

# The Semaphore

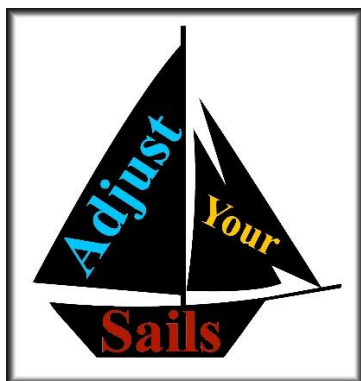
## Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



Vol. 38 No. 1

35° 04' N., 076° 58' W.

February 2021



### Commodore's Update

I would like to enthusiastically welcome all the members of FHYC to 2021! The theme for the first quarter of this year is twofold; "Stay the Course" and "Adjust Sails". FHYC, with past commodore Ritchie Thomson at the helm, proved to the Fairfield Harbour community that, by simply adjusting sails, a club can successfully stick to the course of social distancing and keep a vibrant club itinerary alive. This new year, our Yearbook Committee coordinated with the IT and Membership Committees to get the *2021 Yearbook* compiled for our members. Our Regatta Committee successfully held the New Year's Holiday Series race. Also, the club installed the new 2021 Bridge and Board as follows:

Commodore: Adrian Vergot  
Vice-Commodore: Barb Robinson  
Rear Commodore: David Phipps  
Treasurer: Russ Robinson  
Secretary: Yvonne Meissner

Directors: Phil Katz, Stephen Brockman, Lois Andrews, Peter Budzynkiewicz, and Pam Miller.

Dr. Kathie King will continue to serve as Fleet Surgeon and Dr. Bill Beery will continue to serve as Fleet Chaplain. Ritchie Thomson was recognized for his outstanding service as Commodore during this difficult year.

FHYC is a standard bearer of what a great club should be like. Although we are not out of the inclement weather yet, clear skies are on the horizon and members are already starting vaccinations at the time of this writing. The bridge has conscripted an ad-hoc committee that will advise the board with recommendations on when and how to safely get the club back to normal operations, we simply need to stay the course and adjust our sails for just a bit longer. I am proud to be a member of such a resilient club.

*Adrian Vergot, Commodore*

### Fairfield Harbour's Spirit

The FHYC board is looking at the upcoming year and the activities we can be involved in. Each board member is being asked to come up with an Impromptu. I was thinking about the *Fairfield Harbour's Got Talent* we did last Fall and decided we should do it again. Stay tuned for more information later in the year. If any of you have an idea for an "Impromptu" please let one of the board members know. We would love to hear from you.

We think of talent as playing an instrument, singing, painting, sewing or whatever but we are missing another especially important aspect of our community, of which FHYC is a prominent member. This past year, members have stepped up and been involved in helping others, whether volunteering for committees in the club, donating clothing, food, and money to RCS or providing gifts and money for the Salvation Army Angel Tree Project. As well as our new Commodore dragging us into the world of technology and our Past Commodore with his PowerPoint

### What's Happening

Feb	Sat	6	Fun Race (weather dependent)
	Mon	8	Board Meeting (v).....1700
	Thu	11	General Meeting(v).....1930
		11	NOAA Speaker (v)
	Sat	13	St. Valentines Fun Race

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

**Deadline for next issue is noon, Monday, February 15, 2021.**

A digital copy will be delivered online on or before February 25, 2021.

expertise for the monthly meetings.

Lois Andrews showed us how we can stay in touch through her "Quarantini" adventures. The Festival of Lights, decorated boats, drew as many as 100 people on the shore to wish people Happy Holidays. The updates on the virus by Kathie King and Joel Berberich were all noteworthy. Support for and by the club is always important but especially now and our members stepped up!

This is the SPIRIT of our community. Our spirit is based on experience of age and the willingness to share that experience with others. I just want to thank you all.

*Barb Robinson, Vice Commodore*

### **The Semaphore**

*Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club*

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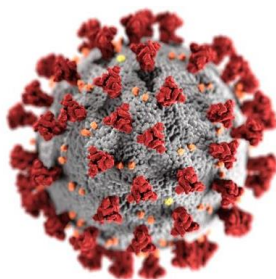
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#### **Deadline**

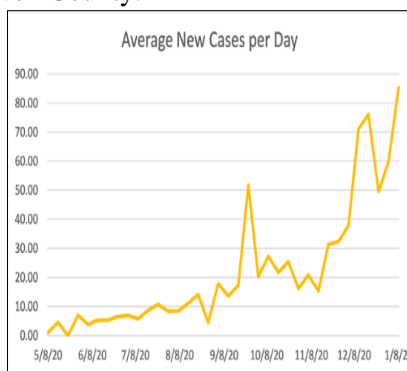
The deadline for receiving articles is 1200 noon on the Monday following the General meeting. Please email articles to [fhycsemaphore@gmail.com](mailto:fhycsemaphore@gmail.com)

## **Covid Update January 17, 2021**



For Covid-19: there's good news and bad news. The bad news first: the US has had 23.8 million cases with 396,000 deaths as of January 17. Currently more than 4,000 people die of Covid each day, and estimates are that we will have more than 500,000 deaths by mid-February.

Experts say that we are near the post-holiday peak in cases, and that hospitalizations and deaths will peak in 4-5 weeks. Also, there are two new variants of Covid-19: B-117 (UK) which is more contagious, and B-1351 (South Africa and Brazil) which may be more contagious, virulent, and resistant to treatment. See below for Craven County:



More contagious means more cases and more pressure on already stretched health care resources.

Now, the GOOD news about coronavirus: vaccines are on the way! Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are being given in New Bern now; they are 90-95% effective and have had no safety issues in 73,000 people during Phase 3 clinical trials. Vaccine production is being ramped up, additional vaccines by Johnson & Johnson and Astra Zeneca are nearly

ready for FDA review, and other companies are developing vaccines.

Vaccines are allocated to states based on population; governors decide priority for receipt of vaccine. This is challenging; there has never been a vaccination program this large (331 million people), these vaccines all require two doses, and coronavirus vaccines have strict requirements for temperature control during transport and storage.

Vaccine priorities in NC as of January 16, 2021:

- Phase 1a Healthcare Covid-frontline workers; Long Term Care residents and employees
- Phase 1b Adults >74 (recent CDC >64; local still >74); frontline essential workers >49
- Phase 1c Health care and frontline essential workers any age
- Phase 2 Adults with high risk of exposure and risk of severe illness
- Phase 3 Students
- Phase 4 Everyone else

You can find \*your\* priority in receiving vaccine by using the vaccine tool in the New York Times; please google "Find Your Place in the Vaccine Line." Four questions (age; county of residence; work status; Covid risks) yield results of how many people in the US, NC, and county are ahead of you in line for a vaccine. Vaccines in Craven county are being administered by the Carolina East and CCHC medical practices, and the Health Department. The new more contagious Covid-19 variant B-117 that is now in the US is even more impetus to accept a vaccine; however, if you have a history of severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis), please discuss with your doctor.

Side effects are expected and signal that your immune system is revving up; you may experience fever, chills, fatigue and/or headache. Experts say that these minor symptoms should resolve within 48 hours and may be treated with Tylenol

(acetaminophen). Some sources recommend not treating minor symptoms until 6 hours after receiving the vaccine so that your immune system is not tamped down by the effects of medication taken for relief.

Vaccines are free, although depending on where administered, may have an administration fee. You will have some degree of immunity after the first vaccine dose; you need the second vaccine to receive best results which will occur about two weeks after your second dose.

We must stay safe until the two-dose regimens are administered in a significant portion of our population (70-90%). Please remember the "Three W's: WEAR a mask if not outside or if outside >6 feet away from a non-household member, WAIT 6 feet apart; and WASH your hands frequently." With these new variants of Covid-19, we need to "double down" on public health measures, including the 3 W's and vaccines.

Hopefully 2021 will be a better year for all of us!

*Kathie King, Fleet Surgeon*

## The book "The Great Lockdown 2020" has arrived!



The book's pages are filled with all the events, memories and smiles that lifted our spirits up and kept at bay the depression, stress, and anxiety during our lockdown. A pandemic was new to us all. We did not know what to expect. How will we ever get through this? When you open this

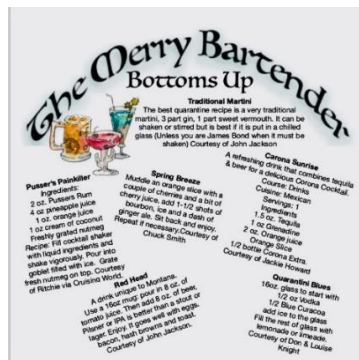
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book, you will see how the tenacity of one small yacht club did just that.

It started with the Quarantini Trail every Saturday night for eight months with recipes for cocktails and stories to match and shouts of cheers to our neighbors.



There were kites flying high, magical skies, whimsical masquerades, Quarantini contests, limericks that made us smile, and talent shows that kept us amused. We had our own Merry Bartender, moments in time, birthday celebrations, cruising and sailing escapes, sunfish in the Harbour, racing, kayaking and an awards ceremony and so much more. All from a distance.



The Great Lockdown is a coffee table memory book of how a community smiled in the face of a pandemic and held hands, virtually!

*Lois Andrews, Board Member*

## New Year's Day Holiday Fun Race

Mother Nature or maybe Father Time played a trick on the Fun racers who came out for the Holiday Race. On New Year's Day rain and wind

caused a postponement. Saturday however dawned with breezes up to 15 mph but by start time was down to 8 mph and then slowly dropped to almost nothing. Ten boats came out for the start but only 8 finished, due to the lack of wind.

The winners with bragging rights were: 1) *Dutch Wind*, 2) *Rampant Lion*, and 3) *Baggywrinkle*. A huge thank you goes out to Doug & Kathie King for doing Committee Boat responsibilities and for being PRO. George & Lynn Stateham, and Dave & Carrie Miller were mark and safety boats. We could not have done it without you!

The next **Holiday Fun Race will be Valentine's Day Race, on Feb. 13.** Call Peter Bud or Ed Thompson for more information.

There will be a mark boat/safety boat training day soon. If you have a small size power boat and would like to be a mark or safety boat, please call, or email me. If you are already a trained mark boat or safety boat, and are available for the Feb 13 race, let me know soon.

*Georgie Jackson, Regatta Chair*

## The Latest from our Roving Reporter



It was reported that a flat barge with a crane atop, sank just southwest of the channel across from the fishing pier. It was **not** a large alligator.

The barge (approximately 20'x30') was being pushed by a small boat at the time. An eyewitness explained that while underway, one corner of the barge dipped beneath the surface allowing a flood of water to

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enter the barge, thus causing it to tip sideways, losing the crane overboard, and both sinking below the surface. Further information revealed that there were two pumps on board to prevent the barge sinking overnight. Two men were involved in this operation, one on the barge and one operating the push boat.

The man on the barge went into the creek but fortunately was rescued unharmed. Some fuel was noted on the surface, but a containment boom was deployed by personnel from North West Creek Marina. The U.S. Coast Guard was notified of the incident.

At the time of this reporting, no recovery has been initiated.

*Steve Hart, FHYC reporter at large  
Bill Jarvis, FHYC photographer*



Raising the barge?????

## At last, a replacement for pyrotechnic flares?

We recently acquired an Orion Electronic SOS Beacon Locator Kit. It claims to be an alternative to traditional pyrotechnic flares for use during the day or night.



Night use comes from a very bright flashing light, the day use from

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an orange distress flag. The light flashes SOS in Morse (di, di, di, da, da, da, di, di, di) although I wonder how many people in this day and age would recognize this morse code.

The signal flashes two times longer than the US Coast Guard continuous run-time requirement (about 50 hours is claimed) This light source remains a full four inches above the waterline if floating. The kit also has SOLAS grade reflective tape at the waterline for extra visibility and an orange distress flag for daytime use.

You have several options for deploying the beacon in an emergency. Drop it overboard and it self-rights and floats. Hold it in your



hand. Its molded-in plastic grips are easy to hold when wet. Alternatively, you can hang it from a visible location on your boat using the top and bottom lanyards.

The kit appears well constructed and durable and meets the US Coast Guard requirements for distress signals for small craft. Although, I would question whether this, or any other light, is visible in bright sunshine. Under these conditions, you are probably better with smoke or a signal mirror.

One huge advantage is that electronic flares do not expire and need to be replaced every 3 years or so. This removes the issue of the disposal of old flares.

There is an excellent review of electronic and pyrotechnic flares at <https://www.sailmagazine.com/diy/electronic-flares-for-cruisers>.

*Ritchie Thomson, Past Commodore*

## A Land Cruise at Huntington Beach State Park

It was cold in Fairfield Harbour and *Vital Spark* had been winterized so we went on a land cruise. We ended up at Huntington Beach State Park in South Carolina.

It was not much warmer, but with bright sun, we were able to walk on the beach and followed trails in the forest. We had our binoculars and bird books, so we watched all the birds in their different habitats. These included beach, ponds, mudflats, and forest. It was interesting to compare the birds we saw in Huntington with those we see in Fairfield Harbour

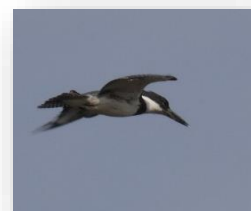
Here, we see many small birds on feeders including chickadees, tufted titmice, woodpeckers, brown-headed nuthatches, red-winged blackbirds, and house finches. The ponds attract migrating ducks such as the ring necked duck and American widgeon. On the Neuse you will find cormorants, scaups, gulls and, terns which all prefer salty water.

*Julia Thomson, Semaphore  
Committee Chair*



Ring-necked ducks in a Fairfield pond

Belted Kingfisher  
over the Neuse



## FHYC Cruising

