Celebrating 50 Years

1968-2018

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A NEW ENGLAND DEVELOPMENT Boating Destination
FROM WHALING CAPITAL
to World Class Destination

Over the last 50 years, the Nantucket Boat Basin has become the gateway to Nantucket for visitors from around the world. As we look to the future, we reflect on the past.

Nantucket’s coming of age as the world’s whaling capital and the Nantucket Boat Basin’s history are forever entwined. Transforming through the centuries, the marina has survived the Great Fire and the Perfect Storm. Today, it is the premiere luxury destination for New England area sailors and yacht captains from around the world.

1783 Nantucket becomes the Whaling Capital.
1831 Whaling era begins declining; oil is discovered on land.
1819 The infamous whaling ship, the Essex, leaves Nantucket Harbor.
1846 The Great Fire burns the downtown area including the waterfront.
1723-1762 Straight Wharf and South Wharf are built.
1850 Obed Swain, a retired whaling captain renames Commercial Wharf, Swain’s Wharf.
1917 Henry Lang purchases Old South Wharf from the Swain family.
1918 Walter Beinecke, Jr creates the Nantucket Historical Trust.
1965 Walter Beinecke, Jr. leads the waterfront redevelopment.
1985 First Winthrop Corp. purchases the harborfront property.
1991 The “Perfect Storm” hits the island destroying wharves, buildings and boats.
1998-Present Winthrop Corp. sells the Boat Basin and Wharves, Harbor House, and White Elephant to Jill and Stephen Karp. Under the ownership of the Karps, Nantucket Boat Basin achieves global status as one of the top marinas in the world.
THEN AND NOW
Celebrating 50 Years

In tribute to our storied past, join us for special promotions and events planned throughout the year. From our community Touch-A-Boat event on Mass. Kids’ Boating Day to our many fishing tournaments and charity events, there is something special for the entire family. Visit our website, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to keep in touch with #NBB50 and #NBBThrowback50.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Get Onboard in 2018

APRIL
Daffodil Festival | April 27-29

MAY
Nantucket Wine Festival | May 16-20
Figawi Race Weekend | May 26-28

JUNE
Spring Restaurant Week | June 4-10
MASS Kids’ Boating Day/Touch-A-Boat | June 9
Nantucket Book Festival | June 15-17
Father’s Day Fishing Tournament | June 15-16
Nantucket Film Festival | June 20-25

JULY
Independence Day Main St. Activities | July 4
Independence Day Fireworks | July 5
Yoga Festival | July 6-8
Nantucket Comedy Festival | July 11-14
Hinckley Rendezvous | July 20-22
Nantucket Triathlon | July 21
MarineMax Azimut Rendezvous | July 26-29

AUGUST
Big Game Battle | August 9-12
Boston Pops & Fireworks | August 11
Nantucket Race Week | August 11-19
Opera House Cup | August 19

SEPTEMBER
Slip 14 BlueFin Tuna Blast | September 8-9
Cystic Fibrosis Nantucket Slam | September 9-11
Nantucket Inshore Classic | TBD
Maritime Festival | September 29
Fall Restaurant Week | September 24-30

OCTOBER
Family Scalloping | October 1-31
Cranberry Festival | October 6
Nantucket Half Marathon | October 7

NOVEMBER
Thanksgiving Turkey Plunge | November 22
Nantucket Noel

DECEMBER
Festival of Trees | December 1-31
Stroll Weekend | November 30-December 2