



Thomas Philip Wells

December 7, 1945 - February 21, 2020

Tom Wells, 74, of Punta Gorda, Florida, passed away Friday February 21, 2020 at his home. He was born in 1945 to Eileen Amble and Willard Wells. He graduated high school in Clarkston, Michigan, and attended Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Michigan, where he received a degree in Civil Engineering. It was there he met his wife, Sandy, with whom he would have celebrated 50 years of marriage this summer.

Tom worked as a structural engineer for over 40 years, most recently for McClure Engineering in Columbia, Missouri. He resided in the Columbia, Missouri area for over 40 years, where he and Sandy raised their children, who were the subject of countless 'Dad jokes' and puns, and who inherited Tom's love of wordplay.

Tom's driving passion in life was sailing. He trailered a McGregor 25 all over with his family, but especially loved the Apostle Islands on Lake Superior, and Mark Twain Lake in Missouri. He was a founding member of the Mark Twain Lake Sailing Association, authored a nonfiction book on the history of Tartan 37 sailboats, as well as a fictional novel, "Superior Run". He was a contributing writer to Good 'Ol Boat Magazine, where he enjoyed traveling around the country meeting new friends and writing up reviews of their boats.

He was a troubadour who made friends and music everywhere he went with

his 12 string guitar. In his life, Tom recorded two albums of original music. He was known to freely share both his musical talent and his rum, which he preferred mixed up in a Dark and Stormy over ice and shared over laughs.

Upon retirement, Tom and his wife lived their dream and sold their home to live aboard their Tartan 37 sailboat and embarked on the trip of a lifetime. They sailed their boat from Waukegan, WI, through the Great Lakes, the Erie Canal, down the Hudson River to the Atlantic where they travelled the intercostal waterways down the entire eastern coast of the United States to Punta Gorda, Florida.

Tom leaves behind his best friend and wife Sandra Wells of Punta Gorda, Florida; brother Alan (Wendy) Wells of Ft. Myers, Florida; son Andy Wells of Jefferson City, Missouri; daughter Karen (James) Gill and granddaughter Annika Gill of Portland, Oregon. He will be missed by countless friends in the sailing community.

Celebrations of Tom's life will be held both at Burnt Store Marina (FL) in March, and Mark Twain Lake (MO) later this summer.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital:

https://fundraising.stjude.org/site/TR/GiftFunds/GiftFunds?px=6554780&pg=personal&fr_id=39300

Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas Philip Wells*

October 09, 2023 at 02:01 AM



“ *Thomas Philip Wells*

January 28, 2023 at 12:09 PM



“ *Sandy and family - We were so saddened to get the news of Tom's passing. You both left a very big impression on our lives whenever we could meet and we will so miss Tom. We have his book, music and many memories to cherish as we remember good times. Condolences and all the very best. Jack & Anneke Wolf - Grand Rapids, MI*

Jack Wolf - March 20, 2020 at 02:20 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Jack Wolf - March 20, 2020 at 02:15 PM

DH

“ I have always enjoyed reading good old boat and am very sorry to hear of your loss. Interesting to read that he went to Mich tech My father Christopher John Hall taught mining engineering there from 1960-67. We lived at 218 East St small world!

David Hall - March 18, 2020 at 07:19 PM



“ Sandy and family, sorry for your loss, I never had the chance to meet Tom but always enjoyed the information and knowledge that he had for all things to do with our Tartan 37's that he would impart to us on the T37 forum.

Richard Foy

Richard Foy - March 17, 2020 at 03:44 PM



WL

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



William Lach - March 11, 2020 at 01:50 PM



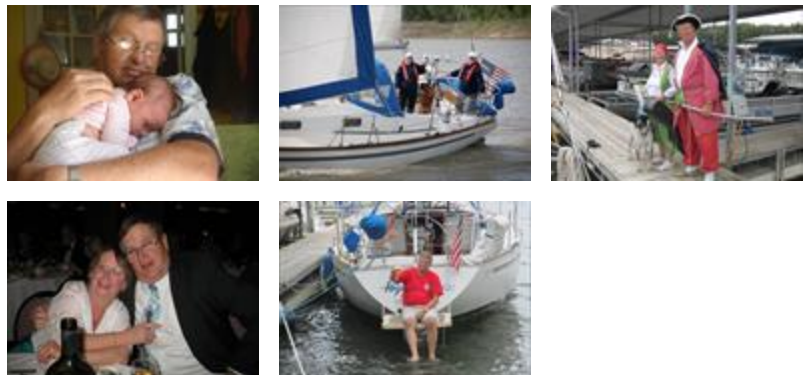
“ 6 files added to the album *A Great Sail*



William Lach - March 11, 2020 at 01:47 PM



“ 6 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Shirla Cesari - March 10, 2020 at 09:08 PM

CL

“ Good morning, dear Cousin Sandy and your family,
yesterday , I've received a Message from Cheryl , with a bad new.
about your Husband Died. We give you and your children all our SYMPATHIES . and thinking of you . Bon courage Tom left to calm for his last Trip. God blessing him
Love You Cousin from St- Jacques Montcalm, Québec.
Cécile Desroches -



Cécile Desroches- Lapointe - March 07, 2020 at 09:01 AM

SH

“ Sailor, husband, father, friend...and so much more! I only knew Tom a short time, we were liveaboard dockmates, but I quickly grew fond of his wit and wonderful conversation about sailing and life in general. I will miss you, my nautical friend...fair winds and following seas.

Capt. Shadd Heaston and Family

Shadd Heaston - March 02, 2020 at 10:50 AM

JH

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



john huss - February 28, 2020 at 08:37 PM

SK

“ Dearest Sandy, Karen & Andy, Our hearts are breaking right along with yours as we mourn the passing of Tom. We are so, so sorry. May the beautiful memories you hold deep in your hearts give you peace. I am so grateful we made the trip to Florida just a few weeks ago & got to spend quality time with Tom. This shows us how fragile life can be and that we need to communicate with each other as often as possible. The MTLSA community has been sharing stories the last few days & even though we are all saddened we are sharing many memories that make us laugh, remembering our wonderful times spent on Mark Twain Lake on our sail boats! Tom's infectious smile, his wacky jokes, his beautiful songs & guitar playing, but mostly his friendship are the things I remember most! We will all miss him terribly, we will continue to laugh and cry, but our love for Tom Wells will never end! We wish you fair winds in Heaven, Tom Wells, and we will see you and sail with you again! All our love to you Sandy, and to you Karen & Andy. Sarah & Ron Kent.



Sarah Kent - February 28, 2020 at 01:26 PM

SK

“ I had the honor of hosting Tom and Sandy on a cruise in Maine a while back. Wonderful folks, wonderful sailors! Wishing Sandy nothing but love, and Tom, Godspeed - may it be nothing but fair winds and following seas from now on.

Skip King - February 28, 2020 at 10:53 AM

HS

Dear, Sandy and family. I was so sad to hear of Tom's sudden passing. I will never forget all the times we spent at Mark Twain Lake... singing and sharing stories and enjoying each other. Fairwinds, dear Tom, and have the Creature with Dad! You will be dearly missed by so many.

Holly Shurtleff-Thoelke - February 28, 2020 at 05:45 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Gendron Funeral & Cremation Services Inc. - February 28, 2020 at 08:45 AM