

Meet Your Nominees for the 2021-2022 AYC Board of Directors

Commodore – Debra Heisler

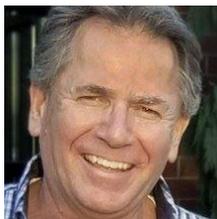


I began sailing as kid in Michigan and then in 2014, met and joined my husband, Emory on our Buccaneer 18. For the past five years I've crewed in the AYC Racing Series, one Club Championship, most AYC regattas, Long Beach Race Week, competed in the Buccaneer Nationals twice and only capsized once. I hold ASA certifications for 101 and 103 and I'm an approved powerboat operator. In 2017-18 Emory and I sailed almost 5000 NM crewing for several boat deliveries. It would not be a career choice. My other passion is backpacking and hiking. I've packed all over Arizona, a few national parks, the John Muir Trail, and trekked in the Himalayas.

I'm currently Vice Commodore and my previous term on the board was as Rear Commodore in 2019-2020. Since retiring, I have volunteered my time extensively in various clubs and community initiatives. I currently have a few other volunteer opportunities that I enjoy as time allows: mentoring women in life skills and occasionally giving rides to homebound seniors. I also provide taxi and cafeteria services to my grandchildren on an as needed basis.

During my career days, I wore a variety of hats: Internal Consultant, Course Developer, Project Administrator, Process Improvement Facilitator, and Lead Instructor for several courses. My educational background is in human resources, organizational development, and adult instruction/performance technology. I'm excited about serving this club as Commodore and continuing on as part of the 2021-2022 Board of Directors. I'll do my best to help create a memorable year!

Vice Commodore – Bob Naylor



I've been sailing for 10-years, and have been an AYC member for 4-years. We have a Catalina 22 which I race at Lake Pleasant, and an old Sunfish that I enjoy sailing at Tempe Town Lake. For the past year, I've served as AYC's Rear Commodore, responsible for our monthly meetings and guest speakers. In 2020, I managed AYC's Birthday Regatta and Leukemia Cup fundraiser, and this year, I managed the Leukemia Cup fundraising campaign, helping AYC raise \$50K over the past two years for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Eighteen-months ago, I started AYC's Sunfish Fleet - a fun bunch of sailors with wet pants who enjoy racing our spirited "Funfish" sailboats at Tempe Town Lake and beyond. I serve as Sunfish Fleet Captain. I'm a US Sailing certified Level 1 sailing instructor and powerboat operator. The thing that I most love about AYC is the people - we have a great community of sailors, and I'm grateful both for the many wonderful friends I've made within AYC, and for their support.

My wife, Robin, and I live in Glendale. Robin occasionally sails her own Minifish and, over the years, our C-22 provided our family and friends with many memorable outings on Lake Pleasant. We have two daughters - one of which frequently has blue hair, which contributes to my gray hair. Our oldest daughter is a junior at Northern Arizona University, and our youngest is a sophomore at the University of Arizona. I retired 2 years ago as a senior director of information technology, after a challenging 20-year career with a global Fortune 100 corporation. When I'm not sailing, I enjoy golfing (which, at times, I also turn into a "water sport") and hiking the desert and mountain trails of our beautiful state. I ask for the opportunity to serve as Vice Commodore in the coming year.

Rear Commodore – Marshall Williamson



I Grew up in a suburb of Syracuse New York playing most sports, and got into sailing when I joined a new sailing club in Philadelphia that acquired eight J27's. Thus, I learned to race one-design in Wednesday night beer can races. Then got married and moved to Tucson in the early 90s, and raised two daughters who are now out on their own and prospering. I also enjoy hiking, skiing, golf, classic car restoration, and recently started cycling. I frequent San Carlos Mexico a few times a year.

I've competed in most AYC Regattas and Race Series since 2013 and joined the club in 2016. I also served on the Board as Secretary in 2016-17. I secured a \$5000 corporate sponsor for the 2017 Leukemia Cup and am the AYC Spin Fleet Capt. 2020- 2021, 2019-2020. It's probably known that I was also the Spring 2021 Blunder bucket Recipient.

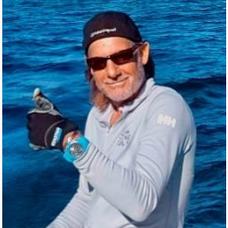
I am also a member of the Tucson Sailing Club (TSC) and served as:

- Past Commodore (same as staff Commodore, a voting position) 2019 and 2020
- Commodore 2017 and 2018
- Vice Commodore 2016 and Race Chair
- Rear Commodore 2014 and Regatta Race Co-Chair

Some of my other sailing experiences are the Hawaii to LA Transpac return trip as crew on an Andrews 70 in 2019, the Flathead Lake Montana Cup 2018, and the J24 Regional Championship 2018 Lake Ontario.

In the working world, I do part-time business development for a start-up software company.

Fleet Captain – Jeff Coulter



I moved from Seattle seven years ago for an amazing project opportunity that would utilize my skill sets and passion as an interior architect. On my way to investigate this new opportunity, I flew over Lake Pleasant and saw a Regatta in progress. I then came to realize that sailing in the desert was a possibility...who knew?

My first sailing experience was on a Catalina 27 at the age of 16. And that's when I got the bug. I didn't get started with hard core racing until 1996. The amazing boats and crews I've learned to race with started on a J29 then went to J105, J109, J122, J24. I crew in San Diego, on a J70 that competes throughout the California coast. I've raced a Santana 70, as well as a Santana 20, that many of you have seen me on at Lake Pleasant. I've also raced a Capri 14.2 on TTL.

When it comes to the bigger Regatta's I've raced in the PSSR, PSSC, Grand Prix, J-fest, Seattle NOOD, San Diego NOOD, Swiftsure, WIRW, Rolex Big Boat, European J24 Championship, J24 Midwinters Championship and Long Island Race Week, just to name a few.

I've done a lot of cruising as well - through the San Juan Islands in Washington, into Canada and off the coast of California. I am very efficient in all positions with the bow and driving being my favorite. I also enjoy the role of tactician.

This last year I've served as Racing Fleet Captain and am willing to serve in this role again. For the past six years, I've served AYC as a volunteer instructor teaching sailing on TTL. I look forward to continuing to do so. I am also looking forward to working with the new Board and doing my best for the AYC racing program.

Cruising Captain – Jeff Bryant



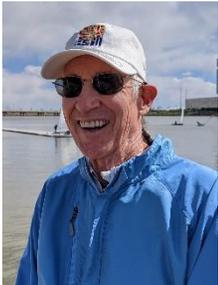
I grew up in Indiana where I raced bicycles, motorcycles, dirt cars, road race cars, dragsters, and anything anyone would let me drive. This went on for four decades. While in Indiana I became a machinist and an engineer acquiring skills I use daily in my work, my life, and of course my sailing.

My sailing began when I completed the ASA 101 course and bought a Capri 14.2 the next week. I was off like a rocket – one year later I completed ASA 103 and 104, done some ocean cruising, and switched from the 14.2 to a Sunfish. Since joining Tumbleweed’s Catalina 25 program I’ve sailed 40+ outings on Lake Pleasant. What I see in my future is a full keel sailboat!

The last few years have also included multiple trips to San Diego for Sunfish sailing or chartering a variety of other keelboats. In 2019 I competed in the Buccaneer NAC race as well. My daughter Sabrina is starting to get involved in sailing and AYC too. She takes photos at events and recently completed ASA 101.

I currently serve as Secretary on the AYC Board and also serve on the Board of Directors for the United States Sunfish Class Association (USSCA) as the West Region Representative. I look forward to being the AYC Cruising Captain and creating some great events for our Club.

Membership Director - Gordon Briner



I grew up sailing out of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Mostly International 14’s and crewing on a Flying Dutchman around the US. And was able to crew in a number of national championships in Lightnings and Solings with some very good sailors. Sailing the Chicago/Mackinac race was something one aspired to while growing up around Lake Michigan and I was able to be part of the race 6 times, with two respectable results. I spent a short time working at North Sails in Pewaukee, Wisconsin when they shared a facility with Peter and Olaf Harken who were starting up Harken blocks.

My professional and recreational interests lead me to a career in the ski industry. Most recently leading a great group of people at Taos, New Mexico for 20 years and Breckenridge, Colorado before that. I also worked Keystone, A-Basin and Purgatory Ski Resorts.

My wife and I moved to Arizona two years ago where we connect with our son and grandsons and play as much as we can. The Arizona Yacht Club accepted my membership application 18 months ago so I’m still a new guy and getting to meet a lot of great people. It’s a tremendous group. My sailing time is mostly in a Laser at Tempe Town Lake and I’ve spent some time at Lake Pleasant which reminds me of some of the inland lakes in the mid-west, less the cactus. I was able to compete in the Birthday Regatta this year which was a memorable experience.

I’m excited about serving the club as a Board member and Co-Director of the membership Committee with Skip Kempff. A number of enthusiastic sailors have joined the AYC over the past few years and I believe there are more in the area who want to be part of the Club.

Junior Staff Commodore – Cindy Pillote



I started sailing in Arizona by taking the Start Sailing Right and single-handed classes from the Arizona Sailing Foundation. Shortly thereafter, I joined the club and bought a Buccaneer 18. I've been sailing my Buccaneer at Tempe Town Lake, Lake Pleasant, and other venues ever since. I also serve as a regular crew on Bob Worrall's *Spirit*.

I previously served on the AYC board as Membership Director, Secretary, Commodore, Junior Staff Commodore, and Senior Staff Commodore. Then, I went on to serve on the ASF board for a few years. I'm looking forward to serving, once again, on the AYC board as Junior Staff Commodore and to continue helping ASF in its endeavors.