

The Semaphore

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



Vol. 37, No. 3

35° 04' N., 076° 58' W.

April 2020



From the Commodore

First, I would like to express sincere thanks to Kathie King MD, our Fleet Surgeon, and to Joel Berberich MD, Chair of the Medical Support Committee. Their reviews of the status of the Covid-19 situation, and their recommendations, were key in enabling the Board to make the decision to cancel the General Meeting scheduled for 12 March and the Education Seminar planned, for Friday 13 March. Sadly, this also led to the decision to postpone the Commodores' Ball to be held on the 19 March. We intend to reschedule the Ball in the fall.

During the current Covid-19 outbreak, our priorities must be the health and welfare of our members and indeed, of our entire community. Many of us are in the "high risk" categories, being over 60 years of age or with underlying health issues. That being the case, based on medical advice, we have decided to cancel or postpone all planned activities until the end of April. This includes the Sock Burning event, as well as Commissioning Day, and the Wilkerson Cup. At that point, we will be reviewing programs for the rest of the year and evaluating how many can be rescheduled for later in the year. We simply did not see how "social distancing" could be achieved through the activities we have planned. I realize that many of our members will be

disappointed by this decision, as am I. It is in the best interests of club members that we do so.

As an alternative to face-to-face indoor meetings, we are planning to try using video meetings. I realize that video or virtual meetings may not be possible for some members, but it is certainly an option in the current situation. This will be tried for the Board Meetings, Education Seminars and General Meetings. While not a perfect solution it is better than nothing.

Life is rushing on, as it always seems to do. The Club has many activities underway in preparation for the spring season, or as much as is possible of it.

Finally, on a positive note, get your boats ready for the boating season to take advantage of whatever part you can, enjoy walking or cycling in the Harbour and take care of your health.

Ritchie Thomson, Commodore



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AIS

The Marine Automatic Identification System (AIS) is a great enhancement to cruising. Many vessels are equipped with AIS transceivers which broadcast unique identification, position, course, and speed, and which display this information on an electronic chart display. You can see traffic around you, the closest point of approach (CPA), and time to CPA. This is extremely useful, especially for vessels running nearby at high speed.

Unfortunately, not all vessels are equipped with AIS transceivers. Private vessels and small non-passenger-carrying vessels are not required to be so equipped. Some even run at high speed in fog, trusting to blind luck or worse.

AIS is a great addition to radar because of its accuracy but is not a replacement for radar. Radar sees almost all boats but AIS doesn't see them if they are not transmitting.

For further information see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Automatic_identification_system or talk to your friendly local marine electronics dealer.

What's Happening

| | | | |
|-----|----|----|--|
| Apr | Su | 5 | Race: Dinghy/Sunfish - Subject to rescheduling |
| | Mo | 6 | Board Meeting - Video Session.....0900 |
| | Tu | 7 | Race: Neuse River Fun |
| | Sa | 11 | Race: Easter Fun Sail |
| | Th | 9 | General Meeting - Video Session.....1930 |
| | Tu | 14 | Race: Neuse River Fun |
| | Su | 19 | Race: Dinghy/Sunfish - Subject to rescheduling |
| | Tu | 21 | Race: Neuse River Fun |
| | Su | 26 | Race: Dinghy/Sunfish - Subject to rescheduling |
| | Tu | 28 | Race: Neuse River Fun |

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

Deadline for next issue is noon, Monday, April 13, 2020

Delivery is Saturday, April 25, 2020

First Annual St. Patrick's Fun Sail

March 14, 2020



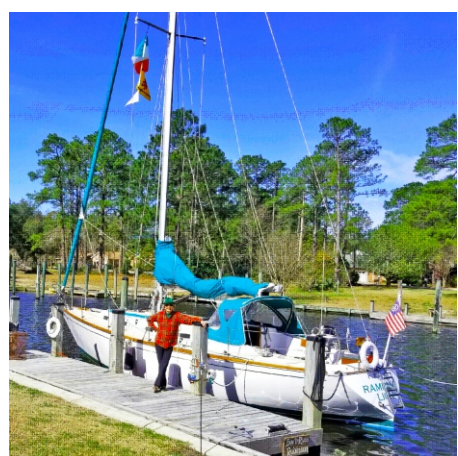
Georgie Girl and Dutch Wind



Crew of Georgie Girl



Baggywrinkle



Rampant Lion Ready to Sail



Treasure Cove



Happy Sailors on Rampant Lion



The Semaphore

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



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Deadline

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

What started out as a light wind day according to the weather forecasters, soon became a rip-roaring sail! The Banshees were screaming through the rigging, giving everyone a good jolt of adrenaline! Seven boats came out for the fun: *Dutch Wind* (Ed Thompson), *Lil Bit* (Daniel Moore), *Rampant Lion* (Russ Robinson), *Georgie Girl* (John Jackson a special note of welcome to Earl Beard back on her helm), *Baggywrinkle* (Mark Hittner), *Treasure Cove* (Adrian Vergot) and *Paramour* (George Storey).

This was a pursuit race with each boat having its own start time based on rating. The approximate 10 mile course was laid out as follows: Marker 1N to marker 22, round on port then down to marker 17 and on to marker 15, round on port and then back to marker 1N. At the start of the race winds were light and variable at about 10 knots. You could see the cloud line indicating the cold

front that came through just about the time boats were reaching marker 22. Heading to marker 15 the winds picked up to the upper teens with several gusts in the mid to upper 20's. Surprisingly all the boats did well handling the flukey winds (except in the 27 knot wind gust when I lost my Irish green hat! If anyone sees it let me know!)

Out of health caution, we decided to cancel the after-race gathering but the day out on the water was fantastic. Our next holiday race will be the Easter Fun Sail on April 11 with the same pursuit format. There is a tentative after-race gathering planned.

For more information contact:

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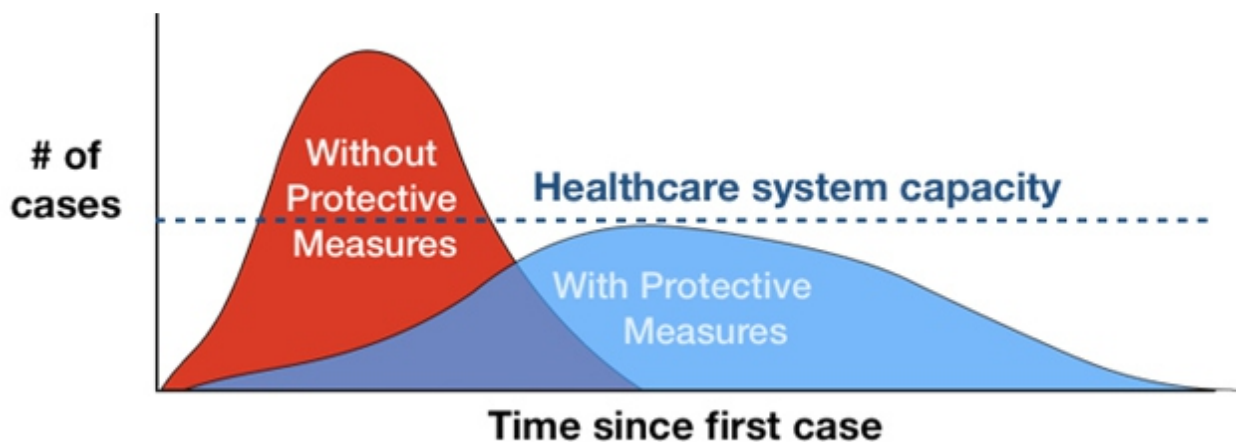
Barb Robinson

Flattening the Curve

The Coronavirus is in 49 states, with at least 3,485 cases and 65 deaths (March 16). Predictions are that cases in the US will double every six days, unless we drastically reduce spread. Schools in 31 states are closed and further restrictions may follow.

People over 60 and those with heart, lung, or immune problems are at higher risk (sound like anyone you know?), although everyone is at some risk. You know about handwashing and social distancing, keeping others more than 6 feet away from you.

What we really need now is for people to STAY HOME, except for essential trips, such as groceries or doctor visits. Reducing the spread of the virus increases the chance that the health care system can support people with severe illnesses, enabling them to save lives. Without these steps, hospitals will run short of ventilators and even oxygen. Please STAY HOME WHENEVER POSSIBLE! When this is over, we want to see you at FHYC events and other places!



Adapted from CDC / The Economist

If you need medical attention, call the facility at which you will seek care (your doctor's office, or an urgent care or emergency room); they may have special instructions about where to enter the facility to avoid exposing other patients and visitors.

For more information, please consult the website posted by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services:

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-response-north-carolina>

*Kathie King, MD
Fleet Surgeon*

Cruising the BVIs with Grandchildren



We had eight days down in the BVIs in mid-February with our 10-year-old grandtwins (and their parents). It is a novel experience for us to sail with two ten-year olds. We are out of practice at living in close quarters with two lively and opinionated children. Things are certainly changing in the BVIs, and we even had a WiFi hotspot on the boat which delighted the twins. Our granddaughter was able to stay in contact with her friends and on one occasion we found her giving a virtual tour of the boat to a friend who was skiing at Big Sky in Montana. Of course, this was reciprocated with a virtual tour of the ski chalet. It is a different world for the young. Our grandson took over the cruising guide and decided where we should moor. One evening we ended up in Kelly's Cove, just next to the Bight on Norman Island thanks to him. This is a delightful cove with just four moorings.

Water, swimming and snorkeling were all very much appreciated although with two cruise ships per day coming into Road Town, the popular places like the Baths on Virgin Gorda and the Caves on Norman Island were overcrowded with tourists. However, we found lots of places which are still close to pristine. These included the Dogs where there are National Park moorings and the Bubble Pool at the east end of Jost van Dyke.

In September 2017, the British Virgin Islands were struck by the twin category 5 hurricanes, Irma and Maria, which came within a month of each other. With 180 MPH winds, the devastation was extensive across the Islands as well as other islands like St Thomas and Puerto Rico. Tourism is coming back, roads and houses are mostly in a good state of repair and the sun and the trade winds are as wonderful as ever. Some resorts like Saba Rock and the Bitter End Yacht Club are still not back in operation. In Soper's Hole, there is only one restaurant and one bar back in operation while rebuilding continues. There, we were shown some photographs of boats which perched on the top of buildings meaning there must have been a storm surge of at least 20 feet. Best of all the rocks of the Baths and the Indians do not seem to have been moved.

There was no shortage of wind and we had at least 20 knots each day with more during the frequent big squalls. We were double reefed the whole time and never able to shake out a reef. This made for some exciting sailing.

Ritchie Thomson, Commodore