



The Potter Yachter

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

July 2017

Report: Camping and Sailing Union Valley Reservoir

by David White



The invasion of Union Valley Reservoir began about noon on Wednesday, June 14, when my wife, Cheryl, and I arrived to set up camp, along with our son, Todd. Around that same time, Dan Phy arrived in his Picnic Cat 1A, *Coot*. Later that day, we saw Guy and Rocky Light in their M15, *Greenlight*.

The weather was comfortably mild with water that was high and close to our campsites, which made beaching easier and more convenient than in the past. It was cold Wednesday night, but the rest of the nights through Saturday were much more moderate. (See Reservoir continued on page 5)

Ship's Stores for sale. Send orders to Pat Brennan:

Show your colors! Fly an official Club Burgee on your next sail!

- Burgees \$25.00
- Bumper stickers \$ 2.50 (just shows the burgee; no text)
- Patches \$ 2.50 (Both round and burgee shaped)
- Info Packets \$20.00 (Primarily P-15 information)

Or head over to our 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 Eric Zilbert

July is here and it's time to get ready for the Cruiser Challenge! This is our biggest event of the year, and it is once again in one of the premier sailing locations in California, and – dare I say it? – the world! I am delighted that once again we will be having our little get together in Monterey. It has already been a hot summer here in the central valley, and I am really looking forward to getting out of the heat for a few days. Everything seems to be coming along nicely for a great event. We have some great sponsors lined up, so there will be good door prizes. We have a race committee, so someone will know who won. There are plenty of folks coming, so it is likely to be a fun race. There is even rumored to be parking for all! I plan to sail over from Moss landing on Friday, and look forward to a great weekend of sailing and partying with 50 or so of my best friends. Special thanks to Gretchen and Mike for making it all happen.

See you soon in beautiful Monterey! Eric — 



You're Invited to Cruiser Challenge!

Registration is still OPEN! Potter-Yachters.org/challenge

A big THANK YOU to our sponsors:

Montgomery Boats, Sage Marine, Small Craft Advisor, Good Old Boat, RudderCraft, Spyderco, Hyde Sails, and Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club.



Club Events on the Horizon

[Event Calendar](#)

Aug 19 (Sat-Sun)	Richmond Sail and Overnight <i>can be intermediate to advanced, depending on winds and waves</i>	(Jerry B)
Aug 26 (Sat)	Lake Hennessey Sail <i>easy day sail; no motors over 10 HP; no camping or swimming; nice launch ramp</i>	(Rich M)
Sept 23 (Sat)	Clipper Cove Picnic Sail <i>typically an easy day sail, although it can be intermediate windy on occasion</i>	(Carl S)
Sept 30 (Sat-Sun)	Tomales Bay Sail and Overnight <i>generally easy, often windy; overnight at anchor, on beach, or in tents; we have group camp permit for tents, so you don't need your own; great family sail!</i>	(Eric Z)

Upcoming: August 19, 2017

Richmond Sail & Possible Overnight

Sailhost: Jerry Barrilleaux

We will be launching at 9 AM on Saturday for a possible sail to [Angel Island](#). We can make this an overnigher at [MBYH](#). The launching ramp parking requires two five-dollar bills to enter. If you decide to get a slip for a few days, see the Harbor Master first. She will possibly give you a magic pass to the launching area.

The Richmond channel is some of the best Potter sailing you will find. There is also a restaurant nearby, but food options are limited in this area.

The phone number for Marina Bay is (510) 236-1013. See you there! Jerry B. —

[Directions](#) to Marina Bay (www.mbyh.com)

Cross street: Marina Way South and Hall Ave.

From Marin:

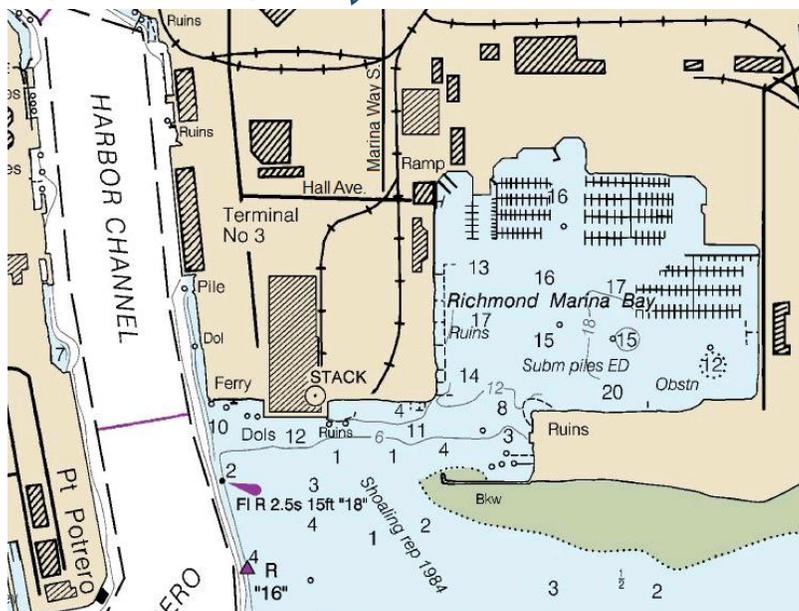
I-580E over the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge (towards Richmond/Oakland)

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



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



View of Pt. Potrero Turn.

Photo: David Soule

Participation in Potter Yachter events is subject to the guidelines published in [March 2016 PYN](#), page 3.

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www.potter-yachters.org
fb.me/PotterYachters

Upcoming: Replacement Sail for Cancelled Beardsley Lake? Humboldt Bay – August 5, 2017

The Beardsley Lake Sail was literally washed out (or at least the road leading to the ramp has been) and a suitable replacement wasn't found.

So, Dan Phy has suggested an unofficial sail in Humboldt Bay. The sailing there is in an area the size of the Oakland Estuary. He reports that there are actually two marinas; [Municipal Marina](#) and [Woodley Island](#) (the largest). The Potter Yachters generally stay at Municipal, also known as [Eureka Public Marina](#).

A guest slip for a P-19 is generally available for about \$21 per night. Parking is not allowed overnight in the launch area, but the Harbormaster has said that street parking is usually available and some people park overnight in the Public Marina's Wharfinger Building lot without incident. He made sure to say that parking is at your own risk.

Dan commented, "Have not ever had a problem. Lots of good places to eat in Eureka. Woodley Marina (601 Startare Drive. Phone 707-443-0801; VHF 14) is accessed via the CA-255 bridge to Samoa and has a restaurant & bar and neat chandlery. A great way to beat the heat!" — 

Directions to Eureka Public Marina:

Take Hwy 101 N thru Eureka, turn left on Commercial St. then turn left on Waterfront Drive. The ramp and parking are just a block away on the right. phone (707) 268-1973...VHF ch. 64



Upcoming: August 26, 2017 Lake Hennessey Sail

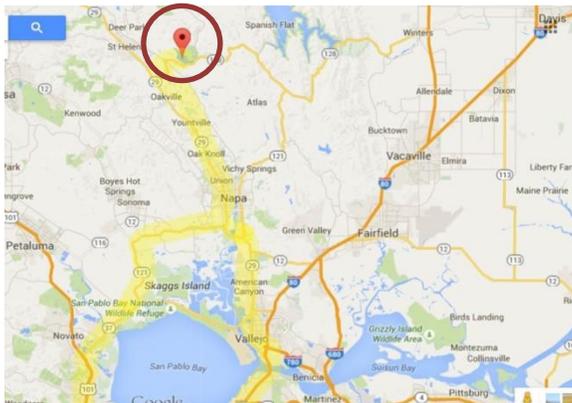
Sailhost: Rich McDevitt

Due to launch ramp size (and possibly park [regulations](#)), this sail is for boats under 16-feet.

Join the Potter Yachters in the pleasure of a leisurely sail in a beautiful oak woodlands setting, drifting through the tules for lunch, and enjoying one of the best kept secrets of Bay Area freshwater sailing: [Lake Hennessey](#).

The lake has good water and a dock, this year. It has become a little too popular with fishermen, though, so parking can be difficult these days. Aim to meet up around 10:30 am. Be sure to bring lunch and beverages/water. Lunch can be eaten under one of the many shade trees along the shore or on your boat drifting into the tules.

The group is generally off the water by 2 pm, with time to enjoy the Chiles Valley or the leisurely drive back home. If you haven't sailed Lake Hennessey, you don't know what you're missing. For the rest of you, come on out this year, but don't tell anyone how nice it is so we can keep this a great secret of Potterdom! — 



Directions: From the Bay Area, it is about 1:15 hours north of Berkeley. Travel on HWY 80 NORTH. Then exit and take HWY 37 WEST and continue until the turn off onto Highway 29. Take HWY 29 NORTH toward St. Helena, but just before reaching it, turn right onto RUTHERFORD ROAD/HWY 128 EAST. It is about five minutes until you reach the SILVERADO TRAIL, where you turn right, and then take an immediate left (east) onto HWY 128/SAGE CANYON ROAD. This takes you on about a 10 minute drive into the hinterland, so follow it past Conn Dam on the winding road around the lake until you see the boat ramp parking lot on your left. If you hit the T split in the road, you've gone too far. Turn around and it's about 100 yards behind you.

The Potter Yachter

(Reservoir continued from page 1)

Any chill was erased by the warm campfires every evening. Actually, we were lucky with the weather we had, as on the Monday just before we arrived, it had snowed and there was still snow on the ground Tuesday.



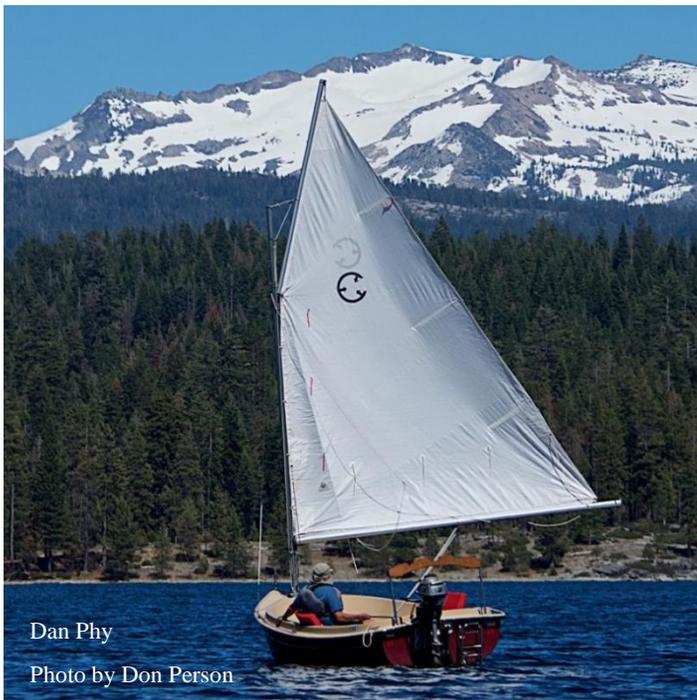
Jim Hunt and boats... at rest.

Photos by Kevin Crowder



Bud Newhall - Photo by Don Person

Potters on the water reported that winds were light on Thursday & Friday, but there was good sailing on Saturday. There were reports that Sunday would bring 100 degree temperatures, so most people left Sunday, June 18th, including our family.



Dan Phy

Photo by Don Person



TripleCross and Aurora

Photo by Allen Roberts



Greenlight and Half Fool Photo by David Myers

Thursday brought Bud & Linda Newhall in their P15, *Noble Maiden*; Rob Sampson in his Vagabond 17; Don Person in *Sarah Anne*, his P15; David & Sharon Soule in their Red Trimaran, *TripleCross*; and Cynthia & Mark Sabin in their SunCat 17, *Half Fool*.



Jim Hunt - Photo by Kevin Crowder

On Friday, additional sailors were Dave & Francesca Kautz with their O'Day 19, *Trailer Trash*; Kevin Crowder and his ComPac19, *Aurora*; Jim Hunt & Alan Roberts in a Santana 2023 named *Blue Moon*.



Mark & Cynthia Sabin Photo by Don Person



Photo by Don Person

David Myers

Showing up on Saturday: Dan Jacobsen (P15) *Gem*, and David Myers (P15) *Salty Dog*. Also, more of our family came: son Theron (to cook ribs for everyone at the potluck) and wife Arlene, and their grandson Anthony; and son Todd's wife, Nancy, with their youngest, Trevor, and friend Spenser.

There were 12 boats total at this event, and 27 people (21 active boat owners). And, no P19s!!

The potluck on Saturday, like the entire campsail, was a success – lots & lots of food (more than we could all possibly eat) was enjoyed by all 27 present. I, David, of course, had my bar available. For the first time I used up all the juice I brought making Cosmopolitans, which seemed to be the drink of this event. A grand time was had by all!

David White, P19 *Weeboat*
(conspicuously absent due to a bent mast) — 



Photo by David Myers

Dave & Francesca



SEPT 1, 2017 – SRSC ANNOUNCES THEIR LABOR DAY REGATTA WEEKEND

Join [Santa Rosa Sailing Club](https://www.santarosasaailingclub.org/) on beautiful Tomales Bay for the 65th Annual Labor Day Regatta. We will again be based at Marshall Beach, on the west shore of Tomales Bay, part of the Pt. Reyes National Seashore. (https://www.nps.gov/pore/planyourvisit/upload/map_boatincamping.pdf)

This is a boat-in only site that the Club has reserved for the Regatta.

Many attendees will sail in on Friday, September 1, and the others will arrive the morning of Saturday September 2. Races and events are all-day Saturday and Sunday. Beach camping (included in the Regatta fee) is available Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights. Then have a nice return sail on Monday.

The best places to launch are Miller (<https://www.marincounty.org/depts/pk/divisions/parks/miller-boat-launch>) or at Marconi Cove (<http://santarosasaailingclub.org/marconicove.html>). The former is a paved ramp with dock; the latter is a dirt unimproved ramp. More information will be sent soon, but please SAVE THE DATE!

Wallace Whiting
Commodore

The Potter Yachter

Report: Potters had Fun in the Sun!

Great Sailing at Woodward Reservoir

Sailhost: Herman Ward

Photos by Carl Sundholm

We had a great sail, of course, on our home lake advantage. At least it wasn't 110 degrees without any wind, like it was last year. This year, the wind was 10-15 knots with a temperature of 90-95 degrees. Dan Phy was able to make the trip and not melt! (Still it would be hard to give up the 60 degree coastal weather for the hot, dry 100 degree valley weather.) We had a mixer of sailboats from 14 foot to 19 foot, Potters to Montys, and one power kayak that Rob brought; a neat little set up. (I believe this is the web site <http://www.mokai.com/>)

Attendance Roster

Arriving Thursday:

Bud and Linda Newhall

Arriving Friday:

Herman Ward

Dan Phy

Rob Sampson

Arriving Saturday:

Don and Judy Person

Mark Sabin

Cynthia Shallit

Cherie and Curtis Fallwell and son CJ (Bud Newhall's sister and family)

Danny Ward

Rich McDevitt

Carl Sundholm

Ed Dove

Tim Mohrman

Jon Barber

Paula Barber

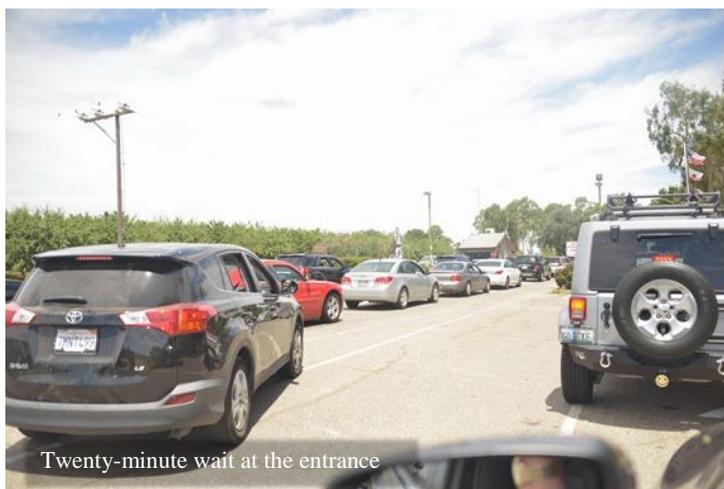
(Jon's daughter)



Noble Maiden sails with the jet skis and pedal boats



Sunset at Woodward Reservoir



Twenty-minute wait at the entrance



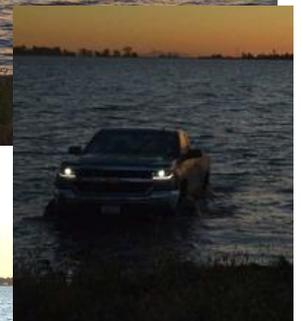
Sarah Anne & Noble Maiden

More Woodward Photos by Carl Sundholm



But wait, there's more. Here's a story within the story.

When Rob and I went to get the sunset photos on Saturday night, we saw a big-wheeled pick-up truck nose into the water to give a jump-start to a motorboat that was dead-in-the-water by the shore. We saw one heck of a show when the truck battled to get out of the water. After attempts to back out resulted only in spinning wheels and flying mud, the truck ventured deeper in the water to turn around to head out nose first. Again spinning wheels and flying mud, but no exit. Finally, the truck turned parallel to the shore as close as it could get, and then suddenly turned into the shore, which worked. It would not have been fun to have had to call a tow truck had that not succeeded. - Carl



More Woodward Photos by Rob Sampson



Jon Barber in his Montgomery 17



Don Person helps Danny Ward



Ed Dove



Dan Phyl warms up by the fire



Danny Ward and Tim Mohrman in Danny's Potter



Boating and Camping



Mark and Cynthia Sabin in their Compac Sun Cat



Thank you so much for welcoming me into your camp last weekend! I can't tell you what a thrill it was to be sailing again after so many years! I got pics and proof I was sailing with the world-famous Potter Yachters! I knew I had found sailors with a similar taste for fun and it reminded me of my adventures and crew from the days before I came ashore way too long ago.

Rolling into town at the beginning of the year I was anxious to get back on the water and an inflatable kayak was the cheapest fastest way I could think to get out on the lake, but it's not a sailboat. Not knowing what to expect I brought only the kayak and camera, but I'll be better prepared to be good company if I'm invited next time. In the meantime, here are some of the pics from my adventure to share with the others. Thank you again for allowing me to join your group for the day. It lifted my spirits more than I can say!

Best regards,
Tim Mohrman





Woodward Jam Session

Photo by Tim Mohrman



Photo by Tim Mohrman

Calendar Photo Submissions!

If you have any particularly stunning photos of the Potter Yachters in action, please send them to me (the editor, sail@marcelis.com) or to Don Person.

We'll try to assemble this year's calendar if we get enough usable photos. We need pictures from each sailing event. So don't hold back! This is for the *Official Potter Yachter Calendar*.

Boating Safety & Your Float Plan

You've got your life jacket, flares, and other gear to help you get out of those jams you hope to never get into, but do you file a float plan every time you go out?

The Potter Yachter website has a [sample float plan](http://www.potter-yachters.org/members/FLOAT%20%20PLAN.pdf) you can print and give to a friend.

<http://www.potter-yachters.org/members/FLOAT%20%20PLAN.pdf>

Fill this form out every time you sail and leave it with someone who will call the Coast Guard if you become unreachable and haven't returned by the specified time.

Safe Boating Card – Get Yours By 2025 (it's the law)

Beginning January 2018, California will start phasing in a requirement for boaters to carry a California Boater Card, starting with those under 21 years old and increasing by 5 years of age for every year until 2025, when ALL persons must have it. The Division of Boating and Waterways will accept NASBLA or DBW approved-boater education courses taken between 2015-2017. You'll have until June 2018 to apply for your CBC using that exemption, regardless of age. More information can be found in the DBW's online FAQ:

<http://dbw.ca.gov/pages/28702/files/CBC%20FAQs%20Seamless%201.5.17.pdf>

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. Annual dues are \$25 per family.

Make checks payable to "Pat Brennan", or use PayPal to pat-brennan@sbcglobal.net, or try this link: <http://www.paypal.me/WPatrickBrennan/25> and include "Potter Yachter Dues" in the notes.



Or see us online at:
www.potter-yachters.org

Send your payment (with your name and address) to: Pat Brennan
1305 Webster Street #C205
Alameda CA, 94501

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.



Patrick Brennan
1305 Webster St., C205
Alameda, CA 94501

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*

