

# AMERC News

Issue 69 – Incorporates Circular 289

April 2019

## Editorial

Welcome to issue 69 of AMERC News - which doubles as **Circular 289** and, as such, must be circulated to all GMDSS instructors/examiners by their AMERC centre contact.

In this issue we also have our usual brief on the most recent **Maritime Consultation Group** (MCG – Page 2), and which includes **Revised Exam Fees effective 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019**; the group thoughts on **Brexit**; an item of GMDSS **Examiner ‘mobility’**; an **update on the 2019-2020 exam series**; and a note about the **upcoming AGM/Examiners’ Panel**.

Reporting of NAC **quarterly statistics for GMDSS examinations** has been replaced by an **annual rolling report** on exam statistics – this edition of the News showing the third table using the new format.

The **‘GMDSS Criss-Crossword’** – included in the News to help stretch delegates’ knowledge of **international geography** and the use of **Admiralty Digital Radio Signals (ADRS)** and **Admiralty List of Radio Signals (ALRS)** publications in back on Page 3, along with the answers to Criss-crossword number 68 – as usual, with hyperlinks.

**‘Maritime Miscellaneous’** (Pages 4-5) has a report on the **successful completion of the AMERC-sponsored, SuperYacht cadetship** at UKSA, for a lad who’s now in paid employment onboard a ‘superyacht’; plus an urgent **Job Advertisement for a GMDSS Instructor/Examiner** at Warsash Maritime Academy, Southampton – closing date will follow this issue of the News.

**‘Tales from the Key-Side** and **‘Member Profile(s)’** are again taking a rest – if any new member, or member/centre not previously featured (or who has had notable changes since any previous entry) would like to feature in future editions – get in touch!

Your submissions were always welcome for **Explanation Please? Member Profile, Maritime Misc’** and **Tales from the Key-Side** – and other items that were likely to be of interest to others.

The new Editor will have the option of continuing with the same, or similar format – but will also be in a position to introduce her/his own style/format.

And finally – my sincere thanks to those of you who’ve provided feedback, questions, tales and other information for your newsletter for all those issues that I’ve had the pleasure of editing.

Sláinte! *Ian W*

Mail: [gmdss4all@gmail.com](mailto:gmdss4all@gmail.com)

### AMERC NEWS EDITOR POST

Reminder: this will be my last issue of AMERC News as Editor. The post is open for applications and the new Ed’ will be appointed by the Executive Committee at AGM. Being Editor means that you form part of the Maritime Consultation Group (MCG) – effectively the Executive Committee ‘open’ meeting, along with the MCA – which gives a good insight into EC working for anyone considering applying to join the EC in future.

The **Maritime Consultation Group** (MCG) meets regularly - currently four times each year – for the AMERC Executive Committee ‘Open Meeting’. MCG membership consists of AMERC Executive Committee (EC) representatives; the AMERC Chief Examiner; the MCA Chief Examiner and/or the MCA Deck & GMDSS Team Leader; the NAC and other AMERC/industry specialists.

The latest meeting was held in London in March 2019. The following items reflect discussions at MCG (full minutes will be circulated appropriately) - and/or associated items that may be of interest to Members and training centres. The items are placed according to size - not in any ‘priority’ order.

**GMDSS Examination Fees Revision effective 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019:** Revised examination fees for GMDSS GOC, ROC and LRC have been agreed between the MCA and AMERC. The new fees will be charged for all exams taking place **from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019**.

The new fees are:

**Exams conducted at UK Centres:**

**GOC £180.00** (£160.00 until 31<sup>st</sup> August)

**ROC £160.00** (£140.00 until 31<sup>st</sup> August)

**LRC £140.00** (no change)

**SatMod £60.00** (no change).

**All RNLI £86.00** (£80.00 until 31<sup>st</sup> August).

**Exams conducted at Overseas Centres:**

**GOC £125.00** (£110.00 until 31<sup>st</sup> August)

**ROC £120.00** (£100.00 until 31<sup>st</sup> August)

**LRC £140.00** (no change)

**Satmod £60.00** (no change).

**‘Brexit’:** Yet again, despite the UK’s imminent planned departure from EU membership, there remains insufficient information to allow any judgement of what, if any, effect ‘Brexit’ might have on AMERC overseas operations.

**GMDSS Examiner Status:** GMDSS examiners are listed on the AMERC website, alongside their ‘parent’ centre. However: examiners can conduct exams at any other centre on request from that centre. Any examiner who is interested in examining for other than their ‘parent’ centre is free to contact other centre(s) to make their availability/willingness known. Any examiner who no longer has a ‘parent’ centre – e.g. because that centre has ceased to operate as an ECC, can also register their contact details with another centre.

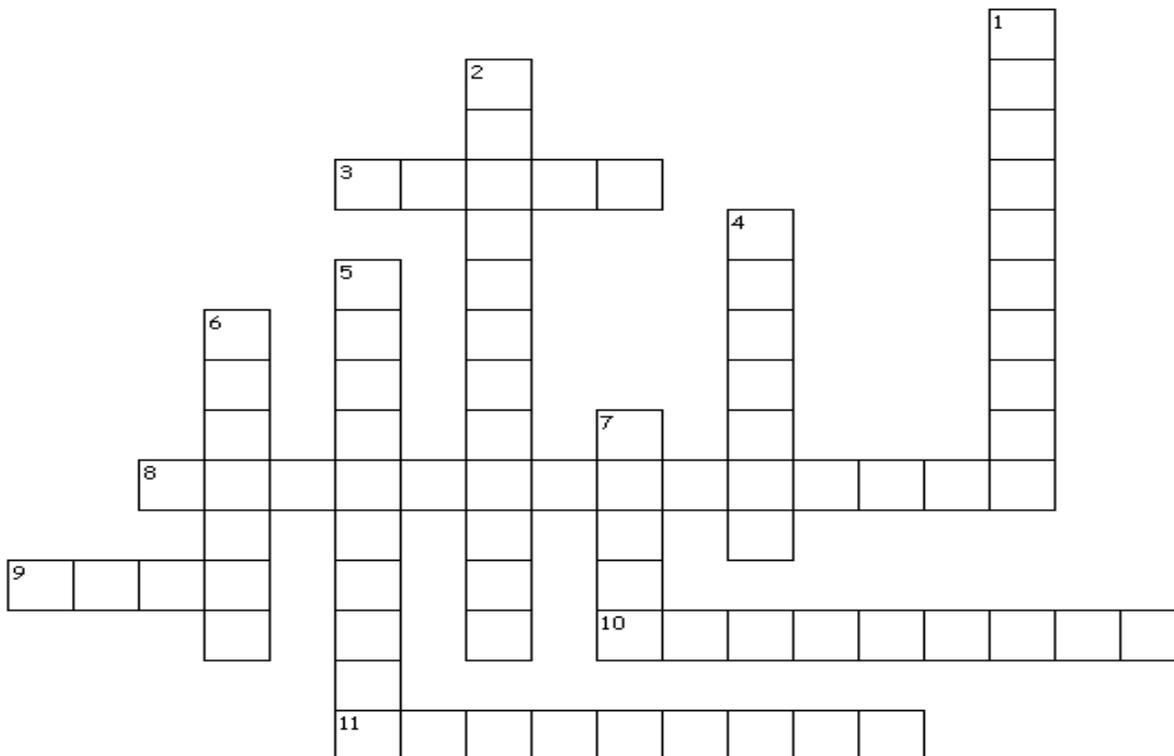
**New Series (2019-2020) Exam series update:** The 2019-2020 series examination papers have been running since 1<sup>st</sup> January with no reported issues from any centre. Results are regularly monitored with the view to identifying possible issues with any particular paper/centre – and nothing has emerged to date.

**AGM 2019 and Examiners’ Panel:** Our upcoming AGM & Examiner’s Panel will be held in Liverpool on Wednesday May 22<sup>nd</sup>, – followed by the AGM dinner. More detail regarding the programme, timing, and venue were provided direct to Members, by the Treasurer, in the pre-AGM notice dated 25<sup>th</sup> February.

**GMDSS Examination Statistics – rolling annual report:** National Administration Centre (NAC) examination statistics for the period **1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018** are shown below:

EXAMINATION	ENTERED (1 <sup>st</sup> time)	PASSED (1 <sup>st</sup> attempt)	% PASSED 1 <sup>ST</sup> ATTEMPT
UK GOC	953 (841)	835 (740)	740/841 (>87%)
ALL GOC	1786 (1617)	1607 (1457)	1457/1617 (>90%)
UK ROC	155 (144)	144 (134)	134/144 (>93%)
ALL ROC	195 (181)	181 (168)	168/181 (>92%)
LRC	123 (120)	119 (118)	118/120 (>98%)

**GMDSS Criss-Crossword Number 69** - answers should be researched and/or confirmed by reference to ALRS/ADRS, *where appropriate*. Readers might also like to test their knowledge of international geography by using the [‘Triviaplaza geography quizzes’](#) website (where you might also find one or more of the answers required below).



**Down**

1. Caribbean island severely damaged by an earthquake in 2010
2. (6,6) Country responsible for issuing Nav' and Met information for NAVAREA covering (1-down and 9-across)
4. Single-jetty , private, cruise port on the island of (3-across)
5. (6,4) Caribbean island and unincorporated U.S. territory directly East of (1-down)
6. NAVEX and VHF/MF DSC station located directly south of (1-down)
7. NAVTEX station ID for station on (6-down)

**Across**

3. Country forming the West side of (1-down)
8. (8,2,4) Medium-sized port on the south side of (9-across)
9. Caribbean country consisting of the island of the same name, plus Isla de la Juventud and several minor archipelagos.
10. MMSI for HF DSC station situated on (5-down)
11. MMSI for DSC station at (6-down)

**Issue 68 answers – with hyperlinks:**

**DOWN:** 1. [India](#); 2. [Hokkaido](#); 3. [Kilo](#) 4. [Honshu](#); 6. [Shikoku](#); 10. [Hotel](#)  
**ACROSS:** 5. [Yokohama](#); 7. [Kushiro](#); 8. [Moji](#); 9. [Kyushu](#).

## Maritime Miscellaneous 1: AMERC-Sponsored Cadet successfully completes training at member UKSA and gains employment in the SuperYacht industry.

At AGM 2018, Paul Martin made an appeal to [AMERC for sponsorship of a cadet in the UKSA Superyacht Cadetship scheme](#) – a bursary scheme which has been established to help aspiring young (18-25 years old) seafarers, who have the potential but not necessarily the funds to access training, to become professional superyacht crew. The fund provides a unique pathway into the superyacht industry for those young people.

Following the application and interview process, George Vaughan was chosen as the cadet to benefit specifically from the AMERC donation.

Paul is now pleased to report that George has completed the shore-based theory part of his cadetship - during which he qualified in: RYA Yacht Master (three sea phases); sea survival; fire fighting; first aid; diesel engine maintenance; RYA Radar; Transas navigation training; GMDSS SRC (he does GOC later in the programme); and security related duties.



A smiling George Vaughan on his graduation day at UKSA.



Vanessa Hodgson's Top Crew Awards  
Arcadia: Owen Neale, Jean Paul Baudains,  
**AMERC –sponsored cadet George  
Vaughan**, and George Jenks.

*George did very very well' says Paul. 'He was voted an outstanding cadet and has done us proud. We could not have asked for more. He applied himself 100 % and showed considerable professionalism throughout his training. He has gained employment on-board a very large yacht which I cannot name for security reasons - but is very excited about it and will keep us informed as to his progress'*

Paul concludes: *'A life changed for the better, we should be proud of him and of ourselves'*

**Ed's note** – sponsorship is for the initial phase of [the four-year programme](#) - a career path to STCW II/1 Officer of the Watch (Yacht <3000GT) and onward to STCW II/2 Master (Yacht <3000GT) qualification – which was designed in consultation with the MCA. The cadet, being in employment, will fund his own continued training and development.

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**Maritime Miscellaneous 2: Job Vacancy - full-time GMDSS Instructor at Warsash Maritime Academy (Southampton Solent University) in central Southampton.**

**Lecturer/Senior Lecturer Navigation & Radio Communication**

The Warsash School of Maritime Science and Engineering offers maritime education, training and consultancy to the marine industry across a variety of academic and professional disciplines.

As part of our significant investment in maritime training a new Maritime Simulation and Digital learning suite is being built. The School is now looking to recruit an experienced Deck officer with management level CoC and AMERC Examiner status for GMDSS and Navigation courses.

This is an indefinite full time post. Applicants for this position must possess a minimum of STCW All/2 Chief Mates Unlimited Certificate of Competency or relevant equivalent professional qualifications and experience. A good knowledge and understanding of Radio Communications is required.

Applications for this post are encouraged from persons with good sea going experience and teaching experience. Academic qualifications to degree level or academic background with research or teaching experience is desirable but not essential as the successful applicant will be supported in completing a Post Graduate teaching qualification and or fellowship of HEA.

***Applications from Ex Radio Officers from maritime industry with GMDSS and AMERC examiners status along with teaching experience are also welcome.***

Some weekend / unsocial hours and UK/International travel may be required.

Further details are available on: <https://recruitment.solent.ac.uk/vacancy/lecturer-senior-lecturer-navigation-radio-communication-376368.html>

Salary £33,199 - £43,267

Original Closing Date 12/03/2019 – ***has been extended until publication of this Newsletter – anyone interested should apply, using the above link, without undue delay.***

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