



The Potter Yachter

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

April 2024



Photo credit: Vicki Anderson

After a one week delay, fair weather greeted us for the first Potter Yachter outing of the year. *Riptide* (P19) and I arrived on Friday, set up the boat and got it in the water by about 5 p.m. While I was setting up the Soules showed up with *Nighthawk* (Balboa 20). I was very impressed with the speed with which they set up their boat. I had an hour lead on them, and they got in the water at the same time as I did.

Had a very good dinner at Anh, a very good Vietnamese restaurant right near the guest dock. The night passed quietly, and we awoke on Saturday to another very nice day. George Wehrfritz joined me around nine. His boat (*Sparrow*) was unable to come, pending a trailer replacement. We set up an ambush for the commodore who was set to arrive very soon. I had brought my trumpet along to practice some for a gig the next day. We lay in wait behind an SUV near the

ticket booth. When Jon Barber and *Ol' 44* (Montgomery 17) arrived, we came out of hiding. I played "Hail to the Chief" while George stood at attention and filmed the action. He was genuinely surprised.

The Soules were joined by friends and Jon also had family along, so although there were only three boats, there were quite a few sailors. We headed out toward Angel Island on a strong ebb, accomplishing the crossing in less than an hour. Jon and family headed for the docks at the Island, while *Nighthawk* and *Riptide* decided to go for the circumnavigation of the island, proceeding through Raccoon Straits with some difficulty due to a lack of wind. (Continued page 5)

Please renew your [membership](#). (Dues \$50/family)

Mail a check made out to Potter Yachters to Potter Yachters, 3710 Lone Tree Way, Suite 493 Antioch, CA 94509

Ship's Stores for sale. Order from Potter Yachters:
Show your colors! Fly an official Club Burgee on your next sail!

- Burgees \$25.00
- Bumper Stickers \$ 2.50
- Patches \$ 2.50
- Info Packets \$20.00 (Primarily P-15 information)

Or head over to the 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 Jon Barber


The sailing season is upon us. Ready or not, the days are getting longer, daylight saving is back, and the unsettled weather of spring brings cool breezes and remembrances of sails past. Time to get out there and raise the sails.

Two events this month have been held; The Coyote Point St Pat's Day sail and the Stockton Sailing Club's "Poker Run" I was only able to sail the SSC event and I can attest that in spite of the weather scaring off some attendees, it was a success. I did not hold the winning hand, but SSC's youth sail program did benefit from our antes (or was it our antics? Possibly both!)

Bud Kerner found out that Elkhorn Slough Yacht Club's guest dock was already spoken for on April 27-28. He was able to reschedule for the following weekend of May 4-5. I hope to see the guest dock full of Potters that weekend, once again, to take advantage of ESYC's hospitality. We will sail out onto Monterey Bay and hopefully encounter (at a safe distance) marine wildlife.

Another sail outing is available to us Potters through our association with the Pacific Inter Club Yacht Association or PICYA, for a sail parade on opening day on Sunday, April 28. We are invited to assemble off Crissy Field for a sail along the San Francisco waterfront. I plan to attend and hope to be joined by a contingent of Potters representing the club. See article by Eric Zilbert herein for details and registration information. Remember to wear your burgees!

I was asked to supply a photo for the Commodore's Corner column. Since few of yours truly exist, the one fitting photo (of a nautical theme) included another sailor. I failed to identify that sailor. It is my granddaughter, Kestrel. I am hoping that by taking her and her parents sailing frequently, both at Potter events and at our home mooring in Woodward Reservoir, she will become indoctrinated into the sailing life and carry on the tradition. A Potter Yachter in the making!

Fair Winds, 
Jon

Club Events on the Horizon		potter-yachters.org/calendar
April 13-14	Richmond to Oakland Yacht Club	Eric Zilbert
<i>Depending on wind and tides, this can be an intermediate to experienced sail—we will be crossing the "Slot" where you should be prepared to shorten sail. Launch in Richmond and sail to Alameda. Overnight in Alameda. Return to Richmond Sunday.</i>		
April 28th	Opening Day (A PICYA event)	PICYA
<i>Represent the Potter Yachters at the blessing of the fleet and/or in the boat parade. This could be an intermediate to advanced sail as you will be sailing (or motoring) past the San Francisco waterfront surrounded by many other boats. Consider watching from shore at Crissy Field or the Marina Green if sailing sounds too challenging.</i>		
May 4-5	Moss Landing	Bud Kerner
<i>Come join the Potter Yachters for two days of whale watching and sailing. Both days we will sail out of the Elkhorn Yacht Club in Moss Landing. Monterey Bay is not a bay—it is the ocean. This time of year, it can be very sporting. For this reason, your skill level should be intermediate to experienced.</i>		
May 18-19	Benicia to Napa	Goose Gossman
<i>Depending on wind and tides, this can be an intermediate sail. Launch in Benicia and sail to Napa. Stay overnight at the Napa Valley Marina followed by a sail back to Benicia on Sunday.</i>		
June 8-9	New Melones Reservoir	Kevin Crowder
<i>Come sail in the foothills of the Sierra. Launch at the Glory Hole launch ramp. We will anchor out overnight by the islands near the Tuttle Town ramp. Good for beginner to anchor overnight. Winds light to moderate.</i>		

Upcoming: Moss Landing Overnight – May 4-5, 2024 Join us at Elkhorn Yacht Club

Sail Host: Bud Kerner



Come join the Potter Yachters at the [Elkhorn Yacht Club](#) for a weekend of sailing with the whales in Moss Landing. The Elkhorn Yacht Club has once again made its guest dock available to us Potter Yachters. The sail is officially Saturday and Sunday, May 4-5th, however, in the last few years, most boats have launched on Friday. There is a new credit card pay station. The new station is closer to where the kayaks are, it only takes credit cards.

Friday night, there are appetizers from 4-8 at the Yacht Club. Saturday there is a hamburger and a drink for \$8. You cook your own hamburger.

There is a very nice restaurant in the parking lot. The Sea Harvest is open from 11 am to 7 pm.

Let me know if you are coming for a day sail or will overnight.

See you on the water!



Bud

Directions to Moss Landing, CA

For your GPS, the yacht club address is:
2370 CA-1, Moss Landing, CA 95039.
The club is right next to the ramp parking.

From San Jose, take Hwy 101 South:

take Hwy 156 West, exit onto Hwy 1 North at Castroville, just past the famous power plant stacks, go over the bridge and turn left into the parking lot.

From Santa Cruz, take Hwy 1 South:

turn into the parking lot just before the power plant stacks and before the bridge.

[Elkhorn YC](#)

(831) 724-3874



PICYA Update

By Eric Zilbert

As most of you are probably aware, the Potter Yachters have become the newest members of the Pacific Inter Club Yachting Association (PICYA). We joined the association at the end of 2023, and I have attended two association meetings this year, one at the Marin Yacht Club in February, and a second at the Ballena Bay yacht club in March. These meeting consist of dinner or lunch and a relatively short business meeting. We have three official delegates to the association: Jon Barber, Phil Marcelis, and me. The next meeting will be at the Benicia Yacht club on April 6. Delegates are allowed to bring guests, so if you are interested in coming along to one of these let one of us know.

The club has both power boat and sailing clubs as members. One of the benefits of membership is the custom of allowing members to stay overnight at the facilities of other members. We have been well received and I have been personally greeted by the representatives of many of our favorite venues including the Elkhorn Yacht Club, Oakland Yacht Club, Benicia Yacht Club, Napa Valley Yacht Club, and the Loch Lomond Club. If you wish to stay at a member club, you should contact them in advance about logistics and permission to tie up. All were very enthusiastic about our paying them a visit. We also got an invitation from the Encinal Yacht Club.

The association has several activities it supports. This includes a scholarship fund, a sponsored sail for injured veterans (the Wheelchair Regatta, September 28-29, Encinal Yacht Club), and a 3-day series of sailing races known as the Lipton Cup Regatta (June 14-16, San Francisco Yacht Club). The association is also a big supporter of the Recreational Boaters of California (RBOC) an organization which lobbies for recreational boaters. This organization has been instrumental in keeping registration fees for trailerable boats low. They are currently fighting a proposal to charge boaters for the property underneath their boats while renting a slip in a marina.

The biggest upcoming event is [Opening Day on the Bay](#), April 28. The PICYA will be participating in the boat parade and hopes to have at least one boat from each club in the parade. The theme this year is "Rock the Bay". The idea is that boats will be decorated with some kind of rock and roll motif. It would be great if we were able to field several boats for this event.

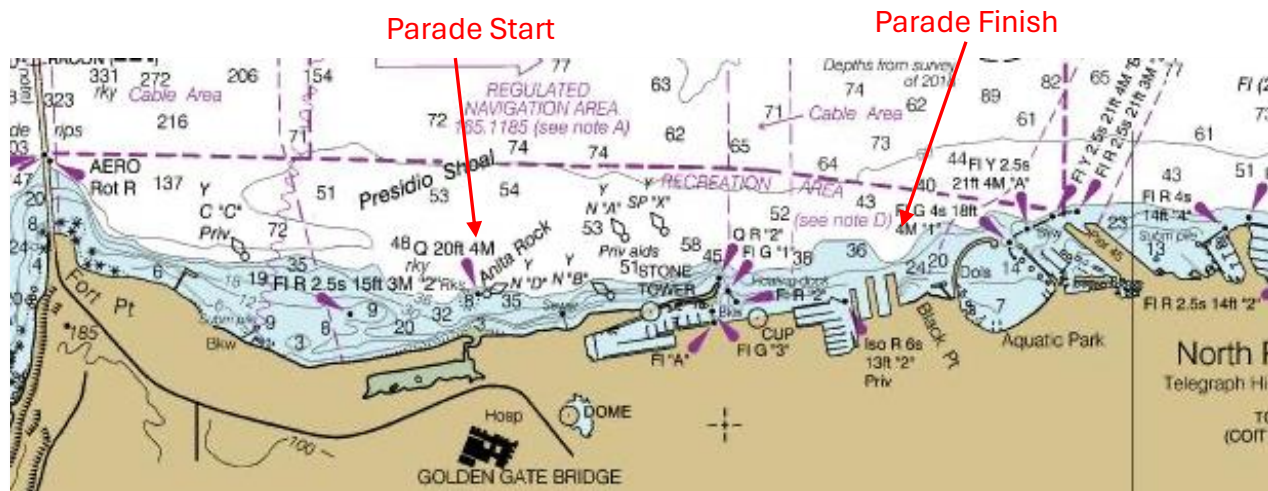
For more information on PICYA and their activities you can visit their [website](#). Fair winds,
Eric Zilbert, Vice Commodore — 

Opening day schedule:

10:30 Blessing of the fleet in Raccoon Strait. There will be a “Blessing Boat” anchored in the strait.

After receiving your blessing, head across to San Francisco for the boat parade.

12:00 Boat parade. If you wish to attend this event, it is free, but you need to register [here](#). All details [here](#).



(Richmond—continued from page 1)

After transiting the straight, we had slightly better wind. We made good progress for a while, but then the wind began to die, and the ebb grew stronger. George and I talked sailing for about two hours as we sailed in place for about two hours. I finally insisted on starting the motor, we rounded the island with *Nighthawk* and proceeded to motor sail most of the way back to Richmond due to the very strong (2-3 kt.) ebb.

On returning we found that Jon had already headed back home, so they did not join George, Sharon, Dave and I for another great meal, but we *were* joined by Phil, Goose and Gale. Before dinner, George helped me pack up the boat. He was a great crewman and a big help all day long. Amazing how much easier it is to set a whisker pole when you have help opposed to when sailing solo.

Richmond to Angel Island Sail participants:

- Eric Zilbert & George Wehrfritz – *Riptide*, WWP 19
- David and Sharon Soule, Denny and Vicki
– *Nighthawk*, Balboa 21
- Jon Barber and Family – *Ol' 44*, Montgomery 17



The Soules stayed another night at Richmond, while I had a quick and uneventful trip back to Davis. I have to say that I love sailing out of Richmond. Great views, great staff, good facilities, and several nice restaurants. I look forward to seeing more Potter Yachters at Richmond when we do our April overnight to the Oakland Yacht club. Fair winds to all.



Richmond Sail in Photos

By Sharon Soule



I had the week off, so we were able to leave the house earlier than usual. Both Joker and David seem to be a bit confused to be launching in daylight.



Nighthawk and *Riptide* comfortably berthed for the night.



It was a very fast trip to the Raccoon Straits with the ebb tide pushing us along. As we rounded Angel Island, we found ourselves in the midst of the SSS Corinthian Race fleet. We also found ourselves in a race against Angel Island—and with the strong ebb against us now and light winds, the island was winning!



Photo credit: Vicki Anderson


Eric and George on *Riptide* tried staying closer to Angel Island looking for helpful back-eddies. On *Nighthawk*, we stayed farther out hoping for some “slot karma” with the wind. We didn’t have any luck, so David hoisted the spinnaker, and we tacked off towards Alcatraz trying to find enough wind to beat the tide. We watched Eric and George round Point Blunt and immediately get swept about half a mile south by the tide! After that, we motored. — 



Photo credit: Vicki Anderson



After Action Report: St. Pat's Sail

By Mark Sabin



We spent the night of March 15 tied up to the CPYC guest dock. There were three boats, five people, and a dog in our group. Eric Zilbert in *Riptide*, a Potter 19, a new member, Tyler Backman and fiancée Tierra and a shy puppy (I forget his name) in *Goshawk*, a Sage 17, and myself, Mark Sabin and my wife Cynthia in *Half Fool*, a Sun Cat 17, were All The Usual Suspects on this trip! All of the other Usuals were off gallivanting in other parts of the world, healing up, or just getting ready for a wonderful summer of sailing! But we represented our Potter Yachter group well!

Two of us arrived Friday around noon and launched our boats. We sailed out of the marina and headed north with the current. It was a beautiful sunny day with gentle winds. We returned several hours later, running with the now medium wind and south current.

Eric arrived Saturday morning. Tyler assisted him in raising his mast. Eric launched and we were off--out of the marina, through the channel, and we headed north against a mild wind but with the current. This was a fun day sail! We went North for 1.5 or 2 hours--then in true Potter fashion-- all went our separate ways!

Eric continued onto McCovey Cove; Cynthia and I sailed into Oyster Point Marina, parked, and took a walk; Tyler returned to CPYC. (We maintained VHF 69 contact). The wind picked up and the tide changed—we all had fun.

The run back, with a now stiff breeze, southbound current, and a fetch producing up to 2 foot rollers made for an hour or so of surfing downwind. Great! Only once did I accidentally gybe! Cynthia loved driving the boat most of the way. (Until the wind picked up even more.) What a day!

And then we had two catastrophes! Eric's fuel hose broke at some point, and he tried sailing into the guest dock in the marina. He almost made it. He was maybe 200 feet short when the wind was completely blocked. Cynthia and I towed him rest of way and he readily fixed the hose. Then Tyler dropped his CPYC access card into the water! It sank. I jumped in, almost naked, and retrieved it. Oh, YES! All good!



St. Pat's Day Sail participants:

- Eric Zilbert – *Riptide*, WWP 19
- Mark & Cynthia Sabin – *Half Fool*, Compac 17
- Tyler Backman & Tierra – *Goshawk*, Sage 17

That night the St. Pat's Dinner was great—Irish Dancers; Zydeco Band for live music, and about 15 Zydeco Groupie Dancers (who follow the band around). Cynthia and I and many others danced a bunch. Coyote Point Yacht Club is such a nice place—too bad that San Mateo County is considering not renewing their lease. I'm going



to try to speak at the next Board Meeting and tell them that CPYC predates their presence as the property owner (per the history on the CPYC web site.)

Smooth sailings, Mark — 

Do you have your California Boater Card yet?



- If you operate a vessel and are 60 years old or under, you are required to have a Cal Boater Card in all California waters as of January 1st, 2024.
- If you are over 60, all persons regardless of age will be required to have a Cal Boater Card as of January 1st, 2025.
- [Click Here to get your Cal Boating Card](#)
- Vessel operators who are required to have the California Boater Card must carry the card on board the vessel and have it available for inspection by an enforcement officer. Not carrying your California Boater Card when it is required can result in a fine.
- If you have BoatUS, you can get it through them. Look for more information in next month's newsletter.

Officer's Club

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Montgomery 17, *OI' 44*

Vice-Commodore:
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P-19, #629, *Riptide*

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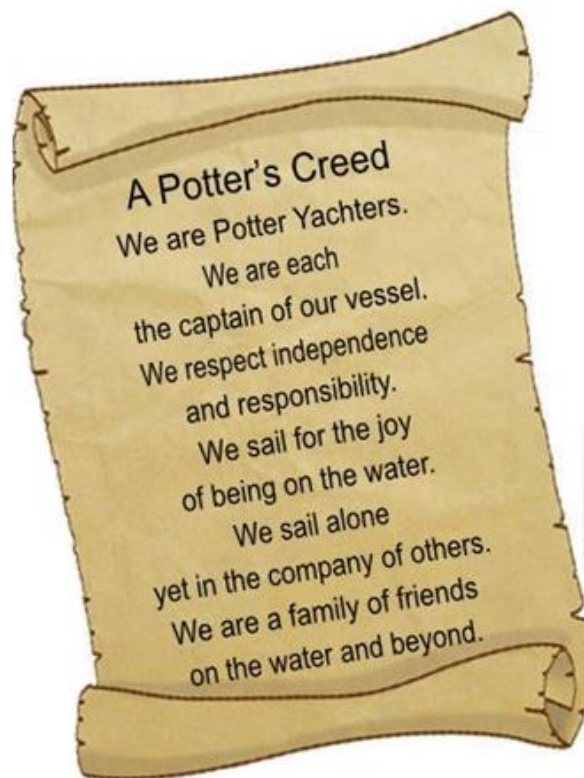
With a Grain of Salt

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



A Potter's Creed
We are Potter Yachters.
We are each
the captain of our vessel.
We respect independence
and responsibility.
We sail for the joy
of being on the water.
We sail alone
yet in the company of others.
We are a family of friends
on the water and beyond.