

MARY ELLEN INGHAM
CANDIDATE BIO — SAILING DIRECTOR

MARY ELLEN has been a member of the Sarasota Sailing Squadron since 2021. She was appointed as Sailing Director in 2026. Mary Ellen has been active in fleet racing primarily with Fleet 154 Sunfish/ISCA boats since 2021, which she and others started with the primary goal of providing a learning environment. The fleet continues to grow and has attracted new members due to the champion sailing conditions and opportunities at the Squadron. Mary Ellen led the team for the annual Sarasota Sunshine Sunfish Regatta and assisted the Luffing Lassies with multiple Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions. She frequently teaches learning sessions for the Luffing Lassies, Fleet 154 and volunteers for Race Committee or mark boats for Squadron regattas. Mary Ellen frequently travels to regattas to race in both Thistles and Sunfish/ISCA boats.



A few years ago, Mary Ellen noticed each fleet was writing their own NOR and SIs for each of the monthly club regattas. She worked with the Sailing Director, Regatta Director and fleets to write standard NOR and SIs that apply to all in season regattas. This approach is working with minor tweaks to the documents based on feedback. As Sailing Director, Mary Ellen will focus on providing racers with quality, consistent and predictable approaches to running regattas. She also wants to work with the fleets to maintain the best of what they have and to develop initiatives or changes that make things easier to run a fleet, grow fleet membership and encourage members to participate in sailing and racing.

Mary Ellen serves as Secretary to the US Sunfish Class Association (USSCA) board and is past commodore of the Rochester Canoe Club, NY. As a former project

manager for information technology projects, she has extensive experience writing product proposals and contracts for non-profits and for companies in government contracting. Mary Ellen enjoys working with teams to leverage members superpowers to achieve results. She wants to keeping the Squadron a great sailing and racing venue.