

The Semaphore

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



Vol. 41, No. 2

35° 04' N., 076° 58' W.

March 2024



The Adventure Continues

Commodore's Update

Ahoy Members!

It doesn't seem possible that another month has passed since the Change of Watch Ceremony. The weather has been tolerable, for winter that is, and many of us have been looking forward to the upcoming spring and reengaging on the water. We certainly have a lot coming up to keep us busy.

We should be proud of the work that the fortieth Anniversary Cookbook team has done with the fundraising dinner, and we look forward to getting the cookbook in April. The Soup Cook-Off was another chance for members to show their culinary expertise.

PC Doug King provided an entertaining program on youth sailing at the general meeting, which was both informative and fun to watch. There were a lot of questions and some in the audience were keen to get more information for their children and grandchildren.

Our next big event will be the Commodores' Ball, including the Parade of Past Commodores, and the introduction of myself as current commodore. It has always been a special event for me as it is a chance to dress up, get out, have some good food and drink, and enjoy each

other's company in an almost magical environment. Just after the ball we will be burning our socks at Red Sail Park at an event George Stateham has made a "don't miss affair". The next general meeting features PC Karl Mielenhausen with a presentation on getting your boat ready in the spring. Karl is heavily involved with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and lives in the Harbour. Before you know it, we will be at Commissioning Day, and the Blessing of the Fleet followed quickly by the shakedown cruise.

Two cruises were announced at the February general meeting, which bear discussion. First, a bareboat cruise to the Apostle Islands in Lake Superior. It is being organized by Russ Robinson for June or July timeframe. This cruise will explore the abundance of beauty, which surrounds the national park, and is one of those exotic destinations. The second cruise is an all-inclusive cruise in the British Virgin Islands being organized by myself. That cruise is being planned for a November time frame. Please contact Russ or myself if you are

interested in learning more about these special cruises.

Our sailboat racing needs a little pick-me-up as we have not had the turnouts other than Jerry Rezab's Sunfish racing program. PC John Jackson is having a working group tasked with finding out what our club is willing to support in the way of Sailboat racing. You may be hearing from John as he works to answer this question.

In all, our club is on an even keel and, in the words of Stephen Stills, "nicely making way".

Craig Myler, Commodore



What's Happening in March

March 2024	Mo	11	FHYC Board Meeting	1600
	Tu	12	Last day to sign up for the Commodores Ball	
	Th	14	FHYC General Meeting	1900
	Fri	15	Education Seminar "It's Electric" by John Myer	0900
	Thu	21	Commodores' Ball at Carolina Colours	1730
	Sat	23	Sock Burning at Red Sail Park	1500

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

Deadline for next issue is noon, Monday, March 18.

A digital copy will be delivered online, on or before February 28, 2024.

FHYC FEBRUARY 2024 GENERAL MEETING

This was the second General Meeting of 2024 with Commodore Craig Myler at the helm. We were unable to provide video feed for the meeting but hopefully that will be back up and running in the near future. Commodore Myler led the meeting by discussing preventive actions to use on all COVID-19 Community Levels. Although hospitalizations are low in North Carolina, we do have COVID in Fairfield Harbour, and members should be up to date on vaccinations. If you are not feeling well – stay home, and seek treatment if you have COVID-19, and are at a high risk of getting very sick.

The Policy and Guidelines for the club have been brought up to date. They can be found on our website. What is really helpful is that the Policy and Guidelines are now active on the website, which means that you can click on the index to search rather than having to go through the entire document.

At their last meeting, the FHYC Board approved the Photo of the Month. Each member can submit a photo they

have taken to be voted on by the membership. The rules will be published on our website and the FHYC Facebook page.

The 2024 yearbook is now published and delivered. Commodore Myler encouraged everyone to look through the book. Each membership received 2 copies of the yearbook – one for your home and one for your boat. Also included in the packet was the reservation information for the Commodores' Ball, which is March 21 at Carolina Colours. If you did not receive a reservation card or if you have questions, please contact Janice Myler or Kathy Sansone.

This year FHYC is proposing two off-site cruises: one to the Apostle Islands in Wisconsin and one to the British Virgin Islands. Information can be found on the FHYC Facebook page or contact the cruise leaders. Russ Robinson for the Apostle Islands (715-416-1439) or Craig Myler for the BVI (240-405-5348). If you are interested please contact these leaders soon. Boat space is filling up quickly.

The program for the evening was titled "Youth Sailing". PC Doug King presented information on the youth sailing programs that have been in the Fairfield Harbour over the years. He discussed the importance of teaching the next generation of sailors (power or sail)

608-2437).

Five visitors were welcomed. They were: Angie Doucet (guest of Doug and Kathie King), Chris and Barbara Barajas (guest of Commodore Craig and Janice Myler), Rod and Chris Nettleson (guests of Tom Graves), Neil and Nancy Whitehead (guests of Director Peter Clay) and Darin Bradley (guest of Director Delle Curry and PC Sam Curry).

This month we celebrated several anniversaries of our members: Margaret Rose – 32 years, Sam and Delle Curry – 25 years, Anita English – 22 years. PC George and Lynn Stateham – 20 years, and Director Dave and Carrie Miller – 5 years. Congratulations and thank you for your continued support of the club.

Many of you know that the club is celebrating its fortieth anniversary. One of the ways is the FHYC cookbook. A BBQ fundraising event was held earlier this month. The bottom line is that the cooks raised \$1,463 towards the printing of the cookbook. The book is scheduled to be ready in April. To pre-order and pay you can get your check for \$30 made out to FHYC to Erin Vergot. Call her at (252-229-1942). After the book is published the cost of the book will be \$35.

This past week we had the Soup Cook Off. Ten soups were entered, and there were three winners (see on Page 3).

The Semaphore Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club

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Deadline

The deadline for receiving articles is 1200 noon on the Monday following the General meeting. Please email articles to: fhycsemaphore@gmail.com



ETYSSA sailing

about being on the water safely and the fun of being on the water. PC King has been involved in both the NJROTC program through the high school and the Edward Teach Youth Sailing Association. He highlighted some of the teaching techniques to help the young sailors understand about wind, wind direction, safety on the water and the rules of sailing. The Edward Teach Youth Sailing Program runs in the summer so if you have grandchildren visiting, they might be interested in being enrolled in one of the sessions. Contact Doug King for more information (919-

Congratulations to the FHYC entry in the NYRA Winter Series regatta, *Georgie Girl.*, Captain Rear Commodore John Jackson, helmsman Russ Robinson, and crew Dan Baker, and Past Commodore Ritchie Thomson. *Georgie Girl* won the Navigator Class. This is the second year in a row that an FHYC boat has won the NYRA Winter Navigator class.

Coming up in March is the next Education Seminar on March 15 at 0900 hours in Activity Room 2. The topic is "It's Electric" by John Myer. If you have questions, contact Steven Hart(919-801-2617). Also in March is the Annual Sock burning on March 23 at Red Sail Park at 1500 hours. BYOB and a snack to share.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Darlene DeFigueiredo and also it was her birthday!. Congratulations Darlene.

Barbara Robinson, Past Commodore

Soup Cook-Off

The Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club held its third Annual Cook-Off on February 6 at the Community Center. The theme this year was Soup. Over thirty-six members and guests attended and enjoyed sampling ten soup entries. After the tasting and voting, members enjoyed a delicious soup dinner with rolls and bread and cupcakes for dessert.

In first place, was Darlene Cleveland's Thai Chicken Noodle soup, second place was Robbie Godwin's Scallop Chowder, and in third place was Elaine Berberich's Pumpkin with sausage. Darlene's winning soup recipe will be included in the FHYC Fortieth Anniversary Cookbook.

Thank you to all who attended and a special thank you to all our cooks!



Craig Myler,



FHYC Triumphs AGAIN!!!

Once again, Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club proved that we do have serious sailors, and that an old boat can beat the newer ones! This year *Georgie Girl*, a T34 C hull 319 Tartan, won the Navigator Class of the NYRA Winter Series. Last year *Rampant Lion*, a 37" Tartan, won. Both boats represented FHYC.

Many of you have been following my updates on the NYRA 2023-2024 Winter Series that began back in October.



Georgie Girl rounding the racing mark

This year *Georgie Girl*, captained by John Jackson, represented FHYC as the only boat from the club to compete in this winter series. Her standings after the first four races put her in first place, but by a slim margin. The weather proved interesting to say the least. Mother Nature decided to add a few wrinkles. The fifth race was canceled because of heavy weather with temperatures in the seventies, thunderstorms, and big winds. The sixth race was canceled because the windchill was down in the lower thirties which could cause icing on the boat decks.

The seventh and last race in the series, on February 3, was going to be the deciding race. Would *Georgie Girl* be able to hold on to her first place overall standing? The temperature was in the fifties but felt much colder because of strong winds.

Georgie Girl with Captain John Jackson, helmsman Russ Robinson, crew Dan Baker, and Ritchie Thomson headed out late morning to meet their fate. The one boat that was competing for first place, Methuselah, did not compete. When all was said and done, *Georgie Girl* maintained her first place standing to win the Navigator Class for the NYRA 2023-2024 Winter Series.

On Saturday, February 17, 2024, NYRA celebrated their Commodore's Dinner and Awards Ceremony at the Double Tree in New Bern. There were several awards presented that night including the winner of the NYRA Winter Series Navigator Class. John Jackson, Captain of *Georgie Girl*, accepted the first place honor in the **NAVIGATOR CLASS**. What neither he nor his shipmates knew, was that *Georgie Girl* also won the **BOAT OF THE YEAR NAVIGATOR CLASS!**

Congratulations to Captain John Jackson, Helmsman Russ Robinson, Crew Ritchie Thomson, Dan Baker, and Cheryl Michaels.



Georgie Girl with Vertical Wing in pursuit

Barbara Robinson, Past Commodore



John Jackson with his two awards presented by Stephanie Davies, Commodore of NYRA

All pictures courtesy of Chris Davies



“BIG BANG BALL”

The Commodores’ Ball will take place Thursday, March 21, 2024, at Carolina Colours starting at 17:30 for cocktails and passed hors d’oeuvres.

This annual event honors our current Commodore, Craig Myler, along with all the Past Commodores. Your invitation should have been delivered along with the FHYC Yearbook. 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 BTA Entertainment.

Please RSVP early and plan to be there for the fun! Reservation deadline is March 11. Any questions, please call Kathy Sansone at (516-721-9397) or Janice Myler at (443-299-8916)

The Entertainment Committee

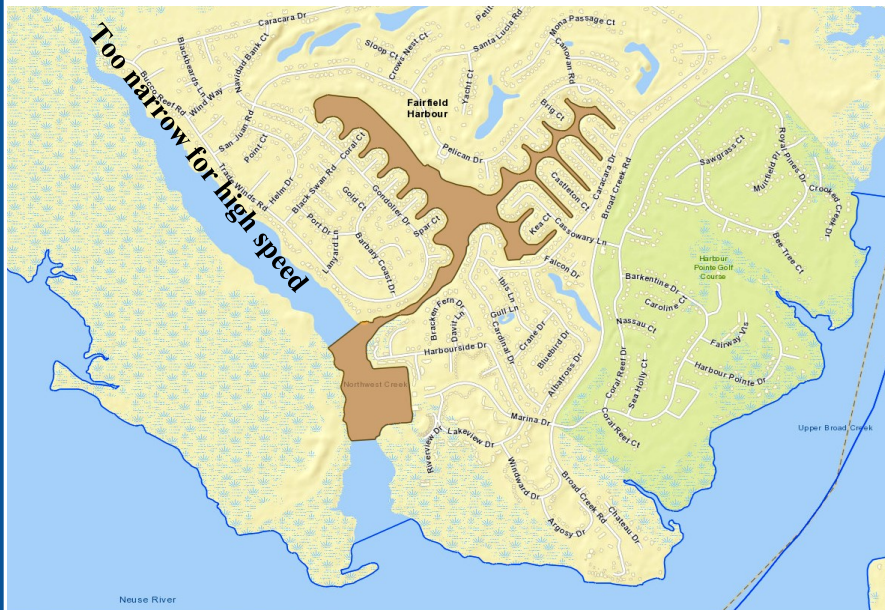
I could swear he is doing it wrong,
but since I dont own a boat, Im
going to keep my opinion to myself!



He thinks it’s funny! We hope you do too!

A Reminder for Spring boating!

No-wake Zones in North West Creek and Spring Creek and the Inner Harbour



The attached chart shows the “no-wake” zone in NW and Spring creeks. Unfortunately, it does not cover the NW Creek beyond the turn into Spring Creek. However, boaters in that area still have the normal responsibilities to avoid excessive wake. The rules, in the NC Vessel Operators Guide, are pretty general See below:

- 1) Speed, which is excessive under the circumstances, and which endangers persons or property, is one form of reckless operation
- 2) Vessels operated on the waters of this State shall slow to a no-wake speed when passing within 100 feet of a law enforcement vessel that is displaying a flashing blue light unless the vessel is in a narrow channel.
- 3) No person shall operate a personal watercraft on the waters of this State at

greater than no-wake speed within 100 feet of an anchored or moored vessel, a dock, pier, swim float, marked swimming area, swimmers, surfers, persons engaged in angling, or any manually operated propelled vessel (except within 50 feet in a narrow channel)

- 4) Safe navigation is very largely a matter of boating courtesy, or the observation of the “golden rule“ in marine traffic.
- 5) Finally, a minimum no-wake speed is 5mph. depending on the vessel size. Vessels must be operated at the minimum idle speed in order to maintain forward motion and steerage.

North West Creek narrows as you travel towards its source. Over the years, extensive land erosion has happened and some of the grass and reed edges of the creek are being destroyed. Speeding watercraft effect all the Fairfield Harbour properties along the creek, and are destroying the breeding grounds of fish and other water creatures.

The Golden Rule of Boating Etiquette: Do to others as you would have them do to you!

In a quiet moment on the water, here’s something to think about!!

The Black Dot

One day a professor entered the classroom and asked his students to prepare for a surprise test. They waited anxiously at their desks for the test to begin. The professor handed out the question paper, with the text facing down as usual. Once he handed them all out, he asked his students to turn the page and begin. To everyone’s surprise, there were no questions...just a black dot in the center of the page. The professor seeing the expression on everyone’s face told them the following: I want you to write what you see there.

The students confused, got started on the difficult task. At the end of the class, the professor took all the answer papers and started reading each one of them aloud in front of all the students. All of them, with no exceptions, described the black dot, trying to explain its position in the middle of the sheet.

After all answers had been read, the classroom was silent. The professor began to explain. I am not going to grade you on this; I just wanted to give you something to think about. No one wrote about the white part of the paper. Everyone focused on the black dot, and the same happens in our lives. We have a white paper to observe and enjoy, but we always focus on the dark spots.

Our life is a gift given to us by God, with love and care, and we always have reasons to celebrate: nature renewing itself every day, our friends around us, the job that provides our livelihood, and the miracles we see every day. However, we insist on focusing only on the dark spots : the health issues that bother us, the lack of money, the complicated relationship with a family member, and the disappointment with a friend. The dark spots are tiny compared to everything we have in our lives, but they are the ones that pollute our minds.

Take your eyes away from the black spots in your life. Enjoy each one of your blessings and each moment that life gives you. Be happy and live a life filled with LOVE.

Barbara Robinson, Past Commodore

FHYC Reception for 2023 New Members

Each year the FHYC Membership Committee hosts the New Member Reception to honor the new members from the previous year along with their sponsors. This year the reception for new members from 2023 was held on February 21, 2024 at the Fairfield Harbour Community Center. The theme was “Laissez les bons temps rouler” in honor of Mardi Gras. For those of you who don't speak Louisiana French Creole, it means “let the good times roll”! The Membership Committee put on a New Orleans Style Reception. The Community Center was decorated with the colors of Spring and Mardi Gras, vibrant gold covered tables with beads and glitter masks.

The food was a combination of a Creole dish served over rice, ham sliders, beef sliders, deviled eggs and wings. Of course, to wet our whistles, PC Sam Curry offered Hurricanes. This is a cocktail featuring rum with lemon juice and passion fruit syrup, a very popular drink in New Orleans. Apparently a very popular cocktail here, as well.



New Orleans style food for the reception



New members and their sponsors enjoying the excellent food.



New Members: Budd and Megan Wells, Kevin and Linda Heydel, and Peter Marechal

Commodore Craig Myler introduced the new members to the group, asking them to offer a little background of where they came from, type of boat they had, and experience on the water. Also, what they hoped to do with the Yacht Club.

TIME IS FLYING BY!!!

We've all been complaining about the weather and how we can't play outside.

But there is something you can do when you can't play outside....**clean out your closets!!** Not as much fun BUT it can be put to a worthy cause. *Donate your clothes to the FHYC/RCS clothing drive.*

*April 5 – 6 at the Cart Barn.
We'll even unload your clothes out of your car!*

We'll be accepting donations 8am-1pm each day at the Cart Barn. Please sign up to help.

FAIRFIELD HARBOUR SPRING CLOTHING DRIVE



IT'S the TIME OF YEAR TO **CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSETS!!**

THIS YEAR FHYC WILL BE WORKING, WITH RCS TO COLLECT GENTLY USED CLOTHING FOR PEOPLE IN NEED. JACKETS, PANTS, SOCKS, SHOES, SHIRTS, SWEAT SHIRTS, and BELTS. NOTHING IS TOO LITTLE TO CONSIDER.

THE CLOTHING DRIVE WILL BE FRIDAY APRIL 5 AND SATURDAY APRIL 6 AT THE CART BARN. WE WILL BE COLLECTING from 8am TO 1 pm EACH DAY.

WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP US COLLECT THE CLOTHING. MOST OF YOU KNOW THE DRILL. THE TIME SLOTS ARE 8-10AM, 10AM-NOON AND NOON TO 1PM. WE HELP PEOPLE UNLOAD THEIR VEHICLES AT THE CART BARN. IT'S EASY!. RCS PLANS TO PICK UP THE COLLECTED CLOTHING ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 1PM. THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AND GREET PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY. CONTACT ME IF YOU CAN HELP, OR IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.

BARB ROBINSON, (715-781-7737) OR ribaldness@gmail.com