



PRO and Scorekeeper Barry Fox in the center of the fun at the 2017 COW regatta in the Seattle area, where he often managed the racing of this annual regatta.

## **In Memory of Barry Fox**

By Bob Wells, IOM USA Class Secretary

He was a friend of the IOM community on all levels, so with a heavy heart I note the passing of Barry Fox on Sunday morning, February 16, 2020. His three children were with him, and his passing was peaceful.

Barry was raised in the Canadian Prairies and car racing was an early and long passion. I think his radio sailing passion began with IOMs in Texas, while he continued his corporate life in the oil industry. I met him in 2010 at Seattle MYC's 1<sup>st</sup> promotional IOM regatta, and Barry was now recently retired in Victoria, BC. A few months later we meet again when six of traveled to Saltspring Island and Barry served as scorekeeper and IOM goodwill ambassador. This began many trips across our Pacific NW borders to share IOM sailing and friendship. Barry facilitated the IOM class in the Pacific Northwest by doing what needed to be done to get regattas on the schedule and then supporting them with whatever was needed. If he wasn't the local organizer, he was the organizer's friend in measurements, scorekeeping, and PRO if needed. Barry's IOM support in the USA included assisting at the 2015 Foster City IOM Worlds. He travelled back to Texas

in 2018 to serve as scorekeeper at the 2018 IOM USA Nationals on Lake Ray Hubbard, and he was a fixture as PRO/scorekeeper at our Hood River Carnage regattas.

Barry was a Canuck that was very active in his local radio sailing club, Victoria Model Shipbuilding Society, and the Canadian Radio Yachting Association (CRYA). He was the CRYA IOM Class Secretary at his passing. His influence extended internationally, when he was a member of the IOM ICA Executive Team, actively serving as Secretary for years. He especially gave freely of his time assisting newcomers to IOMs on the personal level. He's a charter member of David Cook's "Shop Slaves", and I can think of no higher a complement.

In all his endeavors, I found him a positive and calming influence full of insights that were occasionally pithy. I remember our awkward phone discussions when he had just received his pancreatic cancer diagnosis, and we didn't know if it would be our last conversation. Over a year later the treatments were beating back the cancer cells, and I looked forward to our phone conversations that now included IOM regatta scheduling. I don't know what the complication was that took him quickly in the end.

Most of all, he was a great friend who left us too soon.