

Special Interest Articles:

- General
- Sydney Boat Show
- Promoting the Correct use of VHF Marine Radios
- Office Closure

Web links of Interest:

- Radiocommunications (Maritime Ship Station - 27 MHz and VHF) Class Licence 2001 –

http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC_301.

- ACMA seeks views on use of VHF radio by recreational boaters.

http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC_311900

Cheques and Money orders

Please make all cheques and money orders payable to the University of Tasmania. Not AMC or OMC.

General

Hi Guys

John is on leave at the moment, he and his wife Jackie are in Greece. He emailed us a photo from his balcony, which looked down on a harbour scene, I felt dizzy just looking at the photo (not good with heights). The huge passenger liners looked the size of matchbox cars and there are 6 of them in the photo! The white boats against the vivid blue water with the tiny, tiny tug boats alongside – absolutely incredible.

And now to a Couple of Matters of Grave Concern (AGAIN)

In the winter newsletter we reported that we had received information that there were invigilators, one from NSW and one from the Brisbane area who were not conducting examinations according to the guidelines. These allegations were being investigated by the ACMA.

We have also just recently heard rumors that an organisation in Tassie has invigilators who are breaching the Guidelines. The rumors are:

1. Reading the exam questions and then discussing questions and answers with students in the training sessions.

There is absolutely no need for this; the revision questions on the website include a variation of the examination questions. Trainers/invigilators can go through the revision questions and pick out those they wish to discuss with students.

2. Admin staff are assisting in reading questions and answers to candidates sitting the exam who may have slight difficulties reading the paper.

Do not do this, reading exam questions has to be done by a specially trained person, any inflection in the voice can indicate the answer! If a candidate has problems please contact the office and we will endeavor to assist. It may mean that they just need a paper with bigger font or they may have to sit a special exam conducted by the ACMA.

It makes me sad to hear these rumors as eventually someone will let something slip that is more than rumors and then we are obliged to report to the ACMA security people who will investigate the matter. This can make the situation very uncomfortable.

Please abide by the guidelines which are always available on our website under Invigilator Information.

We currently have 698 active invigilators, many of whom belong to volunteer organisations. They donate their time and energy willingly, to help other people, to help save lives in distress situations.

Please remember that marine radio certification is all about safety at sea and possibly people's lives, helping people to pass the exam will not help them in a distress situation or those trying to help them.

Regards,

Suzanne Whitemore
Senior Office Administrator

Sydney Boat Show

Once again we had a great time at the Sydney boat show, renewing acquaintances and meeting new people. As part of their promotional awareness program ACMA bought a box of the VHF handbooks for our staff to give out free of charge at the boat show.

This was a great success and staff appreciated having the VHF handbooks as a giveaway item to people who were interested in knowing the correct procedures to operate a VHF or 27 MHz marine radio.

Exam Lodgment form

Please fill out the Exam Lodgment form when returning exam papers for processing. It is an important part of our records. Form is available on our website – Invigilator Information.



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Invigilator Contact Details

If changing your contact details, sponsor organisation, going overseas for a while or resigning as an invigilator, please let the office know so that our database can be updated.

Feedback

The OMC welcomes any feedback or comments regarding the content of this newsletter, our exams, the Marine Radio Operators Handbooks, and any other aspect of our service

Promoting the Correct use of VHF Marine Radios

The ACMA is keen to promote awareness of the correct procedures for using VHF marine radios, particularly in regional and remote areas.

If your organisation or other marine organisations in your area are participating in open days, boat shows, ramp promotions or training courses and marine radio is likely to be a topic of interest, the ACMA may have some promotional material to assist you.

The ACMA has produced stickers and postcards promoting correct use of VHF marine radio, which are freely available to all organisations and individuals at any time.

Please contact Genevieve Meadows (Genevieve.meadowes@acma.gov.au) or Kerry Raymond (kerry.raymond@acma.gov.au) to order your supplies now.

Also between now and Christmas the ACMA has limited stocks of the VHF marine handbook (Hard Copy Version) to give away at appropriate promotional events.

These events are also ideal times to promote the free download of the VHF marine handbooks from the AMC website (available until 31 December 2011) and the new on-line examinations, both of which are gaining in popularity.

Additionally if you know someone who wishes to obtain their MROCP or MROVCP but is having trouble locating an invigilator in their area, please ask them to contact the AMC on 1300 365 262 or email amcom@amc.edu.au to discuss the difficulties they are experiencing. We have recently arranged for candidates to sit the exam in places like Broken Hill NSW and Kununurra WA. We have not yet come across a location where it was impossible to arrange an examination.

Office closed

Launceston Show day – Thursday
6/10/2011

Recreational Day - Monday 7/11/2011

End of Year Closure

The office will be closing 12:00 noon 23rd December and will not be reopening until Tuesday 3rd January 2012.

If you have club members who will be racing, fishing or whatever and they will require their radio qualifications would you remind them not to leave it to the last minute.

Don't forget to return all expired exam papers.

FAQ's (Frequently asked questions)

Q. I want to update my knowledge can I sit another radio operators exam if I already hold an equivalent qualification??

A. No, do not sit a second exam. If it is processed and you fail it will override your previous qualification. If you sit the exam and you already have the qualification your application will be cancelled and payment made will be forfeited. You may update your knowledge by reading the handbook and doing the revision quizzes or even attending a course but do not sit the exam.

De-registered Invigilators

We have recently de-registered 1 invigilator due to non return of examination papers. Please return all unused and used papers to the office.

General note

Murdoch University WA is on the lookout for invigilators, if you are interested give them a call and find out what is required.