



Bringing Quality of Life One Sail at a Time



February is Black History Month and we look back to 2020 (and forward) to hosting the City of Annapolis Police Kids Sailing Camp

February Newsletter

Staying in Touch with CRAB's Friends & Supporters

Thoughts from President David Hankey

Many of you may know my son Michael. You'll see him at CRAB events, sitting separately and watching his favorite YouTube cooking videos on my phone. Michael has significant developmental disabilities and has been the center of my life since he was born. Despite my efforts to coax him onto a CRAB boat, Michael prefers sailing on our old Pearson Renegade, where he can curl up in the V-berth with a bag of pretzels and learn--for the umpteenth time--



how to make eggplant rollatini.

Michael is also my own special connection to CRAB. As is the case with many caregivers of individuals with disabilities, when Michael was younger his disabilities created severe limitations in our lives and - most of all - a chronic lack of respite. As Michael grew older and our family life became less circumscribed by Michael's needs, I became active in CRAB. I was immediately struck by how CRAB excels at focusing on the abilities of our guests with disabilities *and* engaging caregivers and families in the teamwork of sailing.

I also saw the passion of everyone involved at CRAB for the organization and our mission. Not surprisingly, I soon had that passion. I joined the board 4 years ago, and had the pleasure of serving as Board Vice President under Brad LaTour. As CRAB's new President, I can only hope to provide a fraction of the leadership and dedication that Brad showed to all of us.

Looking ahead we have much to be pleased about. The new Adaptive Boating Center is progressing well; we have a rich, 30-year history to celebrate; and, perhaps most impressive of all, we continue to serve our guests despite the pandemic. The credit for all of this goes to CRAB's exemplary and dedicated volunteers and outstanding staff.

When you see guests on our dock, often the caregivers have the biggest smiles of all. For me, that's a great indicator of our success. I'm honored to be able to serve as CRAB's President and be a small part of CRAB's rich and enduring legacy.

Here's to a happy sailing season—
David



Upcoming Events

4/9-10 and 16-17 - Volunteer Training
Sandy Point State Park

4/15-18 - Spring Sailboat Show

4/25 - Family Sail Sunday -
Sandy Point State Park



CRAB Turns 30!

Over the course of our 30th anniversary year CRAB will be celebrating with special events, including a photo contest winning a Boatyard Bar & Grill gift card. To learn more about the anniversary schedule follow CRAB on **Instagram and Facebook** and check our website - www.crabsailing.org - for updates.

[More Events!](#)



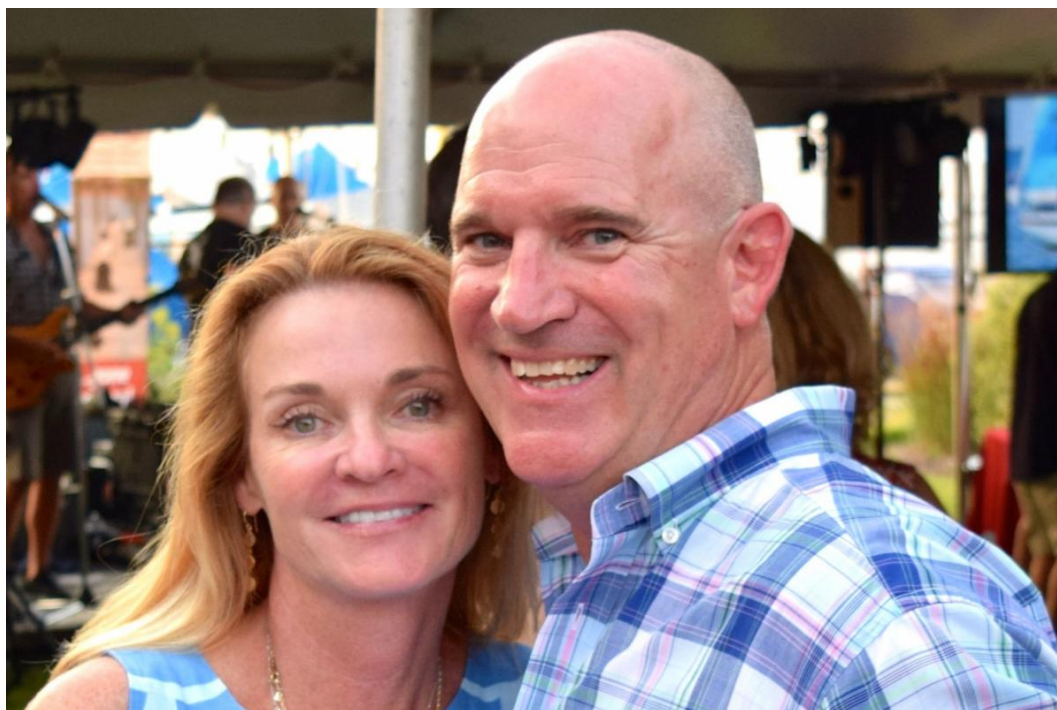
Donated Boats Wanted!

CRAB has sold the last donated boat in our inventory. If you or someone you know has a boat they are not using, please refer them to CRAB for a nice tax deduction.

[Donate your boat!](#)



A Valentine Love Story



In June 2016, I served on the Annapolis Yacht Club Race Committee for my first Don Backe Memorial CRAB Regatta. One of the boats was a short a crewmember so I jumped aboard. By the end of the regatta I was hooked on becoming a CRAB skipper and not surprisingly my future only got brighter. I became a CRAB skipper that summer and coordinated the recruitment of AYC tacticians for the 2017 Don Backe Memorial CRAB Regatta. I was lucky to draw Kevin Detwiller as my skipper, as we had sailed previously at Family Sails. Our crew included a new CRAB volunteer, Caroline Oakes who had just finished her J-World sailing course.

Kevin was a great skipper and Caroline a perfect crew, both staying focused on the wind and boat. At the lunch break, I had to enforce some CRAB rules about wearing life jackets until on solid land. Little did I know that it was probably the last time I would be telling Caroline what to do. We sailed the whole regatta together and were very proud of some great racing. I started to talk with Caroline about sailing, and seeing her enthusiasm I invited her to sail on my boat, Tenacious, for Wednesday Night Racing (WNR).

Besides loving sailing and being on the water together, we both were passionate about helping others. That August we had a great time watching The CRAB Cup from Tenacious and at the post-race party shared laughs and conversation with other CRAB skippers and sailors. We started “land dating” shortly after the party. The following year, we raced in the CRAB Cup and participated in the Skipper’s Challenge. While not winning on the water, we were committed to being the top fundraiser for the Skipper’s Challenge.

We traveled to Italy that summer and I proposed to Caroline on a sunset cruise out of Sorrento. Since we met on the water, it was only fitting to start our lives together the same way. We sailed Tenacious in the 2019 CRAB Cup and history repeated as we didn’t quite win the regatta, but we finished 1st in the Skipper’s Challenge. In November 2019, we were married at Annapolis Yacht Club, just across Spa Creek where we first met at the Don Backe Memorial CRAB Regatta.

Adaptive Boating Center Donor



Mark Chapin, a former CRAB Board Member, Skipper, and volunteer since 2004, has chosen to support the Adaptive Boating Center with a gift towards the Don Backe Learning Centre. After donating an old sailboat to help raise money, Don roped him into sailing for CRAB. Mark reflects that Skipper qualification training was simple then, taking Don for a sail and not capsizing! Mark has interacted with hundreds of CRAB guests over the years and he says, “What I enjoy most is the great conversations I have with our guests and the frequent expressions of joy and wonder from people sailing for the first time, realizing that a whole new world has opened up for them. I am proud to be a small part of CRAB’s success over the past 30 years.”

Mark’s professional life includes his role as the former Director of the Annapolis Vet Center, where he was able to connect CRAB with the Wounded Warrior Project, Walter Reed Medical Center, and the VA for several events. In his current role as a counselor with Cornerstone Counseling Center, Mark’s longtime dedication to helping people with

disabilities continues.

Thank you Mark for your dedication to CRAB and support for the ABC!

More Info on the
ABC

General Donation

Please consider making a donation in support of CRAB's mission
which allows us to offer sailing programs FREE of charge.

Make A
Donation



Guests

Want to Sail with CRAB? View
our calendar of events [HERE](#)



Supporting CRAB

There are many ways you can
support CRAB. Check out the
list [HERE](#)



Volunteer

Would you like to help out at
CRAB events or sail with
guests? Read more [HERE](#)

CRAB

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