



The Potter Yachter

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

March/April 2022

After Action Report

Richmond Sail

By Eric Zilbert



This was the first Potter Yachter event for 2021, I arrived in Richmond about 9:00 a.m. to find Jon Barber already setting up his Montgomery 17, *Ole' 44*. I set about getting my P19, *Riptide*, ready to sail. As we had no reason to expect anyone else to show up Friday morning, we set out for Angel Island at about 10:30. Wind was light at about 5-7 knots, but the ebb was strong, so we had an easy sail across the bay and into Racoon Strait. It was very relaxed

sailing. Temperature was quite pleasant. The sun shone on the water making sparkles everywhere, and white clouds drifted across a very blue sky. I radioed John and confessed, "It doesn't get much better than this."

(See Richmond After Action continued pg 5)

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

Now that the Richmond and Redwood City sailing events are under our belts, I can say that the season is off to a wonderful start.

I couldn't make it to Richmond, but was very happy that my boat & trailer were in working order when I tried to clear out the mothballs for Redwood City.

I crossed my fingers and made notes of maintenance I'll do "if only I can get the trailer through one more trip."

It was extremely gratifying to meet new members George Wehrfritz and Justin Lance (with his daughter) at our St. Patrick's Day dinner. I've had email contact with nearly all new members, but I really enjoy putting faces with those names.

I finally had an opportunity to join the motley crew of regulars at Quinn's Lighthouse restaurant for one of their normal Wednesday lunches, and I was delighted with the company. If you ever have a free Wednesday afternoon, I recommend getting in touch with them to see if they have "a quorum", as they call it. Since most drive from a fair distance, they just want to ensure enough attendees for lively banter. If you have the time for it, you can launch your boat at Grand St. in Alameda and sail just about 1-mile over to the dock at Quinn's. It's a bit much with my current rigging time of 2 hours, but maybe I'll bring my sailing dinghy. Those lateen-rigged P-15's would be perfect for a quick afternoon sail like that!

Regards,

Phil



Club Events on the Horizon

potter-yachters.org/calendar

April 29-May 1

Morro Bay

Pete Evans

Launch at the Morro Bay launch ramp and stay at the Yacht Club. Depending on wind and tides, this can be an intermediate sail.

May 13-15

Richmond to Alameda

Goose and Eric Z.

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.

May 21-22

Moss Landing

Bud Kerner

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

Come South and Sail Morro Bay

Sailhost: Pete Evans


It's time to head south! Join me in Morro Bay!
Launch on Friday, April 29th or Saturday, April 30th.
Our illustrious Commodore sent a letter to the [Morro Bay Yacht Club](#) and secured their 170' guest dock for Fri thru Sun.

My contact information is correct in the latest Membership Roster, so bring that with you in case you need to contact me.

If anyone has any problems on the way down, call me and you can come to my house in San Luis Obispo for repairs at my modest shop and stay here, if needed. I am about 12 miles from Morro Bay on Hwy 101. (And in case the day is a wreck, all can come to my shack for revised options! I'm on a casual street that could support many cars with trailers.)

The boat ramp launch & parking fee is \$10 cash (or more with credit card). The yacht club is about ½ mile north.

It should be noted that conditions outside the harbor may not be suitable, so we'll keep a weather eye and play it by ear.

The [yacht club's website](#) indicates that the bar is open on Friday evening from 6-7:30. There are also other restaurants within walking distance of the yacht club. See you there! Pete — 

[View the Morro Bay webcam here](#)



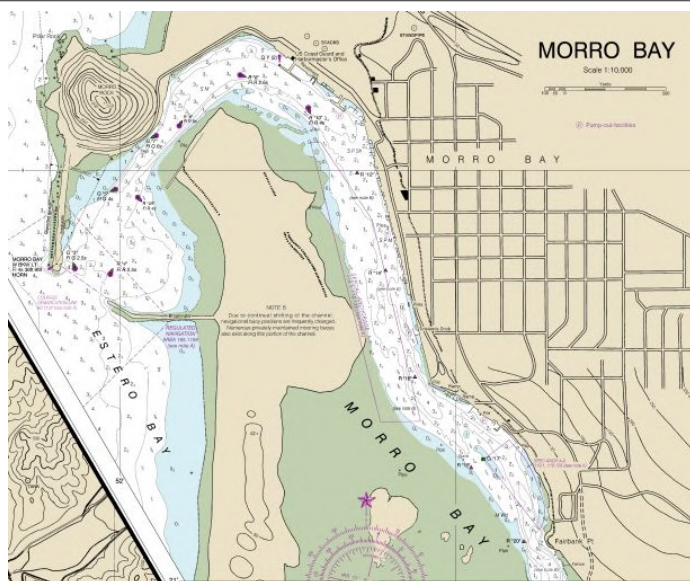
Directions from San Luis Obispo:

Hwy 1 north exit Morro Bay Blvd., straight through traffic circle, left on Main St., right on Marina, left on Embarcadero, runs into parking lot with launch ramp.

Self-serve pay station near the ramp.

NOTE:

Taking Hwy 41 West from Hwy 101 is **NOT** recommended. It may look shorter by about 12 miles but it is a murderous road.



The [NOAA Chart for the area](http://www.charts.noaa.gov/InteractiveCatalog/nrnc.shtml) is available online for free:
<http://www.charts.noaa.gov/InteractiveCatalog/nrnc.shtml>




Morro Bay Launch Ramp

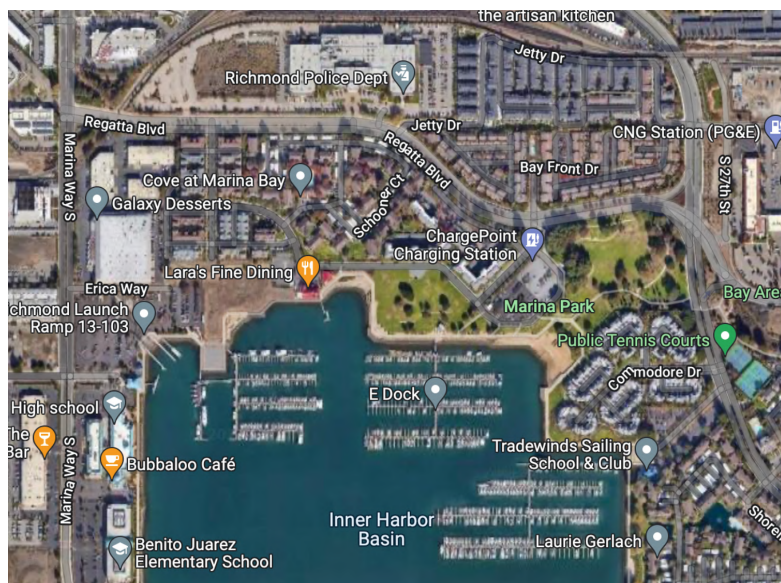
Credit: Google Maps

Upcoming Sail! Richmond to Alameda – May 13-15



Due to changes taking place at Loch Lomond we have changed the destination for this sail to the Oakland Yacht Club. This trip leaves on Saturday morning at about 10 a.m. from the [Marina Bay Yacht Harbor](#) (MBYH) in Richmond sailing to the Oakland Yacht Club. Slips and parking are available at Marina Bay. Some folks will be launching on Friday and staying over at Marina Bay. To get a slip at Marina Bay contact the harbor master at 510-236-1013. They will want you to scan and send them proof of insurance and your boat registration. They will also want \$25 a night. They also want to know that you are part of a group reservation for the Potter Yachters.

This should be a great sail with views of Angel Island, the Golden Gate, Alcatraz, and Treasure Island. If conditions permit we will stop for lunch in Clipper Cove at Treasure Island. The [Oakland Yacht Club](#) is expecting us for Saturday night. Slips are \$30 for Saturday and the second night is free. Note that you will need a [registration form](#), which will also be posted on the [Trailer Sailor website](#) that should be completed before arrival at the Yacht Club. You will also need to provide your proof of insurance and registration. Dinner will be available at the Yacht Club on Saturday night, but sadly there is no breakfast or brunch on Sunday. It should be a pleasant trip. If you need more information contact me on the Trailer Sailor site. Hope to see you there! — 



Directions to Marina Bay (www.mbyh.com)
Cross street: Marina Way South and Hall Ave.

From Marin:

I-580E over the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge
(towards Richmond/Oakland)
Exit at Marina Bay Parkway
Turn Right onto Marina Bay Parkway
Turn Right onto Regatta Blvd.
Turn Left onto Marina Way South

From San Francisco/Oakland:

I-80 E/I-580 W
Take the Pt. Richmond/San Rafael Exit onto
I-580 W
Exit at Marina Bay Pkwy/S 23rd St
Turn Left onto Marina Bay Pkwy
Turn Right onto Regatta Blvd.
Turn Left onto Marina Way South

Richmond After Action continued...

Once we got out on the west side of the island the wind died, and some motoring was required. Jon went all the way over to the city front, where there was more wind. I went over to Alcatraz, and then started back toward Richmond (see photo). It was very pleasant, not very windy, and not much swell. However the current was running out still, and though I was sailing nicely, I was only making progress to the north. It took about an hour and a half to finally pass Point Blunt and start heading back to Richmond. Had to continuously jibe in the fluke wind with the whisker pole work making for some interesting gymnastics. We got back to the dock around 5 and had dinner on my boat.

We passed a quiet night, and woke to find that David and Sharon Soule had arrived in the night. *Nighthawk* was in the berth next to mine. We never heard them arrive.

Arriving on Saturday were Mark and Cynthia Sabin with their Compac Suncat, *Half Fool*. Also showing up for a sail was Dave Bacon with his P 15, *Ah Tiller the Fun*. A new member, Justin Lance from Saratoga, also arrived with a very new looking P 15 *Starburst*. A total of six boats showed up. Dave Bacon started sailing early and did not join us for the trip to Angel Island. Alan Koepf also made it to the parking lot but may have had “technical difficulties” as we never saw him on the water.



Photo Credit: Vicki Anderson

Richmond - February 2022

Attendees:

- Eric Zilbert – *Riptide*, WWP 19
- Jon Barber – *Ole' 44*, Montgomery 17
- David & Sharon Soule – *Nighthawk*, Balboa 21
- Justin Lance – *Starburst*, WWP 15
- Dave Bacon – *Ah Tiller The Fun*, WWP 15
- Mark & Cynthia Sabin – *Half Fool*, ComPac 17 SunCat
- Alan Koepf – *Kim Yvonne*, WWP 19 (Made it to the parking lot but didn't sail, apparently)

I had made arrangements for my son David, his wife and two children to meet me in Richmond for the sail. We had five on board, which works out OK as long as someone sits below or stands in the companion way, or sits on the cabin top. Unlike the day before, the bay was quite choppy, and the wind was brisk enough to cause the boat to heel a bit. Riding the strong ebb, we made excellent time to Racoon Strait and were the first to dock at Ayala cove on Angel Island. Jon decided to continue to sail around the island, as did the Soules on *Nighthawk*. *Half Fool* arrived shortly after us. While at the dock we got a radio call from Justin on *Starburst*. He reported that he had been dismasted just outside of the strait.

Jon tried to go back to him but could not do so due to the strength of the current. My crew had all gone ashore and I was alone and not sure how much help I could give him. He very quickly picked up his rig and reported that he was going

Richmond After-action continued...

to try and set it up. I suggested he come to the dock and do the repair there. He agreed, and was able to start his motor and get to the dock in a few minutes. I helped him dock, and left him with Mark to get the mast back up, which they did with no difficulty.



The kids had a great time playing in the water at Ayala Cove. We had a nice lunch and headed back to Richmond about 2 pm. It was lovely downwind sailing, with everyone lounging around in the cockpit and on deck. It was warm and the sea had calmed down. We had to jibe a lot downwind, but with crew to help it was no problemo. We got into the dock at about 4:30.

Saturday night only *Nighthawk* and *Riptide* were in the harbor. Jon went home early, and Mark and Cynthia stayed on a mooring in Ayala cove. It was a very windy night in Richmond. I was a bit cold and was worried about Mark and Cynthia. I was glad to see them when they returned from the

island. They reported that it was quite peaceful in Ayala cove as the wind was from the south. All in all it was a great start to the sailing season. Fair winds. - Eric



Mark and Cynthia Sabin on *Half Fool* returning Sunday morning



"It doesn't get much better than this!"
Eric Zilbert

Report: St. Pat's Dinner & Sail Weekend in Redwood City

by Phil Marcelis

The Potter Yachters started converging on Redwood City's Westpoint Harbor on Thursday, March 17th, 2022. I drove through the business complex and over all the speed bumps (the only detrimental part of the experience), and stopped in at the harbormaster's office, just as Alan Koepf was walking back to the ramp where he'd parked his boat for rigging. Once I was done in the office paying for the launch and my slip, Kim and I started the arduous 2-hour slog of rigging our Catalina 22 wing-keel, *Merri Time*. (Yeah, we discussed ways of cutting that time down a bit.) We headed back home for Thursday night dinner with the family, after first helping Alan and his son (who was there just for the day) get their boat off the ramp and tied in the slip.

Dan Phy was there at 10am on Friday morning when Kim, the kids, and I returned. He was launched when we returned AGAIN... this time with the key to the companionway lock. Ugh!)

Weather was a concern all during the week leading up to the event, and it was looking like rain and too much wind to anchor out on Saturday. But, we lucked out that Friday was a fine sailing day because my kids FINALLY agreed to go for a sail where the destination wasn't a beach on Tomales Bay. (And we had a great sail!) I took the family back home by 3pm so the kids could make it to classes. I picked up the corned beef & cabbage, which Kim had set up in advance, and got back to Westpoint Harbor in time for Happy Hour and dinner.

Westpoint Harbor really treated us well! We got party barges with BBQs and a fire pit! We all sat in one barge and used the table in the other to set out plates & napkins, and the two crock pots of corned beef & cabbage (plugged into shorepower to keep warm). Seems like most people brought a little something to put on the table, too. Horseradish was a nice touch.

Having a covered space with sidewalls protecting us from gusts was a real enhancement to the usual "small boat" Potter Yachter event experience. It was especially appreciated during Saturday's rain.

Redwood City - March 2022

Attendees:

- Adam Brosamer – *Buoy-ya*, WWP 15
- Ed Hultgren – drove Friday only
- Francesca & Dave Kautz – *Zoe*, Catalina 26
- Alan Koepf – *Kim Yvonne*, WWP 19
- Justin Lance & Ella – *Starburst*, WWP 15
- Phil Marcelis – *Merri Time*, Catalina 22
- Dan Phy – *Six*, Monty 15
- Mark Sabin – *Half Fool*, ComPac 17 SunCat
- Rob Sampson – drove Friday only
- George Wehrfritz – *Betty Sparrow*, Sparrow 16



We enjoyed the party barge with a firepit to warm by.

Dave and Francesca brought a *St. Patrick's Day* cake for dessert. Someone mentioned it was Ella's 8th birthday coming up, and I found a number '8' birthday candle on my boat (another sign that I have too much stuff). So we made it a real party and sang "Happy Birthday"!



Ella enjoyed the cake!

We had a big crowd Friday night; Rob and Ed drove in just to enjoy our company. Everyone raved about the party barges, Kim's cooking, the cake, and the incredible hospitality of the harbor and yacht club staff.

Speaking of the yacht club... we were invited to "Pub Quiz Night". Around 7:40pm, Alan, Rob, and I went for the grand tour and chatted with their members. It's quite the thing for a temporary place! The actual clubhouse – with swimming pool and hot tub – will be completed next year.

Saturday morning was drier than predicted; it looked like rain had NOT falling at 2am. When I checked my weather app around 6am, it kept showing that "the next hour" would see rain, but then rain wouldn't appear, and it would say "the NEXT hour" would see rain. We talked about it and finally decided to head out for a sail. Adam opted to prep his boat for a night of anchoring and, much to our surprise, actually DID it. The other folks with smaller boats or less experience decided to join as crew on another boat. George got a ride with Dan, and Justin & Ella joined me. It was an enjoyable sail (with a little bit of paddling help by Ella) out to the Thompson. There's less and less wreck visible each year!



While Dan circled the wreck (coming dangerously close to grounding), I dropped the hook for a little lunchtime break, and Dave did the same. When it seemed like we were ready to get going again, I sailed off the anchor with a freshening wind, and that's when it started to drizzle. A bit of a cold, wet ride home, but we

made 4-5 knots back to the harbor. (Ella stayed warm watching a video in the cabin.) It was chilly enough at the docks. I can only imagine what Adam went through.

Later, Adam related some of his experience: “You



and the fleet definitely made the right call to get back to the dock. It was a very wet, but also educational anchor-out below the

Dumbarton Bridge. I anchored near Newark Slough, then re-anchored closer to the “16” mark when I realized low tide would sit me on the mud flat. Woke up at 6am to weigh anchor and get outta there before low tide, and bashed my way back under motor and mainsail. It was flat, sunny, light conditions when I got back, relieved to be docking at Westpoint Marina where I could remove my 2nd set of soaked clothes. Tired, happy, and wearing dry clothes I reflected on the trip: My P-15 was a sturdy home for the night and got me back to the dock safely after some heavy-ish conditions. Next time, I will definitely adjust the departure time for favorable currents and will also do my anchoring at low tide (if possible).”



Phil, Ella, Justin (from left) sailed *Merri Time*



Adam Brosamer sailing *Buoy-ya*

Meanwhile, we avoided such adventure back at the docks. Alan got in his car and cranked the heat to try to thaw out while Dave, Francesca, Justin, Ella and I sat in *Zoe's* cabin for a cup of hot chocolate. Around 5pm, I pulled out the crock pots again and warmed up the remaining corned beef and cabbage. And George surprised us all with a filet mignon on the BBQ, cooked to perfection!




George worked his magic on filet mignon

As night fell on Saturday, it got darn chilly and, with fully bellies, we all eventually scurried off to the relative warmth of our cabins.

Sunday turned out to be a wonderful, sunny day. It proved to be almost ideal for sailing. Dave and Francesca went out to dry their sails before heading toward their home port of Redwood City. Dan crewed for me. Alan convinced his other son to sail with him. George single-handed his Sparrow 16. And Mark went out, too. We all enjoyed the wind & sun, while trying to avoid the mud flats and other hazards. Some did better than others, prompting an additional visit from harbor staff just to check... but we all got back safely.



Of the event, Dave said, “The take-aways were: Excellent treatment by the marina; some great sailing every day (though Saturday was ‘damp’); Exceptional cuisine thanks to Phil & Kim.” He also mentioned, “an example of where the club adds value is the participation by new members alongside the steady regulars.” To emphasize that point, Justin said, “I really appreciated the tips you gave me and even the little bits I learned from just watching how you handle a boat.”

I really have to hand it to the harbor staff. They worked as a team before we even arrived by arranging for the party barges unasked, visiting the dock daily to see if we needed anything, and being generally attentive. I can't remember the last time our little boat captains were treated so well! — 



Dan tries his hand at *Merri Time's* tiller



photo: George Wehrnitz

Merri Time and *Half Fool* (from left)



Incontrovertible proof that Alan and son returned safely

Officer's Club

Commodore:
Phil Marcelis
Catalina 22, *Merri Time*

Vice-Commodore:
Jon Barber
Montgomery 17, *Ole' 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

