

The Semaphore

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



Vol. 36 No. 11/12

5° 04' N., 076° 58' W.

December 2019/January 2020



View From The Bridge

I am not sure, but we may have set a record for attendance at the November meeting. Ninety-nine “members” present, which probably means north of one hundred and eighty people. My sincerest thanks for the great turnout at this most important meeting.

Now that the election drama is over, I want to thank some folks. For starters: Benny and Adrian for running for Vice Commodore. It's a commitment not to be taken lightly. Congratulations to the incoming 2020 slate:

Yvonne Meissner, Secretary
Ellen McElree and Elaine Mielenhausen, Directors
Barb Robinson, Rear Commodore
Adrian Vergot, Vice Commodore
Ritchie Thomson, Commodore.



I also want to recognize those members who were instrumental in organizing and running the election. Their hard work behind the curtain

made my job look easy: Vice Commodore Ritchie Thomson, Craig Myler, Carol Cavins, Stephanie Davies, Sherry Pendleton, Past Commodore John Jackson, and of course our parliamentarian extraordinaire Lois Andrews.

I want to give a big shout-out to the hospitality hosts for the evening for the Great Turkey Extravaganza: Chairpersons Yvonne Meissner and Julia Thomson and co-hosts Ina & Elliott Alterman, Barb & George Lewis, Carol Frysiek, and Neil Ober.

The big news for December is the Annual Past Commodores' Food Drive and the Holiday Party. I hope y'all can find something (edible or cash) to contribute. I also look forward to seeing everyone all dressed up for the Holiday Party. Don't forget your Angel gifts. It promises to be a great time.

As this is my last column, I want to thank everyone in the club for their support and assistance during my tenure. Although I am looking forward to becoming a “Past Commodore,” I am going to miss standing before such a great group of people. I am also looking forward to

next year and have hopes for many more to come.

Finally, a special thanks to Lynn Stateham who has transcribed my monthly columns over the phone (my typing skills leave much to be desired). She made it look like I knew what I was doing.

Let's put the past behind us and focus on the future!

Ralph Azersky, Commodore

Happy Holidays!

FHYC General Meeting November 14, 2019

The November meeting was called to order by Ralph Azersky and the membership, which was standing room only, was led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Guests were welcomed and introduced. Hospitality hosts for the evening were Elliott & Ina Alterman, Barbara & George Lewis, Carol Frysiek, and Neil Ober. It was announced that Barb Robinson had been appointed by the Board as

What's Happening

Dec	Th	5-7	RCS Food drive	
	Mo	9	Board Meeting (ac)	0900
	Th	12	Holiday Party	1930
	Sa	14	Parade of Lights	
Jan	We	1	Fun Racing	
	Mo	6	Board Meeting (ac)	0900
	Th	9	General Meeting (cc)	1930
	Tu	14	New Members Reception	
	We	15	Yacht Club Dinner	

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

Deadline for next issue is noon, Monday January 13 2020

Delivery is Saturday January 25, 2020

interim Rear Commodore.

Louise Knight introduced new members and their sponsors. Ken & Ginger Lacy and Tom & Nina Renner were welcomed and given their burgees. Larna Griffin was welcomed. Kevin had been welcomed last month. Greg & Chrissy Byron will be welcomed in January. This brings the current membership count to a total of 181 made up of two charter, three complimentary and 176 regular members. Anyone who has ordered new name tags, please see Louise after the meeting.

Deb Stone announced that the Wednesday night dinner (November 20) will be a luncheon at 1300 at Cypress Hall and a sign-up sheet will be available.

The minutes have been printed in the *Semaphore* and were approved (Fortenbaugh/Clark). The Treasurer's Report was previously approved by the Board. The club is looking for a new webmaster and volunteers were encouraged.

Election of Officers:

Commodore Azersky acknowledged to the assembly the following: Sergeant at Arms: Craig Myler, Chairman of Tellers: Carol Cavins,

The

Semaphore

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



Editors

Lynn Stateham	672-9171
Elliott Alterman	637-3458
Bill and Jan Green	919-518-0752
Chuck Smith	635-1359
Larry Knapp	634-3018
Julia Thomson	919-967-9036

Distribution Co-Chairs

Ed Klebaur	633-6264
Jerry Rezac	876-2170

Website: www.fhyc.us

email: fhyc-nc@googlegroups.com

Deadline

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

Tellers: Stephanie Davies and Sherry Pendleton, and our parliamentarian Lois Andrews. A quorum was established per Carol & Marty Cavins. This must be at least 15% (27 members) and Carol announced that there were 99 members present. The doors had opened early and members had been checked in at the door.

The Commodore asked for nominations from the floor. John Jackson nominated Adrian Vergot and Steve Brockman provided a second. Adrian accepted the nomination. There were no more nominations. Commodore Azersky asked for a motion to close nominations (Davies/Jackson). The motion passed by a greater than 2/3 show of hands. Commodore Azersky then read the unopposed slate of officers and asked the secretary to cast a vote to accept the slate and this was done.

At this point, each candidate for the office of Vice Commodore had three minutes to outline their qualifications, involvement in the Club, and thoughts for the future. Benny Thompson went first followed by Adrian Vergot. Following the presentations, the club was given the opportunity to ask questions. The first was "How would you grow the club?" and the second was "What have you done for the club?" and each candidate had equal opportunity to answer the questions.

There were several questions asked of the Commodore and these were answered by Commodore Azersky. Chris Town raised a question whether or not the candidate would be qualified for Commodore without going through the whole process. John Jackson and Ritchie Thomson said that we will make it work and there will be support and mentorship for the new Vice Commodore. Carol Cavins gave some history on this issue. Greg Winfrey asked why this vote was necessary. Commodore Azersky explained that we have two candidates and need to have an election

according to the club's Constitution. The vote now was ready to move forward and Commodore Azersky gave the instructions of one house one vote and the members came forward in an orderly fashion and deposited the votes. The meeting continued while the votes were being counted.

Committee Reports:

Rear Commodore: Barb Robinson

Dave Phipps relayed the information about the education session on putting on life vests and climbing into rafts had been postponed due to weather. He has been looking for an alternate date and John Jackson is coordinating this with the YMCA. The first week in December is the targeted week and members who are interested should email Dave if they have a preference. Joel Berberich announced that the FHYC will be partnering with NOAA and the National Weather Service to provide weather updates to the community. The Board approved this and Joel Berberich will be the first liaison for this. Craig Myler also suggested this would be a good program for the General Meeting.

Vice Commodore: Ritchie Thomson

The *Semaphore* deadline is Monday December 13 at noon. More editors are still needed for 2020. A new template in MS Word has been developed which should make editing much simpler.

At the recent time of distribution, individually customized renewal notices were sent to each member's email address rather than hand delivery. So far, the response rate has been low so members are urged to renew as soon as possible. If you did not receive an email and you need a hard copy, please see a Board member. If you want a different name other than the one you put down on your application, please notify the Yearbook Committee.

The vote on the Constitution and Bylaw changes has been postponed and will be scheduled in January or February.

Ritchie Thomson presented the remainder of the awards from the Fall Appreciation dinner. The awards in their entirety are published in this *Semaphore*.

Commodore: Ralph Azersky

Past Commodore Jackson announced that the Annual RCS food drive will be held December 5 – 7. The hours for December 5 and 6 are 11 AM to 3 PM. On Saturday the hours are 8 AM to 3 PM. Food donations should not be in glass containers; checks are also welcome and should be made out to RCS and on the memo line put food shelf or pantry. There should be no outdated food. Thanks for your support.

George Stateham from the Cruising Committee also called on Ralph Azersky regarding the Festival of Lights. There will not be a chili party this year due to a scheduling conflict at the Community Center. There was interest in boats being involved and George and Ralph will work on this activity. Ritchie Thomson gave a report on the Pamlico Cruise.

Ellen McElree introduced Kathy Sansone who gave an update on the Holiday Party which is Thursday, December 12 at Carolina Colors. The cost is \$47 and there is a cutoff date of December 2. Chris Skrotsky announced that members may sign up for tables of 8-10 or be assigned to a table. Janice Myler will be Entertainment Chair for next year.

Unfinished Business:

New banners will be ordered for the community by FHYC and members are welcome to come up and see pictures after the meeting. The cost will be approximately \$2000 and will be budgeted in 2020.

New Business:

The Fairfield Harbour Christmas Parade will be Sunday December 8 and the Board would like the Club to participate. There was a show of hands and interest from the club but a chair is needed to coordinate this.

For the Good of the Club:

Someone is needed to volunteer for IT and to operate the FHYC email blast.

Jim Fortuna announced that there still is a need to help the people of Ocracoke. There is a collection at Blackbeard the next two Sunday afternoons (Nov 17 and 25) from 2-5 pm. Coats, boots, shoes and winter clothing will be welcomed.

Bob Petritsch announced that the Fishing Club has started a kayak fishing group.

Members were encouraged to sign up for committees.

David Pfefferkorn has a new email address lpassage@gmail.com

Linda Lelli gave information about the Salvation Army Angel Program and cards were available after the meeting. She will be in the Yacht Club Library from 12-2 pm the day of the party to accept donations. More cards will be available in the POA Library until the day of the party.

At this point in the meeting, Commodore Azersky announced that the polls were closed and asked “did everyone vote who wanted to vote?” There being no response. Carol Cavins announced that there were 95 legal votes cast, therefore the number of votes to win was 48. There were three illegal votes. The results were Benny Thompson 16 and Adrian Vergot 79. Adrian Vergot will be Vice Commodore and accepted this role. At this point, Commodore Azersky announced the entire slate: Ritchie Thomson: Commodore, Adrian Vergot: Vice Commodore, Barb Robinson: Rear-Commodore, Yvonne Meissner: Secretary, New Directors: Elaine Mielenhausen and Ellen McElree.

Significant anniversaries:

Gregg Szakmeister	
& Jenny Nebe	5 years
Jim & Gerry Fleckenstein	15 years
Roland & Barb Hoekman	20 years
Ron & Pat Wunder	25 years

At this point, Ritchie Thomson, Vice Commodore, put everything into perspective when he encouraged the

club to look forward to a new year and devote ourselves to providing good club experiences and helping others especially as this holiday season is starting. He thanked all the candidates and all those who helped this process run smoothly.

There was a motion to adjourn (Myler/Jackson) and the club enjoyed a lovely pre-Thanksgiving celebration of food and fellowship.

New Members

Our wonderful club continues to grow! We are excited to announce the following new members who were welcomed at our November meeting.



Ken & Ginger Lacy moved here from Charlotte and now live on Stern Court. They have a 21” SeaCraft powerboat named *Leuse Krewe*. Ken has been boating for several years including time in the Navy. They were previously members of the Lake Norman Yacht Club. Their sponsors are John & Georgie Jackson and Peter & Suzanne Budzynkiewicz. Ken has selected Regatta Committee and Ginger has chosen Cruising and Entertainment Committees



Tom & Nina Renner became members in October. They are from Centerport, Long Island, NY and now live on Royal Pines Dr. Their 53’

Hans Christian sailboat is named *Lion Heart*. They have many years of sailing experience. Benny Thompson and Les & Susanne Pendleton are their sponsors. Tom has selected Education Committee and Nina has chosen Distribution. They both have selected Hospitality Committee.



Kevin & Larna Griffin have lived in eastern North Carolina their entire lives and are moving here from Fuquay-Varina. Currently, Kevin is living in the Fairfield Harbour condos and Larna is in Holly Springs while they are building a home on Harbourside Dr. They have a 22' Hydro Sports power boat named *See Leg's*. They have 40 plus years of power boating experience. Their sponsors are Benny Thompson and Gayle Albertini. Kevin & Larna have picked Marine Assistance Committee.

Greg & Chris Bryon were also approved in November but were unable to attend the November meeting. We will welcome them at the meeting in January.

Annual RCS Food Drive

The FHYC Annual Food Drive to help Religious Community Services will be held December 5 – 7. Hours December 5 and 6 are 11 AM to 3 PM. On Saturday it is 8 AM to 3 PM. Food may be dropped off at the back door to the Community Center. There will be 4 people available to help you unload. Please, do not clean out your shelves and donate food that is close to, or past, its expiration date. Also, RCS prefers dry food in boxes, i.e. pasta, rice, cold or hot cereal, etc. Other food should be in plastic containers, or cans, such as peanut

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HOLIDAY PARADE OF LIGHTS IS ON!

DECEMBER 14

Raft up in the inner harbor at 1600 and sing traditional carols. Break the raft about 1730 or whenever it's dark enough to show off your lights. Parade around the inner harbor and then have a splash at Russ and Barb Robinsons' It is for boat captains, crews and guests. Limit 12 boats.

Contact Commodore Azersky or George Stateham to register.

George Stateham, Fleet Captain

better and soups, but not glass jars, such as most jelly and spaghetti sauce.

Monetary donations are also welcome. If you write a check, make it payable to RCS and on the memo line to put "food Shelf" or "Pantry." Otherwise the donation may go the RCS general fund. Thanks for your support.

Past Commodore John Y. Jackson

Hypothermia is not cool!

Welcome to winter in the Sunny South: a great time for boating! Generally we handle temperature changes well. However all boaters should consider the risk of hypothermia, which is when our inner body temperature cools. 98.6°F (36°C) is the temperature at which we function best. We generate heat to keep ourselves warm, but if our body loses heat too rapidly, things start to go wrong. Hypothermia is a big hazard for us boaters, because water conducts heat far more rapidly than air. The US Coast Guard warns that

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up to half of all drownings may involve hypothermia. Obviously this is most serious when people go into the water. Hypothermia can occur from sitting in wet clothing, or exposure to spray; this is dangerous because it sneaks up on you! Hypothermia numbs the senses and clouds thinking so a victim can have serious symptoms without realizing they are succumbing. Any time the wind chill is below 50°F, hypothermia can develop, starting with mild symptoms like numbness, slurred speech, clumsiness, heavy prolonged shivering, dizziness or sleepiness. If exposure is prolonged, these symptoms can get worse. When the temperature is colder, symptoms develop more quickly and with increasing severity. A sign of a medical emergency is when shivering stops, for then your body's mechanism to cope is failing. Sometimes hypothermia victims actually begin to feel warmer, and may want to remove their warm clothing. Another symptom of increasingly severe hypothermia is nausea. Treating mild or moderate hypothermia is easy:

1. Remove victim from exposure
2. Dry the victim
3. Wrap them in dry towels or blankets or spare clothing without jostling to prevent abnormal heart rhythms
4. Give warm drinks but NOT alcohol or caffeine.
Warm drinks combat hypothermia by warming the body from within and by re-hydrating the victim.
5. Contact emergency personnel.

Breathing warm air is good; hand dryers in a public restroom or a heater will help. Hypothermia is serious when the victim is vomiting, incoherent, or unconscious. Cardiac complications may occur, even in young, athletic victims. The foil

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emergency blankets sold by camping-equipment suppliers are helpful. Hypothermia can kill. As boaters and sailors, we should know about the risks and be prepared to cope with any event.

Past Commodore Doug King

Pamlico Cruise October 23 – 31, 2019



October is a prime time for cruising in North Carolina, temperatures are generally comfortable and the weather reasonably stable. In the event, five boats, three sail and two power set out leaving 1N at about 10:30 heading for South River.

We had a smooth trip down river, mostly under power with light winds and anchored off the Lukens Cemetery in South River. The first splash and then a comfortable night at anchor were enjoyed by all.



We were accompanied by a range of fauna on the trip. In addition to the human variety, we had a dog, a parrot and two frogs that lived in the cockpit drains of Vital Spark.



One of the sailboats, *Silver Bullet*, draws 6.5 feet with a 68 foot mast. This presents significant challenges in the NC Rivers and on the ICW. So, *Silver Bullet* went out into Pamlico Sound and took the channel through



Brant Island Shoal into Pamlico River. There is little if any extra distance involved in taking this option. The rest of us headed from the Neuse River, round Maw Point, up the Bay River and the Cut to the Pamlico River. We motored up the Pungo River to River Forest Marina in Belhaven. Henry Frazer, the dock master, was there to greet us and shepherd us into slips. We had two nights here to recover from our adventures so far. The first night was a splash night and the second was a visit to the farm-to-fork Spoon River restaurant.



By this stage the wind was still light or non-existent so we motored up the Pamlico River and went into Bath Creek for the night. The plan was to explore Bath, the first capital of North Carolina. Unfortunately, it decided to rain so a splash was in order. Continuing on to Little Washington, we had rain and lots of wind and reached the Washington City docks by mid-afternoon. The next day we went to visit Pacific SeaCraft at their facility in Washington. When they setup their business in NC, it took 22 tractor-trailer loads to move all the molds and tooling from California. They looked busy both renovating older boats and building new boats.



After Washington we headed to Pamlico Plantation where we were guests of the Pamlico Plantation Yacht Club. Their hospitality was superb and they organized a barbeque for us with about 50 people attending.

Fortunately, we had contributed ten slabs of spareribs.



The rain did not detract from the enjoyment of the event. We have invited the PPYC to visit us in Fairfield Harbour so we can return their hospitality.

Next morning, we left early heading for the Neuse and lower Broad Creek. We had no wind down the Pamlico River but then as we headed into the Bay River and round Maw Point, the wind picked up from the northeast. This creates an unpleasant chop rounding Maw Point and we had a rough ride round into the Neuse River and then into Broad Creek. Since it was the last night, we decided to visit the “fleshpots” of River Dunes and have dinner in their fine restaurant. As usual, it was excellent.

For the last day, the wind was due to pick up from the southeast and we left early hoping to get home before the wind really developed. Of course, this did not happen and after rounding Wilkerson Point, we had 20 – 30 knots of wind from the south and an exciting run home. At one point we found we could sail at 4 knots under bare poles. We got there with no incidents and all could relax and agree that it had been an excellent cruise.

*Ritchie Thomson, Vice
Commodore*



Appreciation Awards

Presented at the Appreciation
Dinner

1. Entertainment Committee
2. Magnificent Service award – *Emily Helling*
3. Year Book Committee – *Mark West*
4. Semaphore Committee – *Elliott & Ina Alterman for Lynn Stateham*
5. Maintenance Committee – *Skip Hird*
6. Library Committee – *Toni Smith*
7. Hospitality Committee – *Yvonne Meissner and Julia Thomson*
8. Long Service Awards – *Ed Klebaur and Mark & Barbara West*
9. Bobber Award – *John Jackson*
10. Sommelier Award – *Don & Louise Knight*
11. Chain Gang Award – *Steve & Leigh Hart*
12. Card Sharps Award – *Bill & Lois Andrews*
13. Golden Quill Award – *Elaine Berberich*
14. Hundred Day Cruising – *Bill & Lois Andrews*
15. Commodore's Award – *Doug & Kathie King*

Presented at the November 14
Meeting

1. Almost Hundred Day Cruising – *Chris & Rob Skrotsky*
2. Poker Run Award – *George & Lynn Stateham*
3. Red Pen Award – *Joye Moloney*
4. Shanty man Award – *Adrian Vergot*
5. Yuengling Award – *Reiner Zeppenfeld*
6. Red Marker Award – *Maury Thompson*
7. Bottom Award – *Doug King and Steve Brockman*



SAVE THE DATE

FHYC Commodore's Ball

Thursday, March 19, 2020

Look for your delivered
invitation

as an insert in the
2020 Year Book in January

*In North Carolina if you
don't run aground
sometimes you are not trying
hard enough!*