

# The *Semaphore*

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



Vol. 37, No. 2

35° 04' N., 076° 58' W.

March 2020



## From the Commodore

Julia and I had somehow double-booked, with a sailing trip in the British Virgin Islands with our grandtwins. As a consequence, I was unable to attend the February General Meeting. We gave the BVI trip priority so we could enjoy eight days of “Blue Waters and Fair Winds”.



Someone has to do it.

I promise a report on our trip for the next edition of the *Semaphore*.

Back in Fairfield Harbour, things are well underway for a successful 2020 Season. The Marine Assistance Committee has already held its first and second training sessions at

Shoreline. The gas-powered pump was tested and ran well. It is reputed to pump 20,000 gallons, or is it 2,000 gallons per hour, but whatever, it is a lot! MAC was able to help pump out a boat which was taking on water. Great job!

The first Impromptu of the year on 29 January went off well. It was held at the Community Center as the other option, Red Sail Park, was considered to be a little cool for a January evening. Although the announcement said to bring some nibbles/hors d'oeuvres to share, the food was magnificent. Among other things we had pigs-in-blankets, meatballs, Boursin crackers, pizza bites, petit fours, lots of dips, and many other things. I have a question: Why is such an event on land called an “impromptu”, while on the water, it is called a “splash”. The answer must be somewhere in the mist of the annals of FHYC.

The Bunko party on 9 February was a great success.

Out on the water, boats are moving, especially with some of the balmy weather (between the storms) we have been having. Spring will be with us soon and we can hopefully all get out on the water. In the meantime,

the non-racing, cruising-around-the-marks boats are out and having a ball.

In future, the electronic version of the *Semaphore* will be sent out as soon as it is available. This could be up to ten days before the paper version is printed and delivered. That’s another reason to go electronic, and not to have the paper version delivered to you. Also, we are considering posting the General Meeting Minutes directly on the FHYC website and not printing them in the *Semaphore*. This will clear space for more interesting material in the *Semaphore*.

At a reminder, please note that there is a no-wake zone in NW Creek from entrance buoys to NWC Marina, to the entrance to Spring Creek, and up Spring Creek, including the Inner Harbour. For more information see <https://www.ncpaws.org/wrcmapbook/baa.aspx>. I am sure that no member of FHYC would ever create a wake in this zone, but you might remind others of the regulation. Unfortunately, the rest of NW Creek beyond the entrance to Spring Creek is not a no-wake zone.

Ritchie Thomson, Commodore



## What's Happening

March	Mo	9	Board Meeting (ac) .....	0900
	Th	12	General Meeting (cc) .....	1930
	Fr	13	Education: Seminar (ac) .....	0900
	Th	19	Commodores' Ball	
	Sa	21	Sock Burning (rs)	
	Th	26	Race: Ensign Race #1	

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

**Deadline for next issue is noon, Monday, March 16, 2020**

Delivery is Saturday, March 28, 2020

## Flip Flops for Fun!

Help put FHYC's spring community outreach project, Flip Flops for Fun, on a solid "footing!" Please consider purchasing one or more pairs of flip flops for ages toddler to senior for donation to and distribution by RCS in mid-May. Just in time for summer enjoyment.

This is the third year for this drive. In 2018, 53 pairs were collected; in 2019 the count rose to 161. Hopefully this year we will substantially surpass last year. RCS has indicated that the flip flops are much appreciated.

Collection receptacles will be available at the April and May Yacht Club General Meetings. In addition, there will be a marked box in the POA office during the months of April and May. If more convenient, flip flops may be left at our home, 6009 Tartan Court.

*Joye Moloney*



### 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](mailto:fhycsemaphore@gmail.com)

## Save These Dates

Wednesday April 22, 2020. On the Hook event "Cometh By Land or Cometh By Sea" at Creekside Park on Brices Creek. Bring your small boat up Brices Creek or drive your land yacht to 1821 Old Airport Road and enjoy a Membership Appreciation Day BBQ at the Congleton Shelter by the Docks at Creekside Park. The sign-up flyer with details will be in the April *Semaphore*. Don't miss it!

Friday May 15 to Sunday May 17, 2020. Shakedown Cruise to Oriental Marina and Inn, along with a Wine Tasting Contest and Dinner at Toucan Grill. If you don't cruise, join the activities by car. Details to follow in April's *Semaphore*.

*Phil Katz*  
Cruise Captain

*George Stateham*

## Sock Burning?

**Yep, it's a real thing.**

According to lore, the tradition started with the ancient sailors who wore their socks all winter long on the seas, and burned them with the advent of spring's warmer weather. It seemed the only civilized thing to do.

FHYC has adopted the tradition. We hold our sock burning on a Saturday near the vernal equinox when the days are longer than the nights and the weather starts to warm. So, come to Red Sail Park on March 21 at 1500 for a splash, and free your tootsies. Bring a light appetizer to share and your beverage of choice.

No need to sign up in advance. FHYC will supply the fire.

## Ode to the Sock Burners

Fairfield Harbour folks got an odd tradition  
When the sun swings to its Equinoxical position,  
They build a little fire in Red Sail Park,  
They doff their shoes and they burn their winter socks.

Yes, they burn their socks at the Equinox;  
You might think it's peculiar, but they think it's not,  
See they're the same socks they put on last fall,  
And they never took them off to wash them, not at all...

So they burn their socks at the Equinox  
In a little old fire nice and hot.  
Some think incineration is the only solution,  
'Cause washin' 'em contributes to the Neuse's pollution.

Through the spring and summer and into the fall,  
They go around not wearing any socks at all,  
Just stinky bare feet stuck in old deck shoes,  
Whether out on the water or sippin' a brew.

So if you sail into the Harbour around the middle of March,  
And you smell a smell like Limburger sautéed with laundry starch,  
You'll know you're downwind of the Fairfield Harbour docks  
Where they are burning their socks for the Equinox.

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*Original poem by Jefferson Holland, Eastport*  
*Adapted by FHYC*

The minutes of the February General Meeting are available on the Club's website.

## New Members

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

Al and Mary Lang have recently retired and moved from Charleston, SC to Osprey Court. Al is currently a Yacht Broker and Mary is a Family Physician. They both have extensive sailing and yacht club experience, and have cruised from Maine to the Bahamas. They own two boats: a 23 ft Shannon sailboat and a 19 ft Carolina Skiff powerboat. For committees, Al has selected Cruising and Regatta, and Mary has chosen Hospitality and Medical. Their sponsors are Bill and Ellen Beery, and Glen and Ruth Terrill.

Kevin and Rose MacNeal are from Torrington, CT and live on Royal Pines Drive with their dog Penelope. Both are retired and have a strong history of service and participation in their community. Kevin is a former Connecticut state trooper with experience on the marine patrol. They own a 21 ft Cobalt cuddy cabin powerboat named Off Duty. For Committees, Kevin has selected Maintenance, and Mary has chosen Entertainment. Their sponsors are Ralph Azersky and Elaine and Karl Mielenhausen.

Please make them feel welcome when you see them at our next meeting, on the water, or at other club activities.

*Pam Miller & Paula Phipps, Membership Committee Co-Chairs*



*Al & Mary Lang*



*Kevin & Rose MacNeal*



*Michael & Vicki Shetter  
(not pictured last month)*

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### Inland Rules of the Road

The Education committee invites you to attend a seminar entitled "Inland Rules of the Road Simplified for Recreational Boaters", to be presented in Room 2 of the Activities Center on Friday, March 13, from 0900 to 1100.

The program focuses on making the essential steering and sailing rules easy to understand for both power and sailboat operators. Since 95% of our boating is on "inland" waters, this is an excellent opportunity to either dust off your memory or build new knowledge to prepare for safe operation during the upcoming season.

To register, please use the sign-up sheet at the General Meeting or email Dave Phipps. His email address is [capt.davephipps@gmail.com](mailto:capt.davephipps@gmail.com). The seminar is free of charge.

*Dave Phipps  
Education Committee Chair*

### Blessing of the Fleet

It's time to get our boats ready for the official opening of the season. This is the perfect way to kick it off, and we should feel good knowing our boats have been blessed.

FHYC has many activities on and off the water throughout the year, but the Blessing of the Fleet and Commissioning Day ceremonies are arguably our most important rites. This year they will occur on Saturday, April 18, only nine days after the April meeting.

The flyer, included with this issue of the *Semaphore*, has detailed information, and is the sign-up sheet. We need to know the name of your boat, and if any FHYC Officers or Directors who will be on board.

*Phil Katz  
Cruising Captain*

### Bunco Party

It was all about Bunco, not boating, as FHYC members gathered at the Community Center.

Bunco is a game generally played with twelve or more players, divided into groups of four, trying to score points while taking turns rolling three die. A Bunco is achieved when a person rolls three-of-a-kind, and all three numbers match the round number. Players moved frequently providing an opportunity to chat with different people. Between games, members enjoyed appetizers, main dishes and desserts.

The event was coordinated by Deb Stone, Lois Andrews, Kate Clark, Rosie Wood and Lyn Hurst.

Prizes were awarded at the end of the night to Bill Andrews, Elaine Berberich, and Doug King.

Please see photos on page 4.

*Janice Myler & Elaine Berberich*

## Weather Ready Nation



Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club is one of the newest Weather Ready Nation Ambassadors, an initiative of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's effort to formally recognize partners who are improving the nation's readiness, responsiveness and overall resilience against extreme weather. To be officially recognized, an organization must commit to: (1) promote Weather Ready Nation messages to their stakeholders, which FHYC will do in part with their group e-mail system, (2) engage NOAA personnel on collaborative opportunities, which FHYC is doing by maintaining an ongoing dialogue

with visits to and presentations by National Weather Service in Newport, NC, (3) share success stories of preparedness and resiliency, including FHYC hurricane preparedness, (4) serve as an example for education, which FHYC hopes to do for the Fairfield Harbour community.

FHYC is proud to join numerous local and regional first responders and organizations as a WRN Ambassador!

*Joel Berberich*

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## Bunco Party Prizes



*Bill Andrews - Most Buncos*



*Elaine Berberich - Most Games Won*



*Doug King - Most Games Lost*

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## Bombs Away!

It was blowing hard enough that many of us decided to come back to the marina at Washburn, WI on Saturday evening instead of Sunday. As we were standing around talking, my friend, Bill, brought his O'Day 28 down the fairway and to his slip. As he turned into the slip, we could hear him curse about the fact that he was able to hit targets over Germany when he was a WWII bomber pilot, but could not get his boat lined up with the slip!

Later that evening, many of us were having a drink on one of the boats. We asked Bill, a veterinarian, what he flew in the war. He said he flew B-17s and, on many missions, the Memphis Belle was on his port side.

We then looked at Paul, who was Bill's age, and asked him what he did in the war. He hesitated for a moment, and then said that he was not in any branch of the military. After another short pause, he said so quietly we could hardly hear him, "I built the bomb." We sat in stunned silence for a minute, and then several of us said in unison, "WHAT!?" He went on to tell us that, as a senior in college, he was recruited by Dr. Oppenheimer and spent the war years building the bomb.

We listened raptly as he described his work. He told us that they wore regular lab coats, not lead-lined ones, and often passed bricks of uranium from person to person – sometimes without gloves. Back then, he said, no one had heard of a radiation meter. (Today, you routinely pin one to your lab coat!) Many of the people he worked with sadly passed away several years later from various forms of cancer. He considered himself one of the lucky ones since he had not developed cancer. Paul's wife, however, had died seven years earlier of some form of cancer, possibly from the radioactive dust that had come home on his clothes.

Paul was an excellent sailor. And after that, when any of us saw him doing something we thought was a bit risky, such as standing on the outside of his life lines under sail to check the tension in the shrouds, we figured, what the heck, if he could build the bomb, he could do anything he wanted.

*John Y Jackson*

*Editor's note:*

*We thank John for rising to the "Dark and Stormy" challenge and invite members to submit their articles for upcoming issues.*