

Meet the AYC 2025-2026 Board Nominees

Commodore – Roger Pawley



Before WWII, my parents courted on a Class C Inland Racing Scow on Lake Michigan. When I was 15, we visited those old sailing friends of theirs during a reunion in Milwaukee. I was put on a Class A Scow and felt the power of catching wind and heeling over on a 38-foot sailboat with only leeboards and crew as ballast. What a day!

Several years later, we moved to Flathead Lake, Montana and the lake just screamed, "Get A Sailboat!" So, I learned to sail on a Santana 22.

After stops in the Army and jobs in Ohio and Minnesota, I wound up back on Flathead Lake, managing a large marina that sold five lines of powerboats, three lines of sailboats, and four full-time, year-round mechanics. Several boat brands were built in Seattle, creating trips to Washington for dealer meetings. My wife, Lyn, and I both fell in love with Seattle and the San Juan Islands. A move there had to happen.

We sailed in Puget Sound and Canadian waters for 41 fantastic years, raising two children on a sailboat on weekends and vacations. We also joined the Seattle Yacht Club, where I served as Vice Admiral and Admiral for two years. I managed a standing committee of 150 participants and an annual budget of \$55,000 to plan and hold the Opening Day of Yachting Season for a parade that included 100 plus boats in the parade and over 250,000 spectators.

Following that, I became Fleet Captain for two years. We ran our local racing events and were the local sponsoring club for 4 years of the NOOD Regatta. I had the opportunity to spend 10 years managing the Race Committee, during which we hosted several regional and national regattas.

As a result of my previous involvement, I have been eager to assist on your Race Committee for the last two years. Being a part of the AYC RC has allowed me to get to know many members, and I appreciate the opportunity. Unbeknownst to me then, I became the first permanent race committee member in modern times.

I want to apply all my knowledge and experience and dedicate my energy to serving as your Commodore. I have enjoyed getting to know many of you and look forward to meeting many more in the months ahead.

Commodore – George Sheller



I have been in the Phoenix area since 1962, coming from the Eastern Shore of Maryland, and living on the water. However, I did not find out about the AYC until 1987. I was recruited to join by Mike and Terry Easley and Mike Ewens. I taught myself how to sail on a Puffer sailboat I bought in 1979.

I have raced in all the Yacht Club events, sailing in a Capri 13, a Coronado 15, and a Laser. I crewed for many years with Martin Lorch in his Santana 20 and later in his Catalina 22. I have raced on Roosevelt Lake, Lake Pleasant and TTL. My family grew up in the Club and it has always been a joy for me to belong. Many of my closest friends are current and past members.

I joined the AYC in 1987 and in 1989, was elected Rear Commodore and subsequently served as Vice Commodore, Commodore, Staff Commodore, and Club Racing Captain for two years.

While I was Rear Commodore, I was the Chair of the Regatta De Los Ninos, a regional sailing venue for Sabot racers from AZ and CA. As Commodore, I made the AYC a Tempe-based Club and helped start our racing program there. Probably less known about me is that I was among the first people to sail on Tempe Town Lake! I've been racing there since our dinghy program began, and I started the TTL summer racing series, which later became known as the *Heat Stroke Series*.

I have been a registered Architect with businesses in the Phoenix Area since 1971. I retired earlier this year and have the time to devote to the Club. More recently, I served the past two years as a committee member for the Birthday Regatta, and I am also the TTL Lake Captain.

Why do I want to run for Commodore in 2025? First, I love this Club and want to help make it stronger and, hopefully, better. I want to work on engaging more of the membership in racing and cruising and promote the revised racing program Bruce Andress has started. And finally, to explore a new and invigorated involvement at TTL for the AYC and the ASF.

Vice Commodore – Cedric Lorch



Being a member of AYC since birth, I have grown up spending most weekends racing on our Catalina 22 - *None Yet*, our Santana 20 - *Watercolors*, or the Capri 14.2 - *Kiss My Aft* with Alexia and Martin. I participated in the high school program, winning the high school sailing award three times. Martin and I competed in the club championship, winning it twice together in 2013 and 2019.

I can be seen teaching the junior racing program at TTL, racing at LP, and all our social events throughout the year. I run the AV behind the scenes at our club meetings and put together the pre-meeting photo deck.

Rear Commodore – Gary Eagle



I logged 23 years of active duty in the Navy. During my enlisted time, I was aboard two submarines, was an air crewman with an F-18 squadron, and spent ten years serving in Navy Special Projects units. I became interested in sailing as a hobby in the late '70s, as all Navy bases had a marina with 16'-18' boats for us to rent.

I was reintroduced to sailing at Lake Pleasant after joining AYC in 2022, and once again became addicted to my love of being on the water. I have been on the crew of several member boats, including my latest position on *Rolling In The Deep*. I intend to be in the Club and racing for many years to come.

Racing Captain – Bruce Andress



I am a lifelong resident of Arizona, having been born in Yuma, a good place to be from! We later moved to Parker, AZ, where I graduated from High School before moving to Phoenix. Once here, we began sailing with the Lake Pleasant Sailing Club. After buying our first boat, a Catalina 25, we immediately met people from AYC and started racing with them.

In 2005, we joined the AYC and have enjoyed racing on Lake Pleasant aboard *Bitchen* and now on *Team Gravity* with other club members. Dianne eventually

asked me to buy her her own boat, so she now races *Runaway*, a Merit 25. We both enjoy racing and cruising and have cruised in the Bahamas and Belize several times.

In 2015, I joined the board as Vice Commodore, continued up the chain of command to Commodore, and then moved into the two-year Staff Commodore position. As Jr. Staff Commodore, I organized the 2018 Birthday Regatta, which had almost 70 boats for the weekend competition.

I returned to the board in 2024 as the Racing Captain and look forward to serving in the same role for another year. One of my accomplishments is the installation of a permanent race committee. This approach allows folks to race in the entire series rather than rotating race committee duties and missing a week of racing. As long as we can get volunteers to help, this will continue to be an excellent approach for the racers!

As the owner of Tumbleweed Sailing on Lake Pleasant, Dianne and I keep a fleet of boats running, cleaned, and fine-tuned for our Tumbleweed guests. In our spare time, we travel, visit our children, and have been ballroom dancing for several years now.

Cruising Captain – Joe Motil



Ahoy! I'm no son of a sailor, but I have been called many names that sound like that! I was late to sailing as an Arizona native born in Mesa, let's just say a while back. I grew up doing anything aquatic, from competitive swim teams with Mesa Aquatics to swimming in canals and lakes, water skiing, kayaking, canoeing, SCUBA diving, and pretty much anything to do with water. I even like to do plumbing projects!

My first introduction to sailing occurred when I was 26 at the Wisconsin house of two-time Olympic medalist Peter Barrett, who happened to be an in-law at the time. I learned a lot from him, his sons and his daughter. One of the most exciting things about sailing is that I still learn something new every time I splash a hull.

I became a member in 2006 and joined the board in 2007 as Secretary. The following year, I served as Rear Commodore and subsequently as Vice, Commodore, and Staff Commodore. I rejoined the board in 2022 as the Cruising Captain.

Since I spent a lot of time working with people, I now enjoy teaching and consider it a valuable trait. I also consider myself very fortunate to have had the experiences I have had over the years and am now shifting gears from racing to the more relaxed side of cruising. I like to think of cruising as an extended recreational day sail. One of the numerous aspects of cruising is that you learn different things than when racing, which takes you to so many different places, literally and metaphorically. So, I like to take any opportunity to cruise, I mean cruise and make it fun.

I'm retired from the Phoenix Children's Hospital and loving it. I'm married to the lovely, talented, and tolerant Bonnie, and from a previous marriage, I have one son (James), his wife Olivia, and a granddaughter, Madison.

Membership Director – Steve DeMar (two-year term)



I grew up in the Chicago suburbs and learned to sail at camp. In 1970, when I was a teenager, my father bought a Tumblaren 27, a wooden sloop built in the 1930s. He partnered with my scoutmaster, who had sailing experience. We kept the boat on a buoy in Monroe Harbor, near downtown Chicago, where about 10 other Tumblarens made a fleet that raced on summer weekends. Most of the time, we used it to cruise the coast near Chicago, where good winds and rolling waves and, more than once, a

late afternoon squall would surprise us. It had a full keel, a rotating boom to reef the mainsail, and was stable in rough conditions.

After graduating from Southern Illinois University, I moved to Arizona and worked on computer systems for several companies including APS, American Express, and Wells Fargo. Just like Rip Van Winkle, I was away from sailing for 45 years and it wasn't until retiring that my wife Debbie and I took a harbor sailing cruise on a Catalina 40 in San Diego. We both loved it and decided to get back into sailing by taking the ASA 101 class. Since then, I have taken other ASA classes, including 103, 104, 105, and 114.

Three years ago, I joined the AYC for racing and the Lake Pleasant Sailing Club for cruising. I've found that the racing schedule is a great way to get on the water and learn new sailing skills. Since joining, I have crewed in races on a Hobie 33, a J 29, and a Buccaneer 18, and then bought a Buccaneer 18.

Also, I've cruised on chartered boats from Marina Sailing, CA, with most trips going from the Long Beach Marina to Catalina Island, which is a fine place for a weekend getaway. I look forward to helping the AYC with membership and related tasks to make sailing more accessible and more fun.

Junior Staff Commodore – Martin Lorch (two-year term)



I was born in Casablanca, Morocco, and lived there for 12 ½ years before moving to Finland. At age 14, I flew over the big pond to Beverly Hills, CA, to attend Beverly Hills High and then UCLA.

I own a real estate and property management company specializing in developing and managing self-storage properties. I also manage office buildings and mobile home parks.

It may be hard to believe, but I've been sailing since age 2. No kidding! I've sailed in Morocco, Europe, Southern and Baja California, and Arizona. I've raced and crewed in numerous races in Southern California, in several Marina Del Rey to San Diego races (including my Santana 20 in 1986), Santa Barbara to King Harbor (Redondo Beach), won the Congressional Cup on Cal 40's, Cal 40's Nationals in the mid-'70s, Lipton Cup the early '80s, around Catalina Island on my brother Jacques' Irwin 38, raced in the Sea of Cortez near San Carlos and Guaymas, Mex., cruised the west coast from San Francisco to Los Angeles, did the Baja Haha from San Diego to Cabo San Lucas in 2019, and cruised from Nanaimo, Vancouver Island, across to the Sunshine Coast in British Columbia and the Salish Sea into Desolation Sound, north of Lund.

Sailing must be in my blood since my grandfather owned a 12-meter boat in Riga (Latvia) in the early 1900s and sailed extensively in the Baltic Sea, to Finland, Sweden, and around the British Isles. His father owned a Finnish-made and designed 9.6-meter HAJ or [HAI Keelboat](#) (Finnish for Shark) and sailed in the Atlantic off the coast of Morocco, across the Strait of Gibraltar to Spain and the Mediterranean.

As a competitive sailor, I have raced in Arizona since 1980 and owned and raced a Santana 20 since 1985. Between 2001 and 2015, I owned a Catalina 22 and raced with my daughter, Alexia, and son, Cedric to win the first ever AYC Club Championship for the Catalina Fleet. I am a seven-time AYC Club Champion, most recently in 2021 with Cedric as crew.

I have been an AYC member since 1981 and served several years as the AYC Fleet Captain before climbing the board ladder to become Commodore in 1993-1994. I had my eye on becoming a (Distinguished) Life Member, and after achieving this status, I hope to sail years beyond the oldest sailing club member. I enjoy teaching and coaching others with hands-on sailing. In 2023, I committed to serve again as Vice Commodore and currently serve as your Commodore.

When not sailing or working, I enjoy fixing things, traveling, skiing, wild mushroom hunting, cooking, and planting trees.