey Sail and Overnight <i>intermediate to advanced; overnight at docks; open water sail <u>not for beginners</u></i>	(Bud K)
Oct 28 (Sat-Sun)	Delta Bridges Sail and Overnight <i>generally easy; motoring (bring fuel) ; intermediate when windy; overnight at docks</i>	(Bud K)

Report: Great Time at the Lake on Aug 26th

Lake Hennessey Sail

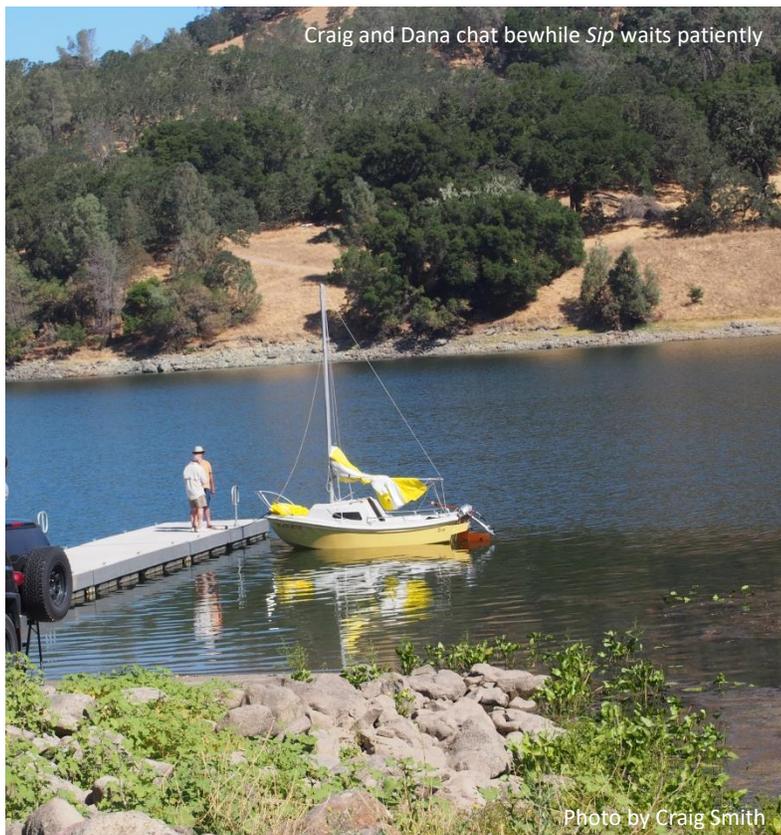
Sailhost: Rich McDevitt

The weather forecast for the Lake Hennessey sail called for continuation of over 100 degree days and we were not disappointed. The parking lot was not crowded like last year; I think the heat trimmed our ranks a bit. Two weeks prior to the sail, I fell playing [pickleball](#) and screwed up both of my hands bad enough that I can't grip, so I arrived with no boat. *Sip* and "ibcontent" were in the lot being rigged by their captains. While we were launching Larry arrived with his Peep Hen (thanks for the hand exam on the dock). I took off around 11 and headed back to Rio Vista, not much wind there either and the wind ALWAYS blows in Rio Vista. Carl paid a visit to the lake later in the day. [Craig contributed the following list of attendees – Ed.] Skippers attending were Larry Tkach (*Goovin*) Peep Hen 14, Dana Suverkrop (*Sip*) Potter 15, and Craig Smith (*Midnite Monty*) M-15. — 



Larry enjoys the shade of *Goovin's* bimini

Photo by Craig Smith



Craig and Dana chat awhile *Sip* waits patiently

Photo by Craig Smith

Officer's Club

Commodore:

Eric Zilbert
ezilbert@cde.ca.gov
P-19, #629, *Riptide*

Vice Commodore:

Rob Sampson
PY.Commodore.Rob@gmail.com
P-15, #367, *Espero*

Newsletter Editor:

Phil Marcelis
sail@marcelis.com
P-19, #1487, *Family Time*

P-15 Fleet Captain:

David Bacon
dbacon2636@me.com
P-15, #2636, *Ah Tiller the Fun*

P-19 Fleet Captain:

Carl Sundholm
sundholm@att.net
P-19, *Dagmar*

Webmaster:

Phil Marcelis
sail@marcelis.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

Pat Brennan
pat-brennan@sbcglobal.net
ComPac Legacy, #1, *Latis*

Website & Facebook:

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

(*Richmond* continued from page 1)

In attendance were: Jon Barber (*Ol' 44*), Bud Kerner with his son and granddaughter (*Cat's Meow*), Dave and Francesca Kautz (*Trailer Trash*), Jerry B (*Sunshine*), Mike Trueman (*Midget*), Ed Dove (P-15), and myself (*Family Time*).

The gate for the ramp parking lot was a conversation starter. It had a sign indicating it was broken. Apparently, some thieves took a sledge hammer to the machine and walked away with over \$800 in coins which the machine uses for change. After the requisite discussion on the merits and disadvantages of different parking meter solutions, we started thinking about rigging the boats and going sailing.



With two solar panels, radar reflector, and plenty of other gear, this Monty is ready to get out there and go!

We saw an interesting Monty at the docks, which made us pause in admiration for a moment. This thing appears to be all set up for serious offshore work, with two solar panels on the stern pushpit, radar reflector on the forestay, dual gin-poles hooked in as additional mast support when not in use, a dodger, several halyards, and plenty of other gear. We met her captain briefly, and he explained that he's sailed her up and down the California coastline as far south as San Diego. Pretty neat.

The wind had built up quite a bit on Friday afternoon, and it was still windy as I made my way downwind back to Richmond from Angel Island at 7 am Saturday. (I easily exceeded 5 knots in some of the gusts.) It was looking like it would only increase in intensity, so several skippers opted for their smaller jib and/or reefing the main in precautionary anticipation.



Jon Barber



Jerry B affixing his slip fee sticker at Angel Island

Ed and Mike tacked up the channel but decided to stay in the outer harbor, while the rest of us took advantage of the breeze to zip across toward Angel Island. About halfway there, though, we must have gotten into a wind shadow, and those who kicked on their engines actually made it to Angel Island for lunch.



Jerry, Dave & Francesca, Bud with his crew, and I each paid our \$15 slip fee and then shelled out a little more for a very tasty lunch at the [Angel Island Cantina](#).

The trip back to Richmond was, let's say, "sporting". There was a bit of unstable surfing, and the jib was hard to manage. But I forgot all of those troubles as soon as folks gathered for the dock party. The great people in this group have that kind of effect. — 



Bud and his crew sail past Red Rock

Upcoming: Sept 30-Oct 1, 2017

Tomales Bay Overnight

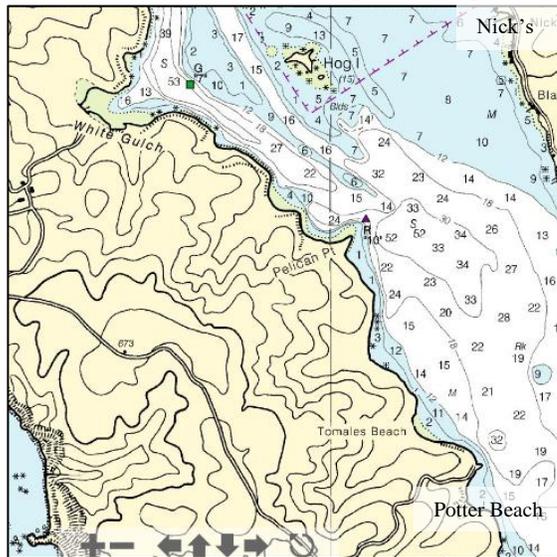
Sailhost: Eric Zilbert

The Tomales Bay Potter Yachter Trip is scheduled for Sept.30-Oct 1 this year. We will launch from the ramp at Miller County Park [near 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).

Parking has been a problem when there are events happening in the area, but generally, we all find a space. Those who arrive on Friday, including myself, will have a better chance at securing a parking spot. There's also an



David White and Don Person at Miller launch ramp



unpaved overflow area above. We have ferried people to overnight parking along Hwy 1 in the past, and it seems to work well enough.

ACCOMMODATIONS

[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 (I have a [CA Fire Permit](#)) 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.

No permit is needed to anchor out or sleep on your boat while beached. Phil has secured a Group B [boat-in camping permit](#) so up to 15 of us can put tents on the beach. The permit covers Friday through Sunday, but Phil won't be there until Saturday morning.

[Check the tides](#), but it should be fine for overnight beaching.

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/pages/28702/files/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.

DINING

There are a number of restaurants on Hwy 1 south of Miller Park. Last year, 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.

E-mail (ezilbert@cde.ca.gov) or call to let me know if you plan to attend. For more information you can call: Eric Zilbert: 530-757-6783 (eves) or 530-665-0698 (cell). — 

NOTE: A porta-potty is required on board for overnight stays on Tomales Bay. The rangers have been known to do inspections.

Other Useful Numbers:
[Bear Valley Visitor Center](#) 415-464-5100
[Nick's Cove](#) 415-663-1033
 "Your cellphone won't ring out here, but we have landlines if you need to make a call." - Nick's

Report: Cruise-In and Meetup with Other Clubs

The Alviso (not quite) Potter Yachter Event

by Rob Sampson

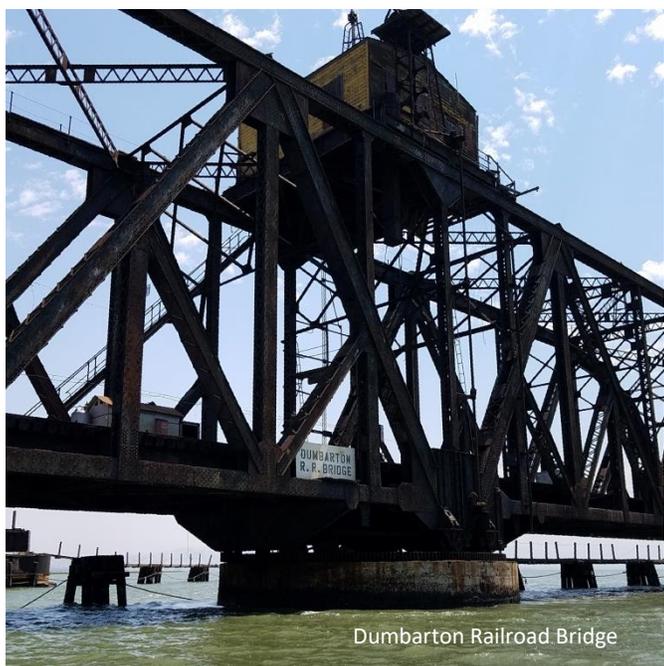
Back in July we heard through the grapevine that The Peninsula Yacht Club in Redwood City and the South Bay Yacht Club in Alviso wanted to invite the Potter Yachters to an overnight Cruise-In in Alviso. The dates were August 5th and 6th. The Peninsula Yacht Club has had a long standing relationship with the Potter Yachters. They have been hosting our Redwood City/St Patrick's Day sail and dinner for many years. The South Bay Yacht Club was hoping to build a relationship with the Potter Yachters. They had already presented their burgee to Katie Taylor in hopes of doing a burgee exchange at this event.



Gus and Rob exchange burgees

Dave Kautz and I thought it sounded like a good adventure so Saturday

morning found us rigging in the Redwood City launch ramp parking lot. Dave and Francesca were launching their O'Day 192, *Trailer Trash*. I decided to take my Ranger Tug 21, *Mud Hen*, as the trip would also serve as "Sea Trials" for my upcoming trip to Washington State and Canada. After launching, we met up with Ed Stancel and Helen Horn of the Peninsula Yacht Club. They had launched their North American 23 Ft Sailboat, *Wingnut*, the day before and stayed overnight in the Redwood City Marina.



Dumbarton Railroad Bridge

The trip started out motor-sailing or just motoring in my case. As the wind came up, Dave and Francesca had a nice run down to the bottom of the bay. I forgot how beautiful it is down there, going under the Dumbarton bridge and then past the magnificent old (unused) Dumbarton Rail Bridge.

Ed and Helen had fallen behind so we lingered at the bottom of the bay before entering Alviso Slough. Ed hadn't been to Alviso without following someone else so we thought it best to wait for him. After a while Dave started sailing slowly down the Slough and I went back to escort Ed.

We all made it to Alviso by 3 pm to great fanfare. Many members of the South Bay Yacht Club and even a few Potter Yachters were there to greet us. A Sea Scout was out on a homemade raft, filming our arrival. Gus Meyner, the Commodore of The South Bay Yacht Club met us at the dock with champagne and glasses in hand.



After tidying up our boats we headed up to the South Bay Yacht Club for drinks and dinner. Several Potter Yachters came to the event by car including Harry Gordon, Dave Meyers, Judy and Dave Blumhorst, Dave Norris, and Katie Taylor.



Sea Scout joined the overnite

The South Bay Yacht Club is loaded with history. The club was formed in 1888, and the clubhouse (the same one we were in) was built in 1903. If you get a member to take you upstairs, there are lots of old photos of the club and events. Jack London is even in one of the photos.

We celebrated the aforementioned Burgee exchange between Gus Meyner, the Commodore of The South Bay Yacht Club and myself, as the Potter Yachter representative. After a delicious dinner of barbequed ribs and chicken, we settled down to dessert and Karaoke before retiring to our boats.



Lilley Yee on *Mud Hen*

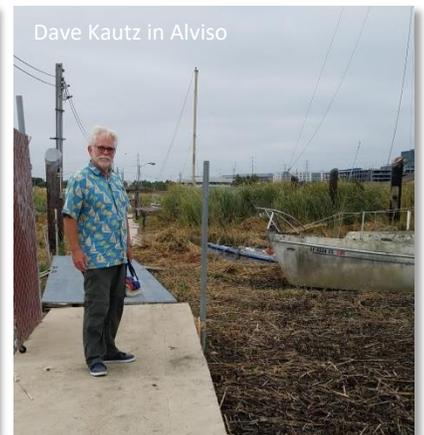


Dave and Francesca Kautz departing Redwood City

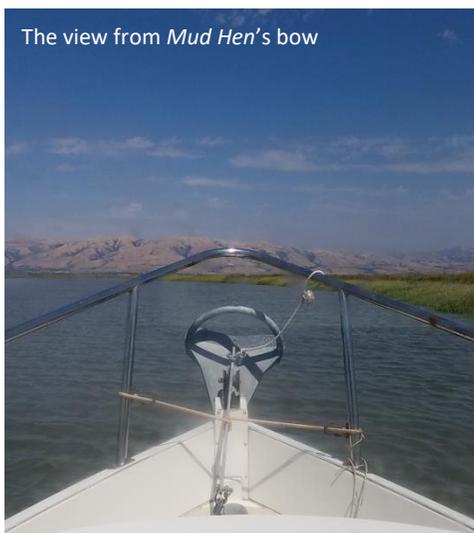
In the morning, the tide was lower but the sailboats were still floating. *Mud Hen* was partially mud bound against the dock, but the tide was rising. I was impressed that the Sea Scout even slept out on his raft. The Yacht Club was open again for a hearty breakfast. After breakfast we headed out up the slough en route to Redwood City. Lilley Yee of the Peninsula Yacht Club decided to ride up to Redwood City with me in *Mud Hen*.



Dave Norris, Dave & Judy Blumhorst



Dave Kautz in Alviso



The view from *Mud Hen's* bow

It was a nice trip up the slough in light winds to the Dumbarton Bridge, but after the bridge the winds came up and conditions became "sporting". If we do this trip in the future as an "official" Potter Yachter event, we should consider shuttling our vehicles and trailers to Alviso in order to pull out at the launch ramp there. Then on Sunday morning, instead of doing the "Dumbarton Bash" we could have a leisurely exploration through the South Bay sloughs and then back to the Alviso ramp.



Rafted up in Alviso

All in all, it was a great trip and one I'd like to do again. —

Upcoming: October 14-15, 2017

Moss Landing to Monterey Overnight

Sailhost: Bud Kerner

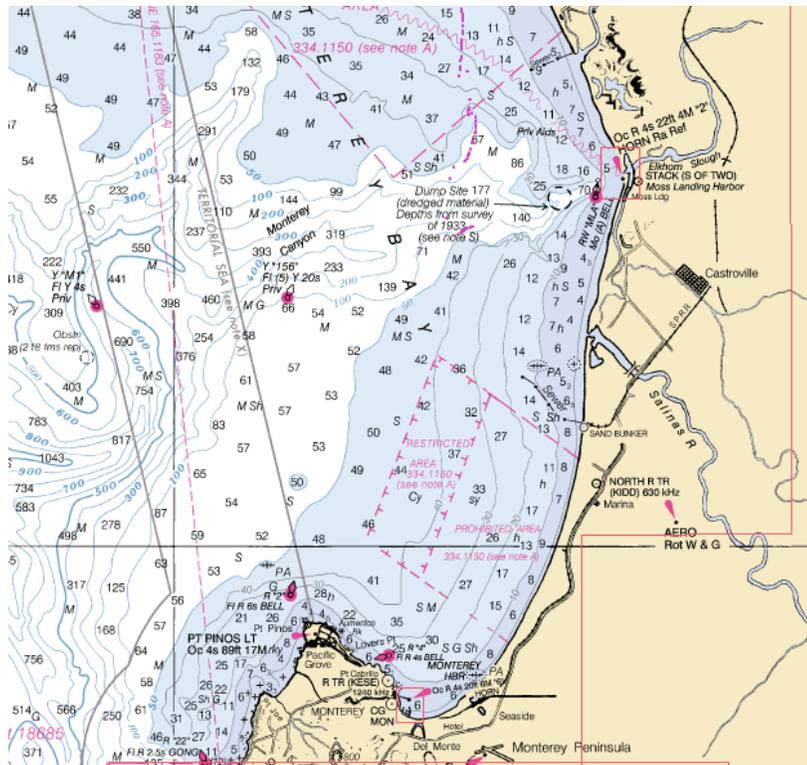
Here's another chance to gather with fellow Potter Yachters for a sail to Monterey. If you haven't been there with the Potter Yachters, you don't know what you're missing, so plan on joining us for a weekend of good food, good sailing and good friends. Weather permitting, we will have a group sail from Moss Landing to Monterey on Saturday the 14th with an overnight at the docks of [Monterey City Marina](#). October is usually very pleasant on the bay. There is very little fog and moderate wind. That said, one never knows for sure, including [NOAA](#), what the weather might be.

Directions: Get onto Hwy 101, then Take exit 336 (Hwy 156) towards Monterey Peninsula, take Hwy 183 through Castroville to Hwy 1 north, then turn left into the parking lot just after the bridge over Elkhorn Slough.



We'll sail back on Sunday the 15th if the weather holds, otherwise we will shuttle our trailers from Moss Landing to retrieve and derig in Monterey.

We will plan on gathering in Moss Landing early on Saturday, Oct. 15th so we can all be in the water by 10 am. Usually the morning breeze starts to fill in at this time. The sail is approximately 13 NM, and we should be in Monterey by 4 PM. The [Elk Horn Yacht Club](#) has given us permission to use their guest dock Friday and Sunday, for those of us who would like to launch on Friday and stay over Sunday for a \$6 beer and burger.



I will reserve slips for us in Monterey. Please let me know by Friday October 13th if you plan to make the sail. Monterey Harbor monitors channel 5 and when you get close to the harbor you can call them on your VHF radio. They will tell you what slip you are assigned to. That is much easier than tying up at the small dock next to the launch ramp and going to the office for assignment.

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

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 \(page 11\)](#) 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! —

Bob announced on the Trailer Sailor forum that *Potter Yachter* member Dan Phy has just taken delivery of his new Cat-rigged Montgomery 16. Congrats, Dan!





From the DuckWorks News bulletin:

In addition to adding more boat-building items, [Duckworks](http://duckworks.com) has also started selling a wide selection of **West Wight Potter** OEM parts, including things like mast steps, mast heads, chainplates, gin poles and cockpit drains. We'll be adding these items to the website soon—many of which are applicable to any small boat. See <http://duckworks.com>

From Rich McDevitt:

Saw this departing the Delta Marina in Rio Vista Tuesday. I guess he primarily uses it for fishing. – Rich



From Wallace Whiting, Commodore of Santa Rosa Sailing Club:

Join the 65th Annual Labor Day Regatta of the Santa Rosa Sailing Club. The Regatta is based at Marshall Beach on the west shore of Tomales Bay. Three nights of camping on the beach (or on your boat anchored just off-shore), two days of sailboat racing, a whole long weekend of fun on the water. So bring your boat or kayak, and have a great time! Details are at <http://santarosasailingclub.org/regatta.html>

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*

