

The Semaphore

Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club



Vol. 44 No. 6

35° 04' N., 076° 58' W.

July 2023



Commodore's Update From the Helm

As hard as it is to believe that July is already here, your club is prepared and ready to help you make the most of your summer!

July activities begin with our traditional raft up to watch the New Bern fireworks July 4th while anchored just outside of Duck Creek! This provides the perfect vantage point for the show, as well as keeping us away from some of the more crowded areas that can get a little crazy later in the evening. We plan to meet late afternoon for a splash, and to share a snack or two. Watch your email for additional details, and be sure to contact John Jackson at your

earliest convenience to let him know you'll be attending!

You'll also want to mark your calendars for another popular event; our "Local Waters Cruise", scheduled for July 17 through 20. As this is written, the cruise is still in the planning phase, but typically entails visits to marinas and or anchorages between New Bern and Adams Creek. It's a great way to mingle with other club members and to get to know the local area attractions for boaters. Again, watch your email for additional information!

We're also planning a special reception on Sunday, July 30, for FHYC members who have been with the club for 20 or more years! The event is by invitation only, and will be held at the Community Center as a recognition of and thank you to those who have contributed and supported the Club for so many years!

A number of these folks have "aged out" of boating but remain loyal members of the club who enjoy our many social activities. We look forward to honoring them on July 30!

What's Happening in July

Tues	4	Fourth of July/Full Moon Raft-Up on the Neuse	
Mon	10	Board Meeting (AC2)	1600
Thurs	13	General Meeting (CC): Program: The Oldy Wed Game Nautical Version 1900	
Fri	14	Education Seminar: Life Raft Exercise (RC)	1000
M-Th	17-20	Local Waters Cruise	
Wed	19	Dinner Out: tba	
Sun	30	20-year Member Reception (CC)	1700
Mon	31	Full Moon Raft-Up (IH)	

(CC)=Community Center, (RS)=Red Sail Park, (AC)=Activities Center, (IH)=Inner Harbour, (V)=online, (CB)=Cart Barn, (RC)=Recreation Center

Deadline for next issue is noon, Monday, July 17, 2023
A digital copy will be delivered via FHYC email and posted on the FHYC website on or before August 1, 2023

Wishing you and your family many safe and enjoyable days on the water this summer....

Dave Phipps, Commodore

Boys and Girls Club

The Fairfield Harbour Community will be hosting 60 children and teens Friday June 23 from about 1000 to 1700 hours. Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club will be helping with the activities along with other clubs in the Harbour. There will be 4 activities: Pickle Ball, Fishing in the Inner Harbour, Putting Green and handcrafts and

games. Several of our club members have signed up to help with the activities.

Barb Robinson, Past Commodore

Thank You

At the June 8 meeting, a collection was taken up to defray costs of the Fairfield Harbour Fun Day for Boys & Girls Club. On behalf of the Boys & Girls Club, “Thank You” for your generous support. \$250 was raised, with a good portion of it coming from Greg Castle who donated his winnings from the 50/50 drawing.

Chris Skrotsky

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 fhvcsemaphore@gmail.com

July Education Seminar

On Friday July 14 at 1000 hours, an exercise will be held at the pool at the Recreation Center. Participants will practice getting into a life raft from the water so wear your bathing suit. Attendance is limited so sign up early!



Joy Amanda Thompson

August 27, 1932 –
June 5, 2023



Many of you knew Joy as an amazing, dynamic, and caring person, who's boundless energy was an inspiration to us all. She and her husband Ralph, who preceded her in death, shared many grand boating adventures and stories, and were active members of the club for many years. Joy lived on Gondolier until about 2020, when she moved to Newport News, VA to be closer to one of her sons. She is survived by two sons and a daughter, five grandchildren and three great grandchildren. The family plans to honor her life with a private celebration of life at a later time.



Wake Responsibly

Law Enforcement Officers with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission enforce the boating laws and navigational rules in North Carolina's public waters to create a safe boating environment for everyone. Officers continually and proactively enforce laws and rules regarding authorized no-wake zones, as well as the reckless and negligent operation of any motorboat or vessel on these waters.



Please follow these recommendations to "wake responsibly":

- Stay at least 200 feet away from the shoreline, docks or other structures.
- Keep music at reasonable levels. Sound travels well over water. If it is loud enough to hear at 80 feet back, it is likely loud enough for homeowners and other to hear as well.
- Minimize repetitive passes on any one portion of the shoreline. Once you've run the same line for a while, move on to another area.

Wake and Wake Boats

- Wake boats are high-tech, specialized boats with ballasts that fill with water to adjust for the size of wake desired.
- Wake boats can produce significant wake (3 - 4 feet) at low speeds (10 mph).
- In general, the boats are not the problem, but rather the wake produced by the vessels.
- While wake boats are designed to create significant wake, wake is not vessel specific.
- Wake is one of many factors that can cause erosion.

- Erosion, dock/boat property damage and noise are the primary complaints associated with the use of wake boats.
- Because the ballasts of wake boats fill with water, the transfer of aquatic nuisance species could be an issue.
- Concerns about wake boats are a nationwide issue.

June Impromptu Prohibition Theme

On Saturday, June 3, members gathered at the Community Center for an impromptu happy hour set in the days of Prohibition. For those of you who missed the Speakeasy you really missed a fantastic event and good time.

When you came through the door, you entered a small foyer set up to host a meeting of the Women's Temperance League, complete with an antique photo of the guest speaker and a tea set ready to serve. But if you knew the password, you were ushered into the back room, where you could party in style in an art deco inspired club. On each table, members found several pages of slang from the "Roaring 20's", some of which are still in use today. In addition, each table featured short, humorous biographical sketches of Board members and their involvement in bootlegging or other related illicit activities. Great conversation starters, and a lot of fun!

Anny Chiu played several wonderful piano pieces from the 20s and 30s, and we learned a bit about Prohibition, Rum Running, and related local history right here on the Outer Banks, and even in New Bern itself!



The evening came to an end with police sirens as the cops closed in for a raid on the joint! Rumor has it the owner of the place, Dave “the Flask” Phipps, made bail shortly thereafter.

Dave Phipps, Commodore

Slang of the 1920's

The twenties were the first decade to emphasize youth culture over the older generations, and the flapper sub-culture had a tremendous influence on mainstream America; many new words and phrases were coined by these liberated women. Many of these are still used today! Here are just a few.

- Beeswax - business, i.e. None of your beeswax.
- Breezer - a convertible car
- Gams - A woman's legs
- Moll - A gangster's girl



Inflatable PFD's

Life jacket statistics

- 81% Recreational boating-related fatalities in 2021 that resulted from falling overboard and drowning
- 400 Recreational boating-related drowning victims in 2021 alone who might still be alive today if they were wearing a lifejacket
- 27% Average increase in overall life jacket wear between 1999 and 2021 (excluding PWCs) 42% Relative increase in number of adults observed

wearing life jackets in open motorboats since 1999 (Most people who fell overboard and drowned were riding in open motorboats.)

- 37.1% Number of adults aboard sailboats observed wearing life jackets in 2021
- 173% Increase in life jacket-wearing adults aboard sailboats since 1999

Statistics from the 2021 U.S. Coast Guard Recreational Boating Statistics report and the 2021 National Observational Life Jacket Wear Study (uscgboating.org)



Nine Things You Need to Know About Inflatables



1. Inflatables are great, but only if worn.
2. Do they meet federal carriage standards?
Some U.S. Coast Guard-approved inflatable life jackets meet federal carriage requirements only if they're being worn. Read the manual that comes with the jacket or the label on the jacket. You can wear non-approved life jackets, but you must have other lifejackets aboard that do meet carriage requirements.
3. Choose an appropriate life jacket.
Match the life jacket to the activity. Inflatables aren't legal for watersports such as water skiing or using a PWC. The jacket label (and "Think Safe" booklet that comes with each Coast Guard-approved jacket) states the water conditions and activities for which that jacket was designed. In addition, everyone needs to be honest with themselves as to their physical capabilities and

swimming ability. For some, an inflatable will never be the best option.

4. The CO2 cartridge must be armed prior to wearing for the first time.
Most new jackets come with a yellow tab to remind you, but you may not notice it if you're in a rush.
5. Show your crew how to don the life jacket and adjust fit before you head out.
6. Know how the jacket will inflate.
Some inflate automatically when they contact water. Some require the wearer to pull the cord manually. Belt packs require the wearer to put the inflated air bladder over their head or arms. All inflatables have a manual pull cord and oral inflation tube. Brief your crew members before you leave the dock.
7. Know how the life jacket will perform in the water. Some are designed to flip the wearer face-up; others are not.
8. Inspect the life jacket before each use and at regular manufacturer-recommended intervals. Ensure that the status indicator where the CO2 cartridge is installed is green. Every six months (or as recommended), perform a leak test by following the instructions that came with your life jacket. For automatic life jackets, check the expiration date on the dissolvable bobbin at the beginning of each season. Ensure they're properly armed; free of rips, tears, and holes; all seams are securely sewn; and the fabric, straps, and hardware are still strong.
9. Keep extra arming kits and bobbins aboard. Make sure you have kits for each brand of inflatable on board as they're not universal in both style and buoyancy.

Excerpts from Source: <https://www.boatus.com/expert-advice/expert-advice-archive/2023/june/inflating-your-safety-iq>

Golden Globe – Jeremy Bagshaw the Last Man finishes

About two weeks ago, Jeremy called on his sat phone to report the failure of his forestay at the stem fitting or bow chain plate. The stainless plate that holds the forestay failed. He was able to secure the reefing gear and remove the sail, but it is now impossible to reconnect it. All other rigging

supporting the mast is secure. At the time he was sailing into 25kt head winds gusting higher and about a two-to-three-meter sea. He could now only use his staysail and light big genoa with his mainsail. He did not request any assistance and simply said that it would take longer for him to reach Les Sables d'Olonne.



Eventually Jeremy Bagshaw got to within 400 meters from the finish line and the wind died. He drifted 2.1NM away doing 1 knot in wrong direction from the line. Eventually the wind pick up and he was able to finish.

He finished after 278d 2hr 33min at sea, last in the Golden Globe Chichester Class.



Ritche Thomson, past Commodore

The Cape Lookout Cruise that Wasn't

The plan was for six boats to leave the Harbour on Monday June 12 and take two days down to Cape Lookout Bight. The Bight is probably the most delightful local anchorage around here. Unfortunately, mother nature intervened and the weather did not cooperate for the Monday departure.

On Tuesday morning, three boats went out, but for some, time did not permit reaching Cape Lookout so the cruise was curtailed to South River. Going down the river, the wind was on the nose and without too much objection, we turned around and went into Upper Broad Creek.

This was a very short cruise but the creek up “round the corner” is a delightful and protected place to anchor. The boats returned to the Harbour the next day after a delightful night out.



Graca – on Upper Broad Creek



Upper Broad Creek and Fairfield Harbour in the background

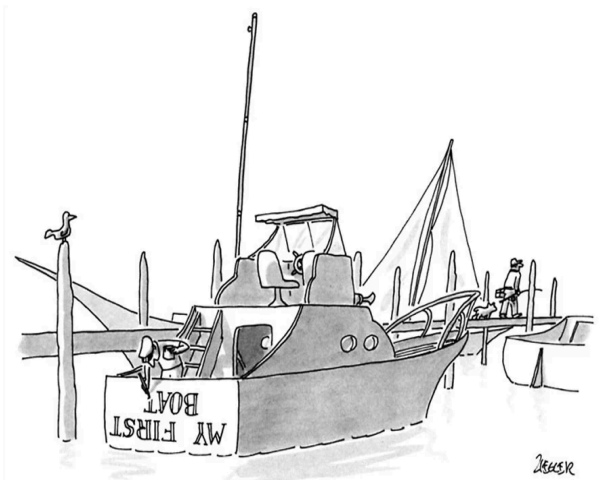
The Madsen’s Great Loop Adventure

Bill and Julie Madsen left Northwest Creek in June and headed north on the Great Loop. They had a couple of days waiting for weather in Manteo and also at the free dock in Portsmouth, but then had favorable conditions for long jumps up the Chesapeake, the Delaware, and up the Jersey coast to Long Island. They experienced the smoke and haze from the Canadian wildfires when in the C&D and Delaware but it cleared and they continued on. They enjoyed a week of visits with family and friends there and are celebrating their son's adoption of a tiny grand-kitten.

They are currently waiting for better conditions for the last ocean leg and traveling through NY Harbor up to the Hudson River.



Bill Madsen At Bayshore



	MANUFACTURER/ MODEL, PRICE, WEBSITE	STYLE (COLORS)	INFLATION TYPE/ MECHANISM/ CYLINDER SIZE	TYPE/ BUOYANCY/ IDEAL FOR	TESTER/OBSERVER COMMENTS	REARMING/REPACKING NOTES
US Coast Guard-Approved Inflatable Life Jackets						
	Mustang Survival MIT 70 - Inshore \$139.99 mustangsurvival.com	Suspender (admiral gray, red, azure)	Automatic Dissolving bobbin 17g	Level 70 157 lbs/70N Boating, paddling, sailing, fishing	Tester and observer favorite for its simplicity, ease of use, and comfort. Fits flat and flush against body. Single buckle; first time adjustments were easy. Easy to don and move around in. Fit everyone comfortably. Straps are a little wider than most. Like all the Mustang models, this was very well made and had a quality feel.	Simple to deflate, rearm, repack – like folding a taco. Clear instructions with photos on label. Easy to inspect and maintain.
	West Marine Inshore Life Jacket \$99.99 westmarine.com	Suspender (blue, aqua red)	Auto/Man Dissolving bobbin 24g	V, III performance (USCG-approved only when worn) 22.5 lbs/100N General boating activities, inland waters	A struggle to adjust the first time while wearing, especially for a nonboater. Simple to don once adjusted. Soft neoprene neckline was comfortable. Offered good freedom of movement. One of fastest to inflate. Once inflated, caused some pinching in the neck area. This model was another favorite because it felt very supportive, stable, and kept the wearer's head well above the surface. We liked that it can be converted from automatic to manual inflation for a variety of activities.	Not the easiest to deflate and repack due to large bladder. Lots of steps to fold it up; repacked version wasn't as flat as when purchased. Hook-and-loop tape was hard to match up, leaving raw edges exposed to catch on clothing.
	West Marine Adventurer \$199.99/2 pack westmarine.com	Suspender (navy)	Auto/Man Dissolving bobbin 24g	V, III performance (USCG-approved only when worn) 26 lbs General boating activities, inland waters	Relatively easy to put on. Comfortable around the neck though it isn't lined. No bunching. Nicely finished edges with piping. Very fast inflation. Tight on neck after inflation but can still breathe. We liked that there was a tag inside to help track inspection dates. Can be converted to manual inflation for a variety of activities.	Easy to deflate but requires a bear hug to get all the air out. Easy to rearm, and repacks with only two folds on each side. The hook-and-loop tape lines up nicely, and the piping keeps the raw hook-and-loop tape edge from being exposed.
	Mustang Survival Elite 28 HIT \$274.99 mustangsurvival.com	Front entry (black)	Automatic Hydrostatic pressure 24g	V, III performance for recreational use 28 lbs Boating, fishing	Very fitted, not bulky. Easy to adjust. Buckles on both sides allowed for symmetrical adjustment. Wicking mesh lining; wide shoulders relieve neck fatigue. The area around the hydrostatic mechanism is a bit bulky. Manual pull tab is made from metal and tucked into a keeper (might not be obvious enough). Comfortable and well-situated; feels secure. Wearers liked this jacket but noted it didn't inflate automatically as expected in our tests; perhaps due to the hydrostatic mechanism in our controlled environment. Wearer was able to inflate using the manual pull cord with no issues.	Super easy to deflate. Hydrostatic mechanism is expensive to rearm and requires a tool. Zipper made it hard to repack. Indicator window made it easy to check for arming, but the cylinder itself is wrapped inside the bladder.
	Bass Pro AM33 All Clear \$79.97 basspro.com	Suspender (blue)	Auto/Man Dissolving bobbin 33g	V, II performance in auto mode; III performance in manual mode 35 lbs/150N General boating activities, inland waters	The least expensive USCG-approved jacket evaluated. Wearer could feel seam on neck during dry fit. Only one side of the jacket inflated because the hook-and-loop tape didn't let go. Tester had to coax it open. Lots of buoyancy, and inflation was enough to bring the tester to surface even before bladder was fully expanded. Jacket was a little bulkier and longer than others, and the two sides pushed apart when inflated, making the wearer concerned about security if there were any chop. Rotated the user face-up. Has indicator window for easy inspection.	Ranked middle of the pack on deflating and repacking. The hook-and-loop had exposed edges that will snag some fabrics.
	Spinlock Deckvest LITE \$229.90-\$273.90 spinlock.co.uk	Over the head (black, bleach white, flow green, mercury red, Pacific blue, seagrass green, sun yellow)	Automatic Dissolving bobbin 33.5g	Type II (USCG-approved only when worn) 36 lbs/160N General boating activities, inland waters	It took some trial and error to get jacket donned and fitted; wearer had to consult instructions. Comfortable neck from neoprene lining. A little lumpier than other models. On inflation, the side opposite canister took extra time to fully inflate because the zipper didn't blow out until coaxed, though it didn't affect performance. Jacket quickly rotated the wearer face-up. Head hole is larger than others, so didn't constrict around wearer's neck. Crotch strap was deemed awkward, and it wasn't doing much in our controlled testing. Indicator window. Overall good performance. Has 5-year warranty with registration.	Must unzip fully to deflate. Repacking was complicated by the zipper. Rearming instructions sewn into jacket but no repacking info. Repacked lumpier than when new. Requires unusual size cartridge to rearm.
	Mustang Survival EP38 Ocean Racing \$384.99 mustangsurvival.com	Over the head (black)	Automatic Hydrostatic pressure 33g	V, II performance (USCG-approved only when worn) 38 lbs/170N Open ocean, sailing	Substantial for offshore use with sailing harness, removable crotch straps, integrated spray hood, and lifting loop. Easy to don and adjust; side buckle allowed one-handed adjustment. It worked as expected and turned the tester face-up quickly. Wearer felt secure in the water. Crotch strap helped keep the bladder away from the face; it took some effort to pull out spray hood from back compartment, but easy to put on, not claustrophobic. Wearer had to deflate a bit to remove. The oral inflation tube was well labeled on the outside of jacket. Comes with marine-grade whistle. Lots of places to attach accessories and an offshore tether. Indicator window. Overall, many great features.	Like other models with blow-out zippers (this has 4!), it was a pain to deflate and repack. The zippers blew out while repacking. Refolding hood and crotch straps made it lumpy. The hydrostatic design is expensive to replace and requires a tool (included with kit) to rearm.
	Mustang Survival Khimera 22 Dual Flotation \$289.99 mustangsurvival.com	Over the head (black)	Manual Pull to inflate 12g	Level 70, III equivalent (USCG-approved only when worn) 22 lbs/100N Paddling, sailing	It took some trial and error to put this on, and wearer initially put it on backward. We liked that it was adjustable on all sides for centering and shoulders are also adjustable. Oral inflation tube conveniently located inside jacket top, but wearer felt like it was in her face. Inflation time was average but it is inherently buoyant without inflation. Pull tab is metal, tucked into a holder, so wearer must familiarize with location. Tester felt secure in the water, and it floated her high. Front pocket is a nice feature.	Very easy to deflate; no repacking needed. Rearming is simple but the canister is an unusual size.
	Mustang Survival HIT MD3183 \$279.99 mustangsurvival.com	Suspender (gray-black, red-black, black)	Automatic Hydrostatic pressure 33g	V, II performance for rec. use 33.7 lbs Severe marine environments	This was our tester's personal jacket used in his work as a TowBoatU.S. captain, so familiarity was high. Very heavy-duty. Easy to put on in an emergency. Neoprene neck lining is comfortable for long days of wear. Includes zippered pocket and emergency whistle. Inflated quickly and rolled wearer face up in seconds. Lots of buoyancy, well-constructed. Has indicator window.	Hydrostatic unit is stiff and not intuitive to replace for someone who doesn't do it often. Replacing the inflator is expensive and requires a special tool.
U.S. Coast Guard-Approved Belt Packs						
	West Marine Ultra-Slim \$99.99 westmarine.com	Belt Pack (blue, black)	Manual Pull to inflate 16g	V, III performance (USCG-approved only when worn) 19-26.5 lbs Paddling, fishing, recreational boating	Very low-profile; about the size of a jogger's belt. Hardly know you're wearing it. Easy to put on/adjust. Pull tab hangs fairly low; could get caught on something. Comfortable on land. In the water it was hard to find the pull as it floated away from where wearer thought it would be. Tester came up feet first. Bladder is a pillow that must be hugged or secured around the neck with a strap, a better option than no life jacket, but not effective if victim is incapacitated. Wearer should be briefed about how to activate and what to do once in the water.	Easy to deflate and repack due to pillow design; making sure belt loop and pull tab are in the right spot may take trial and error. No indicator window, so viewing indicator can be difficult if packed incorrectly.
	Mustang Survival Minimalist \$124.99 mustangsurvival.com	Belt Pack (admiral gray, azure)	Manual Pull to inflate 16g	Level 70 (USCG-approved only when worn) 15.7 lbs/70N Paddling, fishing, recreational boating	Wide strap sits nicely on the hips; doesn't dig in. Easy to adjust. More a fat pouch than the Ultra-Slim, so it sticks out a bit but still unobtrusive when twisting or bending. Pillow-style bladder can be clutched or put over the head with a strap. Our wearer was challenged to get the strap over his head without first loosening the belt strap. Has a pictogram of how to wear it, but it's on the bladder so must be taken apart to see it. Same concerns as above.	Easy to deflate and repack. 8 steps for refolding, but rectangular pillow made the process easy; it looked nearly the same as new when back in pouch.

Racing

- ODC
- BSC
- NYRA
- FHYC
- BTS
- PSC
- Other
- Open

- 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



July 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27 F FHYC	28	29	30	1 BTS Open
2	3 Full Buck Moon	4 Independence Day F FHYC Full Buck Moon Raft Up TBA @ TBA	5	6 Open	7	8 Open
9	10 Beers FHYC	11 F FHYC	12	13 Open General Meeting 1900 @ CC	14 Education Seminar - TBA	15 Open
16	17 Semaphore Deadline: 1200 FHYC CRUISE Local Waters	18 FHYC CRUISE Local Waters	19 FHYC CRUISE Local Waters	20 Open FHYC CRUISE Local Waters	21	22 NYRA
23	24	25 F FHYC	26	27 Open	28	29 Open
30 Impromptu 20+ Year Member Reception 1700-1930 @CC 11 May 23	31 RAFT-UP Full Moon Raft Up TBA @ IH	1 F FHYC	2	3	4	5