

Don Caley  
ASI Board member  
Member since 1992

Don served as ASI's first president; also as Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer during ASI's first nine years. He is now back on the board serving the first year of a three year term. He is in charge of maintenance for the Interlakes at Kensington Metropark, and also edits the weekly ASI newsletter, *the Burgee*.



Don is a Mechanical and Electrical engineer, and has been retired from Ford Motor since 1991. His involvement with ASI's formation in 1992 filled the vacuum left by his departure from Ford. ASI quickly became his new 'day job'.

He has been married to Veronica (Ronnie) for 54 years. They built their retirement home in Milford where they've lived for the past nineteen years. They have two children, a granddaughter and two shelties, Leo and Molly. When not sailing, he watches too much TV, but also enjoys reading, movies, woodworking, gardening, photography, messing with the computer, bicycling, RV-camping, pizza with anchovies, and travel.

He became involved with sailing by (1), building a boat in 1969, then (2), trying to learn to sail it. Ronnie, the kids and the dogs greatly enjoyed those early years of learning to crew for him, with very few serious attempts at mutiny. Then, in 1986, with a background of sailing the local waters, chartering in the North Channel and the Florida Keys, he sold his boat and joined up with AYH, thinking these folks would greatly benefit from his extensive sailing knowledge.

He then learned that there were large gaps in his sailing knowledge. For instance, here were a bunch of sailors that all knew the 'right' way to jibe, come about, and dock! Chastened and humbled, he quickly became the sail program's biggest booster.

He says, "Just think about it. Here we are in Southeast Michigan, with easy access to beautiful local inland lakes as well as all the Great Lakes. Plus Lake St Clair! If you want to sail, there's just no better place to do it. Or any better way to do it than with ASI. Learn to do it right, safely, from the best, friendliest, most accomplished sailors around. And do it at a tiny fraction of what boat ownership would cost."

"And then there are the social aspects. Want to Sail at Kent Lake? Or Stony Creek? Or Lake St Clair? Phone a few buddies from the ASI directory and meet them there. Or just go out on a Wednesday evening to Kent Lake and join a 'crew'. Or take an Evening Sail. Want to sail the North Channel? Sign up for a cruising workshop. Want to sail the BVI's next winter? There's always a bunch of snowbirds headed there, looking for additional crew for a week. The possibilities are endless, as are the chances for enduring friendships."

"Cost? That's a no-brainer! If I had my own boat it would cost more for dockage, than to maintain my ASI membership and sailpass. You just can't beat it. But then again, I'm prejudiced."