



The Potter Yachter

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

March 2024

Through the Viewfinder A Conversation with Don Person

By George Wehrfritz

"I got pretty good holding the camera with one hand and the tiller with the other and hoping I didn't need to release the main sheet."

Anthropologists have a phrase for what Don Person practiced over two decades sailing with the Potter Yachters: participant observation. He joined, he learned, and he documented -- clicking off, he reckons, more than a hundred pictures for each day spent on the water. His digitized images circulated throughout our small fleet, then beyond. "I don't know the actual count," shares Joshua Colvin, who published Small Craft Advisor for 23 years, "but I suspect Don's images made more of our covers than anyone without Colvin as a last name."

Not too shabby for a guy who didn't step aboard his first West Wight Potter until almost age 70. By then, he'd already completed a successful career in medicine and, along with his wife, Judy, come to terms with a devastating family tragedy. Sailing took the pair to northern waters, inspired Don's passion for photography, and more. The Potters "have been such a generous, thoughtful, and helpful group," he says. "I mean, it turned into my social life."

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

Mail a check made out to Potter Yachters to Potter Yachters, 3710 Lone Tree Way, Suite 493 Antioch, CA 94509

Ship's Stores for sale. Order from Phil at Potter Yachters:
Show your colors! Fly an official Club Burgee on your next sail!

| | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| Burgees | \$25.00 |
| 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 Jon Barber



Welcome back Potters to another action-packed sailing season! The hard work of assembling our sailing schedule is behind us. I hope to see you all out there seeking adventure and making memories (remember to take photos!).


I was fortunate to attend the Potter Yachter inaugural sail for 2024. When I arrived at the gate at Marina Bay Richmond, I fumbled as usual with the gate card reader. I found myself serenaded by Eric Z on the trumpet to the tune of, "Hail to the Chief". A fine rendition it was and much appreciated! Now I really feel like a Commodore! I was accompanied by my daughter Paula, her partner Jeff and their daughter Kestrel. We sailed (or rather they sailed, as my hand barely grazed the tiller) to Angel Island and back and had a fine day of it.

One piece of housekeeping I need to share; Jim Hunt has decided he will not be able to fulfill the duties of Vice Commodore and has tendered his resignation. Previously, Eric Z offered his services as VC so a deal was struck. Eric is now Vice Commodore and Jim is Large Boat captain. Thank you both Jim and Eric for your service to the club.

Check your mail for an information packet from Secretary Marcelis containing P-Y business cards, this year's roster and a letter describing the benefits derived by our new membership with the Pacific Inter Club Yacht Association (aka: [PICYA](#)). Briefly, this membership means we should be welcomed at PICYA member clubs for club functions and individual use. Many of them showed interest in having the Potters use their facilities during a recent meeting. Thanks to Secretary Marcelis for initiating this membership and to VC Zilbert for attending our first PICYA meeting. Our horizons have been expanded.

Our club just keeps getting better!
Fair Winds!

Regards,

Jon — 

| Club Events on the Horizon | | potter-yachters.org/calendar |
|---|--|---|
| March 16 | Coyote Point (St. Pat's Sail) UPDATE HERE | Mark Sabin |
| RSVP to Mark Sabin for Corned Beef & Cabbage Saturday night. Plan to launch at Coyote Point Saturday morning to head out for a sail before 10am. We should be able to get space at Coyote Point yacht Clubs' guest dock for Friday and Saturday nights. Easy to intermediate sail depending on wind. | | |
| March 23 | Stockton Sailing Club Poker Run | Mike Kennedy |
| The entry fee (\$50) includes Friday and Saturday docking at the Stockton Sailing Club with most proceeds going to the junior sailing program. The Poker Run is Saturday and starts at noon. Boats must fit under the I5 bridge. At each stop, you will tie up the boat and secure a playing card. Potluck Saturday evening with live music is planned. Winner takes the jackpot! | | |
| April 13-14 | Richmond to Oakland Yacht Club | Eric Zilbert |
| 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. | | |
| April 27-28 | Moss Landing (Elkhorn Yacht Club) | 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. | | |

Upcoming event:

Tom Snyder Inaugural 'Life's a Gambol' Poker Run Regatta

At the Stockton Sailing Club. March 23rd, 2024

Sail host: Mike Kennedy



Formerly, as well as formally, billed as the Potter Yachter Poker Regatta. The Regatta "tar" reference was primarily for alliterative effect but also to emphasize the seldom known fact the real sailormen of old were known as "Tars" due to handling all that old hemp rope and tar. This edition promises to be bigger and more posthumous than the last. So, with that preface and the encouragement to revisit the [May 2023 issue of Docktalk](#) for the post-mortem review of the original event as it occurred, let us call all hands on deck.

Calling all intrepid Tars for an exercise in boat handling, "strategy," navigation, docking, sailing and poker. The "Life's a Gamble" poker run will draw to a showdown of top guns, young guns, old guns, ghost guns, big guns but primarily stunned guns in reruns. It is a do-over of last year's fundraiser for the SSC junior sailing program with a couple of twists and one new and unprecedented stop. The only real requirement is your sailboat will make it under the I5 bridge on the way to the Stockton Downtown Marina. [Editor's note: Vertical clearance on this bridge at high water is listed at 45 feet on the NOAA chart] At each stop it is necessary to dock your boat, tie it up in a sea-person-like manner then hobble a few yards to secure the playing card at that station. You should be agile and ambulatory to participate. All crew are eligible to participate but must be registered and ante up.

The Potter Yachter Poker Regatta will recur on March 23, 2024. As with last year, the entry fee (\$50) includes Friday and Saturday docking at the Stockton Sailing Club, most proceeds going to the junior sailing program with a portion for the ante. Participants can enjoy dinner at the club on Friday night at 18:30 for a donation of \$15.00. The Poker Run will occur on Saturday with registration closing at noon which coincides with the 'official' start.

You can participate as a boat, Captain, or crew. The poker ante is yet to be determined (\$20.00 US cash or less per participant) but it is a winner take all event if there are ten subscribers or fewer. More entrants than that (and yes, you could have five entrants per boat with four crew including the captain) and there will be a second-place winner for 25% of the total amount of the ante. Six crew and one boat make seven chances to win. Do all crew signed up need to be on the boat throughout the regatta? Yes, but that is ethics and has little to do with numbers. Still, what cards may be traded between participants on a particular boat is also an ethical decision but will not be discouraged nor condoned.

After the event there will be a potluck dinner during the final "Flop." There is a high probability of live music if participants bring instruments and talent. Any ties at the final evaluation of the poker hands will be determined in favor of the participant who draws the highest card from the oh-so-recently flopped deck. Captains draw for the boat.

Another new feature is to encourage participants to come in costume as a character, real or fictional, from the Maritime Canon. Think Ahab, Captain Hook, Admiral Nelson, Magellan, Richard Henry Dana, Long John Silver, The Boy on the Burning Deck, Melville, Jimmy Buffet, The Secret Sharer etc.

SSC member and raconteur extraordinary Tom Snyder, aka 'Hollywood', was notable for many reasons, including his ability to win most any costume contest. If you show up in a premeditated costume, a portion of the ante will be waived in recognition of your recognition of Tom's party spirit.

This year's co-sponsors of the event will be Mike Kennedy as Chief Perp, ably assisted by Real Descent and Mark Sailer who can be counted on to give accurate info as they participated last year.

That is... all for now,

Mike Kennedy

(Continued next page)

Arrive Friday night or Saturday Morning as your schedule permits.
Launch at the [Buckley Cove Launch Ramp](#). There is plenty of parking.

| | | | |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 4911 Buckley Cove Way Stockton, CA 95219 (209) 937-8539 | | | |
| Rates | | | |
| | Monday - Thursday | Friday - Sunday | Disabled/Over 62 |
| Vehicle with Trailer | \$13 | \$15 | \$10 |
| Overnight Fee | \$7 | \$8 | \$4 |
| Park Area Day Use | \$3 | \$3 | \$3 |
| Annual Pass | \$200 | \$200 | \$135 |

Directions to [Buckley Cove Launch](#)

For your GPS, the launch ramp address is:
4911 Buckley Cove Way
Stockton CA

From North of Stockton, take Hwy 5 South:

Take exit 476, W March Ln. Head West on W March Ln 2.1 miles to Buckley Cove.

From South of Stockton, take Hwy 5 North:


Take exit 476, W March Ln. Head West on W March Ln 2.1 miles to Buckley Cove.

Sail or motor around to the [Stockton Sailing Club](#).

We will locate on A dock which is the first dock after entering the Harbor. Arrivals can take any open slip on A dock. There is a long-distance double-handed race that weekend, so we need to keep the harbor side dock and crane dock clear. If we fill up the A dock slips, we can overflow into other vacant slips as directed by the Harbor Master.

The fee is \$50 and includes the ante for the Poker Regatta. Make checks payable to SSC Sailing Foundation. Proceeds go to sponsor the Junior Sailing program.

On Saturday the skipper's meeting will be at 10:00 in the clubhouse and information regarding the Poker Regatta will be distributed. The idea is to sail to several locations, dock the boat, locate the participating business rep and pick up a card and continue on. One card per boat will be given at the skippers meeting. Three cards picked up along the course and the fifth and final card back at the dock before six. Best hand wins. SSC members will also be participating.

Probable attendees should email [Mike Kennedy](#) with their name, number of crew, boat name and make/model as this would help with planning. — 



Update to St. Patrick's Day sail at Coyote Point

Sail Host: Mark Sabin


The St. Pats weekend sail/dinner is still on for Fri 3/15 and Sat 3/16 nights on the Guest Dock, Coyote Point Yacht Club are approved. I said maybe 12-15 for dinner; 6-8 boats.

Dinner reservations need to be made individually, on their website.

Go to [CPYC March Events](#). Click Sign up now. You can continue without login as a non-member. Add a Standard Ticket, scroll down to put in your phone number. You can add extra tickets if you need them.

The boat ramp at Westpoint Harbor in Redwood City is open, and I believe it is \$17 to use. If you want a guest dock space, you must sign up on [their website](#).

If sailing up from Redwood City to Coyote Point Yacht Club on Friday, it seems like currents will be favorable both going up and returning on Sunday. Should be a fun weekend.

Mark — 

Upcoming event:

Richmond to Alameda Sail, April 13th-14th 2024

Sail Host: Eric Zilbert

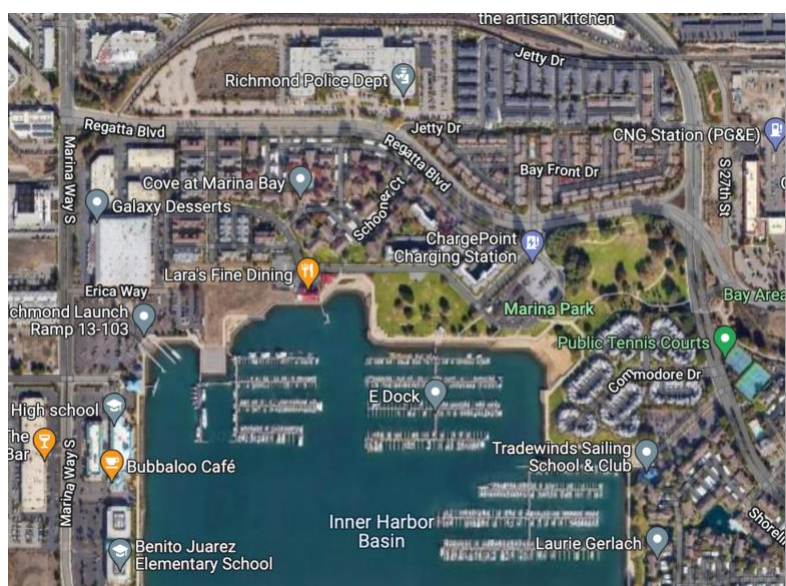
The Potter Yachter



Enjoy an April 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 fill out a [guest berthing application](#) and contact the harbor master via email or 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. Let them 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](#), 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 at 6 (bar opens at 5:30), and brunch will be available Sunday at 10. It should be a very pleasant trip. I'll take dinner reservations Saturday morning, or you can RSVP to me at drzilbert@gmail.com. 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

(Viewfinder continued from page 1)

Don skippered *Sarah Anne*, a stout P-15 with multicolored sails for safety. Now 95, he ceased sailing last year due to recurring balance issues. He shared stories during two phone conversations from his home in Pleasanton. Excerpts:

Q: What makes *Sarah Anne* a special boat for you?

I spent three weeks in Maine sailing a Sunfish in the summer of '67. That was my only sailing experience until, for some reason, around 2000 I got a hankering to get a boat. I started researching and came up with the Potter 15. It seemed like a good boat for an old man; I was almost 70 at the time. So, I went down to International Marine and got the boat.

I was a new sailor, and I knew that I didn't know anything. I ordered the boat and the sails in the brightest colors I could so when I got stranded someone would see me to pick me up. I also knew was going to be sailing on San Francisco Bay and I told them: "I'm a newbie. I'm going to be out there. I need all the protection I can get." So they gave me a little extra fiberglass. I think I have the first Blue Water layout they made.

I sailed that boat 2-3 times a week for 15 years. What made it so much fun was the other Potter Yachters, really. The first time I launched was in San Leandro, and I ran into Mike Westfield, who was a really good sailor and an eccentric old guy. He said, "Well, I'll teach you how to sail." His method was to get me in the most precarious situations he could find. I didn't know how to tack, and he took me to the middle of the marina to bounce back and forth off other boats. San Leandro was narrow when the tide was out, so he took me where the rocks were and I ran over rocks and things. The wonderful thing about the Potter 15 is that even if you do something egregiously wrong, it will take care of you. I found out then that the boat was practically indestructible.

Learning by doing.

I was so fortunate. Mike was a good tutor, and when we started sailing out of Redwood City there was Jerry Barrilleaux, and Harry Gordon, and Dave Kautz, who was starting to sail his P-15 at about the same time but already knew how to sail. These guys were tremendous mentors, and they had 150 years of sailing experience. Every Saturday we'd go out there and sail and they'd tell me what to do and what not to do.

Is *Sarah Anne* photogenic?

Well, she's certainly bright. Yellow hull and red and yellow sails. One time the Potters were sailing out of Richmond, and it was terrifically foggy – so foggy that we were aiming for Angel Island, and when the fog lifted, we were just opposite San Quentin, 2-3 miles from where we wanted to be. When the fog was really thick someone took a picture, and you couldn't see the other boats with their white sails, but *Sarah Anne* stood out. She's a visible boat, I'll say that for her.

(Continued next page)



Don and *Sarah Anne* take on the Mothball Fleet near Benicia



Why do you think you didn't take up sailing back in the 1960s? What happened in the interim?

I was in an ophthalmology residency at the time. We rented a cabin on a lake, and I had some time to sail a Sunfish for a few weeks. I returned to the East Bay, started a private practice in ophthalmology, divorced, remarried, and I was busy with other things. I did a lot of gardening. I was really into roses, went to rose shows and everything. And then, about thirty years ago, my stepdaughter was murdered. I spent the next few years trying to take care of her mother, Judy, who's such a big part of my life.

It's hard to even imagine such a loss. What was your stepdaughter's name?

Sarah, Sarah Anne. And that's the name of my boat.

How, if I might ask, did you cope?

We supported each other. I'd known Sarah for about 12 years, and we'd been really good friends. And Andy, her brother, too, we just bonded. We were fortunate; we had each other, leaned on each other. Tried to keep occupied with other things so we wouldn't think about it too much, but of course there was a lot of grieving.

We'd both been doing a lot of outdoor things and so forth, and we still did. And we travelled. I was interested in roses, and Judy was interested in gardening. A friend had tour groups to rose gardens in England and Europe. We must have gone on 10 to 12 of those. We just kept busy, which was part of it.

So finally, by the early 2000s that seemed to be behind us far enough that I thought 'Gee, I'd really like to try something new.' I settled on sailing.

When did you take up photography?

I started my ophthalmology practice in 1971 or so, and started taking pictures of eyes, just as a hobby. Also, I took pictures of our garden and the roses. I had the interest starting then, but photography was not a large part of my life until I got into the Potters. Sailboats are aesthetically attractive to me.

To prepare for our conversation I send an email to Joshua Colvin from *Small Craft Advisor*, who said very nice things about your work and reckons you had more pictures in the magazine over the course of its history "than anyone not surnamed Colvin."

Ha! I finally lost out to his mother, daughter, sister-in-law, or someone. Having pictures in the magazine was a lot of fun, but I never intended to be a real photographer. It was always a hobby, and for the entertainment of the other Potters. I enjoy sending pictures of boats to their skippers.

In your early days of sailing, were you shooting with film – setting apertures, focal lengths, stuff like that?

In the Potters era it was digital from the get-go. I started out with a little point-and-shoot camera, then graduated to really nice Nikons with good lenses. All digital.

In just two years with the Potter Yachters I've already had one iPhone ruined by what tech services called Black Screen Death, which they attributed to moisture. I blame Antioch.

Hah hah.

(Continued next page)





One stunning example of Don's photography: Potters gather near the wreck of the [USS Thompson](#) at the south end of San Francisco Bay

So, over the years how many cameras did you lose overboard or in the bilge?

I haven't ever lost one. Here's a plug for Nikon. Mine have been through rainstorms and droppings and flooding and whatever, and the cameras have gone on steadfastly. I've had four Nikons over the past 20 years, and they've all been tough as nails.

At what point did it feel to you that digital photography had become as good or better than what you could have achieved with film?

I haven't really thought of it in those terms. With the Potters, I was doing digital. Once you get to 5 megapixels you can do a lot. The current cameras are, what, 50-60 megapixels?

How many pictures would you take on an average day with the Potter Yachters?

Oh, from 100 to 200 I suppose.

Wow! What are your favorite sailing venues?

When I started out it was the bay, because it was exciting and I was an adventurous young man then, relatively. As I got older, I enjoyed lake sailing more. Hennessey Lake outside Napa is a small, quiet lake, but it's scenic and has wildlife. My other main hobby, now that I'm not sailing anymore, is taking pictures of birds. When I could combine sailing and birds, that was a big plus.

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Not sailing at all? You still have your boat, right?

My balance has gotten too bad. I'm 95 now, and even walking on a wobbly dock I don't feel very secure. And I've lost a lot of strength so getting the mast raised up on a P-15 was easy until I got into my late 80s, and then it became kind of a struggle to get the boat launched and retrieved from the water.

Reading past newsletters, you've had various generations of crew in your boat and, it seems, others with a party barge. Are you the source of this nautical side to your family?

I think so, although my stepson and step grandson have been interested in powerboats. And we bought a houseboat, which joined several Potter events up in the Delta. They would take the houseboat and it would be kind of a central meeting place for people. On one occasion, when it was terrifically windy, a lot of the Potters left their boats at Bruno's, I think it was, and got on the houseboat which took them back up to where their trailers were so they wouldn't have to sail back in some really bad conditions.

How the Potter Yachters might attract younger sailors into the club is a perennial conversation at dockside during happy hour, as you know.

Sure. And as you probably know, the Potter Yachters started out as sailing only P-15s, and there were a lot of families. Harry Gordon's kids, for instance, were just youngsters. Several families with young children would go out for day sails in the afternoon, then come home. It has morphed into overnights or weekend or even longer sails, I think, probably, because almost everybody now has a bigger boat, and it's more trouble to haul it and rig it so you don't want to do it for just a couple hours.

Ever considered a bigger boat?

No. Judy and I are not very big people. We'd done a lot of backpacking, so the P-15 was kind of luxurious after that. For us it was the perfect boat.

And I like the connection to the water. When you're in a little boat like that, you're sitting practically even with the waterline, and the gunwale is maybe 6 inches to a foot high. You're just there, with the water and the wind, it's intimate. The bigger the boat gets the more you lose that feeling, or at least I do.



Potters relaxing at Tamales Bay



Potters setting up at Brannan Island State Park on the Delta

You were one of the recurring characters in this secret society known as All the Usual Suspects. You did, what, 12 of those trips? That's a different kettle of fish than just going out into San Francisco Bay for the day.

One of the early P-15 sailors was a man named Bruce Hood. Very enthusiastic. He got us together one year and said, "We should go up and sail in Puget Sound."

(Continued next page)

Six or seven of us said, sure, we'll go. And I talked to Judy about it, and she said "Yes, I'd like to do that." That's how it got started; Bruce Hood got us enthused and we went.

So, two of you cruised in the P-15?

We'd go place to place to place, spending every night on the boat. Judy and I were on that little boat for maybe seven days, and we're still married. I think that's quite a feat.

Remarkable.

Well, she enjoyed it. And one of the most positive things about sailing *Sarah Anne* was knowing the Potters. They have been such a generous, thoughtful, and helpful group of excellent mentors. I mean, it turned into my social life.

Mentioning no names, members of this club have had fireplaces in their boats, big-screen televisions in their boats, fully-equipped bars in their boats – so if you run aground and happen to need a gin-tonic, they have it, ice included.

The gin and tonics you can have on a P-15 and Dan Phy is a magician when it comes to providing ice.

But it must take discipline to cruise with two people on a boat that small.

Judy and I had done a lot of backpacking, as I said. It was one of the things that drew us together. So, we were used to the small boat situation, anyway. When we were sailing, we'd move stuff into the cabin during the day and we'd move it back into the cockpit at bedtime. It wasn't as crowded as it sounds. And I also had a boom tent with two bows, and it created quite a bit of dry space in the cockpit.

And all the while you were looking through the viewfinder, taking pictures.

Right.

Is that disorienting, say, in a Cruiser Challenge?

I got pretty good while holding the camera with one hand and the tiller with the other and hoping I didn't need to release the main sheet.

Did you ever lose a race to get a good photo?

I don't think I ever won many races. I was not the fastest sailor around.

Here's a whole other story: Dave Bacon got his boat around, I think, 2002. That first day, I was launching my boat and he showed up with his brand-new P-15, and I said "Oh, anything you'd like to know about sailing that boat?" I stick my foot in my mouth a lot.

Dave is probably the most knowledgeable, experienced sailor of our group. He mentored me for years. I feel so fortunate; I got to sail with Dave almost every Wednesday, and he was so generous and helpful. I'll always be grateful to him.



ATUS on Messabout at Fossil Bay on Sucia Island



Hot competition among the P15s at the Cruiser Challenge in 2014

(Continued next page)



Harry Gordon sailing *Manatee*

In my limited experience, it's extremely helpful when, floating all around you, are people doing something better than you're doing it.

Early on I sailed with Harry Gordon, who'd been sailing his boat already for 20-30 years by that time. Jerry Barrilleaux, he's another marvelous source of all kinds of sailing information. They shared everything, and I'm pretty good at soaking stuff up, so they kept me out of trouble by and large.

Back in the day, families would document their vacations using slide photography, and every so often set up the carousel projector to relive the trip to Yosemite or whatever. Do you remember great sails that way?

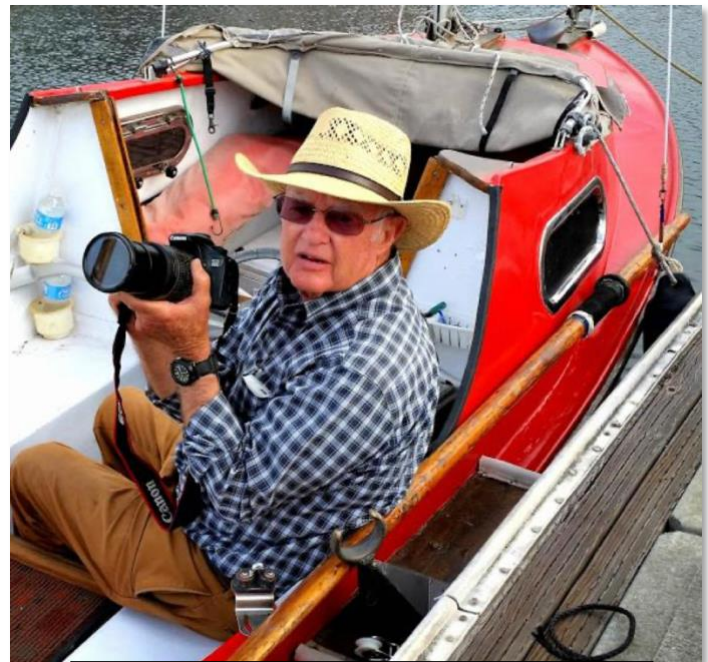
Not exactly, but when I look at the pictures now it takes me back there. I'm old. My memory isn't as good as it ever was. I look at old photos maybe once or twice a month. I had about 5,000 pictures. And – I do this too much – recently I dumped out more than half of them. I've got maybe a thousand left. The pictures are just great reminders of things, and looking at the people in the pictures brings as much pleasure as does looking at places and events.

What guidance do you have for sailors interested in taking better pictures from their boats?

Having a camera you can use with one hand is really helpful. Then you can sail and take pictures at the same time, which is the biggest thing because it's windy and the boat's heeling. I always had a strap on the camera that went around my neck, and if need be, I could just drop the camera and take care of the boat. Some of the early pictures I took with simple point-and-shoot cameras were terrific. Looking back, even with the new, fancy equipment the pictures aren't that much better.

With sailboats, you don't have to be that close to them because they're big. Still, the closer the better. The best pictures I've taken are pretty close-in. And you'll notice if you pay attention, most newspaper photographers use short lenses. The other thing I'd mention is that modern cell phones are terrific. If I were starting out again, I think I might use just a cellphone.

It's like what they say about sailing. How good a sailor you are depends on your tiller time; on how much you do it. Same with taking pictures. Distance and light and composition, it's those three things. Mostly, it's just practice.

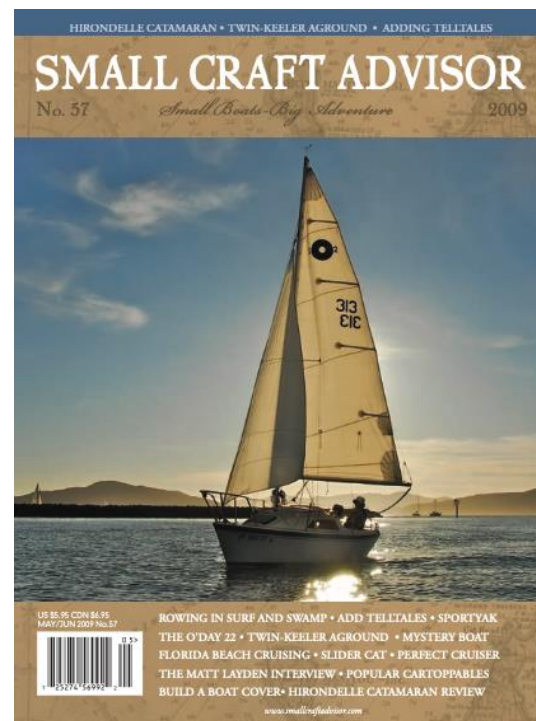


Don Person, on *Gale*, camera at the ready.

[Editor's note: Choosing which of Don's photos to add to this article proved to be an enjoyable, but difficult endeavor. I personally have dozens of photos on my computer that Don has generously shared with David and I over the years. Enjoy the following collection of photos and magazine covers. If you send me some of your favorites, I'll be happy to share them in a future newsletter.]



Lunchtime at Lake Hennessey



Dave Kautz, on *Trailer Trash*, entering the Potrero Reach after a trip around Angel Island makes a nice cover shot for Small Craft Advisor



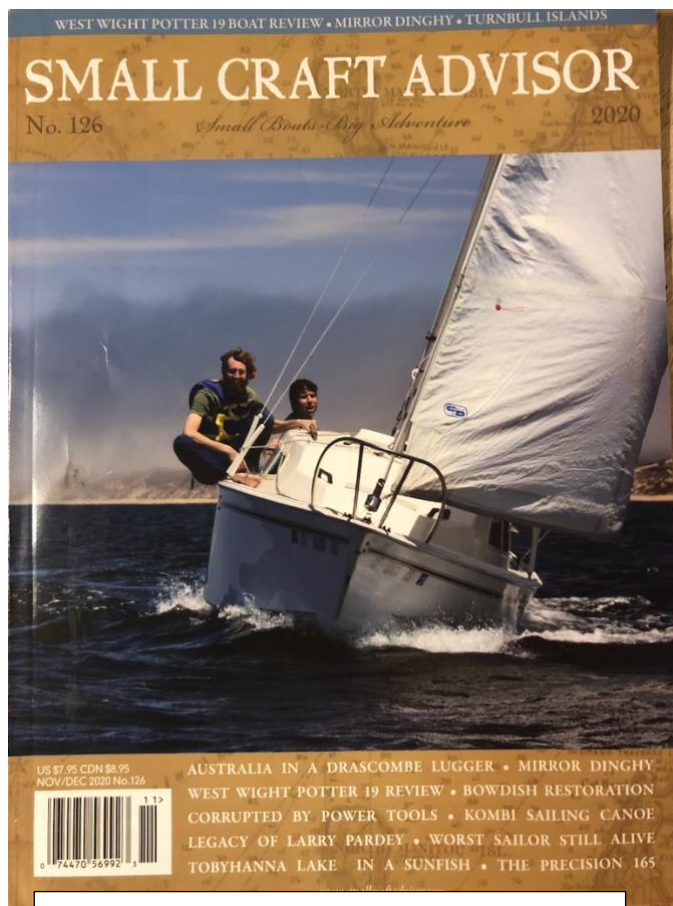
Nighthawk peeking through the cattails on the Mokelumne River



Tamales Bay



Woodward Reservoir



One of the best SCA covers: “The Two Russells” sailing *Burgundy Splash* at the 2019 Cruiser Challenge



Walnut Grove bridge—Bridges Sail





Bruce McDevitt on *Fungi* and Dan Phy on *Six* on the Sacramento River.



Nighthawk and *Burgundy Splash* duking it out in Monterey.



Carl Sundholm on *Dagmar* leading the boat parade at Jack London Square.

Officer's Club

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

Small Boat Fleet Captain:
Bud Kerner
P-14,

Secretary/Treasurer:
Phil Marcelis
Catalina 22, *Merri Time*

Vice-Commodore:
Eric Zilbert
P-19, #629, *Riptide*

Large Boat Fleet Captain:
Jim Hunt
Santana 2023, *Blue Moon*

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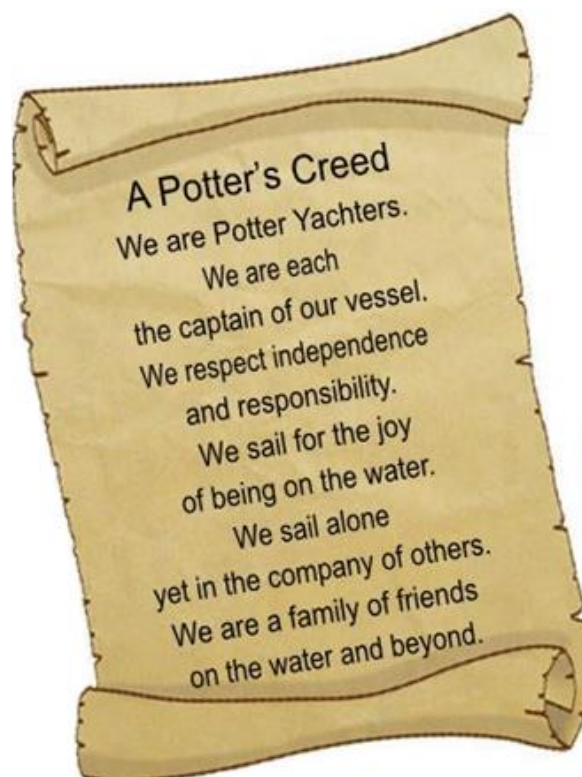
With a Grain of Salt

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



A Potter's Creed
We are Potter Yachters.
We are each
the captain of our vessel.
We respect independence
and responsibility.
We sail for the joy
of being on the water.
We sail alone
yet in the company of others.
We are a family of friends
on the water and beyond.