



Blessing of the Fleet and Commissioning Day Celebrations Saturday, April 9, 2016

Attention members! Get out your signal flags and decorate your boats. Fly your pennants and join the parade to have your boat blessed for the official opening of the 2016 boating season. This is the Club's 33rd Commissioning Day event.

All boats should rendezvous outside marker N1 on the Neuse River no later than 0930. Participating boats are to monitor channel 69 for instructions. At 0945 the Fleet Captain will lead the parade followed in order by the Commodore, Vice Commodore, Rear Commodore, Secretary, Treasurer, Fleet Chaplain, Fleet Surgeon, Directors and Past Commodores. The remaining members should fall in behind them.

We will attempt to maintain a speed between 4 and 5 knots. Please make every effort to maintain parade speed and keep a safe three boat length separation. Try to avoid large gaps and any "rubber banding" effect. The parade will proceed through Spring Creek and will pass the Shoreline Docks to starboard for the blessing.

Do not exit the Inner Harbour back into Spring Creek until the Fleet Captain indicates that the last boat has entered the Inner Harbour. If you experience problems, state your intentions on channel 69, drop out of the parade and call for assistance on channel 16. The Coast Guard Auxiliary will be available to assist. Do not proceed in the parade under tow.

After the parade, boats may return to their home slips or tie up at the Shoreline Docks. Contact the Dockmaster, Dan Argentieri (252-638-5338), to determine if space will be available.

In the event weather forces a cancellation of the Parade of Boats, the Fleet Captain will make an announcement at 0830 and 0845 on channel 69. The Commissioning Day Ceremony will commence at 1130 at the flag pole (regardless of weather conditions). Following the Commissioning Ceremony, there will be a catered luncheon at the Community Center. See the flyer in this *Semaphore*. For those wishing to participate in the boat parade complete the sign-up sheet below or e-mail me at either george@stateham.com or gstateham@gmail.com. Email should include all information required by the sign-up sheet.

Your Name	Boat Name	FHYC Officers On Board

Return to: George Stateham
 902 Nautilus Ct.
 New Bern, NC 28560