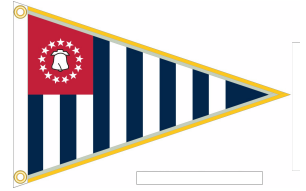




# AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB® — DELAWARE VALLEY™

Boating Fun • Courses & Seminars • Civic Service For  
Boaters By Boaters® Club founded in 1916



## *THE BAROMETER*

**January 2021**

### **Commander's Message**

The past year has certainly been hectic. We started off as usual and were looking forward to a year of no drama. This changed significantly when Covid 19 came to the United States. It brought a halt to all in-person important social activities. We had to cancel all of our monthly meetings at the Coast Guard station, Change-Of-Watch, Spring Picnic, Educational Cruise and Fall Picnic. What I miss most was the face-to-face meetings with Club members.

There was a bright side of this situation. Boat dealers and marinas had a banner year. Sales increased significantly and many dealers found themselves short of inventory. I noticed that there were only a few boats left in stock at our marina.

We were thankful that we were able to get out on the water most weekends and some days during the week. There were a few days that were too hot to use the boat and a couple of weekends when the river was full of debris from a storm. I did miss having friends and family members out with us, but we didn't want to take any chances.

We had a year in which we witnessed a contentious election and are glad that this is behind us. The political situation divided some, but hopefully this is all behind us as well.

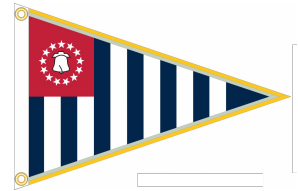
While this has been a rough year and we don't know what 2021 will bring, there appears to be a light at the end of the tunnel. Two vaccines have been approved and are being distributed. Hopefully this will wind down the virus and we can get back to normal activities.

Wishing all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Cdr Matt Refsin, S



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# THE BAROMETER

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### Administrative Officer's Message

A merry band of ABC-Delaware Valley members had much fun during the first ever Zoom holiday party on December 13th! Attending were Matt and Rhoda Refsin, Bob and Susan Tafel, Bill Muehlberger, Mel Shralow, Carole Reilley, Ralph, Nance and Apryl Bernard and Stephanie Ward. We enjoyed “seeing” each other for the first time in many months and shared our holiday plans, decorations and food and drink preferences!

While an in-person get-together is always preferred, this was a great option and thanks to everyone who participated. Hopefully we'll be able to hold some future meetings using this same platform.

Lt/C Bill Muehlberger, AP

### Educational Officer's Message

As of right now, the status of several upcoming events is still in flux. The ABC-MidAtlantic Spring Conference will definitely be held virtually. This was extremely successful at the Fall Educational Conference and we anticipate the same outcome with the Spring Conference.

As of right now the Annual meeting being held February 14<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> is still onsite in Ponte Vedra, FL. Obviously, this may change so please continue to watch your emails and the district website at <[abc.midatlantic.org](http://abc.midatlantic.org)> for more information.

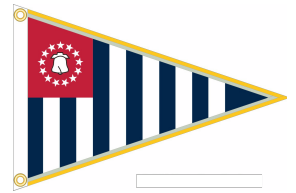
Since all onsite classes have been cancelled for the foreseeable future, we're looking at conducting short seminars during our monthly meetings. Watch for more information on this.

Lt/C Erik Williams, S

happy  
new year!



# THE BAROMETER



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## ABC-DV BRIDGE 2019-2020

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Americas Boating Club® - Delaware Valley™  
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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

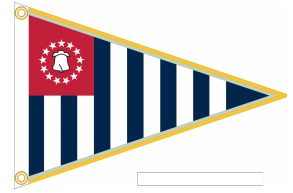
1	Elzora Shoulz
1	Carole Reilley
1	Ewald Kraenbring
19	Elizabeth Kolarik
21	Rhoda Refsin
26	William Glover

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# THE BAROMETER



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## EPIRBs VERSUS PLBs (Comparisons & Costs)

Q. What is the difference between an EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon) and a PLB (Personal Locator Beacon)?

A. EPIRBs and PLBs are similar in that both can alert and summon first-responder assistance when a serious emergency (imminent threat to life or vessel) occurs. EPIRBs should be mounted where they can be quickly grabbed. Some are designed to deploy automatically when a vessel sinks. They have a 48 hour operation time, float upright and have a built-in strobe light to side rescuers in poor visibility when they approach your location. PLBs are intended for personal use and to be held in the hand, worn on a life jacket or article of clothing, or carried in a pocket. Operating time is limited to 24 hours, not all models float, and PLBs must be held upright with the antenna in a vertical position. They lack a strobe light. PLBs can also be used on land in remote locations for hiking, camping, mountain climbing, exploring and other outdoor activities to summon emergency help if needed, EPIRB and PLB signals are both broadcast on 406 MHz and both received by the closest RCC (Rescue Coordination Center) which makes the call to the appropriate rescue agency, be it Air Force, Coast Guard, Fish and Wildlife, National Park Service or Sheriff's Office. EPIRBs and PLBs save lives. Don't leave port without one.

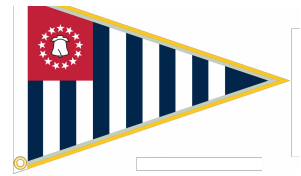
There are two basic types of EPIRBs, Category 1 and Category 2. Category 2 models are manually activated and require the user to turn on the EPIRB by depressing a button or flipping a switch. When activated, a mayday is instantly transmitted that announces your need for immediate assistance, the identity and description of your boat, and your location. Category 1 models can also be manually activated but more importantly have a special mounting bracket that senses 6 feet of water pressure and automatically releases the EPIRB and floats to the surface. It then begins transmitting its mayday message without human assistance.

### GPS-Enhanced EPIRBs

Most EPIRBs sold today have an embedded GPS receiver to increase the reported accuracy of your location. This can reduce search-and-rescue time substantially. Many PLB models have built-in GPS as well. When shopping, choose a GPS-integrated model.  
(Continued)



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The Coast Guard issued a safety bulletin recently strongly urging owners of older EPIRBs to upgrade to a GPS-enhanced model. With the old EPIRBs, critical rescue time is wasted attempting to pinpoint the location of a mayday broadcast.

### Smart EPIRBs

A new type of EPIRB and some PLBs feature a digital display that provides the user with valuable feedback and operational information. This includes confirmation that your set is in good operational health, and more importantly, it warns you when your set is not working properly. These smart models can prompt you on correct activation procedures and can reassure you, when activated, that your emergency message has been successfully received. The digital display also indicates your exact location and lets you know remaining battery power and when battery replacement is needed.

### PLB Enhancements

Some PLBs have added features, such as the ability to transmit short nonemergency text or e-mail preprogrammed messages to let family or friends know that you are all right (i.e., "I'm OK" message) and exactly where you are to keep them informed as you progress on your journey (subscription required). Some also have LED strobe lights to guide rescuers to your location.

### PRICE RANGES

**EPIRBs:** From under \$500 to \$1,000 plus

**PLBs:** From under \$300 to \$500

So yes, as with a 'messenger service' it would seem PLB & EPIRB are also going to a 'service' which contacts 1st responders AND both are using satellites to receive your 'call'.

Let's leave it that IF all you want is a rescue device, SOS response, then both will do the job

IF you want additional features, then check out the offerings.

(Continued)



# THE BAROMETER



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OK, TO ME, HERE IS THE BOTTOM LINE.

We are talking about the Americas Great Loop Cruise or Fishing Offshore. On the "Loop", there are conceivably 2 areas where you are outside of seeing land, the rest you are almost able to walk ashore. The Jersey Coast and the Gulf crossing, YES there may be more depending on how you do your Loop or how far offshore you go fishing.

Regardless... IF you feel safer having a PLB or EPIRB for those 2 areas, then get 1.

IF you want to provide tracks and have contact with family & friends you will need a 'messenger service'.

Hopefully now, to most, we will have taken this about as far as it will go.

**DO YOUR OWN DUE-DILIGENCE!**

This article taken in part from an Americas Great Loop Cruisers Association posting by Charles Williamson.

Submitted by:

P/Stf/C John R. Gill, AP-IN

## **The Henry Sweet Fund Helps All D5 Squadrons**

ABC Mid-Atlantic has announced that The Henry Sweet Fund is funding the District 5 portion of each members' dues for 2021 and 2022. The amount will automatically be calculated into your USPS Annual renewal notice. There is nothing that you have to do but accept the windfall. This is due to a decision by the trustees, P/D/C Warren Stevens, SN, V/C Bill McManimen III, SN and P/D/C Bill Selden, AP.

The fund was established to aid squadrons to cover expenses. Squadrons can apply for additional help.

Lt/C Rhoda Refsin, S



## Holiday Happenings!



Festive decorations enjoyed by the Gills at Southampton Estates!

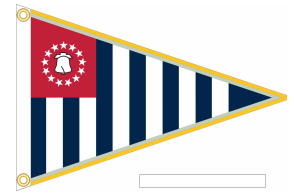


Your editor is taking up a new sport – paddle boarding. Frankie the Golden Retriever approves!

Erik and Lucy Williams' beautifully decorated tree.



Some folks just can't let go of being on the water regardless of the weather! Kudos to Erik Williams for keeping the season going!



## GALLEY FAVORITES

### Baked Crab Dip - A Taste of Home recipe



#### Ingredients

- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 2 cups sour cream
- 2 cans (6 ounces each) crabmeat, drained, flaked and cartilage removed, or 2 cups faked imitation crabmeat
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 4 green onions, thinly sliced
- 2 round loaves (1 pound each) unsliced sourdough or Italian bread
- Additional sliced green onions, optional
- Assorted fresh vegetables, crackers and/or toasted bread cubes.

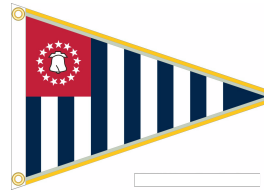
#### Directions

In a bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth. Add sour cream; mix well. Fold in crab, cheese and onions. Cut the top third off each loaf of bread; carefully hollow out bottoms, leaving 1-in. shells. Cube removed bread and tops; set aside. Spoon crab mixture into bread bowls. Place on [baking sheets](#). Place reserved bread cubes in a single layer around bread bowls.

Bake, uncovered, at 350° until the dip is heated through, 45-50 minutes. Garnish with green onions if desired. Serve with assorted fresh vegetables, crackers or toasted bread cubes.

**Tip:** The bread can be filled earlier and refrigerated until 1-1/2 hours before serving. Remove from the refrigerator 30 minutes before baking.





## IMPORTANT MARINE SAFETY ALERT!!!

**Kidde Recalls Fire Extinguishers with Plastic Handles Due to Failure to Discharge and Nozzle Detachment: One Death Reported.**



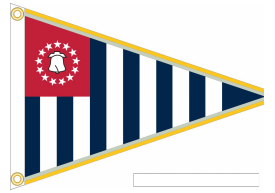
### Name of product:

- Kidde fire extinguishers with plastic handles.

### Hazard:

- The fire extinguishers can become clogged or require excessive force to discharge and can fail to activate during a fire emergency. In addition, the nozzle can detach with enough force to pose an impact hazard.

(Continued)



**Recall number:**

- 18-022



**Consumer Contact:**

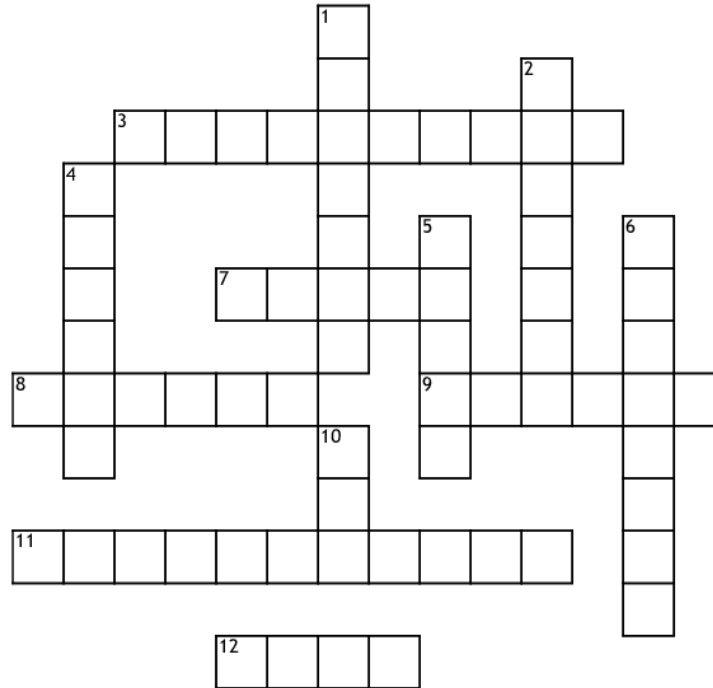
Kidde toll-free at 855-271-0773 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET Saturday and Sunday, or online at [www.kidde.com](http://www.kidde.com) and click on “Product Safety Recall” for more information or link below.

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2017/kidde-recalls-fire-extinguishers-with-plastic-handles-due-to-failure-to-discharge-and>



## TEST YOUR SAILING KNOWLEDGE!

### Sailing Crossword



**Across**

- 3. A type of downhaul used on a Bermuda rigged sailboat
- 7. A T-shaped piece of metal or wood on a boat where ropes are attached
- 8. What is a sailing flag called?
- 9. A flat piece hinged vertically near the stern of a boat for steering
- 11. A board that can be lowered through the keel of a sailing boat to reduce sideways movement
- 12. The lower or after corner of a sail

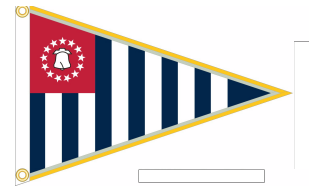
**Down**

- 1. A rope attached to the bow of a boat for tying it to a quay
- 2. A rope used for raising and lowering a sail
- 4. A set of ropes forming part of the standing rigging of a sailing boat and supporting the mast or topmast.
- 5. The rearmost part of a ship or boat
- 6. This rope support a ship's foremast
- 10. A triangular staysail set forward of the mast.



# THE BAROMETER

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## THE BAROMETER

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®  
— DELAWARE VALLEY™

D/1<sup>st</sup>/Lt Stephanie Ward, AP  
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## FIRST CLASS MAIL

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### UPCOMING EVENTS

January 12	ABC-DV Monthly Meeting (Virtual) 7pm
February 9	ABC-DV Monthly Meeting (Virtual) 7pm
February 14-21	ABC 2021 Annual Meeting, Ponte Vedra, FL
April 5-8	ABC-MidAtlantic Spring Conf. (Virtual)