



# ANNAPOLIS BOAT SHOWS

## *City Dock ~ Annapolis, MD*

*Sailing Industry Distinguished Service Award*

*October 2014*

My name is Paul Jacobs and I am the President of the Annapolis Boat Shows. Tonight we are pleased to be presenting the first annual Sailing Industry Distinguished Service Award, with this beautiful Anniversary Barometer, Wood Base, and custom engraving provided by Weems & Plath. This award is intended to honor a recipient who has distinguished him or herself through continued and unselfish service to the overall advancement of the sailing industry. As we agonized over who should receive the first award, we started asking around, and when we asked what this person had contributed to the sailing industry, the response was “What hasn’t he contributed to the industry?”

This gentleman sets an example for all of us. In addition to making great contributions to the sailing industry, he’s actively involved in the sport of sailing, competing in many Tasar world championships. What is even more impressive is that he blends the sport with the business, and does it so well.

This man doesn’t just deserve the Sailing Industry Distinguished Service award; He is the sailing industry! He is a sailing industry lifer. In fact he’s worked for the same company for 40 years making his first job his only job. And he’s given back to the industry at every turn.

He’s served on the board of Sail America, and he started the International Sailing Summit, now in its 14<sup>th</sup> iteration of the celebration of Ronstan All-Americans at Sail Expo. Over the years he has received many honors including the Centenary Medal, Australian Export Hero, 1999 and 2002 Marine Industry Achiever, the Governor of Victoria Export Award, and in his many year history in the Tasar class, where he set one world record: Getting the most people on a Tasar.

As a longhaired teenager in the 70’s, he landed an interview with Ron Allat of Ronstan, so in preparation, he visited the barbershop on his way to – “to help me land a respectable job” as he puts it. Ron obviously liked the “cut of his jib” at the interview and advised him that he could start on Monday under one condition – that he get his hair cut first. So, back to the barber shop for his second cut of the day and Alistair Murray’s 40-year career with Ronstan and his love affair with the sailing industry began.

If you don't already know Alistair Murray personally, please introduce yourself to him tonight and thank him for his service to our industry. You'll be glad you did. I can't think of a more fitting tribute to this man than through the song that his friends affectionately sing to him...for some reason. It goes something like this:

Oh, I don't know why he's leaving, or where he's gonna go  
I guess he's got his reason, but I just don't want to know  
Cause for twenty-four years I've been living next door to \_\_\_\_\_.

Please stand and congratulate the 2014 winner of the Sailing Industry Distinguished Service Award: Alistair Murray.