

# The Semaphore

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



Vol. 38 No. 6

35° 04' N., 076° 58' W.

July 2021



## From the Commodore



After well over a year of adjusting our sails to maintain course, FHYC has finally reached safe harbor and we can furl our sails and get the club in “shipshape and Bristol fashion” for both on and off the water social events.

I wish to personally thank each and every Committee Chair and Board Member for all the assistance they dedicated toward seeing this perilous voyage through. Most of all, I would like to thank and recognize the Membership itself for braving the storm and not abandoning ship. Without you, there would be no club!

The Bridge and Board hope you enjoyed participating in the socially distanced itinerary provided over the past year.

That now brings us to our transition back to actual social events. Toward that endeavor the Board and Committees are working feverishly at polishing the brightwork, so get ready for impromptu, events, general meetings, and shindigs to commence!

*Adrian Vergot, Commodore*

## Regatta News for the Summer

**Tuesday Fun Races:** Peter and Joan are doing a great job scheduling Tuesday Fun Races. Most Tuesdays, races average seven to ten boats. Now that it is lighter longer in the evening, start time is 1700. Race starting point is near N1 on the Neuse. When our crazy thunder boomers and downpours have interfered, Peter and Joan have made some very good calls canceling races. Contact Peter Budzynkiewicz (pbudzy7385@aol.com)

**Sunfish Racing:** Jerry has two more races in the Spring Series: June 20 and

June 27. Bring a lawn chair, a beverage of choice, and a sun hat. Sit under those old shade trees with neighbors and watch the races at the old Shoreline. First race starts at 1400; they are usually done by 1600. Contact Jerry Rezab (geraldrezab@yahoo).

**July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday Race:** The July 4<sup>th</sup> race will actually take place on July 3, with a gathering at the Cart Barn afterwards. The July 3 date frees the afternoon of July 4, so everyone can decide and prepare where to watch the fireworks. See you after the race with a snack to share and BYOB! Contact Michael Connolly at ([crufone@comcast.net](mailto:crufone@comcast.net)).

**NOTE: There is a new waiver form!** To register for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday Race, go to [www.fhyc.us](http://www.fhyc.us) for the one-time 2021 Registration form with the new waiver. More information can be found in the Holiday Fun Series Invitation & Entry Form under RACING.

*Georgie Jackson, Regatta Chair*

## What's Happening

Jul	Sa	3	July 4 <sup>th</sup> Fun Race	
	Su	4	Cruise: July 4 <sup>th</sup> Raft-up	
	Mo	5	Board Meeting (ac).....	1700
	Tu	6	Race: Fun Racing .....	1700
	Th	8	General Meeting (cc) .....	1900
	Fr	9	Education: Seminar.....	(tbd)
	Tu	13	Race: Fun Racing.....	1700
	Tu-Sa	13-17	Cruise: Local Waters	
	Tu	20	Race: Fun Racing .....	1700
	Tu	27	Race: Fun Racing.....	1700



## FAIRFIELD HARBOUR YACHT CLUB FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION ON THE NEUSE BY DUCK CREEK

Anchor out Sunday night the Fourth of July to celebrate and watch the fireworks on the Neuse River between Duck Creek and the Neuse River Bridge in eight feet of water. The anchorage is 4.8 nm from marker N1 outside Northwest Creek. Plan your arrival for 1930 to see the fireworks which are scheduled to begin at 2115.

After the fireworks you can anchor for the night or head back to Fairfield Harbour.

Please let us know if you are coming so we can plan for the raft up for the splash by contacting Phil Katz at katzduncan84@gmail.com. Flyer is attached to the *Semaphore*.

### Local Waters Cruise July 13-17, 2021

Enjoy the local waters along the Neuse River exploring anchorages and marinas. If you are new to the area, it is a great opportunity to become familiar with cruising opportunities close to Fairfield Harbour.

Our cruise will be bound by the mouth of the Neuse, just beyond Lower Broad Creek and South River, and the Railroad Bridge above the City of New Bern. That leaves possible anchorages that include off Union Point, near Lawson Park, Upper and Lower Broad Creeks, South River, Goose Creek, Cedar Creek, Oriental Harbor, and Clubfoot Creek, and possibly others.

There will be a Captains' Meeting on Thursday, July 8, 2021, at the Activities Center Room# tbd at 1000 to plan our itinerary and establish our destination for the first night. Each evening we will gather for a splash and plan the next day's destination. No day is expected to be over 25 to 30 miles, and most will be shorter. No marina stops are anticipated.

However, if we stop at Lower Broad Creek some people may want to use the docks at River Dunes. Likewise, if we stop at Oriental, some may want to use the free dock, or docks at one of the marinas. For more information, or to sign up, send an email to Chris Town at cdtown@gmail.com. A sign-up flyer is included in the *Semaphore*.

*Phil Katz, Cruise Committee Chair*

**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)



## FHYC Cape Lookout Cruise A Wash-Out!

The Cape Lookout Cruise scheduled for Monday through Friday, June 7-11, 2021, was a wash-out due to daily scattered rain, lightning, and thunderstorms. We even tried to schedule an overnight anchorage in Clubfoot Creek so the 7 boats could get together, but to no avail!

So, captains and crew from vessels *Graca*, *Vital Spark*, *Feather*, *Gypsy Cat*, *Georgie Girl*, *Sugar*

*Magnolia* and *Arawak* left their boats at their docks and gathered at Steve and Leigh Hart's for a "land splash". We enjoyed each other's company and all the food we had brought for the cruise. Thanks again for the Harts' hospitality.

We will try to re-schedule the Cape Lookout Cruise at another date.

*Phil Katz*, Cruise Committee Chair

## 2021 Oar Race Results

The weather forecasts were less than great for a sailboat race. The course was shorter (7.25 miles) than the planned 20-mile course because of the expected very light winds. The short course was one loop around and the longer course was two loops. Halfway through the second loop, the wind just about died. However, the boats were able to be scored:

### In the Long Course:

Spinnaker:

1<sup>st</sup> *Blue Note* (Mark Hittner)

2<sup>nd</sup> *Bad Fish* (Ed Doughty)

Non-Spin:

1<sup>st</sup> *Turbulence* (Buddy Dillinger)

2<sup>nd</sup> *Silent Pursuit* (Dave Whitney)

Cruising:

1<sup>st</sup> *Georgie Girl* (John Jackson)

2<sup>nd</sup> *Harm's Way* (Dennis Harm)



### In the Short Course:

Cruising: 1<sup>st</sup> *Methuselah* (Scott Huddle)

Most of all we want to thank the Committee Boat Crew: Chris Town (Captain), Paul Eckenroth (PRO), Stephanie Davies, Linda Eckenroth, and Jackie Moniak. And the safety boats' crews (Joel Berberich and George Stateham) did yeomen's' work keeping an eye on racers, and setting, moving, and retrieving course marks.



The awards party at Red Sail Park after the race had lots of snacks, beer, wine, sodas, and seeing folks we haven't talked with for months. Pictures show it all! Thanks to everyone!

*Georgie Jackson*  
Regatta Chair



## New Members



**Patsy and Vince Trovato**

Patsy and Vince Trovato are originally from Baltimore, Maryland, where they had a boatyard and dealership. They then moved their family to a horse farm on the Maryland Eastern Shore.

The Trovatos operated a Chesapeake and Caribbean Charter company on their sailboat, *Footloose*, a CSY 44 acquired in 1978. They still own *Footloose*, which is now docked behind their home on Cardinal Drive here in Fairfield Harbour.

Vince and Patsy are lifetime members of St. Georges Yacht Club in Bermuda. Vince is an author, pilot and licensed Coast Guard Open Ocean Master Captain. Patsy is an artist but also was a Liz Claiborne Store Manager. They have four daughters and ten grandchildren who all enjoy sailing.

The Trovatos' primary sponsor is Chris Town with Carol Frysiek serving as secondary sponsor. They both have selected the Cruise Committee.

*Pam Miller, Membership Co-chair*

**Join the Adventure!**

**Share your photos in  
the *Semaphore***

## New Members



**Tom and Anna Pederson**

Tom and Anna Pederson are originally from San Diego, CA and relocated to Washington, NC prior to Fairfield Harbor.

They met each other when they were 15 years old and are still going strong (see picture). After a three year stint in the army, Tom was a policeman in Pasadena for 30 years.

Tom and Anna have 15 years of power boating experience. Anna prefers boats that "don't tilt"; however, Tom crews aboard Ullr in the Fun Races. Their current boat is a 38" Bristol Offshore *Zero Assets*.

The Pedersons' primary sponsors are Barb and Russ Robinson, with John and Georgie Jackson serving as secondary sponsors. Tom has selected Maintenance and Marine Assistance Committees, and Anna chose the Entertainment Committee.

*Pam Miller, Membership Co-chair*

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## Member Milestones



### A Lifetime of Boating

And so we have come to a cross-road in our boating lives. We have taken the road less travelled for many years and now take the path where we know we need to go. What a difference our choice will make!

Life truly is a wonderful journey. For Norman Meissner, the journey has taken him along many waterways following his own personal drummer.

After 65 years of owning one boat or another, it is doubtful that selling the *Augustus Mann* will mean the last tiller has been held.

What does Norm's memory replay? His first little rowboat slung over his shoulder as he took it down to Rocky Point, his many years as engineer on freighters crossing from the United States to countries as far as China and Bangladesh, pleasure trips up the Eastern Seaboard, across to the Bahamas and Cuba and down to Mexico.

Then comes the day that the spirit is willing, but we let another lead the way, still happy to share all the experiences with the upcoming new captains and to help them navigate along those paths less traveled.

My hat is off to my Captain Norman!

*Yvonne Meissner*

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in the *Semaphore***

# SHARKS

Beware! Contrary to popular belief there are indeed Megalodons and Leviathans of the deep, lurking just under the water here along the Crystal Coast, and this picture of Erin's hunting a few weeks back proves it! Erin and I are amateur shark hunters.

Well... ok... we really only hunt for the teeth, which makes this hobby fairly safe, although I did get sunburned during the expedition that gathered the haul on the picture. These specimens are millions of years old and came from the tailings pit at the Aurora Fossil Museum which is only a short drive from Fairfield Harbour. While mining for the important agricultural mineral phosphate, the mining company in Aurora has to dig down through sediment they consider totally useless. This useless aggregate has many hidden "treasures" that the mining company doesn't care about, but fossil hunters do! Subsequently, as part of a social outreach program, they donate on a regular basis truckloads of this aggregate for fossil enthusiasts to dig through, and some of the findings can be pristine.

You can also find these ancient artifacts directly on the banks of our rivers and washed up on our beaches where natural erosion has also dug them up, so next time you are walking along one of our beaches, always keep a wary eye on the sand as you walk since you never know when a several million-year-old megashark might be looking for its next meal!

*Adrian Vergot, Commodore*



## FHYC Nominations for the Bridge and Board for 2021

The Nominating Committee is currently developing a proposed slate of candidates for nomination in the fall. We will need to nominate:

- a person for the Rear Commodore position which is a commitment for a three-year progression leading to Commodore
- a person to fill the role of Secretary with a two-year term
- two people to serve as Directors with three-year terms.

If you wish to make a suggestion for a member to fill any of these, please make your suggestion to any member of the Nominating Committee for consideration. The Committee members are:

Ritchie Thomson, Pam Miller, Phil Katz, Janice Myler, Elaine Berberich, Barbara Robinson, Leigh Hart

At this stage we are looking for suggestions which cover as wide a range of club membership as possible.

*Ritchie Thomson, Past Commodore*

## What's in YOUR gas tank?

Ritchie Thomson, Past Commodore, encourages us all to play it safe. It is important that gas-powered boat owners know the risks of high-ethanol gas. It may void your engine warranty.

### **They Are at It Again: Confusing and Ineffective Fuel Pump Warning Labels Do Not Help Boaters Choose Safe Fuel**

***BoatUS says efforts to grow sales of higher blend 15% ethanol fuels such as "Regular 88" and reduce or eliminate warning labels are anti-consumer***

SPRINGFIELD, Va., June 1, 2021 –

Efforts by the ethanol industry to create a new federal rule that would weaken or eliminate important warning labels designed to prevent boaters and consumers from misfueling with prohibited higher-ethanol fuels at roadside gas pumps has Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) concerned. The national recreational boating advocacy, services and safety group recently co-signed a letter to EPA Administrator Elizabeth Dermott addressing the proposed "E15 Fuel Dispenser Labeling and Compatibility With Underground Storage Tanks" legislation (EPA-HW-OAR-202-0448) and urging the federal regulator to side with consumers on its Misfueling Mitigation Program (MMP) to ensure transparency in the sale of fuel to consumers.

"Ethanol manufacturers are pushing to blend more ethanol into the nation's fuel supply. To accomplish that, consumers are not being fully informed at the roadside pump about the type of fuel going into their boats' gas tanks," said BoatUS Manager of Government Affairs David Kennedy. "New marketing schemes to brand these prohibited 15% ethanol fuels as 'regular 88,' promoting them as a low-cost alternative and, at the same time, attempting to drive federal rulemaking efforts to reduce and weaken warning labels at the pump is an anti-consumer one-two-three punch that should not be tolerated."

The proposed rulemaking provides no new data on a theoretical basis to support the proposals to either decrease the stringency of the existing E15 warning label or eliminate it altogether. A 2020 Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) poll shows that only about one in five consumers know that "regular 88" — or 88 octane fuel — has more ethanol (15%) in it than 87 octane (10% ethanol) fuel.

Use of ethanol fuel blends with more than 10% ethanol, such as "regular 88," in recreational boat engines, motorcycles, off-road vehicles and power equipment is prohibited by federal law. E15 fuels have been proven to damage engines and fuel systems, and its use in a marine engine voids the warranty.

Consumers have indicated the need for a better, more effective higher-blend ethanol fuel warning label design as well as more prominent placement of the warning label on the pump. A recent national poll shows that just 18.25% of consumers think the current E15 label used at gas pumps across the country is very effective for warning that E15 is hazardous to certain types of engines. EPA has also worked to broaden the availability of E15 fuel in the U.S., including most recently with the 2019 repeal of summertime restrictions on its sale. These restrictions were originally implemented years ago to address concerns over the higher ethanol fuel's contribution to ground level ozone (smog) on hot days.

"Visit a local gas station dispensing higher ethanol fuels and look for the warning label on the pump," added Kennedy. "It's often hidden or buried along with a mountain of promotional signage. EPA should help consumers make the right fuel choice, and efforts to weaken the Misfueling Mitigation Program, such as stripping away label elements that indicate a warning message or exclude mention of 15% ethanol altogether, only accommodate the interests of ethanol producers and harm boaters."