



The Potter Yachter

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

Jan-Feb 2022

2021 Potter Yachter of the Year Congratulations Jon Barber!

Acknowledging a member's outstanding contributions to the club and the Potter traits of friendliness, helpfulness and service to fellow members has been a Potter Yachters tradition since at least 2004.

This year's recipient is one of the friendliest guys you'll meet and there are numerous examples of him coming to the aid of fellow members. One example was offered up by Eric Zilbert: "On the trip from Moss Landing to Monterey, we got separated in the fog. Jon went to Moss Landing and I pressed on to Monterey, but my cell phone had died. Jon, not being able to contact me, DROVE to Monterey to make sure I had made it okay – couldn't find me, but saw my boat was there." We look out for each other. (See Potter of the Year continued pg 2)



Jon Barber (left) accepts the award from Commodore Gossman

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

Mail a check to Goose (see [Potter Yachter Membership](#), page 13) or send by [PayPal to your friend](#)
Include your name, email address, and "Potter Yachter dues" in the notes.

Ship's Stores for sale. Order from Goose:
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 Phil Marcelis

As we say goodbye to 2021 and look forward to a new sailing season, I hope we can escape the cloud of Covid and focus on the enjoyment of sailing. Of course, it's usually at this point that I try to crank the tongue jack and start cursing. It's time for maintenance, so grease up those axles and get prepped for the season.

Our esteemed past-Commodore 'Goose' charted our course with a great calendar of destinations this year, including Whiskeytown Lake to the North in Shasta County, and the more southerly locales of Morro Bay and Catalina Island. There are some holes in the calendar we need to fill, so send me an email if you want to coordinate something. When you review the calendar, you'll see a lot of weekend sails. If you think you might go sailing during the week, let me know. At least take a few pictures and write about your experience for the newsletter!

I know we've had some new members join recently. I'd encourage you all to come out to a sailing event and introduce yourself. I'd love to meet with new, existing, or even prospective members!



Lastly, the club is evolving with the times we live in. To that end, we'll be incorporating as a 501c7 social club this year. Look for further information on the website and in forthcoming newsletters.

Regards,

Phil



Potter of the year continued...

Commodore 'Goose' Gossman presented the award with these words: "Congratulations to Jon Barber! You always feel good when you're on the water with Jon. Of course, if you're not on his boat, you'll be enjoying his company from a distance, because this guy sails *fast*! What's more, even in this time of Covid, he made it to almost every sailing event. And if you've ever sailed on his boat with him, you know that he'll surprise you with some philosophy or a quote or two along the way. With speed and grace, he's 'Poetry In Motion'."



Participation in Potter Yachter Sailing Events

Recommended Gear and Safety Equipment Guidelines

For Potter Yachter sails, we recommend that you bring the necessary gear in working order to ensure that you are able to control your vessel under the conditions at hand. We further suggest that you bring sufficient safety equipment to deal with adverse circumstances and meet applicable laws and United States Coast Guard regulations. Our guidelines for gear and safety equipment include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. U.S.C.G. approved Personal Flotation Device for each person (Type I, II, III, or V)
2. U.S.C.G. approved Visual Distress Signals (e.g. flares, etc.)
3. U.S.C.G. approved efficient Sound-Producing Device (e.g. Air Horn, etc.)
4. U.S.C.G. approved B-1 type hand portable fire extinguisher, properly secured
5. U.S.C.G. approved throwable device (e.g. boat cushion, ring or horseshoe buoy)
6. Working Motor (with sufficient clean gas)
7. Tow Line (150 feet)
8. Marine VHF Radio
9. Anchor, chain, and 250 feet of line, sufficient to secure the vessel
10. First Aid Kit
11. Manual Bilge Pump and Bailing Bucket

Sailing can be a dangerous activity so please be careful, be prepared, and be safe.

Caveat: The Potter Yachters are an informal, non-litigious, sailing club. Therefore, participation in any Potter Yachter event constitutes agreement to assume the risk of injury or damages arising out of that event as it concerns the Potter Yachters and their members, and an agreement to waive any claims against the club and its members relating thereto. Have fun and sail safely.



The Potter Yachters

Event Calendar for the 2022 Sailing Season

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>
Feb 19-20	Richmond	Eric Zilbert
March 19-20	Redwood City (St. Pat's Sail)	Dave Kautz
April 1-3	Benicia to Napa	Goose
April 9-10	Rio Vista	Gerry Nolan
April 29-May 1	Morro Bay	Pete Evans
May 13-15	Richmond to Loch Lomond	Goose & Eric Z.
May 21-22	Moss Landing	Bud Kerner
June 3-5	Whiskeytown	Dan Arbuckle
June 19-26	Catalina Island (SoCal)	Gary Nitta
July 8-10	Union Valley Reservoir	Kevin Crowder
Aug 5-7	Half Moon Bay	Phil Marcelis
August 19-21	Huntington Lake / CruiserChallenge-22	Jim Hunt
Sept 16-18	Tomales	Eric Zilbert
Sept 30-Oct 2	Moss Landing to Monterey	Bud Kerner
October 28-30	Delta Bridges	Bud Kerner
TBD	Annual Meeting, Oakland Yacht Club	Phil Marcelis

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.

Club Events on the Horizon

potter-yachters.org/calendar**Feb 19-20****Richmond****Eric Zilbert**

Richmond Sail (generally intermediate, but depends on the destination and the weather; we may sail to Angel Island or north to San Rafael depending on the tides, but the closer we get to the Golden Gate or going out the Golden Gate, we are talking advanced; but mostly individuals decide for themselves on getting the feel of the conditions);

March 19-20**Redwood City (St Pat's Sail)****Dave Kautz**

RSVP for Corned Beef & Cabbage Friday night at the docks at Westpoint - contact Westpoint Harbor to get a slip Friday night. Leaving Redwood City launch ramp around 10am on Saturday to anchor in the South Bay that night. Return to launch ramp Sunday. Easy to Intermediate sail depending on wind. Be prepared to spend the night at anchor.

April 1-3**Benecia to Napa****Goose**

Depending on wind and tides, this can be an intermediate sail. Launch in Benecia and sail to Napa. Two nights at the Napa Valley Marina, a visit to Napa on Saturday, followed by a sail back to Benecia on Sunday.

April 9-10**Rio Vista****Gerry Nolan**

Depending on wind and tides, this can be an intermediate sail. Launch in Rio Vista and sail to Antioch via Three Mile Slough and the San Joaquin River. Overnight in Antioch. Return to Rio Vista via Broad Slough and the Sacramento.



Start out your year of sailing with an overnight at the Richmond Yacht Harbor. Last year this turned out to be a great day on the water. Yours truly even got a photo in Latitude 38! I will set up and most likely do an afternoon sail on Friday. Tides are very favorable with a morning ebb and afternoon flood on both Sat. and Sun. Possible destinations include: Angel Island docks, circumnavigation of Angel Island, or Sam's Anchor Cafe in Tiburon. Regroup at Richmond for a dock party and dinner. Depending on the weather, I will pull out on either Sunday afternoon or Monday morning. Contact the Marina Bay Yacht Harbor early to get a slip. Proof of liability insurance is required. See you there. Further instructions and possible cancellation information will be posted on the West Wight Potter Trailer Sailor Forum at:

forum.trailersailor.com.



Upcoming: South Bay – Fri-Sun, March 18-20, 2022
A Chance to Anchor Out Overnight

Sailhosts: Dave Kautz & Phil Marcelis

Covid considerations will likely once again color our Saint Patrick's Day Sail. The plan is to launch Friday and get a slip at [Westpoint Harbor](#) for St. Pat's Dinner @ 5 PM at the docks (observing Covid-protocols). Or launch on Saturday, March 19th and be prepared to depart promptly at 10 AM from the [Redwood City Boat Ramp](#).


If you're inclined to join us on Friday night, contact Westpoint Harbor or use [Dockwa to reserve](#). Guest slips are about \$1/ft per night. Last year's socially-distanced potluck at the dock on Friday worked well enough that we can do that again. Phil & Kim will provide **Corned Beef for St. Pat's Dinner**. Your other meals during the trip are up to you.

*** Please **RSVP FOR DINNER** Friday night to Phil

We will try for a 10 AM departure from [Redwood City Boat Ramp](#) on Saturday, March 19 with the intention of *anchoring out* south of the Dumbarton Bridge. And if we arrive early enough, we may try to do a little Newark Slough exploration where there should be plenty of water depth if we're in by 2pm and out by 5pm.

We'll be anchoring just past the railroad bridge, before the Bay becomes REALLY shallow. There's ample room for our boats to anchor. This is a great chance to practice anchoring among friends.

Even if we're "socially distanced" again, this will still be a fun weekend of sailing.

See you there! — 

We launch at **Port of Redwood City:**

601 Chesapeake Drive, Redwood City, CA

Ramp Hours: 24 hours a day/7 days a week

Harbormaster's Office: 675 Seaport Blvd.

Phone: (650) 306-4153

Directions to Redwood City Boat Ramp

Get on Highway 101 headed for Redwood City:

- take **exit 408** Woodside Road/Seaport Blvd.
- take Seaport Blvd. (east towards the Bay)
- continue on Seaport Blvd. thru the stoplight
- turn left on Chesapeake Drive
- follow it to the end where there will be a parking lot on your left and the ramp with the permit dispenser on your right.
- Park in the lot, pay the \$5 ramp fee and leave the receipt on the dash in your car with the trailer and you're good for the day. We've been buying additional tickets for every 24 hours we're parked. That seems to be acceptable.



The [Chart](#) is currently freely available on Garmin's ActiveCaptain:
<https://activecaptain.garmin.com/en-US/Map>



Sunset at South Bay anchorage

Photo: Phil Marcelis



Sail to the Wine Country!

Upcoming: Benecia to Napa Sail

April 1-3, 2022

Sail Host: Jim 'Goose' Gossman

April Fool's Benecia-Napa Weekend. 4/1-4/3. Last spring 14 boats enjoyed a stellar outing sailing into wine country, and it would be foolish not to return. Launch at Benecia Marina 5th street ramp on Friday, sail, dine, and overnight at the [Benecia Marina](#). (Follow the link to make reservations) Saturday morning depart 9-10ish slack tide, and catch the flood up to Napa Valley Marina for early afternoon arrival. Beautiful and protected waters, usually in 8-12k reaching conditions. We have again reserved the guest dock adjacent to the fascinating "boatyard of broken dreams," and will probably have a dockside pizza party..

Sunday morning return to Benecia; catching the end of the ebb (low 10:20) for a glorious downwinder onto the Carquinez Strait as we pick up the flood tide at the confluence of San Pablo Bay./Mare Island Strait. Those who want to launch Saturday morning can also splash at the 9th street park ramp, and meet up on the water. About 20 miles/4-6hours each way, in amazing surroundings. —🚤

Directions to 9th Street Ramp, Benecia

From I-680:

Exit onto I-780 West towards Benecia
Exit at Military East
Stay along water until 9th

From I-80:

Exit onto I-780 East towards Benecia
Exit at Southampton Rd
Head toward water (veering by Taco Bell)
Turn Right immediately onto W. K St.
Turn Left onto W. 9th St.

To Benecia Marina:

Exit 5th Street and ramp is at end of 5th.
Marina office for check-in is on 2nd Street.



Come Sail the Delta!

Upcoming:


Delta Sail

April 8-9

Sail Host: Gerry Nolan



Apr 9 (Sat) Rio Vista is a two day sail to Antioch Marina, via Three Mile Slough and the San Joaquin River along the east side of Sherman Island. Three Mile Slough will require a bridge opening where coordination of the fleet will be important. Approximate 15 mile down river course with a 10 AM Saturday departure. Overnight at the Antioch Marina, where Potter's will need to make prior arrangements for slips, keys and showers by contacting the [Antioch Marina](#).

Rio Vista city launch ramp provides parking (\$15 first day includes launch and parking; Sunday is a \$5 charge). Departure back to Rio Vista will be Sunday, April 10, 10 AM departure from Antioch direct, west of Sherman Island and up the Sacramento River. Pay-as-you go Saturday 6 PM dinner at world famous Humphrey, (no longer Humphrey) now [Smith's Landing](#). Charts and course materials will be provided. — 

Directions to the public boat ramp in Rio Vista:

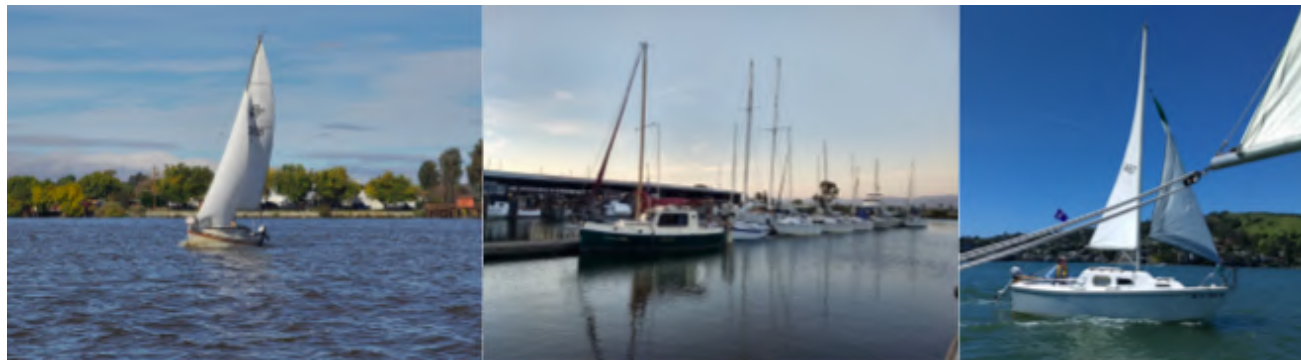
-From Antioch, Take Hwy 160 north to Hwy 12 west

-From Hwy 5, go towards Lodi then take Hwy 12 west

*Once on Hwy 12 west, continue over Rio Vista Bridge, then follow signs to Downtown Rio Vista making a hairpin turn right onto Hwy 84, and immediate right at N Front St., continue until Montezuma Street and turn left toward ramp.

-From the West, take Hwy 680 or Hwy 80 toward Fairfield, then take Hwy 12 east.

*Once on Hwy 12 east, continue until N Front St (Just before the Rio Vista Bridge) and continue on N Front St., then go until Montezuma Street and turn left toward ramp.



After action report: 2021 Bridges/No Bridges...



Bridges Sail - October 2021

Attendees:

- Goose - *Gale*, WWP15
- Cosentinos Lalotitis - WWP15
- Bud Kerner - *Splash*, WWP15
- Ted Tome - *Cielo*, Compac Legacy
- Larry Tkach - *Groovin'*, M15
- Jon Barber - *Ol'44*, Montgomery 17
- Rob Sampson - *Mud Hen*, Ranger Tug
- Jeff from Seattle - San Juan 21
- Bruce and Janet Dalen, *Patience*, P15

This was the first Bridges sail that didn't stop any land traffic, that's because it didn't go under any bridges. Most boats, all ten of them, arrived on Friday. We all gathered at The Point restaurant for a Friday night dinner. I had to go to a memorial Saturday for an old friend, so Ted Tome was the sail host for Saturday's sail around Decker Island. From what everyone said there was a nice breeze and everyone was able to sail around the island. From the Delta Marina to around Decker Island and back is about ten nautical miles. We all gathered at The Point Saturday evening for dinner.

Sunday's sail plan was to go up the river under the Rio Vista Bridge. From there we would continue up Cache Slough to the Deep Water Channel. This happens to be where Miners Slough meets Cache Slough. From here we were to sail back to the Delta Marina. (Continued page 10)




(Bridges sail continued...)

The beginning of the sail was on a flood tide. By the time we reached Miners Slough, we would be on an ebbing tide. So even with little wind, we would be sailing on a favorable tide.

Sunday morning at my house in Rio Vista my anemometer showed zero wind, the average wind was zero, and gusts were also zero. In other words, there was no wind. When I got to the marina there were the same wind conditions. Some of the group decided not to sail and get an early start for home. There were about six of us who went out on the river and drifted with the tide. When we reached the bridge we motored downriver some and then drifted back.

This year's Bridges sail; I promise we will go under some bridges. As far as having wind, that's not my department.

See you on the water.

Bud — 



Story Photo credit: Rob Sampson, Jon Barber



Report: Annual Meeting Members Gather at OYC

The annual meeting of the Potter Yachters convened on December 12th, 2021 at the Oakland Yacht Club in Alameda. Once again, OYC graciously offered us the use of the Regatta Room, and although Covid concerns eliminated their usual Brunch service, they allowed us to bring in Pizza for lunch. Everyone presented acceptable evidence of vaccination and we all wore masks.



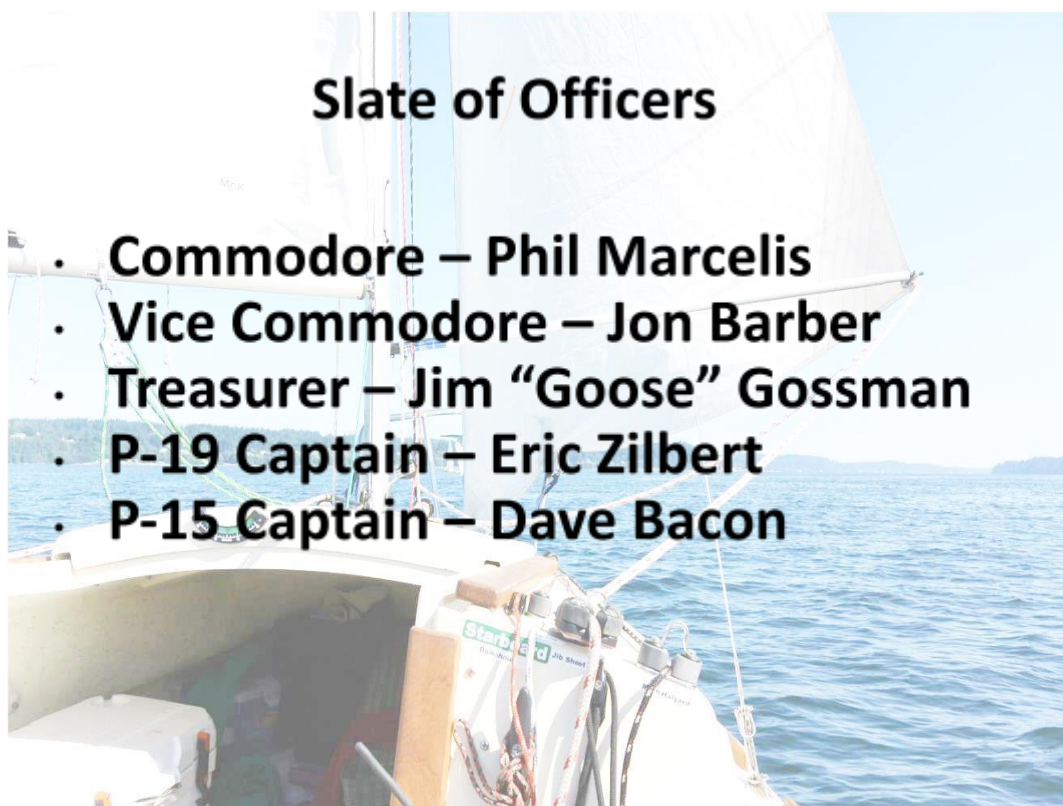
Commodore ‘Goose’ Gossman opened the meeting with welcoming remarks and new member introductions. Then he gave a short Commodore’s report which lauded the fact that we completed 14 sailing events even through the Covid times. He stressed the importance of using the “buddy system” out there. We can see from new member applications that some folks have limited experience, while on the other hand, more experienced sailors might enjoy having crew sometimes. One of the benefits of being associated with the club is having people you can call to go sailing together, either as crew on another’s boat or single-handed on multiple boats. The Potters have a history of being very supportive of one another and helping out. He summed up his report with, “I’ve been with the club for over 20 years and as new members join, it’s really important that we keep doing what we’re doing.”

With that, Goose handed it over to Vice Commodore Phil Marcelis for a discussion of something that has come up numerous times without much traction; the issue of whether to incorporate the club as a 501c7 mutual benefit organization. He brought up the concerns of liability that coordinating sailing events entails and recalled the interactions with organizers from other yacht clubs regarding waivers. Additionally, he presented the results of inquiries into getting insurance through US Sailing. Carl offered the suggestion that everyone sign a one-time liability waiver, for instance when they become a member, and this should also be done by anyone who happens to be a guest of a member (parents would sign for children). After the discussion, the question of incorporating was put to a vote and unanimously approved. The officers will get the paperwork together and draft bylaws which will be posted to the website for review around February or March. We should have everything finalized by April. Next to a vote was the question of raising dues to \$50 per year to pay for insurance, and it was likewise unanimously approved.

At that point, George Corrigan got up and presented the interim treasurer’s report with data from May – when the checking account balance was transferred over – up until November. After all the inflows and outflows were calculated, we’re happy to know that the club is still solvent.

There was a motion by Dave Candey that after we incorporate, we join PICYA. It seems that a lot of options open up when we incorporate. It’s required for the club to join US Sailing, makes it easier to get insurance, and it’s a prerequisite for joining organizations like PICYA that would offer reciprocal privileges for our members. After a short discussion, the motion was changed to “*consider* joining PICYA” and it was quickly seconded and passed unanimously.

As lunchtime was getting nearer, Goose presented the proposed Slate of Officers and called for a vote. The full slate passed unanimously.



Goose handed out several awards to recognize beneficial Potter traits. This included the Potter Yachter of the Year Award (reported elsewhere in this issue), and:

- the Seamanship Award to Phil Marcelis, for lending a kedge anchor to a stuck boater and floating a 150' line to a tired paddler struggling against the current to get to happy hour.
- the Good Shepherd Award to Kevin Crowder, for taking a new member under his wing in the Moss Landing to Monterey sail and showing him the ropes
- the Night Rider Award to David & Sharon Soule for driving from Nevada (often leaving early Friday evenings) to make it to so many of the club sailing events.
- the Wingman Award to George & Rebecca Corrigan for that “got your six” helpfulness.

Pizza and soda was served. A couple of people also brought cookies and other snacks.

George gave a presentation about the Salish 100 trip he did in 2021, and Goose urged everyone to think about giving it a try. Afterwards, Goose went over the proposed sailing calendar, and then we sat for a group photo. The meeting was adjourned at about 1pm, and those who had brought a wrapped present for the gift-exchange went home with a gift. It was another successful Potter Yachters group event. — 🚩



Photo caption: (from left) (back row) Dave & Brenda Iler, Kevin Crowder, Jerry Barrilleaux, Bud Kerner, Mike Kennedy, Jon Barber, Rebecca Corrigan, Ed Hultgren, Don Person, Dana Suverkrop, 'Goose' Gossman, Dick Herman, Gerry Nolan, Larry Tkach, Dave Candey, Bruce McDevitt, Dave Kautz, Cynthia Shallit, Cheryl White, Mark Sabin, Jim Hunt, David White. (front row) Phil Marcelis, George Corrigan, Alan Koepf, Bobbi Kerner, Dan Phy, Judy Blumhorst, Pat Brennan, Constantinos Laliotitis, Rob Sampson, Carl Sundholm.

Photo credit: George Corrigan

Officer's Club

Commodore:
Phil Marcelis
Catalina 22, *Merri Time*

Vice-Commodore:
Jon Barber
Montgomery 17, *Ol' 44*

Newsletter Editor:
Sharon Soule'
Balboa 21, *Nighthawk*

P-15 Fleet Captain:
David Bacon
P-15, #2636, *Ah Tiller the Fun*

P-19 Fleet Captain:
Eric Zilbert
P-19, #629, *Riptide*

Webmaster:
Phil Marcelis

Secretary/Treasurer:
Jim "Goose" Gossman
P-19 *Regale*

Website:
www.potter-yachters.org

Facebook:
[PotterYachters](https://www.facebook.com/PotterYachters)

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. As of 2022, Annual dues are \$50 per family. Make checks payable to "Jim Gossman", or use PayPal to treasurer@potter-yachters.org, or use the link <https://www.paypal.me/PhilMarcelis/50> and include "Potter Yachters Dues" in the notes.



Or see us online at:
www.potter-yachters.org

Send your payment with your name and address to:
Jim 'Goose' Gossman
865 West I Street
Benecia CA 94510

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.



'Goose' Gossman
865 West I Street
Benicia, CA 94510

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

