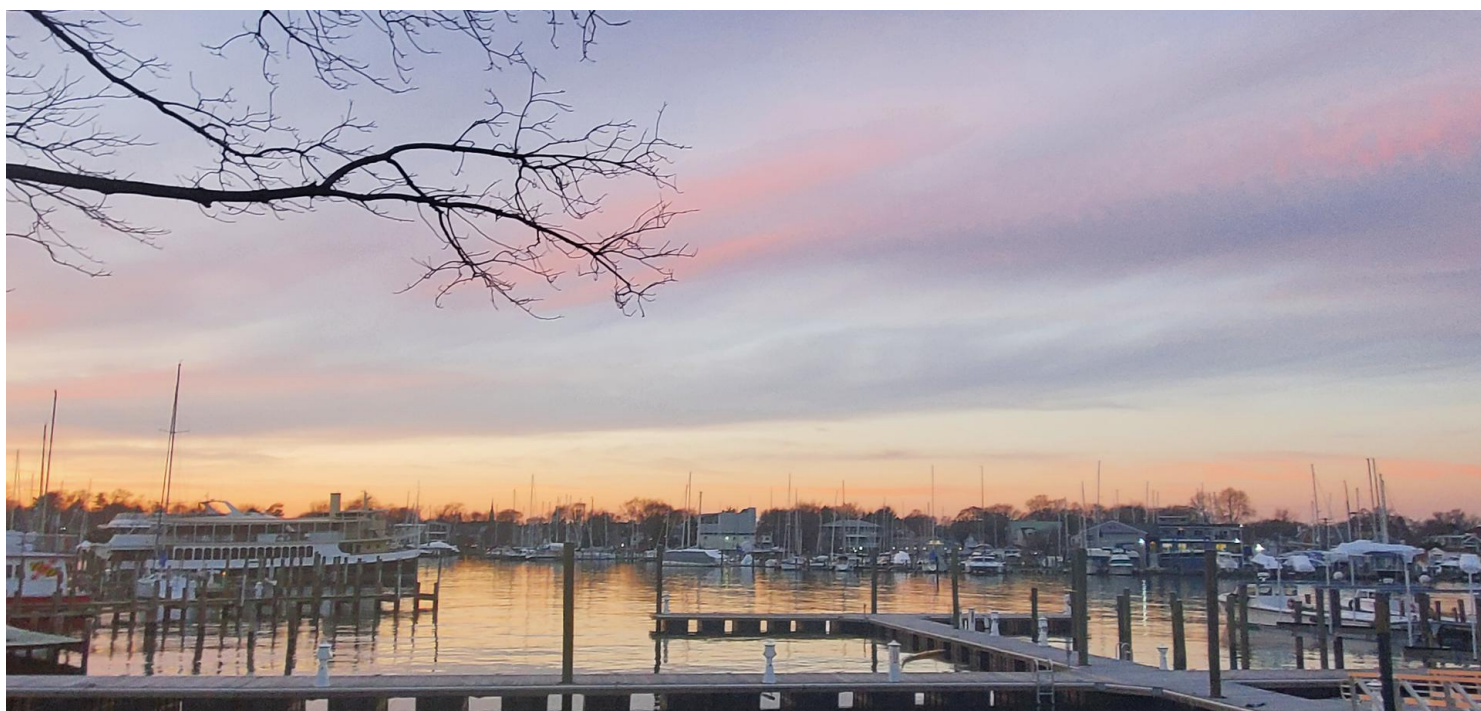




**Changing Lives One Sail at a Time**



*View from the new Adaptive Boating Center*

**A Message From CRAB Executive Director  
Bollinger Jr.**

**Paul "Bo"**



***CRAB Executive Director Paul "Bo" Bollinger Jr.***

I know it is only February and CRAB volunteers will not be preparing our fleet for an incredible new season until the end of March, but with the weather in the 60's, who doesn't have "Boat Fever" now?

It is going to be an exciting and challenging year for our Skippers, Crew, Dock & Land Support teams as we migrate from Sandy Point State Park after 32 years. I am sure we will have fond memories of the picnic table on a patch of dirt that was a magnet for volunteers and guests. But, those memories should quickly fade once operations start at the new CRAB Annapolis Adaptive Boating Center on Back Creek.

We will be sailing out of a busy creek that is home to over 1,200 slips and the largest marinas in the city. This will make our Skipper & Crew training all of the more important as we prepare for the new season. The Volunteer Operations Safety Manual has been reviewed and updated, and it will go through an additional review by the CRAB Safety Committee with experts on the very subject. An entirely new sailing area has been developed and will extend East from Back Creek to the channel at Lake Ogleton, which is actually a greater distance than Sandy Point Light was from the Sandy Point channel breakwall.

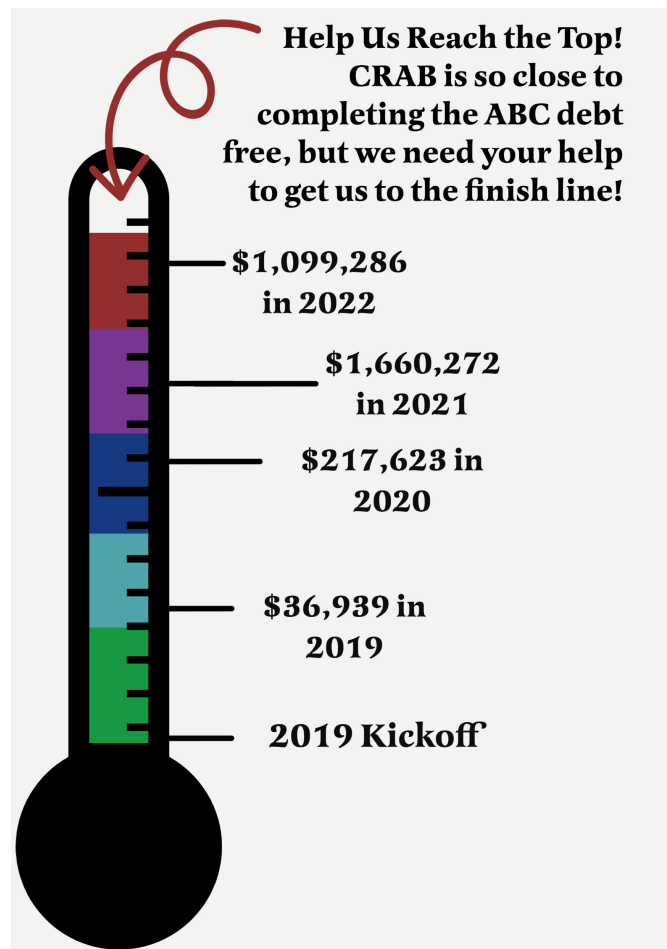
The Adaptive Boating Center is due to be completed in March, with the final piece being a 50' mural by Annapolis artist Cindy Fletcher Holden. We look forward to providing all of our volunteers a tour before we start the sailing season on the 3rd Sunday of April. Our sailing program also is expanding to include an additional weekday to accommodate more nonprofit groups and Family Sails. Be ready to sail Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, plus two weekends a month.

CRAB will be acquiring a brand new Gemini Freestyle 399 power catamaran in March. We hope to have the hulls wrapped in a really "kewl" graphic to let everyone know, "Wow, that is a CRAB boat." The Gemini will be able to accommodate 5 wheelchair guests without leaving their chairs. New programs also will be created for our guests, such as fishing, cruising, and more.

The excitement is building, and we look forward to a great year at the premier adaptive boating center in the country, in the "Sailing Capital of the United States."

I wish to thank our Board of Directors, Staff, donors, volunteers, and everyone who has dreamed of this day, particularly if your generosity helped CRAB make it all possible.

**Together We Can!**



***Can you help?***

**The Adaptive Boating Center is almost complete, and CRAB is so close to finishing the project completely debt free!**

CRAB is about \$200,000 short of its \$3.5M Capital Campaign Goal.

The new ABC will serve guests from all over the Chesapeake Bay region and beyond. CRAB has raised over \$3 million in private donations from supporters and foundations for the successful completion of the project.

CRAB will expand its programs at the ABC by offering other adaptive and recreational water sports such as canoeing, kayaking, wakeboarding, and radio-controlled sailboat racing. A power catamaran will be added to CRAB's fleet, allowing 5-6 people in wheelchairs to access the Chesapeake Bay without leaving their wheelchairs. Fishing may be a new sport offered for these guests in the near future. CRAB's current fleet includes six Beneteau First 22A's (adaptive) with race car bucket seats and a 4-point harness belt system and a Martin 16' Sip & Puff sailboat for guests with quadriplegia. Certification courses, virtual training courses, and therapy courses for people with disabilities will be incorporated into CRAB's programs and will continue to be offered free of charge.

At the heart of the Adaptive Boating Center facility will be the Don Backe Learning Center, a universally accessible learning environment that will allow guests to participate in educational and training programs year-round. CRAB has consulted with the Maryland Department of Disabilities, the Maryland Assistive Technology Reuse Center, the Maryland Division of Rehabilitation, and the Bay Area Center for Independent Living to identify the tools necessary to create this cutting-edge learning environment. The identified adaptive technology is essential to ensure that people with all types of disabilities will be able to access and enjoy a thorough and fulfilling learning experience at the ABC. The Don Backe Learning Center is an ambitious, first-of-its-kind project and will be the prototype



state-of-the-art learning center for people with disabilities. CRAB will provide consulting and advisory services to disability organizations across the country that want to replicate the ABC facility and sailing programs in order to further increase accessibility to boating for people around the country.

## The 2023 Sailing Season is Just Around the Corner



For many families who care for individuals with disabilities, the cost of outdoor recreation is limited and can be daunting. That is why CRAB offers pleasure sailing and racing for people with disabilities and their families, friends, and caregivers. These events provide families a wonderful opportunity to shed the stress of everyday life and enjoy a group activity that would not be possible without access to CRAB's adaptive fleet or its specially designed onboarding equipment. Our trained and experienced volunteer Skippers & Crew are the best of the best and they make the entire experience so enjoyable for guests.

Our Family Sails program is designed to introduce guests with disabilities to the therapeutic value, fun, and freedom of sailing on Chesapeake Bay. The Family Sail program is scheduled for one Sunday each month and select weekdays from April through October. Information on Family Sail Sundays is available on the CRAB calendar, and **reservations** are required. Due to the popularity of this program, we will not be able to accommodate guests without a reservation.

### Family Sail Sign Up

# CRAB CUP

FOR ACCESSIBLE BOATING



The CRAB Cup has been voted Best Nonprofit Fundraiser in 2021 & 2022. Let's keep it going! In 2022, the CRAB Cup hosted 108 vessels, 103 in the pursuit sailing regatta and 5 in the Poker Pursuit and more than 500 friends came out to celebrate at the shore party.

This year's race and party will be held **Saturday, August 19 at the Eastport Yacht Club**. Misspent Youth, Maryland's best cover band, has already signed on to entertain us and the fabulous members of the Eastport Yacht Club Race Committee have completed the Notice of Race for review. CRAB is proud to announce that the team at Engel & Völkers will be our Premier sponsor, joining our Founding Sponsor, The Boatyard Bar & Grill for another memorable event.

## There's Still Time to Vote!

Once again the CRAB Cup is up for Best Nonprofit Fundraiser in the Best of Annapolis 2023 Contest run by What'sUp? Annapolis! Make sure to cast your vote today!!



**Vote Now!**

## **It's Never too Soon to Become a CRAB Cup Sponsor**



### **Become a Sponsor**

The 17th Annual CRAB Cup will be held Saturday, August 19, 2023 at the Eastport Yacht Club. This event is the largest fundraiser of the year for Chesapeake Region Accessible Boating. Your support will make it possible for CRAB to offer its sailing and boating programs free of charge for people with disabilities, recovering warriors, and children from underserved communities.

In 2022 the CRAB Cup had over 100 boats registered for the pursuit race and a growing number in the 2nd Annual Poker Pursuit. Our family-friendly races are sure to generate a few stories to share at the shore party! The party starts at 4:00 pm. More than 500 guests dance to the live music and dine on the delicious food provided by Boatyard Bar & Grill, our Founding Sponsor.

Entertainment begins with Caiso Steel Drum Band, one of DC's finest Caribbean bands. They will be followed by the always fantastic Misspent Youth, definitely Maryland's best cover band! This event has won "Best Fundraiser" from the readers of What's Up! Annapolis in 2021 & 2022. [More Information](#)

# Adaptive Boating Center Update







After six long years, the opening of the premier CRAB Annapolis Adaptive Boating Center is going to take place in March when Brown Contracting provides CRAB with the keys to the beautiful new facility. Work will still be going on as the famous Annapolis muralist Cindy Fletcher Holden will be completing the 50' mural of "A Day at CRAB." The three panels will feature a morning departure with a Blue Heron flying by the boat, an afternoon sail with the Bay Bridge, State Capital, and USNA Chapel in the background, and a wing-on-wing boat returning to the dock at dusk. The mural is expected to be one of the many beautiful enhancements to the Lawrence B. Taishoff Building and Don Backe Learning Center.

As we go to print, the ceiling is being installed, the concrete paths will be poured, the 72 solar panels on the roof will be energized, signage installed in the building and grounds, the parking lot paved, followed by the installation of 2 Electric Vehicle charging stations. The landscaping and irrigation system will go in last to further enhance the natural beauty of the property on Back Creek. So, much still be accomplished, but we are excited by the goal line appearing on the horizon. We hope you will be too.

**Interested in Becoming a Volunteer?**





CRAB depends on Volunteers to help deliver its sailing programs to over 1,200 guests. If you are interested in serving as a CRAB volunteer this season, please complete the [\*\*Volunteer Interest Form\*\*](#) by clicking the button above.

All volunteers must complete a background check prior to working for CRAB (renewable every two years). To get the process started, please contact [Shannon Rohrer](#). Volunteers must be 18 years or older.

CRAB is seeking volunteers in the following areas:

**Skipper** - Skippers work directly with CRAB Fleet Directors to ensure every guest has a safe and enjoyable sailing experience. CRAB Skippers take guests sailing on our fleet of Beneteau 22A's. Skippers must have substantial sailing experience and will complete the Skipper Training Program before taking the helm with guests.

**Crew** - CRAB Crew volunteers assist the Skipper when taking guests sailing and racing in regattas. Tasks include assisting guests to safely board and disembark, handling the sails, and any assistance a skipper may need to ensure guest comfort while on the water.

**Guest Liaison & Dock Support** - CRAB Guest Liaisons provide guests with assistance with their personal floatation devices and ensure each guest is prepared with the necessary water and sunscreen for an enjoyable sail. On the dock, support staff assistance with docking and boarding of guests. Liaisons also assist with guest waivers and any special requests they may have before sailing.



**Guests**

**Support CRAB**

## Volunteer

Chesapeake Region Accessible Boating  
177 Defense Highway  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
[www.crabsailing.org](http://www.crabsailing.org)  
[Email Us](#)

[View it in your browser](#)  
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