

Editorial

Welcome to issue 87 of AMERC News - which doubles as **Circular 308** and, as such, must be circulated to all GMDSS instructors / examiners by their AMERC centre coordinator.

From all of us at AMERC, a very happy new year! Here's hoping that 2023 is already off to a strong start for our readers.

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

This meeting was due to be one of the first for the EC/MCG to be held in person, rather than online. However, instead of Covid, it was the national train strikes which derailed these plans, and as a result, the meeting was held on Zoom.

On Page 4 are some details about this year's AGM, please have a look through if you're a full or associate member who is interested in attending.

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**. We're always very grateful when people send through any other items that are likely to be of interest to our readers.*

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 - 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 December 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 16th December 2022.

MCA Updates

There were lengthy discussions between the MCG and the representatives from the MCA, including the MCA's requirements regarding GMDSS Simulation Certification standards; a potential review of peripatetic operation; and acceptable proof of formal teaching qualifications for GMDSS instructors. (*Ed. note: see page 3 for a detailed conclusion on the latter*)

Changes in Quarterly Meeting Dates

Due to unavoidable commitments, some of the meeting dates scheduled for 2023 have had to be changed. The confirmed dates for EC/MCG quarterly meetings are as follows:

- March 16th
- May 17th (pre-AGM)
- August 31st
- December 14th

Chief/Deputy Chief Examiner Reports

Keith gave his reports from the full, in person audits conducted at: Bluewater Antibes and CERNET. Francis gave his report from Anglo Eastern's full, in person audit. Congratulations to all these centres, who were praised for their very good ongoing work.

Keith also gave a positive report from his first visit to Humber Maritime College, who are making good progress following procedure to gain AMERC approval as an AEV.

New Examiner approvals

The following examiner requests were approved by the MCG:

- Krishan Kant Singh – Glasgow City College
- Ridwanul Hoque – East Coast College
- Alastair McLoughlin (probationary) – Bluewater Palma
- Yogeshan Krishnamoorthy (probationary) – AMET

Congratulations to all of them!

NAC Statistics Report (all stats compared to same period last year)

GOC - UK exam numbers have increased by 3%. and overseas exams have increased by 50%. UK and overseas first-time pass rate remains largely the same.

ROC - exam numbers have increased by 71% for the UK and overseas have increased by 150%. UK first-time pass rate has decreased by 10%, while overseas has increased by 5%

LRC - UK exams have increased by a massive 138%, and overseas exams have increased by 52%

There have been 1582 GMDSS certificates issued for this year against 1237 last year.

GMDSS Examination Statistics – rolling annual report: National Administration Centre (NAC) examination statistics for the period **1st October 2021 – 30th September 2022** are shown below:

| EXAMINATION | ENTERED (1 st time) | PASSED (1 st attempt) | % PASSED 1 ST ATTEMPT |
|-------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| UK GOC | 745 (696) | 686 (641) | 641/696 (92.10%) |
| ALL GOC | 1433 (1349) | 1329 (1251) | 1251/1349 (92.74%) |
| UK ROC | 113 (100) | 94 (85) | 85/100 (85.00%) |
| ALL ROC | 173 (158) | 152 (141) | 141/158 (89.24%) |
| LRC | 62 (62) | 62 (62) | 62/62 (100%) |
| ALL LRC | 103 (101) | 99 (99) | 99/101 (98.02%) |

Clarification of MCA requirements for teaching qualifications instructors must hold in order to teach/examine GMDSS courses

MCA/STCW Convention requires that instructors have met the requirements of STCW Regulation I/6, such as completing the IMO 6.09 Training course for instructors. ("Train the Trainer") This IMO model course has been designed to support the implementation of the STCW Convention and Code and addresses the requirements of Regulation I/6 and Section A-I/6, A-I/12, and B-I/6 of the STCW Code, concerning the qualifications of instructors.

However, existing experienced instructors shall, as per Continuous Professional Development (CPD), successfully complete this course (or equivalent) within a six-month time frame, and keep themselves up to date accordingly.

Examples of qualifications that are an acceptable alternative to the above IMO course include:

- Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (PTLLS),
- Certificate in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (CTLTS),
- Diploma in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (DTLLS),
- AET
- Certificate in Education Postgraduate,
- Certificate in Education,
- SVQ levels 3 and 4 in Learning and Development,
- Scottish Training Qualification for Further Education (TQFE),
- Professional Graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE),
- Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE).
- City & Guilds Level 3 Award in Education and Training

(The Chief Examiner may request to see evidence of these instructor/examiner qualifications during AMERC GMDSS audits)

Important Update: AMERC AGM 2023

As members will be aware from previous communications, our 2023 AGM will be taking place in person (offline!) this year, the first time since 2019.

Taking into account all of the comments our members have made regarding benefits and downsides of online vs face-to-face events, the scheduling of AMERC AGMs will take a slightly different format going forward, alternating year to year between online and 'in-person' AGMs.

In-person events will fall on years when the exam papers are due to be revised, in order to provide an opportunity for the Examiners' Panel to meet and fully discuss requirements for any changes. The following year's AGM would be an online event, similar to 2021 and 2022's AGMs. So, 2023 will be in-person, 2024 online, 2025 in-person etc.

We'd be remiss not to mention that this proposed schedule must obviously be subject to change, to account for any real-world events which would prohibit international travel or group gatherings. (Although hopefully, those days are behind us!)

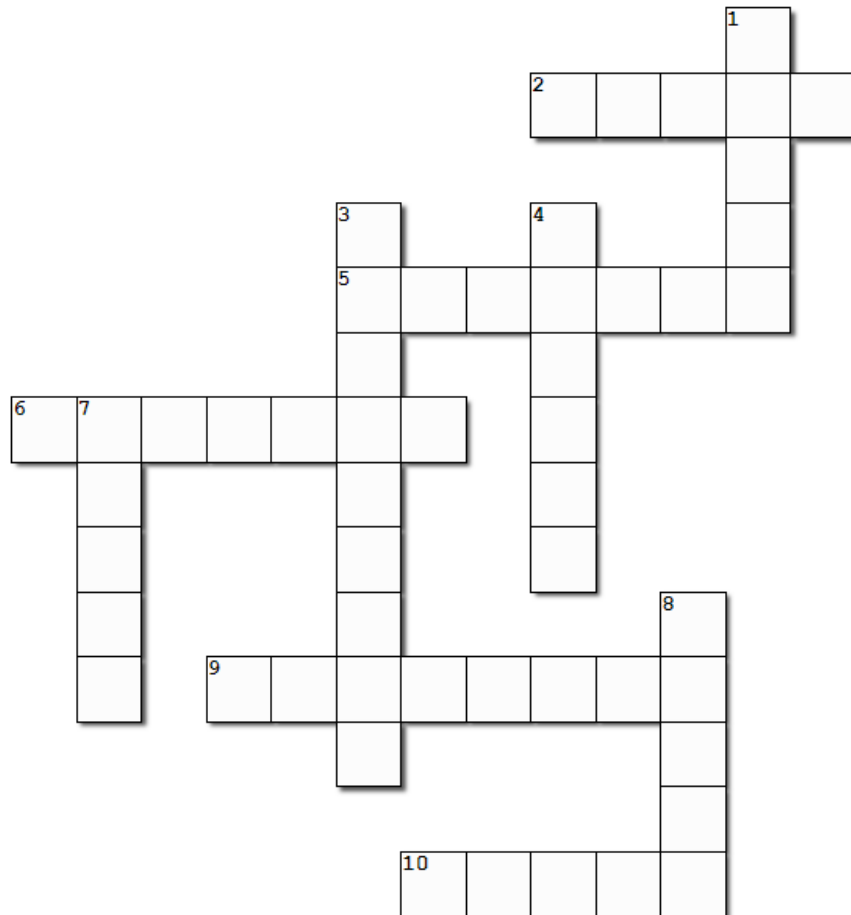
This review has been an excellent opportunity for the AMERC Executive Committee to assess the content of the larger, face-to-face events we'll be organising. In keeping with our charitable aims, we wish to make the AGM a more interactive, exciting industry event for our delegates. This will likely include the addition of some guest speakers, as well as the inclusion of an "Examiners' Refresher Session" with Keith Mitchell; an opportunity for our examiners to ensure they are continuing best practices, keeping on top of developments within the maritime industry.

The 2023 AGM & Examiner Panel meeting will take place at the Copthorne Hotel in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK, on Thursday 18th May, with delegates arriving in the afternoon of Wednesday 17th and departing the morning of Friday 19th.

If you are a full or associate member of AMERC, and you have not yet received your invitation from Julie Cartwright, please get in touch with her as soon as possible. (amerctreasurer@gmail.com) If you have not received the Pre-AGM Circular, please let me know as soon as possible. (amercsecretary@gmail.com)

Can all members and centre coordinators please check that we have your correct details listed on our website. I must remind everyone that it is your responsibility to ensure AMERC has your up-to-date contact details, and to notify me of any changes as soon as possible.

GMDSS Criss-Cross Edition 87 - answers should be researched and/or confirmed by reference to ALRS / ADRS, *where appropriate*.



Across

- 2: Port city on the island of Mindanao, Philippines
- 5: Longest river in Spain (3,4)
- 6: Round-the-world biennial yacht race
- 9: Thai deep-sea port, located south east
- 10: Germany’s third largest North Sea cost seaport

Down:

- 1: Name of Russian superyacht 2 people were recently charged by US court for hiding from sanctions
- 3: NAVAREA VI
- 4: The “R” in “MRSC”
- 7: Name of Nigeria’s brand new deep-sea port, built by China
- 8: CRS in Northern Ireland, “_____ Head”

Issue 86 answers

Down: 1= Douala 3=Cartagena 7=Brazil
 Across: 2= Acapulco 4=Kriti 5=Latakia 6= Greece 8=Gibraltar 9=Luzon 10=QRL