

AMERC NEWS

Incorporates Circular 235

September 2008

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AMERC NEWS is the Journal of the Association of Marine Electronics and Radio Colleges.
It is distributed to all Members, Associates and Affiliates of the Association.
AMERC Ltd encourages the copying and wider distribution of AMERC NEWS.

EDITORIAL

If there is one thing I have noticed in my years of engagement with marine electronics, it is that change for us is rarely incremental. This applies to structures as much as it does to equipment and of all the groups I have worked with, marine staff in colleges are the most receptive to new ideas. Thoughts like these passed through my mind as I observed and listened to the debate at this year's Examiner's Panel.

Two years ago we had a paper at the Poole AGM Poole arguing for the overhaul of the OPT examination, coining the phrase 'Scenario Based OPT.' The following year we said in our pages: 'The Debate Moves On,' signifying a confidence that for many scenario-based OPT was both feasible and desirable. At 2007 meeting, it was also clear that there was a groundswell for revising the SOLAS and Regulations papers.

At this year's Panel the discussions of the past two years had taken us to a decision that the SOLAS and Regulations examination papers were to be replaced by a single GMDSS Knowledge paper. It also had delegates voting to put the scenario-based OPT into effect. With matters placed in the hands of the delegates, their group work produced detailed outcomes which are being published as a set of minutes; we summarise the turning of events in this Issue.

To my observer's eye, this was AMERC at its best looking for change that would serve the needs of our students and their industries. There are interesting times ahead.

I was put in mind of this when I read that that Jack Ayles has been elected as an Honorary Vice President of the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology (IMarEst) in recognition of his contribution to the marine industries. Our congratulations to him. Jack was Chairman of AMERC in 1984 at a time when we were looking for new pastures. I remember that we followed a hint from one of the staff in Jack's department at Llandaff (picked up in a pub!) that a group of employers was looking for assistance with 'mobile radio.' That set us on the road to a relationship with the industry where our talents were recognised and rewarded.

Talking of which, I have been looking with interest at the Newsletter of the Registered Digital Installer Body sent to me by Keith Waudby. Prompted by Keith, the Electronics & Communications Board did some work on this at the Body's inception. We are pleased to read that some sixteen training providers are operating the NVQ Electrical & Electronics Servicing (Signal Reception Pathway) and that others are lined up to join. If you go to www.rdi-lb.tv you can read about this and the roll-out of the digital television switchover planned to be introduced progressively in the UK by 2012.

Finally we must say a big 'thank you' to Gabriella Morgese and our Italian colleagues for all the arrangements made for our AGM at La Spezia. The good facilities we had helped our discussions along the way. It was very pleasant to meet local staff and to participate in some of the local culture at the AGM dinner was a joy.

Best Wishes
Brian Cotton

2008 AGM

The Association's 2008 AGM was held at the Park Hotel, Martina Franca, Italy on Thursday 22nd May 2008. There was a good turn-out, with forty-two delegates and twelve sent their apologies. The Minutes of the Meeting will be distributed by the Hon. Secretary in due course. Our custom is that this Issue is used to bring out some of the highlights of the discussions and decisions. Firstly to the business end.....

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following were elected for a one year period as the Association's Officers and Members of the Executive Committee.

Officers of the Association

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Mike Webster* | Chairman |
| Chris Harrison* | Vice Chairman |
| Keith Mitchell | Hon Secretary |
| Julie Cartwright | Hon Treasurer |

Executive Committee Members

Phil Davies*
Willie Williamson*
Kevin Walsh*

*Also elected as a Director of AMERC Ltd.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The annual Membership fees for 2009 were agreed at AGM.

These are to be £220 for Full Membership and £110 for Associate Membership.

2009 AGM

The date agreed for the 2009 AGM is Thursday 28th May 2009. The venue has yet to be decided, although Glasgow and India are under consideration at the Executive Committee.

CHIEF EXAMINER

Eric Lamb was elected as the Association's Chief Examiner (GMDSS) for a one year period.

The positions of Deputy and Assistant Chief Examiners will be subject to election at the 2009 AGM.

FINANCE

The Association's Treasurer presented the annual accounts to AGM, reporting a rise in earnings. With prudent control of expenditure there was an increased surplus amounting to about 5% of the income.

The accounts were approved and the Treasurer was thanked for the efforts she had made on behalf of the Association.

MEMBERSHIP

The Meeting agreed unanimously to admit the following centres into Full Membership:

- Namibian Maritime and Fisheries Institute (NAMFI)
- Sir Derek Bibby Maritime Training Centre in Mumbai

The following centres have decided not to continue with their Membership:

- Hull College
- St. Xavier's Technical Institute

MARITIME CONSULTANCY GROUP (MCG)

The MCG met immediately before AGM and considered its usual mix of operational matters. Here are some comments on those discussed at the meeting; others appear in our remarks on the proceedings of the AGM and the Examiners' Panel.

ENEM MAPPING

AMERC has agreed to take part in an exercise to map between the Radio Maintenance/ENEM qualifications and the Foundation Degree.

The group to progress this work is being chaired by Mike Webster. It has in membership Phil Davies, Gail Courtney, Keith Kirby, Steve Richards and Deputy Chief Examiner Keith Watkins. After one meeting, the group has revised the syllabus for the qualifications, mapping them to the HND and Foundation Degrees.

New papers and an examination handbook are now on the group's agenda.

VAT & EXAMINATION FEES

The Association is in discussions with the MCA about whether the examination fees attract VAT. We will bring you the results of those discussions in a future issue.

LRC SYLLABUS REVISION

The Chief Examiner, Keith Watkins, Kevin Walsh and Paul Martin have met with an MCA representative to discuss proposed changes to the LRC syllabus. With a few exceptions, the AMERC requirements have been met.

There was also progress at the meeting in respect of the logbook.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Adoption of new examination procedures (on which we report elsewhere) will cause some revisions to the Association's quality assurance procedures. The AMERC Chairman is giving this matter his attention and he will be presenting proposals to the Executive Committee in due course.

It should be noted that due to changes introduced to the 2009/10 papers and the examiner training required, there may be a delay in introducing new papers. In this case the current papers will continue to be used for a short time in 2009. The new quality arrangements when agreed to by the Executive Committee will be added to the Handbook and introduced along with the new papers.

EMSA MEETING BRUSSELS

The Chief Examiner has been to a seminar in Brussels dealing with GMDSS QA standards. The meeting had been called by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) to discuss common approaches to such standards. Eric gave an account of the UK procedures and the Norwegian representative spoke of those applying in his country. Elements of both procedures will be incorporated in EMSA proposals designed to assess conformity with STCW. Adoption of EMSA procedures will result in audits of centres, including those in the AMERC schemes.

MARITIME CONSULTANCY GROUP (MCG)

TRANSAS TGS4100 GMDSS SIMULATOR

We have reported in the last Issue that there had been some inconsistencies in centre training and documentation provided by Transas. The Hon Secretary has since had discussions with the company and Transas has agreed to improve its service in these matters in future.

EXAMINERS' HANDBOOK

The newly published 8th Edition of the GMDSS Examination Handbook is now available. All centres are required to download it from the website and distribute it to relevant staff.

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE HON. SECRETARY

EXAMINATION FEES

MCA has given its approval for increases in the fees for GMDSS Examinations. The table below indicates the fee structure which will apply to examinations conducted on or after 1st January 2009.

| (GBP) | GOC UK | GOC Overseas | ROC UK | ROC Overseas | LRC | Sat Module |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|-------|---------------|
| Exam Fee | 120 | 77 | 95 | 66 | 95 | 40 |
| REC | 22 | 0 | 16.50 | 0 | 16.50 | 11 |
| Examiner | 42.50 | 0 | 28.50 | 0 | 28.50 | 18 |
| AMERC | 8.75 | 27.50 | 8.75 | 24.75 | 8.75 | 0 |
| MCA | 16.50 | 16.50 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 0 |
| NAC | 30.25 | 33 | 30.25 | 30.25 | 30.25 | 11 |

It should be noted that the increase in fee is to be paid solely to the examiners.

EXAMINERS' PANEL The Business Meeting

Our commentary on the Examiners' Panel held at the 2008 AGM is in two parts. What follows is the first of these - a digest of the business meeting. It can only be some of the highlights. For a definitive understanding of what went on, you are referred to the Chief Examiners' Report, published with the AGM papers and the Minutes of the Panel.

The Chief Examiner opened the proceedings of the Examiners' Panel at AGM by referring to his Report which had been published in the Conference papers. It does not make much sense to paraphrase the content in detail here. However, some important points were raised in the Report and REC Coordinators should ensure that they and their examiners have digested what it contained. It will also be important to read the Panel Minutes which will be distributed by the secretariat. Above all, it is important that all these papers are shared with colleagues at a Centre.

Some of the matters dealt with in that Report appear elsewhere in this Issue. It was interesting to note the net rise of about 8% in the examination entries and the extent to which there had been a large increase in GOC entries. As a consequence, the Chief Examiner functions of inspection, training and advice have grown in scale and that is why the Association now has a Deputy and an Assistant Chief Examiner. Eric introduced Keith Watkins and Francis Rodriguez,* who have these roles respectively, at the meeting and they were welcomed by colleagues. It was good to hear how readily they had slipped into their posts.

It was pleasing to note that marking and recording in the examinations had generally been of a high standard. However, there are persistent concerns over the R/T element, albeit in a few cases, and the Report comments on these in some detail. It would be as well to check the position in your own Centre.

We were grateful as always to have a presentation from the MCA, followed by a question and answer session. This was likely to have been the last occasion on which we would hear from Roger directly, following his promotion. He was thanked for all the interest he had taken in the Association's affairs.

The NAC Annual Report makes interesting reading and the Chief Examiner paid tribute to the work of the staff at the Centre. He expressed his gratitude to the Chairman and Hon. Secretary for their support in some difficult decisions that had had to be made during the year.

**An explanation of the roles of the Chief Examiner, the Deputy and the Assistant appeared in Issue 26, January 2008.*

EXAMINERS' PANEL (2) Revising the GOC Examination

The second commentary on the Examiners' Panel follows. This again is only a digest, giving a flavour of this important decision process for changing the structure of the GOC examinations. You are referred to the papers in the last Issue of AMERC NEWS, papers tabled at the meeting and the agreed Minutes.

In his address to AGM, the Chairman had stressed that it was a matter for the Examination Panel to agree or reject the adoption of the Scenario Based OPT Examination proposals. If it was to be agreed, then some detailed work would be delegated to examiners who were present. Also delegated would be the design and style of the 'GMDSS Knowledge' examination which would replace the Regulations and SOLAS papers.

Discussion on the Scenario Based OPT started with the whole Panel after Terry Slack had commented on the results of the trials which had been conducted in various centres. In support of his comments, he circulated papers analysing results of trials from two centres and draft tasks with marking schedules. Terry's positive report opened up a wide ranging debate, the detail of which is fully expressed in the published minutes. Ultimately the proposal 'that AMERC implement the Scenario Based OPT' was put to the vote and it was passed with sixteen votes for the motion, six against and one abstention. The meeting then divided into groups for detailed discussions.

Consistent with the Chairman's address, the primary groups were established to consider the new OPT arrangements and the GMDSS Knowledge paper. With major adjustment to the examination and its formats under way, other groups were set up to consider the implications for the administration, the R/T examinations and quality assurance.

The group considering the Scenario based OPT proposed some amendments to the detailed tasks and these are recorded in the minutes of the Panel. By and large these were a number of detailed amendments to the forty-five Tasks suggested in the draft OPT questions.

The group considering the GMDSS Knowledge paper defined more closely the format of the paper. It recommended that there should be three long SOLAS questions (worth fifteen marks each) and fifteen multi-choice questions to be completed in thirty minutes. The group voted unanimously to abolish the contentious penalty marking. Having agreed all that, the group made detailed suggestions.

Outcomes of the discussions on administrative changes, minor changes to the R/T examination and new quality assurance procedures will be published in due course.

REC Co-ordinators are reminded that when published, the Minutes of the Examiners' Panel must be copied to all examiners and relevant staff.

M-NOTICES

The following M-Notices appear to have some relevance to Members. The full list of the current M-notice appear on the MCA website (www.mcga.gov.uk) to which reference should be made from time to time. The site has been revised again and has good access to material, once you understand the way it is organised.

MGN 375 (M+F) MSI

This Guidance Note is a handy source of reference for NAVTEX and SafetyNET. It gives details of broadcasts on 518 and 490 kHz from UK Navtex stations. There is also a summary of the formats of MRCC weather forecasts Abbreviations listed in MIN 265 (see Issue 23, March 2007) are repeated in this Note's annexe.

August 2008

MGN 360 (M+F) ENC

This Guidance Note cautions ship staff in respect of automated updates to Electronic Navigational originating with the UK Hydrographic Office. They must ensure that the functionality of Electronic Navigational Charts conforms to the latest type approved standard. Should this not be the case, updates have to be applied to paper based charts.

March 2008.

MGN 373 (M+F) RADIO SURVEY SERVICE DELEGATION

This Guidance Note advises that the MCA has contracted Selex Communications of Basildon to provide the radio survey service for UK ships in UK waters. The Notice gives details of contact points and procedures, including the Harmonised Survey Regime.

August 2008

MIN 366 (M+F) PIRATE BROADCASTING

This Guidance Note warns that unlicensed broadcasting to the UK is an offence in law. Supply of goods and personnel to an unlicensed offshore radio station is also unlawful. An offender is liable to two years imprisonment, an unlimited fine and confiscation of the vessel.

May 2008

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMVER

The US Coastguard's AMVER service has recently celebrated fifty years of operation. AMVER (Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue System*) is a global reporting system used to collect information which could assist in SAR missions by identifying ships in a distress area. Currently 143 nations participate in the scheme and some 12,000 ships participate, giving rise to 100,000 plots annually.

AMERC NEWS

SELECTED INDEX

(Updated each Issue)

January 2005 – April 2008

NOTES:

- (i) **This is a selective index and only records items to which reference is likely to be needed. It is updated with each Issue of AMERC NEWS.**
- (ii) **Issues 17 to 28 are in pdf format and are fully searchable once loaded.**
- (iii) **Quarterly GMDSS Statistics provided by the NAC appear in AMERC NEWS.**
- (iv) **Technical Update supplements in pdf format together with an index can be found on the AMERC Website: www.amerc.ac.uk.**

| TOPIC | DETAIL | AN | DATE | Pp |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------|--------|----|
| Admiralty | Charts to common datum (MIN 272) | 24 | Jul 07 | 13 |
| ADRS | Admiralty Digital Radio Signals Vol 6 | 23 | Mar 7 | 9 |
| Aerials | Dangers from lead-ins (MGN 330) | 22 | Nov 06 | 8 |
| | Ditto (MGN 303) | 20 | Feb 06 | 8 |
| African Centres | MRCC & MRSC established | 22 | Nov 06 | 8 |
| | Capetown MRCC operational | 24 | Jul 07 | 12 |
| AIS | Accuracy of Transmission (MIN 290) | 25 | Nov 07 | 7 |
| | Accuracy of transmission (MIN 231) | 21 | Jun 06 | 8 |
| | Carriage requirements (MSN 1795) | 21 | Jun 06 | 8 |
| | Class B UK trails (MIN 268) | 23 | Mar 07 | 6 |
| | Double ended ferries (MGN 321) | 21 | Jun 06 | 8 |
| | Greek coverage | 27 | Apr 08 | 8 |
| | Monitoring coastal shipping – UK | 22 | Nov 06 | 13 |
| | Navigation aids systems | 21 | Jun 06 | 10 |
| | Non-SOLAS transponder coding (MIN 321) | 27 | Apr 08 | 5 |
| | Operational guidance (MGN 277) | 17 | Feb 05 | 9 |
| | Performance Standards | 23 | Mar 07 | 8 |
| | RCC Network – UK | 19 | Oct 05 | 9 |
| | Safety of Navigation (MIN 298) | 25 | Nov 07 | 7 |
| | Small craft Class B (MIN 199) | 19 | Oct 05 | 7 |
| | UK chain operational | 22 | Nov 06 | 8 |
| | UK Third Phase completed | 26 | Jan 08 | 7 |
| | USCG space based AIS | 24 | Jul 07 | 13 |
| VHF use & ITU Regulations (MGN 324) | 22 | Nov 06 | 8 | |
| AMERC Address | Registered Office in Kendal | 21 | Jun 06 | 4 |
| | Hon. Secretary address change | 24 | Jul 07 | 4 |
| | New NAC Manager: Jackie King | 26 | Jan 08 | 6 |
| | Treasurer's email address | 27 | Apr 08 | 18 |
| Committees | New Committee & Board structures | 22 | Nov 06 | 3 |

| | | | | |
|-------------------|---|----|--------|----|
| Course Audit | Chief Examiner to inspect timetable & notes | 23 | Mar 07 | 5 |
| Course Approvals | AMERC provides certificates | 22 | Nov 06 | 4 |
| CSOC | Discussions with HMCG | 21 | Jun 06 | 7 |
| DSC | Test call auto response from USCG | 24 | Jul 07 | 13 |
| ECDIS | Software maintenance (MIN 316) | 27 | Apr 08 | 5 |
| EPIRB | Non SOLAS vessels (MSN 1810) | 24 | Jul 07 | 13 |
| EPIRB | Registration (MSN 1816) | 25 | Nov 07 | 6 |
| | Registration required (MGN 302) | 20 | Feb 06 | 8 |
| Examinations | Appeals on termination flow chart | 24 | Jul07 | 5 |
| | Application Forms – completing | 21 | Jun 06 | 5 |
| Examinations cont | Application Forms – Re-examination | 23 | Mar 07 | 4 |
| | Digital Photography allowed | 23 | Mar 07 | 4 |
| | Dyslexic Candidates | 20 | Feb 06 | 4 |
| | Earlier attempts | 21 | Jun 06 | 7 |
| | Payment Methods | 21 | Jun 06 | 5 |
| | Payments to NAC – correction | 19 | Oct 06 | 6 |
| | Retention of Scripts | 20 | Feb 06 | 6 |
| | Scenario based OPT trial agreed | 21 | Jun 06 | 6 |
| | Scenario-based OPT working party | 24 | Jul 07 | 8 |
| Examiners | Active Lists | 25 | Nov 07 | 4 |
| | Active Lists | 21 | Jun 06 | 7 |
| | Active Lists | 19 | Oct 05 | 6 |
| | Active Lists | 17 | Feb 05 | 3 |
| | Access to Chief examiner via REC only | 24 | Jul 07 | 7 |
| | Deputy & Assistant Chief Examiners | 23 | Mar 07 | 3 |
| | Deputy & assistant Chief Examiner Roles | 26 | Jan 08 | 5 |
| | Deputy Chief Examiner appointed | 25 | Nov 07 | 4 |
| | Handbook 6th Edition | 17 | Feb 05 | 3 |
| | Handbook 7th Edition | 27 | Apr 08 | 04 |
| | Taxation & Insurance | 19 | Oct 05 | 10 |
| EPIRB | Registration (MSN 1816) | 25 | Nov 07 | 6 |
| | Registration required (MGN 302) | 20 | Feb 06 | 8 |
| | Non SOLAS vessels (MSN 1810) | 24 | Jul 07 | 13 |
| | 121.5/243 MHz ceasing Feb 09 (MGN 361) | 27 | Apr 07 | 05 |
| Expenses | New Claim Form | 25 | Nov 07 | 14 |
| | New Claim Form | 20 | Feb 06 | 11 |
| GOC | Proposed revision – Willie Williamson | 23 | Mar 07 | 15 |
| | Critique of structure – Willie Williamson | 24 | Jul 07 | 9 |
| | Revising the structure – Willie Williamson | 27 | Apr 08 | 13 |
| HMCG | AMERC recognition of CSOC | 23 | Mar 07 | 4 |
| | CSOC & RCSOC recognition finalised | 24 | Jul 07 | 4 |
| IMO | New GMDSS Manual published | 25 | Nov 07 | 18 |
| ITU WARC | Preparations for 2007 – Kim Fisher | 20 | Feb 06 | 11 |
| | Ditto | 22 | Nov 06 | 11 |
| | Ditto | 24 | Jul 07 | 11 |
| | Outcomes & Updates – Kim Fisher | 26 | Jan 08 | 8 |
| INMARSAT | Barring & Safetynet (MGN 305) | 20 | Feb 06 | 8 |
| Licences | Ofcom reforms to ship radio licences | 23 | Mar 07 | 7 |
| LRC | Class E DSC controllers – examinations | 22 | Nov 06 | 5 |
| | Conversion from Restricted R/T withdrawn | 26 | Jan 08 | 4 |

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|-------------------|---|----|--------|----|
| LRIT | Identities for SAR and security | 22 | Nov 06 | 13 |
| | New SOLAS Regulations January 2008 | 26 | Jan 08 | 7 |
| | SOLAS Requirements (MIN 302) | 25 | Nov 07 | 6 |
| Loran | eLoran UK cover | 27 | Apr 08 | 8 |
| | Trial transmissions from Rugby | 19 | Oct 05 | 8 |
| | USCG Consultation | 23 | Mar 07 | 9 |
| Membership | (Full) Red Ensign, RNLI, (Ass) Kim Holt | 21 | Jun 06 | 4 |
| | (Full) THESI, CERNET, Starcenter, UKSA | 24 | Jul 07 | 3 |
| | (Full) Western Training Association | 24 | Jul07 | 3 |
| | (Ass) Shetland School of Nautical Studies | 24 | Jul 07 | 3 |
| Membership cont | (Ass) TST, Australian Maritime College | 24 | Jul 07 | 3 |
| | City College Plymouth (resigned) | 24 | Jul 07 | 3 |
| MNTB | GOC approval documentation revisions | 22 | Nov 06 | 4 |
| MNTB | GMDSS Guideline Revised | 21 | Jun 06 | 7 |
| Mobile Phones | Radar interference (MIN 290) | 19 | Oct 05 | 7 |
| | Warnings against misuse (MSN 299) | 20 | Feb 06 | 7 |
| MSI | Change to UK transmissions | 23 | Mar 07 | 9 |
| Navtex | Standard Abbreviations (MIN 265) | 23 | Mar 07 | 6 |
| NAVRAS(M) | Use of GMDSS procedures | 24 | Jul 07 | 10 |
| OPT | Erratum: only Sat B approved January 2008 | 25 | Nov 07 | 5 |
| | Sat B or F77 replace Sat A January 2008 | 24 | Jul 07 | 9 |
| Perth LES | Close down | 23 | Mar 07 | 9 |
| Pirate Broadcasts | Forbidden (MGN 320) | 21 | Jun 06 | 5 |
| Piracy | Alerting by DSC | 22 | Nov 06 | 5 |
| | Modern Piracy - W. Williamson | 17 | Feb 05 | 7 |
| | Anti-piracy Measures (MGN 298) | 20 | Feb 06 | 7 |
| Revalidation | Sea-time requirement | 22 | Nov 06 | 4 |
| | Ditto | 19 | Oct 05 | 6 |
| Revalidation | Surveyors and pilots | 24 | Jul 07 | 10 |
| | STW 37 | 21 | Jun 06 | 7 |
| Radar | Performance standards(MIN 246) | 21 | Jun 06 | 7 |
| | Corrigendum (MGN 298) | 20 | Feb 06 | 7 |
| | Mobiles' Interference (MIN 290) | 19 | Oct 05 | 7 |
| | Radar Reflectors (MGN 349) | 25 | Nov 07 | 6 |
| SAR | Signals in distress & SAR (MGN 304) | 20 | Feb 06 | 8 |
| Safe Practices | MS Regulations 1998 (MIN 235) | 22 | Nov 06 | 8 |
| Security | Ship Security - Phil Davies | 22 | Nov 06 | 9 |
| Ship's Manuals | Need for accuracy and lucidity (MIN 312) | 27 | Apr 08 | 5 |
| Shore Maintenance | Selenia Contract (MGN 292) | 19 | Oct 05 | 7 |
| | Requirements (MGN 350) | 25 | Nov 07 | 6 |
| SOLAS | Chapter V amendments (MSN 1812) | 23 | Mar 07 | 6 |
| | Radiocommunications (MSN 1810) | 23 | Mar 07 | 6 |
| | Revising SOLAS/Regs – Ian Waugh | 27 | Apr 07 | 16 |
| Surveys | Selenia Contacts (MGN 286) | 20 | Feb 06 | 7 |
| | Alternative Compliance | 25 | Nov 07 | 7 |
| Training Schemes | Using the VQ route (MGN 8) | 22 | Nov 06 | 8 |
| Transas | GMDSS Simulator | 22 | Nov 06 | 6 |
| | Hard panel needed for Version 4000 | 24 | Jul 07 | 4 |
| | Live receiver & work station requirements | 25 | Nov 07 | 4 |

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|------------------|---|----|--------|----|
| Transas | TGS4100 Simulator equipment consistency | 27 | Apr 08 | 04 |
| | TGS4100 Simulator training of staff | 27 | Apr 08 | 04 |
| Use of Equipment | Maintenance records (MGN 331) | 22 | Nov 06 | 8 |
| VDR | Performance Testing (MGN 272) | 17 | Feb 05 | 9 |
| Website | Ideas needed | 24 | Jul 07 | 12 |
| | Review of new arrangements | 27 | Apr 08 | 6 |
| W/T Act 2006 | Consolidation of Acts post-1949 | 23 | Mar 07 | 10 |
| Yacht Officers | Deck Officer CoC (MSN 1892) | 23 | Mar 07 | 6 |

MI SCELLANY

OFCOM CONSULTATION Spectrum Pricing

Ofcom, the UK regulator for the communications industries, is consulting on the introduction of incentives for the efficient use of the VHF spectrum by the civil maritime and aeronautical sectors. Its consultation paper points out that civil aero and maritime use amounts to 7% of the spectrum below 15 GHz. Ofcom suggests that more efficient use of the spectrum would be brought about if price mechanisms were used. The phrase used is 'Administered Incentive Pricing.' This may be introduced progressively from 2009.

There are positive statements about exceptions for distress channels and the like. This is an important document which you can read on:

www.ofcom.org.uk

VPIRB

We are not alone in keeping an eye on the website of Densham and Associates, an Australian Company with the web address of:

www.gmdss.com.au

The Company often comes up with useful information. The latest we have seen is for an automated 'Marine Survivor Locator Device' called a VPIRB – the 'V' stands for VHF. Marketed by the Mobilarm Company it is designed to transmit 'man overboard' distress signals and real-time GPS coordinates using synthesised VHF voice and DSC. An interesting device. Follow the Densham link to Mobilarm for further details.

Densham has also reproduced a critical evaluation of GMDSS by G.C. Dunstan which was originally published in the Digital Ship Magazine.

BACK PAGE

POWER SUPPLY WANTED

Ian Waugh of gmdss4all tells us that he looking for a redundant Sailor Power Supply Type N2165. It is the one that powers the MF/HF DSC RM2150/2151 Units. If anyone has one for sale, please contact Ian at:

ian.waugh@btinternet.com

(Ian's website is www.gmdss4all.net)

FROM THE HON. SECRETARY MCA CERTIFICATES OF APPROVAL

The Hon. Secretary believes that there may be some Centres that have not had letters of confirmation from the MCA in respect of Certification of Approval for Short Training Courses leading to the GMDSS GOC and ROC. He has provided for your information copies of the approvals awarded to Edinburgh in 1998 and you should check that you have similar documentation.

The copies appear as supplements to his Issue.

BMEA

It was announced at AGM that the examination arrangements with the BMEA had been terminated during the year.

*Best Wishes
Brian Cotton*

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This Newsletter duals as Circular 235. Check you have a full file. All Issues of AMERC NEWS appear on the AMERC Website and are fully searchable from Issue 17 onwards. Copies of the Circulars may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary. ***Do not forget to distribute copies to your colleagues.***

Articles and suggestions for future issues of AMERC NEWS can be sent at any time.

Brian Cotton, Editor.

.....
AMERC NEWS

Editor: Professor Brian Cotton

AMERC Website: www.amerc.ac.uk



CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL FOR SHORT TRAINING PROGRAMMES

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

THE JEWEL AND ESK VALLEY COLLEGE

as training provider has been given full approval by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency to operate the following Merchant Navy Short Training Programme:

GMDSS - GENERAL OPERATORS CERTIFICATE

which complies with the Merchant Navy Training Board requirements

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Convention Reference | STCW'95 A-IV/2 |
| Date of Approval | 31 JULY 1998 |
| Signature of Issuing Officer | <i>P. J. Sara</i> |
| Name of Issuing Officer | P J SARA |
| Certificate Number | 00034 |



Official Stamp



CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL FOR SHORT TRAINING PROGRAMMES

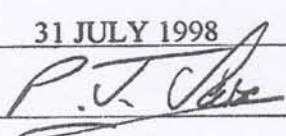
THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

THE JEWEL AND ESK VALLEY COLLEGE

as training provider has been given full approval by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency to operate the following Merchant Navy Short Training Programme:

GMDSS - RESTRICTED OPERATORS CERTIFICATE

which complies with the Merchant Navy Training Board requirements

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Convention Reference</i> | STCW'95 A-IV/2 |
| <i>Date of Approval</i> | 31 JULY 1998 |
| <i>Signature of Issuing Officer</i> |  |
| <i>Name of Issuing Officer</i> | P J SARA |
| <i>Certificate Number</i> | 00033 |



Official Stamp