



# The Potter Yachter

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

Jan/Feb 2020

## Potter Yachter of the DECADE: Pat Brennan



**W**e've had a long-standing tradition of recognizing a member who has exemplified the Potter traits of friendliness, helpfulness and service to fellow members over the past year. Well, this being 2020 and the start of a new decade, our thoughts turned to folks who would qualify for multiple years. Pat Brennan has been the glue that held the club together since assuming the role of Secretary/Treasurer in 2004, and as such, his name rose to the top of the list. Commodore Eric Zilbert read a very nice dedication during the presentation of the award. (See *Potter* continued on page 3)

### Ship's Stores for sale. Order from Kevin Crowder:

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 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 Eric Zilbert    **Happy New Year**

Happy New Year, indeed! We had an excellent Potter Yachter annual meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup> which was very well attended (standing room only) and everyone seemed very happy to be there (see photos in this issue). We reviewed finances (things look good), reviewed membership numbers (we are down), produced a sailing calendar (see page 4), elected officers, raised the dues to \$30 starting in 2021, and named Pat Brennan *Potter Yachter of the Decade*! We were also able to get some planning done for the Cruiser Challenge.

NOTE: Very important was the decision to make **channel 69** the official Potter Yachter VHF radio channel for all club sails.

I want to thank Kevin Crowder for helping run the meeting, and I especially want to thank everyone that volunteered to be the coordinator for one (or more) of our planned excursions.

I think one of the greatest assets of sailing with the club is that there is a coordinator who has accumulated local knowledge about the sail. One of the hazards of going somewhere you have never sailed before is ignorance: ignorance of customs, ignorance of hazards, not knowing where the head is, etc. What exactly is the job of a trip coordinator? Well, first off they need to be reasonably well informed about the waters we will be sailing. Informing members of known hazards, likely weather conditions, travel and launching/parking information, where to eat, where to dock, and where to stay if not staying on your boat. Additionally, the coordinator needs to promote the sail, perhaps writing something for the newsletter that precedes the trip, talking up the highlights of the proposed venue. They should post a reminder on the Trailer Sailor website about two weeks before the trip, and ascertain how many boats to expect. Importantly, the coordinator is the person best able to suggest if the expected conditions merit consideration of cancelling the sail. Finally, the coordinator helps to report the event in the issue of the newsletter following the sail (photos greatly appreciated).

So Happy New Year, happy sailing, and remember, Potters use **channel 69**! Note that we still need a coordinator for the proposed Angel Island sail in September. Please let Phil or I know if you want to volunteer.

Fair Winds! -Eric — 

### It's time to pay dues (\$25/family)

E-Mail [Kevin Crowder](#) or see [membership info](#) on last page.

### Club Events on the Horizon

[See the Online Calendar](#)

Feb 29 (Sat-Sun)	Clipper Cove Picnic with Overnight Option at OYC	(Eric Z)
	<i>launch Grand St. Alameda; can be sporty downwind sail on return; contact OYC if wanting a slip</i>	
Mar 14 (Sat-Sun)	St. Patrick's Day Sail & Dinner – Coyote Point YC	(Dave K/Phil)
	<i>launch Redwood City or CPYC; <b>RSVP to Phil by March 1</b> for dinner at CPYC; overnight at dock</i>	
Apr 4 (Sat-Sun+)	Benicia Sail and possible extended cruise thereafter	(Goose)
	<i>Benicia waters can be rough when wind picks up; overnight at Benicia Marina</i>	
Apr 25 (Sat-Sun)	Potter Poker Regatta at Stockton Sailing Club	(Mike K)
	<i>Poker Regatta for opening day on 25<sup>th</sup>; overnight at SSC; "Race Your Cruiser" event on 26<sup>th</sup></i>	
May 9 (Sat-Sun)	Moss Landing/Elkhorn YC Sail with Overnight Option	(Bud K)
	<i>open ocean sail, generally not for beginners; guest dock should be available this time</i>	


(Potter continued from page 1)

The dedication that Commodore Eric gave goes like this:

For over a decade, Pat Brennan has been a constant for the Potter Yachters as the club's Secretary/Treasurer. He took over from Greg Yu in 2004, and held the job through 2018, before turning it over to Kevin Crowder. He made it look easy: collecting dues, writing the occasional check, tracking the membership, issuing membership cards, selling burgees, and taking care of the little things that kept the Potter Yachters running.

Then, at every annual meeting, he gave a financial report, summarized our membership, and helped us plan the next year's sailing. He was always low-key, at times humorous, and as reliable as the boats we sail. Pat proved that taking care of details counts, and he helped give the Potter Yachters form and structure.

Pat is an active sailor. *Eaglet*, his P-15, was a frequent competitor in the Cruiser Challenge, and while not known for its speed, it got Pat over the finish line. Pat also trailered *Eaglet* 900 miles to the first Messabout in Washington. He repeated the performance five more times before switching to *Latis*, a more comfortable sixteen-footer, for three more Messabouts. Pat is not a fast sailor, but he sails well and safely, always in the background.

Constant and steady are Pat's trademarks, and by managing the club's finances and taking care of the paperwork, he glued us together. Pat, being Pat, will probably blush, but it was a masterful performance. — 

## Recipients of the Potter

### Yachter of the Year Award:

'19 Pat Brennan  
'18 Dick Herman  
'17 Bud Kerner  
'16 Phil Marcelis  
'15 Jerry Barrilleaux  
'14 Dave White  
'13 Don Person  
'12 Dory Taylor  
'11 Goose  
'10 Dave Bacon  
'09 Rich McDevitt and Carl Sundholm  
'08 Steve Potter  
'07 Dan Phy  
'06 Pat Brennan  
'05 Don Person  
'04 Terry Gotcher

2010 - 2020

*Potter Yachter of the Decade*

**PAT BRENNAN**

*Our Secretary/Treasurer*

*He kept us afloat*

## Officer's Club

### Commodore:

Eric Zilbert

[Commodore@potter-yachters.org](mailto:Commodore@potter-yachters.org)

P-19, #629, *Riptide*

### Vice Commodore:

Rob Sampson

[Vice-Commodore@potter-yachters.org](mailto:Vice-Commodore@potter-yachters.org)

P-15, #367, *Espero*

### Newsletter Editor:

Phil Marcelis

[Newsletter@potter-yachters.org](mailto:Newsletter@potter-yachters.org)

P-19, #1487, *Family Time*

### P-15 Fleet Captain:

David Bacon

[P15-fleet@potter-yachters.org](mailto:P15-fleet@potter-yachters.org)

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

### P-19 Fleet Captain:

Goose Gossman

[P19-fleet@potter-yachters.org](mailto:P19-fleet@potter-yachters.org)

P-19, *ReGale*

### Webmaster:

Phil Marcelis

[Webmaster@potter-yachters.org](mailto:Webmaster@potter-yachters.org)

### Secretary/Treasurer:

Kevin Crowder

[Treasurer@potter-yachters.org](mailto:Treasurer@potter-yachters.org)

ComPac19, *Aurora*

**Website:** [www.potter-yachters.org](http://www.potter-yachters.org)

**Facebook:** [fb.me/PotterYachters](https://fb.me/PotterYachters)



# *The Potter Yachters*

## DRAFT Potter Yachter 2020 Sailing Schedule

January 26	Annual Meeting, Oakland Yacht Club	Eric Zilbert
Feb 29/Mar 1	Clipper Cove (possible overnight & brunch at OYC)	Eric Zilbert
March 14 -15	Coyote Point YC - St. Patrick's Day Party	Dave Kautz, Phil Marcelis
April 4-5+	Benicia Overnight and Points Beyond	Goose Gossman
April 25-26	Stockton Sailing Club - Opening Day	Mike Kennedy
May 9-10	Moss Landing Sail	Bud Kerner
May 30-31	Delta Sail	Jon Barber, Jerry Barrilleaux
June 13-14	Union Valley Reservoir	Kevin Crowder
June 22-26	SoCal Potter Group - Catalina Cruise – Contact <a href="#">Gary Nitta</a> { Potter Yachter host: TBD }	
July 11-12	Loch Lomond Sail	Goose Gossman
July 25	Cruiser Challenge XXI, Monterey CA	Dana Suverkrop, Eric Zilbert
August 1	Lake Washington Sailing Club - Delta Ditch Race	Dave Candey
August 8	Lake Hennessey	Rich McDevitt
August 22-23	Huntington Lake	Jim Hunt
September 12-13*	Angel Island Sail	TBD
September 25-26	Tomales Bay	Eric Zilbert
October 10-11	Moss Landing to Monterey	Bud Kerner
October 24-25	Bridges Sail	Bud Kerner
December 13	Annual Meeting, Oakland Yacht Club	Eric Zilbert

\* Actual Date "To Be Determined"

**Note:** 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.



**Standing** (from left) Robert Belforte, Alan Koepf, David Bacon, Bruce & Janet Dalen, Pete Evans, Ted Tome, Mike Swartz (up high), Dave Kautz (below), Dana Suverkrop, Francesca Kautz, David (up high) & Sharon Soule, Joan Savarese, Rich McDevitt, Bobbi Kerner, Eric Zilbert, Dave Candey, Judy Blumhorst, Pat Brennan, Jon Barber, Jim Hunt, Bruce Mossman, Bob Azbell, Alan Roberts, Phil Marcelis, Phillip Rabideau, Don Person, Bud Kerner, Dick Galland, Kevin Crowder. **Seated** (from left) Mike Kennedy, Bruce McDevitt, George & Rebecca Corrigan, Larry Tkach, David & Cheryl White, Judy Person, "Goose", Rob Sampson, Carl Sundholm, Dick Herman. **Attendees not pictured here:** Mike Trueman



**Potters Annual Meeting – A Poem** by Joan Savarese  
January 26, 2020

*The air was electric, high-pitched was the mood.  
The long wait was over! They've brought out the food!  
Gulp coffee, snarf sausage, eat eggs on the run.  
Downstairs, there is plenty of work to be done!*

*So forty-odd Potters proceed down those stairs,  
To standing room only! 'Cause not enough chairs!  
But Potters are hardy, on ship and on shore--  
They can stand for two hours or sit on the floor.*

*First order of business, the treasurer's speech.  
Then the prez raised the dues, so that he'd be impeached.  
Then the current officials were named one by one  
With kudos for all the fine work that they've done.*

*There's Eric, the commodore; Rob is the vice;  
Kevin handles the money, Dave B. offers advice,  
As he serves as fleet captain for Potter-one-fives.  
(Read his books! He knows more than most yachters alive!)*

*Carl captained nineteens, but he needs to bow out.  
So Goose was installed with a Potter group shout.  
And of course, there is Phil! who keeps Potters informed.  
The ovation for Phil was exuberantly warm.*

*Then, the meeting's best moment: amid great acclaim,  
Potter of the Year--of the DECADE-- was named!  
For more than a decade, in fact, almost two,  
Pat Brennan was seen as the Potter Club's "glue,"  
Much more than the offices Pat Brennan held,  
His positive spirit helped the whole club to gel.*

*Then the Potters began what they came there to do,  
Planning this year's events-- the when, where and who.  
Erik directed, not an option was missed.  
It was greatly abetted by last season's list.*

*Much reflection went into revising the menu,  
Critiquing the merits of each sailing venue.  
The problems they met there, the pleasures they shared,  
The treasures inherent in pottering there.*

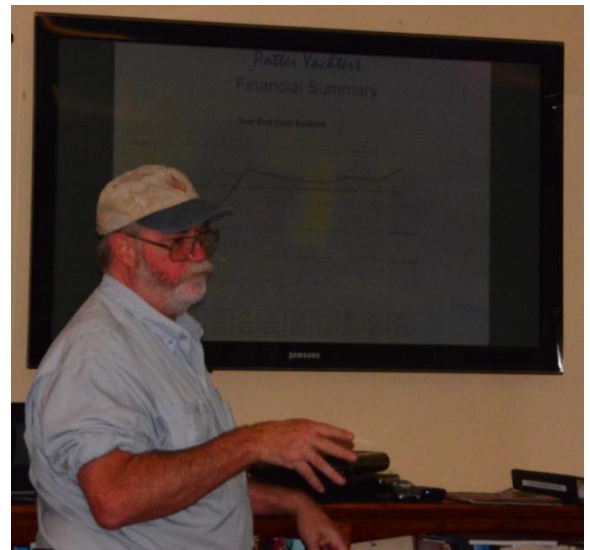
*The work done, they lingered, then left one by one,  
To ready their boats for the upcoming fun.  
Come hell or high water, their bond will prevail,  
A mutual passion for wind, sea and sail!*

\*\*\*

*I am honored to be part of this wonderful group!*  
Joan Savarese — 



**Joan Savarese**  
has graced the pages of *The Potter Yachter* with several inspired poems of past sails, and she continues to impress us with her creative skills.



Kevin Crowder gave the treasurer's report



Commodore Eric Zilbert checked the agenda

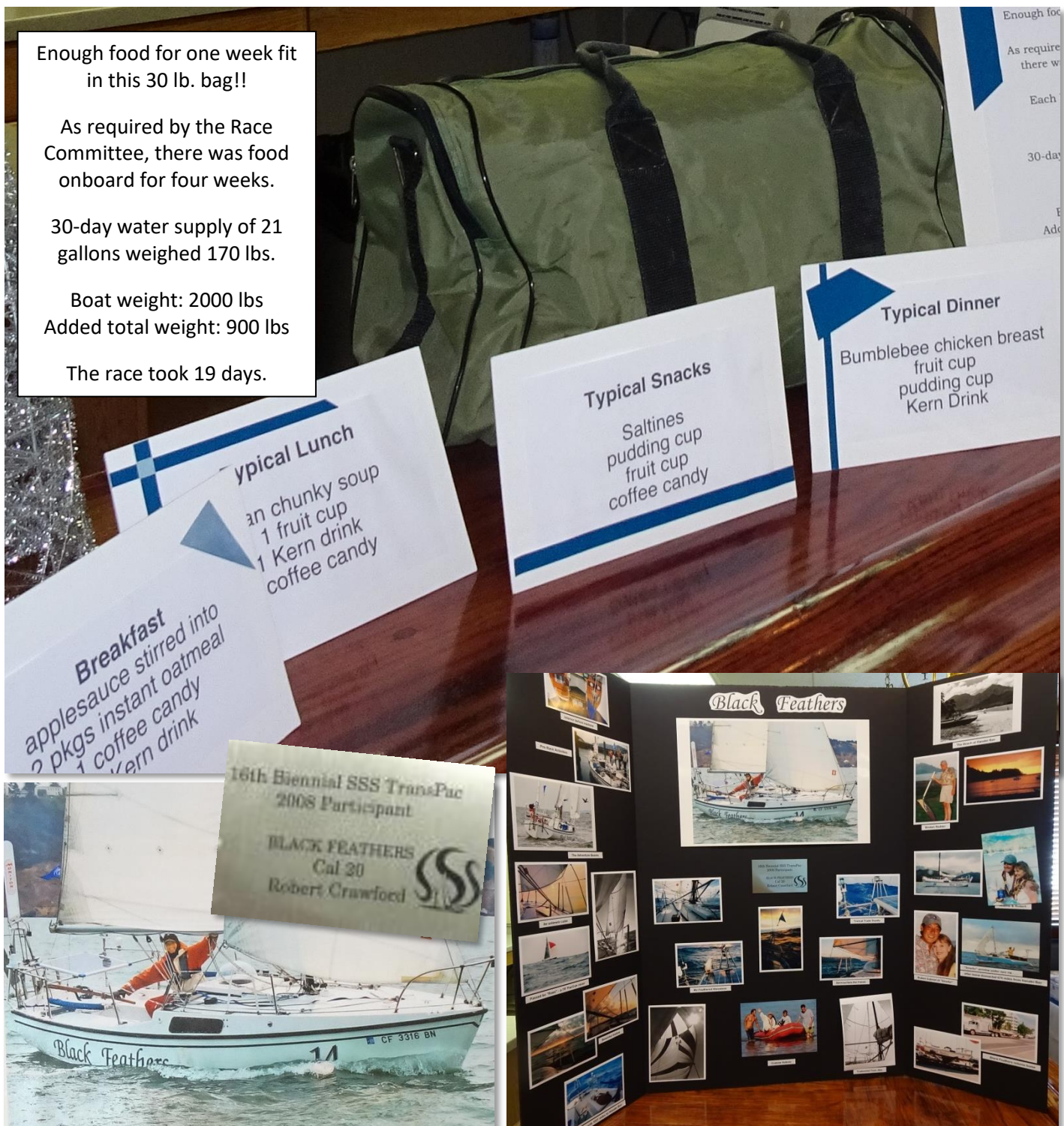


Report: A Small Boat in the Singlehanded TransPac

## Well-attended **Black Feathers** presentation was a great success!

by Phil Marcelis

On Dec. 8, Robert Crawford gave a presentation about his 2008 SSS TransPac experience aboard *Black Feathers*, his Cal 20. To a crowd of about 20 members in the Regatta Room, he explained all the modifications and preparations he undertook to accomplish his goal. This was his second entry in the Singlehanded TransPac; he went with a *smaller* boat this time!! We had many questions, and Robert had all the answers. Thanks Robert!! If you missed him, just search [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) for "Black Feathers Robert Crawford" and buy his book. —





Upcoming: February 29-March 1, 2020

## Clipper Cove Sail & Picnic

Sailhost: Eric Zilbert

Join us in Alameda for our first sail of the year, Saturday February 29<sup>th</sup>. This leap year day sail will begin at the [Grand Street Ramp in Alameda](#). Sailors will have the option of sailing for the day, or overnighting at the Oakland Yacht Club.

On Saturday we will sail out the estuary around 10:00 a.m. and head for lunch in Clipper Cove on Treasure Island. Be sure to bring picnic lunches, supplies (beach chairs, sunscreen, etc.) and gas, in case the wind is uncooperative and we have to motor out. Communication will be on VHF channel 69. These waters are fairly calm for the most part, but there are several hazards to be aware of. The Estuary is part of a working harbor: the Port of Oakland. Large ships and accompanying tug boats have the right-of-way and mariners should stay far away from them. Another hazard involves going in and out of Clipper Cove. The area near the point on the South end of the cove is quite shallow, also, when coming out from behind the island, be prepared for an abrupt change in wind strength. These conditions led to one boat capsizing, and then having its mast stuck in the mud! Exit the cove by heading due east until you reach the main channel, don't try and take a shortcut.

The cove at Treasure Island has a secluded beach for picnicking and has an anchorage and marina docks that you can investigate for a possible future overnight trip of your own. There's a surprisingly well-stocked store up the stairs from the beach, in case you want to buy lunch.



Want a slip or dinner/brunch at OYC?

Contact: [commodore@potter-yachters.org](mailto:commodore@potter-yachters.org)

The OYC will be having a big *to-do* that weekend, featuring a workshop for boat buyers, an open house, a Mardi Gras Dinner at 6:00 p.m., and on Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> there is brunch beginning at 9:00am. Sunday is also an OYC club race day. If you are interested in a slip for one or more nights, dinner Saturday, or Sunday Brunch, please send an email to [Commodore@potter-yachters.org](mailto:Commodore@potter-yachters.org) with your particulars by **Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

Hopefully the weather will cooperate and we will have a great time. See you then. — 



Photo: Phil Marcelis

**Directions** to Grand St. Ramp, Alameda

**Take I-880 toward Oakland/Alameda, then...**

**Southbound:** Exit at 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave/Alameda, merge onto Kennedy St., then follow **Cross Bridge** below.

**Northbound:** Exit at 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave, U-Turn at the light.

Take 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave over the freeway, then...

**Cross Bridge:** Continue slight right onto 29<sup>th</sup> 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.





You're invited to join us for a St. Patrick's Day Weekend Sail. We plan to launch in Redwood City, sail under the San Mateo Bridge over to [Coyote Point Yacht Club](#) for a fine corned beef dinner and overnight at their guest dock, then return to Redwood City on Sunday. We're under the impression that CPYC will have Irish dancers, like they did last year! Another option is to launch at CPYC and daysail to meet the fleet coming into CPYC. Coyote Point YC's Port Captain has dock space reserved for us. Be sure to RSVP.

If you want, instead of sailing, you can drive to CPYC for dinner Saturday around 6 p.m. with dancers at 8 p.m. Last year, it was \$45.


Those who are joining for the weekend to sail the roughly 10 nm over to CPYC and back will meet at the [Redwood City Marina Boat Ramp](#) (see map) at 9:00 a.m. Saturday. We'll reportedly be nearing low tide then, but we should still see an ebb out the channel at 10am. Launching costs \$5 and includes parking for the day. Buy two tickets to cover your parking for two days, as we will return Sunday.

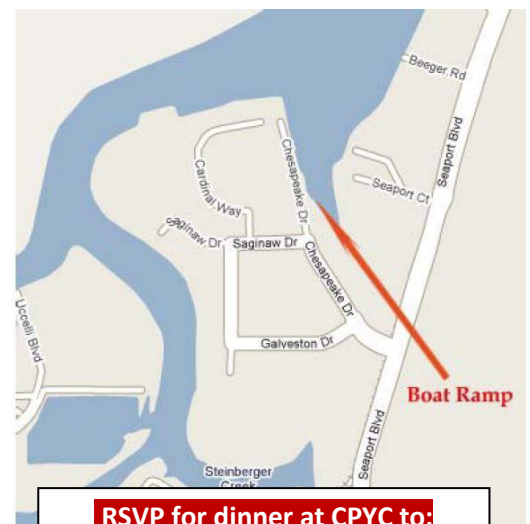
**RSVP for dinner at CPYC by March 1** Email [newsletter@potter-yachters.org](mailto:newsletter@potter-yachters.org)

We generally sail out by the U.S.S. Thompson wreck to anchor for a quick lunch, but currents are a concern so we may lunch after going past the bridge. We'll discuss it at the 9 a.m. captains' meeting.

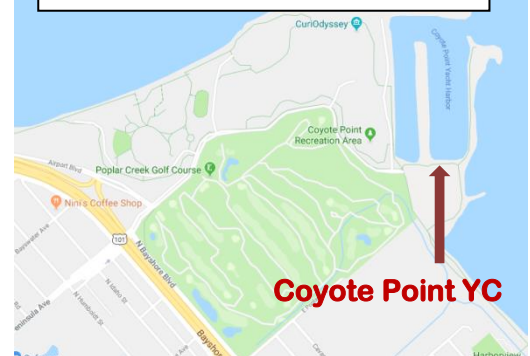
You always have the option of [trailing over to Coyote Point](#) to launch there if the conditions don't seem hospitable for sailing out of Redwood Creek or if you'd rather just not sail that distance.

Remember to contact Potter Yachters on Channel 69.

**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, pay the ramp and parking fee and leave the receipt on the dash of your car with the trailer and you're good for the day. Get two receipts if you're overnighing. — 



**RSVP for dinner at CPYC to:**  
[newsletter@potter-yachters.org](mailto:newsletter@potter-yachters.org)







## B. Frank

Posted By: [Dan...Ft. Bragg](#)

Rumor has it that B. Frank may return to the west coast??

B. Frank will be returning to ME!!..... Regards, Dan



### **Important message to New Members!**

From: Kevin Crowder

Please email Kevin Crowder at  
[treasurer@potter-yachters.org](mailto:treasurer@potter-yachters.org)

I need the following information:

First name, last name, boat type, mailing address, email, phone number.

I have 6 names: paid cash at the meeting, no other information.



## Treasurer's Report : We're Still Afloat!

Kevin Crowder 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 of its bills and still has money left!

After expenses, our year-end cash balance is \$5,441 which is still above our ten-year running average of \$4,526.

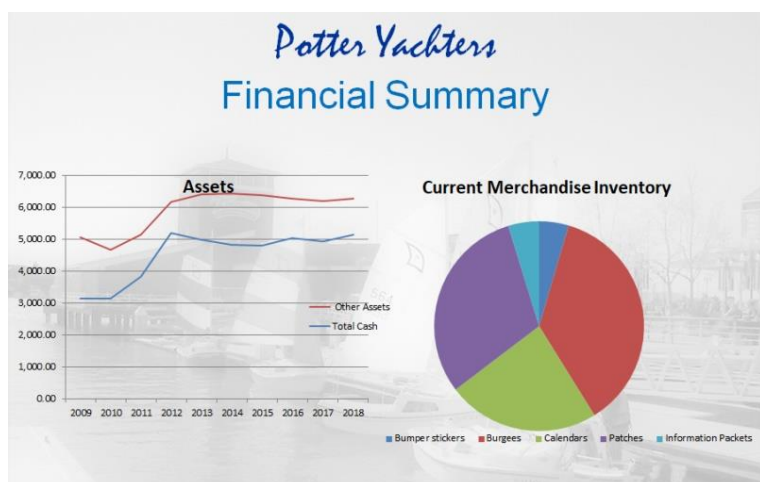
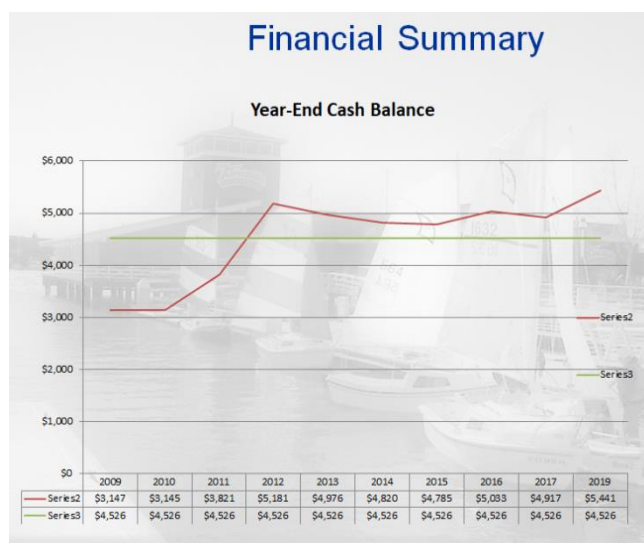
We maintain an inventory of bumper stickers, burgees, patches, and information packets. We had a good inventory of calendars, but they were probably all sold at the meeting.

We enjoy a sort of "reciprocal club" relationship with Elkhorn YC, Coyote Point YC, Oakland YC and Monterey Peninsula YC. Unfortunately, Peninsula YC in Redwood City is reportedly no longer there, but they loved our visits.

As of Jan. 1, 2020, the club received dues payments from 48 regular members, down from 76 last year. We did pick up 3 new members during the year, although that's also down from the 14 new members we added last year.

Due to the reduced membership, we voted to raise club dues to \$30 per family in 2021. —

Members			
Typical Year		2019	
10	New Members	3	
70	Paid Membership	48	



[Any mistakes in this report are the editor's. —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 "Kevin Crowder", or use PayPal to [treasurer@potter-yachters.org](mailto:treasurer@potter-yachters.org), or use the link <https://www.paypal.me/sailAurora/25> and include "Potter Yachters Dues" in the notes.



Or see us online at:  
[www.potter-yachters.org](http://www.potter-yachters.org)

Send your payment (with Kevin Crowder  
your name and address) to: P.O. Box 124  
Standard, CA 95373

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.



Kevin Crowder  
P.O. Box 124  
Standard, CA 95373

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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

