

The Semaphore

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



Vol. 38, No. 10

35° 04' N., 076° 58' W.

November 2021



From the Commodore



Sea Shanties: The humble sea shanty is a maritime genre of songs that were sung in order to synchronize various labor tasks aboard sailing ships. Sailors working in harmony to efficiently achieve a common endeavor is the dream of every commodore, and FHYC is no exception!

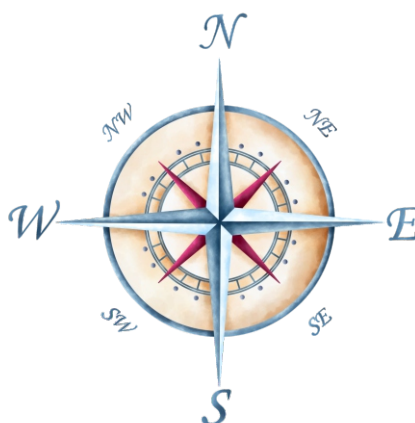
The commodore is nothing more than the "Shantyman" figurehead who intones the line of the song, while the crew in turn responds with the chorus, pulling on the lines or turning the capstan or weighing anchor. It is the crew who does the heavy lifting.

October was sign-up for next year committee teams, and along those lines I want to particularly thank all members who stepped forth and volunteered to chair these committees. In reality, each committee chair is also a shantyman of their own committee. Many are seasoned veterans who know all the

songs and tunes required to keep their team members in sync. I am happy to see that several have agreed to stay on one more year in order to groom individuals to learn the ropes of taking command of their particular chair.

I guess the moral of this rant revolves around the true heart of being a member of this great club: robust participation from all hands is crucial. When you hear the shanty begin, be sure to enthusiastically grab hold of the sheets and halyards with your fellow sailors, strike up the chorus, help keep the sails adjusted and the ship on course.

Adrian Vergot, Commodore



It's That Time of Year Membership Renewal!

As part of the renewal process and to keep the database and Yearbook as accurate as possible, members are asked to review the information they supplied for last year's Yearbook. If there are no changes, there is a place on the renewal form where you can mark the box that states "No Changes." Annual dues are remaining at \$65.00 per household. Please make out your check to Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club. Send your check and your renewal form to:

Russ Robinson, FHYC Treasurer
905 Spar Court
New Bern NC 28560

Renewal forms are available on the FHYC website on the opening page and under the Membership tab. Forms were available at the October meeting, and we will also have them available at the November 11 meeting at the Community Center at 1900 (7:00 pm.)

We're looking forward to an exciting year and hope to see you all out on the water.

Barb Robinson, Vice Commodore

What's Happening

Oct 31 -Nov	3	Laissez Faire Cruise	
Nov Th	4	Race: Ensign Race #6	
Mo	8	Board Meeting.....	1700
Th	11	Race: Ensign Race #7 (Party)	
Th	11	General Meeting.....	1900
Fr	12	Education: Seminar	
Sa	27	Thanksgiving Fun	



(cc)=Community Center, (rs)=Red Sail Park, (ac)=Activities Center
Deadline for next issue is noon, Monday, November 15, 2021
Delivery is Saturday, November 27, 2021



Holiday Party

Yuletide Magic will be held on Thursday, December 9, at Carolina Colours.

Your invitation to this magical event is attached to this month's *Semaphore*.

Entertainment Committee

The Semaphore

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



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Website: www.fhyc.us

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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



Nautical Slang in Common Usage

Turn a Blind Eye - This expression is believed to come from the siege of Copenhagen (1801), in which Lord Horatio Nelson, second in command of the English fleet, was ordered to withdraw but pretended not to see the flagship's signals to do so by putting his glass to the eye that had been blinded in an earlier battle.

Nautical Slang in Common Usage



Filibusters - Buccaneers were sometimes known as filibusters. From the Dutch for *vrybouter* (freebooter) It is now used as a political term, meaning to delay or obstruct the passage of legislation (as opposed to sailing vessels) by non-stop speech making.

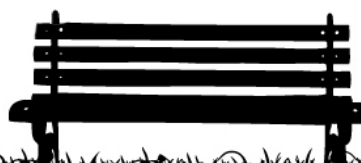
Recluse

We all know that Howard Hughes was a recluse. But did you know that Emily Bronte, Emily Dickenson, Glenn Gould, Greta Garbo, Harper Lee, J D Salinger, and many other well-known celebrities preferred a reclusive life?

During the past pandemic when we were all encouraged to stay to ourselves and spend little time socializing, the quiet no-fuss felt good for a while, but then we all craved for that missing human interaction: the chats, the hugs, the pleasant dinners together with friends. The virtual meetings and the face times just didn't fill the need for warmer interactions. Eye contact and the understanding of body language were missing, the clues that help us understand each other's emotions.

For those who are not reclusive, I hope to see you at the many social events FHYC has to offer. Yes, we are a boating club, but it is through our social events that we get to know each other and get to share our love of the water. Let's get back out there together!

Yvonne Meissner





Sunfish US Masters Regatta

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club and Blackbeard Sailing Club can be very proud of one of our own!

George Sechrist has raced at the Sunfish US Masters Regatta for several years. This year the competition was held in Rochester, NY from October 8-10, 2021. When I asked him to help me write an article about his adventure this fall, here's what George said:

The Sunfish U.S. Masters Regatta is an annual event that travels to a different club every year. I hosted this same event in Oriental several years ago. This year we had 54 entrants with 52 actually sailing, ranging in age from 40 to 80. I signed up as a member of both FHYC and BSC. The host was Rochester Canoe Club (no canoes), who did an outstanding job with their all-female race committee.

Saturday dawned cloudy with a stiff breeze (I estimate 15 with gusts to 25), but out we went on Irondequoit Bay in Rochester, NY. I was pleased to survive the first race without any major problems, scoring my worst race of the series with a 37. Then the breeze really picked up, so using my rule of "I'm not having fun," I came ashore. The second race had a long delay due to problems anchoring one end of the very long start line. They finally got it off, but abandoned the race after two legs due to the number of upside-down boats and a shortage of safety boats, so everyone came in for lunch. I was still ashore, so I hadn't missed anything yet. After a couple of hours, the wind had settled back to the 15-20 range, so out we went for two more races, both of which I survived.

Sunday was still cloudy, temperature around 70°, so shorts were in order, with the winds in the 10-15 range, perfect. We sailed four races, to make for a seven-race series. I got to use my 37 as a throw-out, but then had to count a 35 on Sunday due to some massive congestion at the windward mark. I also was involved in two collisions: one was my fault and the other not my fault. I am extremely pleased with a 10th in one race, which kind of makes it all worthwhile!

For the awards, I won my division as the only 80-year-old willing and able to sail! Usually, health issues start to take their toll at this age (sound familiar?). The top two in the event would be considered professional sailors. I had fun and hope to do it again next year!

*George Sechrist, FHYC & BSC Sunfish Racer
Georgie Jackson, FHYC Regatta Chair*

Top Ten Myths About Boating

10. People with boats have money.
9. I don't need VHF, I have a cell phone.
8. The longer the boat, the faster it sails.
7. You can't navigate these days without GPS.
6. With modern technology, a new boater can easily handle a 45' boat.
5. It can't get any worse.
4. Stay between the red and the green.
3. I don't race, so I don't need good sails.
2. This is the last boat I will ever buy.
1. The yacht club needs a commodore, but hey, it's easy!



More Myths About Boating

- _____ is the best anchor.
- I know what the chart says, but there is plenty of water for you to get in there.
- Just needs a little TLC.
- Don't worry – it's calm out there.
- Honey – I just have to pick up one thing at the boat store.
- Should be no problem if the wind doesn't shift.
- A “free” boat. Fiberglass boats are low maintenance.
- I'll have us off in a jiffy, honey.
- Bigger is always better.
- One more tack should do it!



FHYC Shindig Red Sail Park

Many of you were probably wondering, what is a Shindig? According to Webster's Dictionary, a Shindig is a dance, party or informal gathering. On Wednesday October 20, the FHYC Board of Directors held a Shindig for the membership in appreciation of their support. Lois Andrews was the Director of this effort, with the Commodores and Treasurer providing their cooking skills. Dave Pfefferkorn provided music and Pam Miller, Yvonne Meisner and Erin Vergot kept moving the food from the grills to the serving tables.

The weather couldn't have been better at Red Sail Park. The Board provided hamburgers, hot dogs and all the sides, as well as beverages. Members were able to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. We had several new members joining in the fun.

The last count we got from Lois was 78 in attendance. Not a bad turnout for a weekday event. Photos provided by John Jackson.

Barb Robinson, Vice Commodore



Evelyn Thompson and our host, Lois Andrews, setting out the side dishes



Past Commodore Ralph Azersky and Darlene DeFigueiredo enjoying the evening.



Rear Commodore David Phipps and Commodore Adrian Vergot, Grillmasters