

Year-end Board Report – Sailing Director
Coleman Terrell

This has been a really good year for Sail Training. Over 200 kids in our programs this year and almost 100 adults! This summer we had six excellent weeks of camp with good winds and 119/120 spots sold. Our PB&J classes were not as full as they have been in recent years but we still got a good turnout. Thank you to my great staff of counselors for making this first summer without Kate go so well, and thank you to Bill Records and his team of junior coaches who make PB&J run so efficiently.

Luckily for us, Gracie Bulgerin, one of our summer camp counselors was interested in taking the job of assistant coach this year. She has been a great fit for AYC and has done an incredible job teaching Opti 1 and our FJ classes.

7 of those PB&J sailors moved up to our Opti 1 class for the fall and we had 7 more kids sign up as well, for our biggest class ever of 14 students! In total we have 59 kids in our fall season this year. Out of those 59, 21 of them have traveled to and competed in a TSA regatta.

All of our clinics ran smoothly thanks in no small part to Bill Records and Carolyn Wilsford, and their teams of volunteers. We had beautiful conditions for each of our fall clinics and good turnouts for both of them.

The Fleet Challenge was successful again, thank you to all of the volunteers that made it happen and all of the competitors and donors. The first race was even one by a team of junior sailors!

I have seen a lot more junior sailors participating in series races and non-junior specific events this year than last year and is something that I think is extremely good for these kids to do. Not all yacht clubs I have been a part of, have been this welcoming to kids coming out to sail and compete on the same playing field and I know from experience how much it means for them to be able to do that.

Working with Jeff Brock this fall, we were able to initiate a high school sailing program here at AYC with tremendous potential for growth next year. We closed our high school season by hosting a SEISA high school regatta with 17 teams from DFW, Houston, and Austin competing. In our high school practices we were able to have about 20 sailors each week to come out and participate and I think most of them are hooked. I am really excited to be a part of this program and watch it grow next year.

Finally, this year has been incredible for me. This my first time as a sailing director, having been a coach for many years, and I could not have hoped for a better place to start. Thanks to Kate Noble and Bill Records for bringing me on as an assistant last year, and pointing me in the right direction when Kate left for Annapolis. I've had some great mentors that I owe a lot of credit to. The club membership has been very welcoming and supportive of me, and I have really enjoyed getting to know a lot of you. The junior sailors we have here at AYC are without a doubt the best group of kids I have ever coached and it has been a tremendous experience working here so far and I am very excited for what 2017 holds!