



The Potter Yachter

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

August 2018

Report: Union Valley Sail

photos by George Corrigan



Union Valley Reservoir had spectacular weather on the Potter Yachters' sailing trip from Thursday, June 21 to Sunday the 23rd, and was fairly well-attended. The fleet consisted of six Montgomeries (15's, 17's & Guy Light's cat rig), plus Rob's Vagabond 17, a Holder 17, the Soule's *Cross Tri* & Jim Hunt's S 2023 *Blue Moon*, who were all in and out of Wench Anchorage. George Corrigan reports that there was an assortment of about 12 boats altogether. And Jim pointed out, "Not one WWP 15 or 19 showed up!" (See *Union Valley* continued on page 6)

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

Treasure Your Club

Wow – July already. I was just notified that I need to start lining things up for our January 2019 annual meeting. And it made me think, “You know, you just feel like you have hit your stride and then you have to start running for office again!” It also made me start thinking about 2019 and some of the issues facing the club. So far, 2018 has been a great year for the club. As most of you are aware, we will be holding our 19th annual Cruiser Challenge on July 28th in Monterey. There are 29 boats signed up at this time, so we should have a great race. This is our biggest event of the year, and I want to send a big THANK YOU out to two individuals who were key to making this event a reality, Phil Marcelis and Pat Brennan.

Now, all of us who pay attention to club operations know that Phil is the man. I mean, he does our newsletter, and this year is the coordinator for the Cruiser Challenge. These are two of the most important, time consuming, and often vexing jobs associated with the club. If any of you reading this are interested in helping with *Cruiser Challenge 20*, please let me know!

Pat Brennan is our treasurer. In this role he receives all our payments for dues as well as for the Cruiser Challenge. He keeps our accounts, maintains the membership list, and writes all of the checks for things like burgees, patches, yacht club dinners, awards, yacht club donations, etc. To my knowledge, Pat has had this office since 1998, when I joined the Potter Yachters! He has managed to keep us in the black all of these years without any controversy or accusations of malfeasance. I'd say that is quite a record.

One more thing about Pat, after more than 20 years he is ready to relinquish the role of treasurer to another club member beginning in 2019. I cannot emphasize how important this position is to our club. We are really lucky to have such a super yacht club and we cannot do what we do without a treasurer. The amount of money involved is not large; generally we receive and expend about \$2,500 a year. Pat has always run the club accounts through his own personal bank account, but it may be that another solution is possible (a club account?). At present we are looking for a member willing to do this job. Did I say this was important? It is **so** important that if you are thinking of volunteering, it would be good if you could commit for a couple of years so we don't have to move money around too much.

So treasure your club! Treasure your officers! Treasure your treasurer! And please, somebody, volunteer to become a VIP in our club and take on this very, very, important, critical, central role! Please, please, please (and please, don't make me beg).

Thanks to all current, past, and future officers. This is a great club and it is the volunteers like Phil and Pat that make it happen.

See you on the water. - Z — 

Club Events on the Horizon

UPDATED

[Check Calendar](#)

Sept 29 (Sat-Sun)	Tomales Bay Sail & Overnight	(Eric Z)
	<i>great family sail!; generally easy, often windy; overnight at anchor or in boat on beach; need individual permit to stay in tent; we didn't get group tent camp permit this time</i>	
Oct 13 (Sat-Sun)	Moss Landing to Monterey Sail & Overnight	(Bud K)
	<i>intermediate to advanced; overnight at docks; open water sail <u>not for beginners</u></i>	
Oct 27 (Sat-Sun)	Delta Bridges Sail & Overnight	(Bud K)
	<i>generally easy; motoring (bring fuel); intermediate when windy; overnight at docks</i>	

Upcoming: August 25, 2018

Lake Hennessey Sail

Sailhost: Rich McDevitt

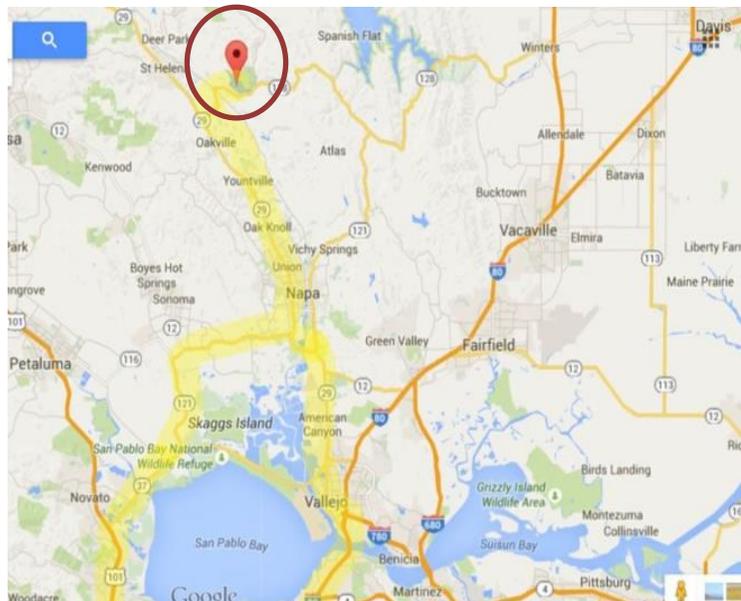
Due to launch ramp size (and possibly park regulations), this sail is for boats under 16-feet.



Join the Potter Yachters in the pleasure of a leisurely sail in a beautiful oak woodlands setting, drifting through the tules for lunch, and enjoying one of the best kept secrets of Bay Area freshwater sailing: [Lake Hennessey](#).

The lake has good water and a dock, this year. It has become a little too popular with fishermen, though, so parking can be difficult these days. Aim to meet up around 10:30 am. Be sure to bring lunch and beverages/water. Lunch can be eaten under one of the many shade trees along the shore or on your boat drifting into the tules.

The group is generally off the water by 2 pm, with time to enjoy the Chiles Valley or the leisurely drive back home. If you haven't sailed Lake Hennessey, you don't know what you're missing. For the rest of you, come on out this year, but don't tell anyone how nice it is so we can keep this a great secret of Potterdom! — ⚓



Directions: From the Bay Area, it is about 1:15 hours north of Berkeley. Travel on HWY 80 NORTH. Then exit and take HWY 37 WEST and continue until the turn off onto Highway 29. Take HWY 29 NORTH toward St. Helena, but just before reaching it, turn right onto RUTHERFORD ROAD/HWY 128 EAST. It is about five minutes until you reach the SILVERADO TRAIL, where you turn right, and then take an immediate left (east) onto HWY 128/SAGE CANYON ROAD. This takes you on about a 10 minute drive into the hinterland, so follow it past Conn Dam on the winding road around the lake until you see the boat ramp parking lot on your left. If you hit the T split in the road, you've gone too far. Turn around and it's about 100 yards behind you.

Participation in Potter Yachter events is subject to the guidelines published in [March 2018 PYN](#), page 3.

Officer's Club

Commodore:

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

Vice Commodore:

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PY.Commodore.Rob@gmail.com
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sail@marcelis.com
P-19, #1487, *Family Time*

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

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P-19, *Dagmar*

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sail@marcelis.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

Pat Brennan
pat-brennan@sbcglobal.net
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Website & Facebook:

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

Upcoming: September 15, 2018

Clipper Cove Sail & Picnic

Sailhost: Carl Sundholm

The Potter Yachters are scheduled to do the annual “Grand Street Alameda Ramp to Picnic on Clipper Cove Beach” sail on Saturday, September 15, 2018.

We should meet at Grand Street Marina Boat Ramp around 9:00 a.m. Be sure to bring picnic lunches and supplies, beach chairs, sunscreen, etc. And gas, in case we have to motor. We’ll head back by 2 p.m.

There’s a surprisingly well-stocked store and a food cart vendor up the stairs from the beach, in case you want to buy lunch. — 🚩

[See [Oct-2016 PYN](#) for a prior report. —Ed.]



Photo: Phil Marcelis

Directions to Grand St. Ramp, Alameda
Take I-880 toward Oakland/Alameda, then... Southbound: Exit at 23rd Ave/Alameda, merge onto Kennedy St., then follow **Cross Bridge** below.
Northbound: Exit at 23rd Ave, U-Turn at the light. Take 23rd Ave over the freeway, then...
Cross Bridge: Continue slight right onto 29th Ave/Park Street, cross Park St. Bridge, then turn Right at Clement Street. Go straight on Clement until it ends and then, Turn Right on Grand Street. Continue straight to launch ramp.

Participation in Potter Yachter events is subject to the guidelines published in [March 2018 PYN](#), page 3.



From: Dave Whittier

Hi from Bayfield Wisconsin, home of at least four Potters. I thought I'd show you a chair I built over the keel trunk in my Potter 19. I've always enjoyed a comfortable chair in any boat I owned.

[Thanks, Dave! It's great to see mods like this. Keep it up! — Ed.]



Upcoming: Sept 29-30, 2018

Tomales Bay Overnight

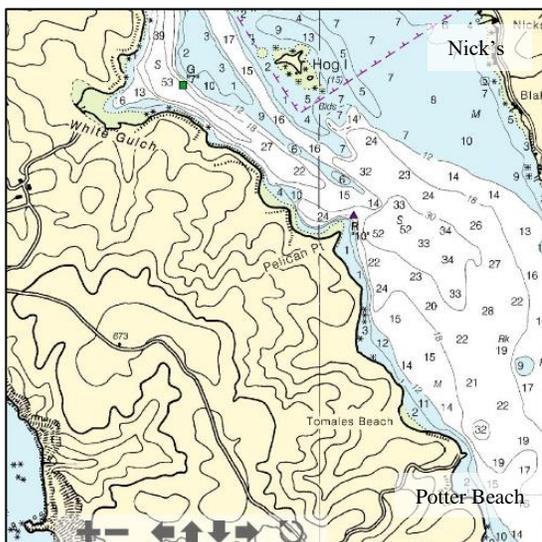
Sailhost: Eric Zilbert

The Tomales Bay Potter Yachter Trip is scheduled for Sat., Sept.29 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 will have a better chance at securing a parking spot. There's also an unpaved overflow



David White and Don Person at Miller launch ramp



area above the paved lot. 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 (Eric has 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.

We were unable to secure a Group B [boat-in camping permit](#) this year so tents can't go on the beach unless you buy an individual permit. No permit is needed to anchor out or sleep on your boat while beached, although you must have a porta-potty on the boat in both cases. [Check the tides](#), but beaching overnight should be fine.

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. One year, Rob had Friday night dinner at the restaurant at Nick's Cove and they let him dock his Ranger Tug overnight. However, it's generally wise to treat a trip to Tomales Bay as a camping trip.

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

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). —

(Union Valley continued from page 1)

Jim Hunt writes, “We came up on Thursday to meet Guy Light who had been there since Tuesday. A fine, light breeze Thurs., Fri. & Sat. The anchorage was a bit crowded as the Sunset Campground was being remodeled. Camping at Wench was crowded and it will be redone, too. Parking at the ramp was tough, the new tanks & toilets were staged in the upper lot.

The potluck was quite a feast with sushi, ribs, chili, many salads & desserts. We had a hot Sunday with little wind predicted so most decided to bug out after breakfast. Five boats were in the lot taking down rigs when Rob was trying to get a pic & slipped off his boat [and sustained injuries].”

The Potter Yachters came to the rescue with first-aid and de-rigging his boat. He’s recovering.

Jim continues, “As an aside, it is a good idea if we all review our boat techniques & safety equipment for issues just like what we experienced.”

Apart from that unfortunate mishap, it sounds like they had a spectacular weekend of fine sailing in the company of some great Potter Yachters! — 🚩



George Corrigan



Guy Light’s Monty 16

Cynthia Shallit and Mark Sabin accidentally showed up a week early and wrote:

We had a wonderful time at Union Lake Reservoir this weekend [June 16, 2018]. We got there later than expected and couldn't find the rest of the Potters. But we did find a lovely sandy beach after we rounded the north point and anchored for the night. The wind was challenging (official weather report at Pollock Pines said 8mph, but I swear it was 15 to 20 knots!). We started out reefing the sail, but raised it after awhile and then resorted to taking down the sail and motoring in.

The next day, same healthy strong winds. We were doing fine then our sheet clamp on the boom came off! There we were with no sheet attached to the boom and the sail banging back and forth. Mark was able to jerry-rig a new attachment while I tried to hold it steady heading into the wind. We made it back through the white caps and called it a day! Cynthia & Mark [SunCat “Half Fool”] — 🚩

The Potter Yachter



From: Tony Mindling

On my first outing with the Potter Yachters I was fortunate to encounter Rob Sampson on the lake sailing his Vagabond. As I sail *Polywog*, the Holder 17 day-sailer version of the Vagabond, it was great fun to mess about with him for a bit. I sent him a few pics, and thought you might like to add them to your stack for potential newsletter fodder.



Cheers, Tony
[I do, indeed, like the fodder, Tony! – Ed.]



Send photos for the 2019 Potter Yachter Calendar

We need photos for the Potter Yachter Calendar! E-mail Don or the editor (editor@potter-yachters.org)

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*

