



## **New IOM USA Class Secretary**

By Bob Wells

2020 brings the transition to a new Class Secretary, and the end of Gary Boell's successful 2-year term. Thank you, Gary. The New Class Secretary:

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My agenda is simple – don't rock the boat. The class is headed in the right direction, and I'll have plenty of help. Gary Boell stay's involved for guidance and I'll lean on him with all his contacts when we form the 2021 national IOM regatta schedule. Ted Flack has agreed to stay on as Class Treasurer and Registrar. Mark Golison continues on our ranking System, and he also continues with Steve Washburn on our IOMUSA.org website. I've got other guys to lean on to if any need arises. Don't worry about me being Class Secretary for life, won't happen for even a 2<sup>nd</sup> term.

Who is Bob Wells: I'm a 73-year-old Architect working about half-time now with an affinity for playing with sailboats. It began after college when I moved to Seattle for a job. I found myself ineptly owning/repairing a series of old woodies, and otherwise crewing much more effectively

racing on modern mass-produced sailboats for a few decades. There were a few nice cruises in some beautiful parts of the world also, which were always shortened by the need to get back to work.

Radio sailing came about as it got to be bad form for me to be gone all weekend sailing when I had a special needs son at home, and I was his only playmate. The only option was to quit cold turkey on owning or racing sailboats for a few years, but I jumped back in when I discovered Seattle Model Yacht Club was racing EC12's nearby, as it was only a few hours on a weekend (what I told Jackie anyway). This led to an enjoyable 12-year immersion into radio sailing and the EC12 class beginning in the early 90's. I say immersion because this is when I spent a lot of time with maestro Larry Robinson, and when I assisted him in authoring "Optimizing the EC12", an in depth look into making the boat go. Alas, my son needed more of my attention again so I quit cold turkey on sailing again.

In 2010 it was OK to get back into competitive radio sailing, but the local EC12 fleet had died. I chose the IOM class and fortunately some former EC12 skippers quickly came out of retirement to join me. Radio sailors from other classes quickly joined too, as there was clearly a desire for a more high-performance class in the Seattle area. Our active IOM fleet in Washington State has worked out beyond my expectations. Follow our progress on my regatta reports on Jerry Brower's unofficial IOM website here: <http://www.ibextrax.com>.

Happy New Year