

The Semaphore

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



Vol. 36, No. 5

35° 04' N., 076° 58' W.

May 2019



View From The Bridge

Well, from here on forward it's all fun and games until fall. We have the Cape Lookout and Wine Tasting/Shakedown cruises, and a full schedule of racing. Let's get out there and support as many activities as we can.

The Parade of Boats and Blessing of the Fleet got off to a damp start, but by the time we got to Shoreline for the blessings, the sun was out and the rain a distant memory with no breakdowns or mishaps. A special thanks to Fleet Captain George Statham for getting the rain to stop on cue. For the Shoreline activities, the weather appeared to be imminently threatening so the decision was made to move indoors to the Community Center. Our borrowed electronics were very intolerant of water. That decision proved to be correct as it started raining shortly thereafter.

The modified program was well received, and we were able to honor the 14 departed members with the tolling of the bell. The Committee did a fantastic job and the meal was excellent.

Congratulations to the winners of the Wilkerson Cup Race: Chris Davies, Cruising Class; Ed Thompson, Non-Spinnaker Class (Cup Winner); and the first-place boat was Mark Thompson from Blackbeard Sailing Club. Several boats had to drop out due to extreme weather and/or mechanical breakdowns. One crew member suffered a (hopefully) minor knee injury and had to be transported to the hospital. It's appreciated that our racers have the common sense to

know when it's just not right to continue. There should be no loss of pride.

On a little more serious note, a few members have expressed disappointment that more members are not involved in club activities. We would love to hear from you as to what it would take to get more people out there doing things. At least take a moment to speak with any Bridge member concerning any ideas or suggestions you might have. We have 178 members, of which most are couples. That's about 300 people. Let's see if we can't get more members involved.

This is the weather we all moved here for. Get out there and enjoy it. Have fun and be safe.

Ralph Azersky
Commodore

FHYC General Meeting April 11, 2019

The April meeting of the FHYC was called to order at 1930 by Commodore Ralph Azersky and members were led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Guests were welcomed and introduced. There were no new members and the total membership remains at 178.

The hosts for the evening were Maury & Ginger Thompson and Elaine & Karl Mielenhausen.

Dave Phipps presented an entertaining as well as informative program on "Top Ten Insurance Claims from Boat USA." He will present an interactive seminar as part of the education program on "Handling Abnormals and Emergencies on the Water" this Friday, April 12, at 0900 in Room 2 at the Activities Center.

What's Happening

| | | | |
|-----|-------|-------|---------------------------------|
| May | Th | 2 | Race: Ensign Race #6 |
| | Sa-Su | 4-5 | Cruise: Wine Tasting |
| | Mo | 6 | Board Meeting (ac) 0900 |
| | Tu | 7 | Race: Fun Racing |
| | Th | 9 | Race: Ensign Race #7 / Party |
| | Th | 9 | General Meeting (cc) 1930 |
| | Fr | 10 | Education: Seminar |
| | Su | 12 | Race: Dinghy/Sunfish |
| | Mo-Fr | 13-17 | Cruise: Cape Lookout |
| | Tu | 14 | Race: Fun Racing |
| | We | 15 | Yacht Club Dinner |
| | Sa | 18 | Race: Oar Race |
| | Su | 19 | Race: Dinghy/Sunfish |
| | Tu | 21 | Race: Fun Racing |
| | Su | 26 | Race: Dinghy/Sunfish |
| | Tu | 28 | Race: Fun Racing |

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

Deadline for next issue is noon, Monday, May 13, 2019

Delivery is Saturday, May 25, 2019

The minutes were approved as printed in the *Semaphore* (Curry/Mitchell). The Treasurer's Report was approved by the board and is available for review. The budget status (one page) will soon be available on-line. There was a request for committee chairs to be sure to check their budget reports which are sent out by Sherry Pendleton on a monthly basis and to let their board liaison know if they have concerns about exceeding budget.

Rear Commodore's Reports

The Nautical Minute was presented by Dave Pfefferkorn on "3 Alarms in the Water" that are helpful in saving your life or your boat.

Mark West gave commendation to Jerry Rezac and the Maintenance Committee for getting the flagpole ready for Commissioning Day. There were four downed pilings reported in Spring Creek.

Leigh Pfefferkorn announced the education program, which will be presented May 10, on "How to Operate Outboard Motors" which was rescheduled from a previous date. This will be held at the Golf Cart Barn at 0930.

Vice Commodore's Reports

The *Semaphore* deadline is 1200,

Monday May 15.

Members were encouraged to contribute to "Flip Flops for Fun" coordinated by Joye Maloney. Flip Flops were collected tonight and will be again at the next meeting. They can also be dropped off at Joye's house.

Bobby Wofford highlighted products from the Ship's Store.

Public Relations has been active and will have three articles in the Beacon this month, as well as one on the Commodores' Ball for next month. Thanks to Barb Robinson and the committee for doing such a great job.

The History Committee is working on retention.

Commodore's Reports

John Jackson gave a report from the Planning Committee. There is a recommendation to change the by-laws to allow any resident of Fairfield Harbour, not just property owners, to be a member of FHYC. If members have concerns, they are encouraged to talk to members of the Planning Committee or to board members. There will be more discussion about this later.

Commodore Azersky encouraged committee chairs to start identifying and grooming chairs for next year.

George Stateham gave an update on the many activities with the Cruising Committee. He gave the latest information, including alternative weather plans, on Commissioning Day. It will be broadcast on Channel 69 as well as an email blast at 0830 if plans are changed. The Three-Dinner Cruise will be rescheduled due to MumFest and will be October 17-20.

Don Knight gave information on the Wine Tasting/Shakedown Cruise and all wine connoisseurs were given the challenge to attend and identify wines as well as enjoying boating, good food and companionship. This will be May 4, 5, 6 and members can also come by land. Jon Bendicksen gave information on the Pamlico Cruise and Phil Katz gave information on the Cape Lookout Cruise. All of this information will be in the *Semaphore* or may be obtained by contacting members of the committee.

Ellen McElree thanked Rose Voss-Litke for coordinating the wonderful Commodores' Ball. The next social activity is the Commissioning Day Luncheon which will be held at Red Sail Park. If there are weather issues, it will be held at the Community Center.

The new organizers for Impromptus are Louise & Don Knight, Suzanne & Peter Budzynkiewicz, and Erin & Adrian Vergot. Kathy and Lew Travis have agreed to be advisors. Thanks to all for helping to continue this popular event.

Georgie Jackson gave an update on the Regatta Committee and noted that the Sunfish and Tuesday fun racing are doing well. This Sunday, April 14, is the Wilkerson Cup and ten boats have already registered.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

For the Good of the Club

Don Knight was looking for the owner of the heater that they used during the storm.

According to Barb Robinson there was a recent successful retrieval from the water, and we are doing well as a club in responding to emergency situations.

Lloyd Moore thanked the Marine Assistance Committee for help he had received in the past and related how he was able to repay this by helping another boater.

Anniversaries

Five Year: Marty & Carol Cavins, and Ed & Joanne Doughty. Ten Year: Arne & Bev Myrseth. Fifteen Year: Earl Beard & Elaine Albright, and Wayne Massetti & Kay Wertz.

There was a motion to adjourn at 2030 (Pfefferkorn/Curry).

After the meeting, members enjoyed a wonderful Happy Hour that included a variety of quiches, deviled eggs and dips.

*Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Berberich, Secretary*

**The
Semaphore**
Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



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| <p>Deadline</p> <p>Deadline is 1200 the Monday following the meeting. Please e-mail articles to the address listed below: fhycsemaphore@gmail.com</p> |
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Past Commodores' Dinner

Past Commodore Rob Skrotsky and Chris arranged for and hosted cocktails for the FHYC's Past Commodores at a dinner party which included spouses and guests. The PC Dinner was held on April 3, 2019 at the New Bern Golf and Country Club.

This photo of the Past Commodores in attendance was taken by Chris Skrotsky. Photo editing credit goes to George Stateham. Past Commodores who were unable to attend the event include Bernie Teubert, Walt Chaiko, Ray Gil, Paul Martin and Jim Fleckenstein. Our group looks forward to welcoming Ralph Azersky for next year's event.

Rob Skrotsky



Front Row: Tom Lelli (most senior PC 1997), Louise Knight.

Middle Row: George Stateham, Olwen Jarvis, Charlie Ward, Bob Mitchell, Rob Skrotsky, Ken Dunn.

Back Rows: Karl Mielenhausen, John Jackson (most junior PC 2018), Neil Ober, Jim Florence, Don Knight, Doug King, Sam Curry.



Blessing of the Fleet

On April 13, 25 boats assembled in the Neuse River dressed out with signal and other flags. It made for an impressive parade through Northwest and Spring Creeks into the inner Harbour. The photo of Vice Commodore Ritchie Thomson's *Vital Spark*, left, illustrates this point perfectly! See additional photos on page 6.

While the weather was threatening at times, it was never severe. Once inside the Harbour, the boats proceeded by the Shoreline Docks where clergy of several faiths blessed each one as they passed. The shower abated and sky lightened as the blessings occurred. I for one felt truly blessed.

Normally, the Blessing is followed by the Commissioning Day ceremony at Shoreline, but the weather drove the ceremony inside at the Community Center. With large attendance and limited space, Commodore Azersky artfully organized and officiated a slightly modified ceremony.

The Entertainment Committee's luncheon was also relocated but they adapted quickly and treated us all to a nice lunch. The highlight was homemade cupcakes topped with a chocolate anchor.

Our thanks to all who made this annual event so special despite the obstacles.

*George Stateham
Cruising Captain*



Marie Antoinette Had It All Wrong: Let Them Eat Cupcakes!

Fleet Captain George Stateham and the Entertainment Committee used their contingency plans for the Commissioning Day parade and luncheon. The weather was a nail-biter, but the boat parade and Blessing of the Fleet went ahead with 25 boats participating.

The Commissioning Day ceremony and luncheon were moved to the Community Center as the promised rain was delivered.

Sandwiches and salad were catered by Kitchen on Trent, but the highlight was the eight dozen cupcakes prepared by Janice Myler and topped with milk chocolate anchors crafted by Craig Myler. They were delicious.

The photo to the left shows Craig, Janice, and Louise Knight, who helped with distribution, and those marvelous cupcakes!

*Kathie King
Fleet Surgeon*

Wilkerson Cup: A Huge Success!

April 14th saw the 22nd Annual Bill Wilkerson Cup Race. Eleven boats entered. However, three boats did not start due to mechanical problems, and three retired because of equipment or wind-related issues.

Chris Davies (FHYC) won the Cruising Class in *Jeanne Too*. Mark Thompson (BSC) won 1st overall in *Peace, Love and Happiness*. Ed Thompson in *Dutch Wind* was the first FHYC boat to finish the race and therefore was awarded the Wilkerson Cup, which is his to display for a year.

Commodore Ralph Azersky and PRO Mark Hittner presented awards. All three winners will receive coffee mugs decorated with photos taken during the race by Bill Green. See additional photos from the Wilkerson below.

A wonderful potluck followed at Red Sail Park.



*Georgie Jackson
Regatta Chair*

Wilkerson's Boats at Marker 28

Participants sailed a ten-nautical-mile course in breezy conditions. The course ran from Broad Creek to Channel Marker 28, near the Neuse River Bridge, and back. These photos show the five boats that finished the race, rounding Marker 28 at the half-way point.



*Peace, Love and
Happiness,
skipped by
Mark Thompson
of BSC.*



*Dutch Wind, left,
skipped by Ed
Thompson, and
Jeanne Too, right,
skipped by
Chris Davies.*



*Holder 20,
skipped by
Buddy Dillinger
of BSC.*



*Silent Pursuit,
skipped by
Dave Whitney of
BSC.*

Education Notice: Start Your Engines, May 10

Ladies & gentlemen, "Start your engines", or at least learn how to start those beastly small outboards. This informative session will take place at 0930, Friday, May 10 at the Cart Barn, across from the old clubhouse.

You'll learn how to start and handle your small outboard, no matter how small or weak you are!

For more information, please call Leigh Pfefferkorn at 252-617-5994 or email her at lpassage@gmail.com.

Leigh Pfefferkorn

Cape Lookout Cruise

The 2019 Cape Lookout Cruise will be Monday, May 13 through Friday, May 17. We will leave Fairfield Harbour on Monday morning heading for an anchorage in Cedar Creek. Tuesday we will cruise to Cape Lookout and stay for two nights.

We'll explore Lookout's unspoiled beaches and visit the museum and light-house. We also plan to have a fire on the beach with hot dogs and s'mores as we watch the sun go down. We will leave Thursday for an anchorage in South River and return to Fairfield Harbour on Friday, May 17.

The itinerary and reservation forms are in the flyer. Please return completed reservation forms to Phil Katz at 5006 Plymouth Ct. and direct any questions to Phil at katzduncan84@gmail.com or 631-1018.

The Captains Meeting will take place at 1000 on Tuesday, May 7 in the POA Activities Center, Room 2.

Phil Katz, Cruise Leader

2019 John Walsh Memorial Oar Race

The Oar Race commemorates the Battle of Dunkirk and Operation Dynamo. British and French forces found themselves trapped on the beach at Dunkirk, France and under attack by the German army. Allied warships were unable to get in close enough to rescue the soldiers because the water was too shallow.

Between May 26 and June 4, 1940, a collection of 850 shallow-draft boats left Ramsgate, England to participate in the rescue of 338,000 soldiers from the beach. Because of their shallow draft, the smaller boats, many of them pleasure craft, were able to get close enough to shore to pick up the stranded soldiers and ferry them to the waiting warships. In some cases, the *Little Ships*, as they were referred to, ferried soldiers all the way back to Ramsgate under protection of British Air support.

The oar hanging in the Fairfield Harbour Community Center was donated to FHYC and is an actual oar used in Operation Dynamo. The first Oar Race took place in 1984 and ran from Fairfield Harbour to Oriental, a distance of about 22 miles.

The winner of the race will have his or her name inscribed on the permanent trophy hanging in the Community Center and will take home a miniature Oar trophy. After the race, there will be a casual, catered dinner. The registration fee of \$35 includes two dinners. Additional dinners may be purchased for \$10 each.

This year's Oar Race will take place on May 18. The Notice of Race (NOR) will be posted on www.fhyc.us. You do not have to log onto the website to access the NOR and Registration Form.

If you have any questions, please call Regatta Chair Georgie Jackson at 252-637-9781.

Barb Robinson

Nominations for 2020

It is not too early to think about who you would like to see as Officers and Board Members in 2020.

If you know someone who would be great as Rear Commodore, Secretary, or board member, please contact the Nominating Committee.

The committee is made up of Past Commodore John Y. Jackson, Chair, Carol Frysiek, Stephanie Davies, Ed Thompson, and Don Knight.

*John Jackson
Past Commodore*

Cruise Date Changes

The Three Dinner Cruise has been moved out one week to avoid conflict with the New Bern MumFest. The new dates are October 17 to 20.

The Pamlico Cruise has been moved out two days and will begin on October 23 and end on November 2. This will give participants a couple of days to re-provision after the Three Dinner Cruise.

Please update your calendars accordingly.

*George Stateham
Cruising Captain*

Yes, We Have No Bananas

You've probably heard of the boating superstition that no bananas are allowed on board. In the 1700s, many of the ships lost at sea were coming from the Americas, carrying a cargo of bananas. In those days, bunches of bananas often housed deadly spiders and, in addition, would ferment in the hold, producing toxic fumes. Needless to say, neither of those things were good for the ship or crew.

The fishermen in the crews of these boats had another reason to dislike bananas. They spoiled quickly, forcing the captain to reach their destination faster and allowing little time to catch fish.

The superstition persists to this day. On some boats, the rule of no bananas is so strict that some sailors avoid banana-scented sunscreen and even frown sternly at a bottle of *Banana Boat* sunscreen.

Commissioning Day April 13, 2019



Ode to Georgie Girl

Old Florence and Georgie Girl got into a Row,
which left her feeling rather down by the Bow.

She needed support and to be shored up somehow,
and what needed to be done had better be, like Now.

The owner, he was in the state of distress,
and couldn't believe she was in such a Mess.

Do what you can to make her safe,
protect her from bruises, stress and Chafe.

Teetering on the edge, her situation was grave,
the damage to her side was indeed Concave.

Charlotte's Web was child's play,
compared to what was deployed that Day.

Many a hand helped her back on her feet,
for no one was willing to accept Defeat.

Off to the boatyard was the decision,
where repairs and care were applied with Precision.

Now back home there she goes,
into loving arms, she has escaped her Woes.

And so this story does end quite well,
for she is a fine boat and sails just Swell.

Ode to Georgie Girl, penned by Michael Connolly, was written March 13, 2019, the six-month anniversary of Hurricane Florence.