

The Semaphore

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



Vol. 37 No. 9

35° 04' N., 076° 58' W.

October 2020



Commodore's Update

Another month has passed: the weather shows some signs of cooling as we move into the "season of mist and mellow fruitfulness." It also means we are into the height of the hurricane season. As I write, Tropical Storms (TS) (or are they Hurricanes) Rene and Paulette are churning up in the mid-Atlantic and Sally is over Florida heading for the Gulf Coast. Two further Storms may be forming off the Cape Verde Islands with the Atlantic "tropical conveyor belt" is in full operation. We were lucky with TS or Hurricane Isaias which made landfall south of us and gave us a wind and rain event with nothing too serious. It was good to have a bit of hurricane preparation early before a significant one hits or gives us a glancing blow on the east.

Stay prepared!

Many plans are in place for the fall boating season. The regatta folks have a full schedule with Sunfish, Labor Day and Fun Racing. Our racing major event this fall is the postponed Oar Race which will take place on 10th October with a pursuit start. PC Doug King is PRO for this event.

The cruising group has so many cruises planned; it will be a challenge to fit them all in. However, since the weather is generally fair into mid-November, so we have a good chance.

On land, the Entertainment Committee is not letting the cancelation of our major events impact them. They are coming up with other events to replace them or hold them in modified fashion. Prime among these is the Appreciation Dinner which will have a new and different format this year--watch your email for more on this.

Dave Phipps' education seminar, How to Use Your Marine Radio was informative and very well received. There are many other events being planned for the autumn from Golf Outings, to "Music over the Harbour," to "FHYC Olympics."

So many people are stepping forward to organize events showing the strength of the club in these difficult times.

I am amazed that I have got so far without mentioning Covid-19 but I cannot end without a little on this topic. Covid-19 infections continue in Craven County and have plateaued at quite a high level of a little under 200 per 100,00 population. There is also a report of infection on a live-aboard at Northwest Creek Marina. We must maintain our vigilance and not let our guard down. It has been a long time since last March and the pandemic will most likely continue until we get a safe and effective vaccine and are all vaccinated. In the meantime, wear a mask, stay one fathom apart and keep washing your hands.

Stay safe!

Ritchie Thomson, Commodore

What's Happening

Oct	Th	1 Race: Ensign Race 2	
	Sa	3 Quarantini	1700
	Su	4 Race: Dinghy/Sunfish	
	Mo	5 Board Meeting	0900
	Tu	6 Race: Neuse River Fun	
	Th	8 Race: Ensign Race 3	
	Th	8 Virtual General Meeting	
	Fr	9 Education: Seminar	
	Sa	10 Oar Race	
	Sa	10 Quarantini	1700
	Su	11 Race: Dinghy/Sunfish	
	Tu	13 Race: Neuse River Fun	
	Th	15 Race: Ensign Race 4	
	Sa	17 Quarantini	1700
	Su	18 Race: Dinghy/Sunfish	
	Th	22 Virtual Fall Appreciation Event	1930
	Sa	24 Quarantini	1700
	Sa	31 Halloween Quarantini	1700

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

Deadline for next issue is noon, Monday, October 12, 2019

Email Delivery and Web Site Posting by Saturday, October 31, 2019

Sunfish Races Resume

Sunfish racing resumed on Sunday Sept 13 in the Inner Harbour. Sunfish are 14 feet long with one sail, and were developed by Alcott around 1952. In Fairfield Harbour, the boats have only one sailor on board – this works well for social distancing.

The seven boats participating were captained by Peter Budzynkiewicz, Mike Foster, John Jackson, DJ Moore, Jerry Rezab, George Sechrist, and Ed Thompson. DJ Moore took two first places and George Sechrist took the third first place. The three races began at 2:00 pm and ended about 4:00 pm.

A big thank you goes out to Joan Wilson who is PRO, and Phil Katz who ran the mark boat in case someone needed help.

Having the races at the Inner Harbour allowed FH folks to come with a lawn chair, a camera, a mask, maybe a beverage to watch, make new friends and visit with some folks they haven't seen for months. Today there were approximately 25 people who watched the races.

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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

Sunfish racing will continue on Sunday afternoons at 2:00 pm until Oct. 25th. Come sit under the trees near where the Old Shore Line once stood.



Attention All Boaters

About two years ago someone ran into Navigation Marker #15 (green) in the canal coming into the Inner Harbour. FHYC has been working with the POA to come up with a suitable replacement but so far we are at an impasse. FHYC feels that, in spite of that, it is extremely important for the safety of our boating community that some sort of TEMPORARY marker be put in place until a new, permanent, marker can be installed.

Therefore FHYC's Maintenance Committee will be installing a large round green buoy with the number 15 to temporarily mark the location of Marker #15. It should be in place the week of September 14. This marker is being installed at the expense of FHYC both in time and money. Hopefully we will be able to come to an agreement with the POA about installing a replacement permanent marker at that location. Thank you Jeri Rezab and crew.

Barb Robinson, Rear Commodore

New Members

Despite the unique situation of meeting **ONLY** online our wonderful club is continuing to grow!

We are excited to introduce our newest members, Andrew and Tracie Underhill, to the Yacht Club community! They come to us with enthusiastic recommendation from their sponsors Ralph Azersky and Diane McKillop and Russ and Barb Robinson.

Tracie and Andrew Underhill originally hail from Bath, England and currently reside and work in Virginia. One of their hobbies is home renovation and they will gradually do a "makeover" on their "new" Fairfield Harbor house on Salt Cay Court.

Although recent boating experience is limited, Andrew is renewing his sailing passion from his youth and Tracie is a new entrant to sailing but is looking to learn. They currently own a 33.5' Hunter named "Better Together".



Both Tracie and Andrew have selected the Information Processing Committee since they are not yet full time NC residents.



Crystal Coast Grand Prix

Erin and I attended the Crystal Coast Grand Prix that was recently hosted in Morehead City. The reason we went is because on Friday we saw Miss Geico being trailered down I70 en-route to the event. I have always had a soft spot in my heart for the thunder produced by vintage muscle cars, but all of them are dwarfed by Miss Geico's 3,300 horses, and hence we made a pilgrimage here on Sunday to see her race in person.

Social distancing was easily accomplished due to the "spread out" nature of the event. We started our afternoon at the "pit crew" location in Moorhead where we got to see the crews prepping and starting their boats

for the races, but unfortunately the course was out in the Intracoastal and Sugarloaf Island blocked the view. All the boats anchored out along the course had one heck of a view, and if it is hosted again in the years to come I recommend it be placed on the Cruising Committee's short list. Since our landlocked view of the main races was blocked and we were basically "land lubbers," options for a good vantage point were limited, but I had an idea that I hoped not too many people would think of. The far end of Fort Macon was on nearly the exact opposite shore of the Intracoastal but still directly adjacent to the far end curve of the race. And yep, it paid off; at that location the beach was nearly empty, and we got to see this section of the race unobstructed. The thunder of the engines was an experience not to be missed.

Adrian Vergot



Quarantini Contest Winners



When life hands you a pandemic, make a Quarantini . . .

. . . And, make them they did!

Twenty-five members of the Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club joined the Quarantini Contest, had some fun, got creative and sent in some very entertaining stories, recipes, and photos. The rules were simple:

- #1. Original recipe
- #2. Creative visual presentation
- #3. Inspiration and story

I Will be sharing their cocktails and stories with all of you every Saturday when I feature and post one of them as the Quarantini of the night.

Thanks to all who joined the party.

Lois Andrews



Lois Andrews delivering the Quarantini basket to Grand Prize winner Craig Myler for "Grandma's Thong."



1st runner up: George and Lynn Stateham for "The Rendezvous Cocktail"



2nd runner up: Janice Myler for "Sailors Wine Lantern"

A Mushroom Brush

Years ago when we lived in Minnesota and sailed in the Apostle Islands, the following occurred. Generally, one weekend a summer I would take three friends to the boat. A way to get away from Georgie, kids, etc. I had a few “regular” crew but each year there would be at least one new person.

One year I had agreed to have Pat, an Optometrist who had his own boat on Lake Pepin, on the Mississippi, and Les, a Lutheran minister, who had a Sunfish. The three of us got together to decide who should be the fourth. We knew that Jerry, a dentist, wanted to sail, so even though he had never sailed, I decided to ask him. He jumped at the chance. The date was about a week and half away.

I told the guys that since I was providing the boat I expected them to decide who was bringing each meal, and that I would have some wine on board, but if they wanted more, or a choice of beverages to bring it. They all said fine.

I would arrive at the boat early Friday afternoon, and the others would get there about 4:00. That would give us time to leave the marina and get to a good Friday night anchorage in the Apostle Islands. We would return on Sunday afternoon.

A few days before we were set to go I got a call from Jerry. He asked, “Do you have a mushroom brush on board?” I responded by saying, “I don’t want to appear too dumb but what is a mushroom brush?”

He explained to me that it is used to clean mushrooms because “we all know where mushrooms are grown.” Again, I said, “Nope.” He then proceeded to ask if I had an omelet pan on board. I said I had a frying pan, would that do? He was not sure. I also explained that we cooked on an alcohol stove. It was pressurized but was a far cry from what he was probably used to.

The next day I saw Pat and asked if they had decided who was bringing each meal, and why had Jerry asked about a mushroom brush of all things.

Pat laughed and said, “Don’t you know, Jerry is an excellent cook. He has been to Disney for a week-long cooking school.” I said I had no clue. Pat then added that he and Les had each given Jerry enough money for their share of the meals, and Jerry was doing all the meal planning, shopping, and would do all the cooking on board. I was a bit startled to hear that.

Friday afternoon arrived. The three traveled together to the boat. Each had one duffel bag, as per previous agreements about clothing, etc. Then Jerry unloaded another bag, an omelet pan, a mushroom brush, lots of other cooking gear. Also a large cooler of food.

We left the marina as scheduled. We had beautiful weather, fair winds, clear skies, etc. for the weekend, and I have never eaten better on any boat. Not only did Jerry cook excellent meals, but he also learned a bit about sailing.

The mushroom brush was used not only to clean mushrooms for

omelets, but also to put on top of the steaks we had Saturday night.

John Jackson



FHYC Fun Golf Outing!

On Wednesday, September 30, at 3:30 pm there will be a golf outing specifically for Yacht Club members! It will be at our own Harbour Pointe Golf Club. It will be a nine-hole shotgun start.

The game will be Superball; the course will be set up as all Par 3 holes, with some fun stuff on the greens!! The game will be geared toward us boaters who do not get to the golf course often – if at all! It’s a chance to try something new!!

Cost will be \$15 per person for golf, and \$15 per person for dinner – which would include the meal, dessert, and soft drinks or ice tea. It does not include gratuity. Beer, wine and liquor are available for purchase.

Please sign up by sending an email to Rose Voss-Litke at hgralitke@gmail.com no later than September 25.

Questions – call Rose!

Rose Litke

