

The Semaphore

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



Vol. 40 No. 1 35° 04' N., 076° 58' W. February 2023



Commodore's Update

Change of Watch

Your club began 2023 with a wonderfully executed Change of Watch Ceremony at the January 12 general membership meeting, in which a dozen Past Commodores and 28 other members were recognized for their leadership roles and contributions to the ongoing success of the club! We had the chance to thank outgoing Commodore Barb Robinson for her passionate dedication and service to the club over the last year, presenting her with an engraved gavel, a FHYC blanket from the ships store, and an exquisite wood cutting board made by her talented woodworking husband.

In addition, I was sincerely humbled and honored to be named as your 38th Commodore, and pledge to work with the Board of Governors to build on the considerable contributions of those who have gone before me. We'll

continue to embrace the best of our club's long held traditions, while at the same time remaining open to new ideas in a society with challenging cultural shifts, where people more jealously guard their free time.

Our goal will always be the same: to build an environment in which all our members, across all our component constituencies, have fun, and enjoy the maximum benefit from their membership. We have a bright future, and together with your active help, we'll experience one of the best years in our club's nearly 40-year history!

Our program for the January meeting featured the results of the recent Membership Renewal Survey, providing a remarkable look into the diverse demographics, constituencies, and preferences of our membership. These survey results are valuable, and provide

tangible information to guide the thinking and decision making of the Board over the next few years! If you were unable to be present for the meeting, you missed out, but survey results are posted under the Members Only tab of our club website at www.fhyc.us. I'm sure you'll find them quite revealing.

Other headline news from the meeting includes a change in General Membership meeting agendas, in which routine business reports are to be relegated to just four meetings per year at mid quarter. The intention is to streamline these meetings, keeping membership engaged with a more user-friendly format. We also rolled out a new calendar feature, which showcases activities and events available to club members over the coming weeks. Events are briefed from the calendar, and copies are available at the membership table

What's Happening?

Feb	Mo	6	Board Meeting (AC)	1600
	Th	9	General Meeting (CC)	1900
	Fr	10	Education Seminar (AC)	1000
	Sa	11	Race: Valentine's Day Holiday Fun	
	We	15	Spaghetti Cook-Off (CC)	1730
	Tu	28	New Member Reception (CC)	TBA

(CC)=Community Center, (RS)=Red Sail Park, (AC)=Activity Center
Deadline for next issue is noon, Monday, February 13, 2023
 Delivery is Tuesday, February 28, 2023

on your way out of the building. The new calendar is also available online at the club's website and will be updated with the latest information after the monthly Board of Directors meeting.

Be sure to look through the February upcoming events and activities, which include boating courses taught by the USCG Auxiliary right here in Fairfield Harbour, our own educational seminar on anchoring, a Valentines weekend holiday race, and a spaghetti cookoff among others. There's something for everyone here at FHYC!

Join the Adventure!

Dave Phipps
Commodore



2023 HOLIDAY RACE SERIES

The first race of the Holiday Race Series was held January 1, 2023. This year's race was not well attended but for those boats that did participate it was a glorious day. The temperature was in the upper 60s with light but consistent winds.

Blue Note with Mark Brennesholtz, Mary Hittner, and Jerry Rezab, handily won the race and the coveted coffee cup. A "thank you" to Ralph Azersky for providing the safety boat.

Russ Robinson
Member

The Semaphore Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club

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Website: www.fhyc.us

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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

2nd Annual Cook-Off

Come join the fun on Wednesday, February 15, when FHYC hosts our 2nd Annual Cook-Off. This year the theme is

Spaghetti Sauce

Those who attended last year's Cook-Off know what a fun and delicious event it was. Flyer for the Cook-Off is attached to this *Semaphore*.

Any questions should be directed to Janice Myler at themylers@suddenlink.net or 443-299-8916.



Red Marker Bloopers



The program for the FHYC general meeting on February 9 will feature a bit of club history and a lot of fun. What's a blooper? Googling, it's "a mistake, especially an embarrassing one witnessed by other people." Anecdotes and stories are memorable, and in retrospect, a painful mistake can make a great story. We're all friends, and we can all think about our own memorable events.

Many boating clubs have awards for these teachable moments; FHYC awarded the "Red Marker" from 2001 until 2019, and Blackbeard Sailing Club has the "Blunder Bucket." Notables from both clubs, some who may be attending February 9, have qualified for these awards.

So how did FHYC come upon the Red Marker award? An FHYC cruise leader (who happened to be Commodore) warned cruise participants to "watch out for crab pots" several times. The Commodore was watching so carefully for crab pots that he ran aground near a red marker; the wind pushed him further aground and eventually he needed to call Tow Boat US. The Fleet Captain built an award that looked like a red marker, even writing a poem about the incident, and the Red Marker was among the serious and fun awards given in fall 2001.

This program will feature 5-7 of your friends and neighbors who will describe their problems and what they learned from these events in 2-3 minutes. After each presentation, we'll have 2-3 minutes for comments or questions from the audience (please limit remarks to 30 seconds to allow others to speak). A bell will be rung if we're tight on time (we all want our wine and snacks).

Quoting others: wisdom comes from experience, and experience comes from mistakes; a mistake increases your experience and experience decreases your mistakes!

*Kathy King
Fleet Surgeon*

2022 Holiday Party

The club held its 2022 Holiday Party "Jingle Aweigh" at Carolina Colours on December 8. Members enjoyed a delicious dinner catered by The Chelsea and danced the night away to tunes provided by BTA Entertainment. A highlight of the evening was the Salvation Army collecting gifts donated to their annual Christmas Angel program, an effort led by Linda Lelli. It was a lovely event, and attendees enjoyed a lively cocktail hour, sit-down dinner, holiday music, and wonderful dancing. It truly was good food, good drink, good friends, and good times.

*Janice Myler
Member*



HOLIDAY PARADE OF LIGHTS 2022



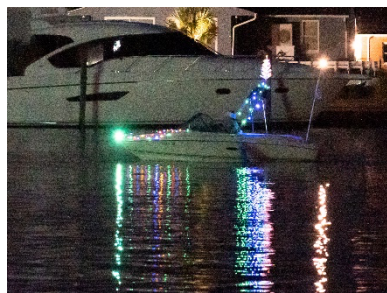
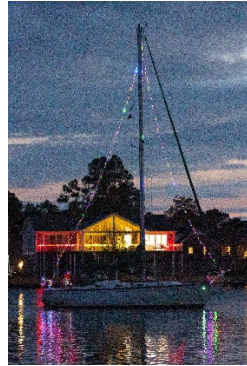
At sundown on December 10, 19 boats met in Northwest Creek to assemble for the annual Holiday Parade of Lights. There were 4 sailboats, 14 power boats, and a rowboat. The boats ranged in size from 12' to 40'. The flotilla of boats got into position, turned on their decorative lights and slowly followed the rowboat "Nell" up Spring Creek towards the Inner Harbour. The rowboat led the parade, powered by Jerry and Melissa Drake and their dog Bodie.



As they approached the Inner Harbor, the Flotilla Captain signaled the Cannonier, Ralph Azersky, who then announced the parade with a rocket flare followed by a cannon blast.



The Fairfield Harbour residents, waiting along the Inner Harbour shoreline, watched as the decorated boats paraded around twice with their festive lights.



These wonderful pictures were taken by Stan Eakins. Thanks to all the boats who decorated and participated in the parade and thanks to all the residents and guests who watched the parade with festive enthusiasm.

*Phil Katz
Cruising Committee Chair*

Parade of Lights - After Party

Following an amazing 2022 Parade of Lights, Club members and guests attended a gathering at the Community Center to put a nightcap on the evening. After the cold temperatures on the water, the group enjoyed a bounty of cookies brought by attendees. Hot cocoa was provided and there may have even been some holiday spirits around. Everyone enjoyed a Holiday Bingo game that encouraged learning things about other members of the Club by asking questions and filling out a Bingo card. Of course, holiday music, cookies, and socializing with members of the Club was magical!

*Janice Myler
Member*



Submerged Barge Update

For those of you following the progress of the removal of the sunken barge in Northwest Creek, the crane and barge have been removed from the water! A great effort by the POA, the Wildlife Commission and many concerned residents and boaters. Thank you to all who have sent in such great pictures of this project. It certainly has been a captivating event to follow.

A word of caution, pilings and debris are still submerged and could float loose. Navigate with caution in the entire area. A floating 40-foot piling has already been captured and secured.



During the removal a derelict sailboat was recovered, owner unknown. If you recognize it, please let the POA know.

*Olwen Jarvis
Past Commodore*

RCS Food Drive

As the newest Past Commodore, it was a pleasure organizing this year's Religious Community Services food drive. This outreach is a simple way for Fairfield Harbour to assist in the holiday spirit of giving, and in our current inflation economy the donations of food and monetary gifts will absolutely make a big impact for those who are trying to make ends meet in our local communities.

In total, the club collected a truckload of non-perishable food and other items and \$2,750.00 in cash donations. There were also other intangible donations that often get overlooked, and these are the contributions of volunteers' valuable time and effort.

In this area I would like to specifically thank all of the club members who made this event possible by stepping forward and volunteering to staff the collection site: Vicky Lynch, Shannon and Jeff Taylor, Bev and Arne Myrseth, George Stateham, Michael McDougall, Norm Meissner, Julie Madsen, Peter Budzynkiewicz, Chris Skrotsky, Janet and Vance Hikes, Chris and Buddy Jewell, Doug King, Olwen Jarvis, Lindy and Carol Lindtveit, Barb Robinson, Steve Hustad, Julia and Ritchie Thomson, and last but not least, my better half Erin.

Through acts of kindness the blessings get distributed, which I know in my heart makes our Creator smile. God Bless!

*Adrian Vergot
Past Commodore*



Back row, left to right: RCS Mark Devanney, RCS Randall Church, Julia Thomson, Past Commodore Barb Robinson, Steve Hustad
Front row, left to right: Past Commodore Adrian Vergot and Erin Vergot

Calling All Members!!!

The Hospitality Committee met in December to make plans for the 2023 General Meetings. We were delighted that so many members attended and signed up to be hosts for the New Year! Each host will be recruiting co-hosts to help set up for the meetings at the Community Center, serve refreshments, and clean up afterwards.

We will be calling on the entire membership for help, so expect to get a call from a host. The more helpers we have the easier it is to get the room set up. This is also a great opportunity to get to know more of your fellow club members. If you would like to go ahead and sign up for a particular month you can do so by calling Leigh at 919-801-7123.

*Leigh Hart, Kathy Clay, and
Darlene De Figueiredo
Hospitality Co-Chairs*



Don't forget!

**FHYC Valentine's Day Race
Saturday February 11
(see attached flyer for details)**



Golden Globe Update January 4, 2023

Recap – this is a single-handed Round-the-World race for 32–36-foot monohulls, built before 1988. Clearly, they have been specially prepared for the race, but they still maintain their vintage status. They sail without GPS and such modern electronics.

The trip down the Atlantic thinned out the fleet and 7 of the 16 starters have retired. One main reason seems to have been failure of the mechanical self-steering gear. This gear takes a huge amount of stress and is essential for single handing.

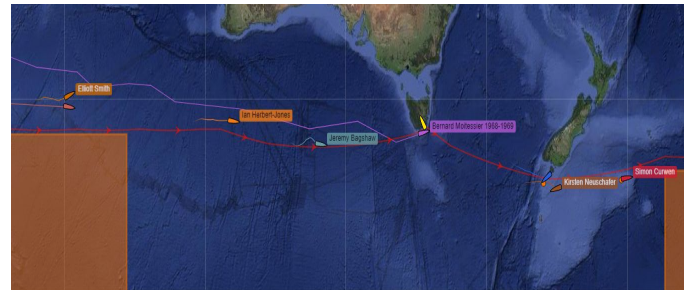
There was some excitement when Tapio Lehtinen from Finland aboard *Asteria* [photo] sank having passed the gate off South Africa. To quote Tapio “After a total rebuild four years ago and being fitted out and inspected again this year, being flooded up to deck level in five minutes and sinking twenty minutes later in beautiful summer conditions is beyond my comprehension.” Tapio was able to don his survival suit and get into his life raft. He activated his EPIRB and waited for rescue. The rescue was very well coordinated; two other competitors were contacted and routed towards him. The nearest, Kirsten Neuschäfer from South Africa on *Minnehaha*, was able to pick him up. He was subsequently transferred to a freighter, “in cooperation with captain Naveen Kumar Mehrotra, getting *Minnehaha* safely in the lee of m/v *Darya Gayatri* and getting me safely onboard the ship where I am now very happily enjoying the Indian hospitality of the captain and crew.” Tapio, on board *Darya Gayatri*, is now heading for China and then presumably home to prepare for his next adventure.

The three leading boats have now passed south of New Zealand and are into a long haul towards Cape Horn. Kirsten Neuschäfer, even after her rescue of Tapio, is

running in second place behind Simon Curwen of the UK aboard *Clara*.

The race fleet still represents boats from many nationalities including USA, Spain, India, and of course, France. They are perhaps at the half-way point in the race. A lot can still happen as they work their way across the Southern Ocean and round Cape Horn and into the Atlantic. In particular, chafe and mechanical stress issues will only increase.

Richie Thomson
Past Commodore



Fulfillment

This is the second in a series of articles from our new members, the Hughes that first appeared in the January/December issue of the *Semaphore* under the title “The Dream Begins”. This is a saga of a family learning to sail and live aboard with children.

It took two years to find a buyer for our business, then sell our house, along with all our furniture and cars. We had to do it that

way, to be able to amass enough money to buy a decent boat, with enough left over to live on. Everyone, including both our parents, thought we were crazy to give up what we had worked so hard to achieve, but then, they knew less about sailing than we did. Teachers at the girl’s school were much more supportive, and suggested ways I could continue their education with correspondence courses and books.



Roger went on a sailing course in the North Sea, and I learned celestial navigation at a local community college—satellite navigation had not yet been invented. Roger bought me a sextant for my birthday. Oh! What wife doesn't want a sextant for her birthday? But I still cherish it!

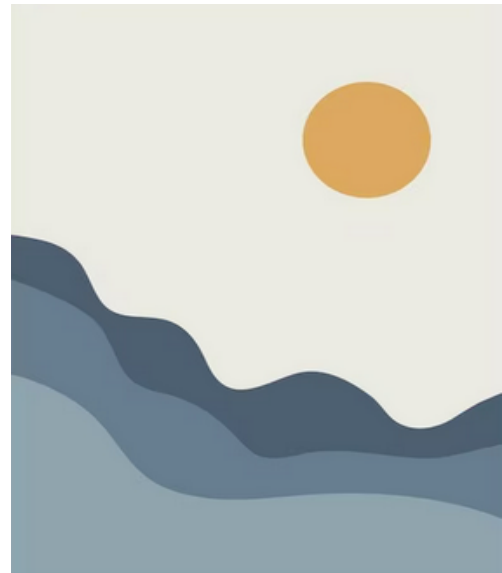
We found a two-year-old, well-equipped Endurance 40 ketch on the River Seven near Bristol. It had three cabins, a saloon, and a separate galley. This meant the girls could at least have their own rooms. The boat didn't even have a name, so we called her *Tranquility Base* because we were sure, if the Americans could get to “Mar Tranquilitas” on the moon, we ought to be able to get to ours to the Mediterranean.

We lugged a vanload of belongings to the boat, including four bicycles. It certainly seemed like everything except the kitchen sink, but then, I wanted to make this dramatic life-change as little disruption as possible, especially for our girls. I remember they had three teddy-bears each! Yes, we were very naive in those days about what was needed, or what could even be stowed on a forty-footer. Finally, with the help of a professional skipper we sailed round Lands' End to Falmouth, where “TB” was one of the largest boats on the moorings. We stayed there for a summer and the girls went to Flushing Village School. We arranged for the Flushing/Falmouth ferry to pick them up and drop them back at the boat every school day. Passengers on the ferry sometimes gave us quite stern looks.

It was the year of the Queens Silver Jubilee, and she came into Falmouth on the Royal Yacht *Britannia*. So, along with other boats in the harbour we dressed ship for the occasion. Some of the girl's friends also came to visit, which made their transition a little easier. Quite what they said to their own parents when they got home, I can only imagine.

We all learned how to sail in Falmouth Harbour and the surrounding coast, and how to live together in very close proximity, which was not always congenial. We joined the local yacht club, the prestigious Royal Cornwall YC, and received a warrant to fly the blue ensign, a very distinctive flag, having the heraldic feathers of the Prince of Wales, the club Commodore, embroidered on it.

*Kati Hughes
Member*



Change of Watch, continued



Past Commodore Barb Robinson handing Leadership to Commodore Phipps



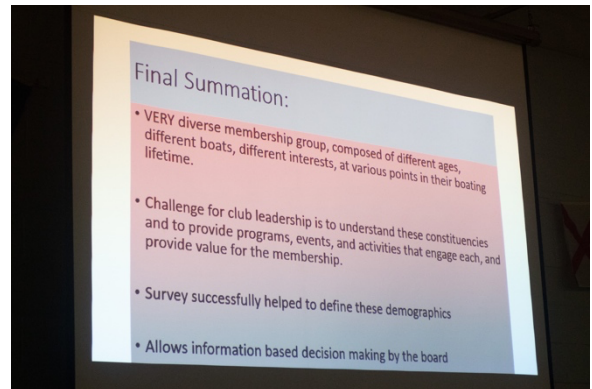
Commodore Phipps Recognizing Past Commodore Barb Robinson



Craig Myler being Sworn in as Vice by Commodore Phipps



Commodore Dave Phipps Swearing in Steve Hustad as Rear Commodore, Buddy Jewel as Treasurer, Andrew Underhill and Dave Miller as Directors



Summation of the Member Survey

Free Income Tax Preparation by VITA

Form **1040** Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service
U.S. Individual Income Tax Return | **2022**

Volunteers from the Income Tax Assistance organization (VITA) are pleased to provide FREE tax return preparation services in Craven and Pamlico County. This service is sponsored by the IRS and all the volunteers are IRS certified. Several residents of Fairfield Harbour are volunteers in this important service. The service is intended to assist taxpayers with low or moderate incomes but cannot handle some complex situations such as a small business loss, or rental property. However, most returns are in the scope of the VITA services.

Starting on February 6th, services will be provided on Mondays and Tuesdays at the Harrison Center, 311 Middle Street in New Bern from 0900 to 1500 except February 21 when it will be at The Pointe Restaurant in Fairfield Harbour also at 0900 to 1500. This service will continue until Tax Day which this year is April 18. You should bring all your tax documents as listed below:

- State or federally issued photo ID(s). For example, driving license(s).
- Social Security Statement
- Social Security Card
- Tax documents received in the mail during January and February. They will be recognizable by having 1099 on the document. For example, 1099-R or 1099-MISC.
- Brokers statement, if applicable
- 2022 tax return
- Any other documents you think will be needed to prepare your 2023 tax return.

Your tax return will be prepared with your participation through a three-step process. The steps are:

1. You will be asked to complete the intake sheet (IRS form 13514-C) and your tax documents will be checked against the information on the form. Your ID(s) will also be checked.
2. An IRS-certified preparer will then prepare your tax return while you sit with them. Also, your photo ID(s) will be checked (again).

You are expected to ask questions and participate in the preparation of your return. All the information goes into an IRS-approved computer system called TaxSlayer. No information is stored at the preparation site. There is the option that the taxpayer can have the return prepared in their absence (drop-off), at least at the New Bern site.

3. Once the preparation is complete, an independent check is performed by a reviewer, again with your participation. When this is complete, your returns are printed and signed by you. They can then be submitted electronically to the IRS and to the NC Department of Revenue.

Electronic submission is strongly encouraged as it by-passes the large backlog of paper returns sitting with the IRS. This can speed up any refunds due. The completed returns and all the tax documents are returned to you, nothing is held at the preparation site.

We recommend getting your tax return into the IRS as soon as possible as this 'locks' your social security number so no one else can use it illicitly.

You can find more information on the VITA New Bern web site: <https://www.newbernvita.com/>.

*Richie Thomson
Past Commodore*



“Paying for the boat was easy...but thanks to price of fuel, I can only take it out once every three years.”

