

The Semaphore

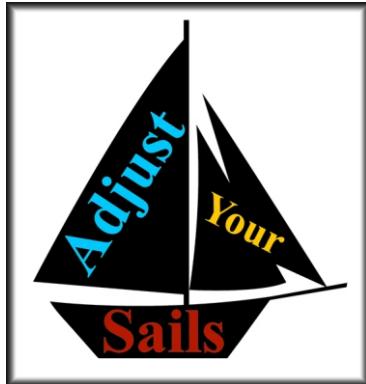
Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



Vol. 38, No. 3

35° 04' N., 076° 58' W.

April 2021



From the Commodore

Peer through the eyepiece of a kaleidoscope. As it turns one will see a beautiful explosion of various colors and shapes burst into the center of view! Continue to turn the spyglass and those initial pieces will slowly move to the edges and new and different shards will continually burst forth to replace the previous ones. The turning of the device yields a never-ending, constantly changing visage. Each moment in time is a thing of beauty, yet no two images will ever be identical; each instant will be unique.



Our club is very similar to a kaleidoscope, new members joining and coming into focus in the center of the glass, existing members participating in events and celebrating anniversaries as part of the middle section view, and veteran members eventually moving out of the field of view to continue their voyages to other stages of life.

Each of the wonderfully shaped and colored shards of our club play an integral part in the pattern of the grand

design. When it comes time for members to eventually move on to other stages, they will have left their imprint in the experiences and memories of all the shards that are still dancing in the eyepiece.

On behalf of the Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club Kaleidoscope, I wish to thank Past Commodores Don and Louise Knight for all they have done over the years to make the eyepiece of our club a dazzling and bright display for all to see and enjoy!

Adrian Vergot, Commodore

RCS Spring/Summer Clothing Drive

During the RCS Winter Clothing Drive, several of you asked if we were planning a Spring/Summer Clothing Drive. I called RCS, and good news! They would love it if we had another clothing drive. Remember, they care for needy folks in three counties: Jones, Craven, and Pamlico. Fairfield Harbour has developed quite a repu-

tation at RCS for being so generous to them. You may also bring a monetary donation. Please make checks payable to RCS and mark them to be used for clothing or food.

Our Spring/Summer Clothing Drive will be at the Community Center on Friday, April 23 and Saturday April 24 from 12 noon to 4:00 pm (1200-1600) each day. All size clothing is needed, from preschoolers to retirees. Spread the word among your friends and neighbors. Put it on your calendars now. Just drive up to the Community Center back door and we will be there to help unload.

In addition to spring or summer clothing, be sure to bring some NEW flip-flops for Joye Moloney's Flip-Flops for Fun. All sizes are welcome from little tykes to dear old Grandpa!

We also need two volunteers for each shift. To sign up, please call me at 252-637-9781, or send an email: jackson.jy@gmail.com

Thank you for your generosity.

Georgie Jackson

What's Happening

April Th	1	Race: Ensign Race #2
Sat	3	Race: Easter Fun
Mo	5	Board Meeting.....1700
Tu	6	Race: Fun Racing
Th	8	Race: Ensign Race #3
Th	8	General Meeting.....1900
Fr	9	Education: Seminar
Sa	10	Blessing of the Fleet and Commissioning Day
Su	11	Race: Wilkerson Cup
Tu	13	Race: Fun Racing
Th	15	Race: Ensign Race #4
Su	18	Race: Sunfish/Dinghy
Tu	20	Race: Fun Racing
Th	22	Race: Ensign Race #5
Su	25	Race: Sunfish/Dinghy
Tu	27	Race: Fun Racing
Th	29	Race: Ensign Race #6

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

Deadline for next issue is noon, Monday, April 12, 2021

Delivery is Saturday, April 24, 2021



Norman Meissner and Scout

Two Chances

Through many years of cruising, we have encountered numerous boaters who have taken their four-legged kids on their journeys. Dogs, cats and of course a few two-legged avians.

A few years ago, when we started to make plans for a three-month sail to the Bahamas, our two Pomeranians were given the option: "Do your business on board or get left behind." At ages six and eight, we wondered. Jasmine understood immediately. I took her on the leash, walked her to the green astroturf on the bow and it was a done

deal. But #2 "daughter", who Captain had labeled a "dumb blonde" was most reluctant. With an extra day of patience and perseverance, and Reba also understood the new arrangement. One really can teach an old dog to learn a few more new tricks. And just between you and me, it doesn't only apply to four-legged geriatrics.

Besides a few times when Captain found them something annoying under foot, we enjoyed having them on board with us.

Now Scout, our Australian Shepherd, has joined us on many water adventures. She unfortunately thinks it is too dignified to find a spot on the bow and patiently waits for the dingy to come broadside to speed her to the shore. Captain is only too willingly to oblige. After all, "anything for my favorite four-legged daughter."

Yvonne Meissner



Jeff and Shannon Taylor

New Members

New Members keep finding us and trusting that even as we work through the hurdles of Covid-19 Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club is the club they want to be part of.

We are excited to introduce our new members Jeff and Shannon Taylor to the Yacht Club community! They come to us with enthusiastic recommendations from their sponsors, Steve Hustad and David Phipps.

Jeff and Shannon hail from Cambridge, Maryland where Jeff was a dentist and Shannon was his office manager and moved to their home on Schooner Court in October 2020. They were members of the Cambridge Yacht Club and have extensively cruised the Chesapeake Bay with their Welsh Corgi. As new North Carolina residents they are looking forward to new experiences, new waters, and a longer boating season!

Their current boat is a 36-foot Carver Mariner named "The Turtle" that is docked at the New Bern Grand Marina.

Both Jeff and Shannon have selected the Distribution and Hospitality Committees and in addition Jeff is available for Medical Support and Shannon is available for the Entertainment Committee. She will also help proofread the Semaphore.

Please give our newest members, Jeff and Shannon Taylor a warm FHYC welcome!

Pam Miller, Membership Co-Chair



**Remember - Bring your
Flip Flops for Fun
Contribution
to the RCS Clothing Drive**

Spectator Etiquette

If you are out sailing on a nice Saturday afternoon and find you are surrounded by racing boats, the best thing to do is to call the Race Committee Boat.

You can do this by hailing "Race Committee" on channel 78 on your VHF radio. Tell them you don't want to be in the way of the race and ask for the course. They can tell you how to best avoid the racers and enjoy the day. Hope this helps you.

Georgie Jackson, Regatta Chair

Deadline

Deadline for receiving files is 1200 the Monday following the meeting.
Please email articles to the address below
fhycesemaphore@gmail.com



It's Official!

Meet the official candy of FHYC.

M and M!

These little sugar-coated chocolates have stolen our hearts for generations, and now they have become the yacht club's official candy. What a great way to remind us that Membership Matters.

These colorful little characters will attend every function we sponsor.

They will remind you to sing the praises of the FHYC to all your new neighbors, and when you're done, sit back, relax and enjoy some M and Ms because you, our Members, Matter!

Enjoy,

Lois Andrews

Slogan Contest and Branding

Someone said to me the other day, "Why do we need a slogan? It's just a yacht club!"

Let me explain why:

Branding is more than just an iridescent dash of color, logos, fancy business cards, etc. It includes everything you do or claim to do as an organization. It becomes the face and personality and everything in between. Branding increases trust and loyalty. It's representative of what your club stands for. Branding is what will carry FHYC to the next level.

Branding is not complicated; it is nothing more than a story. It is what the club is about and what we can offer someone.

The premise behind the brand is to have potential members connect and believe, to want to be part of the FHYC story. Promoting recognition will set us apart. If you want credibility, you have to find the emotion in it. The only way for FHYC to continue to grow and prosper is for the members to step up, take ownership of their club, and believe in it, to participate in events and support them.

Here is your first step:

Take part in branding your club. Don't leave it up to someone else. How do you want people to identify with it? Help create the story, send me your slogans!

Please fill out the Slogan Contest entry form. Thank you.

Lois Andrews



Saint Patrick's Day Fun Race, photo by Earl Beard

Why Race?

Among other questions, I am often asked why we enjoy racing. “Isn’t there a lot of stress? Doesn’t it cause friction between you and your crew (my wife)? Does it cause excess wear on your boat?” The simple answer is that I have learned much more about my boat, the weather, and seamanship in racing than just cruising. (And in reality, I enjoy cruising more.)

We bought our first boat, a Windmill, while living in South Carolina. Three years later we found ourselves living in Minnesota and bought our second boat, a Morgan 22, in the fall of 1975. Georgie was about eight months pregnant and we were living 80 miles north of Duluth, MN. We kept the boat in Duluth, the western end of Lake Superior. The second weekend we were sailing, a person about our age was on the dock and helped us tie up. He introduced himself and then said he was glad to see that the 22 had new owners and he hoped we would join the Duluth Keel Club and race with them in the spring. We told him we would consider it. On the way home we looked at each other and basically asked, “Who was that guy, and why in the world would we race our boat?”

In early April, while there was still lots of snow in our yard, we got information about the Duluth Keel Club and its summer racing schedule, which was every Wednesday night, most Saturdays or Sundays, and some holiday races. We looked at it and tossed it to one side. Later on we received an invitation to a pre-season social and to attend a racing seminar. With nothing else to do that weekend, we drove to Duluth and met a bunch of wonderful people.

The first Wednesday night the three of us, Georgie, me, and our eight-month-old baby, climbed aboard our boat, motored out into Lake Superior with about 25 other boats, and raced. Well, the others raced; we tried to sail. The first race ended and we had not rounded the first mark. We motored in. People were there to greet us and some told similar stories of when they were learning. The next week we went back for more, and did better. We got around the first mark before everyone finished. We also made one major change. This time Georgie steered and I trimmed the sails. That worked much better. She held a straighter course, and I had more strength for trimming. In fact, even now almost whenever we sail, Georgie steers and I trim. We both know our job and do it well. That summer we improved, and even won one or two races before the season ended. We learned which sail to use when, when to reef vs. changing head sails. We learned what to do when a sudden storm appeared, and we learned to communicate better with no yelling. And Baby Margot spent a lot of time sleeping and playing in the v-berth with cushions all around.

The following summer we took our first extended cruise, to the Apostle Islands and back, about 150-200 miles over all. On the way home we were hit by a sudden, hard thunderstorm. When it was over we looked below. One teapot was broken and a few other items were on the cabin floor, but there was no serious damage. We looked at each other and said, “Wow! If we had not raced and been hit with something like this with no other boats around for support, we probably would have really panicked.” We didn’t panic, just got back on course, and enjoyed the rest of the day.

People now ask me, “How long did it take you to learn to sail?” I tell them that after sailing, and racing for more than 45 years, I am still learning. Different boats respond in different ways. Now I like things such as self-tailing winches, roller furling jibs, and pursuit starts. At a younger age I wanted nothing to do with any of them. And yes, racing still keeps our sailing skills sharp.

Weather permitting, there will be a fun race every Tuesday from mid-April to mid-October. Come out now! When the FHYC Directors lift the Covid-19 restrictions, give one of us a call and crew with us, or have us join you on your boat. You may be surprised at what you learn about your boat and yourself.

Past Commodore John Jackson



Apivia off the Falklands



Pip Hare on Medallia

Vendée Globe 2020 - Part Two

As was mentioned last month, the Vendée Globe is a single-handed non-stop yacht race around the world. It is named after the Département de Vendée in France, where the race starts and ends. It is considered an extreme test of an individual's stamina. Some argue that it is the ultimate test of single-handed sailing. Past Commodore Ritchie Thomson followed this race extensively, and by joining as an on-line reporter for FHYC was privy to considerable information not available to many. Two additional photos are shown above.



Sea Vu Play and Last Resort, St. Patrick's Day Fun Race

St. Patrick's Day Fun Race

What a race we had! The weather prediction was for breezes 8-10 with gusts to 13 mph. Oh, were they wrong! Ed Thompson registered 21.5 gusts on *Dutch Wind*; wind speed on *Georgie Girl* showed 25 mph several times with the rail in the water. It's no wonder six boats dropped out of the 17 that originally started. It was invigorating and challenging. I haven't sailed that hard in years.

The boats in order of finish were: *Rampant Lion*, *Osprey*, *Methuselah*, *Vertical Wing*, *Baggywrinkle*, *Georgie Girl*, *Latitude Adjustment*, *Paramour II*, *Dutch Wind*, *Sophia*, and *Plymouth*. Others who retired were *Seeing Double*, *Mighty Fine*, *Treasure Cove*, *Blue Note*, *Turbulence*, and *Gentle Presence*.

I want to thank Ray Redniss, PRO and his crew; Ed Thompson for lending his boat *Jersey Grace* to Ray; Doug & Kathie King on *Sugar Magnolia* and Phil Katz on *Arawak* for being safety boats (we were lucky no one went overboard) and Elaine Albright and Earl Beard for being our camera boat.

The Lucky Leprechauns left a bag of gold for first place finisher, so a big congrats to Barb and Russ Robinson on *Rampant Lion*. They also left a "treat basket" for whoever won the drawing of those boats who finished. Joan Wilson on *Latitude Adjustment* was the lucky person who won the "Irish Treats."

There are two more races coming up soon: ►The Easter Fun Race on Saturday April 3, is the day before Easter. Ed Thompson is Chair of that race. Register early by calling or emailing him. You never know what the Easter Bunny might bring you! ►The Bill Wilkerson Memorial Cup will be run on April 11. That race has been a tradition with FHYC for 24 years. More information on both races will be coming shortly.

Georgie Jackson, Regatta Chair



They Burned Their Socks on the Equinox

It was cool and blustery on March 20, the vernal equinox, when 30+ members and prospective members gathered for the spring ritual. FHYC has been practicing this down east rite since 2014 when Bob Petrich introduced it to us. Bob kept the event going until last year when we canceled because of the pandemic. Bob and Kathy have been going through a tough patch health wise, and our thoughts and prayers are with them.

Don and Louise Knight came by to say farewell, and were presented with a beautiful book of memories contributed by many FHYC members. Thanks to Lois Andrews for putting this together.

Thanks to all who helped us keep the tradition. Everyone seemed to have a good time. It is a reminder that boating season is right around the corner. We look forward to April when we will bless the fleet and enjoy Commissioning Day.

Past Commodore George Stateham

