



# The Potter Yachter

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

Jan/Feb 2023



## Potter Yachters' Annual Meeting 2022

Face to face at last (mostly)

The annual meeting of the Potter Yachters convened on December 11th, 2022, at the Oakland Yacht Club in Alameda. Once again, OYC graciously offered us the use of the Regatta Room, and although their usual Brunch service has yet to return on Sundays, they allowed us to bring in Pizza for lunch. The weather threatened to keep people home, so we opted to try having people attend the in-person meeting via Zoom as well. We finally had a quorum by about 10am.

Commodore Phil Marcelis opened the meeting with welcoming remarks, and everyone introduced themselves. We then heard the Commodore's report which lauded the fact that we had a great year of sailing to help us recover from the "pandemic years", explained that club incorporation with Federal tax exemption is done and we're awaiting the California exemption, and finally thanked all those club members who stepped up during the year to take on volunteer positions with the club. We heard the news that Dave Bacon is stepping down from the P-15 Captain position, so a big "Thank You" to Dave for his service. There are multiple volunteer opportunities in the club. If any members would like to be a PICYA representative, would like to publish the newsletter, or have website skills (or be involved in some other way), please contact the Commodore. (Story continued pg 6)

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

Mail a check made out to Potter Yachters to Goose Gossman, 865 West I Street, Benicia, CA 94510

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>

### Also in this issue:

Annual Meeting report	page 1
Commodore's Corner	page 2
Recommended guidelines	page 3
Sailing Calendar 2023	page 4
Upcoming: Richmond	page 5
Delta Bridges Sail Report	page 7

## The Commodore's Corner



By Phil Marcelis

As I look forward to the packed calendar of sails this year, I can't help but get excited. Of course, it's usually at this point when I realize the boat is covered in leaves and I get a pained expression on my face as I dread what's next. It's time for maintenance! Grease up those axles, scrub the lichen off ("I am NOT likin' the lichen!") and get prepped for the season.

That first sail of the season is where I usually shake out all the problems. Note the date change!! Meet in Richmond on Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, not the 18<sup>th</sup>. 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. We can publish it in the newsletter or on the Trailer Sailor forum. At least take a few pictures and write about your experience for the newsletter!

Just to keep you all informed of the continuing saga of incorporating as a 501c7 social club, I'd like to report that we have our Federal Tax Exemption and breathlessly await the grinding gears of California to review the Federal determination and approve our tax exemption in this state. With the wind in our sails, we moved forward to get a bank account in the name of the "Potter Yachters" and secured insurance, as was decided way back in the beginning of 2022. I'm happy to report that both of those are in place now.

I know we've had some new members join recently. A few are from far-flung regions of the country, so check the roster when you're travelling; you may have friends you haven't met yet! For those a little closer, 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!



Regards,

**Phil**



### Club Events on the Horizon

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

**February 25-26**

**Richmond to Angel Island**

**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. Most individuals decide for themselves on getting the feel of the conditions.*

**March 18**

**Coyote Point (St. Pat's Sail)**

**Phil Marcelis**

*RSVP for Saturday night corned beef dinner. Plan to launch at Coyote Point on Saturday morning to head out for a sail before 10am. We should be able to get space at Coyote Point Yacht Clubs' guest dock. Easy to intermediate sail depending on wind.*

## *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.



# Potter Yachters

## Event Calendar for the 2023 Sailing Season

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>
Feb 25-26	Richmond to Angel Island	Eric Zilbert
March 18	Coyote Point (St. Pat's Sail) * <sup>1</sup>	Phil Marcelis
April 1-2	Richmond to Alameda (OYC)	Eric Zilbert
April 22-23	Morro Bay* <sup>1</sup>	Pete Evans
April 29-30	Moss Landing (Elkhorn YC) * <sup>1</sup>	Bud Kerner
May 5-7	Stockton Sailing Club (Poker Regatta) * <sup>1</sup>	Mike Kennedy/Jon B
May 20	Delta Doo Dah Kick-off (Richmond YC) * <sup>1</sup>	(not Potter event)
May 26-28	Rio Vista-Antioch (Fri-Sun)	Gerry Nolan
June 3-4	Redwood City (Westpoint Harbor) * <sup>1</sup>	Phil Marcelis
June 10	Delta Ditch Run	(not Potter event)
June 19-26	Catalina Island (SoCal)	Gary Nitta
July 7-9	Benicia to Napa (Fri-Sun)	Goose
July 22-23	Huntington * <sup>2</sup>	Jim Hunt
Aug 5	Monterey: CruiserChallenge-XXIV* <sup>1</sup>	Alan Koepf
Aug 12-13	Delta Doo Dah event (Delta Bay Marina)	(not Potter event)
August 19-20	Rio Vista to Prospect Slough anchor-out	Eric Zilbert
Sept 16-17	Loch Lomond * <sup>1</sup>	Goose
Sept 30-Oct 1	Moss Landing to Monterey	Bud Kerner
October 6-9	Fleet Week Events	(not Potter event)
October 28-29	Delta Bridges	Bud Kerner
January 7, 2024	Annual Meeting, Oakland Yacht Club	Jon Barber/Goose

**\*Note:** 1) Suitable for daysailors. 2) Reservoir/Lake sails are subject to modification depending on water level.

**Caveat:** Sailing can be a dangerous activity so please be careful and keep an eye on your fellow sailors. Participation in any Potter Yachters 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 Yachters participants and the Potter Yachters relating to any such injury or damage. Have fun and sail safely.



## Angel Island Sail February 25-26

Sailhost Eric Zilbert




Come and join me for the first sail of the year at Marina Bay Yacht Harbor in Richmond. Note that we have changed the dates of the sail from those in the Potter Yachter Calendar. We will try for a 10 AM

launch on Saturday, Feb. 25.

I plan to arrive with *Riptide* on Friday around noon. I plan to spend both Saturday and Sunday nights in the harbor, leaving Sunday afternoon. To reserve a slip, contact [Marina Bay Yacht Harbor \(MBYH\)](http://www.mbyh.com), phone (510) 236-1013. You will need to tell them the nights you plan to stay, and provide your vessel's registration information and proof of insurance. Please make your reservation before arriving at the harbor. There are limited staff available, and they vastly prefer that people handle the paperwork before arriving.

There are two restaurants at the Marina, and a café within walking distance.

See you there! Eric Z — 

We launch at [Marina Bay Yacht Harbor](http://www.mbyh.com):

1340 Marina Way South, Marina Bay, CA

Phone: (510) 236-1013

Hours: Monday - Sunday 9am to 5pm

Guest slips are available [by reservation](http://www.mbyh.com).

**Directions** to Marina Bay ([www.mbyh.com](http://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

### 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:  
Bud Kerner  
P-14,

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)

**Annual Meeting attendees:****In person attendees:**

- Dave Bacon
- Jon Barber
- Jerry Barrileaux
- Pat Brennan
- George Corrigan
- Kevin Crowder
- Goose Gossman
- Ed Hultgren
- Jim Hunt
- Dave & Brenda Iler
- Dave Kautz
- Bud & Bobbi Kerner
- Alan Koepf
- Phil Marcelis
- Don Person
- Mark Sabin
- Rob Sampson

**Zoom Attendees:**

- Judy Blumhorst
- Gerry Nolan
- David & Sharon Soule
- George Wehrfritz

(Annual Meeting continued from page 1)

Next was the treasurer's report. We had income related to burgees and dues, and we had various expenses for postage, printing, incorporating, events, website, and our annual donation to a few yacht clubs who are very welcoming to us. After all the inflows and outflows were calculated, we're happy to know that the club is still solvent. The full report, as well as all documents associated with incorporation, are available to any club member upon request.

One note from the treasurer: we have a new bank account after incorporating. Dues should now be made out to "Potter Yachters" and we're not using PayPal right now. We may be able to use Zelle, but we're working on that so in the meantime, please mail a check to Goose made out to "Potter Yachters". It's still \$50 per family.

Following that, the proposed Slate of Director-Officers was presented for a vote. Typically, a corporation will elect several people to form a Board of Directors who will then decide on the few officers. However, our bylaws were written to reflect how we've operated for many years, so our vote is actually for Commodore, Vice-Commodore, and Secretary-Treasurer, each of whom is also a Director. It may be confusing, but the result is the same as it's been for our organization all these years. The officers can then appoint people to various other functions like Newsletter, Webmaster, etc. The full slate passed unanimously. Let's welcome them!

**Director-Officers****Commodore:****Phil Marcelis****Vice Commodore:****Jon Barber****Secretary/Treasurer:****Jim "Goose" Gossman****Appointees****Newsletter Editor:****Sharon Soule****P15 Fleet Captain:****Bud Kerner****P19 Fleet Captain:****Eric Zilbert****Webmaster:****Phil Marcelis**

Commodore Phil then presented the Potter Yachter of the Year Award to Kevin Crowder. The point of this award is to recognize generosity, helpfulness, and support to other members of the club. The officers determined that Kevin exhibited those key characteristics which the club would like to encourage. Congratulations, Kevin! The inscription reads: 2022 Potter Yachter of the Year. Kevin Crowder. Capable Sailor, Helpful Companion.


After that, we went through the proposed sailing calendar to see if anyone had concerns about the dates or sailing venues. All the sailhosts had already confirmed their dates so this process was quick. The one concern was the date of the annual meeting; a request was made to NOT have it in December, so it was moved to the first Sunday in January.

With that out of the way, we asked for any new business. Mark Sabin pointed out that we have a P-15 Captain and a P-19 Captain, and brought up the idea that maybe we should try to incorporate more boats into that structure to encourage people with other types of boats to join. (continued next page)



He wondered if we should rename the captain positions to be more inclusive. A conversation about the role of these volunteers ensued and it was finally decided to add “small boat” and “large boat” respectively to the P-15 and P-19 designations.

Finally, pizza and soda were served, and we had a chance to socialize. Those who wanted to pay dues and purchase a calendar were able to do so (there are still some left, so send email to order one!).

Those who had brought a wrapped present for the gift-exchange went home with a gift. It was another successful Potter Yachters group event. — 

## After action report: Delta Bridges 2022



Photo credit: George Wehrfritz

For me, this was a very different Bridges sail. I usually by mid-year have the course and overnight identified and secured. I arranged to have the start and overnight at the Delta Marina in Rio Vista. The Saturday sailing route used the deep-water channel to Miners Slough to Steamboat Slough back to Rio Vista.

Miners Slough requires a 12-hour notification to open the bridge. Starting mid-year, I began calling the head of Delta Bridges to make arrangements. I don't remember how many times I called, but he never answered or returned any of my calls. Mid-October I chickened out and began looking for an alternative route. Whatever I did I had to keep the overnight in Rio Vista. Most options were just too long for a day sail. I decided to go up the Sacramento to the Walnut Grove area and sail back. The problem was finding a place to take a break before we turned around. Art and Lucy Fox pictured below suggested Ko-Ket a public campground with a dock and restaurant on the Sacramento River. They are the folks who follow us around in the pontoon boat. On occasion have towed some, including me, to the finish.



Photo by Susan Fox



The fleet headed upriver.  
Photo credit: Phil Marcelis



We had a total of 15 boats on this year's sail. Thursday, Dan Phy launched his boat, *Six*. Friday Danny Ward, Larry Tkach, Rob Samson, Ted Tome, Goose, Eric Zilbert, Mark Sabin, Bruce, Janet Dalen, and I all launched. Saturday morning Jon Barber, and Mike Kennedy launched. Sunday David and Sharon Soule, George Wehrfritz, and Bud Newhall launched for the sail around Decker Island.

I have an anemometer at my house, Saturday morning it read 0 mph, average mph 0, and gusts 0 mph. In other words, there wasn't any wind. That held true for most of the day. The Sacramento, unlike the sloughs, is wide enough to sail if there is wind. There was one point several hours into the sail when I saw Eric Zilbert raise his motor and sail at about three knots. Did I mention the tide was against us? I was about to do the same when he dropped his motor and began motor sailing.


#### Bridges sail participants:

- Bud Kerner – *Splash*, WWP 15
- Jon Barber – *Ol' 44*, Montgomery 17
- Danny Ward – *Baby*, Montgomery 15
- Dan Phy – *Six*, Montgomery 15
- Rob Samson & Phil Marcelis – *Mud Hen*, Ranger 22 Tug
- Ted Tome – *Cielo*, Compac Eclipse
- Goose Gossman – *Ruby*, 1963 Glasspar
- Bruce & Janet Dalin, *Patience*, WWP 15
- Mike Kennedy – *Vagabond* 17
- Larry Tkach – *Groovin'*, Montgomery 15
- George Wehrfritz – *Betty Sparrow*, Sparrow 16
- David & Sharon Soule – *Superfluous*, Core Sound 17
- Eric Zilbert – *Riptide*, WWP 19
- Mark Sabin – *Half Fool*, Compac 17
- Dave & Brenda Iler – *Sea Dog*, Montgomery 15
- Bud Newhall – *Noble Maiden*, WWP 15
- Art & Lucy Fox – *It's A Hoot*, pontoon boat



The bar at Ko-Ket  
Photo credit: Phil Marcelis

The dock at Ko-Ket is not that big, so we had to raft up. In my P14 I tried to go on the inside of the dock, but the water was too thin. We were as much as three deep at the dock, but it worked.

Sunday we were joined by three additional boats and Bruce and Janet Dalen in their P15. Like the day before my anemometer read all zeros. The difference was we had a favorable tide, and everyone sailed. The Soules came with yet another boat. I think they have more boats than Goose. It is a Core Sound 17, and it is a beauty. Hats off to Susan, Art, and Lucy. Saturday we all motored, Sunday we sailed **Slowly**, and the pontoon boat stayed with us. I was happy when I got above 2 knots. Eventually, we all made it around Decker Island and back to the Delta Marina. Even without any wind, I think everyone had a good time. I know I did. Next year I promise more bridges. — 



Saturday evening at Delta Marina Photo credit: Mike Kennedy



Check out [Phil Marcelis' video](#) here.



Sharon Soule' demonstrating her "motoring" technique.  
Photo credit: Bud Kerner



Mike Kennedy sailing on Sunday  
Photo credit: George Wehrfritz



Bruce and Janet Dalen demonstrating their patience  
with the lack of wind  
Photo credit: Bud Kerner



Dock time!  
Photo credit: Phil Marcelis



'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

