

Andrew L. Cole – MD

Optimist Experience:

I grew up sailing Optimist dinghies in Miami on a Coral Reef team that included a future national champion, several Worlds team members, at least one future College Sailor of the Year . . . and me. Highlights of my Opti career included top five finishes at the 1987 Valentines and the 1987 Area D Team Trials and 3rd at the 1987 team race nationals (sailing with Senet, Tracy Hayley and Suzie Humble).

Post-Opti I coached for several years, until graduating from college. During and after college I began serving on race committees and juries for various Opti events, including at least one team trials and a few Orange Bowls. After moving to Maryland in 1999 I started an annual Hospice Cup charity Optimist team race regatta to introduce Opti sailors to team racing. The last four or five years have been the best of my Opti career as Flora's dad and Severn Sailing Association Opti team cheerleader. Flora is a second year white fleeter. Over the last two years we've been all over the Chesapeake, up to the Atlantic Coasts in New Jersey, down to the Southeast Champs at Camp Seagull, and to the Valentines this February.

Having been involved with Optis on and off over more than 35 years, I firmly believe that sailboat racing, but particularly the Opti, creates happy, confident, well rounded and capable kids.

Sailing Experience:

After Optis, I sailed Laser IIs for a few years, participated in two Youth Champs (was 4th place as a crew in 1988 with former Opti national champion John Smoak) and the 1989 World Championship (with current Opti-dad Tyler Moore). I sailed in high school for Tabor Academy. In college I founded the Davidson College sailing team, taught a group of novices how to sail and dragged them (hopefully to their delight) around the country to regattas. During my senior year I served as president and cheerleader in chief of the South Atlantic Intercollegiate Sailing Association; post-college I served as executive vice president of the district for a year. During college I started sailing 505s, participating in the 1998 World Championship (with another former opti sailor). I took a hiatus for a few years, but have recently started sailing Lasers again with our local fleet, crewing in a Snipe for Flora, and I occasionally dabble in Star boats (sailed the 2018 Star World Championship and hope to sail this year's, social distancing permitting).

Sailing Volunteer Experience:

I served on the board of directors of ISSA (high school sailing) for approximately fifteen years starting in 1998, serving as its general counsel for several years. I served a few years on the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Racing Association board of directors in the mid-2000s. I served five years on the Severn Sailing Association Board of Governors, three as Secretary, coming off last November. I currently serve on the US Sailing bylaws committee and the Severn Sailing Association Standing Race Committee and Junior Committee. I have been a certified US Sailing

judge since 1998 and have judged at all levels from local regattas to world championships (most recently the 2018 505 World Championship).

I have a hard time saying no when it comes to helping people get racing and working to ensure the fairness of the racing. The Optimist class is a great class and I would be proud to be a part of helping to sustain it as the gold standard for youth sailing.