

**Able Sail Network (ASN) Symposium
Mobility Cup 2006 – Vancouver
September 10, 2006**

- 31 people in attendance
- Meeting facilitated by Steve Alvey

Introduction and background of ASN:

- Doug Nutting provided background and information on how ASN began and how it developed into what it is today.
- Peter Wood provided an example of how the information sharing goal has worked for the Ottawa DSA. The Ottawa Club was able to access a volunteer manual which assisted them in further developing their volunteer program.
- Dan McCoy asked if ASN is planning on applying for national funding to distribute to member programs and Clubs. Dan indicated the formation of ASN offered an opportunity to gain credibility and attention at a national level which could result in an increase of resource availability.
- Clare Edington in Victoria shared that videos have proven to be an effective tool in raising awareness for their program.
- Sarah from CYA encouraged programmes to post their statistics on activities undertaken in their sailing season i.e. # of sailing sessions held, demographics. She indicated the collection of these statistics will help CYA to support adapted sailing at a national level. There is a place on the ASN website for Clubs and programmes to upload their profile with this information,
- Brian Monrad reviewed the objects included in the ASN application to the federal government for Charitable status.
- 5 out of the 6 founding ASN Board members, Doug Nutting, Rene Dallaire, Duane Geddes, Kimberley Ives, and Dennis (Fletch) Fletcher, signed the finalized application for Charitable status.
- The application will be sent to Michael Dunn, the remaining founding ASN member, for his signature. The application will then be filed with the Federal Government.

Profile of Jericho Sailing Centre (JSC) and DSA Vancouver Partnership:

- Mike Cotter, General Manager of JSC, reviewed the background of the outstanding model of a successful partnership required for accessible sailing programs to thrive.
- Roundtable discussion of other examples of successful partnerships in other adapted sailing programs.

Concurrent Sessions:

- Steve Alvey facilitated a discussion of important elements of starting a new adapted sailing club or programme.
- Dan McCoy facilitated a session on high performance competition.

Starting a new adapted sailing programme – Steve Alvey:

- Steve reviewed some of the resources in the binder and identified many other resources are available on the ASN website.
- Kevin from Halifax is working on helping rejuvenate the Halifax program. They are currently working on acquiring a new Martin.
- Other topics of discussion included fundraising, volunteer development, and how to get people interested in joining programs, the importance of comprehensive insurance and good quality equipment and safety processes.
- Rene shared that the program in Montreal is working on contacting Commodores of other sailing clubs for networking, as well as a fundraising, referral, and volunteer base.
- Specific fundraising ideas such as dinners, steak nights, and fundraising online were identified as a good option for not only bringing in money, but spreading the word, raising awareness, and getting people involved.

Roundtable - Club Highlights, Challenges and How ASN can help:

Victoria:

Highlight:

- Lots of demand for the program activities, some members received certifications We have increased the number of instructors by one each of the last two years (2003- 3 instructors-2006-5 instructors) and lengthened the number of weeks of the program also.
- We have raised \$100,000 to build a new gangway and moving conveyance to address safety issues presented by an 11ft. tidal change.

Challenge:

- Meeting the demand for the program

ASN Can Help:

- Information on best practices
- Templates for fundraising
- ASN brochure formatted so local programs can add local information re: programs.

Ontario:

Highlight:

- Able Sail coach hired from grant received; now able to do more programming eg. Training camps, blind cruising course.
- Some sailors participated in CORK – huge regatta. This was positive as new members attended and it was an integrated activity.

Vancouver:

Highlight:

- Increased accessibility for sailing eg. By connecting with Tetra, young member who is a high quad designed adaptation to enable him to use his respirator while sailing.

Challenge:

- Organizing Mobility Cup – time and resource intensive

AQVA:

Highlights:

- Held Coupe du Québec with 11 boats, 22 participants
- 53 active volunteers, and 53 new sailors in 2006
- Organized a successful Blues night fundraiser
- Will need more boats to accommodate demand

ASN can help:

- Share resources, distribute funds through national fundraising

Quinte SailAbility

Highlights:

- attending Cork created an interest in racing
- getting our own M16

Challenge:

- weeds created a barrier and shortfall in funding resulted in reduced staff hours

ASN Can Help:

- operational funding.. web site has been great help.

SK – Wind On My Wings Sailing Club:

Highlights:

- New/used Martin acquired through Ronald McDonald's Children's Charities
- New equipment obtained, such as Zodiac and utility program makes running programs easier

Challenge:

- Lack of physical infrastructure – no clubhouse or sailing club in same location
- Limited resources – run program on very low budget

ASN can help:

- Through network, share ideas on how to build infrastructure

Sail Ability – Auckland, New Zealand:

Highlights:

- Participating in Auckland 's 166th Anniversary regatta
- Secured money to pay coach
- Coming to Canada for Mobility Cup

ASN Can Help:

- Can use resources and info from website to assist their program to get started

|

Halifax:

Highlights:

- Renewed enthusiasm for Club and program development
- Coming to Mobility Cup

Challenge:

- Fundraising
- Maintaining involvement of members for sustainability