

# The Semaphore

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



Vol. 42, No. 4

35° 04' N., 076° 58' W.

April 2024



## The Adventure Continues

### Commodore's Update

“Spring has sprung” as the saying goes, and the flora and fauna are beginning to creep out of their winter slumber. The same goes for our vessels as we begin the process of readying them for the upcoming boating season. I asked myself “What is the ‘boating season’ really?” Well, of course it varies based on where you live, but for us, we can use our boats pretty much all year round. I’ve been racing on the Neuse in the middle of January and while chilly, the boating was exhilarating. But the ‘boating season’ for the Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club begins on Commissioning Day, after we prepare our yachts and have them blessed, after we pay our respects to the leadership of the club and after we honor the remembrance of those club members who have passed on. We celebrate the advent of getting together on the water and doing those things we enjoy so very much: sailing, boating,

rowing, paddling, eating, drinking, and enjoying each other’s company.

The flyer for the Commissioning Day luncheon was sent out and we again are looking forward to barbeque and fried chicken from Smithfield’s restaurant.

The March program by Karl Mielenhausen on boat preparation was well attended. Olwen Jarvis introduced Karl who was the Commander of USCGA Flotilla 20-4 and is now the Information Officer as well as the Vessel

Examination Officer for the flotilla. As we move into “boating season” it is vital that we look at the seaworthiness of our vessels and review our licenses, registrations, documentation, and navigational aids.

*Craig Myler, Commodore*



### What's Happening in April

|       |       |     |                                         |           |
|-------|-------|-----|-----------------------------------------|-----------|
| April | Tu    | 2   | Murder Mystery Dinner CC                | 1800      |
|       | Fr-Sa | 5-6 | FH Clothing Drive CB                    | 0800-1300 |
|       | Su    | 7   | Sunfish Racing                          | 1400      |
|       | Mo    | 8   | Board Meeting AC                        | 1600      |
|       | Th    | 11  | FHYC General Meeting CC                 | 1900      |
|       | Fr    | 12  | Education Seminar AC                    | 0900      |
|       | Sa    | 13  | Blessing of the Fleet/Commissioning Day | 1130      |
|       | Su    | 14  | Sunfish Racing                          | 1400      |
|       | We    | 17  | FHYC Dinner Out @ Famous                | 1730      |
|       | Su    | 21  | Sunfish Racing                          | 1400      |
|       | Mo    | 22  | Full Moon Raft-up                       | TBA       |
|       | Tu    | 23  | Fun Racing                              |           |
|       | Sa    | 27  | Wilkerson Cup                           | TBA       |
|       | Su    | 28  | Sunfish Racing                          | 1400      |

(CC)=Community Center, (RS)=Red Sail Park,  
(AC)=Activities Center, (V)=online.

**Deadline for next issue is noon, Monday, April 15**

Delivery by Saturday, April 27, 2024

## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cookbook

The Cookbook Committee has been working diligently to produce the FHYC 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cookbook since way back in September. Now, we are looking forward to receiving the finished books in a few weeks.

We originally thought we might receive about fifty recipes, and now there are over 80 selected for the book. We met often to work on organizing recipes into chapters and standardizing measurements, units, and temperatures. There was proofreading, more proofreading, and more proofreading, again and again. Sometimes one of us would test a recipe along the way, just to be certain, or because it sounded



so good we couldn't wait.

Finances and pricing were always a concern, and at the suggestion of Darlene Cleveland, we held a remarkably successful barbecue fundraiser which helped immensely. Many thanks to Darlene for taking the helm of the barbecue.

Since each recipe is accompanied by a photo, that became the focus as we moved toward completion. From the opening comments in each recipe, we felt like we knew everyone a bit better and the recipes themselves were old friends. At our own expense we ordered coordinated aprons which were a hit, and we enjoy wearing them to yacht club meetings and events.

Now we have a prototype of the book. It is all we expected and more. We hope you enjoy the recipes as much as we enjoyed producing the book.

To order your cookbooks, please call 321-231-8268, or email [katihughes@comcast.net](mailto:katihughes@comcast.net).

*Kati Hughes, Cookbook Chair*

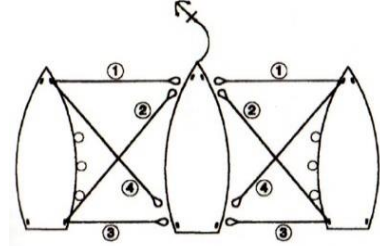
## April Full Moon Raft-Up

Our first Full Moon Raft up of 2024 will be Monday, April 22 (Earth Day). Here are a few reminders about Full Moon Raft Ups.

We usually start about an hour and a half before moon rise and undo the raft shortly after moon rise. This lets everyone get back to their dock before it is really dark. Bring a dish to pass as well as your favorite beverage. Expect people from other boats to walk across your boat, to visit yours, and to look around your boat, inside and out.

It helps to review page 43 in the FHYC Yearbook about rafting and passing lines.

We may raft up in the Inner



Harbour, or perhaps on a member's mooring ball in Spring Creek. That must be checked out to make sure it has enough swinging room, and trees will not block the view of the moon.

A registration sheet will be sent out a week to ten days before the event. It is important that you register because we want the largest boat in the center of the raft, and then to work out to the smallest one. Also, if possible, we don't want two sailboats together. It is not nice if spreaders get hooked.

The Moonrise for April 22 is 1842 (6:42 pm), so we will start the raft up about 1710 (5:10 pm).

*John Y. Jackson  
Full Moon Raft-Up Coordinator  
Rear Commodore*

### The Semaphore

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club

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#### Deadline

The deadline for receiving articles is 1200 noon on the Monday following the General meeting. Please email articles to: [fhycsemaphore@gmail.com](mailto:fhycsemaphore@gmail.com)

## Remembering Jackie Moniak, a Great FHYC Member and Wonderful Lady

On February 18, friends and family gathered at Blackbeard Sailing Club to honor the memory of Jackie Moniak who passed away on December 28, a few months shy of her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. After a delicious luncheon, Bill Jarvis, Kathy Border (Jackie's sister-in-law), and Evelyn Thompson gave touching remembrances of Jackie. Much of the following is drawn from an article about Jackie that appeared in the Beacon a few years ago and has been edited for length.

Bill Jarvis, an avid and skilled sailor, related history of Jackie and dinghy races.

*"When Olwen and I joined FHYC in January 2001, I was made Chairman of the dinghy racing program under Dirk Van Zyverden who was the Race Chairman. When I first met Jackie, she had been running the dinghy races for at least ten years. Racing was held in the Inner Harbour and was open to all. Typically, there were classes for Sunfish, 10' and 12', Spindrifts, and other dinghies. For close to thirty years, Jackie served as the Principal Race Officer (PRO) for Yacht Club dingy races."*

Jackie and her late husband Gene moved to Fairfield Harbour in 1990 from Detroit and joined the Yacht Club in February 1991. Gene acquired a Sunfish, started racing and Jackie went along. They needed a timer and race official. Jackie volunteered, and the rest was history. Since she joined in 1991, Jackie was one of the members with the longest standing in the club, over 31 years.

Two years ago she retired from being dinghy race PRO, turning the job over to Joan Wilson. When asked about Jackie, Bill Jarvis replied,

*"Over the years, Jackie ran the races every Sunday in the spring and fall until this year. I don't think she missed a single event in close to 30 years. She was, perhaps, one of the most dedicated members FHYC ever had."*

In her previous life Jackie was a claims adjuster for AAA Michigan. She started boating when she met Gene, who had started sailing as a child and built his first sailboat. They retired to Fairfield Harbour because they wanted a place to keep their sailboat and fell in love with the community.

In addition to dinghy races, Jackie was involved with almost every aspect of racing. She worked on committee boats and crewed on Ensign races. After Gene died, John Jackson asked her to get more involved with committee boats. Bill Jarvis was ready to turn over timing, so Jackie started to do timing for big boat races. She has been in demand ever since and earned her unofficial title "The Voice of the Neuse."

At the start of every race, you could hear Jackie on the radio counting down the time to start. Starts often have many boats very close together with lots of action. John said,

*"If after a race, you ask Jackie what the start looked like, she will tell you she did not see it because she was concentrating on the time, making sure she had it correct, and she was always correct!"*

Jackie was the timer for most Ensign races for several years and almost all of the NYRA (Neuse Yacht Racing Association) and Blackbeard for years. This adds up to 18 or more race days per year with about three races a day not including the dinghy races. Jackie said, "if they needed a timer, it was me." After she retired as PRO, she still found time to be an active member of the FHYC and its racing program.

In addition to being the best race timer around, Jackie found time to play first clarinet with the Craven Community Concert Band, the Pamlico Band, the Croatan Consort, the Down East Dulcimers and she also took up playing the ukulele. Jackie loved books and was an active volunteer in the library and was the music librarian for the Craven Community Concert Band.

In her early life Jackie professed a dislike for cats, but when she adopted her black cat Shadow, her life changed. Our lives changed when we met Jackie. She was a true treasure for this community and will be missed by so many.



Jackie Moniak

*Elaine Berberich, Roving Reporter*



## Photo of the Month Competition

This year, FHYC started a Photo of the Month competition.

Submissions were posted on the Facebook page and members could vote on their favorite. It was a tough choice because some great images were entered. Reviewing the results, it appears the winner only received one more vote than two of the runners up. Submitted by George Stateham, here is the winning photo.



*Sea Star Crew at Sunset*



***Murder Most Foul*** – Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> , Community Center  
***Sign up today!***

## 2024 Commodores' Ball



*Past Commodores and Commodore attending in order of service from left to right. Escorts Seated.*

A crowd of FHYC members enjoyed a night of dining, music, dancing, and fellowship at the annual Commodores' Ball on the evening of Thursday March 21. Held in the Clubhouse at Carolina Colors, this is one of the club's two annual dress up dinners and is always held the third Thursday in March. While it features the current Commodore, it is in recognition of all past Commodores and their contributions to our organization.

Vice Commodore Steve Hustad was Master of Ceremonies and our most recent Past Commodore, Dave Phipps, gave the keynote message and related much of the impressive past of current Commodore Craig Myler. Presented with nice graphics and wry humor, both gentlemen did a Class A job.

The Commodores' Ball is an event with good food, good music, and great company. If you did not attend, put it on your calendar for next year right now!



*Commodore Craig and Janice Myler*

*George Stateham, Past Commodore*



*Vice Commodore  
Steve Hustad*



*Past Commodore  
Dave Phipps*





## Equinox Celebration

In 2014, FHYC began celebrating the Equinox with the down east tradition of burning our socks, and this would have been our 11<sup>th</sup> year. The weather forecasters threw us a curve by predicting a rain downpour and high gusts of winds that risked blowing an ember into the trees. Not to be cheated out a opportunity to get together, enjoy appetizers, consume beverages of choice, commune with friends, and swap an occasional sea story, we forged ahead.



On Saturday, March 23, we gathered at Red Sail Park. There was no physical count but at least 30 members attended. We read the Ode to the Sock Burners, and everyone had a good time.

Thanks to all who attended!

*George Stateham, Past Commodore*

**HAVE YOU ORDERED YOUR  
COOKBOOK  
YET?**

**Look for an email coming  
your way.**

**Email: [katihughes@comcast.net](mailto:katihughes@comcast.net)**

**Phone: 321-231-8268.**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 5  
SATURDAY, APRIL 6**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**FHYC/RCS  
SPRING CLOTHING  
DRIVE**

**8 AM – 1 PM**

**CART BARN**

## Abacos Bareboat Excursion

On December 9-18 members of Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club left the comfort of their homes and community and headed for a week-long trip to the Abaco islands in the Bahamas.

Abe Lincoln once said, "Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the ax." Phil Katz, Peter Clay, and other members of the Cruising Committee of FHYC followed this advice with meticulous planning that made this trip happen.

The FHYC membership survey conducted at the end of 2022 indicated a desire by the membership to have a bare boat cruise in the future. Bare boat cruising means that those aboard have their own captain and own cooks. The Cruising Committee started putting together plans for this event in 2022. During the January 2023 meeting, preliminary information was introduced about this plan and got an overwhelming response from the members. Once the details were established regarding cost, timing, and required participation, the information was presented to the membership and the nine couples signed up for the cruise. By early February, reservations were confirmed for the cruise in December 2023. The travel arrangements were with Moorings in Marsh Harbour.

Several couples arrived a day early so they could explore Marsh Harbour as well as obtain provisions. The boats were boarded on Saturday with couples spending the night and were ready to leave on Sunday. The expedition included two sailing catamarans and one power catamaran. As the group boarded their vessels, they managed to find enough places to store clothes, equipment, and food for a week

There were emotions of excitement exploring a new area for some and memories for others. Almost everyone was thinking "How are we going to spend time 24/7 with people we really don't know that well?" There were concerns about spending time with new people as well as apprehension about hopping on a dinghy!

Couples took turns planning and preparing a meal and provisions were obtained the day before at Maxwell's and Dockside Grocery. Armed with a giant list, the Clays, Kings, and Nashes filled their carts with fresh vegetables, meats, and other gourmet items for their individual boats. In the spirit of the Bahamas

Door Dash, taxis were filled with food and delivered to the boats from a surprisingly adequate grocery store and helpful taxi drivers. Kathy Clay encountered a woman who advised shopping early as the store runs out mid-week. Two full carts each were obtained by the shopping crews and delivered by taxi to the boats. Almost everyone had some non-perishable food in their luggage to make sure there were capers, cumin, tuna, and pasta for the gourmet crew.

On Sunday, the destination was the notorious Nipper's bar located in Settlement Bay on Great Guana Cay. Several of them were looking forward to the Sunday pig roast which had been canceled. Phil Katz called a "fruit basket upset" and each table was filled with couples from different boats allowing them all to get to know each other better. This was the first adventure for some to use dinghies. The best advice was given by Peter Clay who said, "just get on your butt and scoot!" and only one anonymous member fell in. The next morning the power boat separated from the group and the two sailboats stayed together for a few days.

Everyone enjoyed the charming town of Hope Town filled with shopping, golf carts, restaurants, and the Elbow Reef lighthouse. The lighthouse is the last kerosene powered lighthouse in the world and involves complex maintenance. Ritchie Thomson recalled how similar this was to the St. Ann's



*One sail cat and the power cat*



lighthouse in Scotland remembered from his youth. Everyone who took the tour was impressed by the keeper and his skills and how much he loved living there.

And then there was the food, glorious food. Most of the boats planned three dinners aboard and three dinners out. The challenge was to prepare an award-winning meal on a small gas stove, but all meals rose to the occasion including shrimp and vegetables on the outdoor grill, taco casserole, tuna in oil over pasta, chili, and “cleaning out fridge and supplies soup.” Meals out included a variety of different foods, including every possible way to make conch such as chowder, cracked, and fried fritters. Julia Thomson commented “the best food we had was cooked on the boat.” and everyone agreed.

The power boat was *J-9*, but Steve Hustad called her *Je’nine* which was more like a French lady. The captain was Steve Hustad, the crew was Doug King and Matt Esmacher and the ladies-in-waiting (term coined by Kathie King) were Anny Chiu, Kathy King, and Michelle Esmacher. Snorkeling was high on this group’s list and participants ranged from beginning to experienced.

Manjack Cay, east of Nunjack Rocks, was the furthest distance from Marsh Harbour and the favorite of the group where they saw many varieties of tropical fish, coral drop-offs, and a ray swimming in the shallow waters near the beach. Some planned locations were affected by wind and weather. Locations for the power boaters included Hopetown, Great Guana Cay, Green Turtle Cay, Manjack Cay, Green Turtle Cay, Treasure Cay, Man-O-War Cay and then back to Marsh Harbour traveling approximately 100 miles for touring and using 87 gallons of fuel. There were great food adventures, especially at Florence, which is known for its cinnamon buns and huge chocolate chip cookies.



Group Dinner

The sailing cat *Soleil* was captained by Phil Katz with a crew of Peter Clay and Joel Berberich with ladies-in-waiting Linda Duncan, Kathy Clay and Elaine Berberich.

Phil and Peter have over 50 years of experience combined and were well prepared for this voyage. The *Soleil* traveled to Great Guana Cay, Man O War Cay, Hopetown, Lynyard Cay before heading back to Marsh Harbour. Favorites of this group included coffee in the morning prepared by Phil, a long golf cart ride, floating and swimming in the bay, playing cut-throat games at night and getting to know each other. Linda Duncan summed it up when she said, “I had a great time on this trip but not just for my normal boating experiences (spending time on the water with good weather and exploring new places), but I especially loved the opportunity of working and eating together, playing games, sharing our life experiences, and creating new friendships.”



The other sailing cat was named *Magic* and was captained by Ritchie Thomson with a crew of Lou Nash and Art Thingulstad with ladies in waiting Julia Thomson, Sharon Nash, and Deb Swan. This boat traveled to Grand Guana Cay, Man-O- War Cay, Hopetown, and Baker’s Bay. On the last day we decided to do some serious sailing. Louis Nash took the helm and made it all the way back to the marina in record time with Sharon taking a turn at the helm. A favorite activity of this group, along with the other sailing



cat, was being moored next to each other and being able to swim back and forth. Sharon Nash said that swimming was one of her favorite activities along with taking the dinghy out with her husband and just exploring.

Bob Dylan said, “take care of your memories, for you cannot relive them.”

After starting to pack and clean up for one last night in the Bahamas, everyone got ready to fly back to North Carolina with fond memories of this adventure. Like any boating trip, conditions were not always perfect, and we learned the importance of having a Plan B. Years from now, most of us will not remember the exact route we took, the restaurant we ate at, the name of the store we found the conch shell in, or what card games we played. What we will remember is the laughter, the pride of doing something challenging, seeing everyone work together, learning everyone’s “weird” habits, getting to really know each other and the creation of friendships. The December 2023 FHYC was all of these and more.



If anyone is thinking about a bareboat trip or traveling to the Bahamas, please come to the June 13 meeting of the FHYC at the Community Center at 7 pm. The captains of the three catamarans will be giving details of the trip and answering questions. You do not need to be a member of the Yacht Club to attend.

*Elaine Berberich, Roving Reporter*

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13**

**The Blessing of the Fleet  
Commissioning Ceremony  
Commissioning Day Luncheon**

Registration for the Blessing of the Fleet has previously been sent via email.

Registration for Commissioning Day Luncheon will be sent via email.

Hope to see you there!