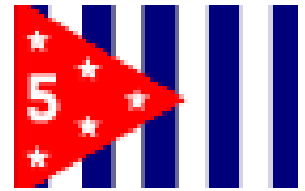




DISTRICT 5 MARK 5



VOLUME 70 No. 4

2020 FALL ELECTRONIC ISSUE

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2020 D/5

2020 Fall Conference, 6-8 November 2020, Wyndham Gettysburg, Gettysburg, PA has been cancelled!

In lieu of the live conference, DEO Joe Gibson and his department are working diligently on a virtual conference with many seminars that everyone can attend without having to choose which one they want to attend. Please watch your emails and the district website for more information.

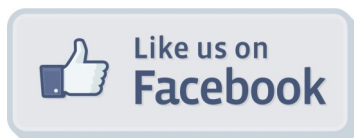
We are trying to schedule the Fall Conference for 2021 in Gettysburg with the corresponding date of 4-7 November 2021. As soon as it is confirmed an email will be sent to commanders and newsletter editors. All information will be posted in the Winter 2021 edition of the Mark 5.

We are still hoping to have a physical Spring Conference in April of 2021. Keep your fingers crossed!

Unfortunately the Fall National Governing Board has also been cancelled. Check the national website for information on virtual seminars.



2020 Fall Governing Board
Raleigh, North Carolina



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Commander's Message

D/C Jeffrey E. Short, JN



So much for "Foresight in 2020." I did not see this coming. Last winter as I came up with the slogan for my year as District 5 Commander, I was thinking about the not-so-subtle changes we were making and were going to make at America's Boating Club and District 5 in order to increase value for our members. My vision of the future was full of change as we looked forward to meeting the needs of a new generation of safe boaters while maintaining the tradition and customs of our current members. Even as the TV news stations would close their broadcast, seemingly as an afterthought, with the mention a virus affecting the city of Wuhan, China, I could never have expected such sweeping world-wide change as we have experienced over the past six months. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the world.

In April, District 5 conducted the Change of Watch virtually on extremely short notice. We have had to cancel the Summer Rendezvous and Council; an event that was sure to be a highlight of my year. Most recently we had to cancel the Fall Education Conference in Gettysburg which I was so looking forward to. Since I have taken over as District Commander most of the contact I have had with my fellow members is by looking at tiny thumbnail images of them stacked up on my computer screen, by phone or email message.

Despite this I just can't believe how fortunate we are. As a volunteer organization with a mission of boating safety and civic service, boater education, and social interaction with friends with a common interest in boating, you would figure this pandemic would have shut us down entirely. Incredibly this is not the case. As an organization, we have responded and responded big time. We are a resilient, talented and innovative bunch.

It's really unbelievable. I am severely "technically challenged" and yet skilled members walk me through and teach me. It's easy. Thus far I have taken several boater education courses taught by certified USPS educators, in real time, via the computer. And we got new members out of those classes just like in the old days! I have had my vessel safety inspected while maintaining social distancing and all the other prevention requirements. I have heard of Vessel Safety Checks being done remotely using cellphone cameras. Brilliant! I have socialized frequently with my squadron friends and other squadrons, having cocktails and playing bingo; all from the safety of my home. Our own Megan Humphrey conducted one of her hugely popular craft classes, over the internet!! My wife Lorrie and I have provided civic service by picking up trash in a local stream that feeds the Chesapeake Bay. Squadron and District meetings go on, albeit in a new format, but the work is getting done.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

The Fall Conference will go on and it will be bigger and better than ever. It will take place online. More people will be able to attend from their own homes, remaining safe and saving money and travel time. The classes will be scheduled so as not to conflict with each other. You can attend all of them if you desire. More subject matter and expert speakers are possible now that they can present online.

“Foresight in 2020?” I guess I did get it right after all. We are an amazing group of talented, innovative and caring boaters and we are resilient! We have adapted to this pandemic and continue to get better. We are providing value for members in new and innovative ways. And we are successfully accomplishing the missions of America’s Boating Club. We will get through this! I look forward to seeing you again, in person and without a mask.

Jeff

Editor’s Note:

Thank you so much to all the editors and commanders who responded to my request for content for this issue. We have an extremely talented group of people in our organization. Thank you again.

Apryl

With restrictions that vary from state to state, here are some tips for outdoor meetings.

Article reprinted from Community Matters Blog:

How to Host Safe Outdoor Events on Meetup

The communication, planning, and safety precautions you need to host a safe outdoor event.

[By Ben Weger](#)

Meetup organizers around the world are stepping up to host safe outdoor events following local laws and guidelines from their governments. According to [a Japanese study of 100 cases](#), the odds of catching coronavirus are almost 20 times higher indoors than outdoors. All in-person events still carry some risk of transmission but they give organizers in countries and states that allow outdoor events the opportunity to bring their community together in a low-risk safe environment—and organizers are taking advantage of it.

Since we [introduced online events on Meetup](#) for the first time back in March, 80,000 organizers have hosted over 700,000 online Meetup events helping to fight loneliness in their communities and keep connected. Now, groups are beginning to host some of their events outdoors with thoughtful precautions. In addition to the sports and outdoors groups who normally meet outside, there are also traditionally “indoor” groups bringing their events outside to stay connected while reducing the likelihood of spreading the virus.

Here are some of the ways you can host a safe outdoor event for your community whether you normally host outside or are hosting outdoors for the first time.

Guide to hosting outdoor events.

Learn more about [Personal and Social Activities](#) from the CDC. Follow local requirements and guidelines issued by your government authorities and public health officials.

Communicate with members ahead of your event

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Start a discussion about meeting safely outdoors to gauge the comfort level of your members. Share an overview of the precautions you plan to take and give members information on how they can participate in keeping the event safe and fun.

Agree on some general guidelines you will follow. Here are some good topics to align on.

- Wearing masks at all times
- Keeping a safe distance apart at all times
- Bringing your own hand sanitizer
- Not attending if you have experienced any common coronavirus symptoms
- Everyone checking their temperature before departing for the event
- Whether you discouraging attendance by anyone who may be at a [higher risk for severe illness](#)
- Who can volunteer to help keep the event organized.

Plan the logistics

Event logistics are crucial to any event and are especially important when planning a safe outdoor event. Planning ahead will help keep members informed and better equipped to stay safe during the event. Having a co-organizer will help your safe outdoor event run smoothly. Here are some important topics to consider when hosting an outdoor event.

Venue: The most important part of hosting outdoors is finding the right space. You'll need something that's convenient for your members to travel to, has enough space for members to distance themselves, and has options for different weather conditions. We recommend scoping out a venue in advance, reserving a covered space if possible, and showing up to the venue early on the day of the event. Public parks are a reliable option.

Time of day: When you're working with sunlight it's important to account for more time than you think you'll need. Try planning your events earlier in the day if possible in case your event starts or ends late.

Event length: Limiting the amount of time you spend together can help reduce the chances of spreading the virus. Plan your events to be on the shorter side as a general rule.

Attendee and guest limits: Limited the size of your event based on guidelines from your local government. You can always make your events smaller than those guidelines if it helps members feel more comfortable. Set clear expectations about if members are allowed to bring guests.

Group size: Even when you limit the size of your event it's important to consider group size at the event. If it's not easy for members to hear each other with masks on you may need to break up into smaller groups. Smaller groups can also help with distancing.

Share what members should bring: Limit all materials shared by members and be clear about what members will need the day of the event. It might be a chair to sit on, a copy of a book, a pen to sign in, or a piece of sports equipment. Communication about what members are expected to bring will help reduce the number of shared items.

How you'll find each other: If you don't have an exact address for the meeting spot on your event page, leave a detailed plan of how members can find the event. We recommend wearing a colored shirt or using a sign to help members find you.

Event setup: Make it clear how far apart members should sit or stand. If members are bringing their own chairs, help find the appropriate distance by marking 6-foot spots in advance.

Have a backup plan

All event organizers need to plan to be flexible and it's even more important now. Set a generous cancellation policy for members canceling due to illness or exposure. There are so many factors in hosting safe outdoor events that you'll need a few backup plans.

Plan a backup online event: Plan for a backup online event if the outdoor event needs to be rescheduled because of bad weather or cancellations.

Have an alternate meeting spot: If the outdoor space is crowded on the day of the event, plan an alternate location that you share with members. We also recommend showing up at the venue early.

Make a communication plan: Designate a point-of-contact for members to check in with about alternate locations, cancellations, and other questions. You can post on the Meetup app or start a texting group for the event.

These recommendations are based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Read more of our [in-person event suggestions](#).



Coast Guard requesting comments to improve Nation's shallow draft waterways ATON system

POSTED BY [CWO KURT FREDRICKSON](#) ON [AUGUST 10, 2020](#)

The U.S. Coast Guard is conducting an assessment of the Shallow Draft Waterway Systems, the fourth in a series of studies to determine the navigation requirements for mariners in the U.S. Marine Transportation System (MTS). The Waterways Analysis and Management System (WAMS) study will help the Coast Guard to determine the Aids to Navigation (ATON) requirements in the Shallow Draft Waterway Systems which includes all navigable waterways of the United States less than 12 feet.

The WAMS study is focused on providing consistent, program-wide policy necessary to support Coast Guard District Commanders in the execution and management of ATON services within the Shallow Draft Waterway System. The shallow draft system is present in all nine Coast Guard Districts. The recommendations will not determine what individual ATON to add, keep, or remove, but they may shape policy for the next generation waterway system management and design. All ATON activities remain under the purview of the local District Commander. The assessment is part of the U.S. Coast Guard's effort to make navigable waterways of the United States safer, more efficient and resilient. Studies have been previously conducted of the Atlantic and Pacific Seacoast Systems along with the Western Rivers (Inland Waterways) System. Future studies are planned to include the Intracoastal Waterways and Deep Draft Waterway Systems.

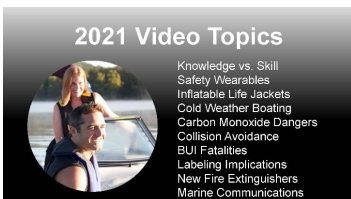
Waterway users, interested parties, and stakeholders are invited to provide comments or feedback via the tool posted at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ShallowWaterWAMS>. This link will remain available until November 1, 2020.

Further questions or comments may be emailed to CGNAV@uscg.mil using the subject line: "Shallow Draft WAMS".

This blog is not a replacement or substitute for the formal posting of regulations and updates or existing processes for receiving formal feedback of the same. Links provided on this blog will direct the reader to official publications, such as the Federal Register, Homeport and the Code of Federal Regulations. These publications remain the official source for regulatory information published by the Coast Guard.



In May, the **America's Boating Channel** grant proposal for July 2020 through September 2021 received an award from the Coast Guard that will enable USPS to produce and promote the fifth season of boating safety and boater education videos.



The ten new Season Five video topics include:

- 1) Differences between knowledge and skills and the need for both theoretical learning and on-the-water practice.
- 2) Wearing an engine cut-off device habitually on smaller vessels.
- 3) How to test and care for inflatable life jackets.
- 4) Special considerations for cold weather boating, which was moved Season Four to enable production of the more topical **"Social Distancing for Boaters."**

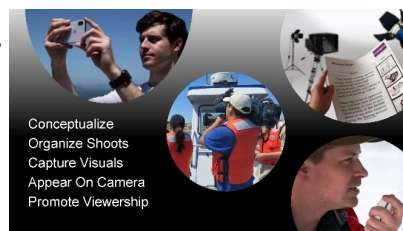
- 1) Dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning in various activities involving powerboats.
- 2) Tips for avoiding collisions as an overriding priority in adhering to the Nav Rules.
- 3) How and why boating under the influence continues to be the leading cause of boating deaths.
- 4) Leveraging the new labeling system's increased flexibility to match life jackets with boating activities and associated hazards.
- 5) New fire extinguisher standards and their implications.
- 6) Choosing the optimal communications technology depending on circumstances from among VHF marine radios, EPIRBs, PLBs, I-9-1-1, etc.

Voluntary participation of members is essential to produce and promote **America's Boating Channel** videos and there are five ways to do this.



Conceptualize the assigned topics to develop compelling video scripts, plan field production activities for your district or squadron, capture footage – which was invaluable this year for **"Introducing ATONS"** and for the **"ABC-LIVE"** show; perform on-screen as a boat operator, passenger, or onlooker; and/or promote viewership.

"Like" **America's Boating Channel** on Facebook, "Follow" **America's Boating Channel** on Twitter and "subscribe" to **America's Boating Channel** on YouTube. This is USPS's video service, and social media works well in spreading the word and driving real viewership growth.



P/D/C Marty Lafferty, AP

Online Magazine Show
Help Boaters Cope with Sheltering in Place



In March, the U. S. Coast Guard authorized a special project to help boaters cope with sheltering in place to prevent the spread of coronavirus by producing a weekly online magazine show.

Volunteer participants in “America’s Boating Channel LIVE (ABC-LIVE)” produced an initial flight of six forty-minute episodes airing Wednesday afternoons from April 8th through May 13th, with the National Safe Boating Council (NSBC) partnering on the final program to kick-off National Safe Boating Week.

Each show opened with a segment from P/C/C Louis Ojeda on a different aspect of coping, then Andy Sumberg with an interactive educational offering, followed by John O’Reilly recommending a boating motion picture, medical doctors Cheryl Lowry and Brian Pinkston on safe practices for leaving your home or boat, Holly Tompkins with a music track, Megan Humphrey on nautical crafts and jigsaw puzzles, Jim Zeigler highlighting boating TV shows, Mary Catherine Berube showcasing a USPS member benefit, Chuck Wells offering three boating-book reviews, and P/C/C Gary Cheney with a catfish tale.

Mission Accomplished

Six 40:00 Episodes
April 8 – May 13
6.8K Cume Views
Thank You PSA
Series Compilation

Recurring Segments

- One Boater's View
- Online Boater Ed
- Boating Movies
- Shore Leave
- Boating Music
- Nautical Crafts
- Boating TV Shows
- On The Horizon
- Books for Boaters
- All Mooring Aside

To boost production values, high-budget professionally produced movie trailers, music videos, television program previews, and book reviews alternated with totally original member-produced segments.

Production Values

AMERICA'S BOATING CHANNEL LIVE

If you were too busy on Wednesday afternoons this spring to catch the show, just go to case-sensitive bit.ly/LIVEBinge and you'll be able to watch the more than four hours of “America’s Boating Channel LIVE.”

special session.

A hands-on one-hour “INTERACTIVE VIDEO WORKSHOP” will be presented as a live videoconference using FreeConferenceCall.com Friday morning September 11th at 11 AM ET, and recorded for later viewing, as part of the virtual USPS National Governing Board Meeting.



P/D/C Marty Lafferty, AP



Coast Guard's New Tool to Save Lives

P/C John Wesley Nash, SN-IN

ASPS Instructor, Webmaster & Port Captain

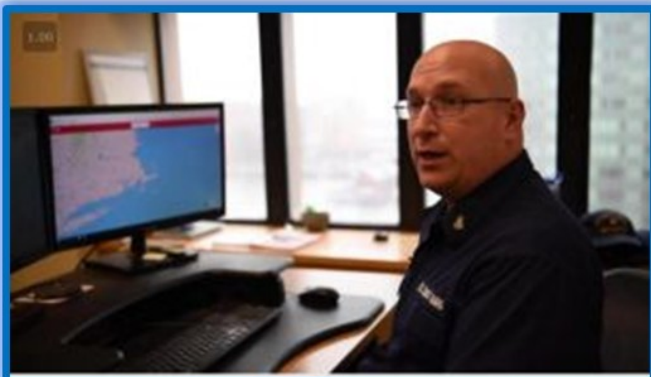
The tool is called the i911 system and it is considered the most significant search and rescue advancement available to the Coast Guard since the implementation of [Rescue 21](#) several years ago. The i911 system can greatly reduce the amount of time required to accurately locate a mariner in distress and have rescue crews on scene faster. It is an excellent new tool for the Coast Guard's mission of providing assistance to those that require it. This new capability will save more lives on the water, a major interest for USPS Members and the recreational boating community in general.

So, what is i911? It is a service developed by [Callyo](#) and made available free to First Responders and the Coast Guard. Many First Responders started testing and implementing the system about two years ago. Using a web-based interface, it provides fast and accurate location of emergency callers who are actively connected or have recently contacted a regular 911 operator via a cell phone. Their precise location can be automatically and immediately available without any further action, provided the user has enabled the "Location Services" on their cell phone.

These days, just for the purpose of life safety, it is hard to imagine anyone leaving their home without having the "Location Services" enabled on their phone. But if they have not, the First Responder (or Coast Guard) is presented with the option to send an SMS (text message) to the caller. The message asks the cell phone user for consent to share their exact whereabouts with emergency services. The location sharing feature is only utilized by the Coast Guard during an active search and rescue case. The cell phone's location sharing feature can be turned off by the mariner at any time.

If a mariner is reported missing or overdue to port, and doesn't respond to calls on VHF Channel 16 or voice calls to a known cell phone on board, the Coast Guard can send a text message to the phone requesting exact whereabouts and safety status. Depending on the cell phone service in the area, the i911 system can determine locations of distressed mariners up to 15-20 nautical miles offshore. The i911 system can be particularly useful in locating mariners in kayaks, inflatable rafts, or any other vessels without a functional VHF Marine Radio on board.

The i911 system was tested by the Coast Guard in a pilot program over the last 18 months. As of 20 March 2020, Coast Guard Command Centers across the entire US were authorized to implement and use i911.



I recently communicated with CDR Matt Fine, Deputy Sector Commander for [USCG Sector Maryland-NCR](#). (The Command Center for the waters of the Chesapeake Bay.) CDR Fine was happy to report that Sector Maryland-NCR has fully implemented the i911 system and are using it across their area of responsibility. He considers it a valuable tool and has already used it on several search and rescue cases to locate or confirm the location of mariners in distress. He noted that more and more people have started relying on cell phones as their means of communication on a vessel, although they strongly encourage all mariners to have a reliable VHF Marine Radio on board and communicate with the Coast Guard on VHF Marine Radio Channel 16. But, when necessary, a cell phone is a great backup.

If you have any questions or seek additional information about the i911 system, email me at jwn54@outlook.com, or call me at 703-887-1836.

I thank P/C Rich Hughes, SN-IN for allowing me to hijack his Safety Article for this month's Anchor Watch. He graciously provided me the opportunity to share news about this important Coast Guard advancement with our membership.

From John Wilmot:

Betty and I drove back to Deep Creek Lake on Saturday (4 June). She had to try her boat and ski this morning. I usually drive the boat, but her son Greg drove the boat while I took pictures.

I think she looks pretty good for 89 years old. The weather is just beautiful here - 65 degrees, wind at 3 knots, and water temp 70 degrees - a great day for a boat ride.

We hope everyone is staying clear of the corona virus. Maybe it will give up and go away soon.



Safe Boating During Covid

The following recommendations are provided by the Virginia Department Wildlife Resources (VDWR) for safe boating during Covid-19.

- * Boat close to home.
- * Plan ahead. Fuel your boat before you go and pack food and water.
- * Practice social distancing while boating.
- * Only boat with those who are in your immediate family.
- * Do not share a car, boat, canoe, or kayak with other people not in your household while traveling to fishing or boating sites.
- * Anglers fishing from boats should always maintain at least six feet of distance between one another
- * Maintain your distance at boat ramps and fuel docks.
- * Avoid using boat ramp docks if others are on them.
- * Don't raft up to other boaters or pull up onto a beach next to someone else as it could put you in close proximity to others.
- * If you're not feeling well, stay home.
- * Individuals who are 70 or older or who have a compromised immune system should postpone boating trips for now.

Social Distancing When Boating

Only boat with those in your immediate household.

No beaching your boat right next to someone else.

Maintain your distance at the fuel dock – and remember to wash your hands.

No rafting up – keep your distance on the water.

No guests on your boat!
This includes family members not in your immediate household or your closest boating buddies.

Go right from your house to the boat and back –
no unnecessary contact with anyone.

Enjoy your boat, the water and the fresh air; but enjoy it while boating responsibly.

Word Search reprinted from Smith Mountain Lake Sail & Power Squadron Newsletter. Enjoy!

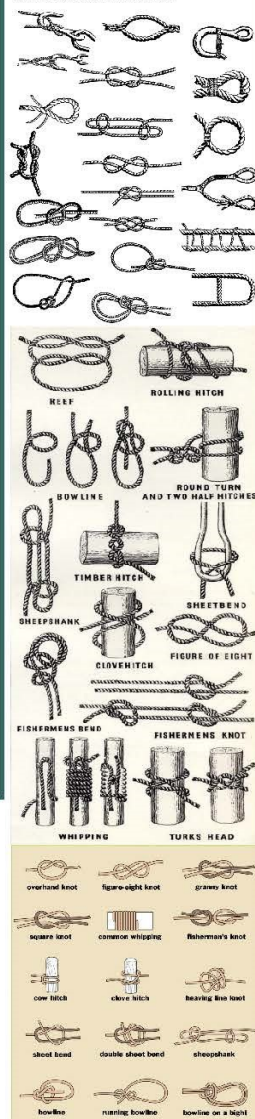
Knots - Word Search

D R N Q H T I D A T M W H P T U F V K J P H C L
X K S Y S O V M V B Y A J P N E B G N F C L Z S
O S W K V N H H H L T O N L T S T C J T P H N H
X S C L B K C Y J O F F E H L O X H I O R A A E
I H L K U R T C R O N D T I A X N H Z T C H O E
K W O N X E I G G D H O P U O R G K U E M U F T
K U V A D T H U T K C K F F R N N E E C D A W B
T I E H N A F S C N N C L H I W W E I R F N N E
U M H S S W L K F O U M C L A S W N S M A C D N
L E I P E V A G T T R T L P U T N V Q S C U S D
G P T E R N H J L V I O S C I N N E S S K U Q L
N G C E P M I I R H R Y C U A U E S N L C N H S
I C H H E Y H L R V E D N Y B R S R Y V M M O W
H D X S F O G E W K G X Z E C F R D N A L S Y T
S W V B U I B M N O V K T O N K K I S U R P Y L
A E F U T M P O I P B E N O O B U R C V I X U F
L K Q T I I M O T O N K G N I K C A P K Z U S Q
D G S T Q T O N K T H G I E E R U G I F B P K S
O O C H F T A U T L I N E H I T C H P B A E V G
P R T O N K S N A M R E H S I F S U I Z T Q N I
I X D T R U C K E R S H I T C H R S T O L O T D
R G N I H S A L E R A U Q S G Y Y W G V J S H X
T R R M S W R Y H C T I H L E R R A B O M N V R
G K F M Q C U V Z O U J I F M E V F Q E J L N Y

This issue's Word Search is all about knots. If you want to learn more about these knots, do a "WORD SEARCH" on the Internet.

WORD SEARCH

In order to play, you will need to print out this page. Find each nautical term and circle it.



Packing Knot
Square Lashing
Trucker's Hitch
Timber Hitch
Water Knot
Half Hitch
Sheep Shank
Sheet bend

Slip Knot
Tripod Lashing
Carrick Bend
Prusik Knot
Fishermans Knot
Figure Eight Knot
Square Knot
Bowline

Man Harness Knot
Barrel Hitch
Blood Knot
Rolling Hitch
Taut Line Hitch
Monkey's Paw
Clove Hitch

COVID-19
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

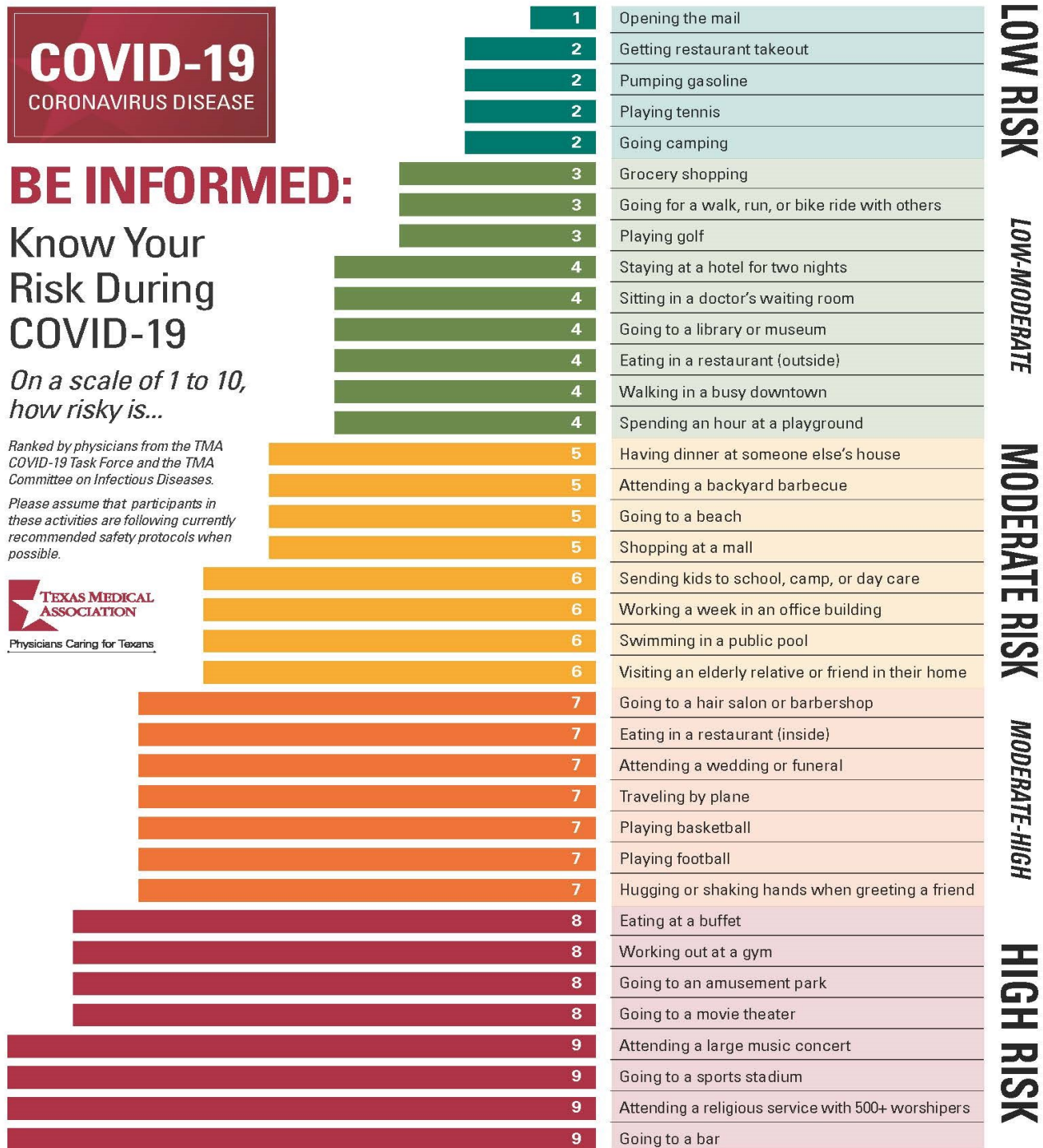
BE INFORMED:

Know Your Risk During COVID-19

On a scale of 1 to 10, how risky is...

Ranked by physicians from the TMA COVID-19 Task Force and the TMA Committee on Infectious Diseases.

Please assume that participants in these activities are following currently recommended safety protocols when possible.



Texas Medical Association | 401 W. 15th St. | Austin, TX 78701-1680

www.texmed.org

@texmed

@wearetma

Memorial for Captain Lucky Captain of the Ben Franklin Motor Yacht



On Sunday, June 28, 2020, a memorial service was held for Edward “Captain Lucky” Verzella, at Penn’s Landing. He was the operator of the Ben Franklin yacht. America’s Boating Club-Delaware Valley has held events on the yacht for several years in May, during Safe Boating week. This year the event was cancelled due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

The memorial service was held on a hot and humid afternoon at 1 PM. The Boat Owners of Delaware Valley announced the event on Facebook. Mr. Verzella was the victim of an unfortunate accident while working on his boat on June 14th.

Family and friends gathered on the yacht while recreational boats, including Commander Refsin’s vessel, of ABC-Delaware Valley, idled nearby. They were joined by the Philadelphia Police and Fire Department boats that were spouting water in memory of Ed. He was known by boaters and those who were his customers as a very good friend and someone who was always willing to help those in need.



As soon as a white wreath of flowers was cast into the river by his son, a multitude of horns from the various boats began to sound. This was a fitting tribute to a man who was a big part of the Philadelphia boating community.

Reprinted from the Barometer newsletter of ABC-Delaware Valley.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2020

September USPS Virtual Fall Governing Board (Seminars and meeting times to be determined)

November Virtual Fall Conference (Seminars and meeting times to be determined.)

2021

14-21 February USPS Annual Meeting, Ponte Vedra, FL

4-11 April D/5 Spring Conference, Princess Royale, Ocean City, MD

Please be advised that any or all of these dates could be cancelled due to the current health situation.



Great Egg River Sunrise

Mark 5

Official Publication of District 5
United States Power Squadrons®



Published Four Times Annually

Articles, opinions and advertisements do not necessarily reflect USPS® policy or endorsement unless so designated.

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