



ANNAPOLIS BOAT SHOWS

City Dock ~ Annapolis, MD

Sailing Industry Distinguished Service Award

October 2015

Good evening. My name is Paul Jacobs, the President of the Annapolis Boat Shows and I am here tonight to announce the Annapolis Sailboat Show's - Sailing Industry Distinguished Service Award.

This annual 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. This year's award is a beautiful limited edition Captain's Clock designed and crafted by Ocean Icons with a hand polished bronze casting, a teak hub and precision timepiece provided by Weems & Plath.

Our committee considered an impressive list of professionals who have made enormous contributions to the sailing industry. It was a tough choice, but this year, the award goes to someone who believed in a "holiday for the rest of us."

He grew up sailing off the coast of Maine, first in a Styrofoam Snark and later tagging along with his grandfather on his "big boat" a Rhodes 19. He taught sailing while in college and took a year off from college to sail from Maine to Venezuela and back with his brother and a friend.

Upon graduation from college he took a break from sailing to try life in the corporate world, but lucky for us, sailing won out, and he settled at Latitude 38. During his tenure at Latitude, he served on the board of the Northern California Marine Association, on the board of Sail America, as the Strictly Sail Boat Show Chairman, and as an outstanding volunteer for many sailing organizations and events.

He walks the boat shows tirelessly, talking sailing and the sailing industry. He beats the drum for sailing everywhere he goes. It is fitting that when we asked for photos, almost every shot we got was of him sailing. It's hard to find John anywhere other than sailing or pitching the sailing lifestyle.

He has always understood the importance of grass roots marketing. He knew that if we were going to grow sailing, we had to have a plan, and we had to make it something that sailors could do themselves. Summer Sailstice is his brilliant solution. Get sailors out sailing over the Solstice. Encourage them to take their non-sailing friends with them. Help sailors around the world create their own Summer Sailstice celebrations and share them in one central spot – summersailstice.com. Then once you have critical mass, let the non-sailing media know about, and there you have it! All this from one guy!!

By now, I'm sure you've figured out that this year's recipient is the unstoppable John Arndt. John, please come up and join me on the stage.

John and his wife Leslie have built their lives around sailing. Their daughters, who are grown now, were raised sailing. John walks the walk and talks the talk. He sees no reason why we can't all live green and touts sailing as the original green transportation.

We asked last year's recipient, Alistair Murray, president of Ronstan International and resident of Melbourne, Australia, for a few words for John. As anyone who was here last year knows, "a few words" isn't Alistair's strength, but these are good words, so we didn't cut any of them.

"As last year's recipient of the inaugural United States Sailboat Show Sailing Industry Distinguished Service Award, I could not be more pleased than to see the award this year go to John Arndt.

John has been a good friend of mine for the past 23 years, when we got to know each other through his selling of ads for Latitude 38 and through being involved together with Sail America when we put on those fabulous first Sail Expo's at Atlantic City.

Beyond that, and passionately in the years since, John has been managing and promoting his very own, and unique, Summer Sailstice, an international celebration of sailing. What better basis of a sailing event could there possibly be than to encourage as many people as possible around the world to simply get out on their boats and have fun – all on the same day of the year?

In addition John has strongly supported my International Sailing Summit program and continued to work tirelessly for Sail America, while all the time being the "ad guy" from Latitude.

John has an infectious smile and attitude and an undying passion for sailing in all its forms, and for the industry that supports it. He is without doubt one of the hardest working, most dedicated, honest and most selfless people the industry has seen.

He is also one of the very first guys I seek out when I just want to relax and have fun at the end of the day at a show; I am sorry I couldn't get there today John, but will certainly be seeking you out tomorrow for a celebratory drink!

Heartiest congratulations John!"

Alistair Murray

John's long-time friend and co-worker Mitch Perkins had this to say of John receiving the award: "very cool, appropriate, and deserving." We agree with Mitch. John's ubiquitous smile, unbelievable energy and dedication to spreading the joy of sailing to everyone make John Arndt the perfect recipient of this year's Distinguished Service Award.

Thank you John and congratulations!