

The Semaphore

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



Vol. 37, No. 1

35° 04' N., 076° 58' W.

February 2020



Ready For 2020

Mother Nature smiled on us and welcomed us into 2020 with a beautiful day on the first day of January. Many members were out on the water, either participating in the Fun Races or just enjoying themselves. It was a perfect way to welcome in the new decade. We are so lucky in North Carolina to have many beautiful winter days when we can get out and enjoy ourselves. Of course, we suffer for it in the summer, but that is a different matter best not thought about in the balmy days of January. I say, let's just enjoy ourselves while



we can.

Planning for 2020 is well underway. Most committees have met, or will shortly meet, to lay out their plans for the year. At the January General Meeting we were able to hear from many of the committees. It's clear that a great deal of work has already been accomplished. Plans for the Commodores' Ball on March 19 are close to complete, and those for major social events later in the year are being developed. Racing is planned, and Fun Racing events are proving to be very popular through the winter. The cruising calendar starts with the Sock Burning in March so that you can get rid of the old socks which you have worn all winter, and possibly never washed! We then continue with the Commissioning Day and Blessing of the Fleet in April, and many other events. It is great to see that cruising events are being planned for both larger boats and small, shallow-draft boats.

The Membership Committee is hard at work bringing in new members to replace those who did not renew their membership for 2020. There is a great deal of work involved in this and it is too easily forgotten.

The 2020 Yearbook has been printed and will be distributed soon. It

is an impressive publication!

Monthly dinners at fine-dining venues in New Bern will continue, and impromptus will be organized by the Board. Feedback at the General Meeting suggested that using the Community Center, with dishes to share and BYOB, are not appreciated by all. The use of the Harbour Point Golf Club will be explored although it is not yet open. Michelle's creations at HPGC are fondly remembered by many of us.

The Storekeeper Committee held a sale at the January General Meeting to help move old stock. This was very successful and raised \$230. Now that they have the authority to hold inventory up to the value of \$3000, they can have many more items available for immediate purchase and instant gratification. The only question is, what should these items be? Membership input is needed.

This summary does not cover all the work by all committees. Nonetheless, everything being done is very much appreciated. My apologies if your committee was not mentioned.

Ritchie Thomson
Commodore



What's Happening

February	Su	9	Bunco Party
	Mo	10	Board Meeting (ac) 1600
	Th	13	General Meeting (cc) 1930
	Fr	14	Education: Seminar
	We	19	Yacht Club Dinner

(cc)=Community Center, (rs)=Red Sail Park, (ac)=Activities Center

Deadline for next issue is noon, Monday, February 17, 2020

Delivery is Saturday, February 29, 2020

FHYC General Meeting January 9, 2020

Commodore Ralph Azersky called the meeting to order at 1930 hours and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed by a moment of silence in remembrance of passed members Emily Helling, Peggy Daly and Fred Cornford.

The change of watch ceremony was held. Inducted were Commodore Ritchie Thomson, Vice Commodore Adrian Vergot, Rear Commodore Barbara Robinson, and Secretary Yvonne Meissner. Ritchie Thomson thanked Past Commodore Azersky for his services and presented him with a gift. Also presented were new Directors Elaine Mielenhausen and Ellen McElree. The returning Treasurer, Board Members, Fleet Surgeon, and Fleet Chaplain were recognized. The new Cruising Captain, Phil Katz, was presented with his flag, and the returning Regatta Captain was recognized. Committee chairs were introduced.

Guests were welcomed. Kim Tarkenton introduced Jim and Amanda Dobson. Ellen Beery introduced Mary and Al Lang. Rose and Kevin MacNeal, sponsored by Ralph Azersky and Karl and Elaine Mielenhausen were also introduced. Paula Phipps introduced new members: Greg and Chris Bryon (Hird/Grosser) and Mike and Vicki Shetter. They were welcomed and given their burgees by Commodore Thomson.

Commodore Thomson noted that we now have 152 regular members, two charter, and three complimentary. Twenty-seven members did not renew. We did not have a December meeting. Minutes of the November General Meeting were published in the *Semaphore*. A motion was brought forward to dispense with the reading of the November minutes and to approve the minutes as published. Approved (Bill Jarvis/Barbara Lewis.)

Treasurer's Report: Sherry Pendleton reported on fiscal year ending December 31, 2019. This was approved by the Board at their January 6, 2020 meeting, has been published on the FHYC website, and is available for review.

Rear Commodore's Report: Barbara Robinson thanked the hospitality co-hosts for the evening, Leigh and Steve Hart and Tom and Nina Renner.

Programs: John Jackson reported that his committee has various programs planned for this year. Three will cover club history, one will showcase members' boats, and one will cover the status of water quality on the Neuse River. Other programs will cover insurance, and boating and the law. Medical or Nautical Moments will continue.

Education: Dave Phipps has developed nine programs covering CPR recertification, rules of the road for both power and sail, how to get better sailing performance, life jackets, introduction to sewing canvas, flares, handling emergencies, women at the helm, and electrical wiring.

Marine Assistance: Doug King reported that he has plans to keep the Committee ready to assist with non-emergency requests in 2020. Doug asked that knowledgeable members step up and volunteer to pass on their skills.

Medical Support: Education will address the topics of burns and first aid kits.

Vice Commodore's Report: Adrian Vergot introduced chairs for Storekeeper, Julia Thomson, and for Yearbook and Semaphore, Bill Green. A show of hands was requested to get a feeling for how many members use electronic delivery of the *Semaphore*. The goal is to encourage more members to use this mode of distribution. An online *Semaphore* would allow more content, including articles and photos on recent and up-coming events. Julia Thomson requested that members let her know what they would like to see in the FHYC Store. Vice Commodore Vergot reminded members that the FHYC Library is there for our use and enjoyment, and that the *Semaphore* deadline is noon on Monday after the General Meeting.

Commodore's Report: Ritchie Thomson introduced chairs for Cruising, Phil Katz; Entertainment, Janice Myler and Lois Andrews; Regatta, Georgie Jackson; and Yacht Club Dinners, Deb Stone.

Phil Katz has 14 activities scheduled as listed in the Yearbook. New ideas include a small cruise to Trent / Brices Creek or Oriental to enjoy the Front Porch Music Festival. The On the Hook raft-up was very successful. Next date in April is to be announced.

Entertainment: Janice Myler has planned a Bunko Party in February and the Commodores' Ball in March. The Fall Appreciation Dinner is slated for October, and a Chili Cook-Off for November.

Regatta: Georgie Jackson reported that the Dinghy/Sunfish Spring Series will run from April 5 to June 21. Jerry Rezac is the contact person. Ensigns will be racing from March 26 to May 7 with Mark Hittner as the contact person. The Wilkerson Race is April 25 and the Oar Race is May 16. Committee boats, crew, a PRO, and more are needed for both races. A fun Kayak Race is planned for May in the Inner Harbour. Fun Races will continue through the winter. They had a great turnout with at least 12 boats on New Year's Day. Georgie encouraged all boaters to come out onto the water.

FHYC Dinners: Deb Stone reminded all to sign up for the January 16 dinner at Texas Steakhouse at 5:30 pm.

Commodore Thomson noted that the general health of the Club is strong and that we are looking forward to an exciting 2020. He announced that Bill Jarvis will receive the prestigious John B. Bonds service award and congratulated him on that achievement. He also congratulated Bernie and Nancy Teubert on 25 years with FHYC.

The *Semaphore*

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



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Deadline

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

There was a request from the floor to reinstate impromptus in their previous format. This will be taken under advisement. A motion to adjourn was made at 2100. (Jarvis/Lewis) The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted
Yvonne Meissner, Secretary

New Members

Our wonderful club continues to grow! We are excited to announce the following new members who were welcomed at our January meeting.

Greg and Chris Bryon (photo right) have owned property in Fairfield Harbour for a number of years and currently reside on Marina Townes Drive. The Bryons have been in boating for years, with Jon boats, kayaks and sailboats. They currently own a 29' Island Packet named *Wanderer*. Their sponsors are Skip and Cherylle Hird and Ed and Mary Grosser. Greg has selected the Cruising and Maintenance Committees. Chris has chosen the Entertainment Committee.

Mike and Vicki Shetter currently reside on Spar Court. Both have recently retired and traded in their RV for a 32' Catalina sailboat named *Plymouth*. No worries, they have previous sailing experience prior to jumping to a thirty plus foot boat. Their sponsors are Barb and Russ Robinson and Gary and Becky Nohr. Both Mike and Vicki have selected the PR Committee for participation.

Please make these new members feel welcome at our next meeting, on the water, or at other club activities.



Pam Miller & Paula Phipps, Membership Committee Co-Chairs

Change to Board Meeting Start Time

The scheduled start time for Board meetings to be held February through December 2020 has been changed from 0900 to 1600.

The dates remain unchanged.

Board of Directors

February CPR Class

We all know how precious life is, and how the unexpected can confront any of us at any moment. You can help yourself, your loved ones, and your shipmates by planning to attend a CPR/AED course co-sponsored by the Education and Medical Support Committees. Please note that participants can expect to pay about \$60 for the four-hour, hands-on course, which leads to certification for 24 months. Details have yet to be finalized, but members are asked to watch for an email with particulars as they become available.

Dave Phipps
Education Committee Chair

A Message from the Editorial Team

With this first issue of 2020, the *Semaphore's* editorial team would like to provide you with an overview of what to look for throughout the year.

First and foremost, our goal is to provide you with interesting, relevant, and timely news and information about our club, its members, and boating. It's important to keep in mind that the *Semaphore* does not have reporters who go out looking for news and information. Instead, we rely on club members to provide us with suitable content. Each month we receive the Commodore's Message, information about new members, and articles or announcements from various committees that have recent and upcoming events. And occasionally, we get submissions from members who have an interesting story or photos they'd like to share. This last source of material is something we'd like to change. We want to change "occasionally" to "routinely." That's where you and every other member comes in. If you've been on a cruise, visited an interesting destination, taken photos in a fun race, or discovered a great sailing or weather app, we'd like to hear about it. We think other members would too!

The process for submissions to the *Semaphore* is simple. Just email it to fhycsemaphore@gmail.com. You needn't worry too much about spelling, grammar or format. What's important is that other members might find it interesting. The *Semaphore's* editorial team will polish your article if needed. That's what we're here for. The deadline for the next month's newsletter is always noon, on the Monday following each general meeting. So please, as the saying goes, *keep those cards and letters coming!*

We'd like your input on another related item. For many years, we have published the minutes of monthly general meetings in the *Semaphore*. For example, the minutes of the January meeting are featured in this issue. It has been suggested to us that it might be better for the minutes to be published on the website instead of in the *Semaphore*. This would free up quite a bit of space for articles, photos, and other interesting information submitted by the membership.

If you have feelings about this, one way or the other, please drop Bill Green, Semaphore Committee Chair, a note at wgreen3@suddenlink.net.

A December to Remember

Our annual end-of-year holiday party was held on Thursday, December 12, 2019 at Carolina Colours Pavilion, with dinner catered by The Chelsea Restaurant, and music provided by CK Entertainment. The evening began with a cocktail hour with passed appetizers.

The beautiful angel wall-hanging, created by Emily Helling, graced the lobby of the Pavilion, near the tall, sparkling tree where hundreds of gifts awaited the arrival of Captain Curtis of the Salvation Army, who was deeply moved by the Yacht Club's generosity. Linda Lelli, who annually organizes this gift drive on behalf of FHYC, welcomed him and also thanked those who attended for this outpouring of kindness.

Kathleen Sansone, who chaired the event for the Entertainment Committee, thanked those who helped with the event.

Club Chaplain Bill Beery led us in a prayer of thanksgiving for our club's year of fellowship, and Commodore Ralph Azersky expressed his appreciation to the membership for supporting his tenure during 2019.

Wayne Masetti took a few moments to remember Emily Helling, and to encourage members to attend a session of caroling to the homebound, a Fairfield Harbour tradition that was started by Emily many years ago.

In the main dining room, tables were adorned with mirrors and candlelit lanterns, while soft music accompanied dinner, with selections of beef, chicken and The Chelsea's famous shrimp and grits. The Pavilion was beautifully decorated with wreaths in each window and multiple Christmas trees behind the dance floor which was filled with dancers until the very last song ended.

Every guest left with a fond memory of December and our club's lively, fun-filled spirit.



Chris Skrotzky

Ensign Fall Season Is a Wrap



Despite losing four out of seven race dates this fall, Ensign Fleet 19 still got in nine quality races in the fall series. *Red Stripe* should change her name to *Ms Consistency* since she scored only firsts and seconds after a throw-out of a third! We in *Blue Note* were hoping for at least one race on November 7 so we could dump a low score and keep up, but the day was glassy. After drifting for a couple of hours (at anchor because of the current) PRO Jarvis called it a day.

The awards dinner was at the BSC Clubhouse that evening and was a wonderful spread. Dave Whitney, as Fleet Captain, kept the awards ceremony blissfully brief. *Red Stripe* took home the trophy bottle of rum - or did they? *Blue Note*, by means of a big lead in the Spring Series, took the slightly tarnished perpetual silver bowl home again when series scores were combined. Even though *Stripe* and *Blue* were leaders at the end, it should be noted that there were six different winners in the nine fall races.

Interested in joining an active and competitive one design fleet? Contact Mark Hittner, or any Ensign sailor. Spring and Fall Series races are held on Thursday afternoons, and some of us also race in PHRF races on weekends.

Mark Brennesholtz



What To Do On A Rainy Day

by Adrian Vergot

It is mid-morning. My crewmate Jason and I are busy getting final provisions loaded onto our sloop. As usual, Jason has arrived earlier than I, so the majority of the work is mostly done. This always makes me feel a little guilty. I know that Jason enjoys fishing while out on the water so, when he isn't looking, I hurriedly dig up a few extra worms for him. I'll surprise him with them later. Today we're planning a fairly uneventful adventure. Just fishing and perhaps a bit of beachcombing.

Today's weather is partly cloudy. We raise our sails and depart the dock. We're heading to our favorite beach and, as luck always has it, the wind is coming out of the Northeast – directly from our destination. We both give a heavy sigh. No words are required, for we know this means it will take a while to reach our destination. I take the helm. Jason adjusts our sails to the wind and, as soon as he gets them drawing properly, breaks out his fishing gear. Jason always catches fish. Either we have a good feast or, if we're not that hungry, he'll sell his catch at the market.

Jason is a much better fisherman than I, so I leave him to his fun while I tend the helm, and make sure we stay on course. No autopilot on this boat! Time passes pleasantly and, by the time we're getting close to our destination, Jason has already caught two trophy fish. I've been keeping an eye on a squall forming to port, not too far off in the distance. Rain always makes me cranky. I notice that the wind has shifted significantly and I want to make sure we make the beach before this storm hits. I ask Jason to put away his fishing rod and trim the sails for maximum speed. It will be close, but I am fairly certain we can outrun the squall.

We're only five minutes from the beach when the wind and waves pick up and a steady drizzle begins. At any moment, a looming wall of rain is going to engulf us. I am scanning ahead, looking for a good place to drop anchor. Just then, something out of the corner of my eye catches my attention. I'm trying to focus on the task at hand – getting our anchor down and set – but still trying to make out what I've seen coming at us from out of the squall. And then, all hell breaks loose. Literally!

Breaking through the wall of rain, and heading directly towards us, is a galleon! I spin the wheel hard to starboard, taking us downwind. I'm hoping that we might be able to out-pace the larger vessel. However, it quickly becomes clear that the cursed ship will overtake our little sloop in a minute or two. Taking mental stock of our meager inventory, I realize the folly of foraging for worms at the dock instead of going for bigger guns and more cannonballs. We are armed, of course, but our two six-pound cannon are no match for a heavily armed galleon. Our sloop is nimble and can probably outrun the galleon if close-hauled. But if we turn into the wind, we run the risk of a full broadside at close range. We're sure to be hit, and our damaged craft, heading directly into the heart of a storm, is sure to sink. We are outgunned and boxed in.



I'm beginning to see a trip to Davey Jones' Locker in our immediate future.

Jason is an experienced sailor and I know that he probably sees the same fate for us. But to my surprise and amazement, he belts out a hearty laugh and darts down into the hold. Seconds later he's back on deck, holding a giant keg of gunpowder fitted with a waterproof wick! The galleon is only a few boat lengths behind us. Jason give me a big grin, lights the fuse with a chuckle, and dives off the stern into the wild waters toward our pursuer. I think, *this is going to be a blast!*

This is a small sample of the fun to be had playing *Sea of Thieves* on the Xbox or PC. I encourage you to give it a try on days when your "real" boat can't leave the dock due to inclement weather. You can sail single-handed, but I find it more fun to play with friends online! You can be the captain of a sloop, brig, or galleon if you so desire, with each craft having its own strengths and weaknesses. You can hunt for treasure and solve ancient puzzles on faraway sands. You can save the world from the terrors of evil, un-dead sea captains, decorate your boat to the envy of the dock, or choose a sight-seeing tour of the high seas, all while fishing for exotic cuisine! The options are endless. Although this is far from being a sailing simulator, it does capture the flavor of sailing the seven seas. It's a lot of fun.

If you want to know more, please feel free to talk to me at the next club meeting!

Adrian Vergot