

CRABCUP

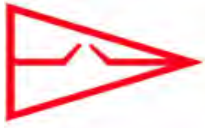
FOR ACCESSIBLE BOATING

Saturday, 21 August 2021

2021 CRAB Cup Clean Regatta Report



EASTPORT 
YACHT CLUB



Clean Regatta: Platinum Report

2021 CRAB CUP

The CRAB Cup is one of the largest annual charity regattas on the Chesapeake Bay. The 2021 CRAB Cup was held on August 21, 2021 at the Eastport Yacht Club (EYC) in Annapolis, Maryland. This year 2021 marks the 30th Anniversary of Chesapeake Region Accessible Boating (CRAB) and its mission to teach sailing to people with disabilities, recovering warriors, and children from underserved communities at no charge. For 15 years, the CRAB Cup (formerly the Boatyard Bar & Grill Regatta) has been the major fundraiser for the CRAB organization. This year several records were broken at the CRAB Cup and \$165,000 net was raised for CRAB's sailing programs, including more than \$92,000 raised through the Skippers Challenge, a live auction, a silent auction and a raffle.

The Eastport Yacht Club has participated in the Sailors for the Sea Clean Regatta program since 2014. The CRAB Cup has been an integral participant in the program since 2016 with EYC. CRAB Cup received Sailors for the Sea certification at the gold level every year except 2020 when the post-race party was cancelled due to state COVID guidelines. This year will be the first time that the event has been registered at the platinum level.

Eastport Yacht Club is proud of its environmental stewardship commitment and honored to have hosted for many years this pre-eminent charity event that supports such a wonderful cause. We are grateful to CRAB and the 44 corporate sponsors, 350 skippers and crew and over 500 supporters and friends for supporting the CRAB Cup and embracing our combined commitment to Clean Regattas.



CRAB Board presented EYC 2021 Clean Regatta Award

Clean Regatta Best Practices

Elimination of Single Use Items

1. Eliminate Single-Use Water Bottles and Provide Water Refill Station

On the water, the EYC Race Committee (RC) is a strong proponent of using re-fillable water bottles for races. EYC provides a metered water refill station that is widely used by all club members. Each Committee boat brings a five gallon water container to re-fill water bottles. The EYC RC continuously promotes this practice even when supporting other clubs. In addition, the EYC RC encourages racers to adopt this practice by promoting it in the race documentation. Specifically, Sailing Instructions #16 for the event states: “This is a Clean Regatta; all competitors are strongly encouraged to use multi-use water bottles... and to recycle whenever possible.” Committee boats also refill water bottles for racers while on the water during a race. We are the only club in our area to offer this.

On shore, EYC has a policy of “no single use plastic” and a refillable water bottle station is permanently located in our aft deck area. During a major event like the CRAB Cup we have additional portable water refill stations located on the waterfront yard. For the 2021 CRAB Cup, the 15-year old community environmental organization, Annapolis Green, provided their attractive Annapolis Taps with environmental messaging.



Filling up reusable water bottle at the Naptown Tap

2. Eliminate Plastic Straws

EYC does not allow plastic straws on site. If a straw is requested a biodegradable straw is provided.

3. Serve Food with Plastic-free Dinnerware

At the CRAB Cup post-race party, the Boatyard Bar & Grill served all food on compostable dinnerware with compostable cutlery. Mount Gay Rum provided compostable cups for the over 500 people attending the post-race party.



Celebrating with a drink in Mount Gay compostable cups

4. Use or Provide Reusable Bags



The RC uses reusable 'shopping bags' or cooler bags to transport lunches on the Committee boats for races. The RC also buys cookies in bulk size and repackages the cookies into reusable containers for lunches on the water. We have chips in individual bags and make it a point to collect the empty bags and recycle them.

For the 2021 CRAB Cup, skippers were given reusable bags to hold CRAB Cup T-shirts, Mount Gay hats, and additional swag received for entering and supporting the CRAB Cup.

CRAB Cup reusable skipper bags

5. Award Practical Items or Use a Perpetual or Upcycled Trophy

All awards for the race were practical. Handsome glassware was awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners and CRAB hats and Helly Hanson sailing jackets were awarded for winners of the Skippers Challenge. In addition, the stunning Triple Crown of Charity Sailing Trophy is a recycled US Power Squadron Trophy (Baltimore) that is presented to the skipper participating in the three major charity regattas (CRAB Cup, Leukemia Cup and Hospice Cup) who has finished best and raised the most funds for the three charity events.



Handsome Practical Glass Awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place CRAB Cup winners



Triple Crown of Charity Sailing Trophy - A Perpetual Award

Community involvement

6. Publicize your Sustainable Efforts

EYC's sustainable efforts are publicized in our clubhouse and on the grounds with signage and also on our website. A prominent sign "Are you Green? We are!" at the entrance to our marina reminds everyone of our commitment to the environment and the Bay and asks them to join us. During a regatta, competitors, event participants and sponsors are informed that we are a Green Club and we have a Clean Regatta Policy. Many sponsors and partners join us in our efforts. At the 2021 CRAB Cup, one of our major sponsors Mount Gay posted large red banners with an environmental message above the event stage and across the upper deck of the clubhouse. The message was simple: "Together we can end the ocean plastic crisis." The signage was seen by over 500 participants who attended the CRAB Cup shore festivities and by tens of thousands who saw the CRAB Cup media.



7. Involve Local Organizations

The Annapolis Community is very involved in the CRAB Cup. There were 44 sponsors for the 2021 CRAB Cup, most of them local. At the CRAB Cup, one of the local organizations, Annapolis Green, provided portable refillable water stations with educational signage and through its newsletter, media posts and outreach efforts increased community awareness of the CRAB Cup clean regatta efforts. Annapolis Green has as its mission to “bring together individuals, local businesses, government agencies and non-profit organizations to create a healthy thriving community.” They are very effective at communication and outreach.



Banner with CRAB Cup sponsors and the local Naptown Brass Band

It should also be noted that the CRAB organization is currently building the premier Adaptive Boating Center (ABC) in Annapolis, which will be an environmentally friendly marina complex and educational center. It will feature a 100% solar-powered learning center, EV charging stations for cars, and electric motors on CRAB sailboats. It is expected that 2,000-3,000 people with disabilities will learn to sail from this incredible facility annually.



Poster of CRAB Annapolis Adaptive Boating Center and Naptown Tap

8. Post Educational and Reusable Signage

EYC has permanently posted educational signage including the “Are You Green” sign as well as a “Clean Marina” sign that announces that we are a certified Maryland Clean Marina. There is also additional educational signage on the grounds and in the clubhouse.

During the event, reusable educational compost and recycle signs are posted by the respective waste bins. Also, the corporate banners that are used in the CRAB Cup tent as well as those hung on the EYC Clubhouse are re-used each year at the event.



Clean Marina Sign & EYC Green Team Display with educational information

9. Serve Local Food or Source Seafood Sustainably

EYC has a policy to serve locally sourced foods as much as possible and always will serve only sustainable seafood. The Boatyard Bar & Grill, which is the Founding Sponsor of the CRAB Cup, orders food from local food vendors and supports the sustainable seafood initiative.

Responsible Waste Management

10. Organize a Green Team

EYC has a standing Environmental Committee which supports our Clean Regatta efforts. Every year the “Green Team” raises the Sailors for the Sea flag at the beginning of the season. For the 2021 CRAB Cup, Virginia Tippie served as the onsite coordinator. Ann Powers and Jason Simpson were Green Ambassadors on the water working with the Race Committee and also during the party. Dan McQuay, General Manager, and his staff helped to ensure a successful and clean regatta party.



Sailors for the Sea flag flying at 2021 CRAB Cup



Raising the Sailors for the Sea flag at beginning of season

11. Ensure Proper Waste Bin Placement and Signage



Eco-stations with compost and recycle bins were placed at several prominent locations for the event. Reusable signage with examples of the event dinnerware & possible waste products were displayed on the signs. Staff and environmental committee members helped newcomers determine what was compostable versus recyclable. Since there was no single use plastic, most of the waste went into the compostable bins.

EYC General Manager at 2021 CRAB Cup eco-station

12. Divert Food Waste From the Landfill.

During the CRAB Cup event all food waste was diverted from the landfill and sent to a reputable local commercial compost facility for processing in an environmentally friendly manner.

13. Use Paperless Event Management

The EYC RC employs on-line registration for its regattas as well as payment via PayPal. Race documents are posted online via an electronic bullet board for competitors to access. EYC no longer posts paper copies of documents on a physical bulletin board at the club. 2021 post-race 'protest hearings' were virtual and conducted via ZOOM or teleconference. Racers filled out and filed protest documents electronically. The RC Co-Chair also submits check requests to the club electronically.

Preparations for the post-race 2021 CRAB party were conducted electronically and the event was promoted electronically by the CRAB office and CRAB supporters. "Tickets" for the post race party were purchased on-line or an entry fee was paid at the door.

Environmental Stewardship

14. Host a Beach or Marina Cleanup

There was no beach or marina cleanup on the day of the CRAB Regatta. However, during the summer, the Environmental Committee held "Trash Fishing Tournaments" and two Race Committee boats received trash-fishing awards for trash they collected upon returning from the racecourse after major regattas.



2021 Trash Fishing tournament award winners - two RC boats

15. Promote Alternative Transportation



EYC encourages alternative transportation. The club has good bike racks on the grounds and pedestrian friendly side walks that connect to the eco-friendly community of Eastport and historic Annapolis. Many of the EYC members and event participants who are local just walk to the club rather than drive. The club also has guest slips and kayak/canoe floating docks for members and guests who want to come by water.

During the holidays we have a boat parade known as the EYC Lights Parade and also a Lighted Bike Parade. Our Waterfront and Junior Sailing Coordinator often leads the bike parade.

16. Increase Awareness of Wildlife and Habitat Protection

The club is an active steward of the bay in many ways. We are building an oyster reef under our dock to attenuate wave action in the marina, raising oysters to be placed on conservation reefs in the Severn River and collecting/recycling discarded oyster shells to create new oyster habitat. An ongoing water quality monitoring program in our marina is tracking the effectiveness of our efforts to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Educational signage on the docks and grounds increases awareness of important wildlife & habitats (e.g. oyster reefs) and what EYC is doing to make a difference.



Oyster gardening sign on EYC dock & team setting up cages to raise oysters for bay conservation



Annual placement of spat covered triangles on EYC oyster reef wave wall with divers using SUPs and photo of diver displaying older oyster triangle with large mature oysters

17. Offer Vegetarian or Vegan alternatives

The EYC RC Co-Chair does not eat meat and is always supplied with a delicious vegetarian sandwich when supporting a race. The club offers vegetarian and vegan meals in the dining room and at events.

The Boatyard Bar & Grill provided a vegan menu for the post-race dinner.



CRAB Cup buffet line with vegetarian & vegan options by Boatyard Bar & Grill

18. Use Eco-Smart Boating Management Techniques

CRAB Cup 2021 was a very eco-friendly regatta that used eco-smart boating techniques. It was essentially paperless with sailing instructions, notices, amendments, and communications distributed electronically. Registration for the race and post-race party was conducted on-line. The RC used refillable water bottles and had refill water stations on committee boats. Upon request, racers' water bottles were refilled.

To address energy concerns, committee boats anchored and turned their engines off. In addition, only committee boats with diesel or efficient four stroke engines are used for clean regattas at EYC. It should also be noted that the entire CRAB fleet of Beneteau 22A sailboats operate with eco-friendly propane motors.

19. Prevent Toxins from Entering the Water

EYC was the first yacht club in Maryland to be designated a Clean Marina. It renews its certification every year by maintaining practices that ensure that toxins do not enter the water.

We have oil spill clean up equipment and response procedures in our marina. We also maintain a pump out facility for waste. Our porous concrete parking lot, rain barrels and landscaping minimizes runoff into the bay.

Front entrance to clubhouse showing pervious parking lot and rain barrel.



20. Encourage Green Boating Practice



Refillable water station & Green Boater flag

The 2021 CRAB Cup regatta was governed by Racing Rules of Sailing including Rule 47 "Competitors and support persons shall not intentionally put trash in the water." Event participants were also notified that the race was a clean regatta and were encouraged to follow Sailors for the Sea best practices. In addition, Green Boating practices are actively encouraged on site at EYC through signage, displays, electronic communications, program activities and environmentally aware members.

