

# The Semaphore

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



Vol. 39, No. 1

35° 04' N., 076° 58' W.

February 2022



## COMMODORE'S UPDATE

I have a passion for this club. This past 18 months it has survived a pandemic and in doing so showed the greater community the resilience and ingenuity it has to prevail. We also had fun. This didn't happen by accident but rather by trial and error. We made it work, "we" meaning all the members. A huge thank you to you.

The board has been working on various projects to better streamline the club. In working through some of the changes I have learned, patience isn't necessarily a virtue, but rather a necessity. As we move through these various projects we will keep the membership informed. Most of it has to do with Policy and Guidelines which were outdated especially with the changes in how we communicate. You can access the Policy and Procedures on our website at [www.fhyc.us](http://www.fhyc.us).

Let's keep the momentum going as we head into 2022. I look forward to a busy and successful new year with your help.

Remember:

**THE SKY IS THE LIMIT.  
GO FOR IT!**

*Barb Robinson, Commodore*

## 2022 Change of Watch Ceremony

One of the longest and most treasured traditions of FHYC is the annual Change of Watch Ceremony in which a new Commodore and officers are installed for the coming year. On January 13, 2022, club members gathered at the January general meeting witnessed the thirty-seventh Change of Watch Ceremony in our club's nearly thirty-nine year history. The outgoing Commodore Adrian Vergot began the ceremony by thanking outgoing board members and directors Lois Andrews, David Pfefferkorn, and Secretary Yvonne Meissner, whose numerous contributions over the years have helped build the club into the strong organization we enjoy today. He also

thanked the club for its support during his tenure as Commodore, and using the analogy of a changing kaleidoscope image, spoke of ongoing transition as the new board begins its watch.

Outgoing Commodore Vergot then invited Vice Commodore Barb Robinson to the podium where he formally administered the oath of office and handed the helm over to now Commodore Barb Robinson. Barb and her husband Russ have been members of FHYC since 2016. She has served as Rear Commodore and Vice Commodore, and her husband now serves as Treasurer.

*Continued on page 2*

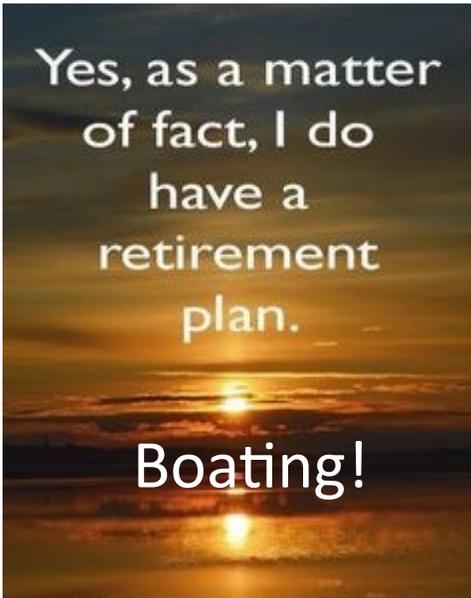
## What's Happening

Feb. 2022	We	2	Groundhog Day
	Mo	7	Board Meeting..... 1600
	Th	10	General Meeting..... 1900
	Sa	12	Race: Valentine's Day Fun..... 1300
	Mo	14	Valentine's Day
	We	16	Chili Cook Off..... 1730
	Sa	19	Regatta Race Officer Training..... 0900

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

**Deadline for next issue is noon, Monday, January 17, 2022.**

A digital copy will be delivered online, on or before February 1, 2022.



**The Semaphore**  
Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club

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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)



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**2022 Change of Watch Ceremony**

Commodore Robinson then presented Adrian with a realistic replica of a pirate cutlass as a token of the clubs' appreciation for his leadership this past year under occasionally difficult pandemic circumstances. She then concluded the ceremony by administering the oath of office to other 2022 board members, including Vice Commodore Dave Phipps, Rear Commodore Craig Myler, and Secretary Erin Vergot. Directors Stephen Brockman, Dell Curry,

Leigh Hart, Phil Katz, Pam Miller, and Benny Thompson, along with Chaplain Bryan Brown and Fleet Surgeon Kathie King, were also sworn in, formally ending the 2022 Change of Watch Ceremony.

The new board looks forward to serving you, the members of our club, over the next year! Please feel free to contact any member with your thoughts or suggestions!

*Dave Phipps, Past Commodore*



**TO ALL FAIRFIELD HABOUR YACHT CLUB MEMBERS**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who attended in person and by video the Watch Ceremony at the General Meeting January 13. It is my pleasure to serve you for the next year to the best of my abilities.

Your Board for 2022 is made up of some very special people who will work hard to keep this club on an even keel. You also have Committee Chairs who are working to provide the activities you have enjoyed over the years.

My slogan this year is "Reach for the Sky". Thank you, Chris Davies for creating the logo. We are strong and resilient. My goal is to move the club forward and embrace the Adventure on Land and/or on the Water.

My "door" is always open. If you have any concerns or if you wish to share some ideas, please don't hesitate to contact me.



Thank you again.  
*Barb Robinson, Commodore FHyc*

## Omicron Information

The Omicron variant is bringing our US healthcare system to its knees, more than any other surge in this pandemic. The “7-day moving average” number of new US cases was 120,000 cases/day on December 14; 190,000 cases/day on December 24; and this week this average is more than 700,000 cases/day. The *first graph* illustrates surges of US cases since 2020. Notice that peaks of hospitalizations and deaths occur later than the peak of cases. Now North Carolina has more than 30% of daily tests positive, with 30-40,000 new coronavirus cases daily. This surge will continue through late February or early March.

While the Omicron variant is “milder” for vaccinated people, it is dangerous for unvaccinated people and people with underlying health problems. Omicron is at least 3 times more contagious than the delta variant, which is 2-3 times more contagious than the original “wild type” of Covid 19.

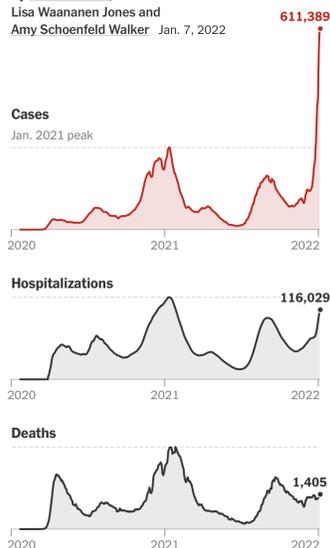
The problem with being “mild” but more contagious is illustrated by simple calculation: a “severe” variant with 4% of 1,000 Covid-19 patients hospitalized uses 40 hospital beds, while the “mild” but contagious Omicron with 1% of 10,000 people needing hospitalization requires 100 hospital beds.

We do have good news from the University of Bristol (England) about viral particle transmission (*Guardian* newspaper, not yet peer-reviewed): 90% of infectivity of the three variants studied occurs in the first 20 minutes, with most loss of infectivity in the first 5 minutes. This means that the people within short distances from you are the most likely to give you Covid, and that in addition to vaccination, masks and physical distancing are key parts of keeping you and your family and friends safe.

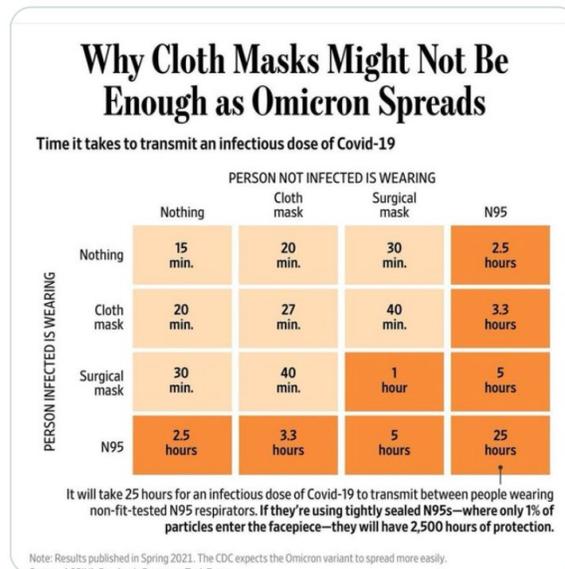
Recommendations about masks have changed as the pandemic has evolved. The *second graph* shows the protection afforded by various types of masks. The upper left corner illustrates the original recommendation to limit your exposure to another person to 15 minutes. Cloth

### About Covid Data Right Now

By Lazaro Gamio, Lisa Waananen Jones and Amy Schoenfeld Walker Jan. 7, 2022



masks are not as effective as surgical masks or N95 masks. The CDC now recommends masks with more protection. An alternative comparable to more expensive N95 masks is to double-mask using a surgical mask under a cloth mask; in February 2021 the CDC showed that wearing a well-fitted surgical mask under a cloth mask could reduce exposure by 96% (N95 offers 95% reduction).



We're all balancing personal and civic responsibility with the risk to ourselves and others. Covid isn't done with us. Observing precautions is a courtesy to those among us who have conditions that make them vulnerable. We're still in the midst of the pandemic, hoping that we reach the endemic stage when we will live with Covid-19 along with other respiratory viruses.

*Kathie King, Fleet Surgeon*



## FHYC AND RESPONSE TO CURRENT COVID VARIANT

When the pandemic started in March 2020, FHYC watched how Covid-19 was affecting our lives both in health and in social means. As a club we worked through various ways to provide for our members and at the same time trying to reduce the risk to them.

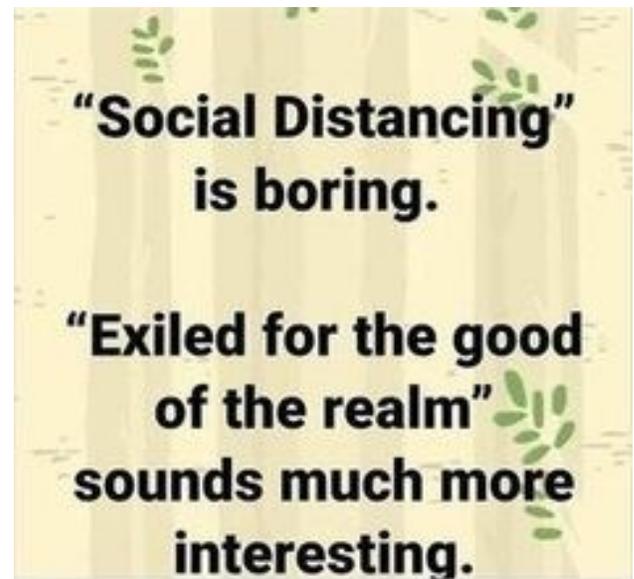
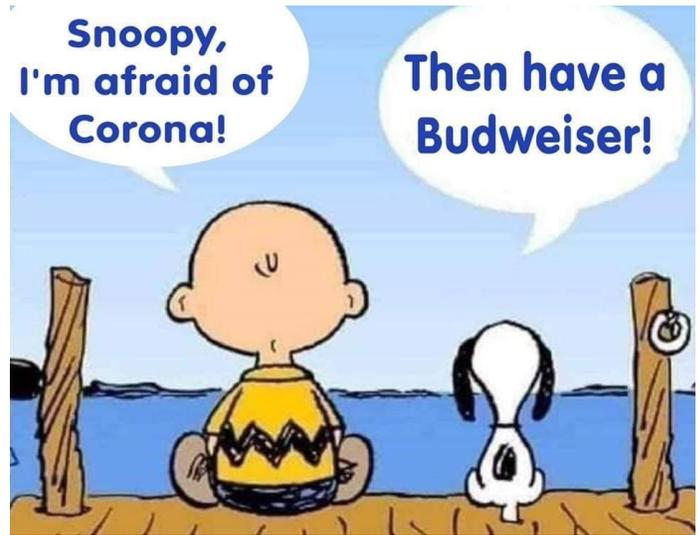
We are now dealing with a new variant that appears to be more contagious but less lethal to those who have had vaccines (2 vaccines plus “booster”). I asked Kathie King, Fleet Surgeon, for her advice on how the club should proceed.

We are coming off a huge holiday season with many members traveling to see family they haven't seen since the start of the pandemic, possibly bringing home a hitchhiker with the name Omicron. One thing Kathie and I agree on is that we are NOT going back to where we were twelve months ago. Most of us are tired of mandates and being shut off socially from friends and family, but we have to remain cautious.

We can socialize but the health and safety of our members is paramount. If you wish to attend the monthly General Meeting at the Community Center, we strongly urge you to wear a mask. If you don't wish to attend in person, video conferencing will still be available. If you are attending other FHYC sponsored activities, we urge you to mask up and try to social distance when possible.

Thank you for your support.

*Barbara Robinson, Commodore  
Kathie King, Fleet Surgeon*



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## Mark/Safety Boat Training

Do you own a power boat eighteen feet or longer? Are you interested in becoming a mark boat or safety boat (chase boat) for local sailboat regattas? Well, here's your chance to learn more about what is involved. I hope we get enough participants that mark or safety boat skippers need not help out more than 2-3 times a season.

FHYC is hosting a training class, on Saturday, January 29, 2022 at 10:00 am. We'll meet in the back yard of Russ & Barb Robinson on 905 Spar Ct. The class is open to all power boat skippers, whether you belong to a local yacht club or not. Even though Blackbeard is a sailing club, they may have members who also own trailer-able power boats. Our intent is to supply chase boats to any of the 3 local clubs (FHYC, BSC, and NYRA) when they are sponsoring a race. The class will cover everything, from how to inflate a mark to what's in the Rescue Box.

Please call me 252-637-9781 or email me at [jackson.jy@gmail.com](mailto:jackson.jy@gmail.com) and register. No fee, just a hardy interest in helping with regattas. Those of you who have been mark or safety boat operators and would like a refresher course, come join us too. When you come to class, bring your morning beverage of choice, a lawn chair and be comfortable!

*Georgie Jackson, FHYC Regatta Chair*



## To Cancel, or not to Cancel, that is the question?

I have been Regatta Chair, and Commodore, and my wife, Georgie is Regatta Chair. We have both faced the decisions, should we cancel an upcoming event, or should we let it be held. In all cases, there needs to be a cut off time that allows for communication of plans to all participants. Most of the time, the weather forecast is correct, but sometimes it is wrong. Cancel? Generally at the time the event was scheduled, the cancellation turned out to be the correct call. Occasionally the forecast turns out to be wrong, for example a storm that was forecast arrives 3 hours later, or not at all. In those instances it is obvious that we made the wrong call. But, remember, the call was made on based on the best information available at the time. First, we are looking out for the safety of all participating boats and their crews. Sailors may enjoy racing in twenty-two to twenty-five knots of wind, but is it comfortable for the PRO, mark boat, or safety boat? This becomes a serious question, especially if the PRO's boat or mark boat will be anchored for 3 hours with winds of twenty-two, gusting to thirty or thirty-five. The same can said for the safety boat that is generally an eighteen to twenty-two foot run-about. Do you want to sit in that boat for 3 hours?

Likewise with a lighted boat parade, a row boat, a twenty foot power boat, a sailboat, and a large powerboat will all react entirely differently in winds of fifteen knots. Confine them in a small space such as Spring Creek when gusty winds are forecast and things can become unpleasant. A sailboat that has decorative lights hanging from a mast at fifty or fifty-five feet above the water can have those lights blow around, hit the mast and break. In short, what is good for one group, may not be good for all.

The person in charge no matter if it is the Regatta chair, the Principal Race Officer (PRO) or the Cruising chair, must make a decision based on the safety of all persons and property. He/she will never please everyone. However, as club members we must accept that decision. In accepting the decision, please do not try to second guess the person in charge. Please do not criticize the person. He/she is making a difficult decision with the best information available. If you think the person is consistently making bad calls, politely question why and how the decision was made. Chances are, once you have all of the information he or she considered, you'll agree with the call.

*John Y. Jackson  
Past Commodore, Past Regatta Chair*

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## Valentine's Day Fun Race Is Coming!

Come out with your sweetie for a Valentine's Day Fun Race on Saturday February 12. We will start at N1 at 1300 hours (1:00 pm) and will celebrate later with a gathering at the Jackson's home at 1210 Pelican Drive beginning at 1700 hours (5:00 pm).



Bring your crew and their sweeties too. Hopefully we'll have **great snacks to share and BYOB**. As always, there is a prize for first place and a silly prize drawing for any boat that finishes the race. If you are not a Fairfield resident, I will alert the Gate that you are coming to race or to party.

Remember to download the Holiday Fun Race Invitation and Registration form. You'll find them under RACING on [fhyc.us/fhyc/](http://fhyc.us/fhyc/). If this is your first time racing in 2022 with FHYC, you will need to sign the waiver. (The policy adopted last year was that you only need to sign a waiver once a calendar year, before you race for the first time in 2022). Otherwise, just email me or call me ([jackson.jy@gmail.com](mailto:jackson.jy@gmail.com) or 252-637-9781), and you'll be all set. Your information needs to be on my registration check-off sheet by 1800 hours (6:00 pm) on Thursday Feb 10, otherwise you will not receive your start time and the course. Hope to see you on the water!

*Georgie Jackson, FHYC Regatta Chair*

## Regatta Race Officer Training 2022

The 3 local sailing organizations (FHYC, BSC, & NYRA) are in need of trained Race Officers (RO). You need not be the Principal Race Officer (PRO) or the chief executive of an organization's race committee to be the captain of an event's race committee. The main responsibilities are:

- Be familiar with and understand the importance of the NoR (Notice of Race) and the SI (Sailing Instructions)
- Understand the sailing characteristics of the types of boats competing
- Know, and be able to explain to your team, the various tasks to be performed
- Have appropriate tools to understand the conditions in the sailing area
- Determine the course and instruct your team how to set it
- Understand the starting sequence and its execution
- Respond to weather changes.

A RO need not have a boat. We have power boaters who volunteer to host the Race Committee, so don't let that hold you back!

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club will be hosting an introductory training session for interested sailors and experienced ROs. The Racing Rules of Sailing are revised and published every four years in coordination with the Olympics. The current version, 2021-2024, revises some of the rules that apply to conducting a race and it is important that anyone involved with race management, at any level, be familiar with them. If you would like to find out more about being a RO, or anyone who has had some experience and wants to know what has changed, you should take this class. It will be held on February 19, 2022 in Room #2 of the POA Activity Center, 0900-1400 hours (9:00 am – 2:00 pm). The course will be taught by Ray Redniss, a US Sailing Regional Race Officer, and a resident of Fairfield Harbour. A \$5 registration fee will include lunch (BYOB) and presentation materials to keep at home for review.



**To register** contact Georgie Jackson, FHYC Regatta Chair [jackson.jy@gmail.com](mailto:jackson.jy@gmail.com) or 252-637-9781.  
**Deadline is 5 PM February 17; the \$5 registration fee is collected at the door .**



## FAIRFIELD HARBOUR LOVES A PARADE

On December 5 the yacht club elves gathered in Pelican Park to await the kick off of the twenty-fifth annual community parade. It certainly was beginning to look a lot like Christmas as all the elves and Santa's were bustling about adding the last touches of tinsel to the land yachts, golf carts and bicycles. The crowds lined the streets and anticipation and excitement could be seen in the eyes of all the children, both young and old. The yacht club's participation in this year's event was quite a wonderful spectacle their new banner was front and center encouraging everyone to:

**"JOIN THE ADVENTURE"**

Our 2021 commodore Adrian Vergot, and his wife Erin led the parade and the little red truck with the yacht club Christmas tree pulled the commodores sleigh. Six land yachts, numerous golf carts and bicycles all decorated in Christmas wrappings followed. The walking yacht club elves tossed their candies to the crowds and greeted all with shouts of Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. Mr. and Mrs. Santa also joined in along with Rudolph. In the history of the FHYC this was its largest participation ever in the parade and it was certainly appreciated by all.

I was honored and had so much fun organizing this year's yacht club parade and recruiting all the Christmas elves.

**FHYC you were OUTSTANDING!  
Believe in the magic of Christmas...Fa La La!**

*Lois Andrews, Marketing Chair*





## FHYC Past Commodores' Food Drive Update

The food drive to support Religious Community Services (RCS) in New Bern went very well. RCS is committed to addressing the basic needs of Craven, Jones and Pamlico Counties by providing food, clothing and shelter to those who need it most. Traditionally, the food drive takes place in early December and is organized by the immediate Past Commodore with support by all the other Past Commodores.

With the generous support of FHYC members and the FH community in general, the drive was very successful. Donations included:

- 1379 lbs. of non-perishable food
- \$3660 as financial donations

At the end of the drive, RCS sent their truck to take away all the donated goods.

Special thanks go to all those who volunteered:

PC John Jackson, PC Ralph Azersky, Vance and Janet Hikes, PC Ray Gill, PC Karl and Elaine Mielenhausen, PC Olwen Jarvis, PC Sam and Delle Curry, George Stateham, Jeff and Shannon Taylor, PC Doug and Kathie King, Phil Katz and Linda Duncan, VC Barb Robinson, Commodore Adrian Vergot, Benny Thompson, Pam and Rick Miller, PC Rob and Chris Skrotsky, Yvonne Meissner, Steve and Linda Brockman, PC Ritchie and Julia Thomson, RC Dave and Paula Phipps.

Finally, thanks go to all who donated so generously.

*Ritchie Thomson, Past Commodore*

