



Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAPE COD COMMERCIAL HOOK FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION RAISES \$175,000 AT 9TH ANNUAL HOOKERS BALL

Funds will help Hook Association purchase historic Captain Harding House

North Chatham, MA: Hundreds of supporters and industry members helped raise \$175,000 for the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association at the Association's annual gala last week. The 9th annual Hookers Ball, which took place on Saturday, August 15, brought the community together to celebrate local fishermen, local seafood, and the Cape's working waterfronts.

"I am proud to announce that, despite the recession, we raised \$175,000 at the 2009 Hookers Ball to fund programs of the Hook Association and the purchase of a permanent headquarters in West Chatham," said Susan Nickerson, Executive Director of the Hook Association. "The incredible support shown by the community is a testament to the importance of our mission. With the continued help of Chatham and the rest of the Cape and Islands, we can protect and preserve our historic fishing communities."

The benefit is one of the main sources of revenue for the Hook Association, and a significant portion of the funds raised at the Hookers Ball will go toward the anticipated purchase of the historic Captain Nathan Harding House in West Chatham.

Earlier this month, the Hook Association signed a letter of intent with the Oppenheim family to purchase the property at 1566 Main St. in West Chatham. David Oppenheim is in the process of having the 105-year-old house renovated, which will become the headquarters for CCCHFA sometime next summer.

Oppenheim, who made a \$100,000 pledge at the Hookers Ball to help with the purchase of the house, said: "As long time residents and business owners, our family recognizes that as Chatham evolves, our resources, historic and environmental, must be respected to assure our success as a community. By restoring an historic structure for a present day function we help accomplish this goal. The Harding house will be reclaimed for a sustainable use and the neighborhood will be enhanced."

Other notable pledges made at the Hookers Ball came from Hook Association fishermen, who together pledged \$25,000, Stephen and Mary Beth Daniel, who pledged \$20,000, and Hook Association board members and staff who have contributed \$10,000 to date.

"We want to thank our generous donors for helping the Hook Association along the road to its new home, which will enhance both the community and the work of the organization, as well as everyone who helped make the 2009 Hookers Ball a huge success," Nickerson said.

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