



Nicky Souter (Sailing Director)

5th year as RYC Sailing Director

Hometown: Sydney, Australia

Home Club: Prince Alfred YC

Sailing Experience: Women's Match Racing World Champion (2009), No. 1 ISAF ranking (2011), superyachts (Silencio, Tribe, Wild Oats)

Fun fact: I took a boat to school every day when growing up.



Key Becker (Head Instructor)

Junior at the College of Charleston

10 years in Big Boats (offshore & inshore) consisting of many one-design boats, sport boats, and maxis / 8 years in Dinghies consisting of Optimis, 420's, Lasers, FJ's, Moths, 29ers

Special Talents: Known for climbing masts and making awesome nachos

My favorite sailing memory was finding a whale carcass in the Pacific Ocean which led to catching lots of fish and making for 5 days of really good offshore meals.

I am most looking forward to sharing the joy of sailing with campers and great days on the water.



Emily Kuchta

(aka Mum – Assistant to the Sailing Director)

I received my Masters in Early Childhood Education at Manhattanville College and my BA in Elementary Education from New England College working at Sacred Heart in Greenwich as a Kindergarten teacher.

I have not done any sailing but know a lot about the JSA website and booking/organizing regattas!

Special Talents: I can do a handstand and play ice hockey!



Ashton Borcharding

Stanford University Class of 2022

I have sailed 2 years in Optis on LIS and 2 years in c420's out of Belle Haven. I have 5 years in i420's with LISOT.

Special Talents: I speak French.

My favorite sailing memory was competing in Auckland New Zealand in the i420. It was such an amazing venue and honor to be able to sail for the US. I

had an incredible time both on and off the water.

This summer I am looking forward to being a part of the Riverside community and being able to spend my summer out on the water! Some of my favorite sailing memories were out on Long Island Sound so I'm really excited to be able to come back as a coach!



Isabella Clemens

Greenwich High School Class of 2018
Varsity Sailing Team Captain

I work at Sportsplex teaching swimming to kids 2-10 years old.

I have sailed Optis, Fevas, Pixels, 420's, Melges 32 and Farr 395.

Special Talents: I am an avid skier and race at Mt. Snow.

My favorite sailing memory was doing the Beach Point overnight last year through the RYC program. When I was able to do the race last year I was onboard with multiple friends and it was my first time sailing overnight. I would recommend the Big Boat program at RYC. It made me a more knowledgeable sailor.

I look forward to teaching the next generation of sailing as it is my favorite sport.



TJ Danilek

Westhill High School Class of 2018

I have sailed 13 years in total including Sonars, Optis, i420's, c420's and Lasers.

Special Talents: I also play hockey.

My favorite sailing memory was sailing over the 10 foot swells in Argentina because it represents how breathtaking sailing can be.

I look forward to accompanying younger kids on their sailing journeys and teaching them why sailing is such an amazing sport.



Austen Freda

Tufts Class of 2021

I have sailed for 12 years in Optis, c420's, z420's, FJ's, Lasers, Firefly, J-105's, and The Lark.

Special Talents: I enjoy ping-pong, skiing and breakdancing.

Favorite Sailing Memory: In my sophomore year of high school, I started racing competitively and was nowhere near the competition level of the top race team. However, after the 3rd starter got kicked out of school and his replacement had to leave for the weekend, I was in line to start at the team racing nationals qualifier. I was terribly nervous, but at the start of every race I would simply pin my nearest opponent until layline, and then either be the 1 or 5 depending on which side ended up being favored at every race. My teammates were fantastic sailors and as long as I consistently had that one pair, they could put the team in a position to win. We ended up winning the qualifier and it was the first time I had felt that I actually contributed to the team.

I am looking forward to teaching kids how to love sailing!



David Ingraham

Bates College

I have 7 years sailing experience in Lasers, and 420's, as well as varying keel boats such as J boats, Shields, IOD's and Vipers.

Special Talents: I play the saxophone and harmonica and can do a summersault.

My favorite sailing memory was in a J145 under an asymmetric spinnaker and the wind indicator at the masthead needed adjustment, so I being the youngest sailor on board was sent up the mast. Once I fixed the windyme, the spinnaker was so massive and full of power that it could support my weight and I lied on top of it like a pillow.

I look forward to showing the kids how amazing sailing is. There are valuable lessons that only can be taught through getting in a boat and moving with the wind.



Emma Jakobsen

Harvard College – Sophomore

I sailed Optimis for 6 years, 420's the last 3-4 years and a J109/J100.

Special Talents: Baking, modern dance and soccer.

My favorite sailing memory was with my great uncle on the Swedish Archipelago.

I am looking forward to meeting all of the new sailors, teaching sailing, and having a lot of fun along the way!



Elizabeth Lonergan

University of South Carolina

I have sailed for 11 years in Optis, 420's, FJ's, J80's, and Saber 42's.

Special Talents: I can stand on my head, I am a great cook, and I was born in Hong Kong.

My favorite sailing memory was c420's in Newport. It was awesome to compete and do well in one of the largest fleets in National history that was filled with a lot of really skilled sailors.

I am looking forward to seeing the kids improve their skills and see their passion for sailing grow.



Jonathan Mears

Webb Institute

I have sailed 6 years in 420's, 4 years in J24's, 4 years in J109's, 6 years in Lasers, 4 years in Hobie 16's, 4 years in FJ's, and 2 years in Pixels.

Special Talents: Satisfactory welding. Can back up any trailer correctly. Can fix most damage on boats.

My favorite sailing memory was the 2017 Falkner Island Race. By far one of the most beautiful nights of sailing I have ever seen. Our boat as well as another 109 had the longest match race with over 2 dozen sail changes. We had a constant 10-12 knots the entire night.

As a new instructor I am extremely excited to teach many kids what I have been able to learn throughout my long sailing career. From sail mechanics to tactics, I look forward to improving all of the kids that I get to coach. As well as learning from the kids themselves on how I can become a better coach as well as a sailor.



Lindsay Powers

Tufts Class of 2021

I have been sailing for 14 years total but 10 competitively. In Optis out of AYC for 6 years, then I switched to Lasers for my final 3 years. I also sailed 420's for Rye High School (beginning in 7th grade) and continued into college. I skipper double-handed boats for Tufts,

with the occasional triple-handed or big boat regatta where I trim.

Special Talents: I can eat a whole apple.

My favorite sailing memory was doing the Beach Point Regatta, and as we sailed down LIS we watched a lightning storm pass over Long Island. It was beautiful.

I am most looking forward to Pancake Day as an instructor.



Ruth Wilkinson Reynolds

Colgate Class of 2021

I have sailed 10 years in Optis, Lasers, and 420's.

Special Talents: I dabble in playing the trumpet and I love Art History.

My favorite sailing memory was when my sister skippered for me and in the middle of the race we got into a huge argument and we both fought each other in the boat. We ended up

pushing each other out and the boat continued to sail without us.

I am looking forward to spending time with the kids and watching their growth as sailors.



Kate Russack

Boston University Class of 2022

I have sailed Optimis for 6 years, 420's for 2 years and Fevas and Pixels each for 1 year.

I am also a competitive diver and will dive at Boston University. I have also been a serious skier my whole life.

My favorite sailing memory is when my team did a drill where the skipper was totally blindfolded and could not see anything. The skipper had to rely on the crew

to give them directions on how to navigate around the course. Although I was the crew, I felt a lot of pressure to give specific and proper instructions to my skipper so that they would not get hurt and would sail in the right direction. This drill was valuable and unique in that it helped the skipper gain trust with the crew and forced the pair to communicate with each other. Although these are not technical skills for sailing the boat, they are equally as important in order to be successful on the water. I am so excited to be working with kids because I love to pass down my knowledge and be someone that the kids can look up to. I am also looking forward to gaining new perspectives and insights about sailing from the other instructors. My goal is to get kids to love sailing as much as I do!



Addie Schoen

Undecided for Freshman Year of college

I have sailed 4 years in an Opti, 1 year in a Pixel, 2 years in a c420, 2 years in a Laser Radial, and 3 summers on a J105 team.

Special Talents: I love to play Volleyball and make food!

My favorite sailing memory was in a 420 with my best friend for a summer because that's when I realized how enjoyable but competitive sailing really is.

I am looking forward to spending as much time as possible on the water, meeting lots of new kids, and teaching them what I know about sailing, including how much fun it is!



Griffin Segalla

George Washington University Class of 2022

I have been sailing for 9 years in Optis, c420's, i420's, Laser Radials, Laser Full Rigs and Big Boats.

Special Talents: I used to be a competitive mogul skier!

My favorite sailing memory was i420 Worlds in 2016. The regatta had everything – competition, getting to know people from around the world, and seeing the Italian Riviera. I couldn't have asked for a better time.

I am looking forward to watching everyone improve. I coach skiing during the winter, and I know that my favorite part is seeing the kids develop as skiers. I can't wait to see the same thing in the sailors this summer!



Max Simmons

Sophomore in Life

I have 16 years in sailing Optis, c420's, i420's, and in college.

Special Talents: I love skiing and climbing things.

My favorite sailing memory is banging the right corner at Garda so hard I touched the land with my finger tips on the starboard tack. It blew my mind that my centerboard didn't hit the ground: the cliff went practically straight down 1,000 feet under water.

I am looking forward to getting the RYC sailors to the next level and seeing how much better the Opti's are at the beginning of this summer relative to the beginning of last summer.