



# The Potter Yachter

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

June 2022

## Morro Bay: After Action Report



Pete, Ron and Phil met up around noon on Friday at the launch ramp. Because of overly robust wind (this was to plague us every afternoon) we motored to the yacht club dock. We all attended Happy Hour at the Yacht Club, had some good drinks and a free dinner! (See Morro Bay continued on page 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

I hope you're all having a great sailing season. I find it gratifying to trailer my boat to far-flung places and just enjoy the bliss of it all. Or at least endure the rainy sail while repeating the mantra, "this, too, shall pass." Luckily, our sunny days outnumbered the rainy ones on the recent MessAbout-19 with six of the ATUS ("All The Usual Suspects").

Once again, Dick Herman planned the trip and provided us with the cruise booklet, although he couldn't make it himself. This year, the suspects were fewer than in previous years, but a small group is more manageable – an important consideration for me, since I found myself leading the ragtag group.

Suffice it to say that plans were made, sailing was done, plans were changed, happy hours were celebrated, and six boats returned safely. (Dick has mentioned on several occasions that we don't necessarily need the same boats returned... it's the "count" which is relevant. I'm happy to report success, in either case.)

Regards,

**Phil**



### Club Events on the Horizon

[potter-yachters.org/calendar](http://potter-yachters.org/calendar)

**June 20-25**

**Catalina Trip (SoCal Potters)**

**Gary Nitta**

*The launch location has changed for this event. See page 11 below or the [SoCal Potters Facebook page](#) for information.*

**July 8-10**

**Union Valley Reservoir**

**Kevin Crowder**

*Union Valley Reservoir is located in the Crystal Basin. We will anchor out in Wedding Ring Cove. Winds are usually light in the morning and stronger in the afternoon.*

**July 22-24**

**Monterey**

**Sharon & David Soule**

*Come join us for a Monterey sail. We are planning to sail Friday through Sunday. Join us for one day or all! Sail in from Moss Landing if you prefer that. Conditions can be light in the mornings and challenging in the afternoon.*

**August 5-7**

**Half Moon Bay**

**Phil Marcelis**

*It's been a while since the club has attempted this location. Be prepared for open-ocean sail if the weather and sea state is amenable. No Guest docks but harbormaster fills open slips on a first-come first-served basis. Alternative is taking an available mooring ball or anchoring out.*



**Upcoming: July 8-10, 2022**

## **Union Valley Reservoir Overnight**

*Sailhost: Kevin Crowder*

We're planning another overnight at [Union Valley Reservoir](#) near Placerville/Pollock Pines. The lake will be open when we're there. No idea what the water level will be, but the ramp is very deep.

Any updates to the info will go on the [Trailer Sailor forum](#). There's a grocery store about halfway up Ice House Road from Highway 50 which is stocked okay.

I will arrive by noon on Friday and we're planning to anchor at the red "pin drop" in the map (shown above right), in what we're calling "Wedding Ring Cove". [See [PYN Oct-Dec 2019, pg 10](#) -Ed] I'll also be there Saturday night.

This is a great cove to shelter in. I have a propane grill and stove for cooking on.

We can do our usual PY raft up/dock party.

You can anchor or beach the boat and sleep onboard for just the launch fee. If you want to camp, the camping fee is \$28 per night per site, including one vehicle. RVs are allowed, but must have full water tanks on arrival (can't refill at the site).

The launch ramp is very wide, easily handling 2 boats, launching simultaneously. See the map for the launch area.

While at anchor, we'll raft up and have a Happy Hour and Potluck Saturday around 6 pm.

Kevin



### **Directions from Hwy 50, east of Sacramento:**

- Take Hwy 50 east to "Ice House Road/Crystal Basin" (nearly 9 miles above Pollock Pines. The trip from Sunrise Ave, where we live, and this turnoff is about 1 hour or 68.9 miles. This is just a "handholder".)
- Turn left (north) onto Ice House Rd.
- Shortly after, STAY ON Ice House Rd when it bears right!
- It's about 50 minutes from the Ice House Rd turnoff to the launch ramp, due to slow driving with boat and trailer.
- Continue up Ice House Rd and turn left to [Launch Ramp](#) onto Fashoda Rd.

**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. Participation in Potter Yachter events is subject to the guidelines published in [January/February PYN](#), page 3

Upcoming: July 22-24, 2022

## Monterey


Sail Hosts: Sharon and David Soule'



Photo credit: Don Person

We will be launching late Thursday and spending Thursday through Sunday nights in Monterey at the harbor. Join us there or sail down from Moss Landing if that is your preference.

Daysails will probably include a trip south along the coast if winds are favorable, a trip north to look for whales and maybe just toodling around the bay enjoying the wind. Monterey has plenty of places to eat. We may see about a get together at the London Pub one night. We may also try to do a Pizza dock party Saturday evening if enough people are interested. Plan on the usual happy hour on the dock.

Fill out this [Google Form](#) to reserve dock space. Parking is first come/first served, so plan to launch early in the morning or late in the day. Some people launch, then park on the street and move their rig down to the lot once it clears out. A 20' slip is \$16.50 per day. You can also purchase a parking permit from the harbormaster for \$16 per day. — 



### Directions to Monterey Harbor

#### **Via Hwy 101 South:**

Follow US-101 S to CA-156 W in Prunedale. Take exit 336 from US-101 S Follow CA-1 S to Del Monte Ave in Monterey. Take exit 402B towards Pacific Grove. Follow signs to Fisherman's Wharf.

#### **Via Hwy 1 South:**

Follow CA-1 S to Del Monte Ave in Monterey. Take exit 402B towards Pacific Grove. Follow signs to Fisherman's Wharf.





(Morro Bay continued...)

Saturday morning at 5:30 am was superb, with a total absence of potential fog. It was warm and the sun was invading the bay. After the usual morning coffee, we all hit the water and sailed the bay. Phil, Alan and Ron went out of the harbor for a while and then returned to catch up with the rest of us. Later on Ron pulled out to avoid heavy Sunday traffic, and the Rickers did too. Pete gave a client a one hour sailing lesson and just after dropping him off a gale came up and nearly swamped his boat, *Hisako*! He limped back to the yacht club for safety. It was wild each afternoon

- Pete Evans – *Hisako*, WWP 15
- Phil Marcelis – *Merri Time*, Catalina 22
- Alan Koepf – *Kim Yvonne*, WWP 19
- Ron Dietel – *She-said-no*, Precision 165
- Gretchen & Dan Ricker – *Good & Plenty*, Compac 19
- Dave Durringer – WWP 15

but we were blessed with no fog.

Sunday Phil took Alan in *Merri Time* for some blue water sailing. Pete straggled behind but made it out of the harbor mouth for a while, then returned to sail the bay and the three remaining boats pulled out by noon or so. All in all it was a good weekend despite the overly windy afternoons. —







Scenes from the Morro Bay sail.  
No word on how rough the bar was...





## After action report: **Richmond to Alameda (and back)**

By Jim Gossman and Eric Zilbert

From Goose: Only a week before this outing, I was told that the original destination of Loch Lomond Marina was closed to transients because of construction. Co-sail host Eric Z. scrambled, and was able to arrange for us to cruise to Oakland YC. While we have always been welcomed there for our annual meetings, we've never actually had an event there. In the Covid world, they were just reopening their dining room for dinners, and it would be great to show our support.

Our plan was to launch Friday at Richmond's Marina Bay, get slip assignments, and go to dinner. The weather forecast turned out to be perfect, as promised, in the mid 70's, and no fog.

The weather was so nice that I decided to launch in Benicia and motorsail to Richmond, about 25 miles; an easy two hour cruise on ReGale. I figured the savings on bridge tolls would cover any extra fuel costs, and it's always more fun to arrive by water. While I was at the boat ramp my neighbor Wolfgang pulled up on his bike, and I invited him to go along...and take an Uber back. He agreed, and hopped aboard. We'd motor sailed for about an hour, and were almost through San Pablo Bay, when the engine died! WTF! I just had the engine serviced, had plenty of gas....so now what?! The wind was almost zero, but fortunately we were not in the shipping channel. As always, I had an anchor ready....but damn! Turned out to be a bad fuel line, with the bulb collapsing, and perhaps an air leak in the gasket at the tank or engine connections. It happened a couple more times, but was manageable throughout the weekend. I've got the ethanol blues, and will be replacing both fuel tanks and lines.

The wind picked up just past the Richmond Bridge, and after dancing with a tug/barge entered the Richmond channel. We saw Eric sailing around, but as we had pre checked-in with the marina, headed straight to our assigned dock. The engine seemed ok, but we were prepared to sail into the slip. It's good to be a sailboat! (Continued page 8)

- Alan Koepf – *Kim Yvonne*, WWP 19
- Constantinos Laliotitis and Erin Searfoss – (*Nameless*), P 15
- Eric Zilbert – *Riptide*, P 19
- Jon Barber and Jeff Cowherd– *Ol' 44*, M 17
- Goose Gossman – *Regale*, WWP 18
- George Wehrfritz – *Betty Sparrow*, Sparrow 16



*From Eric: Everything worked out well on this sail. Six boats participated, and we left from Richmond at about 10 a.m. on Saturday. Winds turned out to be quite favorable, and we had a lively sail out the Potrero Reach and around toward Berkeley. There were a lot of boats racing, and we got to watch spinnakers set, snarled, and doused. We arrived at Treasure Island and rafted up for lunch at about 12:30. It took a little bit of effort to find the correct anchorage, but once we did all six boats rafted up and enjoyed lunch.*

### George and Betty Sparrow



Saturday morning conditions were light and we sailed or motor sailed to lunch at Clipper Cove. Lots of fleets of boats were out racing, and it was so mild that I was only wearing a t-shirt under my PFD. We had planned on rafting up for lunch, so I headed in to set an anchor. I hooked eel grass on my first attempt to anchor, but soon found good holding ground, and we showed 'em how it's done. After breaking up the raft, the wind was good for a while, until it wasn't... but all in all it was a nice passage to OYC. As we were heading down the estuary I noticed a Mac 26M hunting me down. I have to admit that he finally got by me (first time ever by a Mac), although I had my small jib up, and he had a big genoa. I congratulated him, and then challenged him to a drag race. He didn't take the bait!

*After lunch we proceeded toward Oakland and the estuary. Winds were fluky and the water very choppy due to passing motor boats. We motored, sailed and motor-sailed into the estuary and finally arrived at the yacht club, too early for cocktails! We managed a party on the docks, and made it to the yacht club for dinner around 5:30. The dinner was great.*

*Between arriving and dinner, it was discovered that the rudder on George's boat was damaged at the point where the tiller connected to it. George decided to return to Richmond with Goose, retrieve his trailer, and then return to Alameda to retrieve the boat.*



With the yacht club just coming out of covid hibernation, we were treated like Potter royals. There was only one other table occupied, which was sad. The night was calm, and we all slept well. In the morning George hopped on ReGale and we headed to Richmond to

get his truck and trailer. It took several hours to get his boat loaded in Alameda and have lunch, so I Uber'd back to my boat and spent another night in Richmond. When I found out that there was no gas dock there, I asked a commercial fisherman for a gallon as a safety reserve. Turns out I didn't need it, but I had a great conversation with him about the robust halibut fishing in the Bay. (Continued page 9)



**Hospitality: OYC style!**



*We had a quiet night, and the next morning I made coffee for everyone, and set out a variety of pastries and fruit for breakfast. We left the OYC docks around 9:30. Winds were light and variable leaving the estuary. Constantinos elected to take the direct route, while Jon Barber, myself and Allen decided to go around the west side of Treasure Island. Under the Bay Bridge we found variable winds, but once out in the bay, the wind picked up considerably and I found myself in white knuckle conditions. I elected to round the west side of Angel Island, as did Jon. Allen continued toward Richmond on the east side of the island. The winds continued to be fluky. As soon as I turned into Racoon Strait, I was becalmed. I motored out past Ayala cove, where I picked up some wind again. Then, about two thirds of the way to Richmond, the wind began to blow out of the east! I have never encountered this on any afternoon in Richmond, and I started the motor and headed in. Everyone was back at the docks by three. Of course the story of Regale and George the stranded mariner remains to be told.*




**Breakfast is served!**



**A lovely morning in Alameda**

As I headed back to Benicia Monday morning the weather report was sketchy (25-40k offshore), and there were some mean looking clouds...so I decided to poke into Loch Lomond to get a sandwich, check out the marina's progress, and gas up. It turns out their gas dock was also closed, but the weather was improving. As I cleared the Marin islands the winds settled in around 10 knots, and I was broad reaching at 5 knots with the help of a building flood. The morning bliss was rudely interrupted when the wind stopped, and suddenly I was being sucked

toward a big rock by white-water accelerating into a ten foot wide WHIRLPOOL! While I thought I wasn't that near the obstruction—say 50 yards—I only had a few seconds to react and get the engine going to avoid falling into the vortex and onto the rocks. I love my electric start and power tilt! Drama over, I enjoyed a really nice trip back to Benicia. I didn't need the gas, but the sandwich was fantastic. And next time I'm going to catch a halibut for dinner. — 



Alan Koepf flirting with freighters in the Estuary



Constantinos and Erin

### 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.



## 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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.

## Important: Changes to the Catalina Trip

**Alamitos Bay is Full. The launch has been moved to:**

**Cabrillo Beach Launch Ramp. 3720 Stephen M White Drive. San Pedro, Ca 90731.  
Parking \$ 2.00 per hour - max \$ 15.00 per day - Cash or credit card.**

Here is the information for obtaining guest slips. Cabrillo Yacht Marina, 224 Whalers Walk, San Pedro, Ca. Email info to [slips@cymcabrillo.com](mailto:slips@cymcabrillo.com) They need a copy of Registration, Liability insurance / 300,000. The cost for slips is \$1.50 per ft, which is a discount from \$2.00 per ft. The restroom key requires a \$50.00 deposit. They accept Visa, Mastercard and Discover. Email this info as soon as possible so that they can make arrangements for our group. We will need a slip for Sunday June 19th and June 25th after returning from Catalina on Saturday. The launch ramp is not too far away.

The key card deposit has to be a paper check or cash. They prefer a check since it can just be torn up per a phone call if you're out on the water.



'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

