

# The Semaphore

## Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



Vol. 37, No. 4

35° 04' N., 076° 58' W.

May 2020



### From the Commodore

We are now into the first month of our “stay at home” order, and we are working out how to keep some things for the club running. So far, we have had a couple of virtual board meetings and on 9 April, we had our first virtual General Meeting. We had 46 sign-ins which means about 80 people were present and mostly able to see each other. I very much appreciate the work done by Adrian Vergot, our Vice Commodore, in making the “virtuality” work in practice. “Going virtual” is a different way of operating, and needs more planning for things to run smoothly. I believe we were able to do that. If we are still doing virtual meetings next month, as we probably will be, one thing I would like to try is a short “open mic” session to get thoughts and input from the membership. This would be the equivalent of the “For the Good of the Club” session which we normally do.

In North Carolina, there is no restriction on boating at present as far as I can see. However, we still need to maintain social distancing which with a limited crew on a boat is not difficult. It is great to see that the Fun Racers have achieved this by limiting crew to single handing or to family units – well done!

As the pandemic in the USA continues to unfold, I would like to express sincere thanks to Kathie King

### Special Double Issue

MD, our Fleet Surgeon, and to Joel Berberich MD, Chair of the Medical Support Committee for keeping us updated with new and developing information, and thus allowing us to make proactive decisions. Remember to wear a mask and to remain socially distant. We still do not know how long the tunnel may be, but I believe there is a glimmer of light to be seen at the end.

I have been delighted at the way “Quarantini Saturdays” have been adopted by the club and indeed across the Harbour. We even have friends at Blackbeard Sailing Club and Northwest Creek Marina participating. All this is great. The idea of “Quarantini Saturdays” allows us to stay in contact with neighbors and friends, to get us out of our houses and to greet our neighbors. I find that the days of the week are all blending together and by having an event on one day of the week, we have something that fixes at least one day in the week. Please make sure that all your neighbors and friends know that they are welcome to participate. They do not need to be a member of FHYC, to own a boat or to be on the water. FHYC is sponsoring this event as a community support

activity. Also, remember to send your photographs and Quarantini recipes to me for inclusion in our collection. We are planning prizes for the best photographs and recipes although exactly how we will do this is a little unclear at present. A collage of some of the best photographs received to date is included in this issue of the *Semaphore*.

The other big news is that the boat ramp in the Inner Harbour at Shoreline is open. This is great news for all those with smaller boats and was one of the recommendations from the Task Force following the Mutiny sinking incident in 2018. Now, follow-up is needed to ensure that all the concomitant actions receive attention.

As life continues, we are starting to tentatively plan for events in the fall. Commissioning Day is planned for early September followed a week or two later by the Wilkerson and Oar races. We shall develop the schedule further and will publish it once it is in reasonable shape. This will replace the schedule in the Yearbook. As always, we shall be subject to the vagaries of the weather in executing the plan.

Finally, get out on your boats, enjoy walking or cycling in the Harbour and take care of your health (at a distance).

*Ritchie Thomson, Commodore*

### What's Happening

May	Su	3	Race: Dinghy/Sunfish	
	Tu	5	Race: Neuse River Fun	
	Mo	11	Board Meeting - Video Session.....	1600
	Tu	12	Race: Neuse River Fun	
	Th	14	General Meeting - Video Session.....	1930
	Fr	15	Educatio;n Seminar - Video Session.....	0900
			“Handling Abnormals and Emergencies on the Water”	
	Su	17	Race” Dinghy/Sunfish	
	Tu	19	Race: Neuse River Fun	
	Tu	26	Race: Neuse River Fun	
	Su	31	Race: Dinghy/Sunfish	

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

**Deadline for next issue is noon, Monday, May 18, 2020**

Delivery is Saturday, May 30,, 2020

## Dream Boat Part One

*All boats have one thing in common: they are, were, or will be the fulfillment of someone's dream, and between dream and fulfillment lies an exceptional story. This is a tale of one dream boat.*

In 1978 I was an independent long-haul trucker. I had put myself through college learning to drive tractor-trailers during summer vacations. After graduation in 1972, I continued in the trucking business and within a couple of years had saved up enough to make a down payment on a tractor of my own. Newly married, I had college loans, rent, tractor payments, trailer payments, insurance payments, car payments, and everything else my shoulders could carry. It was an adventurous life, full of the excitement of the open road, the sadness of leaving home, the homecomings, the tales to tell and the money to be gambled and won on every load. Crossing the continent, delivering shipments, to reach the sea on the other side. On layovers and spare time, I visited every harbor from Sitka to San Diego, Boca to Belfast, and Corpus Christi to Key West. There were favorite places like the tavern in Tiburon where I could sit and watch the sailboats on San



*By Tom Renner  
Look for Parts 2 and 3  
in Future Semaphore issues*

Francisco Bay, sunset rays filling the saloon, turning the varnished oak into honey. I had no idea then as to why I chose these places, other than it felt right. I found beauty and solace in the grace of sailboats on the sea. I had the only 63-foot truck in the parking lot of this highbrow bar; nevertheless, there I sat, watching the sailboats become shadows as the sun sank into the Pacific.

It was the call of the sea, I guess. No one in my entire family tree ever sailed or owned a boat. I did not even know anyone who owned a boat. I did not think I would ever afford one. I simply wanted to be out on the sea. Then one day I answered that call in an instant, seeing a small double ended sloop from the corner of my eye as I drove past a boatyard, realizing I could probably afford that one. The purchase of the pretty, little, sixteen-foot, maroon Nordica meant that my travels were no longer confined to the land, and that my adventures would no longer be limited by the coast. I could keep going. In my eyes, that little sloop was sixty feet long, stout and brave enough to voyage the seas. My horizons were now limitless, and it felt that my heart had found a home.

I did not know that people cruised, sailing their own boats to every corner of the world. It was Nina, my wife, who suggested that we sail our little boat to another harbor and sleep at anchor overnight. What an excitement to have

this come to us as an original idea.

Somewhere in those early years we were introduced to a magazine for cruisers. My wife and I relished each story and I stayed up nights reading advertisements from bilge pumps to binnacles. Then, in the third or fourth issue, I saw a black and white picture of a double ended ketch, close-hauled and galloping across the waves, pointed to the gray horizon.

It was a magnificent yacht, far beyond our means but not beyond our imagination. I could feel it rise and fall under my feet. I could feel the salt air in my face. I could feel its wheel in my hands. I tore out that advertisement and took it with me everywhere that I went. Taped to the wall in the sleeper of my Kenworth, it would warm my spirit when I would lay down to rest. Whether driving through the unbearable Wyoming winter, the merciless heat of the Mojave Desert, or other challenge to be endured, at day's end I was rewarded by spending time with the picture, dreaming of my future, knowing I was one day closer to it.

The builder of these boats was in Long Beach, CA, which was near where I tried to terminate each trip to the west coast. I knew I had no business to be there, as the yachts were well outside my wallet. But by then I knew to follow my heart, trust my curiosity, and have some faith in my ability. I had graduated from college with a degree in Philosophy, chose to live an adventurous life, found my way into the trucking business, figured out how to buy my own tractor trailer and was so far successful. Maybe there were some answers there. So why not go to Long Beach?

### **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](mailto:fhycsemaphore@gmail.com)

### **No Computer? Let us Know!**

We are assessing our computer/electronic device friendly situation with our members.. **If you do not own a computer or communicate electronically**, please contact Ed Klebaur at 252-633-6264 or if you are able to email, send a message to Ed at [ekj44@suddenlink.net](mailto:ekj44@suddenlink.net). Thank you!



## Coronavirus Update

*The text below is from the information provided by Fleet Surgeon Kathie, King, MD at the Virtual General Meeting on Thursday, April 9, 2020. With the statistics ever changing, this can be used as a benchmark to compare with the current status.*

We've got good news and bad news about the coronavirus.

Let's get the bad news over with first: the US Surgeon General predicts that this week, the week between Palm Sunday and Easter, the week of Passover, will be "the saddest week in most Americans' lives."

The good news is that the rise in numbers of cases in Spain, Italy, and NYC are slowing down. Our social distancing efforts are beginning to pay off: experts say that it takes 2-3 weeks for the impact of social distancing to decrease the rate of rise in numbers of cases. Governor Cooper declared a state of emergency, closed schools, and issued a stay-at-home order from March 30 until April 29. NC is 23rd from the top of the list of states with coronavirus cases, and eastern NC represents about 10% of the NC cases. There are cases of coronavirus at Carolina East now.

Tonight, I will review the symptoms of coronavirus, and discuss prevention, treatment, and the likely path ahead.

The best-known symptoms of coronavirus are fever  $>100.4$ , dry cough, and shortness of breath. Other symptoms include sore throat, nasal congestion, red eyes, and loss of smell or taste. Symptoms may mimic seasonal allergies, and up to half of people who test positive for the virus have no symptoms. People are contagious before feeling ill, and viral shedding after the illness may persist for weeks. Symptoms usually resolve in 2-3 weeks.

Drug regimens are being tested and used in the most critically ill patients. Some drugs have serious side effects and should not be used to prevent COVID-19 (ex., hydrochloroquine has a rare but fatal side effect). The earliest that a vaccine will be available is 12 months, and could be as long as 18 months.

On April 4 the CDC recommended wearing a cloth face-covering in public to reduce the spread of disease by people who are infected but asymptomatic. Cloth masks can be made at home by folding bandanas or other material, or by sewing. Medical grade masks should be saved for healthcare workers. Please don't relax your other precautions because you feel safer when wearing a mask!

We see the light at the end of a very long tunnel but cannot let down our guard. This is our reality: cases in the US have increased since the first case appeared January 21; this increased to 35,000 on March 23, and to 368,000 on April 7. More than 11,000 people have died. We are not at the peak yet. As the US peaked after China and Europe, NC will probably peak after NYC and other current hotspots. There are shortages of personal protective equipment for healthcare workers, and staff are becoming sick and burned-out. This week NC health experts predict that there will be a shortage of hospital beds for projected coronavirus victims if stay-at-home restrictions are lifted on April 29.

Our job is to stay well so we have enough resources to care for those who are the most severely ill. The stay-at-home orders will have to be relaxed systematically so we can moderate the additional peaks of illness when we all resume our usual activities.

*Kathie King, MD  
Fleet Surgeon*





## Books Ahoy!

The April, 2020 edition of "Cruising World" magazine (pages 20-21) has an interesting article about boat designer, L Francis Herreshoff. The FHYC library has recently added two books about this designer, and one is a beautiful photographic inspection of his work. They were donated by Bill and Sherry Pendleton. As the article states, "It's always worthwhile to study the art of a great artist and learn what we can about how he created that art." Thanks for the timely donation.

Also, the library is posting a photo of the month for your pleasure. It is hung on the wall directly across from the entrance which is right next to the library index/catalogue. So...when the POA opens the activity building and you are able to visit the library again, be sure to take a look at these two books and the photo!

*Mary Grosser, Library*

## Where the Burgee Flies



*Past Copmmodore Rob and Chris Skrotsky  
Cape Horn - March, 2020*

## Words from Our Fleet Chaplain

Several years ago Ellen and I were sailing near dusk along an unwelcoming coast when we found that our expected anchorage was not viable, and we would have to sail through the night. It was not our first overnight, nor our last. But I am reminded of it as a challenge met. In the darkness, everything seems different. Small lights take on huge significance; it gets cold; you feel very alone even with the next watch asleep below; your mind wanders; your senses don't tell you how long the dark will last; but, another ship in the distance reminds you that you are not alone;. Then, you see a bit of pink that grows into the warm glow of daybreak, and everything changes.

With the carona virus changing our lives, I feel like we are in a symbolic darkness as we work through this part of our journey in life. No one can accurately predict the course of this worldwide pandemic. Many activities are curtailed. Answers and directions can be variable. Even worse, many of our normal supports for dealing with life's challenges are altered, but not eliminated. Family and friends have always been helped by the comfort of one another, the healing presence of community. This time seems different but not impossible. Like the rising sun, we know there will be another, better day.

Our challenge is to usher in that better day by taking care of ourselves, and helping others (without endangering ourselves or others). Exercise. Unglue from news nonstop and instead use that time to meditate/pray/relax. Become creative to restore community and connect with others near and far. Use as much as possible the amazing communication resources of our electronic age. Try out some of the fun ideas your FHYC Board is coming up with. Remember that in helping others we are helped. Most importantly, we must assure that Social (physical) Distancing does not become true isolation.

And, if at times you feel you are in darkness, remember "...I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God." (Romans 8)

*Fleet Chaplain Bill Beery*



## New Members

Thanks to technology, April brought us our first online video conference meeting and because of this we were lucky to welcome a new enthusiastic boating couple to our membership!

Jim and Amanda Dobson moved to Fairfield Harbour from Reno Nevada, and their home is on Bucco Reef Road. Their sponsors are Kim and Rob Tarkenton and Kathie and Doug King. Amanda works full time as a Nurse and Jim works part time at the Harbour Point Golf Club. They enjoy outdoor sports including boating, fishing, and golf and have already joined in many community activities. They own three boats - a Blue Water 20 foot power boat named *Blue II* and a Tracker 14 foot fishing boat named *MAC*. They also have recently purchased a 40 foot Mainship Trawler named *Celebration* from club members Ray and Andrea Bauer.

For a Committee, the Dobsons have both chosen Hospitality.

We are excited that they chose to join our vibrant club despite these complicated times. Please welcome them aboard when you see them at our next meeting, online, on the water, or at other club activities when they resume.

*Pam Miller and Paula Phipps,  
Membership Co-Chairs*

## A Landlubbers Dream



*Norman and Yvonne Meissner*

I had a dream, but as they say, be careful what you wish for.

My dream was to meet a "sailor man" and possibly travel along that blue highway. But then reality sets in, and you know, that you might never get this sailing thing down right. For one, at fifty, one doesn't do well to take up the notion that you could possibly become the mate he had always wished for. Your sailor man might teach you about which way the wind lies, but terms like halyards, sheets, luffing and beating are understood but often confused: port and starboard, red on right returning to port or what side we have to pull in the jib is no problemo. But grabbing the wrong lines when docking, or reversing onto your dinghy when my captain is throwing out the anchor is a learning curve with sometimes a disastrous outcome.

With March winds blowing and with a good day of sailing behind us, we reluctantly headed back toward our dock at the end of a canal. First, I managed to crimp the fuel line when I closed a locker. "Now how many times have I mentioned this!!!" Dugh!!!

We set anchor in our skinny canal with our dock only a few yards away and restarted the motor.

"Now as I pull up the anchor, take us out of here and we'll dock as perfectly as we always do." "Yes Captain!!"

OMG! As the anchor releases from it's murky bottom the boat moves a little closer to the sea wall, I turn up the speed with no result and turn it up some more in an effort to make the boat move, In a panic I shout for help too late, as I drive the boat straight into the neighbor's small boat. Oh my!

I am thankful that we and our 26 foot Tanzer are OK and the repair on the ganoe is small. The trip was nice and sunny and I am sure that in due course the frost on my sailor man's lips will defrost too.

For this captain and his mate there is little hope of making their dreams come true. Maybe close, but nowhere near perfect!!!!

So, how much salt does it take to pickle a blonde?

*Yvonne Meissner*

## If You See Something, Say Something

...A message from the Community Manager

As residents of Fairfield Harbour we need to do a modicum of self-policing to ensure that our Harbour is kept safe and secure. If you see something or even have suspicions, please do not hesitate to call the Craven County Sheriff's Department at 252-633-2357.

With the opening of the boat ramp in the Inner Harbour, this becomes even more important. If you suspect something is amiss, see unacceptable behavior or someone who should not be there, call law enforcement.

*Jennifer Gudaitis, Fairfield Harbour Community Manager*



**Corona Sunrise**  
A refreshing drink that combines  
tequila and beer for a delicious  
Corona Cocktail!  
1.5 oz. tequila  
2 oz. Grenadine  
2 oz. orange juice  
orange slice  
1/2 bottle Corona Extra

**Birx Law Libation**  
2 oz. Hennessy or quality brandy  
1 oz. white Creme de Menthe  
- Don't use Green Creme De Menthe or  
drink will resemble Dismal Swamp!  
Pour over ice, swirl and enjoy!

**The Quarantini Blues**  
Take 1 16-oz. glass to start with  
1 1/2 oz. vodka  
1 1/2 oz. Blue Curaçao  
Add ice to the cup  
Fill the rest of cup with  
lemonade or limeade  
"Enjoy!"  
Don and Louise

**Knillittini Cocktails**  
A Knight-Litke drink  
contents unknown

**Kir Royale Italiano**  
1/4 oz. Creme de Cassis  
3 oz. Prosecco the Italian bit)  
Ritchie

**The Foxy Fauci**  
You don't make the drink,  
the drink makes you!  
3 parts Prosecco or sparkling wine  
1 part Campari or aperitif  
Ice  
"Pour and Enjoy!"

**Traditional Martini**  
The best quarantini recipe is a  
traditional martini:  
3 parts gin  
1 part sweet vermouth  
It can be shaken or stirred but is  
best if put into a chilled glass  
(Unless you are James Bond and  
then it must be shaken)  
John



**Gin and Tonic**  
The original health tonic  
for scurvy and malaria  
For each tall chilled glass add:  
2 (or more) oz. high quality gin  
(Mother Earth or Bombay)  
Squeeze of lime  
Two cubes of ice (no more)  
Top up with tonic  
Enjoy!

**A Toast:**  
There are good ships  
and wood ships,  
ships that sail the sea,  
but the best ships are friendships.  
May they always be!  
Arne

**Your Adult Beverage**  
1 1/2 to 2 oz. vodka or gin  
3/4 oz. citrus (lemon or lime juice)  
1/2 to 3/4 oz. chilled simple syrup  
(boil equal parts sugar & water to make)  
Shake with a bit of ice  
Strain into a cocktail glass  
"Raise your glass and enjoy!"  
Lois

**Painkiller**  
Legend says that Nelson was pickled in Pusser's  
rum after he was killed and returned  
to England in a rum cask. Lynn holds the Pusser's  
Triangle for completing the  
painkiller circuit in the BVI's  
2-4 oz. of Pusser's Rum (any rum in a pinch)  
4 oz. pineapple juice  
1 oz. Cream of Coconut  
1 oz. orange juice  
Grated fresh nutmeg  
In a cocktail shaker filled with ice add first  
four ingredients and stir. Pour into cocktail  
glasses and top with grated nutmeg.

**Espresso Martini**  
Cook 5 minutes - Makes 2 cocktails  
6 oz. vodka (Luksusowa Polish Potato Vodka is good)  
4 oz. coffee liqueur  
4 oz. brewed espresso, chilled  
2 oz. Creme de Cacao, white  
6 coffee beans  
Chill 2 martini glasses  
Combine vodka, coffee liqueur, espresso and creme de  
cacao in a cocktail shaker with ice and shake untill  
chilled and frothy. Strain into the chilled glasses and  
garnish with 3 coffee beans per drink





# Quarantini Celebrations





## RACING AND CRUISING

