

# AMERC News

Issue 71 – Incorporates Circular 291

October 2019

## Editorial

Welcome to issue 71 of AMERC News - *which doubles as **Circular 291** and, as such, must be circulated to all GMDSS instructors/examiners by their AMERC centre contact.*

In this issue we have a report from the latest Executive committee meeting held last month. 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with a brief report from the AGM held in May, and reporting of NAC **quarterly statistics for GMDSS examinations** has been replaced by an **annual rolling report** on exam statistics.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’** (page 3) has an interesting article passed onto myself from Michael Moir regarding Portishead Radio. Some of the younger members might enjoying reading about the way it was done.

## **‘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 Have been busy times here at East Coast College with the maritime department moving into a new building. So apologies for a short newsletter this month. Will be back to normal next issue.*

Enjoy Barrie

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### 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 London in September 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.

### **NAC Report**

GOC exam numbers for the UK have decreased by 17% from the same period last year, overseas exams have remained comparable. Both UK and overseas pass rates have remained mostly the same. ROC exams numbers have increased by 6% for the UK but decreased slightly for overseas compared to last year. The first-time pass rate for the UK has decreased by almost 5% but has remained about the same for overseas.

LRC exams in the UK have increased by 29% whilst overseas exams have remained mostly the same.

In total 1873 certificates for the year have been issued a drop from the 1933 issued last year

### **Chief Examiner Reports**

The Chief Examiner has visited some centres during the last few months with no issues.

Well done to those centres and hope it continues.

### **Note from the Chairman**

As the average age of the Executive Committee is rising there is a possibility for future committee members to observe future meetings. If you are interested in observing and future on the EC please let the EC know.

A further letter has been received from the AMERC sponsored UKSA cadet. He has now gained full employment and will be completing his GOC next year. He send is gratitude to AMERC for changing his life.

### **Certificate posting**

Certificates from the NAC are being sent worldwide with some remote locations having difficulties receiving them or being lost. . This incurs extra costs by the NAC to replace them and send. It was agreed that students from overseas should be encouraged by the centres to pay for courier delivery. This would be £39 fee.

**GMDSS Examination Statistics – rolling annual report:** National Administration Centre (NAC) examination statistics for the period **1<sup>st</sup> July 2018 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019** are shown below:

<b>EXAMINATION</b>	<b>ENTERED (1<sup>st</sup> time)</b>		<b>PASSED (1<sup>st</sup> attempt)</b>		<b>% PASSED 1<sup>ST</sup> ATTEMPT</b>
UK GOC	853	(771)	758	(688)	688/771 (89.23%)
ALL GOC	1731	(1589)	1566	(1439)	1439/1589 (90.23%)
UK ROC	132	(120)	119	(108)	108/132 (90.00%)
ALL ROC	186	(170)	169	(154)	154/186 (90.59%)
LRC	141	(138)	136	(135)	118/120 (97.83%)

## Maritime Miscellaneous

After having a note from one of our colleagues about an interesting website that might interest some of you.

<https://portisheadradio.godaddysites.com/news>

The website is about the history of a radio station called Portishead radio and I'm sure that most of us who sailed in the North Sea and a little further afield would of used at some point. There is a lot of the history about the station and some extracts from some of their most amusing calls.

Here is an example of some of these calls from the website –

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An Irish company sent a telegram to all of their vessels stating that they would from now on be paid every two weeks instead of fortnightly.

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One new (non-sea-going) R/O had just completed his R/T training and had just been called by the QE2/GBTT. Upon asking the vessels position, the QE2 replied 'just off Newfoundland'. Along silence from Portishead was only ended when the R/O on the vessel broke in 'you don't know where that is, do you? – one red faced young R/O took a lot of stick for weeks afterwards.

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An R/O was observed standing up punching away at a typewriter. When he had finished someone asked him why was he standing up "I was reviving a message for Her Majesty the Queen" he solemnly replied.

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There are many more snippets and news from Portishead radio on the website. Worth a look and thank you to Mike for the information.