

## Sailor of the Month – Bill Wilson

I was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland in 1941. Since a child, I have been fascinated by boats, both full-sized and model. From high school through College I was active in the Sea Scouts, including building and sailing various dinghies. After high school, I served a Student Apprenticeship at Harland and Wolff, best known as the builder of the Titanic. I also became an engineer officer in the Royal Naval Reserve, operating and maintaining coastal minesweepers. I continued to study Naval Architecture and Mechanical Engineering eventually receiving a Ph. D from Queens University Belfast in 1967.

My new wife Lyla and I then decided to immigrate to the US. We moved to Columbus Ohio where I worked on contract research at Battelle. From there I went on to teach and conduct research at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Northwestern University and the most recently as Chair of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Washington. Since my retirement in 2007, Lyla and I have lived in Port Ludlow. We have two daughters and two grandsons and have cruised four different “big” boats in New England, the Great Lakes and the Pacific Northwest.

I first got involved in radio sailing through the T37 group in Port Ludlow in late 2013. However, a few minutes on the controls of Joe D’Amico’s V6 at Sequim convinced me that I needed an IOM, so I am now the proud owner of a Kantun SMX. I have greatly enjoyed sailing with the Deception Pass Club, they are a friendly group who have gone out of their way to help a “newbie” and I look forward too many more happy hours of racing with them.



KEEP CALM AND SAIL ON

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