

Piers Park Sailing Center Dock Party Fundraiser

Saturday, August 21st, 2010

Boston Harbor Shipyard & Marina

By John Lynds

It's going to be a good off season for the Piers Park Sailing Center (PPSC). The center's most recent fundraising effort Saturday at the Boston Harbor Shipyard and Marina on Marginal Street was a success and yielded several thousand dollars that will be used to enhance PPSC's successful kid, teen, adults and adaptive programs.

"The Dock Party fundraiser was an enormous success," said PPSC acting director Bobby Martin. "Sponsors, patrons and celebrants helped us raise a grand amount for a small community sailing program." Instead of doing the usual stuffy fundraiser at a Hotel ballroom, this year PPSC decided to bring the party outside on the docks of the marina. There was good food, drinks and plenty of music provided

by the Squeeze Box stompers. "It was a unique experience," said Martin. For urban kids in Eastie, PPSC free program more about applying life lessons learned at sea than simply learning the technical skills of sailing. "Sailing is a sport of independence, responsibility, control and direction-the very qualities that are often hard to demonstrate to youngsters and teens

through traditional structure activities," said Martin. "Ocean sailing is an experience and educational opportunity where the curriculum is linked to the environment." Once under way, the kids are on a never-ending odyssey of learning how the boat reacts with the fluid dynamics of weather, wind and water-the crew and the sailboat must work in harmony with nature.

"The kids become comfortable with cause and effect and learn the benefits of persistence, endurance, patience, teamwork and courage," said Martin. "We all benefit when young people bring this knowledge to bear in school, at home and in their community." Martin added that when the kids come off the boats at PPSC, there is no denying the incredible sense of accomplishment they feel. "Most impor-

tant, they have fun," he said. Martin also encouraged those who have never visited PPSC to plan a visit before the season ends in October. "It is the most spectacular location on Boston Harbor," he said. "I encourage people to spend an afternoon with us. Come for a picnic in the park, a sail on Boston Harbor and see what you've been supporting."



Supporters of Piers Park Sailing Center enjoy the center's new approach to fundraising--an outdoor deck party at the Boston Harbor Shipyard and Marina on Marginal Street.



Former Piers Park Sailing Center Mat Rosa (left) with City Councilor Sal LaMattina (center) show their continuing support of the successful sailing program along with Danielle Pillion Executive Director Friends of Fort Point Channel, Jane Rupp and Brian Murphy.



Two Piers Park Sailing Center supporters enjoyed food, drinks and music.



Piers park Sailing Center's Youth Program Director Jule Browner (left) with supporters during Saturday's fundraiser.



Sailors from the Piers Park Sailing Center enjoyed the festivities as well.



303 Cafe owner Tom Clackett and Mark Cordeiro (center) with other Piers Park Sailing supporters Lyle Bradley and Eric Maxson.



Local band the Squeeze Box Stompers provided some live entertainment.



Former Piers Park Sailing Center Director Mat Rosa with City Councilor Sal LaMattina and interim Director Bobby Martin.