

The Semaphore

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



Vol. 38 No. 8

35° 04' N., 076° 58' W.

September 2021



Commodore's Update

Chain of Command: No organization should ever have a single point of failure, and as such a chain of command is created in order to circumvent any disruption should a single or multiple individuals be absent from their position. August has highlighted the importance of this structure! Unforeseen circumstances led to both the Commodore and Vice Commodore being unavailable to conduct in person the August General Meeting, which subsequently required our Rear Commodore take temporary command of the fleet! David Phipps was unflinching and rose to the task, and as such our monthly meeting was held without missing a step. I am lucky to have such fine officers serving under me and I wish to take this opportunity to personally thank both David and Barbara for their dedication to not just maintaining the club, but for actively working to improve it. They will make excellent future Commodores.

*Adrian Vergot,
Commodore*

Edward Teach Youth Sailing Association (ETYSA)

Whoever knew that Edward Teach, also known as Blackbeard, ran a sailing school? In reality, it is run in his memory since he is one of our local heroes. Despite his many problems, he certainly knew how to sail a boat and now this knowledge is being passed on to the next generation.

I spent the last few weeks volunteering at ETYSA. The youngsters from eight years old and upwards start in Optimist (or Opti) dinghies while the older and/or heavier kids start in Topaz boats. There are also some 420s for the more advanced sailors.

On day one, after the mandatory swimming test, the kids got into Optis with no sails but

with a paddle (or "Praddle") and practiced paddling around buoys in the basin at BSC. This way they learned to steer which is one of the two basic things to learn initially. It was pretty hot so at frequent intervals the kids were encouraged to leap into the water to cool off and to practice getting back into the boat. They were also introduced to being towed, and sometimes steering in-line while being towed.

On day two, sails were added and the second thing to learn was added, the main sheet "you pull it in to go faster and release it to slow down". Also capsizing and recovery was added with the introduction of the bow line (or the "rope thingy", as I heard it called). The boats were towed out to practice these skills on a beam-reach course around a couple of buoys. Nothing was mentioned

What's Happening

Sep	Th	2	Commodore's Ball (Carolina Colors).....	1730
	Sa	4	Race: Labor Day Fun	1400
	Mo	6	Board Meeting (ac).....	1700
	Tu	7	Race: Fun Racing	1400
	Th	9	General Meeting (cc).....	1900
	Fr	10	Education: (ac)	1100
	Su	12	Race: Sunfish.....	1400
	Tu	14	Race: Fun Racing.....	1400
	Su	19	Race: Sunfish.....	1400
	Su-We	19-29	Cruise: Bald Head Island	
	Tu	21	Race: Fun Racing.....	1400
	Su	26	Race: Sunfish.....	1400
	Tu	28	Race: Fun Racing.....	1400
	Th	30	Race: Ensign Race #1.....	1400

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

Deadline for next issue is noon, Monday, September 13, 2021

about turning around and some tacked but most gybed. They quickly learned the noise the boom makes and when to duck.

Then more practice and, of course, lots of capsizing, mostly deliberate. By the fourth day some kids were learning how to sail upwind and by day five, how to tack out of the BSC basin.

Overall, I was very impressed by how quickly all learned and by the end of the week all were happy on and in the water. The two best things were stated to be capsizing and, of course, sailing.

If you or friends have children or grandchildren, eight years old or older, ETYSA is a great way to start them sailing and developing

their confidence. Book them in for next year! In addition ETYSA is now offering adult sailing lessons so this is your chance as well.

*Ritchie Thompson
Past Commodore*



The summer festivities are in full swing with Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club both on and off the water. A special thanks goes out to Pam and Rick Miller for hosting the August Impromptu club event this month.

The Millers put together a beach bash extraordinaire and managed to bring the beach itself to the Community Center, complete with beach balls, beach umbrellas, beach snacks, and most wonderful of all succulent BBQ chicken wings

lovingly basted and grilled by Rick himself, winning these little tidbits the Commodore's seal of approval! Alas, the fire marshal didn't allow us to light a bonfire in the building so we had to forego any roasting of marshmallows. Approximately 40 members attended this party. Visit our club's membership web page, and if you qualify, I highly recommend you consider becoming a member and JOIN THE ADVENTURE!

Adrian Vergot, Commodore



Poker Run



On Saturday, August 21, we ran the second FHYC on-the-water Poker Run. Eleven boats, each playing two hands, participated and it was a great day to be out on the water. With each boat “drawing” five cards, we needed three decks shuffled together; so, it was possible to get five of a kind. With all those chances we expected some powerful hands, but it wasn’t to be. We randomly separated the group into two fleets to increase the number of possible winners.

We gathered again at Red Sail Park at 1700 to socialize and make a payout.

Winners were:

- Tom and Anna Pederson on *Zero Assets* with the best overall hand of a club flush winning half the pot.
- The two remaining best hands for A and B fleet were three of a kind held by Jamey and Jessica Azerski on *Truckin’ Money* and John and Georgie Jackson on *Georgie Girl*. Both teams received a fourth of the pot.

The “Dealer” boat was Stateham’s *Sunspot Baby* with Phil Katz and Linda Duncan aboard to assist recording cards as the game progressed.

Sunspot Baby was anchored mid-river and the players’ waypoints were close to shore, so we didn’t get many chances to get photos. Two boats did come by for a photo-op, *Navicula* and *Bow Bay*.

George Stateham, Past Commodore



George & Lynn Stateham



Phil Katz & Linda Duncan



Navicula



Bow Bay

**DON'T FORGET TO
REGISTER FOR THE
LABOR DAY RACE BY
SEPTEMBER 2!**

It's Everywhere, It's Everywhere!!

What? What? Garbage!

We live next door to the corner of Spring Creek and the inner harbor. Hard to tell, but there *is* some kind of water flow through the creek, from the wind, tides and boat traffic. One thing is for sure: the water moves whatever is floating in the creek---at least until it gets to our dock!

Flotsam and jetsam typically seem to stop around our neck of the creek. If it is lumber, our neighbors are kind enough to ask if it's something we can use on one of our never-ending projects. Usually, it's just a cutoff that "got away", probably from a fisherman! Most often, it's plastic junk – you know, bags, bottles, or an occasional "unmentionable"(!?!).



Perhaps we could work together on something we DO control – garbage in our waterways. FHYC is widely recognized as a leading entity in the Fairfield Harbour community. Besides being ultra-respectful of our beautiful waterways ourselves, we need to find ways to stem the tide of floating junk. Awareness might be the first step – perhaps discussions or talking to neighbors *respectfully* as a start or..... (For the record, I proposed using slingshots on the offenders, but it was voted down by my better half. That's why I am asking for more socially appropriate suggestions.) You got ideas? Please share them.

Buddy Jewell



*Dance the night
away at the
Commodore's Ball on
September 2 at 1730*

For those going (or interested in going) on the Bald Head Island Cruise, there will be a Captains' Meeting on September 15 at 1000 in Room 2 in the Activity Center

