

# The Semaphore

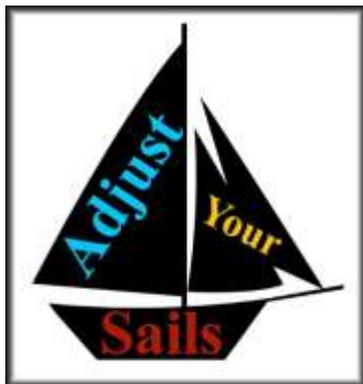
Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



Vol. 38 No. 7

35° 04' N., 076° 58' W.

August 2021



## Commodore's Update

**Open Hailing Frequencies:** Our membership has learned a few valuable tricks over the past year, a silver lining so to speak. We have proven the ability to quickly think outside the box and adapt to changing situations.

As a retired military Signal Officer, I love this photo for many reasons. Take a look at what these sailors are doing. At first glance you might think that they are all doing something different. But in reality they are doing the identical task. They are all accomplishing the exact same goal -getting the message through!

The medium being used to get the information from point A to point B is irrelevant. The medium is simply a pathway that the message takes.

But why the need for different ways of doing the same thing? Well, you never know when circumstances will cause one medium to not be accessible to the distant end, so by using multiple transmission paths for dissemination, your chances of successful communication to all participants increases.

So, what do you get when you cross a General Meeting at the Community Center with a video



conference call? The answer is *Maximum Participation* -- the information gets through!

I greatly appreciated all who were able to attend our July General Meeting either physically or virtually.

Bonus points if you can guess what country's navy personnel were photographed in this vintage WWII image!

*Adrian Vergot, Commodore*

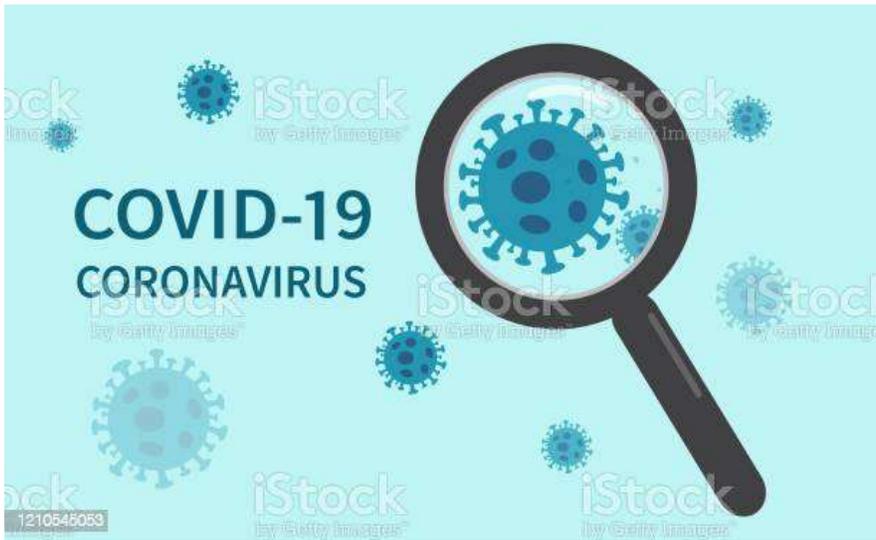


## What's Happening

Aug	Tu	3	Race: Fun Racing .....	1400
	Mo	9	Board Meeting (ac).....	1700
	Tu	10	Race: Fun Racing .....	1400
	Th	12	General Meeting (cc).....	1900
	Fr	13	Education: "Fit to be Tied" Seminar.....	1100
	Mo-Tu	16-24	Cruise - Manteo to Ocracoke	
	Tu	17	Race: Fun Racing .....	1400
	Sa	21	Cruise: Poker Run	
	Tu	24	Race: Fun Racing.....	1400
	Tu	31	Race: Fun Racing.....	1400

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

**Deadline for next issue is noon, Monday, August 16, 2021**



## Covid Reopening

Planning the FHYC response to Covid-19 has truly been a tightrope, assuring safety of members while respecting individual rights. Thank you for your actions that have protected yourself and others during this ongoing pandemic.

### 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)

In January, Adrian commissioned an FHYC reopening committee with members representing cruising, racing, and entertainment, and with two former Commodores. Our goals were to establish opening criteria using vaccine rollout status and coronavirus statistics, including number of cases and percent positive tests. We considered the FHYC pre-pandemic schedules, requirements and suitability of venues, and time needed for committees to gear up.

Governor Cooper issued NC Executive Order 215 on May 14, 2021 that lifted state restrictions for face coverings, social distancing, and capacity restrictions to reflect the CDC recommendations issued on May 13, 2021. The CDC advisory stated that “currently authorized vaccines are highly effective at protecting vaccinated people against symptomatic and severe Covid-19” and “less likely to transmit Covid-19 to others.” On June 1, 2021, the reopening committee notified Adrian that if planning allows, in-person general and other FHYC meetings may resume immediately and that committees may plan for a full schedule for fall 2021. The FHYC reopening committee adjourned.

FHYC is now in the era of personal responsibility for protection of self and others from Covid-19. Vaccines have been readily available in NC to people over age 18 since May 1, 2021 and recently have become available to younger people. Unvaccinated people remain at great risk if they do not wear face coverings in recommended settings and socially distance.

Currently in North Carolina, 56% of adults over 18 have received at least one dose of the coronavirus vaccine and 53% have received two doses and are fully vaccinated. This week there are still more than 400 new cases per day with the daily percent positive tests of 4.8%. The Delta virus variant, which is more contagious and more lethal than previous variants, is increasing throughout the country including North Carolina.. The mRNA vaccines (Pfizer, Moderna) still provide good coverage for the Delta and other variants. We must continue to be careful about how we plan and conduct FHYC events.

I would like to thank Adrian, the Board and Bridge for their leadership, and committee members for their creativity and style in conducting events. Also thanks to the reopening committee for their service: Phil Katz, Georgie Jackson, Janice Myler, Ritchie Thomson, and George Stateham.

*Kathie King, Fleet Surgeon*

*FHYC is now in the era of personal responsibility for protection of self and others from Covid-19...*

*Unvaccinated people remain at significant risk if they do not socially distance and wear face coverings in recommended settings.*

## Save the Date for “A Treasured Evening”

The Commodores’ Ball will take place Thursday, September 2, 2021, at Carolina Colours starting at 1730 for cocktails. This annual event honors our current Commodore, Adrian Vergot, along with all the Past Commodores. Watch for your invitation to be delivered to your brown box the week of July 18. This special occasion offers the perfect opportunity to dress up, enjoy fine food catered by The Chelsea, and dance the night away to the music of Stan James Gregory. RSVP early and plan to be there for the fun! For more information, please call Janice Myler at 443-299-8916.

*The Entertainment Committee*

### **Manteo-Ocracoke Cruise** **Monday, August 16 – Tuesday, August 24**

This cruise is designed for everybody to see more of the waters and great towns of North Carolina. Since we are traveling in the middle of the Dog Days of August, we plan on staying at marinas with pools (if possible) when we are not anchoring out.

The first night we plan to stay at River Dunes and enjoy the great air conditioned facilities and pool. Then we will travel up the ICW to Belhaven’s Dowry Creek Marina with their pool and recently upgraded facilities. Next, we will travel up the ICW and Alligator River Canal to the Alligator River Marina (or nearby anchorage if you choose.)

The next day is a short trip over to Manteo to see the sights for two days. After that, we will travel to Ocracoke for a couple of days, staying at either the US Park Service docks, the Anchorage Inn (with pool,) or anchoring out in Silver Lake. For the record, *Pamlico Star* will be at the Anchorage Marina so we can use their pool!

After a couple of days of clamming, beachcombing, dining, and shopping, we will wind our way back home, stopping at Oriental for one last refreshing pool stop at the Oriental Marina before returning to Fairfield Harbor. It’s a great chance to see much of North Carolina from the water.

Since August can be a fairly volatile weather month, we will remain flexible and safe with our itinerary. For example, if the wind is favorable from the SW, we might reverse the route from River Dunes and head to Ocracoke first. As your Cruise Directors, Leigh and I will make reservations when we stay at marinas.

Details will be discussed at the Captains’ meeting the week prior to the cruise. Whether you are a first-timer, or a repeat visitor to Manteo and Ocracoke, join us for a fun time of cruising and fellowship!

*David Pfefferkorn, Cruise Director*

### **“Fit to be Tied” Educational Seminar**

The August Educational Seminar will take place at the Community Center on Friday, August 13 at 1100.

“Fit to be Tied” is a hands-on, fun seminar, which includes such topics as:

- \*The One Knot Everyone Should Know How to Tie
- \*Secure a Boat to a Piling Without Using Your Hands
- \*Decorative Marlinspike Knots
- \*Fun Knots to Tie
- \*How to make an Eye splice to Impress Your Friends
- \*And the ever popular “The King of All Knots”

Lines, pilings, and cleats will be provided for group participation.

*David Pfefferkorn, Education Committee Chair*

### **Poker Run** **Saturday, August 21**

Save this date for a fun day on the water. We will register and pay the fee at the Captains’ meeting, date, time, and location to be determined. Fee will be \$5 per hand, maximum two hands per vessel. Payout will be 50% to best hand overall and 25% each to the two remaining best hands each on a sailboat and power boat.

Sailboat course will be about eight nm and twelve nm for power boats. All boats must start after 1100 hours and complete the course by 1500. A splash will be held beginning at 1700 where best hands will be determined and payout made.

As things firm up, a flyer will be sent via FHYC email blast and posted on the FHYC website.

*George Stateham, Past Commodore*



## FHYC Sailors Volunteer

The Edward Teach Youth Sailing Program runs a learn to sail camp for four weeks every summer. This summer several members of FHYC are volunteering their time to help make sure the program is a success. Doug Longhini is one of the coordinators, Doug King is an instructor, and Ritchie Thomson, Chris Town, Jenny McDiarmid, and John Jackson are chase/rescue boat volunteers. The ETYSA students are taught by both professional instructors and young people who have gone through the program. One of the instructors is Lily Vuich, granddaughter of FHYC member Irene Vuich.

*John Jackson, Past Commodore*



## Opportunities to join the FHYC Adventure

**Help Library organization:** Erin Vergot is organizing the library books in Room 3 at the... would appreciate assistance. Let's be more specific. Volunteers are very much needed... not a long-term commitment. Contact Erin at [pghlass@yahoo.com](mailto:pghlass@yahoo.com) or 252-...

**Thank you FHYC for volunteering!**  
This project no longer needs volunteers!

**Become a *Semaphore* Editor:** This rare opportunity is more fun than it appears. It is NOT a monthly responsibility: most editors are responsible for editing just two months of the *Semaphore*. Current senior editors are available to train new editors. They offer ongoing assistance and are more than accommodating and very appreciative of all offers. Respectable knowledge of English grammar and punctuation, respectable knowledge of formatting in Microsoft Word or other program, attention to detail, and availability for 10-20 hours during two months of the year are recommended. Again, volunteers are very much wanted and needed!

*Chris and Buddy Jewell, Newbie Editors*

# FHYC FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION ON THE NEUSE BY DUCK CREEK

On Sunday night, the Fourth of July, eleven boats from the Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club anchored out to celebrate and watch the fireworks. From our vantage point on the Neuse River between Duck Creek and the Neuse River bridge, we were able to see fireworks from New Bern and surrounding areas.

The boats arrived around 1930 and anchored with two raft-ups and four single boats. This gave everybody time to enjoy a splash in anticipation of the fireworks display that began at 2115. After the fireworks, some boats stayed for the night on anchor, as other boats returned to Fairfield Harbour.

Special thanks to Vince and Patsy Trovato of sailing vessel *Footloose*, and Peter and Kathy Clay of sailing vessel *Gentle Presence* for being the host anchor boats for the raft-ups.

*Phil Katz, Cruise Committee Chair*



## THREE DINNER CRUISE

The Three Dinner Cruise included two sail boats, *Plymouth*, and *Wicked Good* plus four power boats, *Arawak*, *Sugar Magnolia*, *Cruzin Waves*, and *Island Girl*. On Thursday, June 17, 2021 we all took a short cruise to the Grand Marina in New Bern to dine at Morgan's, but before dinner we met on *Arawak* for a splash.





The dinner at Morgan's was as good (as it always is), and all the cruisers enjoyed each other's company.

On Friday, June 18, 2021, we cruised down the Neuse to Oriental Marina and Inn, had a splash on the Tiki Deck and dined at the Toucan Restaurant.

On Saturday morning, while we were all preparing for a short sail to The River Dunes for dinner in the screened-in porch at their Harbor Club, we received a marine weather report predicting the arrival of tropical storm Claudette for the weekend. After conversations with the Dockmaster at River Dunes, we decided to cancel and return to Fairfield Harbour.

The Three Dinner Cruise only had two dinners!

*Phil Katz, Cruise Committee Chair*



## FHYC SHALLOW DRAFT CRUISE UPPER BROAD CREEK TO LATHAM WHITEHURST PARK



FHYC scheduled a day cruise up Broad Creek to Latham Whitehurst Park for Saturday, June 26, 2021. This cruise for shallow draft boats gives us a chance to enjoy the beautiful scenery and have a picnic. Fourteen boats signed up for the event, so we watched the weather predictions closely to assure a safe outing on the water. However, weather forecasts for Saturday predicted scattered showers and thunderstorms, and we postponed the cruise until the following day, Sunday, with much better weather. Several boats could not make it on Sunday, and the cruise was reduced from fourteen to seven boats heading up to Latham Whitehurst Park.

We still had a variety of vessels, including shallow draft power boats, pontoon boats, dinghies, a canoe, and an electric boat. A good time was had by all!

*Phil Katz, Cruise Committee Chairman*



## MAY EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR: HURRICANE PREPARATION



In anticipation of the 2021 Hurricane Season beginning on June 1, Past Commodore Doug King held a “Hurricane Preparation” Seminar as part of FHYC’s Educational Program series. With destruction of Hurricane Florence still fresh in our memories, this seminar, which was the first “live” one to be held in the Community Center since the COVID restrictions began, was opened to not only FHYC members, but also to the entire Fairfield Harbour community and Blackbeard Sailing Club members as well.

The slide presentation covered basic hurricane formation and forecasting, as well as factors to consider on

whether to secure your boat at a dock, anchor out, or have it hauled at a marina. The importance of planning and timing was also discussed, as well as different types of anchors and anchoring techniques should you decide to anchor out.

The program was well received by the thirty people in the audience, with many comments, tales, and questions following the meeting, and even a few knot-tying demonstrations! For those who did not attend in person, the slide presentation was posted on the FHYC website under Educational Seminars. Well done, Doug, and thank you!

*David Pfefferkorn, Educational Committee Chair*





## Looking Back – And Ahead to Bald Head Island Cruising

As we look forward to the upcoming Bald Head Island Cruise, I share these notes from my journal of an earlier FHYC cruise to this beautiful destination. *Lynn Stateham*

The fleet included Don and Louise Knight on *Seaquel*, Ralph and Linda Azersky on *Mazel Tug*, Al and Ginny Springer on *Silver Voyager*, Reiner and Renate Zeppenfeld on *Feline Purrfect*, Bob and Kathy Fortenbaugh on *Get Aweigh*, Dave and Cheryl Stevenson on *Voyageur*, Ted and Kate Clark on *Sweet Pea*, and George and Lynn Stateham on *Sunspot Baby*. You may recognize the photo of the fleet on the Cape Fear River, it was on the cover of the 2017 FHYC Yearbook.



### September 11, 2016–Spooners Creek Marina, 40.3 SM

Eight boats departed Fairfield Harbour for the Bald Head Island Cruise. We met at 1N at 0930 with south winds blowing across the Neuse. At Minnesott the wind was more behind us. We danced with the tug *Pamlico*, and enjoyed a good passage down the ICW. Spooners Creek Marina is quite nice. There are floating docks, a friendly dockmaster, and a pool, where we headed for a quick dip and a little later returned there for splash. We took turns talking about where we were on September 11, 2001.

### September 12 – Harbor Village Marina, 56.5 SM

We were away shortly after 0800. We had clouds and rain all day, the heaviest when we were approaching markers Red 60 and Green 61A at Brown’s Inlet, but they appeared ahead, and we went through this sometimes difficult, often-shoaling area with no problems. Temperatures were nice today, in the low to mid 80’s. We have not been in this marina before, it has nice floating docks, tightly arranged. Today is Ginny Springer’s birthday and there was a celebration pizza party.

### September 13 – Bald Head Island Marina, 35.3 SM

Our trip today was smoother than expected. We caught Snow’s Cut at almost slack tide, and the Cape Fear River on an ebb. By the time we turned in, there was about a two-knot current. The entrance is difficult to see but straightforward, just two jetties of big rubble and no sign. Once inside, it is beautiful. We are on A Dock with most of the other boats. Last night George and I skipped the splash and had a date night dinner at Mojo’s on the Harbor. We enjoyed a calamari appetizer, a shrimp and sweet potato fries plate, and key lime pie. When we saw Kumbaya wine on the drinks menu we had to order that in honor of absent friends, Jerry Allen and Barbara Schmalhofer, whose boat is *Kumbaya*.

### September 14

Tropical Storm Julia sprang up over Northeast Florida and is meandering north across Georgia and South Carolina. There is also a front coming through North Carolina this weekend.

We had a splash on *Silver Voyager* tonight and a group dinner out at Delfina's. We shared a golf cart rental with Dave and Cheryl Stevenson and saw more of this beautiful island. I was expecting something similar to Ocracoke (also picturesque) but it is considerably different. Roads are shaded with live oaks, there are charming houses, lovely beaches, and we had a view of Frying Pan Shoals just offshore. We had surprise visitors today. Leigh Pfefferkorn and Ellen McElree came over on the Southport ferry, joined us for the festivities, and returned on the evening ferry.

### September 15

We are still at Bald Head. We have already had a lot of rain and 15-25 mph winds gusting 30. This motivated everyone's decision to stay here another day (we don't have to all do the same thing but in this case was unanimous). I did a load of laundry, we ate, read, and played Scrabble. We had kielbasa, red-skin potato salad and sauerkraut for dinner. I love days like this on our boat.

### September 16-Topsail Marina, Topsail Island, 51.3 SM

We planned to leave at 0800 to be on the flooding tide. The wind was NNE 15-20 causing wind against current. We decided to go, and it was doable. There were no ships to dodge, just local ferry and barge traffic. We closed the overhead hatches in the wheelhouse, and just as we turned north out of the marina entrance, we got a big slosh of water over the bow into each of our three helm station ports. We waited until the seas were calmer and wiped things down. The outside of the boat is covered with salt spray; she will need a rinse while we are here. We had a half ham sandwich each and a soda for lunch.

Topsail Marina is run by a family with three kids, the two older ones are hard workers and the younger (about 3) runs barefoot on the dock with water wings. \$2/ft for dockage is quite high.

We were six days into this cruise, and we were looking for a diversion. We walked two doors down to the Crab Pot, recommended by the dockmaster, and had a wonderful night. The music was terrific, the entertainer played his guitar well, and knew all the old sing-along music. We ate crab and shrimp, sang, laughed and probably some even danced a little.

### September 17 – Back at Spooner's Creek 49.8 SM

We only had one bridge today. *Seaquel* led today and we brought up the rear, except for Springers in *Silver Voyager* who were behind us. *Silver Voyager* delayed near the New River Inlet to work on a rudder issue, *Mazel Tug* turned back and stayed on station until the situation was resolved a short time later. Passage through Brown's Inlet and marks Red 60 and Green 61A went well, and we arrived

here in time for a dip in the pool. I opted to head straight for a shower. We had a catch-as-catch-can splash with what we had left over on our boats.

### Sunday, September 18 – Back at Home, 40.3 SM

*Feline Purrfect* had returned home from Topsail, and now that we were in home waters folks were on their own schedule. The day was bright and the marks sometimes difficult to see but we all did well, and at Morehead City we turned away from the sun and caught a push with a current riding through Core Creek and Adams Creek clear into the Neuse at about 9 knots speed over the ground. Three hours from Spooners Creek to the Neuse River is a quick trip!

In the Neuse River we had rain showers all around us, but we could make out the Minnesott Ferry at the crossing. By 1300 we were entering Northwest Creek and it was sunny and very humid. As we off-loaded the boat, mid-80's felt like mid-90's. There are chores to do, but now home to chill out and watch some football. At least Sunspot Baby has had a good washdown with all that rain!

**Recap: 273.5 Statute Miles, 6 cruising days  
2 lay days at beautiful Bald Head Island  
Good companions all**

### Looking Ahead – Bald Head Island Cruise September 19-29, 2021

(See page 14 of the FHYC Yearbook for a description of this cruise – stopovers may vary)

Contact Leigh Hart for more information:

[dol123@mac.com](mailto:dol123@mac.com) – (919) 801-7123



Bald Head Island is a two-mile journey across the Cape Fear River from Southport, North Carolina and the site of Old Baldy, the state's oldest standing lighthouse, circa 1817. You can only reach this subtropical island by passenger ferry or private vessel.

Lynn Stateham