



Changing Lives One Sail at a Time



A drone shot of the Lawrence B. Taishoff Building with new solar power panels installed!

Solar Panels from New Energy Equity



CRAB Director of Marketing and Development, Rebecca Gonser with Matt Hankey and Kevin Corcoran of New Energy Equity.

CRAB hosted New Energy Equity President Matt Hankey and Kevin Corcoran, Sr. Project Manager, at the Annapolis Adaptive Boating Center (ABC) in late February. The visit allowed Kevin and Matt to see the excellent work done by their contractor that installed 72 solar panels to the ABC raised-seam metal roof. The solar panels will provide all of the power required at the ABC for the next 25 years.

The power provider agreement signed by CRAB and NEE honors Ian Palmer, CRAB Treasurer (2015-17) and founder of NEE. NEE will own the Renewable Energy Credits (REC's). The solar power returned to the grid will be more than CRAB's daily electric load. The project size was limited to 200% of the power requirement of the building; otherwise, the remaining open space on the roof could have supported additional solar panels and clean energy for the grid.

CRAB is especially thankful to New Energy Equity for their generous contribution to the sustainability of the Adaptive Boating Center and the reduction of future operating expenses. The electricity savings will create an opportunity for CRAB to allocate more resources toward providing adaptive water experiences and improving access to the Chesapeake Bay at no cost to our guests!

For more information on New Energy Equity, please go to: www.newenergyequity.com



From CRAB's President

CRAB's Special People

As the President/CEO of CRAB (my title was changed by the Board of Directors this month), I get asked by a lot of people why I do what I do. I don't know if they are specifically referring to the trials and tribulations of planning and construction of the CRAB ABC over the past six years, or why I am still working at my age? I like to focus on the many positives of working at CRAB when answering this question. First, and foremost it is the people!

Our guests and volunteers are second to none. I can think of one particular volunteer who has donated hundreds of hours teaching guests to sail while also donating a substantial amount of his retirement wealth to CRAB. He desires to be anonymous, which is indicative of his low-key, easygoing style. I admire this man for his exceptional devotion to CRAB and how he makes everyone around him feel better. Quick to smile or laugh, even at himself, he has the "CRAB Way" ingrained in his persona whenever he is with our guests. Seeing him and other volunteers do their collective best to bring quality to the lives of our guests is my real answer to the question.





The New Sailing Season is Around the Corner

At CRAB we like to say that there is a symbiotic relationship between guests and volunteers. The guests love to learn how to sail, and volunteers love to teach sailing. Guests find the experience very rewarding, and volunteers reap the smiles and hugs from our guests.

It has been CRAB's mission for decades to bring the thrill, freedom, and therapeutic value of sailing (and boating) to our guests. Everyone loves being on the water enjoying the Chesapeake Bay on a beautiful day, and starting this adventure from the new CRAB Adaptive Boating Center will make it all the more special.

We look forward to seeing everyone soon as our sailing season starts on April 23rd with the first Family Sail Sunday. Thank you for your patience as we continue to work through our transition to the new Adaptive Boating Center. The sign-up calendar will be sent up and available online when the new website goes live at the end of the month! Keep an eye on your email inbox for more information.



Powerboating comes to CRAB



With a grant from the Meridian Foundation, CRAB has purchased a Gemini Freestyle 399 Catamaran named "Dream Catcher" that will be used by guests in wheelchairs (who do not want to leave their chairs) or any disability to go fishing or cruising on the Bay. The boat has been delivered, and CRAB is working with boat vendors to customize the boat with adaptative modifications so people using wheelchairs can safely board, stay secure while underway, and disembark.

The new adaptive catamaran will allow up to five guests, plus family members or friends, the opportunity to learn powerboating skills and earn a Maryland Boating Certificate. Additional recreational activities may include crabbing or wakeboarding in the future.

The Gemini provides a new opportunity for our guests in wheelchairs to enjoy the beautiful Chesapeake Bay. The boat has over 140 sq. ft. of open floor space that is completely covered by a hardtop with a sunroof for protection from the sun or inclement weather.

The ability to offer an alternative to sailing is expected to make CRAB an even more attractive destination for guests with disabilities who desire to be on the water. Regardless of the weather, the Gemini Freestyle will be able to accommodate guests comfortably and safely!

Adaptive Boating Center Update!



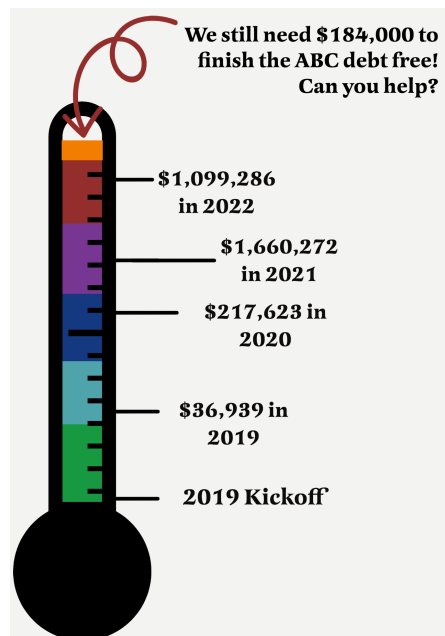
The CRAB Annapolis Adaptive Boating Center (ABC) is coming close to completion. By next week we expect to have the building inspections completed and a Use & Occupancy permit in hand. Every contractor is working exceptionally hard to meet the opening. The most impressive accomplishment, from an artistic perspective, is the Cindy Holden Fletcher 50' x 6' mural of a day at CRAB inside the Lawrence B. Taishoff Building. The first panel depicts a group of guests departing the dock with a Blue Heron flying past the 3 wheelchairs on the dock. Giving flight has a new meaning for CRAB guests, and you might recognize CRAB Past President Lance Hinrichs in the boat.

The second panel shows several CRAB sailboats on a close reach with the new Gemini catamaran in the background with the City of Annapolis on the opposite shore. The panoramic view includes the major landmarks in and around the City (a little artistic license). The sun on the far right contains words that actually have been said to CRAB volunteers during and after their sailing adventures. The CRAB chase boat is coming into the scene as well.

The third and final panel depicts a CRAB sailboat at dusk being sailed by CRAB founder Don Backe. Don passed away in April 2013, and the ABC will be opening on the 10th anniversary of his passing. The panel also contains some words from guests that bring real meaning to the importance of what CRAB does.

We look forward to showing the ABC to our donors, volunteers, and guests during a variety of events meant to showcase the facility while not overcrowding the .86 acre campus.

We still need your help!



The Capital Campaign was kicked off in 2019 with the vision of building a fully ADA-Compliant Adaptive Boating Center. Now that dream is almost a reality. Permits are starting to roll in, and CRAB will be moving its operations over to its new offices in the Lawrence B. Taishoff Building, located at the Adaptive Boating Center, next week!

That is why it is more important than ever for CRAB to complete the Capital Campaign. If you share our commitment to ensuring the equitable accessibility of the Chesapeake Bay, please consider making a contribution that will positively impact our community for generations!

You can send a check to:
7040 Bembe Beach Road
Annapolis, MD 21403

*don't forget to write ABC in the memo

Or click the button below to make an online contribution.

[Donate Now](#)

1975 C&C 32 Sailboat For Sale





A classic blue-hulled C&C will handle anything the Bay can give out. The boat has newer sails, canvas, and cushions, all in great condition!

Down below, there are new cushions and nice woodwork that you don't find on today's boats. The galley has a Hillerange gas oven and cooktop. A Raritan toilet in an enclosed head compartment. Powerplant is an Atomic 4 that starts easily and runs great. Heart Interface DC Control Panel. Raymarine Wind, Speed & Depth Gauges. Standard Horizon VHF Radio. This C&C was just motor sailed from the South River to Annapolis, and she is ready for spring sailing.

Asking \$11,500

For more information, email matt@crabsailing.org or call 410-266-5722

Make Room at Your Dock - Donate a Boat to CRAB!

Are you considering an upgrade for the upcoming boating season? Let CRAB help you make room at your dock. CRAB relies on boat donations for 20% of its operating budget. Proceeds allow CRAB to offer its boating programs to guests with disabilities, recovering warriors, and youth from underserved communities at no cost.

CRAB is always grateful for sailboats and powerboats in good condition and working motors. So if you need room in your slip for your next dreamboat, consider donating last year's joyride to CRAB and make a difference for our guests. Your donation is fully tax-deductible.

Boat Donation Form

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