

# The Semaphore

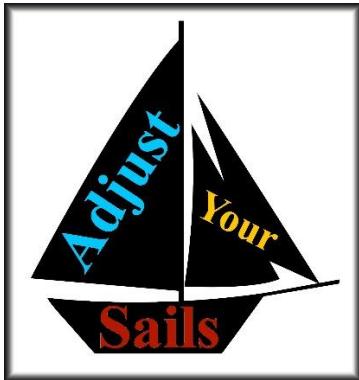
## Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



Vol. 38 No. 4

35° 04' N., 076° 58' W.

May 2021



### From the Commodore

The Commissioning Day Ceremony is a celebration of the past, present, and future. The wreath laying ceremony celebrates the past through the memorializing and reflection of the memory of those comrades who are no longer with us.

The flag raising ceremony and introduction of the new Board, supported by the seasoned knowledge and guidance of past commodores in attendance, celebrates the present here and now with the membership. And looking toward the future, we have the Blessing of the Fleet. Far more than simply a symbolic gesture, I thank God for each day that I am permitted to walk the earth and sail her waters. We, as members of FHYC, are permitted a finite amount of time to share the comradery and love of the water, each day should be viewed as an opportunity to adjust one's sails to make the absolute best of every moment in time. I sincerely wish everyone a Blessed, Safe, and Fun 2021 Yachting Season!

Adrian Vergot, Commodore

### FHYC BLESSING OF THE FLEET

On Saturday morning April 10, 2021 thirty-one boats rendezvoused near marker 1N outside Northwest Creek on the Neuse River. Pennants and flags of all colors and shapes decorated sail boats and power boats getting ready to parade up the channel into the waters of Fairfield Harbour to get blessed by clergy on this official opening of the boating season.

The Fleet Captain's boat flying the Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club burgee and Lima flag (follow Me) led the parade followed by the Yacht Club's Commodore, Officers and Directors. Next, boats with Past Commodores aboard, then the remainder of the Fleet followed with the Coast Guard Auxiliary boats and the Marine Assistance boat taking up the rear.

The Fleet proceeded into Northwest Creek, then turned to starboard into Spring Creek entering the inner harbor. After parading in a circle around the inner harbor the boats passed the outer dock of the Shoreline Marina one by one to receive their blessing from Deacon Jim Hawkins from the St Paul Roman Catholic Church, Reverend Cortney Dale from Christ Episcopal Church, and layperson Gail Schiller from Temple B'nai Sholem.

Special thanks to the clergy for blessing our Fleet, to Mary Swann and John Myer for their beautiful photography (and all the others who posted their pictures) and all the boats who participated in this year's Blessing of the Fleet.

Phil Katz, Fleet Captain

### What's Happening

|     |         |     |                             |
|-----|---------|-----|-----------------------------|
| May | Sun     | 2   | Race: Sunfish/Dinghy        |
|     | Tu      | 4   | Fun Race                    |
|     | Th      | 6   | Race: Ensign #7             |
|     | Fri-Sun | 7-9 | Cruise: Shakedown           |
|     | Mo      | 10  | Board Meeting (v).....1700  |
|     | Tu      | 11  | Race: Fun Racing            |
|     | Thu     | 13  | General Meeting(v).....1900 |
|     | Fri     | 14  | Education Seminar           |
|     | Sun     | 16  | Race: Sunfish/Dinghy        |
|     | Tu      | 18  | Fun Race                    |
|     | Sat     | 22  | Race: Oar                   |
|     | Sun     | 23  | Race: Sunfish/Dinghy        |
|     | Tu      | 25  | Fun Race                    |

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

**Deadline for next issue is noon, Monday, May 17, 2021**  
A digital copy will be delivered via FHYC email blast on or before,  
May 25, 2021

## The Shakedown Cruise

The first cruise of our boating season is quickly approaching. The cruise is scheduled from Friday May 7 through Sunday May 9, 2021. We will sail to Oriental. We have slips reserved at the Oriental Marina and Inn.

We will be making arrangements for outside dinning at the Toucan Restaurant. The Wine Tasting event will not take place at this time and will be rescheduled in the fall.

*Phil Katz, Fleet Captain*

### *The Semaphore* Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



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#### **Deadline**

Deadline for receiving files is 1200 the Monday following the meeting. Please email articles to the address below  
[fhycsemaphore@gmail.com](mailto:fhycsemaphore@gmail.com)

## The Easter Fun Race

### What a Time on the Water!

The Easter Fun Race was on Saturday April 3<sup>rd</sup>, with good breezes of 10-12 mph and winds decreasing near the end of the race. Some of the regular racers chose to celebrate an Easter weekend at home, so the registration numbers of ten boats was less than expected.

The course was N1 (Committee Boat) to #19 to #13 to #19 to N1. *Zen Tuna* (Dave Gillespie) came in first and was surprised by the Easter Bunny with a package of PEEPS. *Blue Note* (Mark Hittner) won the drawing. The winners in the Cruising Class were as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> place was *Dutch Wind*; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place was *Georgie Girl*. In the Non-Spin Class, 1<sup>st</sup> place was *Blue Note*, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place was *Turbulence*.

The first FHYC Boat to finish was *Blue Note* and Mark & Mary Hittner have once again won the Wilkerson traveling trophy, although last year it was on *Baggywrinkle*, and this year on *Blue Note*. *Blue Note* and *Dutch Wind* received first place coffee mugs. *Turbulence* and *Georgie Girl* will receive second place coffee mugs.

The Bill Wilkerson Memorial Cup Race this year was on Sunday April 11<sup>th</sup> with *Sweet Magnolia* (Doug & Kathie King and Jackie Moniak) as Committee Boat, and Joel & Elaine Berberich as safety boat. There were 11 boats registered, 6 in Cruising Class and 5 in Non-. The first FHYC Boat to finish was *Blue Note* and Mark & Mary Hittner have once again won the Wilkerson traveling trophy. Last year the Hittners were on *Baggywrinkle*. *Blue Note* and *Dutch Wind* received first place coffee mugs and *Turbulence* and *Georgie Girl* received second place coffee mugs.

Super big thank you to Doug & Kathie King and Jackie Moniak on the Committee Boat, and Joel and Elaine Berberich for being safety boat for the Wilkerson Cup. The big surprise for Dennis Howard on *Last Resort* was

that he had a stow-away raccoon on board. Of course, it was masked. The other excitement was that because of sudden wind changes, *Rampart Lion* hit the channel #17 marker. No one was injured, only minor damage to the boat, and none to the marker. Never a dull moment!

*Georgie Jackson, Regatta Chair*

## APRIL NEW MEMBERS

The April meeting again brought New Members to the Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club. We thank them for finding us and trusting that once we get through the hurdles and challenges of Covid-19 that the FHYC will be the club that they are proud to be part of.



We are excited to introduce our new members **Vicky and Bob Lynch** to the Yacht Club community! They come to us with enthusiastic recommendations from their sponsors **Steve Hustad & Anny Chui** and **Dave & Paula Phipps**.

Vicky and Bob were originally from New York but have lived in Raleigh, North Carolina, for 25 years. They also have owned a home in Fairfield Harbour for 13 years. Their first home here in the Harbour was on Castleton Court but they have recently moved to a home with a pool on Schooner Court.

Vicky and Bob have 40 years of boating experience on both Sail and

Powerboats between them. Much of their sailing was done on the Hudson River where they visited a multitude of Yacht Clubs. Their current boat is a 25 foot *Ebbtide* power boat.

They are excited to meet more Yacht club members and get involved in the club. Bob has selected Maintenance and Marine assistance as his committees and Vicky chose Medical Support and Yearbook.

**Please give our newest members  
Vicky and Bob Lynch an  
enthusiastic Welcome Aboard!**

*Pam Miller, Membership Chair*

## Commissioning Day Ceremony

The shoreside Commissioning Day ceremony followed the blessing of the fleet. It was held on the lawn along the waterfront at Shoreline. Commodore Adrian Vergot exercised impressive decorum during the ceremony.



Past Commodores were introduced, flags were raised, the bell was tolled



for each fallen Yacht Club member

over the past two years, and a wreath was laid in their memory.

Bill Andrews cast the wreath in the water from his Martini boat "Princess".



Masks and social distancing marked this year as unique. At the close of the ceremony, the Commodore proclaimed the boating season open as a final cannon shot was fired.



Residents and guests assembled at Shoreline to view the boat parade and blessing and observe the Commissioning Day ceremony. Special thanks to the clergy for blessing our Fleet, to Mary Swann and John Myer for their beautiful photography (and all the others who posted their pictures), and all the boats who participated in this year's Blessing of the Fleet and Commissioning Day ceremony.



## **THE START OF A BEAUTIFUL FRIENDSHIP!**

The votes have been counted, the contest has ended, and we have our slogan. The top 3 slogans were spot on and encompassed the feeling we wanted to create. A great brand is one that arouses your feelings and instills a picture in your mind that you relate to.

**Aka: JUST DO IT – YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS – BECAUSE YOUR WORTH IT – THINK DIFFERENT – DILLY DALLY - THE POWER OF DREAMS – WHEN IT RAINS IT POURS...**

If these slogans were not already “branded” in your brain you would never associate them with:

**SNEAKERS, INSURANCE, HAIR COLORING, COMPUTERS, BEER, CARS AND SALT!**

That my fellow yacht club members are the beauty and the power of branding.

**Slogans are short and sweet and timeless.**

So, KUDOS to the judges for their time and their expertise in helping to narrow down the field. Thank you to everyone who submitted the 90 slogans. (I wish we could use them all)

My biggest thank you goes to all who had fun with the contest and smiled when they chose their perception of a story about a little yacht club tucked away in a wonderful community.

**For them it was not about whether their slogan was chosen, it was about the camaraderie, and being part of the success in the next step for FHYC.**

**We had over 1/3 of our membership vote. When our contest started, we had 145 memberships and 52 of those memberships participated.**

**You will soon start to see our slogan on our correspondence and merchandise and witness firsthand, the power of branding.**

**The 3 choices were:**

1. NEW FRIENDS, NEW HORIZONS
2. WELCOME ABOARD!
3. JOIN THE ADVENTURE



**CONGRATULATIONS, ON YOUR CHOICE, AND WINNING SLOGAN  
FAIRFIELD HARBOUR YACHT CLUB:**

**“JOIN THE ADVENTURE!”**

*Lois Andrews, Director*

## Adventure at Sebastian Inlet (FL)

I am posting this as part of my healing, and honestly hope that if it keeps just one person from becoming a statistic.

As you can see from the pictures my boat capsized, 22.2



miles offshore of Sebastian inlet, and if you were fishing on the inlet at around 5:45 on Friday evening, you would have seen us coming in being towed by Sea Tow. At the end I did not become a statistic and here is some of the things I did and some of the things I wish I had done.

1. The boat had taken on water; the back of the boat was low while trolling. We pulled in lines stopped the boat and checked the bilge.
2. The bilge pump was not working. Also, at this point my motor shut off, and the ignition shorted.
3. I asked the boys with me to use the hand pump to try to get water out of the bilge while I contacted Sea Tow. Receiving no response, I contacted the coast guard.
4. I informed them that we were taking in water and could they ping Sea Tow. They did and Capt. James was on his way.
5. They relayed the signal back and forth providing updates every few minutes. As the hand pump was not working I asked the boys to get in the front of the boat to counter the weight.
6. At this point we continued to take on water, so I asked my son to grab all wallets and cell phones and put them in the “dry box” along with flares. I asked him to leave my wallet out because I wanted it handy (now looking back I have no idea why). We all had our life jackets on and knew Sea Tow was within one mile.
7. Capt. James pulled up just in time. He threw a bilge pump at us and as I moved to the back of the pump to plug it in, a wave came over the stern and capsized the boat.
8. We all swam over to the Sea Tow boat which we were incredibly lucky to have there when we did.

Now here is what saved my “butt”.

1. I called for help within minutes of realizing I had an issue. I had 3 boys on the boat depending on my decision.
2. When Sea tow could not get my signal, I immediately requested coast guard support. I knew they could at least ping the signal.
3. We kept calm the entire time. Had we freaked out at any time or all gone to the same side of the boat we would have capsized much sooner. We had safety equipment available and radio contact.
4. My boat is insured, my fishing gear is insured, and although the “dry box” leaked completely we only lost our phones.

Here is what I wish I had aboard the boat:

1. A standalone bilge pump, with a soft hose in a dry bag. (The boat would have never filled up)
2. A flare gun, although no boats were around. When I got home, I took one of my wet flares and lit it. It was not as easy and if I had been in a total panic, it would have never happened. Second the flare is only out in front of you. If you go up and down in the waves, you disappear.
3. Make sure the dry box is waterproof.
4. An ePirb. They are expensive but worth it.

I was always that guy who said it will never happen to me, I know what I am doing out here. So much for that.

I hope this helps anyone, new or old to boating. I grew up around them and still this can happen. But here is the cause of our adventure - a port popped loose with a 1/4 gap in the splash well, the screw was still on it, but the sealant stuck in the bilge impeller and burned it up. And the rest unfolded.

Stay safe out there. I will get another boat and will go back out, because it is what I love to do. We have our guardians watching out for us and that day his name was Capt. James.



*Author Alex Latham, Contributed by Rose Voss Litke*

Bearing the previous article in mind.

A survey boat coming into Beaufort Inlet with about 30 knots of wind. There was no other traffic in the area. The crew was probably getting really wet, really seasick and not making much headway.



## A Sailing or Boating Obsession is:

The fine art of getting really wet, really cold, going nowhere really fast, while spending really large amounts of money

## THE WALL THAT HEALS

Last week Pat and I, along with many other Fairfield Harbour volunteers, worked at *The Wall That Heals*. I think all of us found it to be a very moving experience. To hear some of the stories from veterans who served in Viet Nam, and/or the families and friends of the 58,271 men's and 8 women's names on the wall was incredibly sobering. I think all of us found it to be a very moving experience

Pat and I were in the tent helping folks to find the names they were looking for, and in the process, we heard some of their stories.



For example, there was an African American gentleman from Bridgeton who was seeking the name of one of his brothers. The man had served along with two of his brothers and all three of them had been wounded. One brother died there, and we were able to find his name in the directory.

We were told that when it rains the names become invisible, but when it stops, and the clouds disappear the names slowly reappear again. And it is incredibly beautiful at night. We were honored to have been involved, just as were all the FH volunteers.

*Too many names are on that wall!*

*By Bob Dumon, Author and Photographer*

