



October 2021

# Community Boating Inc.

2021 Programs Report





## Table of Contents

03	Letter from the Executive Director
04	Memberships
05	Volunteerism
06	Classes
07	Special Programming
10	Fleet & Facilities
11	Community Relations



# Letter from the Executive Director



While Zoom helped us stay connected, nothing felt better this year than sailing with friends, teaching new members to sail, racing, and enjoying social times on the dock. 2021 was a year of progress and much good news as we got past the worst of the pandemic. However, it was still a year with many challenges. Our adult sailing season started a bit slow. We weren't comfortable yet with pre-season volunteer work parties, and opening was delayed to late April. May operated 6 days per week and our "normal" full class schedule wasn't up to speed until mid-June. Registrations for the junior program also began slowly. As Massachusetts youth camp guidelines allowed, we adjusted our junior program operating plan almost weekly. Eventually we were able to fully open up spots in the program allowing for the junior program to serve close to 1100 kids. Our Universal Access Program was also slow to recover. Most UAP programming was delivered through individual sailing appointments. Kayaking, including rentals, continued to operate at a high level providing a welcome boost to CBI's operating revenues.

Vaccine and infection rates seemed to be moving in the right direction by July, allowing us to move forward with plans for dock parties, including celebrating our 75th anniversary in late August, and junior events such as "Kids Sail The Stars". Unfortunately, much of the news regarding the spread of coronavirus took a turn to the negative by August. While we were able to host two dock parties in 2021 and Kids Sail The Stars, they were a bit muted from our aspirations, especially regarding our 75th anniversary. While in person celebrations of CBI's 75 years were impacted by COVID, CBI still received much deserved recognition and accolades including citations and proclamations from the Boston City Council, the Massachusetts House of Representatives, and Governor Charlie Baker. CBI was also prominent in local news media including Boston Magazine, The Boston Globe, and Chronicle TV news show, to name a few.

In 2021 CBI raised over \$75,000 in celebration of our 75th anniversary and in support of our mission "Sailing For All". This type of support will be essential for CBI in the future if CBI is to continue to deliver its programming serving all of its charitable elements. Thank you to everyone who contributed. On balance 2021 was a good season as we made progress recovering from the impacts of the pandemic. Both September and October have given us great fall sailing days and membership sales, and kayak rentals have been robust. CBI's financial picture is very positive with a strong balance sheet. More importantly CBI's management team, staff, and volunteers, have been nothing short of brilliant at delivering great programming in 2021, and also ensuring that CBI is positioned for a strong and prosperous 2022 and beyond. It has been in every sense of the word my honor to work with CBI's management team and the many volunteers who make CBI happen. Their dedication to CBI and "Sailing For All" is truly remarkable.

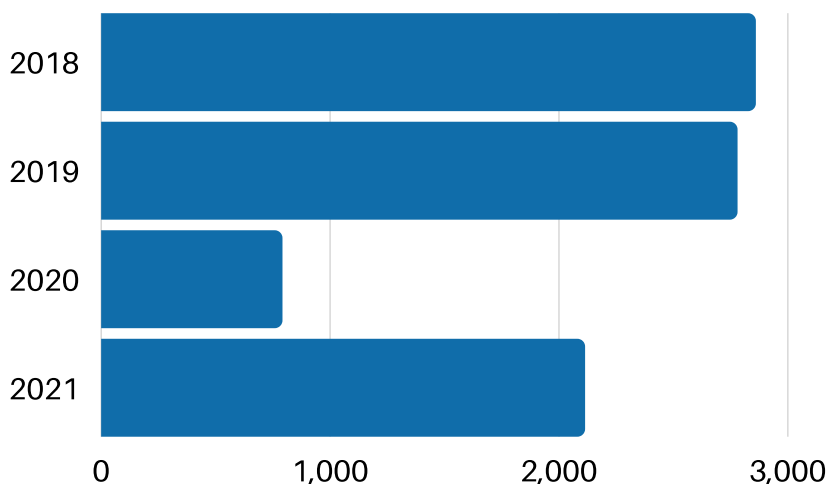
Sincerely,

Charlie Zechel  
CBI Executive Director



# Memberships

The data sets below display number of members by program.



## Adult Program

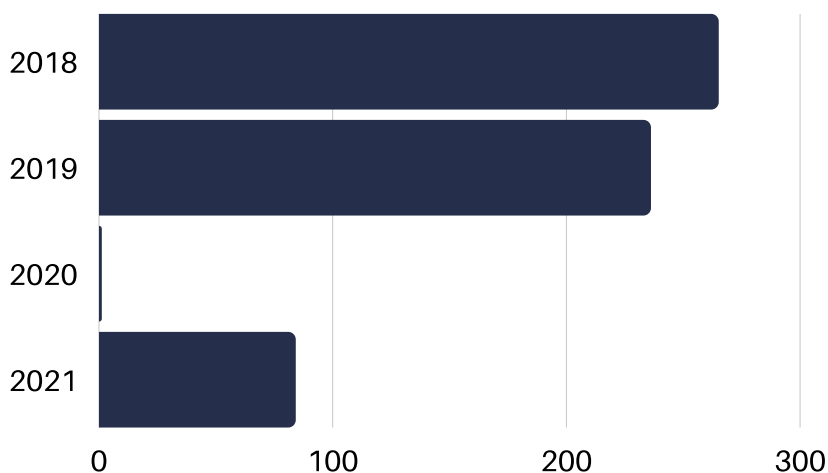
With the loss of the April and May Open houses and shortened operating days to start off the season which lost over 30 days of in person sales, we saw a decrease in the overall membership count for the Adult Program in 2021 versus 2019. However, June through September membership sales were on par with previous seasons.



## Junior Program

Initially we opened the Junior Program registration to parents who had purchased a membership in 2020. After giving them a grace period to have the first opportunity to enroll in classes, we opened it to the general public. Given the Mass state guidelines for camps, our initial open was very limited in capacity. Gradually the camp guidelines eased in the late spring, which allowed for further capacity of our junior sailing program. With the lack of opportunities for recreation in the previous year, we saw an increase over the past few years in our Junior Program.

\*2020 - 311 memberships rolled over to 2021 season.



## Universal Access Program

A large amount of the UAP memberships come from group homes, and partner groups each season. With the return to the “new normal”, many, if not most, of our partner organizations were not able to take part in the program. The 2021 season was primarily made up of individuals which led to an overall decrease in total numbers, but allowed us to focus on a more one-on-one instructional model for sailing lessons.



# Volunteerism

## Adult Program

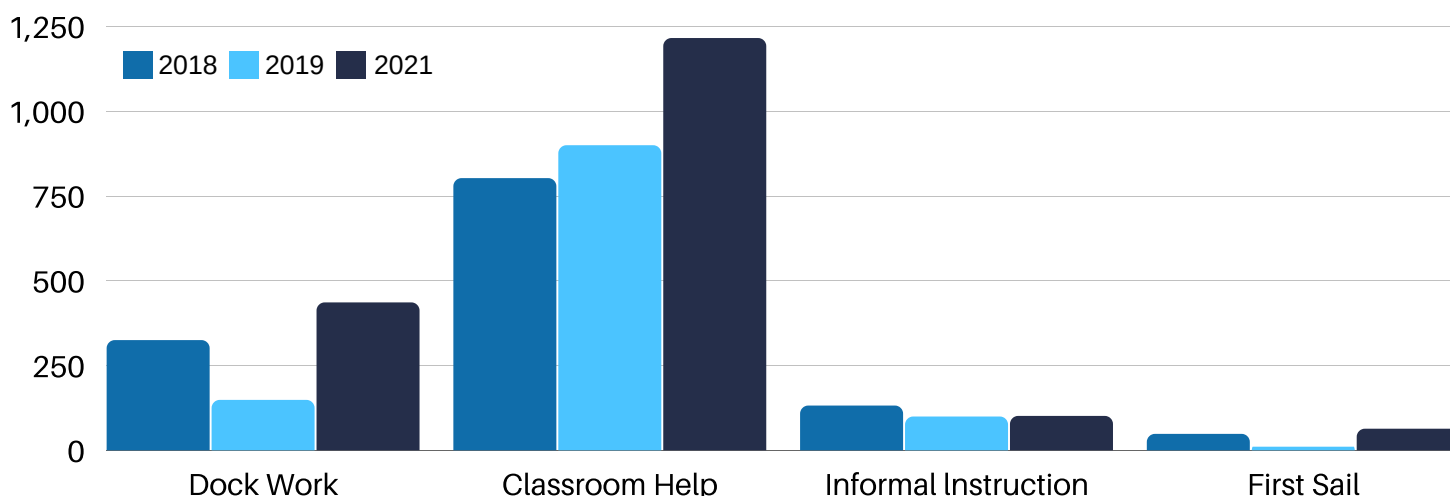
After a year-long hiatus due to COVID, we kicked off the AP volunteer Faculty activities in early March of this season. With the uncertainty of our opening date and the in-person restrictions of the prior year, we took a virtual approach to the training and retraining of our faculty of instructors. Our first virtual seminars were focused on refreshing our seasoned volunteers in learn-to-teach techniques, resources available, as well as round table discussions of best practices and input from our volunteers on changes to be made going forward. As the season started, Dana Norton came aboard as the volunteer coordinator and the restrictions were lifted just enough for us to offer limited participant in-person classes. Realizing the growing need for more than virtual education for our members we slowly ramped up from one in-person class per day to two. By June CBI was in full swing again, offering all of our classes without capacity limitations in person. By October 1st we had welcomed twelve new volunteer faculty members and had an impressive rebound from 2020 with volunteers teaching an impressive 78% of all Mercury classes, as well as 98% of all windsurfing classes!

# 78%

Volunteer Coverage of all  
Mercury Classes



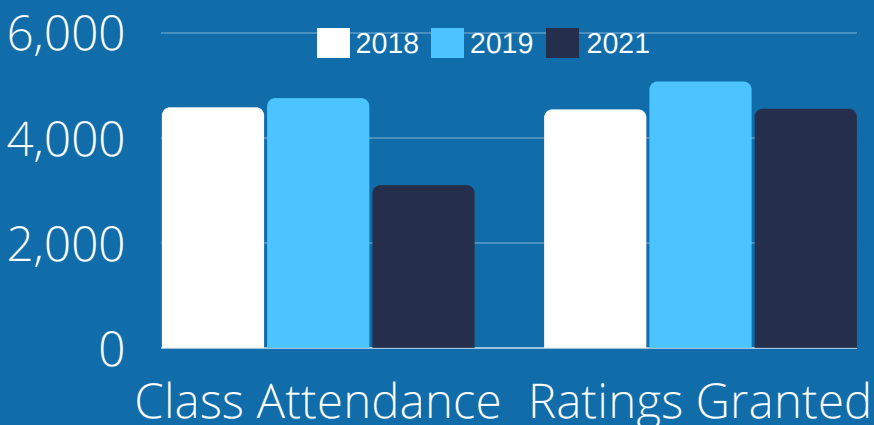
## Junior Program



As more experienced Juniors began returning, they immediately jumped into work with the Instructor-in-Training Program. We offered a spectacular IIT Program this year, with plenty of interest from both old and new members. The Priebatsch IIT Coordinator, Fiona O'Connor, and Assistant IIT Coordinator, Jacob Schilp, worked to plan quality IIT meetings, where IITs received training in skills like instructional language, teaching assistantship, and traffic control on the front of the dock. Focusing on responsibility, peer leadership, and communitarianism, the Instructor-in-Training program fosters job-readiness skills for youth through volunteerism.

# Classes

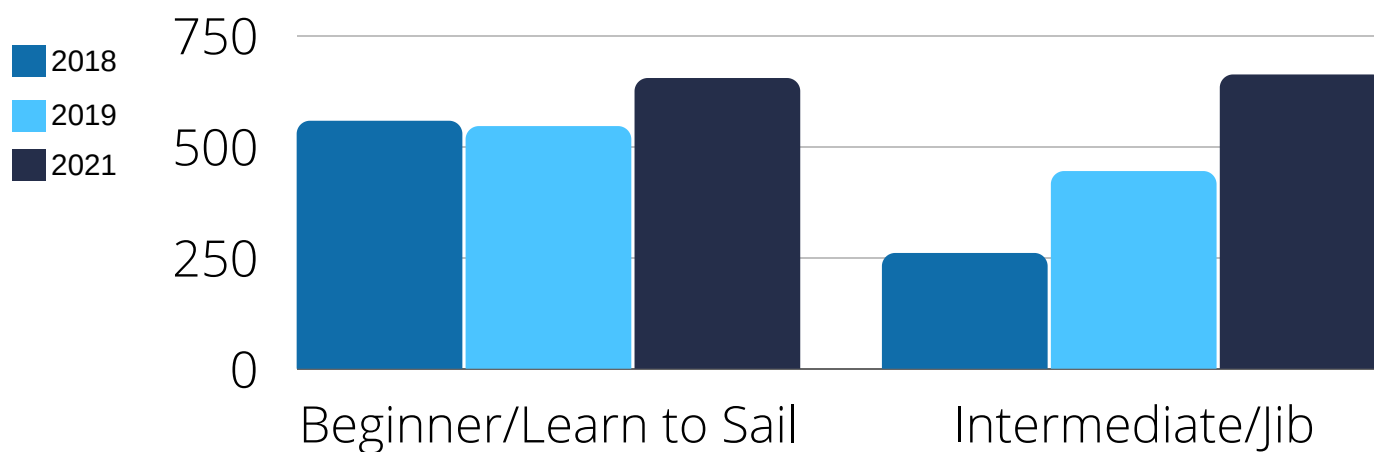
## Adult Program



Ratings remained on par with prior seasons. With the decrease in overall members in 2021 and the continued use of e-learning for new and beginner sailors, in-person class attendance saw a decline.

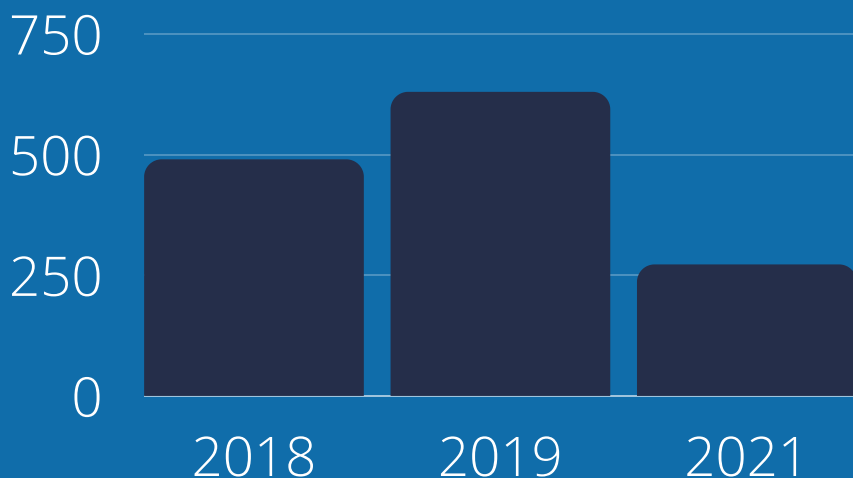
**873** Hours spent in classes!

## Junior Program - Mercury Classes



As enrollment increased, there was an increase in the number of sailors in our beginner classes. Our two week model that we had used in 2019 for intermediate was changed to a one week intermediate model to allow for more students to maximize the capacity of the program.

## Universal Access Program - Number of appointments booked



In previous years the UAP operated with two appointments per time slot. This year with the uncertainty going into the season, we made the decision to limit the number of appointments to one for each time slot. Looking toward 2022 we will resume our old model of double appointment time slots.

# Special Programming

## Universal Access Program

Continuing to build our **blind sailing** involvement, which began with the creation of the first annual Boston Blind Open regatta in 2016 and partnership with Olin College, we partnered this year with Carroll Center for the Blind's Sailblind sailing program. Our partnership included in house training of guides, hosting and staffing their new Thursday teen program, as well as the adult instructional program on Saturday mornings. Through this new partnership we were able to get almost 20 blind and visually impaired sailors on the water each week of the summer!

**Boston Blind Sailing (BBS)** picked right back up where it left off in 2019 with Thursday night practices beginning in May and going until mid September. Average practice attendance was between 3-4 Sonars most weeks, with several Adult Program members participating as volunteer sighted guides! With regatta's back on this year, BBS was able to get off the river and gain some experience competing against other teams in a variety of venues. They sent a team to the **Independence cup in Chicago**, three teams to the **Robie Pierce at Larchmont YC**, and had three teams at the **Boston Blind Open here at CBI!**

We hosted the **Special Olympics Massachusetts** State Championships in August. There were five teams, varying from levels 1-3, competing! We've been a proud host of this regatta for over ten years.

With the return of the Universal Access Program came the return of **Open Sailing** opportunities for UAP members. Sailors within the program who have demonstrated the ability to rig and derig, as well as launch and land independently, and sail an on-the-water course are able to book hour-long appointments to sail on their own on green and yellow flag days. Through the end of September UAP members had logged 36 hours of Open Sailing!

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# 37

PRACTICES FOR  
BLIND SAILING

# 2

ADAPTIVE  
REGATTAS HOSTED

# 36

HOURS OF  
OPEN SAILING

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# Special Programming

## School Programs

CBI hosts grade schools and high schools for learn-to-sail and racing in the spring and fall. Our fleet of 420s continues to serve us particularly well in hosting high school practices and races.

In the spring, we were happy to be able to host high school and college sailing teams in Mercuries. We hosted 8 schools in all.

- Quincy High School
- Newton North High School
- The Newman School
- Weston High School
- Needham High School
- Cambridge Rindge and Latin School
- Newton Country Day School
- Brandeis University

This fall we are hosting 2 schools: they are mainly running a learn to sail program, prepping their new sailors for spring sailing

- The Commonwealth School
- Needham High School

We did not host any regattas for high schools this year due to Covid-19 restrictions and logistical constraints. In fact, many regattas in the spring were paused this year for similar reasons.



# Special Programming

## Adult Program - member submitted synopses

### Women's Sailing

In 2021 “Women’s Racing” became “Women’s Sailing and Racing” to more effectively support women CBI members regardless of their interest in racing. We also started using Google Sheets to facilitate organization for racing and other initiatives. Specifically, members could sign up for a ‘Yellow to Red’ challenge on the Google sheet, and Red-rated sailors could volunteer to coach and crew to help members achieve red ratings. This project had an impressive success. Second, we started a regular meet-up on Tuesdays to facilitate women finding other women to sail with and this initiative developed a regular attendance. We also used Google sheets to facilitate finding people to sail with that have similar schedules and as a location to share learn-to-sail or race resources. Thursday’s Women’s Racing continued as usual with Mercuries with excellent turnout. We continue to encourage volunteerism and participation across CBI, and we had new members that by the end of the season had become active in the teaching corp. With our growth this year, we look forward to an increased level of member-led initiatives to support the community of Community Boating next season.

### Tiller Club

Despite starting the racing season in May rather than April due COVID-19 restrictions, Tiller Club hosted the three traditional 5-day series and almost all the usual regattas. We were delighted to see a number of new skippers become regulars, as well as the return of former regulars. There was a lot of interest in the Learn to Race class despite the shortened season. We held one LTR by Zoom and one in person, with an average of 25 people attending each course. We will be welcoming seven to ten new members at our annual meeting on Oct 31.

### Windsurfing

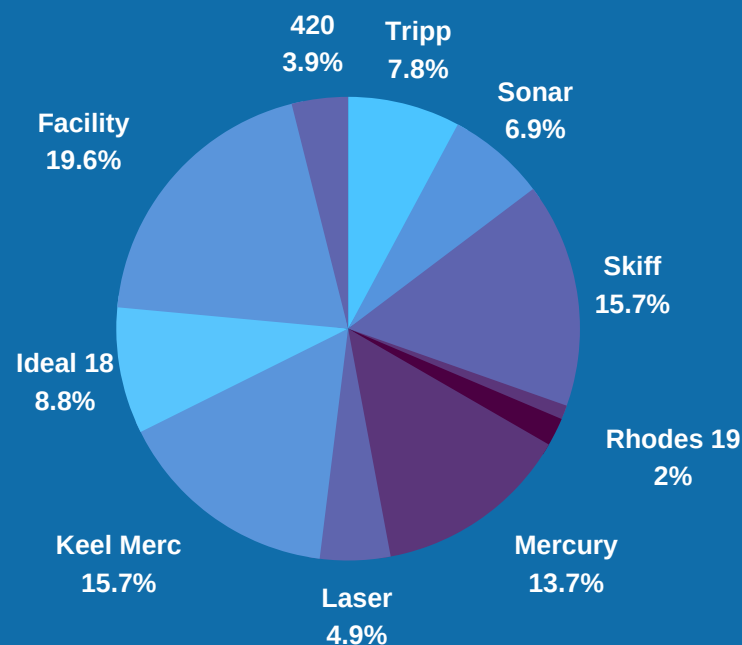
The windsurfing program restarted at CBI this year, after being dormant in 2020. Many of our volunteer instructors left the area since 2019, so we had to rebuild the group of instructors to restart the teaching program. We were assisted by staff member Nolan Cooper, who taught an introductory class every two weeks. Early in the season, the class enrollments were low, but enrollments grew later in the summer, so we started teaching classes with multiple instructors. We recruited and trained several new instructors that will help us maintain momentum for next year. We restarted the windsurfing racing series, with small attendance initially, that increased slowly. We look forward to next year, when we hope to restore the program to pre-COVID levels.



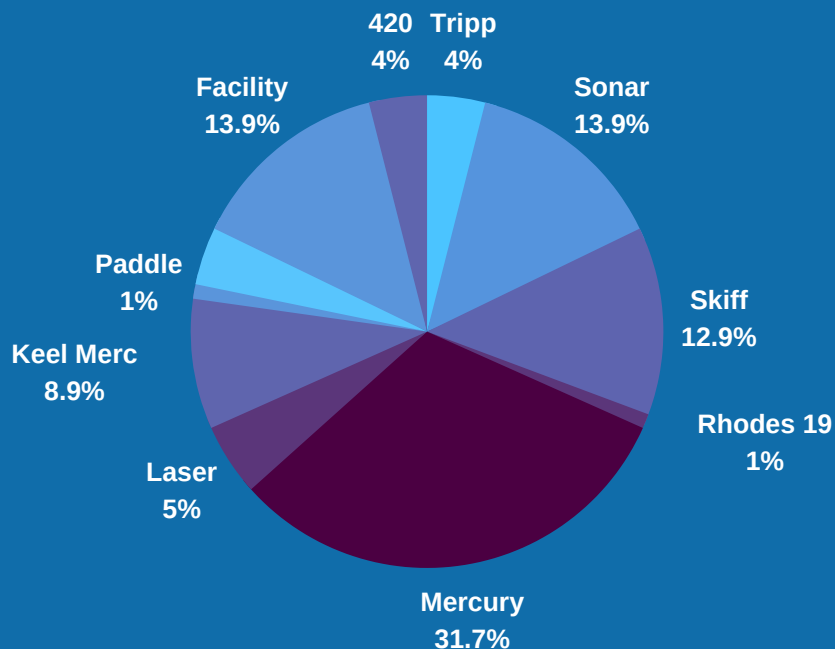


# Fleet & Facilities

## 794 Minor & Routine Repairs



## 102 Major & Fiberglass Repairs



### What do these charts include?

These charts show percentages of minor and major repairs filed for each boat type. The data are based entirely on information from the Broken Boat Log. This does not account for time the maintenance department devotes to fleet upgrades, routine fleet checks, items found in the broken rudder and sail bins, long term restoration and beautification projects, or general shop and facilities upkeep. These charts do not include windsurf repairs executed in concert with volunteers.

### Large Projects & Fleet Upgrades:

- Good portion of the season dedicated to catching up on deferred maintenance not possible with 2020 skeleton crew (as evidenced by ~900 items in our Broken Boat Book in 2021 compared to 6-700 each in 2018/19)
- Rehabbed half the CB Mercury topsides to upgrade and increase the lifespan of our largest and most valuable fleet.
- Completely rehabbed one CB Mercury and one Keel Mercury
- Incorporated three new-to-CBI Lasers into the fleet.
- Installed new mooring hawsers on all moorings in addition to annual inspection and maintenance.
- Installed new bow bumpers on several Sonars and began installation on Ideal 18 fleet (ongoing).
- Assessed inventory / care of sails, covers, and tents, including the new pavilion canopy.
- Various dock maintenance items, such as building a new Broken Rudder Rack, varnishing the dock house door, replacing dock boards, and moving the North Rigging Boat.

### Goals for next season:

We hope to introduce a new Laser, C420, and Mercury to the fleet. Improve 420 and Hyper dock fendering. Keel Merc overhauls and storage improvements. Return Tripp 3, Coach Boat, Sonars 1&3, and Ideal 1 to service. Repaint various docklines and dock buildings. The maintenance department will continue to focus on efficiency and safety.



# Community Relations

The 2021 season was an important year for us. We saw it as a comeback year after what our programs went through in 2020 and we've reached a huge milestone, 75 years of "Sailing for All." We spent a lot of time over the off season going through different scenarios of what may be possible for this season. As vaccine and infection rates seemed to be moving in the right direction, Community Relations Director, Sidaulia Benson was able to start envisioning what events on the dock may look like for us. Celebrating 75 years after getting through a difficult 2020 season was a momentous opportunity that we were able to share with our community and beyond.



## Community Events

**Summer Solstice Open House:** We were able to bring back our annual Sunrise Sunset Summer Solstice Spectacular event this year and combine it with an Open House. Our doors opened at 5am to almost 20 sailors eager to get out on that water for sunrise. For the first time since 2019 our dock welcomed hundreds of people over the course of that sunny Sunday. We gave out discounts on Adult Program memberships, and handed out snacks and Richie's Slush. We sold almost 90 full year memberships and welcomed over 100 people throughout the day for orientations, riggings, and shore schools. The day ended with a Night Sail, giving us the longest sailing day in Boston!

**Sunrise Yoga:** After a two-year hiatus we were excited to have Sunrise Yoga back for our community. Through a partnership with Athleta and Five Doors Health and Wellness we were able to offer free Wednesday morning yoga throughout the summer.



**Night Sails:** Our night sails are a unique opportunity for Adult Program members and their guests to see the river and city lights. We hosted four night sails this summer, each one filling up with an accompanying waitlist. In addition to our standard member night sails, we hosted special night sails for our staff and volunteers.

**July 4th Sailabration:** For the second year in a row our July 4th fundraiser had to be cancelled. This year the Boston Pops concert and fireworks were moved away from the Charles River Esplanade. We look forward to bringing this event back in 2022.

**Junior Program Family Sails:** By the middle of the season, it seemed likely that we could safely offer our normal Family Sails. These events allow Juniors to bring their families out on the water with them, showing off their new skills under the supervision of an instructor. During these two events, we brought 188 people out on the water, and made valuable connections between parents and staff.

# Community Relations

## Community Events

**Summer Lawn & Dock Party:** We tried something new this season and hosted a Lawn & Dock Party on a Sunday afternoon from 2pm-5pm. This meant for the first time we were going to be open for operations while hosting a dock party. The idea behind this was to implement the popular 'beer garden' vibes at CBI. Even with the not-so-great weather (rain on and off) we had over 200 people gather on the dock. The party was originally planned to extend into the Eliot Memorial Garden from the dock, so that we would have ample space for the party without interrupting programming. A poor weather forecast necessitated that we change those plans and also led to a last minute cancellation from our food truck. Even with all the adjustments behind the scenes, the party took place without a hitch. We had live music thanks to a Junior Program instructor who is also a Berklee student and beer/hard seltzer from our alcoholic beverage sponsors Harpoon and Arctic Chill. Overall, we liked the structure of this event. We anticipate hosting another Summer Lawn & Dock Party on a summer weekend afternoon in 2022.

**Junior Program Kids Sails the Stars:** We wrapped up a stellar year with our annual Kids Sail the Stars Regatta, which aims to give back to our spectacular Juniors for bringing so much vibrancy to our docks over the summer. This year, we completely sold out the event, with 50 kids teaming up along with both Instructors and our Stars from the sailing world--a mix of CBI volunteer faculty, board members, and representatives from partner organizations like Duck Boats. The racers showed up with their families who spectated the event and showed a wealth of pride and enthusiasm for winners and participants alike. This year, special guests DCR Commissioner Jim Montgomery and EEA Secretary Kathleen Theoharides commenced the event, reading off a special proclamation written by Governor Charlie Baker.





# Community Relations

## Community Events

**75th Anniversary Party:** We celebrated our 75th Anniversary in pure CBI fashion with a SAILabration! We had a grand total of 85 boats on the water for the Bridge-to-Bridge race. Every type of sailboat in CBI's fleet was on the Charles: from Mercuries all the way to Sonars-- and even a few windsurfers joined in on the action. Skippers included sailors from the Adult, Universal Access, and Junior programs. We gave away trophies for almost anything except 1st place. There was "Best Collision Avoidance" for a green rated sailor who tacked at the last minute to steer clear of a Sonar at the finish line, "Fastest Overall Speed" for a mercury that was towed in, and "Sailing the Boat Past its Breaking Point" for a Laser sailor whose skills surpassed the 1970s-era vessel's capabilities. After the awards, the DJ turned up the music and we celebrated the day's events at the dock party with almost 200 people. We danced the night away (even through some unexpected rain), games were played (with varying degrees of friendly competition), and stories (both old and new) were told around the dock.



**Volunteer Crew Party:** The Volunteer Crew Party happened near the end of the season to show CBI's appreciation for all the volunteers that help our non-profit function. Peter Magaldi, David Castanon, and Kathryn Commons all received Volunteer of the Year awards while John Bates won the Ed Long Outstanding Volunteer award. On top of that, a new tradition was started of Volunteer Superlatives, such as "Record for Driest Students" and "First Sail Aficionado", to increase volunteer participation in rewards and raise morale after the difficult COVID year.



# Community Relations

## CBI in the Media

With 2021 being our 75th anniversary we took the initiative to get in front of the media as much as possible. Here's a few media outlets where we were featured.

### Print (& online)

- Boston Globe - front page of the metro section
- Boston Magazine - online edition
- Sailing Magazine - upcoming issue
- Scuttlebutt

### TV

- Channel 5 WCVB - Chronicle
- Channel 5 WCVB - came to shoot b-roll during Summer Solstice event
- Explore New England - Program on NESN

In addition to the media attention we also received special proclamations from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of Boston.

## Key Partnerships & Supporters

**EF Education First:** CBI and EF entered a major sponsorship program over 6 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 4 years. In addition to Polar being our sole beverage sponsor, we re-established a sail partnership and entered a new 3-year agreement in 2020. Polar was supportive and flexible as we navigated certain challenges due to COVID in the Spring. In the Spring and Fall months you can find blue Polar Sails, fit for our Cape Cod Mercuries, sailing along the Charles.

**Grubhub:** Grubhub signed on as a new sail sponsor for a limited time during this season as they were re-branding to orange and adapting a new logo. They launched an activation in three major cities across the US, including Boston.

**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.

Other supporters: **Helbling Precision Engineering, Cargurus Inc., Harpoon, Arctic Chill, Lawrence and Lillian Solomon Fund, Inc., The Paul and Edith, Babson Foundation, The Humane Society of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, The Meek Family Foundation, Frederick A. Bailey Trust**

