



# The Potter Yachter

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

July 2022

## Report: Moss Landing Sail, Or Sailing with the Whales

By Bud Kerner, photos by Dave Kautz



I arrived at the Moss Landing parking lot just after noon on Friday. The only other person I was expecting was Dave Kautz with his O'Day 19. The parking lot was almost full. I didn't know but salmon fishing was suspended for professional fishermen for several days. This allowed all the amateurs to fish without competing with the professionals. (See Moss Landing continued on page 3)

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

Well, with half the year's sailing events behind us I reflected back on the club sails I've attended and realized that I've only made it to two of them. The real gut-punch was getting Covid just before the Catalina trip and missing that one. I was REALLY looking forward to my first time out there. But the last thing I wanted to do was bring that illness to all the great people who would be sailing on that trip. As my cough got worse during the week, it just confirmed that I made the right decision not to go.

Now I'm looking forward to future sails. I think the next club sails for me will be Half Moon Bay in August and then Moss Landing in October.

This year's family commitments sure have been rough on my sailing schedule. On a positive note, one of my kids said they'd like to sail with me a couple of times this summer. Unfortunately, it won't be on club sailing weekends. But it gave me the opportunity to go check out the Encinal Boat Ramp, off of Central Ave in Alameda. That place has gotten fancy! If you haven't seen it yet, you should drive by.



### Club Events on the Horizon

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

**September 16-18**

**Tomaes Bay**

**Eric Zilbert**

*Great family sail! Generally easy, often windy, overnight at anchor, in boat or on beach, or in tent with individual permit.*

**Sept 30-Oct 2**

**Moss Landing to Monterey**

**Bud Kerner**

*Come join the potters for a round trip sail to Monterey from Moss Landing. Unlike earlier in the year, Monterey Bay is more docile this time of year. There should be moderate wind and no fog. For that reason, this is a sail for all experience levels. If you always wanted to try ocean sailing but were afraid to try it, this is the time. We will leave the Elk Horn Yacht Club in Moss Landing Saturday morning, overnight in Monterey, and Sunday sail back to Moss Landing.*



(Moss Landing continued from page 1...)

Did I mention the wind? I have never been there with that much wind. I decided to rig the boat and just motor over to the guest dock. I have been having trouble raising my mast. I still think someone is adding lead to the mast. I now have to use the gin pole to help me get it raised. Unfortunately, I left the gin pole at home. Not wanting to hang around the parking lot till Dave arrived I attached the mast to the tabernacle and got ready to launch.

There was a fishing boat on the outside of the launch dock. When my boat left the trailer the wind, (remember the wind?), turned the Potter sideways. Fortunately, the boat on the adjacent launch dock had just come out of the water. If it was still there, I would have hit it. The fellows on the fishing boat came over with a boat hook and helped me get the boat tied up to the dock. When I was ready, they untied me and helped me leave the dock.

It was getting close to cocktail time and Dave was still not here. I walked back over to the launch area and saw the same fishermen helping Dave launch. I turned around and came back to the guest dock to help him tie-up. Dave said the fishermen were waiting for the wind to ease before they went out. They told him some of the boats coming in had cracked their windshields from the rough water at the entrance to the harbor. It was late enough that we decided to rig my boat in the morning.

Just as we were leaving, there came another boat. It was a Potter 15 captained by Bud Newhall, we rafted Bud up to my boat and headed off to the yacht club. Drinks at the yacht club and dinner at the Sea Harvest restaurant. The wind was still blowing extremely hard. I think it was around midnight when it finally subsided.

**Attendees:**

- Bud Kerner – *Cat's Meow*, WWP 19
- Dave Kautz – *Trailer Trash*, O'Day 19
- Bud Newhall – *Noble Maiden*, P 15

Saturday morning, we awoke to a beautiful sunny windless day. After breakfast, with Dave pulling on the jib halyard and me lifting the mast we raised it. Most of the lines around the mast were intertwined. Because of a slightly stiff neck, I was holding on to one of the baby stays, leaning back to see how to untangle the lines. About the fourth time, I did this the baby stay fitting let go at the deck. I was on the water side of the boat and while I had a hold of the baby stay, it slipped through my hand, and into the water I went. (Continued page 4...)

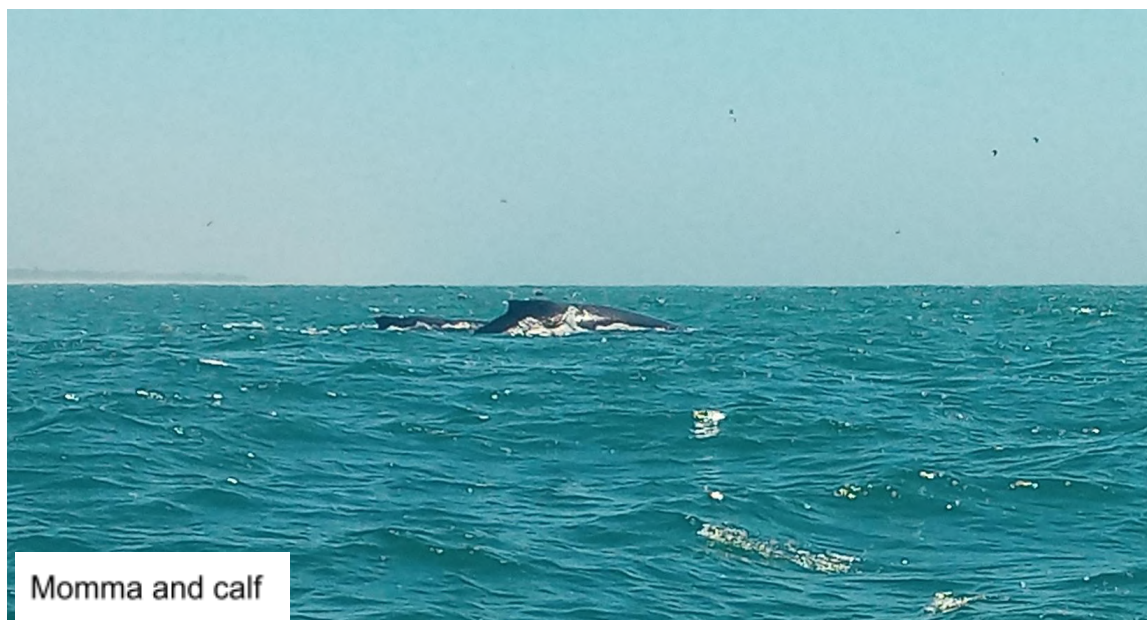


Whales—  
everywhere  
You looked!

Bud Newhall was standing at the bow of Cat's Meow so I worked my way to the bow. I was wearing a hooded sweatshirt and when wet it was so heavy that I could barely raise my arm. Bud helped me out of the water. It took me several minutes lying on the dock to recover my wits. I then started the process of drying out. After changing my clothes, I remembered my hearing aids and truck key fob. I rinsed the hearing aids in fresh water and left them in the sun for the rest of the day to dry. When I opened the battery compartment for the key fob it was dry, so I just left it in the sun.

The guys wanted me to go out sailing with them, but I had all the excitement I needed for one day. Dave invited me to go out on "Trailer Trash" but I decided to stay at the guest dock. I know what I missed because I've had days like it. Wherever you looked you would see a whale blowing or breaching. Bud and Dave went out around 10 am with a nice breeze, and came back in at 3 pm. For most of their sailing, the wind was perfect. I will let the pictures Dave took describe the sail.

Sunday morning, we awoke to a light drizzle and fog. It was decided to take the boats out. It was the first time I spent several days on my boat and never left the harbor.



Momma and calf

#### Officer's Club

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Upcoming: August 5-7, 2022

## Half Moon Bay Sail

Sailhost: Phil Marcelis



We're going to make an attempt at sailing Half Moon Bay. Someday I'd like to follow in the footsteps (or since we're talking boats, maybe that would be "wake") of Bud Kerner and David White, who sailed out the Golden Gate down to Monterey in 2015 (see [Potter Yachter Newsletter Nov-Dec 2015, page 13](#)). I'd actually like to go even further south down the coast, so I think it might be prudent to get some experience sailing in and out of these harbors.

To that end, I'm planning to launch around 10am on Friday, August 5 and try to get a slip for Friday and Saturday nights.

The launch fee is \$17. Permit machine takes cash or card.

The Pillar Point Harbor in Half Moon Bay does not have guest docks. If there are any open slips in the harbor, the Harbormaster's office/staff will fill them with visiting boaters. They do not take reservations. It's a first come/first served basis. \$1.10 per foot per night for a slip.

When you're just about to launch, you can call the Pillar Point Harbormaster's office on the phone 650-726-4382 or on VHF channel 16 or their working channel 74.

There are mooring balls available on a first come/first served basis, which you can use if there are no available slips. \$12/day. They are laid out in a grid pattern in front of the yacht club and the center inner break wall.

There is no water taxi service. Pillar Point Harbor also has an anchorage in the outer harbor on the west side.

Again, no water taxi service. Here's a harbor map:

[https://www.smharbor.com/files/79bd8c390/PP\\_Harbor\\_Map.pdf](https://www.smharbor.com/files/79bd8c390/PP_Harbor_Map.pdf)

I contacted the [Half Moon Bay Yacht Club](#) and although they don't have guest dockage or moorage, they were amenable to having us visit them for Happy Hour on Friday and Saturday nights. They kindly requested to know how many people might be coming so we don't overwhelm their entirely volunteer bartending staff.

Additionally, they suggested that with enough notice, we might be able to get a ride to-from our boat for happy hour if we have to anchor out or get a mooring ball.

**PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU'LL ATTEND THIS SAIL SO I CAN INFORM THE YACHT CLUB.** — 



### Directions

Take Hwy 92 West toward Hwy 1  
Turn right onto Hwy 1 (Cabrillo Hwy)  
Turn left onto Capistrano Rd  
Turn left onto Pillar Point Harbor Rd  
follow the road to the boat ramp  
Parking is located on the hill



## Cruiser Challenge XXIII returns to Monterey on August 19-21, 2022

*Sail Host: The Potter Yachters*



The [Cruiser Challenge](#) is back! Covid restrictions forced the Potter Yachters to make drastic changes in the Challenge for the last two years, and while we aren't Covid free just yet, we are trying to make it look a bit more like the "good old days." Unlike all of the recent Challenges, we will be holding a fun "around the buoys" event for those who don't wish to sail from Moss Landing. The event will again be hosted in Monterey. Those who wish to sail over from Moss landing are welcome to do so, but the "headquarters," as it were, will be the docks in Monterey.

There's no pre-paid parking; however, we have a downloadable [Parking Guide](#) to help you park your vehicle and trailer. If you arrive early or late enough, you should have no problem finding a pull through space right at the boat ramp.

For those sailing from [Moss Landing](#), there is usually plenty of parking available. Follow the link for more information and be sure to pay the "Iron Ranger" before departing – you'll return on Sunday. Those who choose to do this sail should remember that it's not an official part of the program and are cautioned about the potential risks associated with open ocean sailing.

Friday evening: Sailors and their guest(s) are welcome to join up on the docks for snacks and refreshments. The last few years, we have been having take out on the dock so we can maintain social distancing. We will have to see what "covid conditions" are before making any decisions about dinners.

Saturday: Format TBA. Our vision is to have one or two fun "around the buoy" races in Monterey Bay. In the past, we have had a race committee as well as a committee boat, but we may dispense with those this year for a more informal method of starting and finishing races. The rules will be limited to the USCG "Right of Way" rules. All other details will be published in the August newsletter. There will be a skippers meeting in Monterey (probably on the docks) before the race Saturday morning as well.

As always, safety is paramount, and don't forget, this is a "friendly" sailing event! Please be sure to go over the [Recommended Gear and Safety Guidelines](#) and have a working VHF radio for communication. After the races, when all boats have returned to port, we will hold some sort of awards ceremony and dinner–format also TBA due to covid. Participants are reminded that preventing covid transmission is each individual's responsibility. We want people to feel safe, so please take whatever precautions you feel you need in order to protect yourself.

Departures usually begin on Sunday, while some may leave on Monday to avoid Sunday traffic on the Bay Area Freeways. Whether you drive, sail, or hitch a ride – just get back safely!

[You can register here!](#) We will see you soon.

[Directions](#) to Monterey Municipal Harbor/Marina

### From north of Monterey:

Take 101 South to 156 West  
Continue through Castroville onto Hwy 1 South  
Take the Pacific Grove/Del Monte Ave. exit  
Turn right at Fisherman's Wharf/Figueroa St.  
Then turn left towards the launch ramp.

### From south of Monterey:

Follow directions above using Hwy 101 North, **or**  
Take Hwy 1 North, exit Aguajito Rd. (exit 401A)  
Turn left at the first signal light (Aguajito) then  
Go under Hwy 1 and across Fremont St.  
When the road ends in a 'T' (can't go straight),  
Turn left at the signal light (onto Del Monte Ave)  
Turn right at Fisherman's Wharf/Figueroa St.

**Harbormaster: (831) 646-3950; night 594-7760**

[Municipal Marina layout maps](#) are available in the  
["Harbor & Marina" Department](#) on [www.monterey.org/](http://www.monterey.org/)

### [Cruiser Challenge XXIII Schedule](#)

#### Friday, August 19

Arrive in Monterey; pay for slip and parking.  
Gather at the docks for Happy Hour.  
5:30 pm: Dinner.

#### Saturday, August 20

Before 8:00 am: Arrive and Launch  
9:00 am: Skipper's meeting.  
11:00: Start of 1<sup>st</sup> race, followed by lunch on the water  
1:00: start of 2<sup>nd</sup> race.  
4:00 pm: Happy Hour on the docks  
5:00-ish: **The Awards Ceremony!** Followed by dinner

#### Sunday, August 21

Sailing, sightseeing and relaxing.  
Retrieve and depart.





## Report: Catalina Sail with the Socal Potters

Story and photos by Jim Gossman



The annual SoCal Potter trip to California's Mediterranean gem goes back almost two decades. First organized by Captain Howie, its helm was competently taken over by Gary Nitta several years ago. This event is a terrific introduction into what the "cruising life" is about, with many elements of the South Pacific and Baja included (but a lot closer). (Continued next page...)

I have been fortunate to have attended the last three sails, and what a magical experience it is for Potterdom. Because of guest slip scarcity, the usual departure from Alamitos Bay (Long Beach) was changed to San Pedro. It cut the crossing from 26 miles to 22, and added a few nuances to the adventure. Eric Zilbert and I caravanned our P18/19s down from Nor-Cal to meet up with Gary and Pat Sullivan (P19s), Ron Dietel (Precision 16), and Tim Webb (Spindrift 21). David Anton (P19) and Roger Caldwell (Mac 26X) would meet us at the isthmus after motor-sailing all the way from San Diego via Oceanside and Avalon; Gary's granddaughter, Serenity was aboard with her friend Riley; and Eric and Pat's sons were there for some Father's day time. My friends Martin and Adriel, from Long Beach, would join us on *Panache*, their famous Santa Cruz 40 Transpac racer morphed into a wicked cruiser. Let the adventure begin!



Potters on the string line in Catalina

After engaging in some insane traffic pulling boats through Los Angeles, and creative trailer parking at our motel, we finally launched Sunday morning. We got slips at the gigantic Cabrillo marina, where we prepped for our Monday morning crossing. We watched wing-foilers flying in Hurricane Gulch (the local weather phenomena), and had slip-side seats for live music and fireworks celebrating Juneteenth and Pride week. The backpressure from the energy of the big city would be expelled moments after clearing Angel's Gate, the primary entrance/exit of the nine mile breakwater defining L.A. and Long Beach harbors.

It was a typical morning of June Gloom as we motor-sailed out about 10am. Pat got too close to the breakwater and its kelp bed, but lifted her keel to get free. At first we could see an outline of the island, until low clouds had us heading into the unknown. Fortunately, there was enough visibility to keep clear of any shipping traffic, and our course was set. After a couple hours motoring across the gentle ground swell, the wind freshened, motors stopped, and speeds increased from 3 to 4 to 5 knots. Gradually, we could see our destination getting closer. There's nothing better than making landfall! It was only about 5 hours until we were dropping sails and radioing the harbor for our mooring assignments. Since we are "little" we go to the stringline close to shore. Another front row seat; time to settle in, and have a beer.

The cool thing about islands is that time slows down and it becomes easy to get your priorities set. Do what you want, or do nothing. I got my Kaboat, (my 14' narrow inflatable dinghy) ready for shore-boat duties, and chilled with Gary while others went ashore to explore. It was Monday, so the weekend warriors were gone and the island was ours—suntan lotion, flip-flops, towel, bathing suit, hat, reading material, binoculars, beer, wine, whiskey, and ...quarters for showers. It's an island, and they have lots of rules and signs which you must follow. They know who you are and, fortunately, remember and welcome us from previous years of good behavior.

That first night I joined my friends on their big boat while the others dined ashore. Tuesday dawned with the sun breaking the horizon below the cloud bank which surrounds Two Harbors, except for a sunny vortex which usually hovers over the isthmus. (Continued next page...)



## Attendees:

- Gary Nitta – *Moon Dance*, WWP 19
- Goose Gossman – *Regale*, WWP 18
- Eric Zilbert – *Riptide*, WWP 19
- Ron Dietel – *She-said-no*, Precision 165
- Pat Sullivan – *Bella Feronia*, WWP 19
- Tim Webb – *Rum Line*, Spindrift 22
- David Anton – *Just Right*, WWP 19
- Roger Caldwell – *Madame Wu*, Mac 26X
- Martin Buxton and Adriel Cogdel – *Panache*, Santa Cruz 40

Eric, Evan, and Gary came aboard *ReGale* for breakfast. Afterwards, the Zilberts sailed over to Emerald Bay (a protected cove a short distance west) to snorkel, but got admonished by the harbor patrol for sailing inside the harbor. We followed in *ReGale*, and rafted up for a swim and lunch. We were bathing in true bliss, when out of nowhere, a 3' breaking wave hit the calm anchorage. Good thing we had some big fenders! When we returned, I picked up the spot adjacent to *Moon Dance*, and tied our sterns to make boat hopping easier–Siamese Potters! We resumed staring at the water, watching the palms sway, and smelling the pure air.

Gary always loads *Moon Dance* with supplies for a few shoreside feasts, and Tuesday was the barbecue potluck. Needless to say, we were living like royals.



Wednesday Ron and Sully sailed home. Roger the Mac Man organized a frisbee golf game which was a lot of fun. I threw a buffalo chip, but was threatened with disqualification. Yes, they still roam the island. After the game, we strolled over to Cat Harbor (the other side of the isthmus), sat, and watched timelessness. I attended camp there in 1960, and it looked and felt exactly the same. Gary made pasta ashore for the group, and we all slept well. Thursday??...who knows, who cares?... the island life was flowing. We just hung out on our boats, while the girls went to the beach. Hotttt shower. Had a \$\$\$\$ burger. We got a tour of the Mac, and viewed *Panache's* awesome interior.

Friday morning we set sail for San Pedro. The wind was up early, and we flew home in under 4 hours. We had 12-16 knot winds, and were surfing a 3-4' swell with full main and jib. Typical afternoon conditions. I hit 7 knots towing my dinghy, which, while surfing a wave, almost rammed *ReGale's* stern. Gary and Tim were ahead of me, and when Tim reefed, Gary caught and passed him.

(Continued next page...)



When we entered the harbor at Hurricane Gulch it jumped to 25k on the nose...so it was time to hide by a wharf and drop sails. After cleaning up, Gary, Tim, Eric, and the girls hopped onto *ReGale* to find a restaurant for dinner at Ports of Call Village. It's where the fishing fleet and canneries were based when tuna (and other species) were abundant until the 1960's or so. On the way we saw the two tall ships which were at Catalina the day before, but we were not allowed to dock at the village. Not very welcoming, but a bit further down we found a public dock close to a restaurant with take out. After charging back to the marina, all was good. In the morning we packed up and were on our way home.

All in all, it was a spectacular outing. Perfect weather (70's-80's), no fog, and incredible clouds from thunderheads on the mainland. The only mishaps I am aware of was a screw pulling out on my bimini strap, and that one of the girls broke a fingernail. Oh darn! Thanks Gary!! — 🚩



Goose enjoying "island time."





### Delta Doo-Dah

From: Ed Stancil (former commodore of Peninsula Yacht Club)

Like last year, they've arranged an "outpost" in the Delta for the Doo-Dah.

Follow up from Dave Kautz via text:

Ed Stancil called to let the Potter Yachters know that the Peninsula YC is doing the "outpost" thing again at the Delta Bay Marina Aug 12-15. Free slips. I gave him your email address.

We had several boats there last year, it was fun.

For more info, check out [PYN Aug-Sept 2021](#)

## 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.**

From the editor: If you've ever considered lake sailing in the Sierra, you will find two gems off of Highway 88: Caples and Silver Lakes. Both lakes are managed by El Dorado Irrigation District. To launch and sail for the day costs \$10. As with most



Gunkholing Caples Lake

high Sierra lakes, you will want to watch for submerged boulders. David and I love to take our Penobscott 17 (traditional wooden



The ramp at Silver Lake. All ready to row!

boat) which we will tandem row for a couple of hours, then sail back to the boat ramp. Both lakes are currently full, but will not be for much longer as they are used for irrigation. —



'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

