

AMERC News

Issue 85 – Incorporates Circular 305

June 2022

Editorial

Welcome to issue 85 of AMERC News - which doubles as **Circular 305** and, as such, must be circulated to all GMDSS instructors / examiners by their AMERC centre contact.

I'd like to open this edition with some AMERC Personnel news: For those who aren't already aware, we are very happy to welcome (back!) **Francis Rodrigues as AMERC Deputy Chief Examiner**. Francis will be working with Keith to conduct GMDSS audits for our Indian centres.

Francis has been associated with AMERC for many years previously as an examiner and centre co-ordinator, and we are all very pleased he's agreed to take up the Deputy Chief Examiner role again (having worked in that capacity many years ago.)

Also featured in this edition, the **AMERC AGM 2022 Report** is on page 3. This was held on Zoom on May 19th – thank you to all our members and examiners who took the time to join us!

On page 2, you'll find our regular features: Updates from the latest **MCG open session meeting**, and the **NAC Statistics Report** for GMDSS examinations

Some information on our newest AMERC members can be found in '**Tales From The Key-Side, 'Member Profiles'**, on page 4

GMDSS Criss-Cross has made a return and is on page 5. Answers will be given in the next edition.

*As always, your submissions are very welcome for **Explanation Please? Member Profile, Maritime Misc.**' and **Tales from the Key-Side** – and other items that are likely to be of interest to others.*

Thanks for reading! Please get in touch if you have anything to add to next quarter's newsletter.

Prue

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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 online in May 2022. The following items reflect discussions at MCG and/or associated items that may be of interest to Members and training centres.

Summary of MCG open session, held via Zoom on 17th May 2022.

Appointment of Francis Rodrigues

Francis was welcomed by the Chairman, the EC and the MCG, to the position of Deputy Chief Examiner.

RT Training Equipment

Some centres have been using PMRs and non-looped or non-final stage transmitter deactivated VHF radios, in the conduct of RT Training and exams. In the instance of the wrong equipment being used, the possibility of erroneous distress traffic being transmitted live is quite high, and would contravene the Wireless and Telegraph Act.

Class D and Class E DSC Equipment

A centre has enquired about the use of the above equipment in an LRC course. The matter was discussed and the GMDSS qualified operators on the MCG agreed this equipment is not within the scope of requirements in the AMERC Handbook.

Chief Examiner Reports

Keith gave his reports from the full, in person audits conducted at: AIS Survivex, HMS Collingwood, RNLI and Warsash. He presented remote audit reports from CERNET, Anglo Eastern, and Maritime Radio School Koblmiller. Congratulations to all centres!

New Examiner approvals

Requests for Ross Kennedy (UKSA) to be a probationary examiner, and David Gibson (HMS Collingwood) to be a full examiner were approved. Congratulations to both!

NAC Statistics Report

(Editor's note: As with all NAC statistics at the moment, Covid-19 must be taken into consideration when looking at these numbers.)

GOC - UK exam numbers have increased by 107% from the same period last year and overseas exams have increased by 72%.

UK first-time pass rate has dropped by 4%, overseas first time pass rate remaining largely the same.

ROC - ROC exam numbers have increased by 128% for the UK and overseas have remained largely the same compared to last year. UK first-time pass rate has decreased by 10%, and the same can be said for overseas.

LRC - UK exams have increased by a massive 1340%, however, overseas LRC exams have remained about the same.

There have been 1474 GMDSS certificates issued for this year against 769 last year.

GMDSS Examination Statistics – rolling annual report: National Administration Centre (NAC) examination statistics for the period **1st Apr 2021 – 31st Mar 2022** are shown below:

EXAMINATION	ENTERED (1 st time)	PASSED (1 st attempt)	% PASSED 1 ST ATTEMPT
UK GOC	783 (722)	712 (654)	654/722 (90.58%)
ALL GOC	1378 (1288)	1273 (1188)	1188/1288 (92.24%)
UK ROC	89 (85)	81 (77)	77/85 (90.59%)
ALL ROC	114 (110)	106 (102)	102/110 (92.73%)
LRC	72 (72)	66 (66)	66/72 (91.67%)
ALL LRC	97 (95)	87 (87)	87/95 (91.58%)

AMERC AGM 2022 Report

Despite AMERC's initial plans to hold the AGM event in London this year, it was necessary to run it online via Zoom. This decision was not made lightly, but after undertaking a vote from the AMERC membership, we followed the course of action that the majority of people felt was more appropriate due to the ongoing impact of Covid-19.

Taking into account feedback from last year's event, we condensed the day's meetings into a more compact itinerary. Removing a longer lunch break before the Examiners' Panel meeting meant that we could start the whole day off a little later, in the hope of making things easier for our international delegates.

All AGM motions were **approved**, as follows:

Financial, Operating, and Charitable Matters

- Motion 1: Moore and Smalley are approved as accountants for 2023
- Motion 2: The AMERC Accounts for 2021 are approved
- Motion 3: The 2022 annual full membership fee is £270
- Motion 4: The 2022 annual associate membership fee is £150
- Motion 5: The proposed changes to the AMERC Rules are approved
- Motion 6: The proposal for AMERC to sponsor a new UKSA Cadet is approved

Election of New Members and Executive Committee Officers

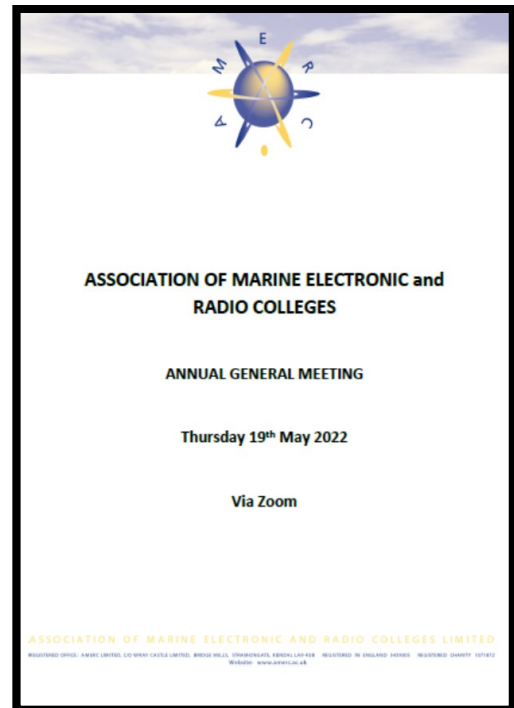
- Motion 7: That an application from Chieftain Training, Southampton, for associate membership be approved
- Motion 8: That an application from Humber Maritime College, Immingham, for full membership be approved
- Motion 9: That an application from Radio Michael Ltd, Aberdeen, for full membership be approved
- Motion 10: That an application to join the EC from Paul Martin (Existing member, Communication Matters, seconded by Terry Slack) be approved
- Motion 11: That an application to join the EC from Terry Slack (Existing EC member, TerMan Communications, seconded by Steve Howard) be approved

At the last EC meeting, the Executive voted in favour of Paul Martin and Terry Slack continuing in their posts as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively, for another three-year cycle.

Congratulations and welcome to our new joining members, and to Paul and Terry for their re-election. (Please see next page for brief new member profiles.)

A date for your diaries: Next year's AGM is scheduled for **May 17th-19th, 2023**. We're anticipating that this will *not* be an online event, but be assured that more details will follow as soon as I have them. I hope we can go ahead, and to see lots of you there in person.

- *Prue Langfield, AMERC Company Secretary*



Tales from the Key Side: New Member Profiles

Chieftain Training (Southampton) – AMERC Associate Member

Doug Innes is the STCW Principle of Chieftain Training, and has been operating marine radio for about three decades. He holds an LRC and a GOC, and has been an RYA SRC Instructor/Assessor since 1999.

Chieftain Training comprises two separate, not-for-profit companies, dealing solely with training and examination. Primarily they work with the small craft sector (both leisure and commercial). Operating as an RYA centre, they are seeking MCA approval for several MCA courses.

AMERC is currently working with Doug, supporting his application for Chieftain Training to become an AEV and run their own GMDSS courses. This will be an ongoing process, and once approved, Doug aims to apply for full membership for the centre.

Humber Maritime College (Immingham) – AMERC Full Member

A relatively new maritime college, since 2019 Humber Maritime College has been providing MCA approved long and short course training in nautical studies and maritime engineering.

As part of the centre's ongoing portfolio, AMERC has been working with Maritime Consultant, Laurie Farmer, to support Humber Maritime College in their aim to become an AMERC-approved centre. The centre has made strong progress already, having installed a GMDSS simulator and trained its staff on the equipment.

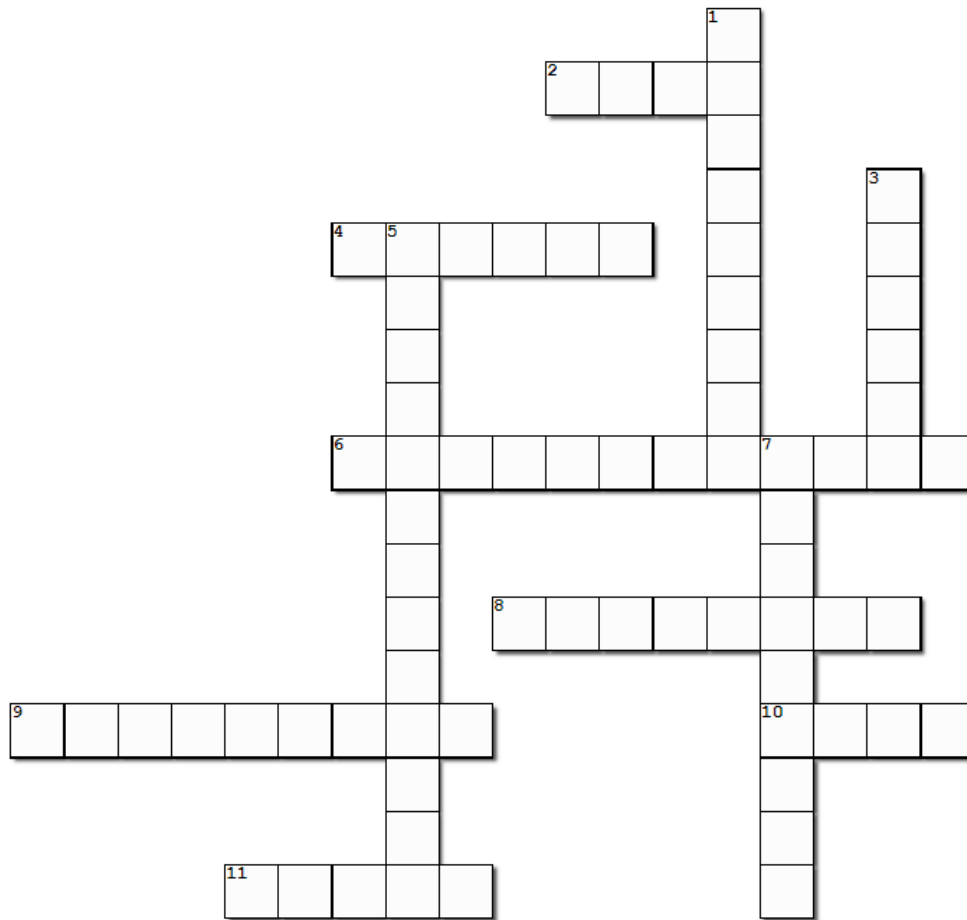
Note: Humber Maritime College is now looking for a qualified person to assist with drafting course materials, leading initial courses and helping to train more tutors. If you are a qualified GMDSS instructor, examiner, etc, and you would be interested in taking up the work over the next few months, please do get in touch with Laurie Farmer on farmerl@humbermaritimecollege.ac.uk or 01469 420987

Radio Michael Ltd (Aberdeen) – AMERC Full Member

Michael has been a familiar face to AMERC for over two decades, as a tutor, examiner, and centre co-ordinator. More recently, he has joined the AMERC Exam Moderation Team. He started out as a Ship's Radio Officer (in the days of Morse Code,) and has since worked at Maritime Coast Stations, and as a GMDSS Ship Radio Surveyor.

No longer working as a centre co-ordinator, he will still be continuing his work in teaching and examining roles, and is keen to continue working towards assisting AMERC in maintaining its high standards.

GMDSS Criss-Cross Edition 85 - answers should be researched and/or confirmed by reference to ALRS / ADRS, *where appropriate*.



Down:

- 1: NAVAREA X Coordinator
- 3: HF Station for western [1 down]
- 5: Cambodia's main shipping port
- 7: VHF DSC Station Outer Hebrides

Across:

- 2: Phonetic letter substitute for Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)
- 4: Southernmost Navtex Station
- 6: 3000 mile inland _____ Waterway, running from MA to TX
- 8: Country with Call Sign prefix LZ
- 9: Electrolyte contained in lead/acid batteries, _____ acid
- 10: Message complete and reply expected
- 11: Name of an animal, also name for a float used as a fender

Issue 84 answers

Down: 1= Coiba 2= Chesapeake 5= Squelch 7= Pakistan
 Across: 3= Weddell 4= Lucas 6= Hebblethwaite 8= Berdyansk 9= Caspian 10= Dnieper