



# The Potter Yachter

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

April 2017

## Potter Yachters Open the Season with a Superb St. Patrick's Weekend South Bay Sail

"Spring is the time of plans and projects."

— Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina* (1877)

"Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'"

— Robin Williams, *Weapons of Self Destruction* (2009)

by  
Carl Sundholm



I always look forward to the first sail of the season. Despite one of the rainiest years on record, weather reports were promising fair winds and sunshine; a nice contrast to one of the rainiest winters on record.



On the morning of March 18, 2017, I arrived early and my son Sam helped set up Dagmar for

(See *St. Pat's* continued on page 6)

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## The Commodore's Corner

By Eric Zilbert

### Choices, Choices

I hope this version of the newsletter finds all of you well and in the midst of either recovering from a recent sail or planning to get out again soon. Looking at the sailing calendar for our group and others that I sail with, I was sad to see some of the inevitable conflicts that always arise. In addition to being a member of the Potter Yachters, I am also a member of the Lake Washington Sailing Club in Sacramento, and a long time participant in races sponsored by the Vallejo Yacht Club (I race on other people's boats, not my P19). This year the main conflicts I am needing to resolve include the following:


- April 29-30 is the weekend of our Moss Landing trip, and also the open house for Lake Washington.
- May 5 is the date the Potters have been invited to bring a group to race at Encinal Yacht Club, while the Vallejo Race is the same weekend.
- August 5<sup>th</sup> we have a trip planned to Beardsley Lake, which is a new venue and is the same day as the Dingy Delta Ditch Race from Rio Vista to Lake Washington, one that I have yet to participate in with my Potter.



The most difficult choice for me is the first one. I love the spring sail in Moss Landing. If you have not done this sail it is a really unique experience. The Yacht Club is super friendly, and it is easy and cheap to launch and park. What makes the venue however is the wildlife. The last time I did this there were dozens of baby otters and their moms hanging out around the harbor. There were also baby seals, and when we went out on the water we saw whales and porpoises. Really a magical trip. Now, anyone that knows Lake Washington would say, "Hey, no brainer Z, Lake Washington has nothing on Moss Landing." And they would be right, except that the draw of the open house is definitely NOT the setting, but the event itself.

At the open house Lake Washington makes it possible for people interested in sailing to come to the club, look at boats, find out about membership, and *go for sailboat rides*. I have been giving rides at this event for the last four or five years, and I have to say that giving these rides is among the most satisfying things I have ever done, on or off the water. The P19 allows me to offer rides to people who would be prevented by age or physical limitations from going out on a Thistle or Lido 14. The people I give rides to have often NEVER BEEN ON A BOAT, no less a sailboat. There are kids with their parents, older folks, the timid and the bold. Some years I have given as many as 15 rides in the course of the day, with two to four passengers on each ride. Getting to know these folks and sailing my boat with them is a tremendous pleasure. I would like to say I do it for the club and to "further our sport", but the truth is it is just such a kick in the pants to watch and listen as people have their first experience sailing. If you ever have a chance to do something like this I encourage you to do it!

Alas, the choices are not easy, and we all face them. What is best? Satisfying one's desire for a great escape, or provide a lasting memory for a poor kid and his mom? I really shouldn't have put it that way!! Makes me feel guilty for having sent in my regrets to the Lake Washington club this morning. Though there is still time to change my mind....

Eric — 





## Mike Westfield

Many words apply to Mike Westfield, but “boring” is not one. In fact, sailing was just more fun with Mike around, and anyone whoever sailed with Mike has a story to tell. My favorite started when Don Person and I launched *Sarah Ann* and *Muddy Duck* out of Brannon Island for a sail down the San Joaquin to Antioch. Mike was there without *Water Toy*, why I don’t remember, and he hopped in the *Sarah Ann* with Don. It was a pleasant sail and we were hungry when we reached Antioch after two PM.




Unfortunately, the local eateries on the water were closed. But much to my delight, Humphry’s was open and we quickly tied up at the dock. Now, Humphry’s is a nice place named after a wayward whale, and comes with white table linens, polished crystal, an elaborate menu, and an attentive staff complete with wine steward. So, in we go with Mike right behind. I asked the hostess if they were still serving – they were – and could we please have a table for three.

But the poor thing was in a state of shock and couldn’t take her eyes off Mike who looked like he had left his shopping cart parked outside. Needless to say, I sensed a certain reluctance on her part. I leaned towards her and whispered, “You probably don’t recognize him, but he is quite famous.” I wasn’t lying, for Mike certainly had a reputation in certain quarters.

The hostess perked up and ushered us to one of the nicest tables by the window with a gorgeous view of the river. The food was excellent, the service better. While we ate, I noticed the staff kept wandering by, including the above mentioned wine steward and at least two of the kitchen help. I still imagine the hushed conversations that went on behind our backs. Afterwards, we paid the bill and made a gracious exit with smiles all around and a “Please come back.”

Sailing is about being on the water and the boats and those who sail them. Mike was one of us, and, in his own way, he enriched our lives. I am not an overly religious man, but I pray that Mike made safe harbor.

Dick Herman — 

### Club Events on the Horizon

[Event Calendar](#)

May 5 (Fri-Sat)	Cinco de Mayo Invitation to Encinal Yacht Club	(Judy B)
<i>Potter Yachters are invited to Encinal YC's Cinco de Mayo PARTY! Overnight at docks with advance reservation; Please RSVP to the host: <a href="mailto:judy@hydesailsdirect.com">judy@hydesailsdirect.com</a></i>		
May 20 (Sat)	Delta Sail from B&W and Overnight at Spindrifft	(Jerry B)
<i>usually easy but intermediate when very windy; overnight on boat moored to docks</i>		
June 3 (Sat-Sun)	Woodward Reservoir Overnight	(Herman W)
<i>easy to somewhat intermediate if windy; overnight in boats moored on the beach, or bring a sleeping bag &amp; tent to camp at the site; “improved” campground</i>		
June 17 (Sat-Sun)	Union Valley Reservoir Overnight	(David W)
<i>winds mostly from the southwest; wide launch ramp; anchor or beach for cost of launching</i>		

Upcoming: April 29, 2017

## Moss Landing Whale Watching

host: Bud Kerner

Come join the Potter Yachters for a Whale Watching Sail. We will have use of the [Elk Horn Yacht Club's](#) guest dock for the weekend of 4/29/17.

- Friday is an optional day, I plan to launch and sail on Friday.
- Saturday, we leave the harbor at 10:00am.
- Sunday is another optional day.



The yacht club is very friendly so come on into the club house after the sail to enjoy their hospitality. The weather can be somewhat brisk in April. If there is more wind than you are comfortable with, you can sail in the harbor. Whales have been known to enter the harbor.

[Fees](#) are somewhat confusing. The [Moss Landing Harbor District website](#) provides this information about trailered vessels (except PWC or kayaks) as of July 1, 2016:

Launch-only is \$11.00, overnight vehicle and trailer parking is \$15.00. If you plan to make it a Saturday day-sail only, you would put \$17 in the provided envelope at the "iron ranger" drop box. They do not make change, so have the right amount. It is a long walk to the harbor master's office.

- Launch only: \$11.00
- Launch and 12 hours of parking: \$17.00
- Daily Parking: \$8.00/12 hours; \$15.00/24 hours
- Overnight parking for trailer only (in designated areas – contact harbormaster): \$10.00

See you on the water! —



### **Directions** to Moss Landing, CA

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

### **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.



Upcoming: B&W to Spindrift – May 20, 2017

## Delta Sail and Overnight

host: Jerry Barrilleaux

Our annual Delta Sail will be the same as last year. We will be launching from [B&W Marina](#) and sailing over to the [Spindrift Marina](#) on the [Delta Loop](#) for an overniter. A slip at the Spindrift is only \$10.00 per night. They have clean restrooms with showers. There is a GREAT restaurant across the street and the bar inside has really cold beer. There's even a general store below the bar. We will be having lunch, dinner and breakfast Sunday morning. The Stockton deep water channel offers some of the best sailing to be found on the Delta.

We will be launching at B&W where it's \$26.00 for launching and overnight parking. Let's try to be in the water by 9 AM so we can all go under the bridge together.

To get to B&W, take Highway 4 towards Antioch, then get on 160 towards Rio Vista. Go over the Antioch Bridge and get ripped off for \$15.00. When you get to Highway 12, turn right. Go for a few miles and just BEFORE you cross a bridge, turn left on Brannon Island Rd. This will take you to the ramp. If you play a musical instrument please bring it with you.

[Spindrift Marina](#) (916) 777-6041

[B&W Resort](#) (916) 777-6161

Jerry Barrilleaux (925) 685-4577

magiceaux@gmail.com — 



### 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>

### Cinco de Mayo Invitation from Encinal Yacht Club, Alameda, CA - May 5 & 6

EYC Commodore Doug Perry invites Potter Yachters to stay at the EYC guest dock for the Cinco de Mayo weekend, May 5 & 6! (Friday/Saturday), and up to a maximum of 5 days.

There will be no charge for overnight berthing at the guest dock for PY members who RSVP in advance (to [Judy@hydesailsdirect.com](mailto:Judy@hydesailsdirect.com)). We may have to raft together, depending on how many show up. Keys to the bathrooms 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 and Dinner, Thursday through Sunday and a great Sunday Brunch. Drinks and food are very reasonably priced, and the food is delicious!

### [Encinal Yacht Club Facilities and Hours of Operation](#)

Your host for the event,

Judy Blumhorst

RSVP to: [Judy@hydesailsdirect.com](mailto:Judy@hydesailsdirect.com)



(*St. Pat's* continued from page 1)

the sail. Sam is getting very adept at set-up, take down, and sailing Dagmar and I really enjoy his company out on the water.

With the morning light, the Potter Yachters began to assemble. Alan Koepf and Chris were out on the ramp early setting up their WWP 19.



Dave and Francesca Kautz prepared their beautiful Capri 26 "Zoe" for the cruise to the Thompson.

## 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

Since the tides were the opposite of what we would have liked, with the low tide at noon, we stuck to the deeper parts of the channel on the way out.



There was a great turnout. A Potter Yachter flotilla of 8 boats caught a favorable breeze and sailed out Redwood Creek towards South San Francisco Bay: Dave and Francesca Kautz in their Capri 26 "Zoe", Alan Koepf and Chris in their West Wight Potter 19, Rob Sampson in his Vagabond 17, Jim "Goose" Gossman in his "souped-up" and highly modified WWP 19 "Regale," Don Person in his Potter 15 "Sarah Anne," Mark Sabin and Cynthia Shallit in their Compac Sun Cat "Half Fool," Phil Marcelis in his Potter 19 "Family Time," and yours truly with Sam Sundholm in WWP 19 "Dagmar."





Nice breeze out the channel,  
unusual from the southwest.



Heading out Redwood Creek, we passed Corkscrew Slough on the north and recalled it was seven years ago that we got merrily marooned in the mud by falling tides in the 2010 Great Corkscrew Slough Mud Fest. A reminder to mind the tides.





With the noon low tide being just one foot, we continued to head out the deep channel of Redwood Creek until somewhere between green channel markers number 5 and 3 before heading towards the wreck of the destroyer U.S.S. Thompson over the sub-surface shallow sand and mud bar that borders the channel where it meets the bay.

Phil headed out of the channel first, turning just after channel marker number 5 and reported 6 feet of depth for his Potter 19, followed by the rest of our flotilla of Potter Yachters.



Photo by Phil Marcelis



We sailed across the bay towards the tiny speck on the horizon that is the wreck of the destroyed destroyer U.S.S. Thompson. As the horizon speck grew larger, the low tide revealed more of the Thompson wreck than we usually see.

On arrival, one group of Potters rafted up for lunch with Dave Kautz's solidly anchored Capri 26. The other group, including myself, rafted up with Phil Marcelis' Potter 19.



As we relaxed and enjoyed our picnic lunch, excellent conversation, and some music, we realized that Dave Kautz's group had a bigger anchor, as our "Potter Island" drifted south with the incoming tide while Dave's "island" stayed put by the wreck.



No worries though, as there was plenty of leeway. Long before we drifted into any difficulties, the wind began to pick up. That was our signal that it was time to head back, at which time each boat broke off from the raft islands and enjoyed some more fine sailing.





Mark and Cynthia decided to sail closer and check out the Thompson wreck. This reminded me of the time that the ever intrepid Steve Potter tied up and set foot on the wreck, symbolically claiming it for the Potter Yachters.



Goose, with Regale, the most powerful Potter 19 in the world, caught up with everyone, made sure all was good, and wrangled the herd of cats in the general direction of the port.



Photo by Phil Marcelis


Some of us tarried on the way back to enjoy watching the tall ships Hawaiian Chieftain and Lady Washington.



That night, Sequoia Yacht Club held a wonderful St. Patrick's Weekend Dinner with Irish Music and cooking by Helen Horn, of Peninsula Yacht Club fame.



Photo by Phil Marcelis

Fantastic food, marvelous music and dancing, and captivating conversation provided an emotional exclamation point marking the end of a very fine day of sailing and friends. — 

**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](mailto:pat-brennan@sbcglobal.net) indicating "2017 Potter Yachter dues" in the notes.

**EXCUSE OUR DUST:** As we change webhosting service providers, the website may experience some issues. If [www.potter-yachters.org](http://www.potter-yachters.org) doesn't seem to work for you, try [www.potter-yachters.com](http://www.potter-yachters.com) in the meantime. — *Ed.*

**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

