



Changing lives One Sail at a Time



Preparing to cut the 30th Anniversary cake are (L-R) Lex Birney, MDD Secretary Carol Beatty, Ald. Rob Savidge, Delegate Dana Jones, MDE Asst. Sec. Suzanne Dorsey, Mayor Gavin Buckley, and AACO Executive Steuart Pittman

April Newsletter - 30th Anniversary

Staying in Touch with CRAB's Friends & Supporters

CRAB 30th Anniversary Celebration

It was a beautiful sight to have all of CRAB's friends in government and the media at the future home of the Annapolis Adaptive Boating Center to share in the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of CRAB with the Board of Directors and



Delegate Shaneka Henson shares about how important CRAB is to her constituents

Staff. The gathering was limited to 25 people or the entire property would have been filled with friends and volunteers commemorating Don Backe's founding of CRAB as a chapter of National Ocean Access Project (NOAP) in 1991. The event was held on Monday, April 12th, in honor of the day Don passed away in 2013 at age 77.



CRAB President David Hankey receives the City of Annapolis Citation from Annapolis Mayor Gavin Buckley and Alderman Rob Savidge

Joining CRAB for the ceremony was longtime friend and supporter **Secretary Carol Beatty** of the Maryland Dept. of Disabilities to present Governor Larry Hogan's Citation. Also, from the State was MD Dept. of Environment Assistant **Secretary Suzanne Dorsey**. The District 30 Legislative Delegation was well represented by **Delegate Shaneka Henson** and **Delegate Dana Jones** who had wonderful things to say about CRAB and what it means to the people we serve. Due to the Legislature being in Sine Die (last day), **Senator Sarah Elfreth** was unable to attend. Anne Arundel **County Executive Stuart Pittman**, Annapolis **Mayor Gavin Buckley** and **Alderman Rob Savidge** presented citations and talked of their time over the past several years working to fund the Annapolis Adaptive Boating Center (ABC) and CRAB's persistence to make it a

reality. AACO Director of Recreation & Parks **Rick Anthony** was recognized with an engraved pewter platter attesting to his 4 years of support for the ABC while guiding the Program Open Space grant through two administrations. Rick was especially gracious in his remarks and recognizing how important the ABC will be to providing access to the Bay for so many people who have limited options.



Maryland Department of Disabilities Secretary Carol Beatty presenting the Governor's citation



AACO Recreation and Parks Director Rick Anthony receiving a congratulatory engraved platter for his years of service and support for the Adaptive Boating Center from CRAB Executive Director Bo Bollinger

CRAB President David Hankey welcomed everyone and introduced Lex Birney, CEO of The Brick Companies who presented a check for \$100,000 from TBC Foundation in honor of his father Arthur Birney who passed away in January. The donation will fund the construction of the ABC pavilion, a familiar setting for his father to hang out after sailing and “gam” with friends. There will be a lot of “gamming” over the next 40-years at the ABC thanks to the TBC Foundation.



Lex Birney presenting the TBC Foundation donation of \$100,000 in honor of his father Arthur Birney

To celebrate CRAB's birthday in style, a 30th anniversary cake was presented and all of the dignitaries were given engraved cake knives to commemorate the date. It was a very special moment with so many smiling faces cutting through the cake together in celebration of CRAB's 30th at the future home of the Adaptive Boating Center. Please see all of the articles and videos featuring the event on CRAB's "In the News" section on the website, www.crabsailing.org



Anne Arundel County Executive Stuart Pittman presents a Citation to CRAB President David Hankey

Start your sails....

The sailing season at CRAB always begins with a lot of hard work and elbow grease by our growing and incredible volunteer corp. The canvas winter covers were removed from the fleet, saving 1,800 sq. ft. of shrink-wrap from going to the dump. The boats were washed, waxed, and rigged by a crack team of volunteers and Fleet Directors who enjoyed seeing each other for the first time in six months or first-time ever if they are new to CRAB. Bottom line, **a lot of energy and enthusiasm was shared without raising a sail on the water**. We owe you one for this herculean effort that saves a ton of money for CRAB.

Next up, volunteer skippers and crew were finally boarding boats after being expertly launched by our **friends at Hinckley** who operate the yard at Whitehall Marina. After splashing the boats, we crossed our fingers as the 4-year-old Lehr propane motors were started for the first time this season. The shuttle operation to Sandy Point State Park turned out to be a very enjoyable sail for everyone. The first of the year!

The following week CRAB Executive Director Paul “Bo” Bollinger and Fleet Directors Dan Flagler and Dan Pendergast trained over 90 volunteer skippers and crew for the start of the season. The mix of new and returning volunteers indicates that CRAB is growing in popularity for its sailing mission, programs, and the camaraderie that continues to grow among volunteers. This was another event that tested the volunteer’s ability to learn and remember new procedures, without leaving the dock, to ensure our guests are safe and happy while sailing. One comment offered by a new volunteer who sails at another community sailing program, “CRAB’s training is way more involved and detailed than anything I have ever experienced.”

The final non-sailing event was the **Spring Boat Show at Bay Bridge Marina**. The

weather was frightful the first two days, but nothing stopped our smiling, foul-weather clad volunteers from introducing hundreds of visitors to CRAB while showing off the Beneteau First 22A on display. It is always fun to speak with people from all over the country who visit the show and don't know anything about CRAB, but are amazed after learning about our 30-year-old sailing program. We hope they will take the CRAB mission back to their homeports and discuss ways they can get more people with disabilities on the water.

The CRAB fleet is now buffed, polished, and in position at its home for the past 30 years, ready to sail. We are looking forward to the first **Family Sails, Group Sails**, and the **Recovering Warrior Sailing Regatta** in the next few weeks. We anticipate breaking the 1,000 guest mark this year if the weather cooperates. We can only control so much at CRAB and safety is our number one rule.

The sailing calendar is open on Sign-Up Genius and we encourage every volunteer to reserve dates to get on a CRAB sailboat with guests and share the wonderful experience of sailing together on the beautiful Chesapeake Bay.



Upcoming Events

4/25 - Family Sail Sunday

5/3-4 - Sailing Clinic sponsored by Phillips Charitable

5/15 - Recovering Warrior Sailing Regatta

5/16 - Family Sail Sunday

[More Events!](#)

CRAB Turns 30!

Over the course of our 30th anniversary year CRAB will be celebrating with special events, including a photo contest for 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.



[Get your 30th swag HERE!!](#)

Donated Boats Wanted!

If you or someone you know has a boat they are not using, please refer them to CRAB for a nice tax deduction and to help keep CRAB sailing programs free of cost for

guests.

Donate your boat!



Adaptive Boating Center Update



Updated rendering of ABC and pavilion locations on the property overlooking the marina

[More Info on the ABC](#)

CRAB Cup Award



CRAB Cup 2020 was voted the best nonprofit fundraiser by What's Up Magazine's Best of Annapolis contest. Thank you to everyone who voted. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, August 21st at the Eastport Yacht Club for CRAB Cup 2021!

Volunteers In Action



(L-R) Volunteers Doug Fineberg, Shelly Ford, Allie Eberhardt, Nancy Fineberg and Nancy McGee



Volunteers practice fastening the 4-point harness seatbelts on each other



Fleet Director Dan F. demonstrating how guests need the tiller extension



Carol and Ange working the CRAB table at a blustery Boat Show



Ange, Denise, Elizabeth, and Maude giving a thumbs up to the Boat Show - raising awareness and dollars!

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](#)

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