

The Semaphore

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



Vol. 39, No. 2

35° 04' N., 076° 58' W.

March 2022



From the Commodore

I know the temperatures have been very cold and in some places we have had ice BUT there is an undercurrent, a vibrancy running through the club. You might call it coming out of hibernation, whatever it is, members are marking their calendars with the activities planned for the year and there are many activities from cruises, to sailing races, to social events. Just this month alone we had the First Annual Chili Bake off where you could be competitor or judge. We also had The Valentine's Day Holiday Fun Race on February 12. If

you want to become a Racing Official, FHYC is holding a seminar on February 19 at the Activity Center. You can go to our website to get more information about these and other events.

So what do you do in February when the temperature is 70+? You get out on the water and that's what many of you did, whether for the NYRA winter series make-up race or the FHYC sponsored Valentine's Day Holiday Fun Race. Apparently the fishing is good too because there have been a lot of anglers in the inner harbor. The roads in the Harbour are also getting a lot of activity between dog walkers, joggers, walkers, cyclists, and carts. Now is the time to get out and enjoy what Fairfield Harbour has to offer.

Remember to Reach for the Sky!

Barbara Robinson, Commodore



Coronacoaster

noun: the ups and downs of a pandemic. One day you're loving your bubble, doing work outs, baking banana bread and going for long walks and the next you're crying, drinking gin for breakfast and missing people you don't even like.

What's Happening

March 2022	Mo	7	Board Meeting (ac)	1600
	Th	10	General Meeting (cc)	1900
	Sat	5	Education Seminar	1000
	Th	17	Commodores' Ball	1730
	Sa	19	Sock Burning (rs)	1500
	Su	20	Race: St. Patrick's Day Holiday Fun	1300
	Th	31	Ensign Race #1	

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

Deadline for next issue is noon, March, Monday 14, 2022.

A digital copy will be delivered online, on or before March 1, 2022.



The Semaphore

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club

Editorial Team

Julia Thomson	919-260-9924
Beth Warnock	571-455-9967
Buddy Jewell	303-589-2917
Chris Jewell	303-589-2963
Barbara Lewis	330-441-1083
Michelle Aldrich	919-272-4605
Brian Aldrich	919-494-5864
Yvonne Meissner	941-276-7356

Proofreading Team

Pam Gaskill	252-288-4501
Phil Katz/	
Linda Duncan	252-631-1018
Julie Madsen	516-242-2643
Michael McDougall	252-626-7636
Bev Myrseth	816-210-0364
Shannon Taylor	410-310-6591
Chris Town	252-288-4010
Joan Wilson	610-357-7476

Distribution Chair

Jerry Rezab	252-288-4124
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Website: www.fhyc.us

Email: fhyc-nc@googlegroups.com

Deadline

The deadline for receiving articles is 1200 noon on the Monday following the General meeting.

Please email articles to:

fhycsemaphore@gmail.com

Mark/Safety Boat Training 2022

Do you own a power boat 18 feet or longer? Are you interested in becoming a mark boat or safety boat (chase boat) for local sailboat regattas? Well, here's your chance to learn more about what is involved. I hope we get enough participants that mark or safety boat skippers need not help out more than two to three times a season.

FHYC is hosting a training class on Saturday, March 5, 2022 at 1000. We'll meet



in the back yard of Russ & Barb Robinson on 905 Spar Ct. The class is open to all power boat skippers, whether you belong to a local yacht club or not. Even though Blackbeard is a sailing club, they may have members who also own trailer-able power boats. Our intent is to supply chase boats to any of the three local clubs (FHYC, BSC, and NYRA) when they are sponsoring a race. The class will cover everything, from how to inflate a mark to what's in the Rescue Box.

Please call me 252-637-9781 or email me at jackson.jy@gmail.com and register. No fee, just a hardy interest in helping with regattas. Those of you who have been mark or safety boat operators and would like a refresher course, come join us too. When you come to class, bring your lawn chair and be comfortable!

Georgie Jackson, FHYC Regatta Chair

Buying A Boat

It has always intrigued me as to what it is about a certain boat that speaks out to a specific captain.

Over the years we have traveled north, south and many points in between to check out a boat for sale that might put that glimmer in my captain's eye to think that this is the one he would love forever.

There must be a good reason why all boats are considered female and why fickleness must be their middle name. I laugh as "Mary Jane" is quickly removed and "Rose Marie" is fondly engraved onto the stern. I, too, have been blessed with "Dutch Treat", "African Queen" and "Tulips from Amsterdam" riding the waves.

And once that boat of his dreams is found it will get his utmost devotion and attention. Tenderly sanding, adding varnish, deck swabbing, and lovingly check that all valves, seals, and batteries are up to par to run that Volvo/Yanmar engine when that start switch is turned on. And when that engine is running the two are in sync.

I once asked why washing the deck of the boat every week was more important than washing the deck of our home but realized that it was just a foolish question for which there was no answer.

So what is it? The broad beam, the performance when at the helm, the comfortable ride when she allows the wind to guide her along. Or is it just the way she will look alongside the dock. Who knows? For my captain the chosen one has always been the one that stood out amongst many. The extraordinary, the one a little different than the usual.

On a personal basis I am glad he chose the one that survived the bumps of life and survived with just a few blemishes. Lucky for me, his "Second Hand Rose".

Yvonne Meissner

Upcoming Cruising Events

March is right around the corner so all you cruisers and sailors should be thinking about getting rid of those stinky old winter socks you have been wearing and bringing them to Red Sails Park on Saturday, March 19, 2022, for Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club's traditional **Sock Burning** led by George Stateham.

Another FHYC tradition is the **Blessing of the Fleet** that will take place on Saturday, April 9, 2022, to kick off the official boating season for the year. Beautifully decorated boats will parade into the inner harbor and get blessed by clergy followed by FHYC Commissioning Day Ceremonies and a luncheon.

The first overnight cruise of the season is the FHYC **Shake-down Cruise** down the Neuse to Oriental Harbor Marina or an anchorage nearby leaving Friday, May 20, 2022 and returning Sunday, May 22 (rescheduled to accommodate Oriental Marina and Inn). Plans for Nautical Trivia before dinner one night and a Wine Tasting Contest before dinner the other night are in the works. Jon & TJ Bendicksen have planned for 10 slips at the Marina, and they need boat commitments before the end of March. Members that will not be cruising can come to Oriental by land yachts (cars) to enjoy the activities and even opt to stay overnight at the Inn.

Are you interested in some long-term cruising? Peter & Kathy Clay are putting together the details of the **Chesapeake Cruise** for the month of May 2022. Watch for more information to follow.

Phil Katz & Linda Duncan, Cruising Captains

Information about the Chesapeake Cruise

To all cruisers interested in cruising the Chesapeake this year I am looking for your input. We would like to leave around April 29 and return before Memorial Day. If you could contact me, I can then set up a meeting to come up with destinations and time schedules for the trip. The weather should be warm and too early to worry about hurricanes. It takes just a little bit to get to the Bay and there are so many places to go. It would be great to get your input. I would like to set up a meeting the end of March to go over possibilities. In the meantime, get out those charts and guide-books and start dreaming.

Contact Clay (419) 260-4781 pkclay@hotmail.com co-leader with Chip & Mary Swan



The Luck of the Irish to You!

To celebrate Saint Paddy's Day, FHYC is hosting a holiday fun race on Saturday, March 19 starting at 1300 out at N1. Everyone is invited to join us regardless of where you keep your boat, or if you belong to another yacht club. Rain date is the next day, Sunday, March 20 same time same place.

For specific information, go to fhyc.us/fhyc, click on "racing" and print out the 2022 Holiday Fun Invite and also the 2022 Holiday Registration form. The FH Gate will be alerted that you are coming to race and also to party. All skippers, crew, safety boats, and spouses are invited. Please share this info with your crew before race day.

If this is your first time racing in 2022 with FHYC, you will need to sign the waiver. (The policy adopted last

year was that you only need to sign a waiver once a calendar year, before you race for the first time in 2022). Otherwise, just email me or call me (jackson.jy@gmail.com or 252-637-9781), and you'll be all set.

This, as usual, is a "BYOB and a snack to share" party at Red Sail Park at 1700. Those who finish the race will be in the running for the drawing of a silly prize. If I don't hear from you by 1800 on Thursday, March 17, then you will not have your start time or the course emailed to you by 1700 on Friday March 18.

Georgie Jackson, FHYC Regatta Chair

RCS Spring/Summer Clothing Drive Coming

It's that time of year again! We look at our old clothes, including what the kids have outgrown, and we decide if we'll really ever wear them again. Now is the time to collect those clean good clothes and donate them to FH's RCS (Religious Community Services) Clothing Drive.



Everything from your old business suits and shoes, to those summer pants that never quite fit right, to children's outfits, to Grandma/Grandpa's Sunday-Go-Meeting clothes are all welcome. Personal hygiene products are great too; such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, combs, brushes, diaper cream, and hand cream.

Our neighborhood volunteers will be waiting to help unpack your car at the Cart Barn (across from the boat ramp) on Pelican Drive on April 1, 1200–1600 and April 2, 0800–1200. This has become a semi-annual event (April and October) and RCS is so grateful for everything Fairfield Harbour does for them. RCS helps folks in three counties with food, shelter, employment opportunities, education, and counseling. Let's make it another huge success!

I'm also looking for volunteers to work two hour shifts:

April 1, 1200-1400

April 1, 1400-1600

April 2, 0800-1000

April 2, 1000-1200

Give me a call (637-9781) or email me (jackson.jv@gmail.com) if you can work.

P.S. This is a great community service project for any church/school requirement.

Georgie Jackson, Coordinator

LOVE YOUR CLUB

Most of us moved to the Harbour and became members of FHYC to enjoy the activities the Club has to offer. We have social events, cruising events and sailing events BUT they don't happen without input from the members. This is the year to become involved with your club.

Think of the Club as a living organism. It thrives on the involvement of its members. You can do this in many ways, but the easiest is to volunteer for committee work. Many of our committees are shorthanded and could use your help either as a committee member or just helping out with a specific event, something as easy as helping to set up tables and chairs for the monthly General Meeting. I was at the last one for the February meeting and it felt just like a social event and it didn't cost me anything to attend! Maybe one of the social events needs someone to pick up items for the gathering.

We have the Neuse River Regatta coming up in April and we could use some people to help set up the table and chairs at Blackbeard. You can contact me if you wish to help. Barb Robinson, ribaldness@gmail.com or 715-781-7737. Or if you wish to help other committees, you can contact the Committee Chair of a specific committee listed in our 2022 Yearbook!



Barbara Robinson, Commodore

