



## **The Elephant We Must Eat Together**

### **Thinking Ahead to the Next 26 Years**

The DSC turned 26 in 2021. We have always relied on miracles, angel donors, and the sweat and tears of an often-overworked and often-underpaid staff that has consistently accomplished more with less. Or we have simply “made do” and often suffered the consequences of low quality products that hamper our ability to offer safe and high quality programming. At some point in all of our lives, it is important to grow up and take an honest assessment of what things cost *now* and what things will cost in the future. Here is a sampling of what things cost, as well as what lies ahead.

#### **Backtracking to 2020...**

In 2020, we made the following investments in our facilities that had a major impact on our 2021 programming:

- \$5,000 in dock awnings to enable socially-distanced outdoor learning
  - 2 40' awnings @ \$2,500/unit
- \$5,000 in plumbing to pipe water to our docks
  - All materials for the sinks, except for the faucets, were recycled materials
- \$1,200 in materials for the dinghy/kayak ramp
  - Built by volunteers
- \$8,000 in kayaks and kayak paddles, purchased winter 2020/2021
- \$2,000 in dock boxes to store kayaking equipment
- \$5,500 for [new 25hp engine for Boaty McBoatface](#)

Though these purchases (and many more) were paid for through 2020 fundraising dollars or absorbed through member and programming fees, they reflect the substantial financial cost of growing our organization. In these trying times, there is no stasis - if a business isn't getting better, it is getting worse - let's focus on getting better.

Additional costs (2020 & 2021) include:

- Gallons of hand sanitizer
- Weekly portajohn cleanings
- Masks, buffs, gloves, spray bottles, face shields...
- More VHF radios, since staff and campers are spread out through the grounds
- More boat fuel and maintenance costs associated with increased powerboat usage, as more programs relied on social distancing and coaching via powerboat



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#### **In 2021, Community Programming we have Already Paid For in advance of donations:**

- \$8,000 will pay for the 20 camp scholarships we gave away.
- \$2,000 will pay for our DSC instructors in our Siebel Sailors Program.
- \$2,000 will cover most of the full time staffing expenses incurred for this program
- \$200 will pay for the fuel and special equipment, including a new ramp, used in that program
- \$8,000 will cover the gap in CIT program funding, which completes the \$20,000 grant we received from Clayton Baker Trust.
- \$4,000 will pay for the fuel and special equipment used for our adaptive sailing program;
  - \$1200 for a new Hoyer Lift
  - \$1200 in new Hansa 303W parts
  - \$525 in a new fender for our adaptive sailing docks
  - \$600 in replacement lines for the Freedom 20s
- \$12,000 will cover the staffing cost for the 1-2 staff who plan, coordinate, and lead the adaptive sailing events (count on a bigger number in 2022!).

#### **In 2021:**

- \$10,000 covers the replacement cost of HOSS's worn out engine - this boat is used daily for CIT program support and is also our primary safety vessel for Access-ability Saturdays, as well as race committee, kayak lessons, powerboat lessons, etc.
- \$700 covers the materials costs for Scooby's keel repair (40 hrs labor).
- \$1,200 covers the materials costs for Seaborn's bulkhead replacement (80 hrs labor).
- \$500 covers the materials costs to refit Seahorse for regular service (20 hrs labor).
- \$4,000 covers the new 2-ton hoist (paid for by an angel donor)
- \$1,200 covers the materials to complete the hoist pier (paid for by an angel donor; 40 hrs labor)
- \$1,000 in carpet, lumber, and supplies for the dinghy/kayak launch and kayak rack

#### **For 2022, In general Wear and Tear for The DSC:**

\$21,000 will cover the replacement costs of our day fleet jibs

\$25,000 will address our fleet needs for mainsails

\$2,500 will cover our replacement costs for bow fenders



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The DSC has roughly \$40,000 remaining on its marina expansion loan for our redevelopment of 'B' dock, and I cannot wait to make that final payment: help us. This marina expansion, which The DSC began in earnest in 2014, is nearly complete and enabled us to double our summer camp capacity in spite of COVID-19. 'B' dock is now home for two of our three outdoor classrooms, our RS Fevas (used in the Siebel Sailors Program), and our kayaks, Sonars, and Freedom Independence 20s. The note will be paid off in December of 2022 if we remain on track.

#### **For the Future and Beyond:**

- A new Sonar costs roughly \$50,000
  - A new Sonar fleet (6 boats) will be a \$300,000 investment
  - The average age of our Sonars is 36 (born in 1985) and each of our Sonars have received 200+ hrs of professional labor to maintain them in safe condition over the past six years.
- New docks could cost us as much as \$2,000,000.
- Sourcing power to the hoist pier & shipping containers

#### **Wish List**

If we are able to pay for our annual expenses (which we have often failed to do in years past) and able to set aside funds for the above "future" projects, our DSC wish list includes:

- An actual race committee boat, e.g. trawler and/or or fishing boat
- Green grass to walk on and roll sails on; a riparian buffer to protect against run-off made of native plants; native trees to provide shade for us; and an accessible walkway that provides beauty and instills confidence in our sailors
- A fleet of [2.4m sailboats](#) or [Martin 16s](#)
- A bathhouse and funds to maintain it (our 4 full time staff cannot be expected to also be full time janitors)
- A workshop like the [Beaufort Watercraft Center](#) to build boats like [Optis](#), [Windmills](#), and [Bevins Skiffs](#) that younger sailors can sail and row (one can dream)
- A dedicated environmental justice track within our youth programming- our harbor needs our help
- Additional staff who are dedicated to youth programming
- Additional staff who are dedicated to adaptive sailing



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- Additional staff to manage volunteers as their full time task

*Closing thought: If we want a future generation of home-grown sailors, we need to start them young, give them free opportunities to sail so they feel a true sense of belonging, and then nurture them into the folds of our membership umbrella. The DSC has always operated a summer camp, "outreach" programs, an adult sailing school, and an adult membership. A true community sailing center is one without silos, and we are not there yet. Not one single kid has ever graduated from camp or the SIT/CIT program and become an active adult DSC member. That is a problem we should work to rectify.*

*The challenge of providing a space for youth is that we must have the funds, and staff, and volunteers, and training, and the boats (and quite frankly the water quality) to provide this space for them. We aren't there yet, but we are trying. Our youth demographics are improving (becoming more diverse), and hopefully some of them, who are now tweens, will matriculate into active sailors with us and get their own kids interested in sailing.*

*-Stuart T. Proctor, Executive Director, September 2021*