



October 2020

# Community Boating Inc.

2020 Programs Report





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## Letter from the Executive Director



CBI's 2020 season has come to a close and despite the incredible challenges brought on by the pandemic, we delivered high quality programming to the fullest extent possible, serving our membership and the kayaking public. With sincere disappointment, much of our junior program, the universal access program, and elements of the adult program were missing from the Charles River in 2020.

Our Programs Report summarizes what most of us know already, that the 2020 sailing season was a very limited version of "Sailing for All". To get through we required substantial financing support from government loan programs and from the entire CBI community through the [Twenty-Twenty-One \\$100K Campaign](#).

I want to extend a heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation to all of CBI's management team and staff who performed brilliantly and tirelessly over the past 6 months to "keep the lights on". Today we are already planning for the 2021 sailing season. While recognizing the uncertainty of the pandemic, we are committed to doing everything possible to deliver the most robust programming possible in 2021.

Sincerely,

Charlie Zechel  
CBI Executive Director





## Adult Program

After waiting for almost two months to open, on May 18th Massachusetts began the phased reopening of businesses, with recreational boating being allowed to open in phase 1 on May 25th. We were able to quickly implement a contact tracing system through advance registration, a disinfection plan for each vessel after each use, hourly cleaning protocols, traffic flow on the dock to maintain social distance, as well as all of the PPE requirements for staff. We opened for members and guests to paddle on May 27th, two short days after the reopening plan was launched, three weeks later on June 17th we began signing out sailboats for members. While our 2020 season was unlike any other in the history of our program, we were able to successfully get our members out on the Charles as we have for almost 75 years.







## Adult Program

### Classes - Virtual Learning Center

In an effort to adapt to distanced learning at the start of the pandemic, we reassigned significant staff to develop virtual offerings of our most offered classes: Orientation, Rigging and Shore School. We produced self-guided online versions of each class, which were available weeks before we were able to open, allowing us to keep the embers of our program warm during lockdown and provide content for new members. Our Youth Programs Director, handled the majority of Shore School verbal tests via Zoom, while members booked in-person rigging appointments through our reservation software and tested on our centerboard Mercuries in the slip. These new virtual offerings will continue to be utilized going forward, and we have already begun to expand them into our Mainsail curriculum.

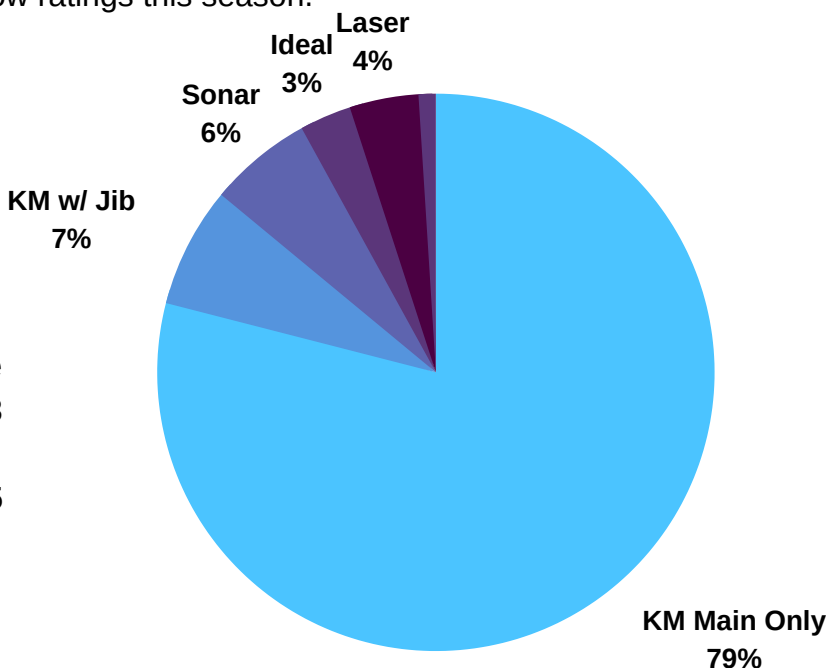


### Ratings

Through our beginner virtual hybrid testing and in person testing, we were able to grant 151 verbal and 148 rigging ratings, respectively. We developed a new rating for this year: Keel Mercury Yellow. The purpose of this rating was to allow people to test while in keel Mercuries, and still have the chance to take guests on the water and sail on windier days. We granted 123 Keel Mercury Yellow ratings this season.

### Sign-outs

From the first day of Mercury sign-outs -- June 17 -- until October 1 we had **2,741** keel Mercuries with only a mainsail sign-out and **251** keel Mercuries with a jib sign-out. Lasers were the next fleet available for use this year on July 8, with **133** sign-outs through October 1. We had **219** Sonar, **91** Ideal 18, and **25** 420 sign-outs this year.





## Adult Program

### Racing

#### Learn-to-Race Class

Tiller Club has offered a Learn-To-Race class series for nearly 10 years. This past spring, a group of Tiller Club volunteers spent a couple hundred hours creating slideshows for each of the three parts of the class so it could be taught virtually. We imagine this slideshow will also be used for in-person instruction in the future. We offered the class series in August, and again in October, with great success. We have received good feedback from both new and long-time members, and even some experienced racers. At least a couple of recent participants have also taken the Tiller Club skipper test after taking the class series.

#### Women's Racing

Weekly racing on Thursdays took place in Ideal 18's, over the course of eight weeks. We were able to offer programming beginning on August 13th. All members were able to take part in the racing with advanced registration. Each week there were five Ideal 18s double-handed on the water. The season total for participants was 77.

#### Tiller Club

Weekly racing on Wednesdays took place in Ideal 18's, over the course of four weeks. We were able to offer programming beginning on August 13th. All members were able to take part in the racing with advanced registration. Each week there were five Ideal 18s double-handed on the water. The season total for participants was 32.







## Adult Program

### Paddling

We had **7,230 people** go out on either a kayak or a SUP this year from May 27 to October 1. To achieve this, we developed new traffic flows on the dock along with instituting the required cleaning procedures to run the program safely. As with all programming in 2020, paddling operated within our reservation-based system.

# 7,230







## Youth Program

Youth programs at CBI met similar challenges to youth activities the world over. At the beginning of the summer, the world was just beginning to have a better understanding about COVID, how it affected people, and what social distancing, disinfecting, and PPE measures could help reduce the spread. Boston and MA closed schools in the spring, and rolled out robust, phased guidelines on boating as well as camp and other youth programs.

One good sign was that as March hit (before the pandemic truly changed behavior), our junior membership sales for 2020 were beating the 2018 and 2019 numbers. Unfortunately, after that point, our Spring school programs were all cancelled after schools were closed in-person. And after initially delaying the start of the summer Junior Program, we made the call in late June that we would be unable to open that program.

There are a few ways we have been able to get youth sailors on the water, as well as build momentum for a 2021 summer JP:

- CBI rolled over 319 Junior Program memberships to 2021, including 121 members who will be new sailors next summer
- CBI ran three family sails on July 7, August 11, and August 18 for roll-over JP members
  - Kayaks, Keel Mercuries, and Ideals allowed both rated and unrated JP members to take their parents and families on the water
  - 101 members and guests signed out to sail or paddle
- Our Instructor in Training (IIT) program continued in two modified (and reduced) ways:
  - Some advanced junior sailors served as IITs for their parents, helping them learn to sail and become intermediate or advanced sailors themselves
  - Four IITs met remotely to work on a portion of our online Mainsail lesson
  - One of these IITs also applied for and was awarded the 2020 Elwell Scholarship in recognition of this work
- We are currently running high school programs this fall for students from Cambridge and Newman schools.







## Youth Programs

CBI's youth programs remain an important part of our mission of delivering *Sailing for All!*  
Youth sailing at CBI...

- fosters independence and confidence for youth
- teaches the sport we love to future generations
- brings significant direct revenue
- is an important part of our charitable mission (and therefore generates significant interest from donors)
- is crucial to our broader sailing community, connecting CBI to
- sailors around New England through alumni, racing, and family connections,
- as well as introducing many adult family members to the sport





## Community Relations

In our standard yearly report, we usually take the time to describe a successful season filled with not only sailing but open houses, work parties, community events, and fundraisers. A lot of what we are used to came to a halt. Due to necessary precautions and guidelines we had to cancel our three dock party fundraisers, open houses, work parties, our 4th of July Sailabration, and more. While we had no sailing or events, CBI Directors and staff put their heads together to come up with creative ways to stay involved with our community.

The first word of our name is “Community” and back in March we realized that a lot of people were missing being a part of that community. To keep our members connected, we developed a few new virtual community offerings such as Friday Night Live. Initially, Charlie, Niko and Sam hosted members on Zoom to break down sailing videos they found on the internet. From there it developed into a weekly gathering with virtual racing - - with the help of the new CBI Discord Server and the sailing program called Virtual Regatta -- followed by a Zoom session. At times there were 50 people on the Zoom session laughing and talking in the chat about how best to crash an expensive sailboat. These moments became a cathartic escape for many from the social isolation of lockdown. In addition to our Friday Night Live series we started sharing online puzzles made with CBI photos, went live on Facebook and baked sugar cookies, made a YouTube video of how to make an origami sailboat, and shared other entertaining sailing related content with the community. We modified our Basin Breezes newsletter to be sent out weekly, to stay actively engaged.







## Community Relations

### Other Community Engagement

The Tiller Club season began online with virtual racing on Sunday mornings on Virtual Regatta and a live chat using a Discord channel. It was great to hear the familiar voices of our regular racers and the exchanges on Discord were surprisingly similar to the ones we used to have on the water! The first part of CBI's Women's Racing season saw a diversity of topics discussed on Zoom, the best of which was 'Sailing Trivia' run by Molly Rogers complete with online scoring.

### Raise the Sails!

*Raise the Sails!* is CBI's premier event supporting our youth and accessible sailing programs. Our 29th annual event saw a change in venue and structure. We moved from usually hosting at the Liberty Hotel in November to the Hampshire House in January. The annual "*Raise the Sails! Gala*" transformed to the sold out "*Raise the Sails! Benefit Dinner*". Over one hundred guests joined us for a cocktail reception with a silent auction, followed by a seated dinner. We honored longtime volunteer and supporter of CBI, Adam Schepp. The evening concluded with a presentation by Blind Sailing World Champion Dr. Amy Bower who discussed her experience on the water as a sailor and an oceanographer. We are grateful to Hampshire House and owner, Mr. Tom Kershaw, for supporting our *Raise the Sails! Benefit Dinner* and our mission of Sailing for All!





## Community Relations

### Key Partnerships & Supporters

**EF Education First:** CBI and EF entered a major sponsorship program over 5 years ago. The pink sails have generated significant media and publicity opportunities for both CBI and EF. EF continues to raise funds for our Universal Access Program Endowment ensuring the longevity of accessible sailing at CBI.

**Polar:** Polar Beverages has been a key sponsor/partner of CBI for over 3 years. In addition to Polar being our sole beverage sponsor, we re-established a sail partnership and entered a new 3-year agreement. In the Spring and Fall months you can find blue Polar Sails, fit for our Cape Cod Mercuries, sailing along the Charles.

**Boston Duck Tours:** CBI continues to be one of the causes that Boston Duck Tours donates to as a part of their Quack Quack, Gives Back program. In addition, Boston Duck Tours has been a longtime sponsor of our Raise the Sails fundraiser.

**The Humane Society of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:** One of the biggest programmatic changes of the 2020 season, separate from pandemic-related modifications, was the adoption of digital VHF radios and the lease of a private VHF channel. For years, Community Boating's primary means of on-the-water communication had been analog VHF radios, utilizing a public marine channel. In addition to providing us with our own private channel to prioritize our communication, the new radios include the ability to initiate emergency calls, selective calling to allow sensitive information to be shared only with the intended recipients, and noise suppression so that each transmission is loud and clear. We were able to purchase these new radios with a generous grant from the Humane Society of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, an organization formally established in 1786 with a focus on "the prevention of accident, injury, and death primarily on the waters".

Other supporters: **Cambridge Community Fund, Sanofi Genzyme, Cabot Wellington, Liberty Hotel, Hampshire House, and Gangi Printing.**







## Fleet & Facilities

The maintenance department was hard at work this off season working on a variety of projects for the 2020 season. In addition to the normal upkeep of the fleet and facilities, some notable projects and improvements include:

**Cape Cod Mercuries:** Each centerboard Mercury had three optimist float bags with attachment points added to the aft quarter. This addition makes the stern of the Mercury float higher, essentially doubling the air pocket for a turtled boat in the event that a sailor becomes trapped under the boat. In addition to the added safety aspect, the added floatation also aides in the righting of the vessel when it turtles.

**Sonars:** This season we added a new (to us) Sonar to our fleet. We reinforced the under the deck ribs, as well as made the rigging standardized to the other Sonars in our fleet.

Three sonars needed extensive bow repair. Years of strain from sailing began to separate the deck of the bow from the hull of the boat at the chain plate. Additionally, two of the sonars had extensive impact damage at the nose of hull. Bows were structurally secured by clamping and torqueing down a supportive frame of G10 glass, then glassed over with fresh fiberglass. This work will ensure the reliability and lifespan of the Sonars for years to come.

Repaired major damage to the keels of three Sonars. The keels were removed, repaired, new bolts added, and re-bedded.

**Safety Launches:** We have begun to cycle out our old outboard motors on a replacement schedule for more environmentally friendly 4-stroke motors. This year we replaced two outboard motors, one 50HP and one 25.

**Facilities:** In late December, the upstairs of the boathouse received a much need floor stripping and waxing. All the sealer and wax that had been worn down over the years was completely stripped and three layer of wax were applied by the maintenance staff.

