



The Potter Yachter

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

July 2018

Report: Woodward Sail

photos by Alan Roberts



The sail at Woodward Reservoir started with the arrival of Bud & Linda Newhall on Thursday, May 31. They trailered *Noble Maiden* (their P-15) behind their motorhome, and reported great sailing on both Thursday and Friday with good (See [Woodward Sail](#) continued on page 7)

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

Wow, there is no doubt that our little boats can provide as much excitement and as many thrills as any blender boat (a boat large enough to have a blender on board). A couple who crews with me on a friend's Santa Cruz 40 is looking into buying a trailer sailor. I have sent them information about Potters, Montes, the new Malbecs, the various CompPacs, etc. They were very excited to learn that I had a Potter19 and asked about going for a sail. I agreed to take them out and did the deed last Sunday (June 24th). We sailed from the 9th Street ramp out of Benicia; one of my favorite venues for a day or two of Pottering. The reasons I like Benicia are many: no cost to launch, no cost to park, only 40 minutes from Davis, no bridge tolls to pay, consistently good wind, and fairly flat water even when blowing pretty good.

We arranged for a 10 a.m. meet up so they could see what it takes to set the boat up. When we met it was already blowing quite hard, at least 15 gusting to 20. Got set up and were out on the water by about 11, and because it was the end of the flood, we headed for the mothball fleet. I rigged with the smallest jib, figuring the wind would build. Boy, was I right! We had a great downwind sail and reached the old boats in less than an hour. We ate lunch on the downwind leg and I was getting nervous because I knew the upwind leg would be a slog. We reversed course as we passed the last ship, and began to get a little spray over the cabin top. We donned our foul weather gear, and proceeded to short tack along the fleet. It was about 12:30. Even though the tide was just about all the way in, I have a lot of respect for the shoal in the middle of the bay there, so I was very conservative about staying in the channel.

It took a little while to get our rhythm down, and it was crucial that all three of us get to the upside immediately when completing each tack. As we approached the 780 bridge span the wind built up to more like 20 knots and gusting to nearly 30. It was probably some of the strongest wind I have sailed in with *Riptide*. The boat was handling it well. With three of us, we were able to keep it at about 10-15 degrees of heel. Early on we had something happen that has never happened to me in 20 years of sailing *Riptide*. We were tacking and one of my passengers, Denise, slipped and did not make it to the high side. Her husband went low to help her, and WATER CAME INTO THE COCKPIT. It was only a quart or so, but yet, nothing like this has ever happened before!!!! I almost put in a reef!

We continued to go on sailing, I offered to put in a reef, or quit and motor, but they were having the time of their lives. We continued to take a lot of spray, and, with only a fisherman's reef we passed the marina (which I offered to put into, but they declined) and I made for the north shore to furl the sail and start the motor. It got even windier, and things got pretty crazy before I got into the lee of the hills (wind was southerly). We got the sails down, started in to the ramp. When we got there, the dock was bucking like a bronco. We executed the retrieval, and got up on the hard without damaging anything. We were wet and exhausted. It was 4:00. The upwind slog had taken 3 1/2 hours! Peter summed up the trip saying, "I can't imagine a finer way to spend a Sunday afternoon." They were very impressed with the (relatively) dry ride, the boat's stability, and the ease of rigging and sailing the boat. They are now in the market for a used Potter 19! Who would think after such a (to me) tumultuous experience they would have such a favorable opinion of the boat! Oh, well, you never know.

See you on the water! Every day sailing is better than a day in the office, even a very windy day in Benicia. — 

PS – They just bought one!



Peter and Denise's recently purchased P-19

Upcoming: August 18, 2018

Richmond Sail & Possible Overnight

Sailhost: Jerry Barrilleaux

We will try for a 9 AM launch on Saturday, Aug. 18.

I like to slip Sunshine for a few days when I launch at Richmond. I save money on the launch when I get a slip assigned to me at [Marina Bay Yacht Harbor \(MBYH\)](#).

[They installed a new machine at the launch ramp parking (since the last one had all the coins stolen) which takes credit cards now, but I don't think it takes cash. -Ed.]

The Richmond channel is some of the best Potter sailing you will find. We may sail to [Angel Island](#) or toward Red Rock.

There is a nice restaurant at the Marina.

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

Participation in Potter Yachter events is subject to the guidelines published in [March 2018 PYN](#), page 3.



Club Events on the Horizon

NOTE: CLIPPER COVE DATE CHANGE!



[Check Calendar](#)

- Aug 25 (Sat) Lake Hennessey Sail (Rich M)
easy day sail; no motors over 10 HP; no camping or swimming; nice launch ramp
- Sept 15 (Sat) Clipper Cove Picnic Sail (Carl S)
typically an easy day sail, although it can be intermediate windy on occasion
- Sept 29 (Sat-Sun) Tomales Bay Sail & Overnight (Eric Z)
great family sail!; generally easy, often windy; overnight at anchor, in boat on beach, or in tent with individual permit; we didn't get group tent camp permit this time

Officer's Club

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Upcoming: August 4 & 5, 2018

Spicer Reservoir Sail

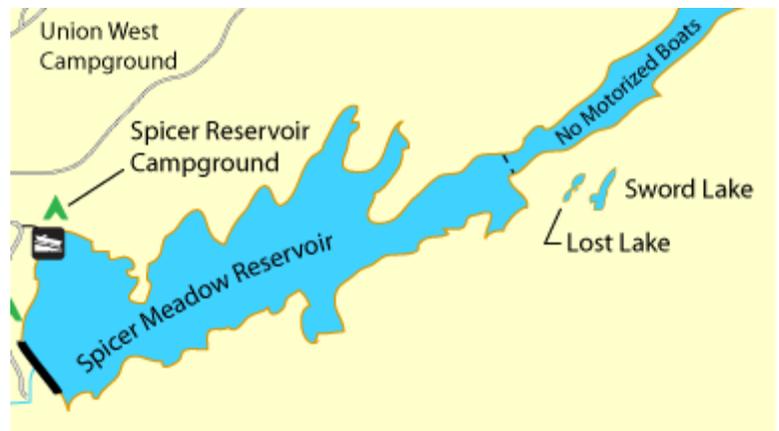
Sail Host: Mike Kennedy



[Spicer Reservoir](#) with improved campgrounds is located at an elevation of 6400'. It is at the end of Spicer Reservoir Road which intersects Highway 4. The turnoff from Hwy 4 is about 21 miles east of Arnold and 12 miles before Bear Valley. From there it is a winding eight miles on a (mostly) well-paved road. Follow the signs to a large, well-designed and maintained launch ramp with good parking for trucks and trailers, even for boats with the mast up. The campground and most of the lake is in Calaveras County but the eastern arm is in Alpine County. Views of the Carson Iceberg Wilderness and the Dardanelles are spectacular.



The best feature of this lake is defined by buoys, more or less along the county line, marking the point beyond which motorized boats are not permitted. Within the greater portion of the reservoir powerboats are permitted speeds of up to ten miles an hour. Beyond the buoys only paddle craft and sailboats are allowed. The silence is golden. Even electric trolling motors are prohibited. I do not think it is illegal to have one on your boat, or even a gas powered motor, but the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness is managed to prevent motorized uses.



There are numerous inlets and islands along the 22 miles of shoreline but improved campsites (water, vault toilets, fish cleaning station) are all near the launch ramp. Winds in this area are pretty predictable; as the land mass heats up, cool air comes up the canyon. Generally calm in the mornings and evenings, wind begins to show up about 10 AM and by 1 PM can be boisterous. When the sun goes down, usually the wind does as well. It is possible to get summer storms with thunder, lightning, rain and hail. This is less likely in August but still a possibility.

The campground is first-come, first-serve, so if you can get there before Aug.4 , please do. — 

Here are a couple of useful links:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/stanislaus/recarea/?recid=14905>

<http://www.californiasbestcamping.com/alpine/spicer.html>



From: Mark Sabin

Dear Potters,

The **13th annual Dinghy Delta Ditch (DDD)** is scheduled for Saturday **August 11th, 2018**. It starts in Rio Vista, going up the Sacramento River, then the deep water channel, to the Port of West Sacramento/Lake Washington Sailing Club. It is mostly a downwind sail- if there is wind! (If there is no wind this year, I will do it because others of you may do it and I do not want you to suffer alone. But I usually check wind 2-3 days away and then decide if I want to do it. No wind is bad and ordinarily would result in me not doing/paying for it.)

I suggest spending the night at guest dock in Delta Marina (they said they will have space, and I'll verify again 2 weeks prior) as next morning, Saturday, we drive our vehicles/trailers at 8:30am to Lake Washington Sailing Club and at 9:45am get a ride back to your boat at the Delta Marina, leaving your tow vehicle/trailer at the Club. Then Captain's meeting, then bridge raises at 11:45am (the first of three scheduled raising.) There will be a "Cruising Class" and various other classes/groups. We will be the first group, and the Start Line/first Windward Mark will be optional for you. Last year I was given an exact time to cross the start line, based on my boat rating; but some just bypassed the start/windward mark, and went up the river.

BBQ dinner starts at 6pm at the Club. There is plenty of dock space to spend the night if you want. I'll be there overnight with keys to the gate and restrooms/clubhouse. Cynthia suggests coming to our house for breakfast/lunch before you return home Sunday!

High tides favorable for our dock are 5:30pm on race day, and 5am on Sunday (until 9am, at least, should be fine). I am excited about your potential participation, as is the Club. LWSC web site is easy to find. <http://www.lwsailing.org>
Any Q's: Mark Sabin (Suncat/"Half Fool") 916 201-0931 markleemagic@gmail.com

[RSVP to Mark if you think you'll attend. And see [PYN 2015_07](#)(page 4) for a prior year's info. – Ed.]



Question From: Jack Fuller

Just bought a 2003 Potter 19. Is there a forum where I can ask questions? Thanks.

Answer: Yes, as a matter of fact there are a couple of good places to get help with questions about your "new-to-you" Potter.

The Trailer Sailor Forum:

<http://forum.trailersailor.com/forum.php?id=2>

and the WWPotter Yahoo Group:

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/WWPotter/info>

The P19 Captain listed on page 3 would also be able answer questions, but you'll surely cast a wider net if you post a message to one of the forums listed above.



Eight Bells: Jim Kirwan



“A Couple of Likely Suspects”
Great Exuma, Bahamas – Sea Pearl Adventure - 2008

by Mary Metcalf (NOGIT)

Front Row (L-R): Jim Kirwan, Tim Derry and Mary Metcalf.
Back Row (L-R): Don Person, Dan Phy, Brad Evans, Francesca & Dave Kautz.



From: Dan Phy

Dear Suspects...

My cousin B.Frank indicated we should look to his column in SCA in the next few months for mention of Jim Kirwan.

Here are a couple of fun photos from our younger days.

The scars (both internal & external) may never heal from following Jim on so many of our adventures/mis-adventures these past 25+ years... but I wouldn't trade them for anything!



Four Old Geezers - “Younger/Happier Times for ATUS”
(L-R) Dan Phy, Dick Herman, Don Person, Jim Kirwan

The Potter Yachter

(Woodward Sail continued from page 1)

good wind and mild temperatures all day, both days. In fact, he said he was sailing with a reef in on Friday.

However, if you arrived on Saturday, you would have been greeted by a glassy, calm lake and not much breeze. From Jim Hunt's perspective, it was not ideal.

"Conditions were not great for wind," he explained. "I'd recommend going 2-3 weeks earlier. It was hot & crowded. I bottomed out the trailer at the ramp; bathrooms were a disaster, and the bugs were biblical! Woodward was \$45 for overnight and launch. (Union Valley, by comparison, was \$8 x 4 days and was glorious. Melones at the same time was almost full and the sailing has been really good all spring.) But the Potter camaraderie & potluck was great (as always)."

Bud said, "We put together a pretty good pot luck Saturday evening with plenty of food for all."

It must have been a heck of a potluck because at the end of the day, there was *ice cream* for dessert!

Bud says he saw Herman Ward out there with his lateen rigged P-19 on Friday, and Dave White showed up Saturday morning. Kevin Crowder and Alan Roberts were on *Aurora*, and Jim and Marget (rhymes with "target") were on *Blue Moon* arriving mid-day Saturday. Danny Ward had to work so he wasn't able to attend.

Sunday's forecast was for HOT weather so everybody packed up early. — 🚤



Woodward Sail - June 2018

Attendees:

- Bud & Linda Newhall – *Noble Maiden*, P-15
- Kevin Crowder & Alan – *Aurora*, ComPac19
- Dave White – *Wee Boat*, WWP-19
- Jim Hunt & Marget – *Blue Moon*, Santana 2023c

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*

