

The Semaphore

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



Vol. 35 No.4

35° 04' N., 076° 58' W.

May 2018

Smooth Sailing



Commissioning Day has come and gone. It was a great day. There were approximately 35 boats on the water for the Blessing of the Fleet. The Blessings were conducted by Deacon Hackett from St. Paul's Catholic Church, as well as the Reverend Doctor Bill Beery and Gail Schiller. My thanks to all of them. George Stateham did a great job of planning, organizing the order of boats and leading the fleet.

The Entertainment Committee with Rose Litke, Roberta Flynn and others did a great job on the picnic lunch at Red Sail. It was a great venue and there were only a few empty tables. Of course, we were very fortunate to have almost perfect weather.

If there was a flaw, it was on Sunday. The weather turned and the Wilkerson Race was postponed. As I write this the Race Committee is looking at a few options which may or may not make the deadline for this *Semaphore*. If the deadline is missed there will be a few email notices as well as information on the Club's web site.

As you will see if you read the minutes, at the April general meeting a Joint Task force was appointed to see if there is a way to reduce response times when there is an on-the-water accident. This is a direct result of the accident in March. It is expected that the results will be announced and discussed at the July meeting.

The Shakedown Cruise is the weekend of April 20 – 22. It looks like the weather will cooperate, but numbers may be down. Focusing on a decline in numbers is the questionnaire that Past Commodore King has sent out. It is focusing on what events members want, more cruising, longer

cruises, shorter ones, more or less racing, etc. Once he has results it will take a bit to implement them. This is where all of you need to help. Volunteer to be a crew leader or a chase boat during a race, join the entertainment committee, or the hospitality committee. In short, even though most of you are involved, get more involved.

Looking ahead, May is also a busy month. There is the Air Show Cruise, the last Ensign race of the spring series, Sunfish races continues as well as Tuesday Fun Racing each Tuesday. If that is not enough, there is the Local Waters Cruise May 18 – 21, which is a great way for new members to get a better grasp on the area. Also there is the Oar Race, and finally the cruise to Ocracoke at the end of the month and the start of June. You can be sure if Georgie and I did not have to be in Minnesota for a High School graduation we would be on the Ocracoke Cruise. It is one of our favorite places for a relatively short cruise.

Of course there are the “regular”

activities including the General Meeting, perhaps an impromptu or two, a Yacht Club Dinner, and an educational seminar.

I hope to see you on the water.

John Jackson, Commodore

FHYC General Meeting April 12, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Commodore Jackson at 1930 and the membership was led in the Pledge of Allegiance. There was a moment of silence to honor John Vuich and Bernard James. The following guests were introduced and welcomed: Greg Castle, Frank and Karen Bushell, Michael Dunn, Peter and Kathy Sansone, Eileen and Bob Medvey, Marcia and Ed Werneke, and Steve and Corrine Burton.

Louise Knight introduced new members John Meyer and Linda Duncan/Phil Katz and presented them with their membership envelopes. Commodore Jackson presented the new members with their burgees.

What's Happening

May	Tu	1	Race: Fun Racing	
	Th	3	Race: Ensign Race #7	
	Sa-Su	5-6	Cruise: Air Show Overnight	
	Su	6	Race: Dinghy/Sunfish	
	Mo	7	Board Meeting (ac)	1900
	Tu	8	Race: Fun Racing	
	Th	10	General Meeting (cc)	1930
	Fr	11	Education: Seminar	
	Tu	15	Race: Fun Racing	
	We	16	Yacht Club Dinner	
	Fr-Mo	18-21	Cruise: Local Waters	
	Su	20	Race: Oar Race (Modified Date)	
	Su	20	Race: Dinghy/Sunfish	
	Tu	22	Race: Fun Racing	
	Tu	29	Race: Fun Racing	
	We-Mo	5-30-6-4	Cruise: Ocracoke (Modified Date)	

(cc)=Community Center, (fc)=Fairfield Commons, (ac)=Activities Center

Deadline for next issue is noon, Monday, May 14, 2018

Delivery is Saturday, May 26, 2018

The minutes were approved as printed in the *Semaphore* (Pica/Fortenbaugh). Treasurer's Report has been approved by the board and is available for review.

Past Commodore Doug King:

All members were encouraged to fill out and return the membership surveys. Doug King gave information on ETYSA which is a wonderful opportunity for junior sailors from ages 8-16 and camps will be held this summer.

Rear Commodore Ritchie Thomson:

Hosts for tonight: Mark and Mary Hittner and Ray Bauer and Keith Gewain.

Program and Education: The educational session on towing has been postponed and Karl Mielenhausen and members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary will present the educational session on Local Waters tomorrow, Friday, April 13 at 0900 in room 2 of the Activity Center. A CD will be available for purchase for \$5.

The Marine Minute was presented by David Pfefferkorn on Signaling. It was entertaining complete with quizzes and prizes distributed by Ellen McElree who showed a remarkable resemblance to Vanna White.

Marine Assistance: Bill Green explained how the committee has initiated a single contact phone number to call for assistance. Replacement

stickers for the Yearbook and wallet cards were available at the meeting that had all the necessary information. Special thanks to the committee for making this happen.

Vice Commodore Ralph Azersky:

Semaphore deadline is noon Monday, April 16. The store was open and had burgees available.

Commodore John Jackson:

Cruising: George Stateham gave an update on cruising events and reported that 35 boats have signed up for Commissioning Day. He gave detailed instructions on the assembly procedure.

Air Show Overnight—email George with inquiries

Don Knight gave details on the Shakedown cruise which will be at Bridgeton Harbour Marina (weekend of April 20-22). He encouraged participation.

Entertainment: Rose Voss-Litke thanked everyone for the success of the Commodore's Ball. She thanked the official and honorary members of the committee which included: Bill Flynn for being the MC, Bill Green for wonderful photography, Bill Beery for a thoughtful prayer and special thanks to Lynn Stateham.

Roberta Flynn gave information on the Commissioning Day luncheon coming up on Saturday—more than 110 guests are coming and wonderful food and games are planned.

Regatta: Georgie Jackson reported that this was the last day to register for the Wilkerson Cup. At the present time only three boats are registered so the race may have to be cancelled if no more boats sign up—registration fees will be returned if cancelled.

Jerry Rezab gave an update on Sunfish racing and Mark Hittner gave an update on the spring Ensign series.

Old Business:

Please get questionnaire back to past Commodore King.

New Business:

Commodore Jackson gave a detailed discussion as follows:

I am sure you all heard about the sinking of the Ensign *Mutiny* Pearson three weeks ago.

Fortunately, no one suffered any long-term injuries. As a result of that accident Mike Foster, Blackbeard

Sailing Club Commodore and I have established a Joint FHYC and Blackbeard Sailing Club Task Force Concerning Rapid Response. Special thanks to Kirk Hathaway and his team for responding on this day.

The purpose of the task force is to determine if there is a way to decrease response times if there is a boating accident on the Neuse River, or adjacent waterways, within five miles of Fairfield Harbour and Blackbeard Sailing Club. A recent accident showed that response times are currently approximately 40 - 45 minutes if a call is made very soon after the accident.

Members are: Ralph Azersky, Chair (Vice Commodore of Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club); Barb Robinson, Vice Commodore Blackbeard Sailing Club; Assistant Chair Bill Flynn, Board Member FHYC, member of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, also member of Fairfield Harbour Fishing Club; Doug Longhini, FHYC and BSC Member; Bill Green, Member FHYC and BSC; Jennifer Gudaitis POA Manager.

It is anticipated that the Rapid Response Task Force will have their report ready by the July General meeting. At that time, we will share their findings with you, as well as lessons learned by the crew of *Mutiny* when it sunk. At this time, I want to say that all of us on board are very grateful for all who assisted in the rescue, and we did not leave the boat, it left us. Suddenly our feet were not on the deck, it was some distance below us.

Program:

Dave Pfefferkorn introduced Kirk Hathaway who gave a presentation on "How Clean is Your Bottom?" Kirk had many visual aids and gave hints to help keep bottoms of boats clean. He was thanked and given an FHYC mug.

After the program, Commodore Jackson had members announce boats bought and sold. He also announced that significant anniversaries will be announced at each meeting. The following anniversaries were recognized.

5 years: Ralph and Linda Azersky, Maury and Ginger Thompson, Scott Williams and Lynn Thoresen.

*The
Semaphore*

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



Editors

Lynn Stateham	672-9171
Elliott Alterman	637-3458
Mark West	637-7914
Bill and Jan Green	919-518-0752
Julia Thomson	919-967-9036

Distribution Co-Chairs

Ed Klebaur	633-6264
Jerry Rezab	636-5919

Website: www.fhyc.us
email: fhyc-nc@googlegroups.com

Deadline

Deadline is 1200 the Monday following the Yacht Club Meeting. Please e-mail articles to the address listed below:
fhycsemaphore@gmail.com

10 years: Lucky and Dale Covati, Chuck Smith and Deb Stone, David and Cheryl Stevenson, and Lew and Kathy Travis.

15 years: John and Georgie Jackson.

Ellen Ringle also announced that she, Joy Thompson and Mary Jean Tedford had been members for 30 years. Congratulations to all.

Past anniversaries will be mentioned in upcoming meetings.

For the good of the club:

Carol Cavins announced the upcoming Garden Club sale April 21.

The meeting was adjourned at 2105 (Pfefferkorn/Fortenbaugh) and members enjoyed another amazing hospitality hour—special thanks to Lois Andrews.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Berberich, Secretary



Youth Summer Sailing Camp

ETYSA is once again offering their popular Summer Sailing Camp in five sessions during June, July and August for children ages 8-16. Many of FHYC's children and grandchildren have been introduced to sailing in different types of boats in a mixture of fun on and off the water activities.

Register online at ETYSA.org or contact Doug Longhini (919) 623-1166 or PC Doug King (919) 608-2437.

Boat Bash is On!

Save the date: Boat Bash is set for Sunday, June 24. This is always a fun day on the water and a great way to welcome new neighbors to the Harbour. You might even motivate someone to become a new FHYC member. More information and the flyer will come with the June *Semaphore*.

Don't know what Boat Bash is? It's a joint activity with the New Neighbors committee of the POA and FHYC. We take new residents of Fairfield Harbour for an afternoon boat ride. Exact time and route are up to you. Then the New Neighbors hosts a dinner at the Community Center for their folks and the Captain and First Officer of your boat.

PC George Stateham

Special Oar Race Announcement

Recently John Vuich, a much respected member of both FHYC and Blackbeard Sailing Club passed away unexpectedly. His family has scheduled a memorial for May 19. Many of his friends plan to attend this event.

To honor John's family and friends, the Committee has changed the date of the Oar Race from May 19 to May 20.

The updated NOR is posted on the FHYC website. If you have questions, contact Georgie Jackson at jackson.jy@gmail.com or 252-637-9781.

2018 Survey

The 2018 Survey is complete. The Planning Committee would like to thank everyone who participated. The results are being tabulated and will be discussed at the next General Meeting. Remember that the Directors and officers of FHYC are always ready to listen if you have a comment.

PC Doug King 919-608-2437
douging888@yahoo.com

Contacting Marine Assistance

Do you need help from the Marine Assistance Committee? Instead of calling multiple members of the Committee, now you may simply dial **252-631- 6424**. Your call accesses an automated system that will route your request to an available member of the MAC team who will take it from there. Please take a moment to write this new phone number on page 45 of your yearbook and add it to your cell phone contact list.

Bill Green



The Season Continues - Photo by Bill Green

Spring Ensign Racing

The first race day of the Ensign series did not go well. *Mutiny* was the first boat out on March 15 to allow for some practice before the race. Caught by a gust while tacking, she rolled to starboard, swamped and sank in about five minutes leaving half the rig above the water. As other boats in the fleet came upon the scene the rescue was underway but confusion remained because there was no communication between the Fire and Rescue Team and the Ensign fleet.

I witnessed three sailors being pulled from the water. One each by a fishing boat, our mark boat manned by Art Thinguldstad and Jerry Rezab and the New Bern Rescue Boat, in that order.

Assuming that there had been four sailors in the water, we continued the search until we noticed that the ambulance and rescue boat had left the scene. What we had missed was that the fishing boat already had one sailor aboard by the time we had arrived.

The anxiety and uncertainty of the situation metaphorically took the wind out of our sails and the remaining races were cancelled. My mood changed as Barb Robinson reported by phone that all sailors, after spending about 40 minutes in the water, were being warmed up at the hospital and doing well.

Meanwhile Bill Jarvis, Bill Green, diver Kirk Hathaway and others were floating and towing *Mutiny* to the dock.

On the brighter side, *Mutiny* is back racing with the fleet, which has enjoyed three great days of racing with hopefully three more to come. The racing has been too close to name a favorite for the series but next month the final results will be in.

Since I write this on *Miss Mary*, on the Nanticoke River in Delaware, I am unable to confirm all the details reported but believe them to be accurate.

Mark Hittner

New Members



John Myer moved here from Brick, NJ, and now lives on Plymouth Court. He has a 35' Endeavour sailboat named *Rolling Stone*, which is still in NJ, and is looking for a smaller sailboat to have here. He has 50 years of sailing and 5 years of racing experience and several years of experience in teaching adults how to sail. His sponsors are Ritchie & Julia Thomson and Skip & Cherylle Hird. John has chosen the Cruising, Program and Education, and Maintenance Committees, and has already jumped in, helping Skip Hird on the Maintenance Committee.



Phil Katz and Linda Duncan moved here from Scituate, MA. They live on Plymouth CourtS, next to one of their sponsors, the Lellis. They have belonged to Scituate Boating Club, Harbour Heights Yacht Club, and Charlotte Harbour Yacht Club and have 14 years of powerboating, 30 years of sailing, and three years of racing experience. Phil was also involved in the Coast Guard Auxiliary in Massachusetts. They have a 36' Mainship Pilot 34 power boat named *Arawak*. Their sponsors are Skip & Cherylle Hird and Linda & Tom Lelli. Phil has chosen the Cruising and Marine Assistance Committees, and Linda has chosen the Entertainment and Hospitality Committees.

Jenny McDiarmid, Membership



Local Waters: Cruising on the Neuse

The fleet has been blessed. Your boat has been shaken down. Now it's time to enjoy the water. Think about joining us for the first down-river FHYC-organized cruise of the season. In the Neuse River basin there are many fine anchorages and marinas worthy of a visit. These include Lower Broad Creek / River Dunes Marina and South River.

To help plan the event, perhaps you attended the Local Waters Seminar on April 13 and can bring ideas from this to the skippers' meeting. We shall try to accommodate the wishes of both those who want to enjoy the peace and tranquility of anchoring out and those who prefer the services of a marina. In the fine tradition of FHYC, nightly "splashes" and frequent BBQs are mandatory.

The itinerary will be agreed at the skippers' meeting in the Activity Center Room 2 at 0900 on Tuesday May 15. Participants, skippers, and admirals are welcome to attend. For those who are without a boat, or would prefer company, we shall try to accommodate you on one of the other participating boats. Please indicate this on the sign-up sheet below that accompanies this newsletter.

The cruise will be led by Ritchie Thomson and Chris Town, for whom this will be his first "Cruise on the Neuse."

Chris Town and Ritchie Thomson

Hospitality Chair Extraordinaire



No one likes food more than I do, and many of us share that sentiment. Our yacht club has been blessed with a member who totally understands that. Lois Andrews, who is in her second year of chairing the Hospitality Committee, has the foresight and ability to surprise us every month with a spectacular spread. Her imagination and skills are par excellence.

Holidays, celebrations and seasons are topics she approaches with seemingly endless energy. Her husband, Bill, is an integral member of the team. While he may downplay his role, we all know he is a key player in the endeavor. Keeping up with Lois still has to be a challenge. On meeting nights he can be seen running around making sure everything is delivered on time for Lois and the committee members to set up for the post-meeting festivities.

On the good news side, we have enjoyed the fruits of her labor (pun intended) for 16 months now and still have seven more to go. On the bad news side, we only have seven more months to go. *Vice Commodore Ralph Azersky*

Commissioning Day 2018

Saturday April 14 dawned bright and clear. More than 35 boats participated in the parade and blessing of the fleet, flying all sorts of flags and colorful banners under a spectacular Carolina blue sky. A formal ceremony followed at Shoreline docks with the Bridge, Board and Past Commodores in full regalia. Lunch was served at Red Sail Park to over 100 people, and a good time was had by all.