

## Sailor of the Month - Kelly Martin

I began sailing when I was a teenager in a home built dingy. In the early 1970's I campaigned at San Juan 24 in Puget Sound, and caught rides on big boats for the big events such as Swiftsure and Straits of Georgia races. After selling my SJ 24 in 1980, I crewed on several larger boats over the years including a Ranger 37, Buchan 37, J-120, and 3 different J-105's.

Everything changed in 1982 when my twin daughters were born. No way was I going off sailing big boats over the next few years! Ron Moblo, a neighbor of mine, introduced me to the EC-12. We rounded up a few more guys and formed the Gig Harbor MYC and sailed in the harbor for the next year, then eventually moved to Surprise Lake. We built a strong fleet and traveled to many national EC-12 events. Somehow I managed to win 12 nationals with the EC-12. I also sailed a US 1M, Marblehead, CR914, ODOM, and AC (Americas Cup) over the years. In 2012 Bob Wells introduced me to the IOM class and let me sail his V-6. I was hooked! I ended up buying a Topiko from Bob. I sailed a V-8 next, and currently sail a V-10 with which I won the Canadian Nationals in 2017.

We moved to Bellingham in 2014, and I have been sailing my IOM regularly with the DPMYC since then. Our current venue at Bowman Bay is the best venue I have ever sailed on, has a good group of sailors, and has grown over the years to a fine club.

