

The Semaphore

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



Vol. 39 No. 3

35° 04' N., 076° 58' W.

April 2022



Commodore's Update

I've spoken before of my love of the club as well as the need for volunteers to help the club run smoothly. The club members who have stepped up are doing a wonderful job. There are some ideas floating around to enhance your club experience, including new activities to get you out and about whether by land or by water.

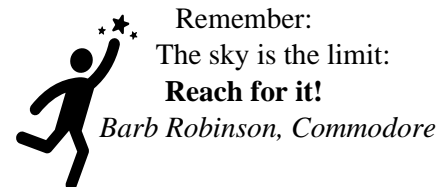
Your volunteer members make it look so easy, but a lot goes into preparing even the simplest of tasks. Hosting an orientation for a new member involves working with that new member and their sponsors through the paperwork needed to get to the point of the orientation meeting. The Membership Committee is doing a great job finding and processing new members. Pam Miller is putting together packets of information to be distributed to new residents of Fairfield Harbour. She could use help putting these together: call her. The Membership Committee activity helps bring in the money to support other committees.

The various dinners throughout the year are great because the Entertainment Committee has done their homework. The committee finds a venue that will appeal to the members, finds a caterer to provide food that appeals to the members, and reserves these arrangements, sometimes nine to ten months in advance of the actual dinner and all within a budget approved by the board! By the way, the budget depends very much on how many members we have.

How can you help? You can recruit new members; they may be your new neighbors who might be interested in becoming a member.

You can volunteer for one task for the Entertainment Committee, like setting up tables and chairs for an event. If you've taken the safety boat training that we offer, you can contact Georgie Jackson, Regatta Chair to offer your services or your boat.

All the committees and their chairs are in the FHYC 2022 Yearbook. Call the chair of a committee you are interested in and ask them how you can help



Remember:
The sky is the limit:
Reach for it!

Barb Robinson, Commodore

What's Happening?

April	Fr	1	RCS Clothing Drive (CC)	1200-1600
	Sa	2	RCS Clothing Drive (CC)	0900-1200
	Th	7	Ensign Race #2.....	1300
	Sa	9	Commissioning Day/Blessing of the Fleet.....	0930
	Sa	9	Anchors Aweigh Commission Day Picnic (RS)	1230
	Su	10	Sunfish Race.....	1400
	Mo	11	Board Meeting (AC).....	1600
	Th	14	General Meeting (CC).....	1900
	Th	14	Ensign Race #3.....	1300
	Fr	15	Seminar: On -line handling (women only)	TBD
	Sa	16	Easter Holiday Fun Race.....	1400
	Th	21	Ensign Race #4.....	1300
	Sa	23	Race: Wilkerson/Neuse River Regatta.....	TBD
	Su	24	Sunfish Race.....	1400
	Th	28	Ensign Race #5.....	1300

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

Deadline for next issue is noon, Monday, April 18, 2022

Delivery is Saturday, April 30, 2022

Mark/Safety Boat Class

What a difference a year makes! In January 2021, the Mark/Safety Boat class was held in blustery, damp 40 degree temperatures. This year the day was a delightful spring day with hazy sunshine, no wind, and mild temperatures.

John Jackson and Russ Robinson ran the safety boat part of the class. They taught from first-hand experience: their Ensign capsized while on a training exercise on the Neuse. A lot was learned from that event and they were able to share that experience along with the basics of safety boat do's and don'ts.

Ray Redniss took over the Mark Boat Class instruction. He taught the RO (Race Official) class the week before, so this was continuation of that class. Safety and mark boats are a very important part of a sail racing event. Ray described how to set up a course from the Race Official's course layout.

Barb Robinson, Commodore



Future Programs and Educational Seminars

The April FHYC program will be a presentation by Kennon Jones about his 880-day circumnavigation on a Tartan 34C.

In April there will be a women's only seminar on-line handling. It will be led by Melissa Drake. Time and place to be announced. Contact David Phipps or John Jackson for more information.

The May FHYC program will be a presentation/discussion on provisioning. This will be followed by an educational program about cooking on board on Friday, May 13 from 0900 to 1100 in Activity Center Room 1. For the Friday educational seminar, plan on bringing something that you have cooked on your boat, a recipe to share, and questions about what is easy, good, etc. More information will be available closer to the date.

John Jackson,

Program/Education Chair

Reminder: RCS Spring/Summer Clothing Drive Coming

It's that time of year again! We look at old clothes, including what kids have outgrown, and we decide if we'll *really? ever?* wear them again. Now is the time to collect those good, clean clothes and donate them to RCS (Religious Community Services). We collect everything from old business suits to those summer pants that never quite fit, children's outfits, shoes, and Grandma/Grandpa's Sunday-Go-Meeting clothes: are all welcome. Personal hygiene products are needed too: toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, combs, brushes deodorant, diaper cream, and hand cream are all welcome.

Neighborhood volunteers will be waiting to help unpack your car at the Cart Barn (across from the boat ramp on Pelican Drive) on April 1, 1200-1600 and April 2, 0800-1200. This has become a semi-annual event (April and October) and RCS is so grateful for everything Fairfield Harbour does for them.

RCS helps folks in three counties with food, shelter, employment opportunities, education, and counseling. Let's make it another huge success!

I'm also looking for a few volunteers to work the two hour shifts on April 2 from 0800-1000.

Give me a call (637-9781) or email me (jackson.jy@gmail.com) if you can work.

P.S. This is a great community service project for any church or school requirement.

Georgie Jackson, Coordinator

The Semaphore

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club

Editorial Team

Julia Thomson	919-260-9924
Beth Warnock	571-455-9967
Buddy Jewell	303-589-2917
Chris Jewell	303-589-2963
Barbara Lewis	330-441-1083
Michelle Aldrich	919-272-4605
Brian Aldrich	919-494-5864
Yvonne Meissner	941-276-7356

Proofreading Team

Pam Gaskill	252-631-1018
Phil Katz/	
Linda Duncan	252-631-1018
Julie Madsen	516-242-2643
Michael McDougall	252-626-7636
Bev Myrseth	816-210-0364
Shannon Taylor	410-310-6591
Chris Town	252-288-4010
Joan Wilson	610-357-7476

Distribution Chair

Jerry Rezac	252-288-4124
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Website: www.fhyc.us

Email: fhyc-nc@googlegroups.com

Deadline: The deadline for receiving articles is 1200 noon on the Monday following the General meeting.

Please email articles to:

fhycsemaphore@gmail.com

Edward Teach Youth Sailing Program

The March FHYC meeting had guest speaker Heather French, who gave an enthusiastic presentation about the Edward Teach Youth Sailing Program (ETYSA).

ETYSA is a summer sailing camp with one-week sessions in June and July. It is designed for kids in second grade (eight years old) and older. There are programs for everyone, from the first-time sailor to older children who have had some experience and are ready to compete in local regattas.

Heather suggested that this would be a great activity if you have a grandchild coming to visit this summer. And kids can take part in the camp Monday through Friday, from 0900 to 1500, leaving time for late afternoon or evening activities. family.

The program is conducted at Black Beard Sailing Club. They are also looking for volunteers to help on safety boats, during lunch activities, etc. Volunteer time can be as little as one day, or as long as six weeks. For more information, contact FHYC member Doug Longhini.

*John Jackson
Past Commodore*



Past Commodores enjoyed a night out at the Harbour Pointe Grille.



2022 FHYC Past Commodores' Dinner

The 2022 Past Commodores' Dinner was held on March 15 at the Harbour Pointe Grille, with 15 the 22 surviving Past Commodores in attendance with their spouses.

The dinner was hosted by PC Louise Knight, who thanked everyone for coming and made some opening comments. After PC Sam Curry's grace, the Grille's staff served a wonderful meal.

Adrian Vergot, our most recent Commodore, was inducted into the group. Most senior PC Tom Lelli recognized all the deceased Past Commodores.

Several other PCs discussed the many contributions to Fairfield Harbour and the community that have been made by Past Commodores. These included maintenance of markers, food and clothing drives, and assistance with the Edward Teach Youth Sailing Association.

The wonderful evening was filled with reminiscing and visiting, interspersed with jokes provided by PCs Charlie Ward and Don Knight. Many new memories were created. Next year's Past Commodore annual Dinner will be hosted by PC Doug King.

*Louise Knight,
Past Commodore*



FHYC Shakedown/Wine Tasting Cruise 2022

May 20 – 22, 2022

This Shakedown is the first cruising event of the year for Fairfield Harbor Yacht Club. Shakedown is the opportunity to test the systems on our boats to be sure everything is working right before heading out on longer cruises. So, on Friday, May 20, we will head to the Oriental Marina for the weekend. The Marina doubles as an Inn, so those wanting to attend the festivities by land yacht are eagerly welcomed. Oriental is a wonderful town to wander around, beginning with breakfast at The Beane (coffee!), then shopping or exploring the Oriental Brew House to sample various craft beers. For those wanting to cool off, the Marina has a pool and Tiki bar.

Planned Events:

Friday, May 20

- o Splash / Nautical Trivia
- o Potluck Dinner

Saturday, May 21

- o Splash / Wine Tasting
- o Dinner at the Toucan

The Wine Tasting Contest, or should we say ‘guessing’, is back. Several varieties of wine will be sampled. Nautical Trivia was introduced by Phil and Linda Katz last year and was a hit. It’s certainly easier than the wine tasting guess-a-thon, and just as fun. First prize per contest wins a bottle of wine. We need information from cruisers who are planning to attend the cruise by boat so that slip reservations can be procured. Please respond no later than March 31.

Jon Bendicksen

Chesapeake Cruise

We are looking for input from cruisers interested in cruising the Chesapeake this year. We would like to leave around April 29 and return before Memorial Day. The weather should be warm, but it will be too early to worry about hurricanes. It takes a little time to get to the Bay, but once you are there, there are so many places to go.

It would be great to get your input! I would like to set up a meeting the end of March to go over possibilities. If you could contact me, I can then set up a meeting to discuss destinations and time schedules for the trip. In the meantime, get out those charts and guidebooks and start dreaming. Contact Peter Clay (419) 260-4781 or pkclay@hotmail.com

Peter and Kathy Clay

Sock Burning?

Sock Burning Etiquette

Sock burning is a weird yet endearing tradition. It’s where we all get together, get barefoot, and burn stuff. It’s to celebrate the spring, I swear. This is what you need to know.

First of all, remember that you’re going to be exposing your feet in public, months before you’re actually ready to do so. Maybe clean those piggies up a touch? Maybe even **plan a quick trip to the pedicurist**.

Second of all, this is an event to burn socks, and socks only. **Don’t plan on burning other things**. Don’t show up thinking you can burn a pair of boxers or granny panties as a substitute. No one wants to see that. We’re having a hard-enough time with you waving your socks around. And this event is solely about socks; we cannot stress this enough

Speaking of socks, you want to bring your old wool or cotton socks. Have you ever tried to burn nylon or fleece socks? They don’t burn; they just smoke and turn into charred, hard-as-rock pucks of despair for some poor volunteer to clean up. Burning your nasty old argyles is bad enough. Don’t make it any worse by throwing in your heat-repellant tech wear. Even the removal of your socks requires a speech on etiquette. As you take your socks off, you are encouraged to put your shoes back on for safety and self-respect reasons. **But do not even think about asking someone else to hold your socks** while you tie your shoes.

After you take off your socks, move carefully and cautiously toward the fire. Place your socks delicately on the flames. **Do not wave your socks around your head** like a deranged cowboy. As soon as you place your socks on the fire, take your Fond Memories photo and then immediately move away from the flames. Do not stand by the fire, barefoot, demanding attention and recognition.

After you’ve burned your socks and taken your Fond Memories photo, remember to find those volunteers and offer them a drink. They are going to be cleaning up your charred socks. They deserve a beer.

One issue that we see with sock burnings is that folks think that since their socks are off, other things should come off, as well. Look. Sock burnings happen in the very early days of spring. This is not a “sun’s out, guns out” situation. Your abdominal region is not ready for prime time. **Keep your clothes on!**

.If you find your mind starting to judge the shape of your friends’ feet, remind yourself that “What happens at the Sock Burning stays at the festival.” Take only Fond Memories photos, and leave only your disgusting, burned socks, charred and smoking in the ashes. It’s the way springtime is meant to be celebrated.

*George Stateham, Past Commodore
Chief Destroyer of Socks*

The FHYC Sock Burning took place at Red Sail Park on March 19, 2022. The fire was legal, the ashes were disposed of correctly, and no charred remains of socks with plastic material were found. There were no stinky feet that were noticed, and all participants remained clothed.

The food was good (as usual), the drinks were good (as usual), the conversations were varied and lively, and the sock burning was deemed a success!

Chris Jewell

ODE TO THE SOCK BURNERS

Fairfield Harbour folks got an odd tradition
When the sun swings to its Equinoxical position,
They build a little fire in Red Sail Park,
They doff their shoes and they burn their
winter socks.

Yes, they burn their socks at the Equinox;
You might think it’s peculiar, but they think it’s not,
See they’re the same socks they put on last fall,
And they never took them off to wash them,
not at all...

So they burn their socks at the Equinox
In a little old fire nice and hot.

Some think incineration is the only solution,
‘Cause washin’ ‘em contributes to the Neuse’s
pollution.

Through the spring and summer and into the fall,
They go around not wearing any socks at all,
Just stinky bare feet stuck in old deck shoes,
Whether out on the water or sippin’ a brew.

So if you sail into the Harbour around the middle of
March,
And you smell a smell like Limburger sautéed with
laundry starch,
You’ll know you’re downwind of the Fairfield docks
Where they’re burning their socks for the Equinox.

Original poem by Jefferson Holland, Eastport
Adapted by FHYC



Some people sneak up on the fire



Some people do a happy fire dance



Some people show great finesse

Commodores' Ball March 17, 2022

What is there to say about the Commodores' Ball? It never fails to be an evening of good food, good music, and great camaraderie with both old friends and new. In addition, we all manage to rummage through our closets for our best clothes (“*Where IS that dress that I can still fit into?*”), find the accessories (“*Honey, do you know where I put my ties?*”) and look our elegant best.

FHYC hosted the 2022 Commodores' Ball on March 17. The evening began with a photo opportunity as each couple entered, courtesy of John Jackson. The formal festivities began with the traditional presentation of past Commodores. They proceeded down center aisle with their escorts, briefly stopping for a photo. An impromptu stop was made for birthday wishes for PC George Stateham to help him celebrate a milestone birthday. The Commodore procession was followed by a thoughtful invocation by Fleet Chaplain Bryan Brown. Past Commodore John Jackson presided over the festivities in his inimitable manner and Rear Commodore Craig Myler presented Commodore Barb Robinson, who succinctly summed it all up: “Have a great evening and enjoy yourselves.” In keeping with the Commodore's orders, we did just that.



*Commodore Barb Robinson
and Russ Robinson, Treasurer*



*Janice Myler, Entertainment Committee Chair,
and Craig Myler, Rear Commodore*

PLEASE NOTE: Pictures can be seen at <https://johnjackson.smugmug.com/Commodores-Ball-2022/>.

Saint Patrick's Day "Fun"Race

The St. Paddy's Day race was originally scheduled for Saturday, March 19, but was postponed due to wind and possible rain. The racers tried again on Sunday, March 20, despite less-than-optimal race weather conditions. Some racers could not leave their docks due to low water, and others thought the wind was too strong, so there was low participation.

However, the race was held. *Baggywrinkle*, sailed by Mark and Mary Hittner, took first place. *Dutch Wind*, sailed by Ed Thompson, was second, and Patrick Walsh, on *Sea N Double*, was third.

After consultation, the little basket of Irish goodies was awarded to Tom Pederson on his safety boat, *Zero Assets*. It was his first time as safety boat, with extra responsibilities I threw at him at the last moment. He also pulled one of the racers off a sand bar. Good job, Tom!

Thanks to Barb & Russ Robinson for sharing their home for the after party.

Georgie Jackson, Regatta Chair

As the Jacksons noted, it was an interesting day on the water. After the race, participants were invited to the Robinsons' house for an after-party. We had a great turnout with some really good food (as usual) that people brought to share.

There were many stories, including equipment failure, a boat running aground and needing to be "rescued", it was just part of a day's sail on the Neuse.

The next FHYC fun race will be the Easter Race on Saturday, April 16, with an after-race gathering. Contact Georgie Jackson, Regatta Chair to register: Georgie will also send out reminders.

The following weekend, on Saturday, April 23, the First Annual Neuse River Regatta will take place. The regatta is sponsored by FHYC, BSC and NYRA. More information will be coming out shortly and will be available online. Please note that this is a catered event, so registration will be required soon.

Barb Robinson, Commodore



Have you ever seen such a happy sailor?

