



November 18, 2018

Dear CRAB Supporter:

2017 Was a Break Out Year for CRAB!

Who knew when CRAB started the year that we would have a new fleet of boats by the end of the sailing season? However, good things happen to good organizations and CRAB was very fortunate to have an offer of a new fleet from Beneteau USA and Annapolis Yacht Sales that was too good to pass up.

Initially, we were planning to modify two Catalina Aero's to make them into Freedom 20's. However, the cost of the rigging work was substantial. As a counter-proposal to modifying the boats, AYS and Beneteau offered to donate two Beneteau First 22's if CRAB agreed to purchase four more at cost. The CRAB Board of Directors studied the offer and the challenges of being able to raise \$116,000. This was almost 50% of CRAB's entire operating budget the previous year.

Making a bold, historic move, the CRAB Board accepted the challenge and the offer. This was not a quick and easy process. The First 22's were inspected and several modifications were required in order to make the boats suitable for adaptive sailing. The Development Committee swung into full fundraising mode with a mission and monumental goal.

Good fortune smiled on CRAB very soon when The Jack Kagan Foundation family members made a visit to Annapolis. CRAB impressed upon them the critical upgrade to CRAB's aging fleet of 30-year old boats to brand new Beneteau First 22's. Very soon the Kagan family was fully onboard and supportive of the acquisition. They presented CRAB with a check for one boat and expressed interest in future support for fleet acquisition. One boat paid for and three to go...

The Boatyard Bar & Grill Regatta benefitting CRAB was the next major opportunity to raise funds for the fleet. Through exemplary initiative and support from CRAB Board Members and patrons the Skipper's Challenge and inaugural "Paddle Raise" generated enough funds to purchase a second boat. Two boats paid for and two to go...

It was not all about fundraising this season at CRAB. We hosted or participated in 54 events with the support of 85 volunteers who contributed 1933 hours of their time. As impressive as these numbers are, CRAB was able to provide the thrill and freedom of sailing to 789 special guests from Sandy Point State Park and Annapolis. This represents an increase of 14% more guests than 2016.

The sailing included 7 SailFree Sundays; 33 Group Sails; 2 Recovering Warrior Sailing Regattas; the Don Backe Memorial CRAB Cup Regatta; the Boatyard Bar & Grill Regatta; 2 Kids Sailing Camps; 2 Sailing Clinics for persons with spinal cord injuries; and 3 boat show exhibits. At the same time, we transitioned to a new fleet of boats and sold the Freedom 20's to the Downtown Sailing Center in Baltimore.

Once we had the entire fleet of six First 22A's (A for adaptive) we held a ribbon cutting at the US Sailboat Show with the President of Beneteau USA, the Global Manager of Beneteau, the President of Annapolis Yacht Sails, as well as such dignitaries as Maryland State Senator John Astle, MD Veterans Affairs Secretary George Owings, and MD Department of Disabilities Assistant Secretary Bill Frank. The media was well represented and the moment truly reflected CRAB's importance to persons with disabilities in the Chesapeake Bay region and our influence on adaptive sailing across the country. CRAB President Brad LaTour provided a heartfelt welcome and CRAB's sincere appreciation to everyone.

This brings us to the CRAB Annual Appeal and our letter to you. We are in a great position to have a new fleet of First 22A's paid for by early 2018. This annual appeal is specifically focused on paying for the final two boats. We would be

happy to have donors who want to pay for an entire boat for \$30,000 and have their logo on the sail for the next 30 years. However, if this is not feasible, every dollar donated will benefit this important initiative. Our average donation last year was \$149.00!

Please consider making a donation today to benefit CRAB and make a difference in the quality of life for our special guests with disabilities, recovering warriors, and children from at-risk communities. With a fleet of six new boats, CRAB volunteer Skippers and Crew should be able to take over 1,000 guests sailing in 2018. Your donation can turn the dreams of our special guests into a reality.

With your support we look forward to reporting back to you that we have acquired the final two Beneteau First 22A's and are positioned to have another record breaking year for CRAB and our special guests. We hope to soon be saying, "Four boats paid for - full speed ahead!"

Best Regards,

Paul "Bo" Bollinger
Executive Director

Groups hosted by CRAB this season:

Opportunity Builders Inc.
Muscular Dystrophy Association – Teen Group
ARC of Central Chesapeake
Maryland School for the Blind
ARC of Eastern Shore
United Cerebral Palsy DC
ARC of Howard County
Bay Community Support Services

Bello Macre
National Council on Independent Living
Kids in Action
Nina New Stroke Group
Abilities Network
Anne Arundel County Police
Montgomery County Stroke Association
Annapolis City Police
Carroll Co. Bureau of Recreation – Therapeutic Group



Annapolis City Police Kids Sailing Camp participants. Henry Flores, on the first row, far right, said *"I don't want the camp to end!"* July 16, 2018