

## Ray Fiedler

I was born December 10<sup>th</sup> 1924 and grew up near Sinclair Inlet of Puget Sound. My interest in sailing started early with a flat bottom row boat that I rigged with a small piece of canvas but was unsuccessful in attempts to sail to weather. My Dad bought a fifteen foot sailboat for the family, which I took over ownership of due to lack of interest by the rest of the family. I sailed it until finally replacing it with my first Star boat. Following High School I was drafted into the Army and participated in three amphibious landings on Pacific Islands. I took up skiing, mountain climbing, and crewing in sailboat races while attending the University of Washington. In 1952 I got married, purchased my first Star Boat and joined the Corinthian Yacht Club. I raced Star regattas in both the Northwest and California. In 1959 I built a second Star that I was eventually forced to sell for lack of time to keep competitive after 16 years of Star sailing. Following the Star boats I sailed a Cal 29, Crown 34, and finally a J36 and continued to travel to Seattle to race weekends after retiring to Shelter Bay in LaConnor.

In 1996 we had a final party dismantling a crew that had sailed together for from 5 to over 30 years. My other water related interest is rowing and I purchased a 22ft practice shell from George Pocock in 1966 and in lieu of jogging I rowed extensively on Lake Washington and many other bodies of water in the Northwest. That boat has not been in the water for the last few years. To keep my wife happy I replaced the J36 with a powerboat that had all the comforts missing in the J36. After turning my 80<sup>th</sup> year I took up Golf, cycling, pool and RC sailing, not doing well in any of them but having fun. My wife died after 59 years of marriage in 2012, however I plan to keep sailing RC boats and remain in Shelter Bay as long as possible.

