

AMERC News

Issue 70 – Incorporates Circular 290

July 2019

Editorial

Welcome to issue 70 of AMERC News - *which doubles as Circular 290 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), along with a brief report from the AGM held in May, and reporting of NAC **quarterly statistics for GMDSS examinations** has been replaced by an **annual rolling report** on exam statistics.

‘**Maritime Miscellaneous**’ (Pages 4-5) has a letter and update from George Jenks the **AMERC-sponsored, Superyacht cadetship** at UKSA, he’s now in paid employment onboard a ‘superyacht’ and enjoying life at sea.

‘**Tales from the Key-Side, ‘Member Profile(s)’ and Criss-Crossword**’

are again taking a break for this edition. If anyone wishes for a feature please let us know. – 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.

Enjoy Barrie

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Quick reminder – don’t forget the

GMDSS Examination Fees Revision effective 1st 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 1st September 2019.**

The new fees are:

Exams conducted at UK Centres:

GOC £180.00 (£160.00 until 31st August)

ROC £160.00 (£140.00 until 31st August)

LRC £140.00 (no change)

SatMod £60.00 (no change).

All RNLI £86.00 (£80.00 until 31st August).

Exams conducted at Overseas Centres:

GOC £125.00 (£110.00 until 31st August)

ROC £120.00 (£100.00 until 31st August)

LRC £140.00 (no change)

Satmod £60.00 (no change).

AMERC NEWS EDITOR POST

Hello this is Barrie Dunsdon from East Coast College and I have taken over the editor’s position of the AMERC news and will do my best to keep up Ian’s good work over the years.

Many thanks to Ian for his help and support with this and his sterling work over the years.

There may be slight changes to the News layout over the coming months but I don’t want to play with it if it’s not broken.

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 at the AGM in May 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.

A brief report from the NAC regarding the current exam series –

As detailed below the rolling report the UK GOC exam numbers have remained mostly the same for the same period of last year and overseas exam numbers have increased by 14%. The UK and Overseas first time pass rate has also remained mostly the same.

The ROC exam numbers have increased by 15% for the UK but decreased slightly compared to the same period last year.

First time pass rate has remained the same for the UK exams and increased by 3% for overseas exams.

Distress Relay –

Discussions were held regarding the procedures of Distress Relay procedures. Members reminded to go in line with the Radio Regulations Vol IV ITU-R M541-10 Annex 1 Para 3.4.1 for guidance.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The following items from AGM are drawn to your attention. Full minutes will be circulated in the normal manner

Election of Officers: Four persons contested the three vacancies on the Executive Committee. A closed vote resulted with re-appointment of Paul Martin, Terry Slack and Barrie Dunsdon appointed for the remaining vacancies.

Kevin Walsh – A moment to remember Kevin who sadly passed away earlier this year. Not only remembered for his dedication as vice-chairman of AMERC and the high quality of his work, but also as a genuine kind and honest gentleman. He will be missed by all of the AMERC community.

New Member Application - Welcome to Call Sign Luxembourg. Application was made and approved after a presentation from two of their colleagues.

Retention of information - A good time to remind both ECC's and AEV's of the retention of information requirements.

1. Examination scripts and papers shall be held securely at the ECC for a minimum period of 1 year or until verification of the AMERC Chief Examiner.
2. AMERC will verify that Course Completion records are retained securely by the course provider for a minimum period of 5 years in line with AMERC's audit requirements.
3. The AMERC NAC, Chief Examiner and Company Secretary are also subject to other retention of Information requirement.

Contact Information – AMERC would be grateful if all members could check their contact details listed on the AMERC web site and please email any correction / updates to the Company Secretary.

AGM 2020 – AGM next year dates are 3rd – 5th June 2020. Location – Union Jack Club, Waterloo, London.

GMDSS Examination Statistics – rolling annual report: National Administration Centre (NAC) examination statistics for the period **1st April 2018 – 31st March 2019** are shown below:

EXAMINATION	ENTERED (1st time)		PASSED (1st attempt)		% PASSED 1ST ATTEMPT
UK GOC	886	(796)	780	(712)	712/780 (>89%)
ALL GOC	1800	(1641)	1624	(1485)	1485/1641 (>90%)
UK ROC	146	(135)	135	(125)	125/135 (>92%)
ALL ROC	198	(185)	185	(173)	173/185 (>93%)
LRC	126	(124)	123	(122)	118/120 (>98%)

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

Following on from the update regarding AMERC's sponsored UKSA cadet George Jenks, we have had the following letter and update from him.

Dear Paul/AMERC,

I hope this email finds you all well.

The past few months have been such a journey for me. One that has shaped me and has let me grow into the person that I am today and who I want to become. I will be forever in AMERC's debt as the funding you gave me made not only made my dream career a reality but made it possible for me to unlock my full potential and achieve things I never thought were possible. Completing the first phase of my cadetship along with my Yachtmaster Offshore is currently the start of hopefully a long list of achievements in my life.

Since leaving UKSA I have travelled south to Antibes. I had never lived alone before, let alone live alone in a different country. My trip so far has been exciting and an adventure. After being here for a week I have found work on a 58m Motor Yacht, working hard and keen to learn everything they have to offer me. In my previous updates I have always mentioned my crew, mainly the 3 guys that I shared my accommodation with. However, arriving in the South of France I've realised it is much more than that, my fellow cadets are my family and we will have a bond, big or small, for the rest of my life. I was welcomed with open arms in Antibes by a group of cadets that I shared an apartment with. I have met up with many more around Antibes and look forward to sharing stories with them throughout the season.

I really can't convey enough how appreciative I am that you are my sponsors and I wear my AMERC badge on my uniform with pride. From now on as I have hopefully done in the past demonstrate the highest level of professionalism in honour of AMERC and the UKSA as I strive for excellence in the future.

A big part of the last six months is that I have learnt that real growth can only come from failure. As long as I learn from it, it is never a waste of time.

I will keep you updated throughout the season of my travels and adventures.

Yours Truly,

George Jenks

AMERC Cadet.

We will do our best to keep you up with George's progress over the next few months and wish him all the best and hope he enjoys the adventures.



AGM Photos – Everyone trying to be serious with H

There is more to just the meetings, so relaxing and networking as we go.



GMDSS Criss-Crossword Number 69 Answers :

DOWN: 1. Hispaniola; 2. United States; 4. Labadee; 5. Puerto Rico; 6. Curacao; 7. Romeo

ACROSS: 3. Haiti; 8. Santiago de Cuba; 9. Cuba; 10. 003669992; 11. 003061000