

# The Semaphore

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



Vol. 37 No. 8 35° 04' N., 076° 58' W. September 2020



## From the Commodore

The COVID-19 infection rate in Craven County continues to increase and more deaths are being reported. With the Club's more vulnerable population, we need to continue to take precautions – especially mask wearing and social distancing. The Board has approved an updated Approach to COVID-19 for FHYC, which you'll find on page 3.

The end point, as I see it, is when we get to herd immunity through an effective and safe vaccine. There are several promising vaccines in large-scale (phase 3) trials at present, and hopefully we will have an approved vaccine by the end of the year. Then, once we are all vaccinated, we can go back to the new (or is it the old?) normal.

This is an extremely frustrating time for all of us, and we shall do the best we can to get everyone through this difficult period. It was especially disappointing that we have cancelled all our indoor entertainment activities for the remainder of the year. We are working to find outdoor activities to replace them. If you have a suggestion

for an activity, please let a member of the Board know.

At our August virtual meeting, we had an excellent review of boating legislation in North Carolina by our speaker, Scott Ingle, a Wildlife Law Enforcement Officer based in New Bern. The wildlife operation also includes boating enforcement.

At the meeting, we also announced the winners of the MASKerade design competition. See page 4 for the details. Congratulations to all the winners. In addition, we were able to show the photograph of the month and the runner up. Both are superb.

Some boating activities are continuing through the heat of the summer. One must admire the sailors who go out in these hot and humid conditions. Roll on the lower temperatures and humidity of fall!

Saturday Quarantinis are continuing as a community activity to provide some support and succor during the pandemic. If my count is correct, we have had 19 events to date over the 20 weeks, excluding the 4th of July for obvious reasons. Although we have received a lot of recipes, we are only publishing one each week.

As a reminder, you can expect to receive a membership renewal email and attachment in September. Please print out the attachment, mark any changes, and return it with your check. The renewal emails are being sent to all email addresses we have for you, but you only need to print out and return the attachment once.

Finally, stay safe and stay healthy, wear your mask.

*Ritchie Thomson,  
Commodore*

## *What's Happening*

Sep	TBD	On-the-Hook
Tu	1	Race: Neuse River Fun
Sa	5	Quarantini..... 1700
Mo	7	Board Meeting (ac).....0900
Tu	8	Race: Neuse River Fun
Th	10	General Meeting.....1930
Fr	11	Education: Seminar.....0900
Sa	12	Quarantini.....1700
Su	13	Race: Dinghy/Sunfish
Tu	15	Race: Neuse River Fun
Sa	19	Quarantini.....1700
Su	20	Race: Dinghy/Sunfish
Tu	22	Race: Neuse River Fun
Sa	26	Quarantini.....1700
Su	27	Race: Dinghy/Sunfish
Tu	29	Race: Neuse River Fun

(cc)=Community Center, (rs)=Red Sail Park, (ac)=Activities Center  
**Deadline for next issue is noon, Monday, September 14, 2020**  
 A digital copy will be delivered via FHYC email blast on or before  
 Saturday, September 26, 2020

## Going Viral

What more can we say about coronavirus, the kind that causes COVID-19? We're all sick of it: tired of staying home, tired of limitations on businesses, and tired of not seeing friends and family with health issues or travel restrictions by other states. We know what we're supposed to do: wear masks; wait 6 feet away from others; and wash our hands frequently. Enough said? Maybe; maybe not.

We've all seen videos that "go viral." Now we're seeing how that term got started. Has anyone ever seen the spread of chicken pox before there was a vaccine? Or rotavirus (think kids with diarrhea), norovirus (cruise ships), giardia (campers), or the common cold (rhinovirus, or, you got it, other coronaviruses)?

The first diagnosed US case of COVID-19 was on January 21. It took 98 days to reach 1 million cases (April 28); 43 days to reach 2 million cases (June 10); 28 days to reach 3 million cases (July 8); 15 days to reach 4 million cases (July 23); and now, slowing down but still rampant: 17 days to reach 5 million cases (August 8). More than one-third of new US COVID cases occurred during July!

Craven County's active cases are on a similarly dramatic rise as shown on the chart below.

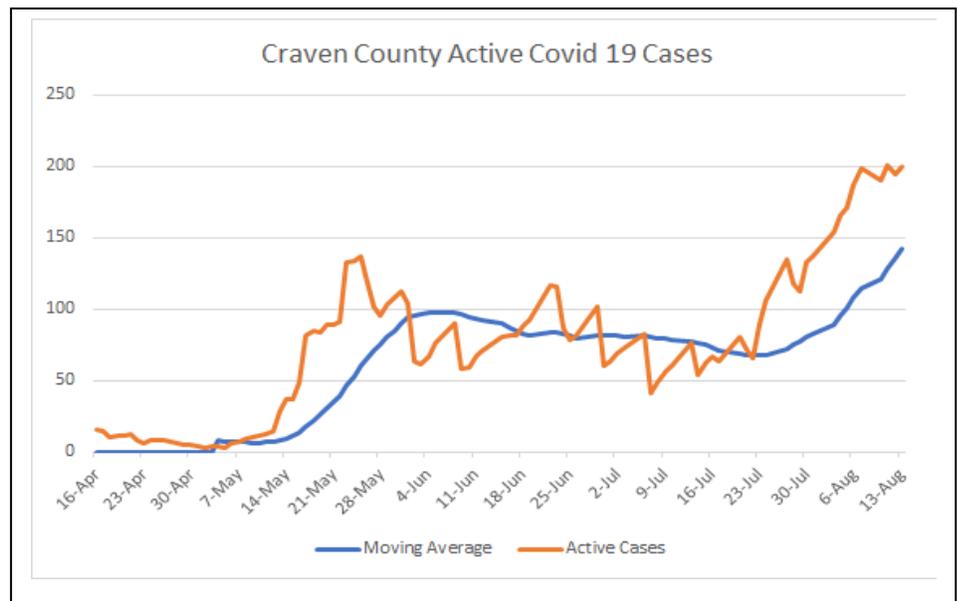
The Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) predicts 295,011 COVID deaths by December 1. Today, August 9, we're at 165,276. Their estimates are based on the estimated 50% of the population that presently wears masks as suggested. IHME believes that if 95% of the US population wore masks, we would have only 225,000 total COVID deaths by December 1. The CDC states that

mandates and soft limitations on indoor crowds are not enough to control this pandemic."

What can we do? Follow the 3 W's (Wear masks; Wait 6 feet; Wash your hands) and encourage others when they do likewise. Pay attention to CDC and NCDHHS recommendations. Hope for continued progress towards a successful vaccine launch.

Stay safe!

*Kathie King, MD  
Fleet Surgeon*



### 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)

All-Causes Deaths in the March 15 to July 25 time interval is 200,700 above the past 3 years average, with 145,000 deaths attributed to COVID.

Michael Osterholm PhD, MPH of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy, University of Minnesota, states "in the next 6 months- what we have seen so far will seem like just a warm-up to a greater catastrophe . . . with schools and colleges starting, stores and businesses reopening, and the beginning of the indoor heating season." He states that we could "crush the virus" with a more restrictive lockdown, for up to 6 weeks, to decrease positive cases below 1 per 100,000 people (we're currently at 17 cases per 100,000 people). He further states, "masking



## COVID-19 - FHYC Approach

The COVID-19 pandemic shows little sign of calming down or leveling off. This is of great concern given the nature of the membership of FHYC, and the number of members who are in at-risk categories. We feel that we must continue to take proactive steps to protect the health and well-being of our members.

It appears likely that we will not be able to relax until we have a vaccine in place, and we have all (or at least most of us) been vaccinated against COVID-19.

Specifically:

- FHYC wishes to protect vulnerable people in the community by limiting spread of COVID-19 within our community.
- We will strongly recommend following the precautions outlined by the CDC and NC DHHS. In particular:
  - wear mask in public,
  - stay 6ft (one fathom) apart, and
  - wash hands frequently.
- We will not hold any social events where social distancing cannot be achieved.
- We strongly recommend that all crew on individual boats at FHYC-sponsored events (cruising or racing) be members of the same household.
- Individual boat owners and skippers are responsible for outcomes for their crew and may choose crew for their own boats.

*Ritchie Thomson, Commodore  
Adrian Vergot, Vice Commodore  
Barbara Robinson, Rear Commodore  
Kathie King, MD, Fleet Surgeon*



## 2020 John Walsh Memorial Oar Race

After being postponed due to COVID-19, the 2020 Oar Race is scheduled for October 10. The race is open to anyone on the river. Safety concerns limit the crew to members of the same household. The Notice of Race (NOR) and Sailing Instructions (SI) are posted on [www.fhyc.us](http://www.fhyc.us).

This year's race commemorates 80 years since 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 called, 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, about 22 miles, which is half the distance between Dunkirk and Ramsgate.

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. The registration fee is \$25.

If you have any questions, please call Regatta Chair Georgie Jackson at 252-637-9781 or send her an email at [jackson.jy@gmail.com](mailto:jackson.jy@gmail.com).

*Georgie Jackson,  
Regatta Chair*

## Keep Sea Turtles Safe During Nesting Season

*This article is based on excerpts from an NC Wildlife Commission's July email update.*

From May until September, female sea turtles come ashore and lay their eggs on more than 300 miles of beach in North Carolina. By following a few simple guidelines, people can help protect these endangered reptiles.

Because sea turtles nest mostly at night, beachfront property owners and those renting beachfront property are encouraged to turn off their outdoor lights and close the blinds/drapes after dark. In lieu of turning off the lights, they can redirect lights, so they are not visible on the beach. People on the beach after dark should refrain from using flashlights or cellphones. Bright, artificial light can deter females from coming on to shore to nest and can disorient sea turtle hatchlings, causing them to wander inland, where they often die of dehydration or predation.

Beachgoers should also remove beach equipment when they leave. These items can prevent nesting attempts and prevent hatchlings from reaching the ocean. Other tips include:

- Fill in all holes in the sand at the end of the day.
- Pick up all your trash when you leave.
- Dispose of any fishing line.
- Do not build beach campfires during the nesting season.
- If you encounter a turtle at night, remain quiet, still and at a distance.





Best Humorous Mask  
Bill Andrews



Best Overall  
Lloyd Moore



Best Elegant Mask  
Erin Vergot



Best Boating/Sea Creature Mask  
Pam Miller

## FHYC MASKerade

In August, FHYC sponsored a mask decorating contest for its members. We had 18 entries competing in five categories. Judging the winners was not easy. It was obvious everyone put a lot of time and effort into their masks. We certainly have many talented folks in our yacht club!

Congratulations to all the winners!  
And thanks to all who entered!

And, as promised, the identity of our Mystery Masked Judge is Lois Andrews. Thanks Lois and Kathie King for being judges!

*Janice Myler*



Best Kid's Mask  
Orla Thomson-Jones

## Gail Schiller's Very Special Birthday!

The year was 1940. Gas was 11 cents a gallon, chicken was 55 cents a pound, couples danced to "In the Mood" by Glenn Miller, and of course World War II was going on.

Famous people born in 1940 were John Lennon, Ringo Starr, Frankie Avalon, and Fairfield's own Gail

Schiller. On Sunday August 16, Gail's friends and neighbors organized a small backyard birthday party and a "drive-by" celebration of about 15 vehicles including bikes, vintage cars, and convertibles. Neighbors Kathie King, Lyn Hurst, and Kim Tarkenton planned the surprise party. Gail and Herm were joined by their good friend Sue Kleeman who had moved here at the same time they did 23 years ago. Gail and Herm had originally planned a large celebration at the Community

Center, but due to the pandemic this could not take place. Herm Schiller repurposed yard signs to read "Honk! Toot!" and "Gail's 80" which she discovered when she went to get the morning paper. So, she suspected the surprise. A card shower was also organized, and Gail received over fifty cards and well wishes, and her birthday was announced at the monthly virtual Yacht Club meeting. Kathie King baked a cake; husband Doug decorated it; and Lyn Hurst designed a candle

bundle to hold 80 candles. Kim Tarkenton designed the “Queen’s chair” with balloons and ornamental dressing including a crown and sash.

All in all, it was a grand celebration, pandemic style, complete with social distancing. As it has been said, “we are all in this together” and members of Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club felt like they really were together again in spirit wishing Gail a happy 80th birthday. Thanks to all who participated and made this event happen.

*Elaine Berberich*



## Quarantini Delivery Service!

