

## The Seafarers an African American Yacht Club



The african american yacht club called the Seafarers was founded in 1959 by a handful of Black boaters The Club blended seamlessly into the surrounding houses in the city's Eastport district. In many ways, it's a reflection of the area's history and how attitudes have evolved over time. The Maryland capital was once an infamous slave port, and until the early 1960s, the club's headquarters

served as a segregated school for "colored children."

David Turner, whose father and grandfather worked the Chesapeake Bay as crabbers and oystermen, recalls "getting up at the crack of dawn" as a kid to help out on weekends and summers. In fact, as he got older, he found that the Chesapeake Bay was "in my bloodstream." He bought a boat. Then another. Eventually, in 2007, he joined the Seafarers Yacht Club of Annapolis.



Capitalizing on their love of the water club members do community outreach taking trips with kids and running camps. When the 'SYC's' youth program goes out they have about 40 children wearing matching yellow-and-blue shirts as they gather for the final day of a two-week youth program. Teaching them how to swim, how to work the boats, how to go out in the water , According to club member Alice Mahan, who is coordinator for the summer program, "Most of these kids, when they came, did not even want to get their faces wet." The popular summer curriculum aims to teach an eclectic variety of life skills from boat handling and fishing to physical fitness. They went on a cruiser for their last trip getting ready for the end of the summer.

References:

["When Black boaters faced discrimination on the water, this yacht club became a refuge"](#)

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