



# The Potter Yachter

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

March-May 2021

## After-Action Report

### Richmond Sail

by Eric Zilbert

Photo: Francesca Kautz



*Nighthawk* sailing back from Paradise Cove,  
with San Francisco in the background

**W**

We had a great time on the bay on February 20-21. I arrived about 1:00 on Friday and found Dan Phy had already arrived, setup, and launched his Monte 15, *Six*. I proceeded to set up and launch. Motored over to KKMI to get some batteries for my AM/FM radio. Getting supplies at Richmond by boat or on foot is problematic. I know of no store, and there is no gas dock. Was easily able to dock at KKMI, they had the 4 'C' batteries I needed: \$11 (ouch). It was a lovely afternoon with a nice breeze in the Potrero Reach. Dan and I were

(See *Richmond* continued on page 4)

#### Ship's Stores for sale. Order from Goose:

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

Burpees \$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 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 'Goose' Gossman

An update on PY'er business: Unfortunately, Kevin Crowder has resigned as our Secretary/Treasurer due to personal reasons. He was doing a great job, and we'll miss his efforts. In the short term, with Phil's help, I will assume the position's responsibilities while this crazy year sorts out. Our ship is in fine shape, and we hope to have an in-person club meeting sometime this summer. We have just received new burgees (member price: \$25), and updated rosters are in process.

In other news... We finally got our *fleet* wet!!

Wishing and hoping that the pandemic will end, we had a great turnout for the Benicia sail. For an entire weekend we were the only sailboats seen on the water – on the Carquinez Strait or the western Delta waters.

We all had our vaccinations, and were long overdue for some pottering. With so much time for boat projects over the past year, it was nice to be able to finally get on the water and test out our rigs. I don't know what gremlins snuck aboard to tangle lines and move things around, but it sure took a while to sort things out. Such a wonderful feeling to push off the dock and set sail. I even remembered to put the drain plug in! I know how lucky we are to be Potter-Yachters, and hope to see you out there soon.

Regards,

Goose — 



### Club Events on the Horizon

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

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Jun 19 (Sat-Sun) Union Valley Sail                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | (Kevin C) |
| <i>winds mostly from the southwest; wide launch ramp; anchor or beach for cost of launching</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                            |           |
| Jul 10 (Sat-Sun) Loch Lomond Sail                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | (Goose)   |
| <i>somewhat intermediate Bay sailing; overnight at guest docks or Loch Lomond Marina</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |           |
| Jul 31 (Sat-Sun) maybe <a href="#">Cruiser Challenge</a> or Moss Landing/Monterey sail                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | (Dana S)  |
| <i>open ocean sail; can be easy to advanced, depending on winds and course; overnight at dock; it's possible to launch at Moss Landing and sail the 16 nm over to Monterey one day then sail back another day or shuttle the trailers to haul out in Monterey (see <a href="#">PYN 2016-08 page10</a>)</i> |           |

## Join us at Elkhorn Yacht Club

Sail Host: Bud Kerner



Come join the Potter Yachters at the [Elkhorn Yacht Club](#) in Moss Landing on the first weekend in May. The yacht club is still closed but the guest dock is open. The club will be hosting “cook your own hamburgers and hot dogs”, on the outside patio Saturday. There will be beverages available, too.

*[I called the Sea Harvest restaurant in the ramp area and they appear to be open from 11am to 7pm for lunch and dinner. –Ed.]*

Salmon season has just opened. The Port Captain says it will be crowded, but they will find room for us.

Let me know if you are coming for a day sail, or will overnight.

*[See [Mar 2019 PYN](#) for more info from previous announcements and [check the Trailer Sailor forum](#) for the latest info. –Ed.]*



### Directions to Moss Landing, CA

For your GPS, the yacht club address is:  
2370 CA-1, Moss Landing, CA 95039.  
The club is right next to the ramp parking.

**From San Jose, take Hwy 101 South:**  
take Hwy 156 West, exit onto Hwy 1 North  
at Castroville, just past the famous power  
plant stacks, go over the bridge and turn  
left into the parking lot.

**From Santa Cruz, take Hwy 1 South:**  
turn into the parking lot just before the  
power plant stacks and before the bridge.

### [Elkhorn YC](#)

(831) 724-3874

See you on the water!

Bud —



Participation in Potter Yachter events is subject to the guidelines published in [Jan-Feb 2021 PYN](#), page 3.

## Officer's Club

[potter-yachters.org/officer\\_mail.html](http://potter-yachters.org/officer_mail.html)

### Commodore:

Jim ‘Goose’ Gossman  
P-19, *ReGale*  
[Contact this person](#)

### Vice Commodore:

Phil Marcelis  
P-19, #1487, *Family Time*  
[Contact this person](#)

### Newsletter Editor:

Phil Marcelis  
Catalina 22, #15270  
[Contact this person](#)

### P-15 Fleet Captain:

David Bacon  
P-15, #2636, *Ah Tiller the Fun*  
[Contact this person](#)

### P-19 Fleet Captain:

Eric Zilbert  
P-19, #629, *Riptide*  
[Contact this person](#)

### Secretary/Treasurer:

(temporarily vacant)  
Contact Goose or Phil  
[Contact this person](#)

### Webmaster:

Phil Marcelis  
[Webmaster@potter-yachters.org](mailto:Webmaster@potter-yachters.org)

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

Facebook: [fb.me/PotterYachters](https://fb.me/PotterYachters)

(Richmond continued from page 1)

the only ones that stayed over on Friday. The evening was pleasant, but around midnight it began to rain. It rained for about an hour and a half, at times fairly hard. Happy to report I found no leaks in my boat during this event. After the rain ended the wind picked up, I am sure it was gusting to 30 mph. The next morning Dan said he thought his boat was going to be picked up by the wind and blown away. Nice thing was, with that wind everything was dry in the morning.

On Saturday, Dave and Francesca Kautz arrived with their O'Day 192, *Trailer Trash*. Also, unbeknownst to Dan and I, Dave and Sharon had arrived with *Night Hawk* on Friday at about 7:30, and docked without either of us knowing. Ed Hultgren arrived a little later in the morning,

and proceeded to set up his Monte 17, *Alma Stenbom*, rounding out our total of 5 boats for the trip. We had the traditional dock party, enjoying socially distanced cocktail partying around the Kautz boat. Everyone had dinner on their boats. It was a very peaceful night

I took advantage of this trip to keep some promises to friends and family to take them sailing. My younger son David met us at the launch at 10:00, along with his wife Jerri and my new step-grandchildren Lily (10) and Sam (13).

*Trailer Trash*, *Six*, and *Night Hawk* headed out to Angel Island ahead of us while I got my crew sorted. It was pleasant sailing in the reach with fairly light winds. We made the passage to Angel Island easily, but were surprised by the intensity of the current when we arrived at the Island, I had to start the motor, but it was O.K. since our destination was Angel Island and a picnic ashore.

Others had different ideas. *Nighthawk* accepted the challenge to circumnavigate the island. They reported fairly light winds and spent the full day completing the trip. *Trailer Trash* and *Six* declined going ashore at Angel Island as the cafe was closed. The anchored on the lee side of the island for lunch. We spent about two hours ashore and the kids had a great time playing on the beach and IN THE WATER! Crazy. After lunch we partly sailed and partly motored back to Richmond. It was a very successful trip. Having David along made it easy; nothing like skilled crew.

After returning there was some excitement. We got back to the dock before everyone else, and while monitoring the radio came to understand that Ed's motor had quit, and we would need to catch him as he came in. It turned out the wind was going straight down the channel so he would be getting a tow from team Kautz, and we got him into his berth.

Saturday night was calm, peaceful, and cold. Prediction was for very light breeze, as there was a decent little breeze at 9:00, everyone but yours truly headed into the



Trailer Trash rafted up with Six

Photo: David Kautz



Dan Phy sails Six

Photo: Francesca Kautz



Nighthawk towing Ed Hultgren's Alma Stenbom

Photo: Francesca Kautz

bay, making for Tiburon and a reconnoiter of Paradise Cove. Dan later told me it was a good lunch spot but would not be the greatest place to spend the night.

For my part, I had more guests. Two neighbors (Joe and Noreen) were to meet me at ten. However they got a late start and also got a little lost finding the Marina. We set out for Angel Island, sailing at first, then motor sailing as the wind died. We decided to go out to see the Golden Gate. This turned out to be a great idea. As soon as we cleared the island we had 10-15 knots steady breeze and great sailing. There were at least 100 boats out, could have been a weekend in July! We sailed to Sausalito, and then a

## **Richmond - February 2021**

Attendees:

- Eric Zilbert - *Riptide*, WWP 19
- Dan Phy – *Six*, Monty 15
- Ed Hultgren – *Alma Stenbom*, Monty 17
- Dave & Sharon – *Nighthawk*, Balboa 21
- Dave & Francesca – *Trailer Trash*, O'day 19



Photo: Francesca Kautz

quick run wing-and-wing took us back to Angel Island where we spent about an hour on shore for lunch.

I don't know much about what others did on Sunday, we got back to the dock at about 4:30, and only Ed remained in the parking lot. My friends helped me retrieve, and I was on the road by 6.

All in all, I thought it was a very successful trip. The situation with Ed's boat showed once again how traveling as a group can make things safer and more fun! I am looking forward to our next outing, hope to see you there.

*Upcoming: Morro Bay YC – Sat/Sun, May 22-23, 2021*

## Come South and Sail Morro Bay

Sailhost: Pete Evans

It's time to head south! Join me in Morro Bay!  
 Launch on Friday May 21<sup>st</sup> or Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>.  
 Our illustrious Commodore sent a letter to the [Morro Bay Yacht Club](#) and secured their 170' guest dock for Fri thru Sun.

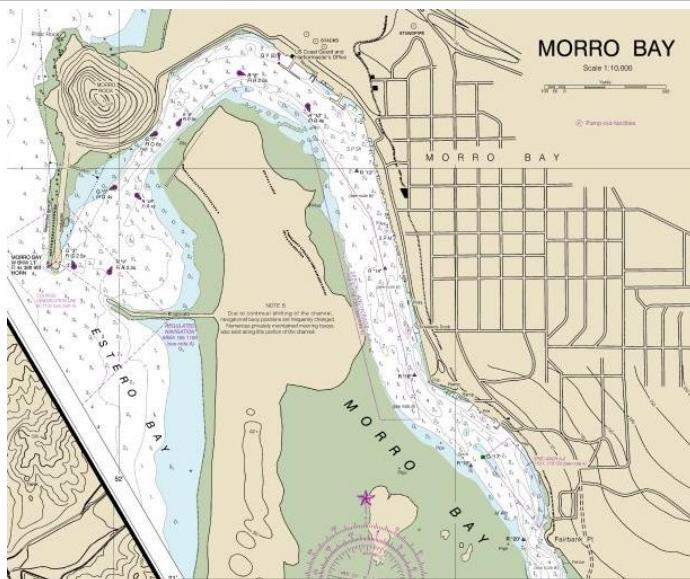
My contact information is correct in the latest Membership Roster, so bring that with you in case you need to contact me.

If anyone has any problems on the way down, call me and you can come to my house in San Luis Obispo for repairs at my modest shop and stay here, if needed. I am about 12 miles from Morro Bay on Hwy 101. (And in case the day is a wreck, all can come to my shack for revised options! I'm on a casual street that could support many cars with trailers.)

The boat ramp launch & parking fee is \$6 cash (\$7 credit card). The yacht club is about ½ mile north.

It should be noted that conditions outside the harbor may not be suitable, so we'll keep a weather eye and play it by ear.

The yacht club's newsletter indicates that their restaurant is open, although at 25% capacity. There are also other restaurants within walking distance of the yacht club. See you there! Pete — 



The [NOAA Chart for the area](#) is available online for free:  
<http://www.charts.noaa.gov/InteractiveCatalog/nmc.shtml>

We launch at [Morro Bay Ramp](#):  
 Use address: 301 Embarcadero

Overnight at: [Morro Bay Yacht Club](#)  
 Guest dock is reserved; \$1/ft per night;  
 Shower/Bathroom available; Restaurant is open at 25% capacity.

[View the club's webcam here!](#)

### [Directions](#) from San Luis Obispo:

Hwy 1 north exit Morro Bay Blvd., straight through traffic circle, left on Main St., right on Marina, left on Embarcadero, runs into parking lot with launch ramp.

Self-serve bribe station near the ramp.

### NOTE:

Taking Hwy 41 West from Hwy 101 is NOT recommended. It may look shorter by about 12 miles but it is a murderous road.



Morro Bay Launch Ramp

Credit: Google Maps

After-Action Report: SF South Bay anchor-out weekend

## Experiment in Anchoring not soon forgotten

by Phil Marcelis

The experiment in anchoring out in the shallow South Bay will long be remembered for a number of adventures (and misadventures).

We converged on the docks in Redwood City on Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, for a St. Patrick's Day feast of Corned Beef & Cabbage, thanks to Kim's incredible culinary skills. And we followed it up with not one but TWO birthday cakes!

Happy Birthday to Eric Zilbert and Dave Kautz!

And since we had the past and current commodores present, as well as the recipient of the Potter Yachter of the Year award (previously announced at our virtual meeting), we decided to have an in-person presentation ceremony. Kevin presented the Past Commodore flags to Eric and Rob, and a current Commodore flag to Goose. Congrats again to Dave Kautz on his award!



### Redwood City Sail - March 2021

Attendees:

- Adam Brosamer – *Buoy-ya*, WWP 15
- Ed Hultgren – *Alma Stenbom*, Monty 17
- Jim Hunt – *Blue Moon*, Santana 2023c crew: Kevin Crowder & Alan Roberts
- Dave Kautz – *Trailer Trash*, O'day 19
- Phil Marcelis – Catalina 22
- Mark & Cynthia Sabin – *Half Fool*, SunCat
- Rob Sampson – *Mud Hen*, Ranger 21 Tug
- Goose & Eric Zilbert (Attended without boat)



Dave (left) accepts Potter award from Eric



Birthday Cakes!!!

On Saturday morning, we gathered the Potter Pod and headed out the channel, picking up Adam in his P-15 (who left from Westpoint Harbor) along the way.

Low tide was a concern, so once we cleared mark "3", indicating that we had passed the shoals at the channel opening,



we made our turn towards the east heading south. Then we made our obligatory pass near the wreck of the [USS Thompson](#) to regroup. The Clemson-class destroyer, used for bombing practice in the late 1940's, is continuing to decay and recede into the Bay. It's a smaller landmark each year.

With a rising tide and current helping us along, we had a great windy run down to an open patch of water just past the railroad bridge, where we again took the opportunity to regroup. Dave and Phil, being good sailhosts, reminded everyone over the VHF radio to stay in the narrow channel and clear of shoaling around it. Rob took *Mud Hen* out in front and called out depths over the radio, noting that the charts were all but useless.

However, halfway to our anchoring destination in Coyote Creek, we heard reports of a Monty 17 that had gone aground even with the board up. Luckily, with the rising tide, Ed was soon moving again. Whew!

Even for Dave, who has made several forays into the South Bay to call in at the yacht club in Alviso, it was challenging to determine the best place to anchor for the night. We finally settled on a place just



Sailing to the South Bay

several hundred feet apart. Rob, Phil, and Jim & crew all rafted up. Dave had some issues with tangled chain (how do you get knots in anchor chain?!) but eventually got situated about 500 feet downstream of them.

Some sort of appendage appeared off the side of Dave's cockpit, which eventually morphed into an inflatable kayak, at which point a few bets were made as to how long it would take to paddle against the strong current. We stopped the clock at 15 minutes when Phil floated out a fender attached to 160' of line, which the current immediately whisked almost directly to Dave, who had to paddle just a bit further to grab it and



Lined up in our slips Saturday morning



Less and less of the USS Thompson visible each year

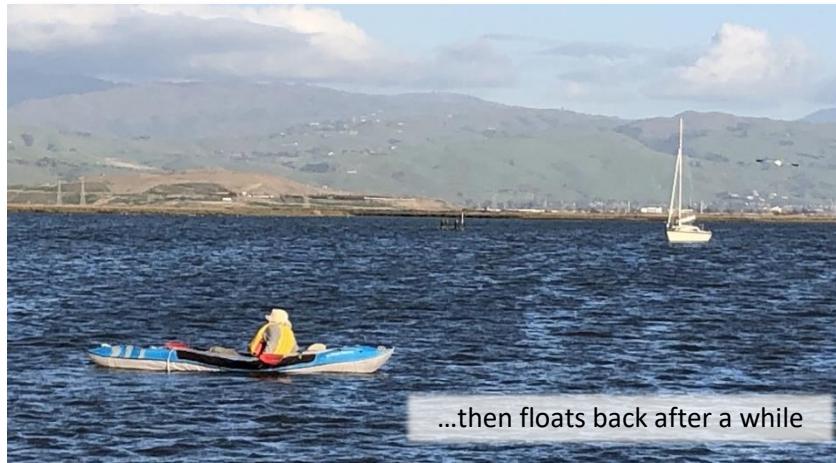
past the power lines before Mud Slough, in a section of Coyote Creek that shows 4-feet depth.

Mark & Cynthia were the first to anchor near the western end of the area, followed by Ed and Adam, all



Half Fool anchored out in Coyote Creek

collapsed in obvious exhaustion. It only took a minute or two to reel him in the rest of the way, and we all had a good laugh. We joked that the current would be running the other way by the time Dave had rested enough and was ready to head back to his boat. Luckily, the wind was still headed toward his boat and it was closer to slack when he wanted to get back to his boat.



It was windy well into the evening, but it turned out to be a fine anchorage for the night. The current shifted twice during the night in a mild flow that went easy on the anchors, and by morning, at high tide, we were all in the same place and pulling up anchors. Our experiment was successful!



This is about as far as I can go in the reporting, however, because no sooner had I declared success than a report came out that *Blue Moon* had grounded. Hard. On falling tide.

So I left the Potter Pod in Dave's capable hands to return to Redwood City... and that brings me to the final segment of my report, otherwise known as: (*see next page*)



# The Longest Day

*An Adventure of Four Sailors*

by Phil Marcelis

“Where’s the channel??” “We were just in it!” “Zero feet!! It WAS ten!” “Centerboard UP!” “It IS up!” “Argh... we’re hosed.”



*Blue Moon* serenely departs anchorage Saturday morning

The exact words in the conversation leading up to *Blue Moon*’s “incident” are anyone’s guess, but the result is known. With tide going out fast, three sailors ended up high and dry, and I anchored nearby for support. The captain’s official time of grounding was close to 8:15am, and video shows they broke free at 6:50pm; nearly 11 hours!



I pumped up my dinghy at 9am and rowed against a strong current to set a kedge anchor. Apparently, I dropped the anchor just a bit more than 150-feet away from them, and they had to throw me a long dockline to get the bitter end to them. After that, there wasn’t much to do but wait.

Luckily, it was a beautiful, blue-sky day and the time in between was peaceful, with a nice sunset later.

With a valiant effort by the whole crew rocking the boat and pulling the anchor line, then motoring, they finally got unstuck and we all headed home in the dark. Everything looks different in the dark; farther away...

What’s that saying, though...

“All’s well that ends well!” — 

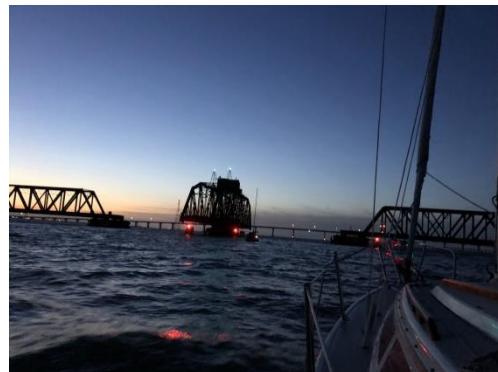


At 2:30pm, it’s seriously stuck.

(left) This sad dinghy saved the day with an anchor and 150-feet of rode.



Tugging, rocking, hauling, pleading...



## Benicia Sailing was a Blast!

Sailhost: 'Goose' Gossman

This year's Benicia sail (April 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>) was a real nice break from Covid life. We had 11 boats participate, with most staying overnight at the marina's guest dock, which we had reserved. We'd all had our vaccinations, and were READY for action! Present were Eric Zilbert, P19 *Riptide*; Bud Kerner & Gerry Nolan, P19 *Cat's Meow*; Larry Tkach, M15; Kevin Crowder, Compac 19 *Aurora*; Adam Brosamer, P15; Jon Barber, M17 '*Ol 44*'; Ted Tome & Joan on a Melonseed; Dave Bacon, P15 *Ah Tiller the Fun*; Ralph Carlisle, modified P15; George & Rebecca Corrigan with Alan Koepf, P19 *Horizon Bound*; Goose Gossman & Gail, modified P18 *ReGale*.

Friday, Bud and Gerry motor-sailed down from Rio Vista, which isn't always the joy ride that the return trip usually is. This time, it was a slow 25 mile bash against tide and wind, lasting over eight



Jon Barber sailing '*Ol 44*' in Suisun Bay



Potter Yachters: Three Commodores, past & present

hours, culminating in a washing machine transit of the Benicia Bridges. Eric had launched in Benicia and sailed up to meet and escort them in. After hot showers, they joined Larry, George, Rebecca, me, and Gail for an alfresco supper at Sailor Jacks restaurant.

Saturday morning the rest of the fleet launched, and we had a skipper's meeting about 10am PST (Potter Standard Time). The forecast for light 5-10 knot winds was right on, as was the rising flood tide. This meant that our original plan to sail under the Benicia Bridges to the Mothball fleet should be scrubbed, in favor of heading west towards the Carquinez Bridges. Dave Bacon graciously invited me to sail with him, and I jumped at the chance. He is one of the all-time Masters of the P15, and his vessel will someday be the centerpiece at the Potter National Museum. With light winds preventing us from making

progress against the current in the intended direction, we were relegated into traversing the strait... riding on the Benicia treadmill. At least, we were gliding through the water, sharing stories, and not being swept towards the

bridges. Plus, I got to watch Dave pulling his magic strings. It was a beautiful day, and after a couple of hours, we headed back to the dock for lunch.



Dave working his magic on *Ah Tiller the Fun*

After lunch, Jon and Ralph joined me on *ReGale* to check on the rest of the pod. Several boats were still out, and with the current subsiding and the wind freshening, we had a terrific time – again, sharing stories, and tiller time.

Back at the dock, the party was starting. Because none of the restaurants (or the yacht club) could handle our large group, my incredible wife Gail prepared a lasagna/pizza/salad feast, and we proceeded to indulge. Potterdom was alive and well in Benicia.

On Sunday morning, Bud, Gerry, Jon, and I left the marina at about 9:30 (PST) for the sail back to Rio Vista. The winds were light, but a couple knots of current kept us going 3-5 knots. Just like the day before, we were the only sailboats on the water, and it was beautiful. Other than a Coast Guard buoy tender and a couple of fishing boats, we had the waters to ourselves. Bud and I were staying pretty close together, but Jon's '*Ol 44*' just wanted to be on its own... out in front. (Damn Montys!) So, while I could barely see Jon, he seemed to be going in the wrong direction. Then, I see a branch sticking up in front of us, and I feel my starboard rudder hit something. I check the depth sounder, and it shows 2-feet! We were between Suisun and Honker Bays outside the ship channel (but not



Larry Tkach sailing *Groovin' 2*



Bud relaxes at the end of the day

that far out of it), and like a mile from any visible land. Now I knew what Jon was up to... and I thought he was just being nice by sailing in circles so we could catch up. He was able to free himself without our help, being the able seaman that he is.



The socially-distanced dock party

The problem with not using paper charts is that you can't see enough detail on our tiny GPS/depth sounder screens. I also don't know why there aren't a few more aids to navigation out there, marking obvious hazards. At least we little guys can cope with these minor inconveniences. So, we headed for the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, where we would turn left towards Rio Vista. The channel markers aren't that obvious, and one could easily miss the turn and unknowingly head to Stockton.

While this should look obvious on a chart, the small screens again left something to be desired. With the current running strong and the breeze dying, I suddenly found myself being sucked into a mini rapids formed at the tip of a small island! I had only seconds to lower my motor and get away from the lee shore. Power tilt and electric start sure come in handy. Jon put up a larger headsail, but we were now mostly drifting past Sherman Island with five or so miles to go. With the sun exposure adding up, I turned the key again and headed to the Delta Marina at 18-knots, letting *ReGale* stretch her legs. Jon and Bud pulled in a while later, after a little more than six hours on the water. The guest docks, showers, and store at the Delta Marina are terrific, as is The Point restaurant. The following morning, George kindly picked us up so we could retrieve our rigs in Benicia and drive home without having to endure a Delta Bash. Such is the luxury of cruising with a trailer-sailor. Once again, we were having more fun than most. — 

## Benicia Sail - April 2021

### Attendees:

- Dave Bacon – *Ah Tiller the Fun*, WWP 15
- Jon Barber – *'Ol 44*, Monty 17
- Adam Brosamer – *Buoy-ya*, WWP 15
- Ralph Carlisle – Modified WWP 15
- Kevin Crowder – *Aurora*, ComPac 19
- Bud Kerner – *Cat's Meow*, WWP 19  
with crew: Gerry Nolan
- George & Rebecca – *Horizon Bound*, P19  
with crew: Alan Koepf
- Dan Phy – *Six*, Monty 15
- Larry Tkach – *Goovin' 2*, Monty 15
- Ted Tome & Joan – *Melonseed*
- Eric Zilbert – *Riptide*, WWP 19



Eric enjoys his bliss

Upcoming: Benicia to Napa Sail May 29-31, 2021

## Join us on a Memorial Day weekend sail to Napa

Sailhost: 'Goose' Gossman



We're heading to wine country!

Sail host Jerry B. has said the Delta's choking in weeds, and he has had a change in plans. But, I hear Napa beckoning, and we should respond.

We have the guest docks at Napa Valley Marina reserved for 5/29-5/30. There is a launch ramp in Napa, but a couple of years ago nine PY'ers sailed up river after the Benicia sail, and discovered how fantastic the sailing was on the lower section of the Napa River and the Mare Island Strait.

Wide open, beam reaching for most of the 20-mile passage, with very little motoring. Flat, protected water, and incredible scenery.

The launch ramp in Napa is upriver of the sailing area, so Benicia's 9th Street or 5th Street ramps would be recommended. We still need to follow tides, so details will follow on the [Trailersailor forum](#). Questions? Call Goose 707/297-5440; or [contact Commodore via PYer website](#) —




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### ANSWER to last issue's MYSTERY THING:



The question was:

"Do you know where this boat ramp is located?"

**Answer:** San Leandro Marina Boat Ramp!

The jumbo jet in the sky gives a hint that it's near a major airport. And if you look closely at the Launch Fee sign, you'll see that it's in the (510) area code, which puts this ramp in the East Bay.

**Two members got it right! Congrats!**

**1<sup>st</sup>**- Mike Trueman (M15 – *Midget*) and

**2<sup>nd</sup>**- Phill & Marina Rabideau (P19 – *Baby Steps 2*)

They will each be getting a prize in the mail shortly.



Goose and company setting out for Rio Vista



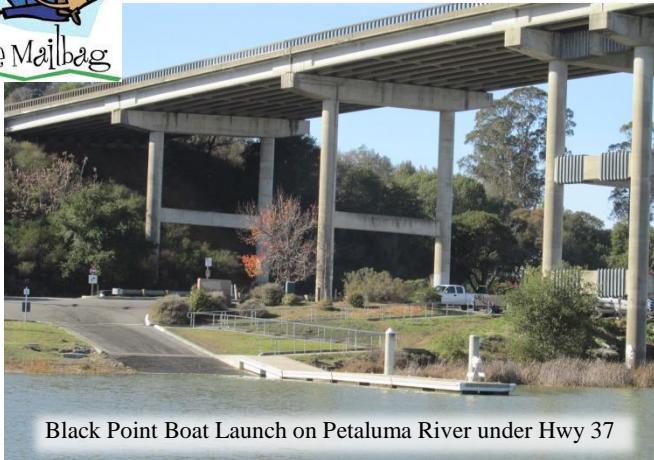
Photo: Goose Gosman

[For more photos from others, see [the West Wight Potter section of Trailer Sailor's website](#). – Ed.]



### Subject: Our Petaluma Trip in December 2020

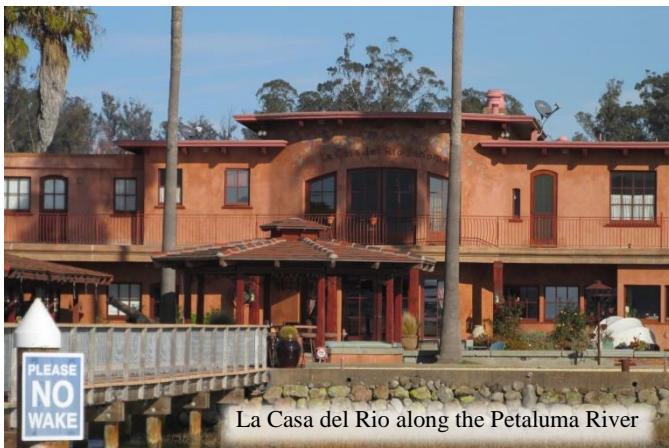
From: Dave & Francesca Kautz



Black Point Boat Launch on Petaluma River under Hwy 37



Sunken barge mostly blocking the Petaluma River



La Casa del Rio along the Petaluma River



New Year's Eve with Dave's brothers

**Subject: Pictures**

From: Dan Arbuckle

Our first season with  
our new to us Potter 19  
at Whiskeytown Lake.

I was wondering what it would  
take to host an event like this?  
I'd be happy to host it and work  
on the logistics.

[Great! [Send email to Commodore](#) or editor.  
Calendar planning is prior to Annual Mtg. -Ed.]



From: Phill and Marina Rabideau (P19 - Baby Steps 2)

Here are a few photos from our 2020 pandemic sailing....  
Mostly from our 4th of July weekend staying in Clipper Cove Treasure Island.



[Have some photos of your latest outing you'd like to share?? [Send us](#) the photos to publish! -Ed.]

**New Owner Bio**  
From: Ron Graft*In the Mailbag*

Hello, my name is Ron Graft.

I live in Big Pine Key FL,  
and Sept & Oct in Monterey.

My 14' Potter hull #245 is  
called **Bugler**.

We've gone from 38' Island  
Packet to 14' and a house in  
the Keys. — 



[Have a new-to-you Potter or you're a new member?? [Send us](#) a short bio and photo of your boat! —Ed.]

**Subject: Over the Bar**

From: Don Person      Feb 25, 2021

Marci Bell called yesterday to tell me Ron passed away. He has suffered from Alzheimer's for the past few years and that was the cause of death.

As well as a sociable P15 sailing companion, he was a man of many talents. He was a farrier for a few years, a site and construction manager for a building company, a drummer in a swing quintet, and finished his careers at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.



Ron Bell and *Least Tern* at Eagle Lake in June, 2007.

## 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 2021, annual dues are \$30 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/30> 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 Jim 'Goose' Gossman  
your name and address) to: 865 West 'I' Street  
Benicia, 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.



'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

