

# AMERC News

Issue 89 – Incorporates Circular 310

June 2023

## **Editorial**

Welcome to issue 89 of AMERC News - which doubles as **Circular 310** and, as such, must be circulated to all GMDSS instructors / examiners by their AMERC centre coordinator.

Summer is here, and the weather in Newcastle-upon-Tyne was unusually lovely for our AGM a few weeks ago. Once again, a huge thank you to all our full and associate members who made the journey to come and participate in the event.

You'll find a full report on page 3, with details of the event and outcomes of the votes conducted within the meeting.

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

**GMDSS Criss-Cross** has made a return and is on page 4. Answers will be given in the next edition.

The eagle-eyed among you may have noticed we have a new feature on our website, "Ask AMERC".

If anyone has questions about GMDSS or AMERC processes you can't find the answers to, you can use this form to pick the brains of the EC and their wealth of industry knowledge. All questions will be received completely anonymously – great for if there's a question you might feel a little embarrassed about having to ask! (We've all been there, every day is a school day!)

Try it here:

[www.amerc.ac.uk/ask\\_a\\_question.php](http://www.amerc.ac.uk/ask_a_question.php)

*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!

*Prue*

Mail: [amercsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:amercsecretary@gmail.com)

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 in person on May 17<sup>th</sup> 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 on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023.**

**New website 'anonymous ask' feature**

There was a discussion regarding how we can make our website more useful as a GMDSS resource. A member of the EC suggested that we add a feature which allows users to ask GMDSS questions anonymously, as even those with years of experience will need to clarify/learn something. It was agreed that this feature would be added.

**New centre applications**

The Chief Examiner delivered his report on the most recent visit to Humber Maritime College, who are in the process of applying for AEV approval. He concluded they are making very good progress and are on track for approval. A final approval audit will be conducted in the Autumn with a view to confirming AEV status.

Chieftain Training (our newest ECC&AEV) have submitted a new application for AEV approval for a proposed second site in Helensburgh, Scotland. Their application is being considered and we await further details.

**Chief Examiner Reports**

Keith delivered his report from the recent full audit of Scottish Maritime Academy at NESCOL. The centre was congratulated on performing well in all areas. Other centres who had corrective requirements confirmed that all actions had been met.

**New Examiner approvals**

The following examiner requests were approved by the MCG; congratulations to them both!

- Lorne Gardner (full) – UKSA
- Doug Innes (probationary) – Chieftain Training

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

**GOC** - UK exam numbers have decreased by 10%, while overseas exams have increased by 36%. Both UK and overseas first-time pass rates have remained largely the same.

**ROC** - exam numbers have increased by 10% for the UK and overseas have increased by 216%. UK first-time pass rate has decreased by 3%, while overseas has decreased by 7%

**LRC** - UK exams have stayed largely the same, while overseas exams have increased by 44%

There have been 1660 GMDSS certificates issued for this year against 1474 last year.

**GMDSS Examination Statistics – rolling annual report:** National Administration Centre (NAC) examination statistics for the period **1<sup>st</sup> Apr 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> Mar 2023** are shown below:

EXAMINATION	ENTERED (1 <sup>st</sup> time)	PASSED (1 <sup>st</sup> attempt)	% PASSED 1 <sup>ST</sup> ATTEMPT
UK GOC	710 (659)	642 (599)	599/659 (90.90%)
ALL GOC	1521 (1426)	1400 (1314)	1314/1426 (92.15%)
UK ROC	98 (86)	83 (75)	75/86 (87.21%)
ALL ROC	177 (160)	157 (144)	144/160 (90.00%)
LRC	72 (69)	69 (67)	67/69 (97.10%)
ALL LRC	108 (103)	100 (99)	99/103 (96.12%)

# AMERC AGM 2023 Report

For the first time since 2019, AMERC members and representatives from our approved centres from all over the world were able to meet up in person for this year's AGM. Aside from being a great chance to meet new people and catch up with old friends, it was an invaluable opportunity for everyone to network and 'talk shop' with the best in the industry.

Whilst everyone travelled to Newcastle-upon-Tyne on the Wednesday, the Executive Committee held their quarterly meeting, followed by the usual Maritime Consultation Group meeting.

On Thursday, the AGM proper commenced bright and early at nine AM. All AGM motions were **approved**, as follows:

## Financial Matters:

- Motion 1: Moore and Smalley are approved as accountants for 2023
- Motion 2: The AMERC Accounts for 2022 are approved
- Motion 3: The 2023 annual full membership fee is £270
- Motion 4: The 2023 annual associate membership fee is £150

## Election of New Members and Officers:

- Motion 5: That an application from Chieftain Training, Southampton, for full membership be approved
- Motion 6: That an application to join the EC from Steve Howard (Existing member, 'GMDSS Consultant', seconded by Jonathan West) be approved

Congratulations to Chieftain Training on their full membership, and to Steve Howard for his continuing post on the Executive Committee.

**Important date for your diaries: The next AGM will be held online on Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> 2024.**

Everyone at AMERC felt it was important to provide a packed itinerary for the day, and the addition of three guest speakers really helped bring the day together. Steve Howard talked about AMERC and GMDSS Simulation; Michael Moir talked about his experiences as a Radio Surveyor; and Robbie Robertson gave a presentation about the important works of the RNLI. Hearing these three experts talk so knowledgeably about their chosen field was very informative and interesting, and AMERC once again extends heartfelt thanks to all of them for their contributions.

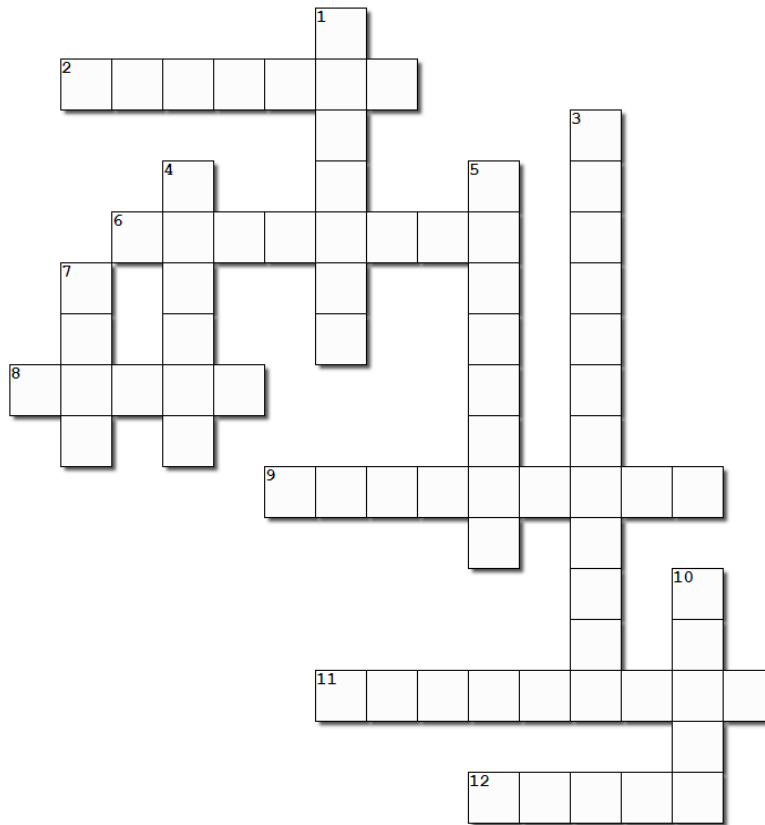


Our next in-person AGM will be 2025, and we will once again be looking for industry speakers for the event. If any members would like AMERC to look at inviting any specific guests for this, please get in touch and let me know.

We hope to see as many of our AMERC membership at next year's online AGM!

*- Prue Langfield,  
AMERC Company Secretary*

**GMDSS Criss-Cross Edition 89** - answers should be researched and/or confirmed by reference to ALRS / ADRS, where appropriate.



**Across**

- 2: Channel type where receiver and transmitter work on a single frequency (7)
- 6: Island just off the east coast of Tanzania (8)
- 8: Narrow stretch of water separating Anglesea from mainland Wales, \_\_\_\_\_ Strait (5)
- 9: The “G” in “GMT” (9)
- 11: NW Turkish port city on the Black Sea (9)
- 12: Name of the submersible recently lost near the *Titanic* wreck (5)

**Down:**

- 1: On-board equipment for lifting heavy weights (7)
- 3: INMARSAT code 52, used for the retrieval of \_\_\_\_\_ warnings (12)
- 4: Largest Scottish ferry operators (abbr.) (6)
- 5: The “D” in “MODU”
- 7: Gulf of \_\_\_\_\_, linking the Arabian Sea to the Red Sea (4)
- 10: NAVAREA III (5)

**Issue 88 answers**

Across: 2= Marmara 4= Life 8= Omnidirectional 9= Traffic 10= Panamax  
 Down: 1= Manzanillo 3= Hormuz 5= Elefsina 6= Salamis 7= HighSeas 11= Nuuk