

Meet the Competitors: Annapolis YC Double-handed Distance Race

R.J. Cooper & Courtney Cooper Cumberland are a brother and sister team from Oxford, Maryland and Panama City, Florida. They have sailed together throughout their youth as well as while on the Sailing Team for the University of Florida. The pair has teamed up for a bid to represent the United States and win gold at the 2024 Olympics in Paris. They will be sailing *Tenacious* owned by AYC member Carl Gitchell. **Sail #501**



Erik Haaland and Andrew Waters will be sailing the new Italia Yachts 9.98 sport boat named *Vichingio* (Viking). Erik Haaland is the Sales Director for Italia Yachts USA at David Walters Yachts. He has sailed his entire life and currently races on performance sport boats including the Farr 30, Melges 32 and J70. Andrew Waters is a Sail and Service Consultant at Quantum Sails in Annapolis. His professional sailing career began in South Africa and later the Caribbean and includes numerous wins in large regattas. **Sail #17261**



Ethan Johnson and Cat Chimney have sailing experience in dinghies, foiling skiffs, offshore racers and mini-Maxis. Ethan, a Southern Maryland native now living in NY is excited to be racing in home waters. Cat was born on Long Island, NY but spent time in Auckland, New Zealand. She has sailed with Olympians, America's Cup sailors and Volvo Ocean Race sailors. Cat is Technical Specialist and Rigger at the prestigious Oakcliff Sailing where Ethan also works as the Training Program Director. Earlier this year Cat and Ethan teamed up to win the Oakcliff Double-handed Melges 24 Distance Race. In Annapolis they will be sailing J105 ***Rum Puppy*** owned by Jack Biddle. They are confident in their abilities to win the Annapolis Yacht Club Double-handed Distance Race and their strategy is to keep it simple. **Sail #321.**



Ben Capuco and Matt Garner will be competing on *Zuul* an Aerodyne 38 in the ORC class. Ben and Matt are both naval architects at Gibbs & Cox supporting the design of almost everything but sailboats. Ben has sailed his entire life settling in Annapolis but now living in Alexandria, VA. He previously campaigned a J/24, Etchells and Humphreys 38. Matt grew up sailing on the Chesapeake Bay and raced his own J/22 before joining Ben 4 years ago. **Sail #38012.**



Randy Smyth and Christina Persson will be sailing J105 *Mirage* owned by AYC members Cedric Lewis and Fredrik Salvesen. Randy is one of North America's top multihull sailors and a member of the National Sailing Hall of Fame. Residing in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, Randy is a five-time U.S. Multihull Champion, two-time Olympic Silver medalist, two-time Tornado World champion and won the America's Cup as helmsman for Stars & Stripes in 1988. Christina started sailing on Martha's Vineyard and sailing has since taken her around the country and around the world. Accomplishments include winning the 2016 New England 100 distance race in an F18, third place in the 2016 Snipe Masters in the Bahamas, top American at the 2018 Miami World Cup in the foiling Nacra 17, international campaigns in a Laser Radial and the foiling Nacra 17. A multi-sport endurance athlete, Christina also competes in triathlons and obstacle course races. **Sail #328.**



John Loe and Matt Schubert will be sailing John's J33 *Hornet* in the ORC class. John grew up in New Orleans at Southern Yacht Club and has sailed extensively there as well as in his new home, Annapolis. He was an All American at St. Mary's College of Maryland where he won a couple of national championships. He sails a variety of one design and handicap boats and was on the winning crew this year with former AYC Commodore Kevin McNeil at Block Island. He recently won the Clifford Day Mallory Cup for the United States Adult Sailing Championship. Matt is a native Annapolitan who has sailed his whole life and been a member of AYC for 23 years. He is a graduate of the United States Merchant Marine Academy where he was an All-American sailor and Collegiate Keelboat National Champion. He has done 4 Bermuda races, the first when he was only 10 years old. Matt has been top 5 in three J22 world championships and enjoys sailing all over the East Coast with his wife and two children on their Catalina 36. Both sailors are excited to compete in the Double-handed Distance Race. **Sail #45.**



Pat and Amy Teeling are a husband and wife team and well-known local sailors. Amy and her sisters grew up racing on the family's Cal 36 while Pat's introduction to racing began with his older brother at the local dinghy club before moving on to larger boats. They will be sailing their Pearson Flyer, *Blaze Star*, in the ORC class. Pat and Amy have owned their boat for more than 20 years and have enjoyed double handing her locally and for multiple cruises to the Bahamas and other places. They recently competed in the 46th annual St. Mary's College of Maryland Governor's Cup finishing first in PHRF B, beating the four fully crewed boats in their class that finished. Pat and Amy enjoy cruising and racing together without other crew and look forward to the Double-handed distance race which is perfect for them. From the pictures it looks like Amy gets to do all the fun stuff and Pat does the hard work! **Sail #83348.**



Mike Coe and Cate Muller will be sailing the brand new Jeanneau Sun Fast 3300 *Alchemist* in the ORC class. Mike is a representative for Jeanneau America and has done plenty of distance and ocean races such as Annapolis to Newport, Newport to Bermuda and the Pineapple Cup, and is excited for his first double handed event. He also sails inshore on J24s, J80s and J70s. Cate Muller is an accomplished inshore sailor who placed second in last year's J22 Worlds. She is also an avid and accomplished distance sailor in the Great Lakes, having competed in an amazing 17 Chicago Mackinac races getting second place five times. Both are excited about double-handed racing and the new Olympic event. **Sail #4.**



Brian Gray and Reeves Hollar will be sailing the Mini Transat 6.50 *Trouble No Trouble*. They have raced *TNT* to and from Bermuda three times, learning a bit more about shorthanded transit each time. Although not a boat designed for Bay racing, they relish the chance to compete with some of the best sailors on the East Coast. Brian learned to sail in the Midwest, on everything from Snipe class to Maxi's, including multiple Mac, Tri-State other distance races. Reeves learned to sail in North Carolina, skippered private yachts in Maine and met Brian's daughter while competing on Auburn University's Sailing Team. In true Corinthian fashion, Reeves asked Brian if he could marry his daughter while they were racing back from Bermuda in 2017...To which, Brian replied "Ya know, I could tell folks you never got on the boat..." **Sail #831.**



Roger Lant and Michael Welin will be sailing the J 35 *Abientot* in the ORC class. Roger grew up sailing in the North Sea on dinghies and benefitted from the RYA Youth development program before graduating to cruiser/racers including extensive Sigma 38 One Design Racing on the West Coast of Scotland and a regular Participant at Cork Week. Since moving to the US, Roger has raced Trip 26, 36.7, Farr 30, J 80 and J 35's. Michael grew up on a liveaboard during his childhood and returned to sailing when moving to Washington DC in 2006. Since then he has crewed on the bay and completed the 2007 Annapolis to Newport, where he met Roger. **Sail #42979.**



Don Poirier and Nancy Haberland are representing the US Naval Academy. Don, from Lincoln, RI, is a 2/c midshipman majoring in naval architecture and marine engineering. He has been a primary helmsman/tactician for Navy's Offshore sailing team and competed on a Navy 44 in the Newport to Bermuda race. This summer he helmed *Zaraffa*, an R/P 66, to overall honors in the Marblehead to Halifax race. Nancy has coached sailing at the Academy for 18 years. Her resume includes over 20 national and 10 world titles on various dinghies and small keelboats. She has participated in three summer Olympics as athlete and coach. They will be sailing J105 *Avenger*. **Sail # 676.**



Will Bomar and Bri Grenier will be sailing Peregrine owned by Bill and Lesley Carruth.

Will is a North Sails expert who recently moved to Annapolis from Newport RI. He has competed in Down the Bay, Block Island, the Vineyard, and the Ida Lewis distance races. He is an accomplished sailor in the J/105 and J/24 class most recently taking home third at the J/24 US Nationals.

Bri is another Annapolis newcomer who moved here from the Boston area last year. There she competed in J/24s, J/80s and a Columbia 32 in a variety of one design, offshore and distance events including Block Island, Off Soundings, Beringer Bowl and many NOODs. Since moving here, she has gained local experience sailing the Miles River Race, Boomerang, the NASS Race to Oxford and the Annapolis NOODs.

Will and Bri are no strangers to doublehanded sailing as their four-legged crew only know how to hike. **Sail #252.**



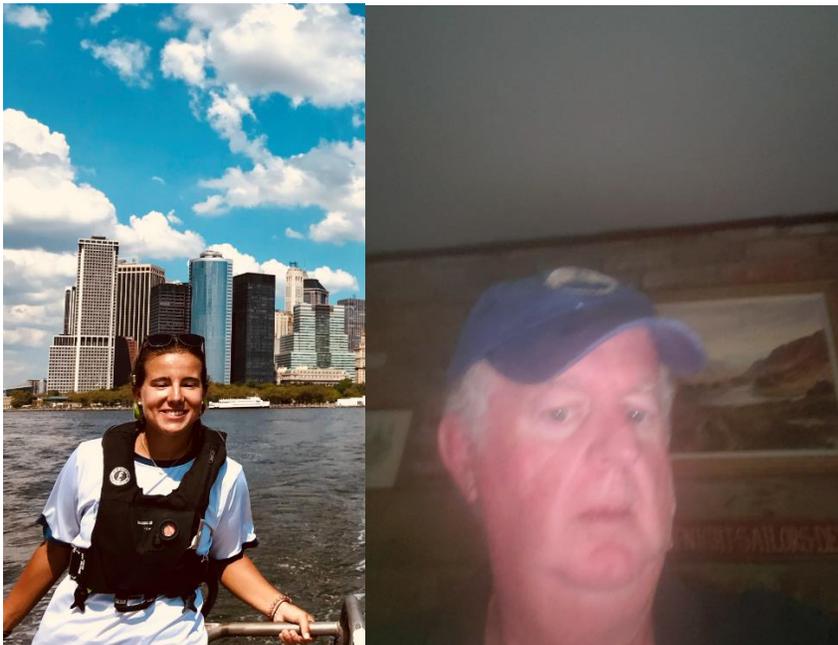
Patrick Gavin-Brynes (Lake George, NY) & **Evelyn Hull** (Tiburon, CA) are both professional sailors with diverse technical backgrounds working at the pinnacle of sailing technology. Combined they have over 55k ocean miles spanning events such as the Sydney-Hobart, Fastnet, and transoceanic races on both coasts. With their experiences both on and off the water, there was an undeniable level of synergy that led them to team up in late 2017 as the co-ed skippers for the American Ocean Racing Project. American Ocean Racing Project was created with one goal in mind: "To become North America's most competitive, mixed gender, short-handed sailing team". The team is working to compete internationally in the Class 40 circuit and has goals to race around the world double-handed. With the announcement of the co-ed offshore Olympic class AOR plans to continue to pursue its goals with the hope that this path will best prepare us to represent the United States in the 2024 games. The team is very excited to be competing in the J105 class on the borrowed ***Dog House*** owned by Arthur Libby with auto helm and sail provided by Bob Putnam. Follow along! **Sail #98.**



MIDN 2/C Katie Boyle and Jay Corcoran

Katie just entered her junior year at the Naval Academy where she has been on the Varsity Offshore Sailing Team since she first arrived. Katie grew up sailing dinghies on the Jersey Shore and has transitioned well to racing big boats at Navy. She has served as primary driver aboard the Academy's Ker 50 and has competed in the Newport to Bermuda Race, Marblehead to Halifax Race among other events. She also served as helm aboard an Academy J105 in one design racing during the fall of 2018.

Jay has sailed a variety of keelboats for the past 40+ years up and down the US east coast including owning and competing with his own J/105. He's sailed in Key West Race Week, Charleston Race Week, Block Island Race Week and numerous other events and recently began volunteering as a coach for the Navy Offshore Sailing Team where he has been coaching and mentoring the midshipmen. They will be sailing J105 *Dreadnought*. Sail #586.



Laurent Givry and Fred Probst will be sailing the Figaro 3 *La Defonce* in the ORC class. Good friends, they have been racing together for several years. Laurent was born in Toulouse France and as a kid he cruised the Mediterranean summers with his father. At 16 years old he joined the French Navy where he learned to navigate sailing big two masted schooners. A later stint teaching sailing at Club Med rounded out his early sailing career. Later, while visiting Annapolis he fell in love with a Beneteau 36.7 which he bought on the spot. Three boats later he is very involved with sailing and loves racing. Laurent recently won the Annapolis to Newport race sailing double-handed. Fred Probst honed his sailing skills as an instructor at the Annapolis Sailing School and as a delivery skipper. He has sailed over 25,000 miles offshore including Annapolis to Sydney Australia in 2018. He has competed in the Annapolis Newport and Bermuda races as well as many inshore regattas and looks forward to the unique challenges and skill development provided by sailing double handed regattas. Laurent says, "Love you all and good luck for the race!" **Sail #61170.**



Steve Hale and Tyler Waldron will be racing on Steve's 2016 Salona S380, *Cookie Monster* in ORC class. This is Cookie Monster's first season racing in the Chesapeake and Steve and Tyler decided to enter the AYC double-handed race after sailing the boat from New Orleans short-handed earlier this summer. **Sail #04.**



Scott Dodge and Nick Finucan will be sailing their new L30, *Infringer* in the ORC class. The L30 has been selected as the double handed boat for the 2020 World Sailing's Offshore World Championship.

Scott, an Annapolis yacht broker with Martin Bird, has been racing on the Chesapeake Bay and offshore for over 5 decades. He has raced on One design boats from J22's to TP52's as well as custom offshore boats. He has been a member of some of the most prominent teams from Annapolis, including "Goldfish", "Infringer", "Uarshek" "Sjambok", "Ramrod" "Blockade Runner" and "Donnybrook" to name a few. Along the way these teams have won 3 Annapolis Newport races, 3 Annapolis Bermuda races, 1 Pineapple Cup, 3 Fort Lauderdale to Key West races and pretty much every distance race on the Bay. Nick, from Alexandria, VA has been a sailing instructor in the Washington DC/Virginia area as well as racing on the Chesapeake Bay and offshore. He is the bowman on the Farr 400 "Jeroboam" and has Annapolis to Newport and Block Island Race Week victories to his credit. As well, he is known in local PHRF racing on the Bay with the Farr 30 "Blockade Runner". **Sail #10.**

