

The Semaphore

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



Vol. 40 No. 2

35° 04' N., 076° 58' W.

March 2023



Commodore's Update From the Helm

Those of you who have attended our monthly General Membership meetings know we're off to a great start with new and interesting plans for 2023! Armed with the results of our recent Member Renewal Survey, the Board of Governors is making an effort to respond to the identified preferences of our members. Allow me to share a few of those responses and initiatives with you.

First, in an effort to make our General Membership meetings more compelling and interesting to a larger segment of our membership, we've redesigned the meeting format. Business reporting will only be done once a quarter, mid-quarter. We've introduced a new comprehensive calendar which includes all manner of local events of interest to boaters, and membership is "briefed" off of the calendar in a review of activities

available over the next several weeks. Copies of the calendar are made available at the meeting for those who don't wish to take notes, and the calendar is also available online at fhyc.us, updated monthly after the Board meeting. The result is a faster paced, more informative and hopefully more engaging meeting. If you haven't attended in a while, we encourage you to do so and see for yourself! Attendance was up significantly at the February meeting; we're hoping to see even more of you in March!

Secondly, our Cruising Committee has developed a number of new cruising opportunities for 2023 based on preferences expressed in the Renewal Survey.

These include day trips for smaller boats, Inner Harbour raft-ups, and a bare boat charter in the Bahamas, which has already been filled to capacity!

Our regular "dinners out" resumed last fall, and continued with a recent, well attended, and much enjoyed dinner at the Salt Water Grill in River Bend. You can also anticipate some "themed" impromptu get-togethers over the next several months.

Our Program and Education Committees have lined up an impressive array of engaging programs and seminars this year. In February, Kathie King hosted a wonderful learning experience in a General Meeting program entitled

What's Happening in March

March	6	Monday	Board Meeting (AC2)	1600
	9	Thursday	General Meeting (CC): Program: Boating Safety	1900
	10	Friday	Education Seminar: Raft up Protocol (AC2)	0900
	16	Thursday	Commodores' Ball (Carolina Colours)	1730
	18	Saturday	St. Patrick's Holiday Race	
	18	Saturday	FHYC Sock Burning (RS)	1500
	24	Friday	RCS Clothing Drive (Cart Barn)	0800-1400
	25	Saturday		0800-1300
	30	Thursday	Ensign Race	

(CC)=Community Center, (RS)=Red Sail Park, (AC)=Activities Center, (IH)=Inner Harbour, (V)=online

Deadline for next issue is noon, Monday, March 13, 2023

A digital copy will be delivered via FHYC email and posted on the FHYC website on or before April 1, 2023

“Red Marker Bloopers”, where half a dozen brave members gave us the benefit of their unfortunate experience. This was followed by an outstanding educational seminar the next morning entitled “Secure Anchoring”, taught by member, experienced mariner, and author Mark Johnson. Mark’s fascinating seminar filled the room to capacity, and related his invaluable, hard earned decades of real-world anchoring experience in a variety of conditions, including hurricanes!

In the March 9 General Membership meeting, we’re scheduled to have Karl Mielenhausen from the USCG Auxiliary present a Boating Safety program as a refresher and primer at

a time when most of us are preparing our boats for a busy summer season. Karl is not to be missed! The next day, March 10, Steve Hart has scheduled an educational seminar on raft-up procedures, which includes a classroom presentation in the morning, and on-the-water practice in the afternoon. I strongly encourage you to attend if possible, as there are a number of raft-ups planned over the next several months you won’t want to miss.

And speaking of the “you won’t want to miss” category, don’t forget to join us for one of the most prestigious and enjoyable events of the year, the Commodores’ Ball, on March 16! While this is a formal event, it has traditionally been a well-attended annual highlight with a wonderful meal, program, and after dinner dancing. Please get your reservations to Janice Myler no later than March 6.

I’m also pleased to inform you that after a hiatus due to Covid over the last two years, and after due consideration of member preferences expressed in the recent Member Renewal Survey, the Board has voted to rejoin the Yachting Club of America, an organization of yacht clubs that extend certain courtesies to member organizations. Special thanks to a number of our members who have agreed to help organize and manage reciprocal services to visiting club boaters. More information will be provided once our application has been accepted.

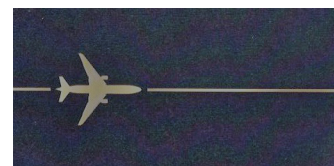
Spring is just around the corner, and it’s not too early to start thinking about the Blessing of the Fleet, Spring Commissioning, Sunfish Racing, Fun Races, and the Wilkerson Race....all coming up in April! As you’re aware after having read to this point, as a member of Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club,

there’s something sure to be of interest for every boater!

Join the Adventure!

Dave Phipps, Commodore

Come Fly With Me



The 2023 Commodores’ Ball will take place Thursday, March 16, 2023, at Carolina Colours starting at 1730 for cocktails. This annual event honors our current Commodore, Dave Phipps, along with the Past Commodores. Your invitation was delivered to your brown box as an insert to the 2023 Yearbook. This special occasion offers the perfect opportunity to dress up, enjoy fine food catered by The Chelsea, and dance the night away. RSVP early and plan to be there for the fun! Any questions, please call Janice Myler at 443-299-8916.

The Entertainment Committee

New Coast Guard Fire Extinguisher Regulation Issued April 2022

The US Coast Guard issued a change to the regulation for fire extinguishers on recreational vessels. The number of fire extinguishers based on boat length has not changed, however, the new rule included two changes.

- Disposable fire extinguishers older than 12 years from manufacture cannot be used to meet the fire extinguisher requirements.

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

- Boats built in 2017 or earlier may still use Marine Type B:C I or II but they must be less than 12 years old.
- Newer boats manufactured after 2017 will be required to carry the newer UL Classified 5-B:C/10-B:C Fire Extinguishers. One 10-B:C

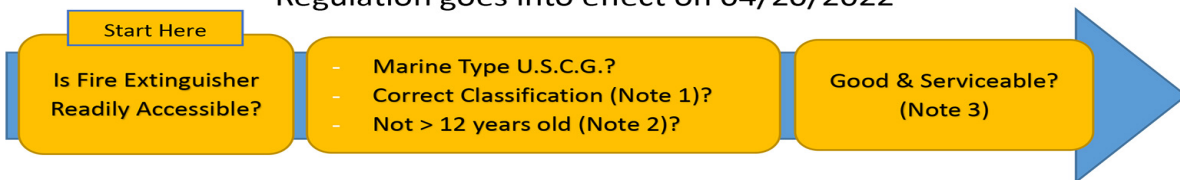
extinguisher will only count as meeting one 5-B:C extinguisher requirement. One 20-B:C extinguisher may be used to meet the requirement for two 5-B:C extinguishers. The Coast Guard still requires that all fire extinguishers on

board be accessible and in good serviceable condition. This new regulation only impacts portable disposable fire extinguishers. Fixed built-in fire extinguishing systems have their own inspection and servicing requirements.

John Myer

Fire Protection for Recreational Boats

Regulation goes into effect on 04/20/2022



- Note 1** – a. Extinguishers **UL Classified 5-B:C/10-B:C** (or greater) meet carriage requirements for ALL recreational vessels regardless of vessel age.
 b. Extinguishers rated as **Marine Type USCG Type B:C, size I or size II** are only acceptable on vessels built model year 2017 or earlier.
 (*Model year* means the period beginning June 1 of a year and ending on July 31 of the following year and being designated by the year in which it ends.)
 c. Ratings that include higher numbers or more letters are acceptable.
 d. One 20-B extinguisher may be carried to replace two required 5-B extinguishers.
 e. There are special rules for vessels built prior to 1952.

Note 2 – Make sure disposable fire extinguisher is not more than 12 years old from date stamp on bottle. Must be removed from service on 31 December of the 12th year.

Note 3 – See Good & Serviceable meaning below.

[Link to Federal Register Notice: 2021-22578.pdf \(govinfo.gov\)](#)

Label example



Date Stamp Example



Good and serviceable working condition means:

- (i) If the extinguisher has a pressure gauge reading or indicator it must be in the operable range or position;
- (ii) The lock pin is firmly in place;
- (iii) The discharge nozzle is clean and free of obstruction; and
- (iv) The extinguisher does not show visible signs of significant corrosion or damage.

www.uscgboating.org
January 2022

In Memoriam

**Georgie (Georgene) Bell Jackson
1947-2023**



Georgie Jackson died February 7. She was a teacher at Oaks Road Elementary, (now Academy) in New Bern for seven years. Prior to that she taught at St. Dominic's school in Northfield MN. Not only was she a teacher, but she was also a mother, wife, adventurer, and sailor. She spent almost 30 summers sailing on Lake Superior.

She was very active in the Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club, serving as Regatta Chair for four years and Chair of the club's clothing drive benefitting RCS. Within the community she coordinated the Marines at Thanksgiving program, the Fairfield Harbour library and Co-chaired the Fairfield Harbour Christmas Craft Fair. A memorial service will be held at Centenary United Methodist Church at 1030, Friday March 3.

In Memoriam

**William R. Wofford
1930 - 2023**



Bob Wofford passed away at home, February 10, here in the Harbour. He joined the Yacht Club in 2017 and had a Willard Trawler, *Wet Willy*. He was a retired Air Force veteran and also retired a second time from Isenhour Brick and Tile Co. in Salisbury, NC. There will be a gathering around his birthday (May 28) to toast his life, share our stories, and perhaps a few of his.

In Memoriam

**Jack Richard Polo
1938-2023**

Jack Polo, known as "Man" by his eight grandchildren, passed away on February 4, at the age of 85. Jack was often seen bicycling daily or playing golf with his friends. He was also a former member of the Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club from about 1995 to 2000. Jack was a mentor, educator, athletic director, and football coach in Commack, N.Y.

In Memoriam

**Cecily Marie Gil
1934-2022**

Cecily Gil passed away on November 16. Cecily and her husband moved to New Bern in 1992. As the wife of Past Commodore, Ray Gil, Cecily enjoyed sailing, all types of dancing and tennis.

Have you Met our 2022 New Members?

The Membership Committee will be honoring our 2022 new members at the traditional new member party on February 28. This will give them a chance to socialize and connect with their fellow new members of the class of 2022! **Their pictures and brief bios are now online on the FHYC website.** Once you have faces to go with the names, please look for them at the meetings, wave to them when you see them on the water, or just give them a call! They are all listed in the 2023 Yearbook.

Anchoring Seminar

This month's educational seminar was "Secure Anchoring" taught by an exceptionally experienced cruising mariner, Mark Johnson. Mark didn't dwell on anchoring basics, but gave us an entertaining and practical look at anchoring that only a lifetime of experience can provide. As Mark pointed out, anchoring is not just about throwing an anchor over the side. You have to know the correct anchor for your craft, the bottom conditions (sand, rock or something in between), weather condition plus the types of materials for repair of lines and chain. He also recommends "viewing" your anchor to make sure it's holding. If you can't get in the water to look he suggested a bucket with the bottom cut out and fastened with the clear plastic, kind of like a glass bottom boat, that you can put into the water to look at your anchor. He also discussed the various areas that he and Miriam have sailed and anchored and some of the lessons he learned. If you have any questions about anchoring, ask Mark. If you missed it, you missed out! Thank you Mark, and well done!

Barb Robinson, Past Commodore

Cruising Update

On Saturday, March 18, just before the Vernal Equinox, the members of Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club will celebrate their decades-long tradition of sock burning. Be at Red Sail Park wearing your dirty, winter socks at 1500 hours, bring a beverage of choice, a snack to share, and hear our old salt, George Stateham recite the Ode as we burn our smelly socks.

Save the date for our first full moon raft-up that will occur around April 4. The actual date will be announced. Get your boat ready with the appropriate lines and fenders and review the raft-up sequence found on the Yacht Club website and on page 43 in the Yearbook. The Education Committee will also be conducting classroom and on-the-water training in March.

Make sure your boats are ready for the Blessing of the Fleet on Commissioning Day, April 15. A sign-up flyer will be sent out in March.

The cruising committee is pleased to announce that the Bareboat Charter Cruise is booked out of Marsh Harbor in the Abacos, Bahamas from December 2 through 9.

Phil Katz, Chair Cruising Committee

US Coast Guard Auxiliary

On January 28, more than 40 people gathered for a program on "Navigating Local Waters." This was a presentation by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGA) and the first of a series of three presentations, including classes on youth safety and the Boat America course. Upcoming classes can be found on the Flotilla's website, www.newberncgaux.org, by clicking on the Boating Courses menu. To find Coast Guard Auxiliary Boating Courses nearby, type in your zip code, then select the distance in miles. A list of classes will be shown along with the dates, locations, and contact information.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed volunteer service organization of the Coast Guard. The Auxiliary exists to support all USCG missions on the water or in the air, except for roles that require "direct" law enforcement or military engagement. Currently, there are

approximately 20,000 members. The Recreational Boating Safety Outreach is of primary importance and provides support and education.

The Auxiliary collectively contributes over 4.5 million hours of service each year and completed nearly 500,000 missions to support the Coast Guard. Every year members help to save approximately 500 lives, assist 15,000 distressed boaters, conduct over 150,000 safety examinations of recreational vessels, and provide boater safety instruction to over 500,000 students. In total, the Coast Guard Auxiliary saves taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars each year.

Karl Mielenhausen has been a member since he moved to Fairfield Harbour from Rochester, NY, where he was a Quality Assurance Manager with Eastman Kodak. He has owned sailboats for over 20 years and gets his “powerboat fix” through the Auxiliary, specifically by being a coxswain for the flotilla’s patrol boat. New members will spend 20 hours with their initial internet-based (core) training. After that, you will decide on which program area(s) you wish to focus and that additional training can be 5-100 hours over a period of months. Officers will obviously spend more time, including their administrative responsibilities.

Karl described that some of his most rewarding adventures had been directly assisting the active duty Coast Guard during the on-the-water training events. Living in Fairfield Harbour, he feels the community has benefited the most from Public Education and Vessel Safety Check initiatives. The Local Waters seminar is exceptionally well received.

The USCGA is not just for men; TJ Bendicksen is one of six women in the local Flotilla. She was recruited to join a few months after she and her husband Jon moved here in 2014 from Carrboro, NC to work with the Water ‘N Kids safety public education program and classes.

At the recent program, many people expressed an interest in becoming a member of this exceptional organization, serving their community, and increasing their boating knowledge. The New Bern Flotilla has 30 members. Members from Fairfield Harbour include TJ Bendicksen, Bill Cunniff, and Karl Mielenhausen. The Flotilla meets monthly.

Prospective members can go to <https://join.cgaux.org/join.php> for more information. Semper Paratus!

Meet Fleet Chaplain Matt Esmacher

I’d like to take a moment to acquaint you with Matt Esmacher, and the important role of a Fleet Chaplain in our organization. FHYC’s club constitution allows the Commodore to appoint a Fleet Chaplain, and the Policies and Guidelines (P&G) document outlines the duties associated with the position. Specifically, the P&G states:

“Fleet Chaplain - The Fleet Chaplain is a non-voting position on the Bridge. When available, he/she will make arrangements with the bereaved of deceased members for FHYC attendance at funerals of deceased members, offer grace at appropriate functions, participate in the Commissioning Day ceremony, visit sick members in the hospital or at home and, when appropriate, provide spiritual care to members.”



Fleet Chaplain Matt Esmacher and lovely wife
Michelle

It’s important to note that Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club is an integral part of our community, and as such, we look out for one another while sharing the comradery that comes from our mutual interest of boating. We care about our members, and as a club look for ways to provide support for each other. All of this provides additional strength to the fabric of the community at large here in Fairfield Harbour.

Matt brings a wealth of empathy, kindness, and skill to the job. He comes to us from Woodbridge, Virginia, where he was a deacon and elder in his church, and trained in marriage, family, and grief counseling. He’s an ideal candidate to share the concern and support of our membership for those

who are stressed or need to know that we care about them.

Fleet Chaplains are a long-held tradition in many yacht clubs. In our case, we're privileged to have Matt serve our club; I can't think of a better suited individual for the role! Please take a moment to say "Hi" and introduce yourself, or feel free to give him a call if you'd like to chat. His phone number is 703-966-0632.

Dave Phipps, Commodore

The Magic of a Name

The origin of the title to this article can be credited to Peter Pugh, an Englishman who wrote a book with the title, *The Magic of a Name*. The book tells the history of Henry Royce and the honorable C.S Rolls and the birth of the famous car and aero engine company, Rolls Royce in 1906. I decided to use the title as a reason to investigate the magic in the names members have used for their boats.

Anahata is a 41' Hunter owned by Ed and Jeri O'Dowd. Ed and Jeri have been members of FHYC since June 2011. The word *Anahata* is Sanskrit meaning "unstruck", "unhurt", or "unbeaten". It is associated with air and the anahata chakra which governs love, compassion, and acceptance. What a wonderful background for a name! Ed and Jeri cruise locally and plan to head further afield when they retire. Ed holds a British Master Mariners license with unlimited tonnage so who knows which oceans and seas they will eventually cross, maybe in a larger boat!



Robbie and Phyllis Godwin own a 26' Carolina skiff. They became members of FHYC in July 2022. The boat, *The Mary Margaret*, was named in memory and to honor Robbie's mother Mary Margaret. The Godwins enjoy fishing in the Neuse and in local creeks and rafting up with friends. They love to venture to Ocracoke to go clamming. Phyllis is a native of New Bern and grew up on the Trent River.

Olwen Jarvis, Past Commodore



Golden Globe Update

What a difference a month can make, Simon Curwen, the race leader, was forced to go into Puerto Montt in Chile to repair or replace his broken hydrovane, his self-steering gear. Without this, it would be very difficult to continue around the Horn and up the Atlantic. By going in and getting assistance, he is no longer in the Golden Globe Race class but will continue in the Chichester Class. (When Frances Chichester sailed around the world alone, he made one stop, hence the name.) He led the race from Cape Finisterre up to that point; it must be a great disappointment for him after doing so well.

The lead has now been taken by Kirsten Neushafer of South Africa on *Minihaha*. She is on the hunt, driving hard as she knows she needs to make a break from Abhilash Tomy of India in the Southern Ocean as he could seriously challenge her in the Atlantic. A whole new race is developing; it is going to be very exciting to watch especially after they round Cape Horn and head into the Atlantic.

Kirsten reported that she dove three times in the last week for a total of eight hours to remove barnacles, and then scored the best 24-hour distance at 185.6 miles, and then the best weekly distance at 1129.5 miles. What a woman!

Ritchie Thomson, Past Commodore



Minihaha



Simon in Chile



Kirsten with trysail



FHYC Valentine's Holiday Race



This race was run to honor Georgie Jackson.

We had a great time. The wind was 15-20 knots from the ENE. The Fleet was made up of boats from 32' to 47' long. We ran a four-legged race, approximately eight miles long. The start sequence was based on PHRF handicap ratings. *The Whale*, skippered by David Jonah was first to finish. The next four boats finished within 80 seconds of each other making for an exciting race finish. Ralph Azersky who was the safety boat said he thought there were a couple of times his safety boat was going to be needed. *Methuselah*, skippered by Scott Huddle placed second, and *Rampant Lion*, skippered by Russ Robinson placed third.

A post-party, featuring beer, wine and pizza, warmth, and great stories was held afterwards at Russ and Barb Robinson's house.

Participating boats:

<i>Gentle Presence</i>	Beneteau 40	Peter and Kathy Clay
<i>Last Resort</i>	Beneteau 47	Dennis and Jackie Howard
<i>Methuselah</i>	Beneteau 361	Scott Huddle
<i>Rampant Lion</i>	Tartan 37	Russ and Barb Robinson
<i>The Whale</i>	Seaward 34	Dave and Janet Jonah
<i>Ursa Minor</i>	Seaward 32	Al and Mary Lang
<i>Windy City</i>	Pearson 31	Jerry Rezab

This was the second in the FHYC Holiday Race Series. The next race will be the St. Patrick's Day Race on March 18. The Registration form is on the FHYC website under the Racing tab. Once again it will be a \$15 fee for cover awards and beer and wine. Please bring a snack to share. Thank you to all who participated both in the race and the after-race party.

Barb Robinson, Past Commodore

The Trials and Tribulations of Sailboat Racing

Many people have this vision that sailboat racers are a crazed group of boaters looking to push the limit in every moment. These sailors want to "bury their rails" or it's not considered fun. But there is another participant in the race that usually takes precedence over the wishes of the sailors. That participant is called Mother Nature. She has the ability to raise the adrenaline level of even the most experienced sailor and then dash their hope of even crossing the finish line.

The following pictures were taken by John Jackson aboard the *Rampant Lion* during the January 21 NYRA Race. This day had light winds so the crew didn't have to worry about burying her rails. It did give time to ponder and enjoy time on the water and isn't that what it's really about?

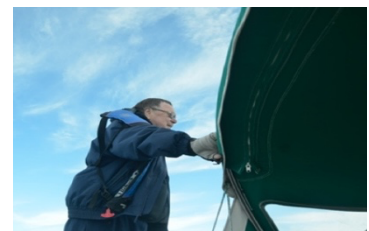
Barb Robinson, Past Commodore



The helmsman is never at ease as shown on the look of steely-eyed determination on Mike Daly's face



Crew member Ritchie Thomson took time to enjoy the view



Even Captain Russ Robinson could crack a smile

Racing

- ODC
- BTS
- BSC
- NYRA
- FHYC
- S – Sunfish
- E – Ensign
- F – Fun
- H – Holiday

- AC – Activity Center
- CC – Community Center
- RS – Red Sail Park
- CB – Pelican Cart Barn
- IH – Inner Harbour



March 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	1	2	3 George Jackson's Memorial at Centenary Methodist Church in New Bern	4
5	6 Last Day to Sign Up for Commodore's Ball Board Meeting 1900 (AC-2)	7 Full Worm Moon	8	9 General Meeting 1900 (CC): Program Routing Safety	10 Education Screen: Ball up Protocol	11
12	13 Semaphore Deadline: 1200 noon	14 Past Commodore's Dinner at 'The Pelote' at 1730	15	16 Commodore's Ball 1700 @ Carolina Colours	17 St Patrick's Day	18 FHYC St. Patrick's Day Holiday race Sock Burning 1500 (RS)
19	20 Vernal Equinox or Spring Equinox	21 Vernal Equinox or Spring Equinox	22	23	24	25 NYRA Invitational
26 NYRA Invitational	27	28	29	30 BSC Ensign Race #1	31	1