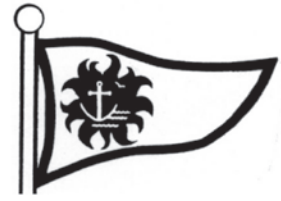


The Semaphore

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



Vol. 34, No. 7

35° 04' N., 076° 58' W.

August 2017



I'd like to thank Blackbeard Sailing Club once again for hosting our July meeting. Did you all make it to the Swap Meet? I don't know how much stuff changed hands but I hope most of us considered it a success. It was certainly impressive to see the crafts displayed; it's no surprise to find how talented our members are.

We also had a raft-up which went very well. A rain shower passed overhead just before and that might have held some people back from joining; but it was beautiful, especially the sunset! Remember this summer weather is 'take what you can get' and risking a little rain is worth getting out on the boat. It's often beautiful just after a storm and the temperature has cooled down too!

Speaking of summer weather: hurricanes! Nothing so far but no guarantees. In late July as I write this, there are two low pressure areas "developing" in the tropical Atlantic. The odds are against either of them becoming a threat, but we can't take that for granted! Nowadays, modern technology has put buzzers and beepers right in our pockets to tell us when a hurricane is coming. However, it's still our responsibility to take action, and that means taking warning in time. None of you should be surprised to know that I do things the old-fashioned way: check the tropical forecast from NOAA every morning and sometimes twice a day.

Thanks to Don and Louise Knight, the July Fourth Fireworks Cruise was a huge success. We had a big crowd of boats at the dock and an even bigger crowd for the splash while awaiting

the fireworks. The Cape Lookout Cruise is underway at the moment, and we have the Three Dinner Cruise coming up. These short, local cruises are a lot of fun and they build familiarity with local waters, and of course with your boat. The companionship ain't bad either. If you just can't get your boat underway on short notice, you can always drive by car down to the Shrimparoo in Oriental.

It seems almost like an overload of activities, but one of my favorite things about FHYC is that we truly have something for everyone! The social activities, getting together with friends and neighbors, the raft-ups, the cruises and more. Don't complain about the weather, join the fun anyway!

I hope that you are all having a great summer. Now, let's go!

Doug King, Commodore

FHYC General Meeting July 13, 2017

Commodore Doug King called the meeting to order at 1930 hours and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Welcome and thank-you to Blackbeard Sailing Club – Introduction of Guests: Cherylle Hird introduced her

neighbors, Jeff and Cherlen Opel. Ed Doughty introduced his new neighbor, Jim Powers. Louise Knight introduced her granddaughter Jessica. She also introduced Kirk Hathaway & Jane Burian who will be attending orientation this Saturday and will be welcomed as new members next month.

Induction of new members – Louise Knight introduced a new member approved by the Board: Thomas Smith sponsored by Bill Davidson and Roy Kuhns. He was welcomed and presented with his burgee by Commodore King.

Minutes – A motion was made and carried to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the June 11, 2017 General Meeting. (Knight/Curry)

Treasurer's Report – The Treasurer's report for June 2017 has been approved by the Board and is available for review.

Rear Commodore's Report

Hospitality – Hosts for tonight are Jana and Mike Kent and Sandy and Doug Lochney. The August and September meetings need one additional couple for Hospitality. Please meet with Lois to volunteer.

Marine Assistance – Purchase of a sump pump for the club dockbox is under consideration. One call this past month was aptly handled by the

What's Happening

August	Tu	1	Race: Fun Racing
	Tu	8	Board Meeting (ac) 0830
	Tu	8	Race: Fun Racing
	Th	10	General Meeting (cc) 1930
	Tu	15	Race: Fun Racing
	We	16	Yacht Club Dinner
	Tu	22	Race: Fun Racing
	Tu	29	Race Fun Racing

(cc)=Community Center, (fc)=Fairfield Commons, (ac)=Activities Center

Deadline for next issue is noon, Monday, August 14, 2017

Delivery is Saturday, August 26, 2017

Commodore.

Program – Successful Swap Meet was held this evening.

Vice Commodore’s Report

Semaphore – Deadline for submission for the August issue is Monday, July 17 at noon.

Commodore’s Report

Cruising – Brian Giersch reminded everyone of the Cape Lookout cruise. There were six initial sign-ups but three boats dropped out. George Stateham reminded everyone that the Three Dinner Cruise coming up and includes Shrimparoo. On July 20 participants will go to Morgan's for dinner, will dine at River Dunes on July 21, and on July 22 will join other FHYC members for Shrimparoo. Brian Giersch announced there are no events scheduled for August. He also thanked Fred Lacey for leading the second Ocracoke Cruise in September. A leader is needed for Cape Lookout in September/October. John Jackson announced that he and Georgie are leaving after Labor Day for the Annapolis Boat Show. John invited members to cruise along. This is also the 50th anniversary of the Tartan 34C launch. The cruise will take place from early September until mid-October. Contact John if interested. The July 4 cruise was a successful event with nine

boats participating.

Membership – Louise Knight reported that we currently have 197 members. Additional applications are in the pipeline.

Entertainment – Joy Thompson reminded everyone of Shrimparoo on July 22. Sign-up is necessary for this event. The pool will be open. Please wear name tags. Tickets will be available for \$1 off drinks. Please call the Marina if attending by boat. It was mentioned that the Parrothead Regatta is the same day and the free docks are reserved for Parrothead racers.

Yacht Club Dinners – No Yacht Club dinner this month due to Shrimparoo.

New Business

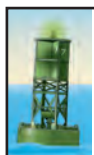
Announcement by George Stateham: George received notice of online renewal for his documented vessel. After careful reading, he realized this notice was from a private company that charged a service fee. It was not a renewal notice from the Coast Guard. George suggested everyone with documented vessels be careful.

The Commodore announced a donation would be made to the Coast Guard Auxiliary in the amount of \$100. The members applauded this announcement. The Commodore explained that the Club bylaws preclude donations to outside organizations, with the exception of “those for environmental causes concerning local waters.” The US Coast Guard Auxiliary is responsible for local enforcement of environmental laws and therefore this donation is permissible. The Commodore noted that no FHYC member who is also a member of the Auxiliary voted on this issue.

A motion was made and carried to adjourn the meeting. (Knight/Fortenbaugh). The meeting adjourned at 1950 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Green, Secretary



Award Suggestions Needed

Help! The annual Fall Appreciation Dinner is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18. I need to know who you think is deserving of special recognition. Is there someone on a committee you are on who does outstanding work? Is there someone who is always available to fill in when needed? Is there someone else who has done the same job for years without ever getting a pat on the back?

Let me know. Don’t assume someone else will contact me. Send me an email at jackson.jy@gmail.com, or call 637-9781. Do it now! Thanks

John Y. Jackson, Vice Commodore

Welcome New Member

At our July meeting, we welcomed Thomas Smith as a new member. He moved from Fairfax, Virginia to his home on Cassowary Lane. He comes to us with *only* 12 years of racing experience, 44 years of sailing experience, and 64 years of powerboat experience. He has a 31-foot Tiara powerboat named Tomcat. His sponsors are Bill Davidson and Roy Kuhns and he has joined the Cruising Committee as well as the Information Processing committee. Welcome Thomas!

We are looking forward to hearing about your many years of experiences! Thomas' photo will be included next month.

Jenny McDiarmid

Maintenance Committee



This photo of our Maintenance Committee hard at work resetting one of the No Wake buoys was taken by Bill Jarvis earlier this year. Thanks for all that you guys do!

The

Semaphore

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



Editors

Elliott Alterman 637-3458
Mark West 637-7914
Lynn Stateham 672-9171
Karl Mielenhausen 638-1433
Bill and Jan Green 919-518-0752

Distribution Co-Chairs

Ed Klebaur 633-6264
Jerry Rezab 636-5919

Website: www.fhyc.us

email: fhycsemaphore@gmail.com

Deadline

Deadline is 1200 the Monday following the Yacht Club Meeting. Please e-mail articles to the address listed below:
fhycsemaphore@gmail.com

Fourth of July Cruise

Since *Seaquel* was out of commission due to a lightning hit, the Skrotsky's offered their boat as a place for us to administer the cruise and be out of the sun, rain and heat. We really appreciate their generosity.

Both days offered some challenges due to the weather. On the 3rd, a light drizzle began just as we were setting up for happy hour. We all moved onto the Skrotsky's boat except Past Commodore George and spouse Lynn. They sat in the rain under an umbrella. Later, the rain stopped and 12 of us walked to Captain Ratty's for dinner. The food was very good and the company was great.

On Tuesday, after an early morning sprinkle, the sun came out and the day was delightful. As 1630 approached the clouds rolled in. We were not sure if the splash, potluck and, for that matter, the fireworks would be rained out. We expected 71 people, by splash time the numbers had dwindled to 55 due to health issues and weather skeptics. The splash was held as planned despite occasional light drizzle, followed by an excellent potluck dinner and dessert. Thanks to those who prepared the food. During dinner, the rain stayed away. Before the fireworks we were treated to threatening skies and a lightning show so some of the people left. Fortunately, the New Bern fireworks display occurred without a hitch and was spectacular.

All-in-all, despite the weather, the cruise was a success. Thanks to all who helped in putting on the event and especially to PC Rob and Chris for letting us use their boat.

Don & Louise Knight

Hurricane Preparation

We live in an area subject to hurricanes. That's a simple fact of life. It could be worse. Most hurricanes are not that severe and there is always warning before they hit. Nonetheless, this is not a subject to take lightly.

There is a fairly well-travelled route for hurricanes to hit us. Hurricane Alley is down in the Caribbean, along the chain of islands that includes the Bahamas. A tropical storm entering Hurricane Alley could arrive in four days or more, building strength along the way. It's true that TV news will tell you, NOAA will tell you, the internet will tell you and hopefully the FHYC network will tell you that a hurricane is coming. But you still have to be listening! Another problem is that, on occasion, tropical depressions will pop up in the warm waters between the Bahamas and Cape Fear. They sometimes arrive in three days or less. That's depressing!

There is a lot of information available on how to prepare your home and your boat for a hurricane. It's too big a topic to cover in depth, but we will mention the basics to get you started. Your number one priority is your safety and that of your family. The time may come when quickly packing some basic belongings and evacuating is the only safe option you have. On the other hand, when we do have several days warning, there's a lot we can do to get ready.

You should prepare for both high winds and blowing debris. A pine cone traveling at 100 mph can break even a hurricane rated window. You should also prepare for high water. It's fully possible to have a hurricane bring in a storm surge of eight feet or more. And you should prepare for at least a couple of days without electricity or city water. Of course, not all hurricanes are this severe, but it is better to be prepared and not need it, than to be caught unprepared and suffer.

As a hurricane is coming, you can choose to take your boat to a boatyard and haul it out. This is the safest course, provided you take action at least two days in advance of the storm. Many insurance programs pay for half of a storm haul-out! Alternatively, you can anchor your boat out using special, heavy ground tackle. This is at least a half-day's work, if you are already prepared with the anchor & rode. And don't forget – your rode must be protected against chafe. Many boats have been lost even though anchored quite securely.

If the storm is not predicted to be so severe and your dock and pilings are strong, double-tying in the slip is a good way to prepare. Start by removing all exposed canvas, roller-furling jibs, dodgers and biminis. Everything. The boat must be able to ride up as storm waters rise, and of course all lines will need chafe protection. Remember the electricity is likely to be off so make sure your battery is well charged! It also helps keep water out of the boat to tape the seams of all hatches.

At the very least, a hurricane will leave a big mess to clean up. But when you and your family are safe - your boat is ready to sail in that beautiful after-storm weather - life is good!

Doug King

Chesapeake Bay & Annapolis Boat Show Cruise

John and Georgie Jackson will leave here September 5, and perhaps spend the first day or two joining the Local Waters Cruise. Then we will head north. This will be a cruise with a great deal of flexibility. The target date for arriving at Annapolis is Wednesday, October 4. We will be at the boat show Thursday the 5th, and maybe another day or two longer.

The return trip will be a bit faster since every effort will be made to be back for the Fall Appreciation Dinner on Wednesday, October 18.

If interested, please contact me.

John Y. Jackson
jackson.jy@gmail.com
252-637-9781



July 13 Nautical Swap Meet & Craft Fair

Photos courtesy of Doug King.

