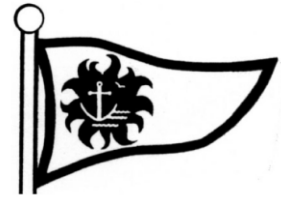


The Semaphore

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



Vol. 34, No. 10

35° 04' N., 076° 58' W.

November 2017



Fall weather has paid us a brief visit, and the cooler temperatures were VERY welcome. The year will still bring some hot days, and we have the winter sailing and boating season to look forward to. Back when Kathie and I lived and worked far inland, we kept our boat at Northwest Creek Marina. We had many “boat neighbors” who cruised north for the summer and wintered here in coastal NC, and others who cruised south for the winter and spent their summers here. This suggested to us that New Bern is the perfect location in between extreme seasons, hard to believe when you’re sweating a rainforest ... but let’s be positive and enjoy the autumn.

Our boat spent a month hauled out for two hurricanes. Our insurance company, BOATUS, was very fair in giving us some reimbursement even though the Neuse River was not directly threatened by either; they came close enough to warrant “better safe than sorry.” The depthsounder on *Sugar Magnolia* has never worked at speed, and I could never troubleshoot it. So I decided, somewhat on the spur of the moment, that we would take advantage of the haul-out to put in a new depthsounder. Easier said than done, it took literally more than a week of research to find a combination of sounder and transducer that would work with our cored, high-deadrise hull. Technical advice from the marine industry was misleading and could easily have resulted in another expensive gizmo that doesn’t work right. However, we took off for the October Raft-Up and diverted to ride around a little on the river... total success, we now have two depthsounders (one of which is connected via a brand-new NMEA 2000 backbone) which appear to work fine even at flank speed.

Who’s been to Cape Lookout this

year? This is a great local destination, often crowded on weekends. The anchorage has shallow spots, steep-sided sand banks, and areas of heavy sea grass, so it has its challenges. But it’s a beautiful spot with clear water, fishing and wildlife (I’ve been chastised for telling people to bring carrots for the wild horses, so remember you’re not supposed to feed them); and I heard from a Yacht Club member about his sail back from Cape Lookout making it sound like the cruise of a lifetime: a strong following breeze, an exhilarating sail, a couple of relaxing nights securely anchored... this is why we do it all.

The Ensign one-design racing series has begun. Winds have been spotty but that’s part of racing. The Ensign fleet is pretty strong at seven active racers and the racing is pretty close and challenging. Mark and Mary Hittner sailing on Mark Brennescholtz’s *Blue Note* are always contenders, but so far Paul Eckenroth and *Red Stripe* are leading the series. The Dinghy Series has been going strong on Northwest Creek with Sunfish racers trying to figure out the wind. Jackie Moniak has done a great job running these races. We should all remember that our racing events also require race committee, mark boats, safety crew, and participation other than the actual competitors... it’s all kinds of fun on the water, so join in!

At our October club meeting, Dennis

and Jackie Howard gave a presentation on their cruise to Cuba, with lots of pictures of Havana and scenes of Marina Hemingway and the surrounding area. For many years Cuba has been off the list of places to cruise and this may or may not change, but it’s a wonderful destination with friendly people. Not far from the Florida Keys or the Bahamas, many of us would like to go. Evelyn Thompson gave the Medical Minute, talking about Health Care Powers of Attorney and Living Wills. This is really important for all of us; allow me to urge everyone to use this info and resources because it will reduce confusion and potential mistakes at a time when you really want to concentrate on other things.

By the time you read this, the Fall Appreciation Dinner will have already taken place. We also have a number of events upcoming. The Education Committee is holding a Ladies-Only seminar on November 3 at 0900 at Julia Thomson’s home at 5012 Plymouth Court. This will be a discussion for experienced and especially new lady boaters, sharing practical tips and addressing questions and worries. Julia, Lynn, Louise, and Kathie encourage FHYC ladies to attend!

Remember the Food Drive is at the end of November. Another event that is always memorable is the Christmas Flotilla and Chili Party. This will be on Saturday December 9 and is a highlight for the year.

Douglas King, Commodore

What's Happening

Nov Th 2	Ensign Race	
Fr 3	Education Seminar.....	0900
Tu 7	Board Meeting, cc.....	0830
Th 9	CPR/AED.....	1200
Th 9	Ensign Race	
Th 9	General Meeting (cc).....	1930
We 15	Yacht Club Dinner	
Th 16	Ensign Race	
Th 16	Ensign/Dinghy/Sunfish Party	
Th-Sa 11/30-12/2	Food Drive	

(cc)=Community Center, (ac)=Activities Center

Deadline for next issue is noon on Monday, November 13

Delivery is on Thursday, November 30

General Meeting October 12, 2017

Commodore Doug King called the meeting to order at 1935 and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Welcome - Introduction of Guests: Bob Mitchell introduced Paula Phipps, his part-time next door neighbor from Hawaii who is planning to be in Fairfield Harbour next year. Stephanie Davies introduced her cousins from Missouri, Donna Yoh and Toni French. Skip Hird introduced Karen & Joe McCollum who are becoming members tonight.

Induction of New Members - Louise Knight introduced new members approved by the Board: Joe & Karen McCollum sponsored by Hirds and Currys. Ted & Beth Warnock sponsored by Buglovskis and Clevelands have been approved but were not in attendance. The McCollums were welcomed and presented with their burgee by Commodore King.

Minutes - A motion was made and carried to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the September 14, 2017 Meeting (Fortenbaugh/Clark).

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

Rear Commodore's Report

Education - Ritchie Thomson will present "Keeping Safe on Your Boat." Ritchie introduced his program which

will require members in small groups to work through various scenarios such as GPS failure and Skipper overboard.

Hospitality - Hosts for tonight are Bauers and Darks.

Maintenance - Skip Hird announced that new range marks are up. The bright orange marks are highly visible. Gary Nohr is unable to chair this committee next year so a new chair will be needed.

Marine Assistance - One call handled by Bill Jarvis involved the towing of the mark boat after Saturday racing. Purchase of an emergency pump has been authorized. Training will be provided.

Medical Support - Reminder by Joel Berberich of CPR Class November 9. Medical Minute: Advance Directives by Evelyn Thompson. Living wills outline what we would want when at end of life or unable to speak for ourselves. It is a difficult subject but is a gift to ourselves that our wishes are followed and a gift to family and others who care so that they can ensure our wishes are carried out. The laws in North Carolina do respect advance directives. Evelyn supplied a list of websites that can be used for additional information. Sessions on this topic are also coming up to be held in the Harbour.

The Commodore reminded everyone that this and other committees need volunteers to keep the club going. Members get from the club what they put into it.

Vice Commodore's Report

Semaphore - Deadline for submission for the November issue is Monday, October 16, at noon.

Storekeeper - Store is open. The quilt order needs 15 more to meet the 25 minimum order. Wine glasses are available.

Commodore's Report

Cruising - Cape Lookout cruise took place recently. Albemarle Loop Cruise is coming up October 19 led by Ritchie Thomson. Six boats intend to start and others may join in. Christmas Flotilla is coming up in December.

Entertainment - Rose Voss-Litke reminded everyone of the Fall Appreciation Dinner next Wednesday. Very good turnout with 104 signups. She also reminded everyone to save the date for December 14 Holiday Party. There will be a flyer in the next Semaphore. FHYC is both a boating and social club. This committee is looking for new members. Members do not need to

participate in every event. The Commodore reminded everyone to Save the Date for December 9 Christmas Flotilla.

Regatta - Bill Jarvis reported Ensign racing started last week and will continue into November. Seven boats race in a very competitive fleet. Dinghy racing is continuing on Sunday afternoons organized by Jackie Moniak.

Nominating Committee - Members are Louise Knight, Darlene Cleveland, Skip Hird, Olwen Jarvis and John Jackson with Commodore King overseeing the committee. Chair Louise Knight introduced the Slate of Officers for 2018:

Commodore - John Jackson
Vice Commodore - Ralph Azersky
Rear Commodore - Ritchie Thomson
Treasurer - Carol Cavins
Secretary - Elaine Berberich
New Directors - Joye Moloney and Joy Thompson

Returning Directors - Darlene Cleveland, Carol Frysiek, Stephanie Davies and Bill Flynn

The Commodore thanked and retired the committee. The Commodore opened the floor for nominations. None were forthcoming. A motion was made and carried to close the nominations (Thompson/Fortenbaugh).

New Business:

Thanksgiving with the Marines - Georgie Jackson outlined the program. Jacksons & Schillers have taken over the organization of this event from Shattucks. Contact Georgie for more information.

Food Drive - is scheduled for Nov. 30, Dec. 1 and 2. This event is organized by the Past Commodore through RCS. Food and monetary donations are needed. Louise Knight will provide a list of food needed and have sign-up sheets for volunteers available next month.

Chili Party - Kathy Petritsch outlined the Chili Party to take place after the Flotilla. Sign-up sheets for volunteers available. Tickets for \$1 go to captains and food providers first.

Program - Ritchie Thomson introduced Dennis & Jackie Howard presenting on Cruising to Cuba.

Other - Skip Hird reminded everyone of the Raft-up this Sunday at 1700.

A motion was made and carried to adjourn the meeting (Jarvis/Curry). The meeting adjourned at 2112.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Green, Secretary

The

Semaphore

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



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Deadline

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



*Save the Date...
Commodores' Ball
Coming March 15, 2018*



Ensign Racing Photos by Jan Green



Joe and Karen McCollum

REPORT A HOAX!

When someone makes a hoax call:

- Coast Guard units are pulled away from possible cases where actual lives are in danger!
- A Coast Guard HC-130 plane costs approximately \$15,000 an hour to fly, an MH-60 helicopter costs approximately \$10,000 per hour to fly and a 45ft Response Boat-Medium costs approximately \$5,000 an hour! That's taxpayer money wasted!
- It's illegal! A federal felony conviction for communicating a false distress signal could result in up to 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

IF YOU HEAR OR KNOW OF
HOAX CALL ACTIVITY,
CALL YOUR COAST GUARD COMMAND
CENTER:
(757)-398-6390



New Members

This month the FHYC board approved two new couples for membership: Joe and Karen McCollum and Ted and Beth Warnock. The Warnocks were at the Annapolis Boat Show, but Joe and Karen McCollum were in town and were welcomed and inducted into the club.

Joe and Karen McCollum moved here from Harper's Ferry, WV, and live on Petite Terre Court. They have 10+ years of boating experience and own two boats: one is a Silverton 41' powerboat named *Joren* and the other is a Sea Doo Speedster 14' power boat named *Crazy Train*. Their sponsors are Skip and Cherylle Hird and Sam and Delle Curry. Joe will be working on the Marine Assistance Committee, Karen will work with the Storekeeper team, and both will work on the Distribution Committee.

Jenny McDiarmid

November 3 Education Event

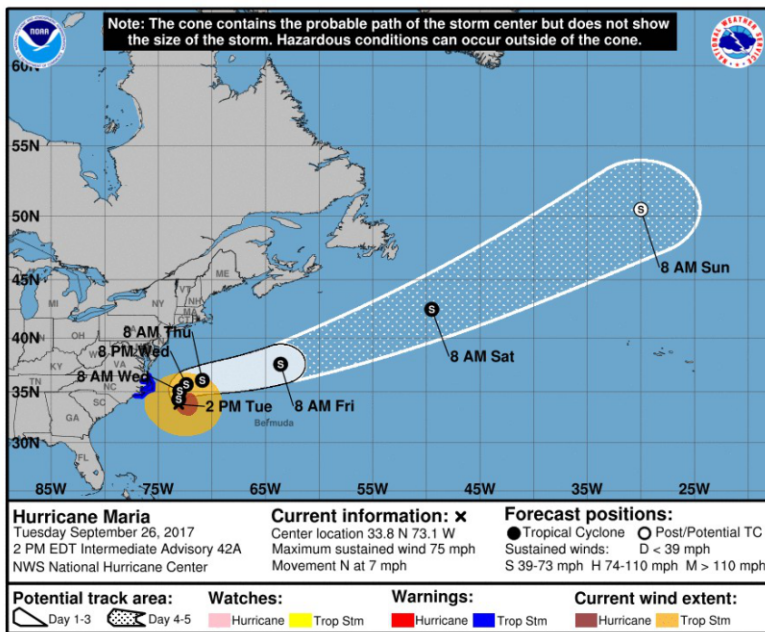


Ladies!

We are having a Ladies Only Q and A (Question and Answer) session. The team leading the discussion will be Kathie King, Louise Knight, Lynn Stateham and Julia Thomson. We four ladies will be hosting the event at Julia's house at 5012 Plymouth Ct. We hope that knowledgeable ladies will come as well as anybody who is new to boating. This is a chance to air your 'pet peeves' when on the water and ask questions about any boating worries. No question is considered stupid and there will be plenty of boaters to help. Notice that the event will be a **discussion**. It will not be a lecture. All opinions are welcome.

Look out for an email at the beginning of November with more details.

Julia Thomson



Feather Under Sail ... Photo by Ritchie Thomson

The Ocracoke Cruise that Wasn't

We started off with five boats and one land warrior planning to cruise to Ocracoke during the week commencing September 23. However, we had a minor issue to consider, a certain lady, by the name of Maria, was churning up the East Coast after causing massive devastation down in the West Indies. We had not one, but two Skippers' Meetings and in the end, two, and only two, boats decided to go as far as Lower Broad Creek at the mouth of the Neuse and see how things looked. *SVs Feather* and *Vital Spark* headed downriver on the Saturday morning. It was a pleasant sail especially with all the pocket handkerchiefs of the Opti Race Fleet spread out before us. Of course, that did not last and after passing Minnesott (aka Wilkerson Point or R"8") we had to start the iron genoa and motor the rest of the way. The trip down was smooth and uneventful and the two boats were able to share the end of a "T"-dock at River Dunes. They have floating docks there so you have remember to hang fenders low and to bring a step or a very long leg. We dined in splendor at the clubhouse which is a magnificent post and beam structure – the food and wine were also excellent.

On Sunday, the wind was up from the northeast blowing across the Pamlico Sound and into the mouth of the Neuse River. At this stage, it was decided that discretion was the better part of valor and we decided to run for home. We motored out and round the Gum Thicket Shoal Mark (where do they get these wonderful names?). We then had a run up the river in "breakfast-losing" conditions. At least we were doing about 6.5kts in roughly the correct direction back to Minnesott with lots of wind on our tail. After Minnesott, the NE wind held which is pretty unusual and we sailed on a beam reach back up to "1N". It was an exhilarating and enjoyable sail at 7.0 to 7.4kts. On Monday, we were snugged down tight in Fairfield Harbour in preparation for the worst Maria could throw at us. In the end, the event was not much of a concern, some wind, mostly north or northwest and water a little high, but nothing serious.

Ritchie Thomson

Past Commodores' Food Drive

Our annual food drive runs November 30, December 1 and 2. Thursday and Friday, from 0900 to 1500, and Saturday from 0900 to 1200. Donations will be collected at the back door of the Community Center

Religious Community Services (RCS) needs easy fix meals like Spaghetti O's or Beefaroni, peanut butter, pastas, spaghetti sauce and canned meats. The needs list will be updated at the November Yacht Club meeting in case donations between now and then cause them to be overloaded with items. Please be sure your food donations are in unopened packaging and within the "use by date".

RCS is also happy to receive checks. With those, they can buy for their specific needs as supplies get low. RCS also buys at a discount so they can purchase more with your gift than you could. If you donate a check please make it out to "RCS Food Pantry." That assures that it is used for food and doesn't end up in the general fund.

RCS is providing their van and crates so we don't need to collect boxes or use member trucks to deliver the food. We need volunteers for 1.5 hour shifts during the times shown above. Sign-up sheets will be at the November meeting. However, if you want to pre-register for a specific shift contact me at 514-0614 or laknightnc@gmail.com. Wear your Santa hat or favorite holiday sweater. This is a great way to get in the spirit of the Holidays.

PC Louise Knight