

# The Semaphore

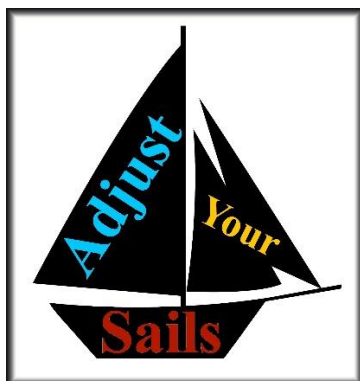
## Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



Vol. 38 No. 5

35° 04' N., 076° 58' W.

June 2021



### From the Commodore



The Storm Glass: I am excited to relay that after over a year of remaining cloudy, the liquid in the FitzRoy Storm

Glass is finally and definitively transitioning from opaque to transparent! This has cleared the way for traditional yacht club activities to resume.

It is wonderful to see cruising events not only underway but booking up in advance. The sunfish races with their colorful sails are a blooming activity in the Inner Harbour bringing spectator enjoyment to the community. Add all these to the existing fun and holiday races that are in full swing, and you have a yacht club that has core water events in full gear.

The final hurdle remaining is the opening of unmasked indoor meetings and events, and we are anticipating easement on these at any time. On that

note, be ready to attend the upcoming FHYC Shindig of the century, a membership appreciation event extravaganza that will be hosted by the board. So, get ready to take your storm jib down, remove the reef from the main, and prep your boat for clear sky sailing.

*Adrian Vergot, Commodore*

### SHAKEDOWN CRUISE TO ORIENTAL MARINA AND INN

Between Friday and Saturday May 7 & 8, nine boats, two land yachts and twenty-two Fairfield Harbour Yacht

### What's Happening

June	Tu	1	Fun Race
	Sun	6	Race: Sunfish/Dinghy
	Mo	7	Board Meeting (v).....1700
	Mon	7-11	Cruise: Cape Lookout
	Tu	8	Race: Fun Racing
	Thu	10	General Meeting (v or cc).....1930
	Fri	11	Education Seminar
	Sun	13	Race: Sunfish/Dinghy
	Tu	15	Fun Race
	Thu	17-20	Three Dinner Cruise
	Sat	19	Fun Race: Father's Day
	Sun	20	Race: Sunfish/Dinghy
	Tu	22	Fun Race
	Sat	26	Cruise: Dinghy to Latham - Whitehurst Park
	Sun	27	Race: Sunfish/Dinghy
	Tu	29	Fun Race

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

**Deadline for next issue is noon, Monday, June 14, 2021**

A digital copy will be delivered via FHYC email blast on or before,  
June 25, 2021

Club members cruised to Oriental under questionable weather conditions to enjoy our annual Shakedown Cruise to Oriental Marina and Inn. The good news is that everyone arrived safely and once there we had sunny spring conditions.

On Saturday afternoon we set up the deck by the Tiki Bar to accommodate our group for a Nautical Trivia Contest. At 1630 we all assembled on the deck with our beverages and snacks. Jon and TJ Bendicksen assisted in conducting the contest by collecting the answers and keeping score for each of the eleven teams. After going through over 20 nautical trivia

## The Semaphore

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



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### Deadline

Deadline for receiving files is 1200 the Monday following the meeting.  
Please email articles to the address below  
[fhycsemaphore@gmail.com](mailto:fhycsemaphore@gmail.com)

questions, Jeff and Shannon Taylor won first place, George and Lynn Stateham took second place, and Dave and Carrie Miller had to 'Walk the Plank'.

Now it was time for dinner. We had arranged for a special dinner menu at "The Toucan Bar and Grill" and they were setting up a table just for us on their front porch. Unfortunately, we were informed that "The Toucan Bar" had never received their automatic delivery of propane so they ran out of propane and had to close.



1. Jeff & Shannon Taylor



2. George & Lynn Stateham



3. Dave and Carrie Miller

But as cruisers and sailors always do, we came up with an alternative plan. "M and M's" located exactly 800 feet up the street and around the corner was open and all twenty two of us were able to get seated to dine within an hour.

Sunday was sunny with stiff following winds out of the east as we headed back too Fairfield Harbour. A good time was had by all.



Phil Katz, Fleet Captain

(Pictures by TJ Bendicksen, Carrie Miller, and Phil Katz)

## FHYC CRUISING EVENTS FOR JUNE 2021

We have planned three cruising events during the month of June 2021. Hopefully, we will have something for everyone who has a boat.

The first event is the Cape Lookout Cruise with Steve Hart as leader. We will be leaving Fairfield Harbour on Monday morning June 7, 2021 heading down the Neuse River into Adams Creek. At marker #9, our first night's anchorage will be to port in Cedar creek. On Tuesday morning we will continue down Adams Creek on the intercoastal heading for Beaufort Inlet with a fair current. Once through the inlet we will turn to port after marker #10 and cruise or sail along Shackleford Banks towards the entrance to Cape Lookout Bight. Hopefully, we will see the wild horses that inhabit Shackleford Banks as we go by. We will spend the next two nights anchored in the Cape Lookout Bight while enjoying the natural beauty and exploring the Cape Lookout seashore. We leave Cape Lookout on Thursday and cruise back up to the Neuse to anchor in South River or Clubfoot Creek depending on the winds and sea conditions. Friday it is back to Fairfield Harbour. A sign-up flyer with all the details is associated with this issue of the *Semaphore*.

The next event in June is the Three Dinner Cruise.

Unfortunately, as of May 13 the three dinner cruise is fully booked. You can get on the waiting list in case there are any cancellations. See the flyer associated with this issue of the *Semaphore*.

*Phil Katz, Fleet Captain*

## The Three Dinner Cruise

The Three Dinner Cruise will be Thursday June 17 thru June 20, 2021. The first night, Thursday June 17, is at

Grand Marina, New Bern with dining at Morgan's in their outside venue. The second night Friday June 18 is at Oriental Marina, with dining on the porch of The Toucan restaurant. The third night Friday June 19 is at River Dunes with dining at The Harbor Club.

*Phil Katz, Fleet Captain*

## FHYC SHALLOW WATER DAY CRUISE TO LATHAM WHITEHURST PARK

Do you have a dinghy, canoe, kayak, or other shallow draft boat? Here is a chance to get it out on the water.

We are having a Shallow Water Cruise on Saturday, June 26 from 1100 to 1500 on Upper Broad Creek to Latham Whitehurst Park.

There is a kayak/canoe slip for entry and exit from your boat. Painters can be tied to the ramp rail leading up from the dock. We are not renting the Pavilion and plan to meet by staying in our boats or sitting on the docks while maintaining social distancing (you will need portable chairs).

Bring your picnic lunch and beverage of choice for great fellowship and a fun day at the park and on the water. Be sure to pack bug repellent and sun protection. The flyer with the *Semaphore* has a map of the park showing trails, facilities, and docks. If you do not have a boat and want to join us by car, it is about ¾ mile walk from the parking lot at the park to docks. Boats include:

*Plymouth  
Sugar Magnolia  
Wicked Good  
Cruzin Waves  
Island Girl  
Arawak*

See the details and sign-up form on the flyer associated with this issue of the *Semaphore*.

*Phil Katz, Fleet Captain*

## ASK NOT WHAT MY CLUB CAN DO FOR ME....

## ASK WHAT MY CLUB HAS DONE FOR THE COMMUNITY

Over the past year, many organizations in our area decided to hunker down and close shop until the pandemic ran its course. Initially FHYC was of that same mind until we concluded that we could do business, not as usual, but outside the box.

Our goal was to provide the ability to socialize and stay safe and give back to the community, of which we are a part. Most of the following activities were open to the whole FFH community, not just FHYC. All were done during the height of the pandemic, following the FHYC health mandate of wearing a mask, social distancing and having meetings and programs via video conferencing. We went so far as to contact some of our members to help them through the new technology.

When you want to take a time-out from a walk along Shoreline, look for one of **Two benches purchased by FHYC**.



On Sundays you can sit on one of those benches to watch the **Sunfish races** in the Inner Harbour.

If you are a sailor, you can participate in the **Fun Races (over 40 held during the pandemic)** that are open to anyone who has a PHRF rating, or you can sign up for the

**Wilkerson Cup and Oar Race Regatta.** The winner of the Oar Race received a small replica of the Oar.



On the cruising side of things, the Cruising Committee has been actively scheduling and holding various cruises, both long and short, for both power and sail while maintaining social distancing and wearing masks.

During the height of the pandemic, FHYC had the **weekly Quarantini**,



which was open to all in the Harbour. Lois Andrews put together the **Quarantini Book** with pictures of FFH residents enjoying getting out on their docks to salute their neighbors. The book includes all the drink recipes enjoyed.

We also had **Face Mask** and **Limerick** contests.

And even though we had to go virtual for our meetings and programs, we were still able to provide **Educational Classes** through video conferencing each month.

Staying with FHYC tradition, this year we had the **Blessing of the Fleet** which was open to the public. We also had **Commissioning Day** to especially honor those who had passed since our last pre-pandemic event.



We even had the **FHYC Annual Awards Ceremony** for FHYC members with Vice Commodore Adrian Vergot as master of ceremonies – all done by video conferencing.

For the fun of it, FHYC had the **Kite Flying contest, FH's Got Talent**



and **Music over the Harbour** at Red Sail Park.



For the give-back to the community at large, we had two successful **Clothing Drives** for the Religious Community Services (RCS).



The **Flip/Flop for Fun Drive** provided flip flops (181pair) for people in need of some summer footwear. The number donated out did the previous drive. We also had a successful **Food Drive** for the Salvation Army. During the holidays we sponsored the **Angel Tree** in conjunction with the Salvation Army. And to bring the spirit of the Holidays to the Harbour we had the

**Festival of Lights** in the inner Harbour – from paddle boards to 60 foot yachts, all lit up in all their splendor. We had hundreds of people lined up on the bulkhead by Shoreline to see the display and cheer us. It brought a smile to everyone both on boats and on shore. We were told that our light display surpassed the one done in New Bern.

Now that some of the restrictions in place during the pandemic are being lifted, we are hoping to have some of our in-person gatherings like the FHYC Commodore's Ball, FHYC Awards dinner and some of us hosting the Marines for Thanksgiving. It will also give us more flexibility in planning cruises and after race events.

While all these events are generally self-funding, your modest club dues are still at work behind the scenes. Among other things, we continue to pay for club liability insurance, production costs for the yearbook, and incidentals such as the Commissioning Day memorial wreath. We also fund modest escrow accounts for committee work and items like the maintenance of nav markers on Spring Creek. All of this provides an unbeatable value for your club dollar!

Further information is posted every month on our website.

*Barb Robinson, Vice Commodore with input from Russ Robinson, Treasurer and Dave Phipps, Rear Commodore*



## Sunfish Have Returned to the Inner Harbour

The Spring Series of Sunfish racing has returned to the Inner Harbour. There have been races starting at 1400 and ending around 1600, in April and May on Sunday afternoons. Call Jerry Rezab (252-288-



4124) for more information about the June races.

Come over to the old Shoreline grass on Pelican Drive with your lawn chair, your beverage of choice, a sun hat, and a mask and enjoy part of the afternoon. You can also try out the new park benches along the Inner Harbour.

Meet some new neighbors and some old friends while sitting under those glorious big trees. I will be there too, taking pictures and posting them on the FH Community Facebook and FHYC Facebook. You do not have to know anything about boats to come and relax with other neighbors.

*Georgie Jackson, Regatta Chair*

## BVIs make it easier to charter and sail.

From a **Statement by the Minister for Health and Social Development of the BVIs** released Friday, 23 April 2021:

"Effective May 15, 2021, fully vaccinated persons travelling from overseas would require a PCR test within five (5) days of travel, provide satisfactory evidence of being fully vaccinated, and will be subject to a

PCR test upon arrival (day zero). Fully vaccinated persons will be quarantined until a negative test result is received from the BVI Health Services Authority. In other words, if the test administered on arrival returns a negative result, the fully vaccinated traveler will be immediately released from quarantine (unless they have been in close contact with a positive case)."

So, if you are considering chartering in the BVIs, it is now feasible. It is not clear what "quarantined" means or how long it will take to complete a PCR test. Good luck!

*Ritchie Thomson, Past Commodore*

## Northwest Creek Canoeists

Any nice day, when you sit on your boat at the dock on Northwest Creek, you certainly will see happy boaters pass by. On Sunday, May 2, Kirk Hathaway was on his maiden voyage in his new (to him) canoe. The canoe trip was a big surprise for Jane who was expecting to walk home.

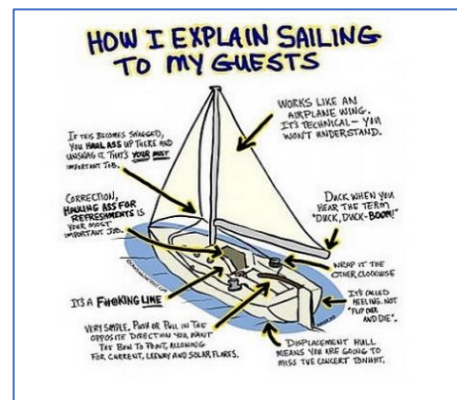


*Chris Skrotsky, FHYC Member*



Sailing into the Sunset

## Boating Humor



"Yes, I do think you overpacked. After all, we're sailing around the bay for a few hours."



"Usually when a man gets on his knees, he has something romantic to ask, not ask if I'll help him winterize his boat."

# RETURN OF THE IMPROMPTU

Do we even remember what an impromptu is? Were they just hallucinations or visual fallacies?

No, they were real, it has just been so long since we had one, almost 18 months! I know I miss the camaraderie, the laughter, the stories and seeing all of you.

Finally, the sun is peeking thru the clouds, the restrictions are easing, and the world is starting to awaken from its pandemic sleep.

## IT IS TIME TO CELEBRATE!

Each month a different board member will host the impromptu. They have been given carte blanche as to the venue, the date, and the “theme” (if they choose to have one). The event will be announced a few days before on the website and as always it will be BYOB. Fairfield Harbour Yacht Clubs official “Happy Hour” time is at 1700!

Hors d’oeuvres will be provided at all impromptus and the yacht clubs official Candy (those colorful, amusing little gobs of chocolate that we all love) the “M & M’s” will always make an appearance to remind us that “MEMBERS MATTER” AND “MEMBERSHIP MATTERS”.

Here is the list of the impromptu hosts:  
(Subject to change...)

1. June – Yvonne Meissner
2. July – Lois Andrews
3. August – Pam Miller
4. September – David Phipps
5. October – Stephen Brockman
6. November – Ritchie Thomson

Hmmm, with this interesting cast of characters hosting the impromptus, anything is possible.

The board members will be there to meet and greet all of you.

We look forward to sharing and seeing smiles.

## FAIRFIELD HARBOUR YACHT CLUB JOIN THE ADVENTURE

*Lois Andrews, Director*