

**BILL FORTENBERRY**

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WorldSailing USABF8

WORLD CHAMPION SAILOR | TEAM BUILDING EXPERT

I have a diverse background and experience in yacht racing, sailmaking and team building that distinguishes me from many professional sailors and sailing coaches.

I began sailing as a teenager at the California Yacht Club in Marina Del Rey California. Learning to sail, along with active sports like surfing, skateboarding, tennis and skiing instilled a lifelong passion for outdoor pursuits. Playing team sports such as soccer, baseball and football taught me the value of teamwork, trust, practice and sportsmanship. I was fortunate to learn sailing at an institution with a rich tradition and history and was proud to move on from Jr Sailing having won the prestigious California Yacht Club High Point Award.

My sailing career then moved on to College Sailing, Olympic Class Sailing, Championship Level One Design Keelboats, and Offshore Racing. I have excelled at all forms of the sport and have achieved a winning record along the way.

As a Sailmaker, I have been fortunate to build a 25-year career at North Sails, performing in a variety of high-level, key roles including Salesperson, Sales Manager, Product Manager and Operations Director. My experience at North Sails has given me firsthand knowledge and expertise in sail design, construction and use. I have sailed on many boats with many sailors and have never stopped learning about sails. This lifetime of learning was founded on my earlier mentorship from sailmaking legends such as Dave Ullman, Vince Brun and Ken Read – all of whom I have worked for and with during my sailmaking career.

My academic background in Interpersonal and Organization Communications has also given me a unique perspective on team building and has shaped my approach to competitive sailing. Developing shared goals, commitment, trust, respect through effective communication, practice and execution are essentials that span across all endeavors - but are especially important in winning sailboat races.

I enjoy sailing, winning and helping others do the same. My skill set is unique and can be catered to a wide array of high-level sailing campaigns.

SAILING EXPERTISE

- Accomplished Helmsman, Tactician, Navigator, Sail Trimmer, and Project Manager.
- Special Expertise in Sailmaking, Team Building, Training and Coaching.
- Skilled in Rating Optimization, Sail Shape Analysis, Expedition Navigation and Weather Routing, Njord Analytics

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 1995 J-24 World Championships - 1st Place
 - 1992 J-22 World Championships - 1st Place
 - 1989 J-24 World Championships - 1st Place
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OLYMPIC CLASS SAILING

- 1990-92 United States Sailing Team Member - Soling
 - 1990 Barcelona Pre-Olympics, US Representative - Soling
 - 1990 North American Championship Series: Soling - 1st Place
 - 1991 US Olympic Pre-Trials – Soling - 1st Place
 - 1991 North American Championships - Soling - 1st Place
 - 1991 US Olympic Pre-Trials – Soling - 1st Place
 - 1992 US Olympic Trials Competitor – Soling
 - 1996 US Olympic Trials Competitor - Soling
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INSHORE VICTORIES AND NOTABLE RESULTS

- 2006 Superyacht Cup - Antigua 1st Place
 - 2006 Etchells New England Championship - 2nd Place
 - 2003 Etchells New England Championship - 2nd Place
 - 2002 Etchells New England Championships - 1st Place
 - 2002 New York Yacht Club Race Week - 1D35 - 2nd Place
 - 2001 Key West Race Week – Mumm 30 - 2nd Place
 - 1998 Farr 40 World Championships - 3rd Place
 - 1998 J24 Midwinter Championships - 1st Place
 - 1997 Block Island Race Week - Farr 40 - 1st Place
 - 1996 Melges 24 Gold Cup - 1st Place
 - 1994 J-24 Western Open - 1st Place
 - 1993 J-24 California Circuit - 2nd Place
 - 1992 J-24 North American Championship - 2nd Place
 - 1992 J-27 National Championship - 1st Place
 - 1992 J-24 Canadian National Championship - 2nd Place
 - 1991 Cal 20 North American Championship - 1st Place
 - 1989 Ficker Cup – Match Race 1st Place
 - 1987 Olson 30 National Championship - 1st Place
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OFFSHORE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 2024 Newport to Bermuda Race, Watch Captain
 - 2014 Newport to Bermuda Race, Navigator
 - 2013 Ida Lewis Distance Race, Tactician - 1st Place
 - 2010 Newport to Bermuda Race, Tactician
 - 2009 Marion to Bermuda Race, Navigator
 - 2008 Newport to Bermuda Race, Tactician
 - 2006 Newport to Bermuda Race, Navigator
 - 2002 Newport to Bermuda Race, Watch Captain
 - 2001 Annapolis - Newport Race, Farr 60 - Record Holder - 1st Place
 - 2000 Newport to Bermuda Race, Helmsman - Gibbs Hill Trophy 1st Place
 - 1999 US Admiral's Cup Team, Helmsman - Mumm 36
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RELATED EXPERIENCE

- USCG Licensed Captain – OUPV and Inland Master
- 2016 - 2020 Conanicut Yacht Club Fleet Captain
- 2012 - 2016 Conanicut Yacht Club - Jr Sailing Chairman
- 1992 - 1994 Sailing Consultants International
- 1990 - 1994 Sailing Instructor J World Sailing School
- 1998 - 1990 Captain Cal State Long Beach Sailing Team
- 1986 - 1987 Captain University of Rhode Island Sailing Team