

Please review the candidates below and cast your vote today!

### **Elaine Baden**

I have raced surfskis since 2005 and was one of the first verified instructors for surfski (though I have since let it lapse). I am currently a level 2 official, and president of the Berkeley Paddling & Rowing Club. I am most interested in serving on the Ocean Racing Committee to help insure that the rules make sense for all ages and genders.

### **Greg Barton**

I want to see surfski paddling and competitions continue to grow in USA!

### **Matt Drayer**

I've been a competitive COR/surfski paddler for 15 years, I'm a member of my local Paddle America Club as well as my local surfski paddling (read: downwinding) community, and I'm involved with the production of two popular races -- the annual Bay State Games and Blackburn Challenge -- as well as Nationals!

I am currently the chairperson of the ACA Ocean Racing Committee and have spent the past two years building the game system for ICF-spec Canoe Ocean Racing (aka Surfski Racing) in the USA. I am excited to expand the current system in the next cycle to incorporate coaches, competition organizers, officials, and clubs, and encourage more people to pick up a paddle and catch a run!

### **Mauricio Leon de la Barra (10-year athlete)**

I've been a competitive athlete for over 30 years, excelling in sailing, triathlon, road cycling, and prone paddleboarding. Two years ago, I discovered ocean racing/surfski and became passionate about the thrill it offers and the high level of discipline and technique it demands. But more than anything, I was drawn to the sense of community, camaraderie, and shared passion within the surfski world. It is uniquely welcoming and genuinely inspiring. Serving on the Committee would give me the opportunity to support the sport's continued growth, give back to a community that has had such a meaningful impact on me, and help others experience what makes surfski so special.

### **Geoff Pearson**

I have been a member of the ACA Ocean Racing Committee since 2023, and currently serve as the Secretary. I have been involved in the development of the USA's ICF-spec Canoe Ocean Racing (COR) National Series as well as establishing our relationship with the MolokaBRA -- the hosts of the 2025 (and likely 2026) Pan American Canoe Ocean Racing Continental Championships. I am well-connected within the Southeast surfski community, particularly in my home state of Florida, and I am also affiliated with the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA). I am very much looking forward to continuing my involvement with the ACA Ocean Racing Committee for another two-year term!

### **Joel Pekosz**

I am interested in joining the ACA Ocean Racing Committee because supporting our sport is a huge part of who I am. I care about growing surfski racing in the U.S. and across the world, building community, and helping create more opportunities for paddlers at every level. I participate in many surfski competitions throughout the year, traveling all over the country for events. I'm all-in on lifting this sport up and being of service however and wherever I can!

### **David Scherrer (10-year athlete)**

Have competed in surf ski racing since 1990s. Also an experienced marathon canoe racer. Numerous podiums. In addition have created and organized numerous paddling races. I know the regional paddling community well. Additionally, I Have volunteered as team captain for the mayor multi legged sporting events in our area, Ski to Sea for over 40 years.