

AMERC News

Issue 88 – Incorporates Circular 309

March 2023

Editorial

Welcome to issue 88 of AMERC News - which doubles as **Circular 309** and, as such, must be circulated to all GMDSS instructors / examiners by their AMERC centre coordinator.

Spring is here, and we're hearing excellent reports of centres making great progress this year. At AMERC we are very much looking forward to our upcoming AGM, preparations are well underway. This will be held May 18th 2023 at the Copthorne Hotel in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK.

If any international delegates require confirmation letters from AMERC to assist with your Visa application process, please let me know.

If you are a member of AMERC (full or associate) you should have received your invitation from our treasurer Julie Cartwright by now. If you haven't received one, please get in touch with her ASAP at amerctreasurer@gmail.com

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.

On Page 3 we have **Maritime Miscellaneous**, featuring an Iridium Safetycast update.

GMDSS Criss-Cross has made a return and is on page 4. 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 March 2023. 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 March 2023.

MCA Teaching Qualifications list update

As part of matters arising from the last meeting, the MCA was able to confirm that the RYA SRC Instructor Course can be added to the list of acceptable teaching qualifications for those instructing GMDSS courses. Subsequently, the TOTA (India) has also been confirmed suitable to add to this list.

New ECC Approval

Approved as an AEV back in September 2022, Chieftain Training in Southampton had submitted an application for ECC status. The Chief Examiner reported they have successfully met the required criteria, and have been operating successfully thusfar. As a result, their application for ECC status was granted. Congratulations to Chieftain Training!

Chief/Deputy Chief Examiner Reports

Full audit reports were delivered by Keith and Francis for our centres: TS Rahaman, Wavecentre, Communication Matters, Bluewater Florida, MPT, GMDSS4ALL. All centres performed very well in their audits, with only a few recommendations regarding corrective actions. Keith also paid an extra audit visit to HMS Collingwood, and commended them on their new equipment fit. Congratulations to all centres and thank you for keeping up the good work.

New Examiner approvals

The following examiner requests were approved by the MCG:

- Joe Beaumont – ASET
 - Rhys Newnes – Warsash
 - Alastair McLoughlin – Bluewater Palma
 - Lorne Gardner (probationary) – UKSA
- Congratulations to all of them!

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

GOC - UK exam numbers have decreased by 8% and overseas exams have increased by 46%. UK first-time pass has increased by 2% and overseas first-time pass rate has decreased by 3%.

ROC - exam numbers have increased by 12% for the UK and overseas have increased by 225%. UK first-time pass rate has decreased by 8%, while overseas has decreased by 5%

LRC - UK exams have increased by 13%, and overseas exams have increased by 100%

There have been 1574 GMDSS certificates issued for this year against 1345 last year.

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

EXAMINATION	ENTERED (1st time)		PASSED (1st attempt)		% PASSED 1ST ATTEMPT	
UK GOC	701	(659)	647	(610)	610/659	(92.56%)
ALL GOC	1440	(1358)	1338	(1262)	1262/1358	(92.93%)
UK ROC	94	(82)	78	(70)	70/82	(85.37%)
ALL ROC	159	(144)	140	(129)	129/144	(89.58%)
LRC	62	(62)	62	(62)	62/62	(100%)
ALL LRC	98	(96)	94	(94)	94/96	(97.92%)

Maritime Miscellaneous

STATUS OF IRIDIUM SAFETYCAST MSI BROADCASTS AT 1st MARCH 2023:

(SOURCE: IHO)

A) NAVAREAS

STATUS	COLOUR ON MAP	NAVAREA
Operational	Green	I; III; IV; VII; VIII; IX; XI; XII; XIII; IX; XIV; XV; XVI; XVII
In trials	Yellow	II; XIII; X; XX; XXI;
Planned or agreed by Iridium	Red	V; VI;

B) METRAREAS

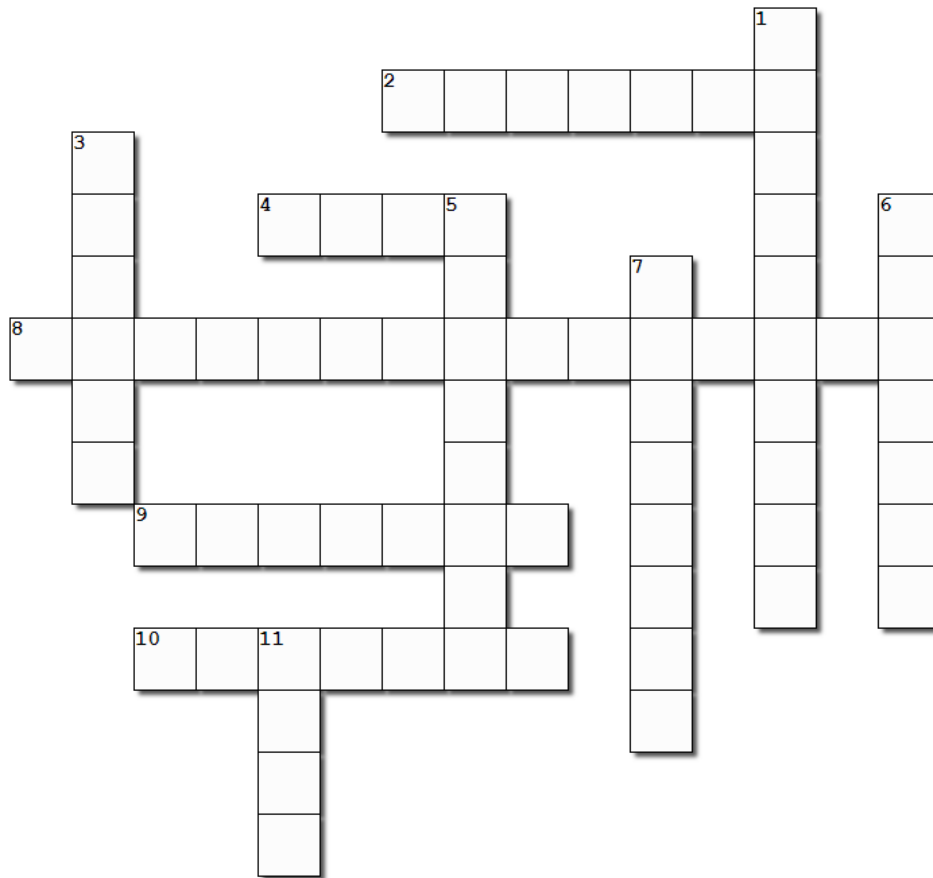
STATUS	COLOUR ON MAP	METAREA
Operational	Green	I; III; VII; XIV; XV; XVI; XVII; XIX
In trials	Yellow	IV; VII; VIII-S; IX; X; XII; XX
Planned or agreed by Iridium	Red	II; V; VI; VIII-N; XI; XIII; XXI

To keep track of future status of Iridium SafetyCast broadcasts visit:

<https://iho.int/en/iridium-safetycast-implementation-status>

(GDL; 9.3.23)

GMDSS Criss-Cross Edition 88 - answers should be researched and/or confirmed by reference to ALRS / ADRS, *where appropriate*.



Across

- 2: Smallest sea in the world, bordering Istanbul (7)
- 4: The “L” in SOLAS (4)
- 8: Type of antenna, used by e.g. Inmarsat C (15)
- 9: The “T” in OTF (ionospheric reflection of radio waves) (7)
- 10: Fourth-largest size category of container ship (7)

Down:

- 1: Mexico’s largest port (10)
- 3: Strait of _____, shipping route between Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman (6)
- 5: Gulf to the immediate north of 6 down (8)
- 6: Island to the west of Athens (7)
- 7: “_____ Treaty”, recently agreed by UN to provide environmental protection to international waters (4,4)
- 11: Major port in Greenland, located on south west coast (4)

Issue 87 answers

Across: 2= Davao 5= RioEbro 6= Clipper 9= Songkhla 10= Emden
 Down: 1= Tango 3= Argentina 4= Rescue 7= Lekki 8= Malin