

2021 A2N What to Expect Seminar Series – Presenter Bios

Safety Equipment for Vessel & Crew

Jim Praley

Jim began sailing on the Chesapeake in his early teens but didn't venture offshore until his late 40's. Since then, he has enjoyed competing in multiple Annapolis to Newport, Newport-Bermuda, Marblehead to Halifax, and Fort Lauderdale to Key West races, on his own boats as well as those of tolerant friends. He has experienced the pain of preparing two different boats for offshore racing – since 2009 a J/120 named *Shinnecock*. Jim is a member of the Storm Trysail Club and the Cruising Club of America and has served as Chair of the Organizing Committee for the 2017, 2019, and 2021 Annapolis to Newport races.

Jim has sailed with a cast of characters over the years, some of whom he is related to, including son Jimmy Praley who will be at the helm this year and brother Michael aka Uncle Mike. Jim and his wife Dr. Joan Gillece are longtime AYC Club members who over the years have supported adult and junior sailing as well as the AYC Foundation.

Bob Fox

Bob has been sailing for over 25 years, starting out with a Laser and then owned a J/24 and crewed on a large variety of other boats where he started racing offshore in the mid-'80s. In 2005 he bought *Schematic* a J/42 which he owned for 13 years. In 2018 he bought *SLY*, an Xp44, and 28 days later raced it to Bermuda. With the exception of 2 years (2020 being one), Bob has raced offshore with his own boat every year since 2005 and has completed multiple Annapolis to Newport, Newport to Bermuda, and Annapolis to Bermuda races.

Bob has been an AYC member since 2014. He and his wife Maureen have 4 children and live in Arlington, VA. His son Conner, 25, is a member of *SLY*'s crew.