

Disabled Sailing Association of Alberta Report

Members/Community Partners

Individual Members: 36

Community Partners/Large Groups: 13

-these include our camps such as Camp Bonaventure, Cerebral Palsy, Sports and Rec for the Blind, Oakridge Seniors Center, etc

Sailing Hours

Recreational Sailing Hours: 890

Racing Hours: 20 (Mobile Cup training/practice)

Volunteers

Number of volunteers: 43

Number of volunteer hours: 546

This year we had a 9 week operational season (July 4th – September 2nd). The City of Calgary wasn't able to get our dock installed until July, which really hindered our staff training, and our ability to start our sailing season.

Another struggle is qualified staff. While our staff is incredible, enthusiastic, and all of our sailors loved them, they all had no sailing knowledge or experience. It is difficult to find staff that have prior knowledge or experience, and that can qualify under the Canada Summer Grants which we rely on to fund our summer employees. I believe that next year we will have at least 3 returning staff, which will greatly help with the training, and the learning curve. At the end of the season we were able to put our staff in some CanSail classes so they now have CanSail level 2.

Our season was busier than we expected, and we found that 4 staff was not enough to keep up with amount of sails being booked. This year I will be applying for 6 staff through the Canada Summer Jobs Grant. We are also looking for more volunteers, as we rely on qualified sailing companions to take our clients out sailing. Hopefully by having more staff, and some returning staff with sailing qualifications, this could help if we need a staff member to jump in and sail if we don't have a volunteer.

For the first time in years, we had one of our members attend and participate in the Mobility Cup which was held in Toronto. Wednesday night racing takes place Wednesday evenings on the Glenmore Reservoir, and in the past we've had one of our Sonar's participating in the race. This year we had a fleet of up to 3 Martin's involved in the race!

We are looking for more Board Members to join the DSAA. At the moment our Board is small, and we are hoping to add 2-5 more to help our organization run more smoothly. We are open to all, sailing experience or knowledge is not a pre-requisite. We are especially looking for people with experience in Finances or Accounting, Marketing, Social Media, Event Planning, and other skills.

This year will be our 30th Anniversary! We are hoping to plan and execute a large celebration, where we will also unveil our rebranding. We are moving away from having “Disabled” in our name, and will change to something more inclusive that uses the word Able instead. As we continue to plan our celebration, we would love the support and presence of ASA if it is available.

A delegate from the Mayor’s office reached out to us, and wrote up an incredible article about our program that was read at the City Council meeting, printed in their newsletter, and put up on the City of Calgary’s website. Please click the link below to read the article:

<https://www.calgary.ca/our-leadership/articles/waves-of-freedom.html>

We have an upcoming Casino at the Deerfoot Inn and Casino on December 28th and 29th.