



The Potter Yachter

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

Jan / Feb 2018

2017 Potter Yachter of the Year Congratulations to Bud Kerner!

The award for Potter Yacht of the Year was given to Bud Kerner at the annual meeting of the Potter Yachters on January 28th, 2018.

The inscription reads,

*2017 Potter Yachter of the Year
Bud Kerner
A quiet leader (herder of cats)
A master of bridges
An intrepid coastal cruiser*

Due consideration was given to the many achievements this sailor has made, not just during the previous year, but in his many years with the club. He's sailed his P-19 practically the whole coast from Crescent City to Coronado.

Bud has exemplified other desirable characteristics to earn this award, originally created to recognize the Potter Yachter traits of friendliness, helpfulness, and service to fellow members. He's always been willing to contribute his energy to the club – whether that's meant being commodore or a sailing event host – and freely gives his advice and sailing suggestions to anyone who asks. For these reasons, and so many more, Bud Kerner is our Potter Yachter of the Year.

Congratulations, Bud! — 



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 "2018 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

Ahoy Potter Yachters!

This is the first newsletter of 2018. The New Year started off well in that the annual meeting on January 28th was very well attended, and that the election of officers went off without any foreign interference. I was re-elected Commodore (thank you all) and therefore writing the Commodores Corner. The Sailing Calendar was the most discussed item on the agenda, including discussion of possible alternative venues for the Cruiser Challenge. While the

club is committed to Monterey for 2018, there are good arguments for changing the location of the event. I am going to use this column to list what I see are the strengths and weaknesses of Monterey as a location for this event. Over the course of the next several editions I would like to see members with ideas for alternate locations to do a similar analysis of their proposed sites and submit them for publication in the newsletter.

I must admit as a good social scientist, that I have a bias toward Monterey. This is primarily the many fond memories I have of visiting Monterey as a child, as a young parent, and as a sailor. From 1983-88 my wife Lisa and I lived in Salinas, and would often go to Monterey for family outings, especially when my parents would visit, and I have a certain love of the French Bakery, and always think of my father when I visit it.

That said, the club generally has two other sails to Monterey each year where I can indulge in nostalgia. The issues leading to consideration of other venues include: parking, the cost of the dinner at the yacht club, the cost of parking, the high price of hotel rooms (not everyone wants to or are able to stay in their boat), and of course traffic and parking.

The up side of Monterey includes: Reasonable dock fees, sufficient dock space for all comers, good facilities at the Marina, marina staff that know us (and like us), Lulu's, and great sailing. It has also become a tradition for us to hold the Challenge in this world class locale, filled with fantastic restaurants, spectacular views, an amazing aquarium, and Cannery Row.

It is unlikely that any venue will be perfect. And many of the charms of Monterey will be impossible to duplicate anywhere else (see note on biases above), however, that does not mean we should not consider other possibilities. I do think that any location we select should, at a minimum, include: Dock space for all, several good eateries, a banquet hall or other facility for the awards ceremony, hotel accommodations within a reasonable distance, excellent sailing and racing, and reasonably priced parking.

I have to say that looking at my analysis I have convinced myself that Monterey may be the best option available, but I may have missed something. I am looking forward to reading other members thoughts on this issue, and providing information about other locations we might consider.

Commodore Z — 

| Club Events on the Horizon | | Event Calendar |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Feb 25 (Sun) | Potter Yachter Lecture Series @ OYC <i>Eric Zilbert and Dave Bacon will give a talk on Basic Seamanship. Regatta Room from 10-noon</i> | (Eric/Dave) |
| Mar 17 (Sat-Sun) | St. Patrick's Day Weekend Sail and Dinner <i>easy to intermediate depending on wind and how far out we go; overnight at docks</i> | (Carl S) |
| Apr 14 (Sat-Sun) | Benicia Sail with Optional overnight | (Goose) |

The Potter Yachters

Sailing Event Schedule for 2018

See <http://www.potter-yachters.org/eventcalendar/latestcalendar.pdf>

| | | | |
|----------|---------|---|---------------|
| 01/28/17 | Sun | Potter Yachter Annual Meeting | |
| 02/25/18 | Sun | Potter Yachter Lecture Series: <i>Basic Seamanship</i> | Eric Z/Dave B |
| 03/17/18 | Sat-Sun | St. Patrick's Day Weekend Sail and Dinner at the Peninsula Yacht Club in Redwood City with Overnight Option | Carl S |
| 04/14/18 | Sat-Sun | Benicia Sail with Optional overnight | Goose |
| 04/21/18 | Sat | Richmond Sail and Power Boat Show (Boat show is Thursday through Sunday, April 19-22, 2018) | Pat B |
| 04/28/18 | Sat-Sun | Moss Landing/Elkhorn YC Sail with Overnight Option | Bud K |
| 05/19/18 | Sat-Sun | Delta Overnight Sail | Jerry B |
| 06/02/18 | Sat-Sun | Woodward Reservoir Overnight * | Herman W |
| 06/23/18 | Sat-Sun | Union Valley Reservoir Overnight * | David W |
| 07/28/18 | Sat-Sun | 19 th Annual Cruiser Challenge in Monterey | Phil M |
| 08/05/18 | Sat | New Spicer Meadow Reservoir Overnight * | Mike K |
| 08/11/18 | Sat | Dinghy Delta Ditch (contact Mark Sabin) | LWSC.org |
| 08/18/18 | Sat | Richmond Sail / Overnight | Jerry B |
| 08/25/18 | Sat | Lake Hennessey Sail * | Rich M |
| 09/08/18 | Sat | Alameda to Clipper Cove Picnic Sail | Carl S |
| 09/29/18 | Sat-Sun | Tomaes Bay Overnight Sail | Eric Z |
| 10/13/18 | Sat-Sun | Moss Landing to Monterey Sail and Overnight | Bud K |
| 10/27/18 | Sat-Sun | Delta Bridges Sail and Overnight | Bud K |

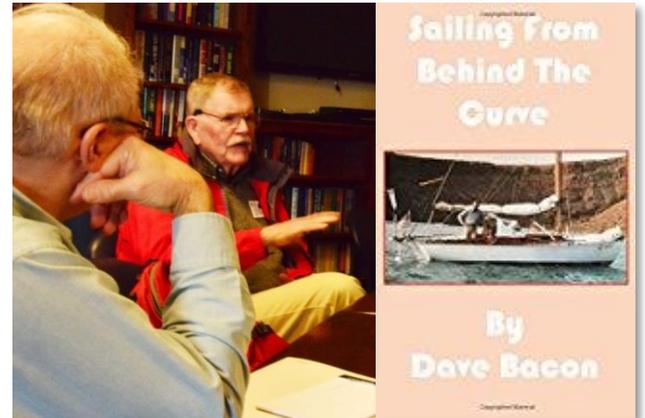
* Reservoir/Lake sails are subject to modification or cancellation depending on drought conditions.

**Caveat: Sailing can be a dangerous activity so please be careful and keep an eye on your fellow sailors. Participation in any Potter Yachter event constitutes agreement that each participant, and their guests or crew, assume all risk of any injury or damage they may suffer relating to any such event, and waive any claims of ordinary negligence against other Potter Yachter participants and the Potter Yachters relating to any such injury or damage. Have fun and sail safely.

Upcoming: Sunday, February 25, 2017 - Breakfast and Lecture at Oakland Yacht Club

Basic Seamanship – A Talk by Eric Zilbert and Dave Bacon

You're invited to join us from 10-noon on February 25th in the Regatta Room of the Oakland Yacht Club. As usual, Oakland Yacht Club offers a tasty breakfast upstairs starting at around 9 a.m., and then by 10 a.m. (or whenever folks appear to be done eating) we'll head down to the Regatta Room, which we've reserved for the whole day. A sample [breakfast menu](#) and [directions to the club](#) can sometimes be found on their website: www.oaklandyachtclub.net



Eric Zilbert and Dave Bacon will give a talk on the subject of seamanship in a way that is certain to be of interest to newbies and the accomplished “salty dog” alike.

Dave Bacon has a new book out entitled *Sailing From Behind The Curve* and he is also author of the cult classic *The Gentle Art of Pottering*. Copies of the books may be available at the talk, but are also on [Amazon](#).

Dave and Eric are such eloquent and loquacious speakers that they are sure to provide engaging and informative anecdotes to illustrate their lecture. This is an event you will not want to miss! — 

From the North on 80/880 S (Berkeley, Bay Bridge) take Broadway/Alameda exit, turn right on 5th at Broadway head to Alameda (see **Tube** below)

From the North via 980 (Walnut Creek) take Jackson Street, turn left under freeway turn left on 8th Street, then left on Webster Street follow directions from the Posey **Tube** (below)

From the South (San Jose, Castro Valley) take 880 N to Oakland and exit Broadway turn right onto Broadway, then right on 7th Street turn right on Webster Street for the tunnel

From the Webster Street/Posey Tube keep left and turn left at Marina Village Pkwy turn right at Independence & left at Triumph Street the club is located at the end of the street. parking is in front of the club house



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

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

Webmaster:

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sail@marcelis.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

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

Website & Facebook:

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



Report: Annual Meeting Members Gather at OYC

The annual meeting of the Potter Yachters convened on January 28, 2018 at the Oakland Yacht Club in Alameda. OYC provided a tasty breakfast – as always. Afterwards, we adjourned to the Regatta Room for our meeting.

Commodore Eric Zilbert ran a great meeting and kept it moving along. He went around the room and had new members and other folks introduce

themselves, and then he turned it over to Pat for the Treasurer’s Report (included elsewhere in this issue). We voted to keep the dues at \$25 (approved) and voted on officer nominations as proposed (likewise approved, see **Officer’s Club** on previous page). Some new business was mentioned, including Dave Bacon’s new book. He brought some with him, and you can see by the empty box that he sold out. Eric led a review & approval of the Sailing Calendar and presented the Potter Yachter of the Year award. At which time we adjourned and took a photo before the traditional gift exchange (see some of the gifts on the table in photo above).

Due to a portrait-sitting snafu, not everyone made it into the photo. You may have read in previous issues about the difficulties of herding these cats on our frequent sails when there are “only” 15 or 20 unruly boats going off in all directions, so just imagine Carl trying to convince 53 of us to be “ruly” enough for a good picture!

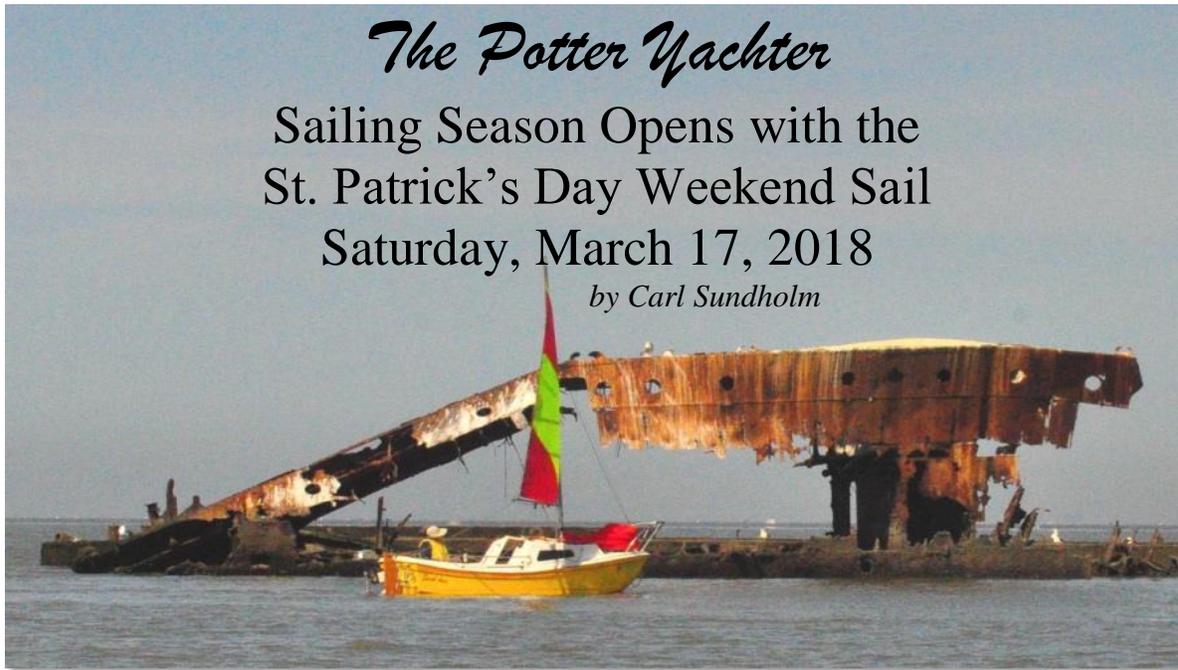
It was wonderful to see familiar faces and even better to meet some new ones who we’ll hopefully be getting to know better over the course of many, many future sails. It was a great way to spend the morning! — 



Commodore Eric Zilbert



Seated (from left) Dick Galland, Danny Ward (profile), Dan Phy, Phil Marcelis, Mark Sabin, Cynthia Shallit, JP Bouquet, Terry Gotcher, Dick Herman, Rob Sampson, Alan Koepf, Jon Barber, Craig Smith. **Back Row** (from left) Sharon Soule, Alan Roberts (partial), Kevin Crowder, Dave Bacon, Dave & Francesca Kautz, Randy Anderson (behind), Clint Rood, Pat Brennan, Dan & Gretchen (behind) Ricker, Katie Taylor (front), Harry Gordon, Larry Tkach, Rich McDevitt, Judy & Dave Blumhorst, Jerry Barrilleaux, Eric Zilbert, Rick Schneider, Pete Evans (w/ Tani), Joan Savarese, Ted Tome, Bob Eeg, Bruce McDevitt, Bill Adams, Carl Sundholm, Ed Dove, Gerry Nolan, Goose, Mike Swartz (behind), Bud Kerner. **Attendees Not Pictured:** Dave Norris, Mark Malcolm, Herman Ward, David Soule, Don Person, Jim Hunt, Mike Kennedy, Laura Barber



As the sailing season draws nigh, sailors' thoughts drift towards getting back out on the water, and for Potter Yachters that typically starts with the Redwood City sail.

We will meet once again at the Redwood City Marina Boat Ramp at 9:00 a.m. The tides are reportedly looking great for Saturday.

Weather permitting and subject to last minute changes at the captains' meeting, we intend to set sail out onto San Francisco Bay for a picnic anchorage out to by the U.S.S. Thompson wreck. The tide will be high around lunchtime, so we should be able to raft up for lunch near the wreck, which is in shallow water. There may be a brief captains meeting at the ramp to confirm the plan for the day. Remember to keep your radio tuned to Channel 68. We will sail out Redwood Creek to the Bay, and if upon reaching the Bay the weather is hospitable, we will continue sailing out to the wreck of the USS Thompson for anchoring and lunch. If we get blown away by too high winds on the Bay, we will make it a day sailing around the Redwood Creek estuary.

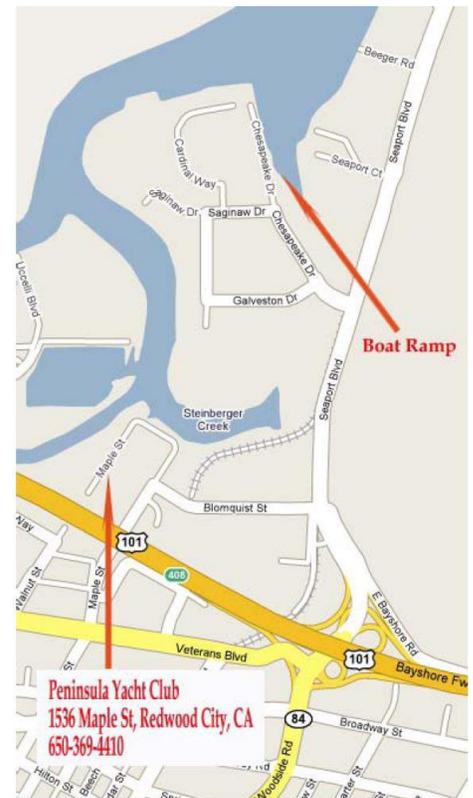
This year, the tall ships Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftain will depart on Friday before we arrive, but we'll still party Friday night.

Peninsula Yacht Club is holding a St. Patrick's Dinner and Dance on Friday, and then they'll do it again at Sequoia YC on Saturday. (If you want to attend Sequoia's dinner, sign up with them since they were at capacity last time. Ditto for a slip, since they're having a race Saturday.)

If you can make it to the St. Pat's Dinner on Friday, you will be pleased with the tasty corned beef and cabbage! To arrange for free dockage and launching at Docktown, contact the Port Captain at 650-771-1945.

Or you can use the municipal Boat Ramp near Sequoia YC ([see map](#)). That's \$5 and includes parking.

Directions: Highway 101, Redwood City, take the Woodside Road/Seaport Blvd. Exit, take Seaport Blvd. eastbound (towards the Bay). To get to the Ramp continue on Seaport Blvd. until you take a left on Chesapeake Drive and follow it to the end where there will be a parking lot on your left and the ramp on your right. Park in the lot, get an envelope to pay the ramp and parking fee, leave the sticker in your car with the trailer and you're good for the day. — 



The Potter Yachter Treasurer's Report: We're Still Afloat!

Pat Brennan made a PowerPoint presentation at the annual meeting about the state of the club finances. You'll be happy to know that our group has paid all its bills and still has money left!

As you can see from the spreadsheet in the sidebar, the club made a bit of money. Unfortunately, we spent \$425 more on Cruiser Challenge than the event took in. Still, year-end cash balance is near our 9-year running average of around \$5,000.

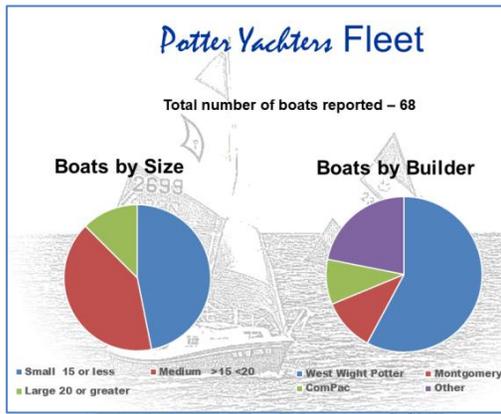
We maintain an inventory of bumper stickers, burgees, patches, and information packets. We had a substantial inventory of calendars, but they were probably all sold at the meeting.

We voted to hold the club dues steady at \$25 per family.

As of Jan. 1, 2018, the club has 67 regular members. Out-of-state members include Hawaii, Michigan (2), Nevada (2), New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

Skippers self-reported 68 boats in our fleet. Of those, the majority are less than 20-foot LOA, split roughly equally between ones less than 15-foot and those 15- to 20-foot in length. The majority of models owned are still reported as *West Wight Potter*, followed by "other" and then equal shares *Montgomery* and *Com-Pac*.

We still have a sort of "reciprocal club" relationship with these Yacht clubs: Monterey Peninsula, Oakland, Peninsula, Coyote Point, and Elkhorn. —  [Any mistakes in this reporting of the report are the editor's. —Ed.]



| CASH FLOW - Excluding Cruiser Challenge | |
|---|----------------|
| INFLOWS | |
| Memberships | 1650 |
| Merchandise | |
| Burgees | 175 |
| Calendars | 460 |
| Information packets | 55 |
| TOTAL Merchandise | 690 |
| Other Income | 2 |
| TOTAL INFLOWS | \$2,342 |
| OUTFLOWS | |
| Computers - Web Hostings | 9 |
| Donations | 750 |
| Event Expenses | 100 |
| Postage and Delivery | 214 |
| Printing | 433 |
| Supplies | 108 |
| TOTAL OUTFLOWS | \$1,614 |
| OVERALL TOTAL | \$728 |



Have you ever dreamed of sailing your Potter across an ocean? Well, Robert Crawford did just that with his P-19 in the San Francisco to Hawaii 2008 Transpac; and the Cal 20 is only one foot longer than our Potter 19's. Robert and his wife Jeannie wrote a book called **Black Feather**, which is also the name of the boat, describing the experience from the preparation to the actual sail. They are giving a lecture here in Rio Vista at Trilogy on February 10th at 6pm. If you are interested in attending contact Bud Kerner at bizmodel@frontier.com, or (209) 815-7542. — 

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 Pat Brennan
your name and address) to: 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*

