



The Potter Yachter

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

June/July 2021

After-Action Report

Moss Landing, May 2021

by Bud Kerner

Photo: Dana Suverkrop



Six sailing a peaceful Monterey Bay

Potter Yachters began arriving at Moss Landing on Thursday for Saturday/Sunday's sail. Dan Phy, Jon Barber and Eric Zilbert came early. I arrived at noon on Friday along with Goose, Ed Hultgren, Gerry Nolan, Dave Kautz and Dana Suverkrop. The parking lot was overflowing onto Highway 1. Salmon season had just started and there were lots of fisherman. By the time I arrived, some of the early birds had pulled out and there were some (See *Moss Landing* continued on page 4)

Ship's Stores for sale. Order from Goose:

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

- Burgees \$25.00
- Bumper stickers \$ 2.50 (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

Why are we still having so much more fun than most?

Covid has eased its stranglehold on most of us, but it seems no one else has gotten the memo that sailing is a safe and socially appropriate activity. So far this year we have Potterized the South Bay, Benicia to Rio Vista, and Moss Landing. Pete Evans recently hosted a first-ever Morro Bay sail, which was fantastic! I got to see some of the So. Cal Potters, and gained some local knowledge about Morro's extensive back bay (including marinas, oyster farms, sand dunes, and shallows.)

We are headed to Napa for Memorial Day, sailing into the wine country from Benicia. At all of these events, we have had the waterways all to ourselves, not seeing any other sailboats and only a few fishermen. I actually feel a little guilty, but I'll get over it. We've also had several new members attend, and are currently updating our roster to include them and any known updates (please contact me if your information has changed). Later in the year we will arrange an in-person meeting. Phil has still been hosting Friday afternoon zoom sessions, and working diligently on our newsletters.

The [modified] Cruiser Challenge is coming up, and it looks like we'll be launching from Moss Landing (where parking is easy), racing and/or cruising the 15-ish miles to Monterey on Saturday, overnighing in the marina, and racing/cruising back to Moss on Sunday.

Everything is dependent on weather, but the passages are often made in 3-5 hours by skippers with intermediate to advanced sailing skills. Some may want to launch and day-sail from Monterey. We will post details in the near future. As always, everyone is the captain of their own vessel, and must make their own choices about participating.



'Having more fun than most'. The docile mooring field starkly contrasts the bustling dock. Photo Credit: Morro Bay YC

Regards,
Goose — 

Club Events on the Horizon

potter-yachters.org/eventcalendar

- Aug 14 (Sat) Lake Hennessey Sail (Rich M)
easy day sail; no motors over 10 HP; no camping or swimming; nice launch ramp
- Aug 28 (Sat-Sun) Angel Island Sail (Jon B)
can be intermediate to advanced, depending on winds and waves
- Sep 11 (Sat-Sun) Tomales Bay Beach Overnight
This sail may be cancelled as a Potter event unless a sailhost steps forward; generally easy sailing unless windy, and it's often windy; overnight at anchor, on beach, or in tents; tent camping requires a permit which you get from the ranger station; boats need a porta-potti if overnighing.

Upcoming: June 19-20, 2021

Union Valley Reservoir Overnight

Sailhost: Kevin Crowder



We're planning another overnight at [Union Valley Reservoir](#) near Placerville/Pollock Pines.

[See [PYN 2016-07](#) for a previous year's report. – Ed.]

The lake will be open when we're there. Any updates to the info will go on the [Trailer Sailor forum](#).

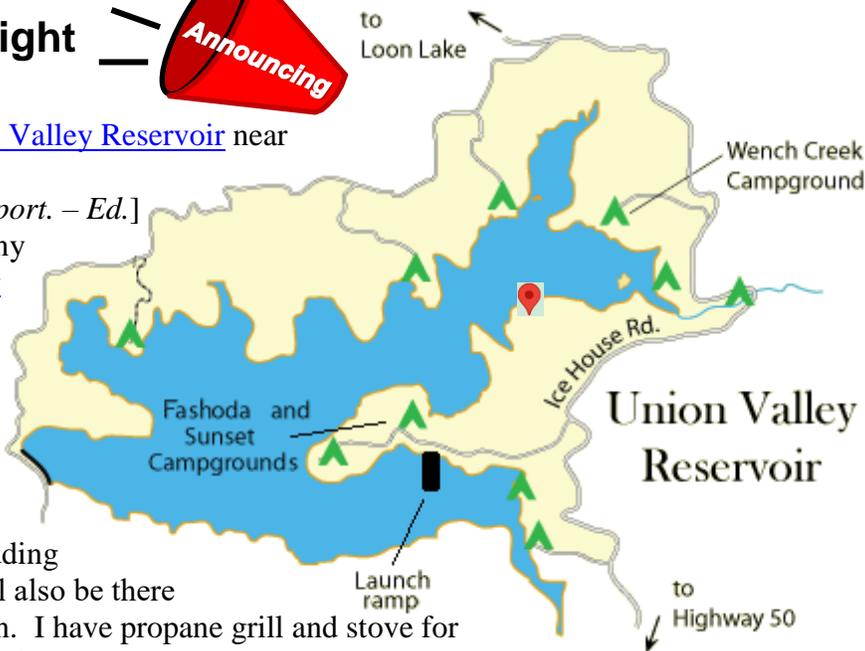
There's a grocery store about halfway up Ice House Road from Highway 50 which is stocked okay.

I will arrive by noon on Friday and we're planning to anchor at the red "pin drop" in the map (shown at right), in what we're calling "Wedding Ring Cove". [See [PYN Oct-Dec 2019, pg 10](#) -Ed] I'll also be there Saturday night. This is a great cove to shelter in. I have propane grill and stove for cooking on. We can do our usual PY raft up/dock party.

You can anchor or beach the boat and sleep onboard for just the launch fee. If you want to camp, the camping fee is \$28 per night per site, including one vehicle. RVs are allowed, but must have full water tanks on arrival (can't refill at the site).

The launch ramp is very wide, easily handling 2 boats, launching simultaneously. See the map for the launch area.

There will be a Happy Hour and Potluck Saturday around 6 pm. While I'm at the campsite, I can be reached on my cellphone at (925) 519-4246.



Kevin —

Directions from Hwy 50, east of Sacramento:

- Take Hwy 50 east to "Ice House Road/Crystal Basin" (nearly 9 miles above Pollock Pines. The trip from Sunrise Ave, where we live, and this turnoff is about 1 hour or 68.9 miles. This is just a "handholder".)
- Turn left (north) onto Ice House Rd.
- Shortly after, STAY ON Ice House Rd when it bears right!
- It's about 50 minutes from the Ice House Rd turnoff to the launch ramp, due to slow driving with boat and trailer.
- Continue up Ice House Rd and turn left to [Launch Ramp](#) onto Fashoda Rd.

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
Commodore: Jim 'Goose' Gossman P-19, <i>ReGale</i> Contact this person	Vice Commodore: Phil Marcelis P-19, #1487, <i>Family Time</i> Contact this person	Newsletter Editor: Phil Marcelis Catalina 22, #15270 Contact this person
P-15 Fleet Captain: David Bacon P-15, #2636, <i>Ah Tiller the Fun</i> Contact this person	P-19 Fleet Captain: Eric Zilbert P-19, #629, <i>Riptide</i> Contact this person	Secretary/Treasurer: (temporarily vacant) Contact Goose or Phil Contact this person
Webmaster: Phil Marcelis Webmaster@potter-yachters.org	Website: www.potter-yachters.org Facebook: fb.me/PotterYachters	

([Moss Landing](#) continued from page 1)
spaces available.

Take a look at the photo to the right. Notice what Ed has on his head while rigging his Monty. That is not a bad idea. As we age, we lose many things; balance is one of them. In a parking lot, falling out of the boat – even our little ones – and a knock on your head might be all she wrote.

Dana brought his Monty 17. While sitting at the launch ramp dock, we noticed water coming into the cabin. Jon, who also has a Monty 17, opened one of the observation ports at the stern and discovered the bilge hose was leaking. Dana took the Monty out and trailed it home. Fortunately for Dana, he lives almost walking distance from Moss Landing. My cockpit drain hose is twenty years old; I promised myself before I put my P19 in the water again I would change the hose.

While we all were rigging and launching, Dan and Jon came back into the harbor. It turns out Jon and Eric were going to sail to Monterey, spend the night and come back Saturday. When they left the harbor, it was foggy. They got separated and Jon could not raise Eric on the VHF. Jon came back, but Eric said he came out of the fog about a mile out. He had a great sail to Monterey.



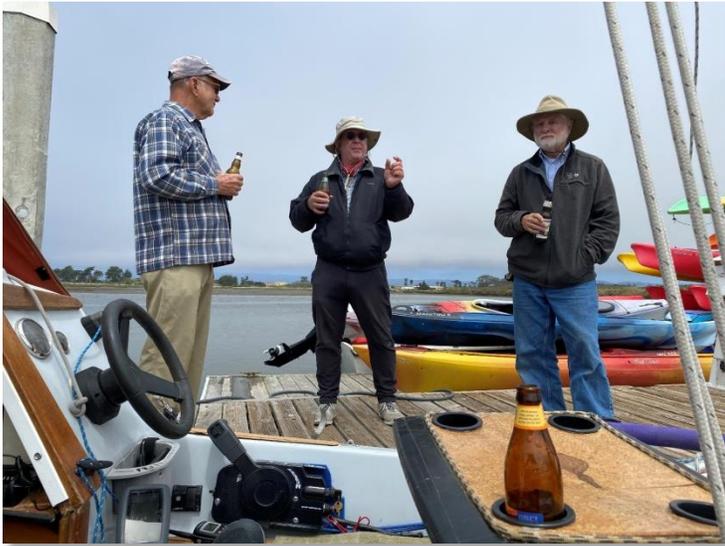
Once again, the Elkhorn Yacht Club made their guest dock available to us. It was a little tight, we had a fishing boat at the guest dock Friday and a 42-foot sailboat Saturday night. Brian Ackerman, the yacht club's Port Captain, as always made sure there was room for us.

The yacht club is officially still closed, because of COVID 19, but on Friday nights on their patio they serve cocktails and snacks. Gerry and I went over and had a martini before we learned the patio and drinks are for members only.

Fortunately, the restaurant in the parking lot has reopened, it is now called the "Sea Harvest" and we all headed over there for dinner.

Saturday morning there was little fog, but the forecast was for winds increasing during the day. They were talking about 35 knot range. We decided to go sailing early and come back in early afternoon before it got too sporting. It was a beautiful day for sailing, and we all had a great time. However, the whales were someplace else. Not a one was sighted.

Eric had a wing-on-wing sail back from Monterey. Below, he is explaining it to Dana and Ed.



Moss Landing - May 2021

Attendees:

- 'Goose' Gossman – *ReGale*, Mod-HMS18
- Ed Hultgren – *Alma Stenbom*, Monty 17
- Dave Kautz – *Trailer Trash*, O'day 19
- Bud Kerner – *Cat's Meow*, P-19
crew: Gerry Nolan
- Dan Phy – *Six*, Monty 15
- Dana Suverkrop – *Shiksa*, Monty 17
- Eric Zilbert - *Riptide*, WWP 19

When Gerry and I got back to the dock my cabin was bone dry. Sometime later I noticed water in the cabin. I bailed it out but was wondering why we were dry sailing and took on water at the dock.

After some drinks at the guest dock, we all headed over to the Sea Harvest for an early dinner.

The forecast was correct; the wind continued to increase. There were white caps on the water on the other side of the guest dock. The wind blew hard until around midnight. Two in the morning I was wakened to a sea otter breaking seashells on the hull of my boat. If it has never happened to you, let me tell you it is **loud**.

Sunday morning when I got out of my bunk and stepped on the cabin floor my feet got wet. I had several inches of water in the cabin.

The forecast was the same as the day before, lots of wind. We had planned to take Gerry's inflatable up the Elk Horn Slough, but since my boat was leaking, I decided to go home. Because of the weather everyone else, except Goose decide to pack it in and leave on Sunday. Goose and Gale were staying in their new camper.

My leak turned out to be the O-ring on the bilge drain plug.



See you on the water, Bud — 

After-Action Report**Morro Bay Was Great!***Sailhost: Pete Evans*

We lucked out. Previous weather was lousy but it cleared up for us. Just days later the marine layer came back.

Friday May 21, Ron Dietel, Goose, Dan & Gretchen Ricker, John Chille, and Kevin Crowder showed up. I met them at the launch ramp and YC to get all settled.

The locals (me, Rob Osak and Rob Hileman - all P-15s) launched early Sat, as did Dan and Gretchen in their Monty.

The MBYC was very accommodating and all worked out in that regard.

Morro Bay - May 2021**Attendees:**

- John Chille – *At Last*, Monty 15
- Kevin Crowder - *Aurora*, ComPac 19
crew: Jim Hunt & Becky
- Ron Dietel – *She Said No*, Precision 165
- Pete Evans – *Hisako*, P-15
- ‘Goose’ Gossman – *ReGale*, Mod-HMS18
- Dan & Gretchen – *Two Can*, Monty 17
- Rob Hileman – P-15
- Rob Osak – P-15



Photo: Jim Hunt

Lot of talk and fiddling around Sat morning, even Ken Lange showed up!!! He is setting up a boat factory nearby in Paso Robles.

Finally around noon most of us took off and sailed the bay. I think Goose went out in the blue. Much of the time we raced up and down the bay. Later more talk and looking for dinner, all crashed out by 9 or so.

Sunday we had a casual morning. After the usual discussion about what to do, John and I (and two small doggos) hit the



Photo: Ron Dietel

Goose trades burgees with Vice Commodore of Morro Bay YC

The Potter Yachter

blue outside the bay where Goose, Rob Osak (and his sailing pal Alyx) were sailing.

Ron D took off for home early in his beautiful Precision 165. Later on, John docked his Monty and I took off in my P15, *Hisako*, to catch up with Goose and Rob in the back bay. After racing around there, I pulled out to meet up with some folks in SLO. Shortly after that, Rob Osak got his P-15 and pulled out. John Chille and Goose were going to spend another night at the YC but Regale had a leak, so Goose pulled out late in the day.

Pete — 



Pete with the pups



MBYC Webcam





Photo: John Chile

Aboard ReGale



Photo: John Chile

(from left) Pete, Goose, Rob, Alyx



Calendar Update

From: Bud Kerner

There's a scheduling conflict with the Bridges Sail on October 23/24. Let's move it out one more week to the last weekend in October. I have a commitment from the Delta Marina for that weekend.

[The calendar on the website has been updated. -Ed.]

The Longest Day (reprise)

Lessons Learned through Experience by Jim Hunt

Dear Potter Yachters,

Yes, it's true. Just as reported by our intrepid sail leader, Phil, we clipped the corner at Calaveras Point and put *Blue Moon* on the hard for a damn long time. So in the interest of not letting the opportunity to educate get away, I thought I should fill in the details of our (my) lessons learned.

Lesson 1: I relied on the fleet and didn't bring a GPS.

The crew, Kevin & Alan & I were a little more than hesitant about taking a boat that draws 5'6" below the Dumbarton in waters that probably average 2' MLW, but we decided we would be game and try anything once. After the obligatory Thompson turn South, we sailed on a nice breeze in the channel behind the fleet only to keep running up and heaving to, to keep leaders ahead of us and give us a track to follow. We were listening to the chatter on the VHF and decided to let everyone go ahead to the Coyote Creek turn and we would follow after having a quick lunch. All was well, I had the depth sounder on and we kept to the right contour and cruised in to drop the hook near where Rob anchored for the night.



Lesson 2: If you sail without GPS, don't leave the fleet!

Phil came up and anchored for a raft up and Dave rowed/towed in for hors d'oeuvres. We broke apart for dinner and enjoyed a nice night peacefully at anchor. In the morning the crew and I discussed that we had a long motor transit to the mid-South Bay to get sailing, so we elected to up anchor and take our coffee on the way.

Lesson 3: Don't trust your memory!

How tough could it be to line up with the bridges and a shore monument to get up the Bay?

Lesson 4: Maybe don't move around on a falling tide in shallow water.

We left at 0800ish on a falling tide in a shallow fetch. Yes, REALLY! And while religiously monitoring the depth finder, it promptly went from 10'-11' of water to dragging the rudder and cutting a new groove in the Bay mud with the outboard.

Lesson 5: Keep your phone and radios charged.

At 0820 we were stuck fast and the radio was out of battery. The Bay of Fundy has nothing on the South San Francisco Bay other than depth. When the water goes, it goes with a vengeance. It is an ignoble position to be in, I assure you. Our good fortune only came about when our leader, Phil, handed the fleet duties off and stood on with us; and that was no small gesture! We may not have had enough batteries for electronics (see Lesson 5), or copious amounts of food (which was our **Lesson 6**), but we did have the heroic efforts of a great sailor in Phil blowing up his dinghy, rowing over to us against prevailing wind and waves to set us a kedge to hold us for the BIG pull to get unstuck.

We were a contrite crew, but to keep busy, all the unwhipped ends of the lines got serviced, poker for high stakes was played, naps taken, food rationed, beer rationed. The tide was predicted to be high enough to float us at 1900, and we were ready. My biggest concern was suction, so the hatch boards went in and we started to rock the boat to get the incoming water under to release her. A strain was put on the bow kedge and the outboard was running in its trench, with a big heave *Blue* broke out and we reeled up Phil's anchor! We were off! Following Phil, it was dark at the bridges and we still had a long way to go. We were running smack into a stiff breeze and waves on the nose all the way to the channel turn, getting into the ramp about 2230, and still had to get the mast down.

I'm sure there are more lessons than these, but I have lots of time to ponder it thanks to a great sailor and friend in Phil. For going above and beyond to stand by, render aid, lead us back to the Marina AND serenade us on banjo, we will forever be grateful! A true sailor to respect and emulate, we the crew of **Blue Moon** say thank you again, Phil. — 

Upcoming: Cruiser Challenge in Covid Times Sail 'Moss Landing to Monterey 21'

Sailhost: Dana Suverkrop



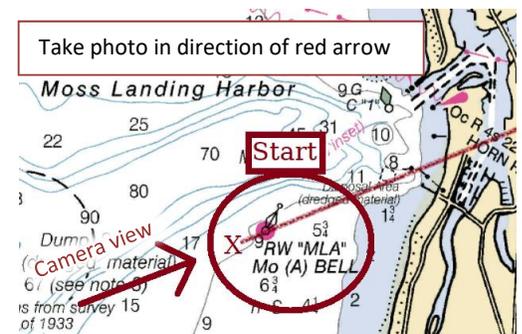
As in years past, the Cruiser Challenge has been held in the last week of July, yet because of the unpredictable state of affairs this year due to COVID, we will not be having the usual fanfare. The name of our event is "Moss Landing to Monterey 21". No registration fees, no logo, no trophies and no Yacht Club - this will be more like a group sail than an actual open event to all.

We can expect that most Potters will drive to Moss Landing on Friday, set up their boats and find a place at the Elkhorn Yacht Club overnight. Bud Kerner will be coordinating with the Yacht Club to keep them informed of the number of attendees. Please contact him to verify your intentions.

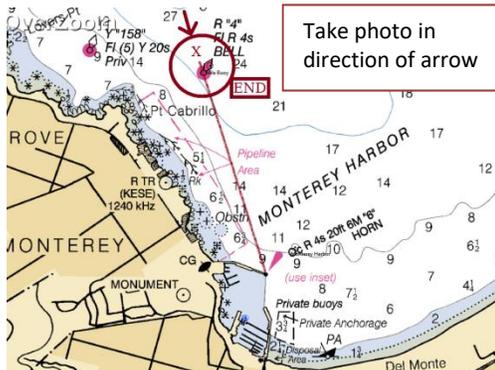
In the event the Elkhorn Yacht Club docks are inundated with boaters, then as an option, contact the Moss Landing Harbormaster to arrange for an overnight berth. The fee for putting your boat in and leaving your vehicle and trailer for one day has gone up from \$17 to \$20. At least a twenty dollar bill is easier to figure out than a ten, a five and two ones!

Those who do not plan to sail from Moss Landing can still set up in the parking lot near the ramp in Monterey and day sail to meet the competitors arriving from Moss Landing. It is always best to arrive before 9 am to help assure getting a space for your boat and trailer in the Monterey parking lot.

As usual, the sailors will head out to Monterey on Saturday morning. The **start** of competition begins when sailors reach the "MLA" Buoy between 11:00-11:30am. Each sailor will round the buoy to port with the Moss Landing cooling tower stacks in the background and take a photo with a smart phone/digital camera to capture the date and time. This is the start of the race with no horn blasting- only the sailor recording his start with a photo.



Sailors will sail towards Monterey at their own pace and **finish** by passing the One Mile Buoy to port and taking a photo of the buoy with the Coast Guard pier in the background, which will record the ending date and time stamp. Sailors can then drop sails and motor into their slips in the harbor.



A committee will document the elapsed time for each sailor from **start** to **finish**. Depending on which class the boat is in (small, medium or large), its place in the event will be determined. As with all Cruiser Challenges in the past, this is intended as a fun event, measuring your skills as a sailor within a group of like-minded enthusiasts.

Arrangements are being made to secure slips in Monterey for each of the sailors. The Harbormaster, Brian Nelson, is looking forward to seeing us again. I will be maintaining a list for those requesting slips. Contact me at dsuverkrop@gmail.com.

Afterwards, we are arranging to gather at the Round Table Pizza at 375 Alvarado at 5 pm, an easy walk from the harbor. Please join us in what will be a very memorable event.

On Sunday, sailors will return to Moss Landing, load their boat and pack up to head home. —

Upcoming: July 10-11, 2021

Loch Lomond Sail & Overnight

Sailhost: 'Goose' Gossman

Join the PYer's for a sailing event at [Loch Lomond Marina](#) in San Rafael. The marina has been recently upgraded, and includes an upscale market adjacent to the launch ramp and Loch Lomond YC. Their incredible buffet, salad, wine, sandwich, Italian Ice cream bar is sure to please all Potterers... so plan on having meals there. [Covid restrictions allowing. – Ed.]

[Directions](#) to Loch Lomond Marina
Hwy-101, exit 452, turn East at 2nd street.
2nd St. becomes 3rd St. becomes Pt. San Pedro Rd.,
Right turn at Loch Lomond Drive.

The YC has welcomed us to stay at their guest docks. There is also a dog park, kids' playground, and walking paths.

Guest slip fees are reasonable, and the \$20 launch fee may be waived for overnighters. There is excellent sailing not subject to the full force of the Bay winds and fog, plus interesting scenery along the Marin waterfront, including China Camp, the San Rafael Canal, and several cool islands near the Richmond bridge. Hopefully many of us will make a weekend of it.

(Although we plan on keeping our new boat, *Grace*, there for the season.)

Please let me know if you are coming so the marina can arrange trailer storage.



Goose — 

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

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, 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

Send your payment (with your name and address) to: Jim 'Goose' Gossman
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

