

# YachtCom

Yacht Communications, Radar & Safety

## GMDSS Long Range Certificate

This 4 day course is aimed at yachtsmen who wish to obtain the GMDSS Long Range Certificate which is a higher level certificate than the Short Range Certificate. The GMDSS Long Range Certificate allows you to operate on any marine frequency in the MF/HF-SSB, VHF and Satellite marine bands from onboard a yacht.

The course is a must for the independent cruising yachtsmen and bluewater sailor as you will be shown how to get the best out of your communications equipment and demonstrations of SSB email and weatherfax will be given.

The course takes place in our permanently equipped training studio at Lowford, Bursledon, Hampshire, close to the River Hamble. We will train you on real GMDSS equipment the type you would fit to a yacht.

Equipment including :-

- ICOM IC-M710, ICOM IC-M801E & FURUNO FS-1550 SSB transceivers
- ICOM IC-M501, IC-M601 VHF transceiver
- NASA NAVTEX receiver
- EPIRB and SART.

Students are given a comprehensive set of course notes that covers all related topics. Student numbers are kept to a maximum of 6 students per course, so early booking is advised.

### **Students will learn: -**

- ◆ How to operate an SSB and VHF transceiver fitted with Digital Selective Calling.
- ◆ How to operate an Inmarsat-C satellite terminal.
- ◆ How to make routine, safety, urgency and distress calls.
- ◆ How to use Navtex, EPIRB and SART.

### **Topics covered: -**

- ▶ Overview of GMDSS and SAR services  
Sea areas, MMSI numbers and equipment
- ▶ General SSB and VHF knowledge and radio propagation  
Use of frequencies, bands and Admiralty List of Radio Signals (ALRS)
- ▶ Use of SSB MF/HF and VHF equipment in practice  
Based on Icom HF SSB VHF transceivers
- ▶ Navtex, EPIRBs and SARTs  
Operation, frequencies and use
- ▶ Regulations & procedures.  
Ships licence, operator's certificate, radio logbook and routine checks
- ▶ Distress, Urgency, Safety and Routine calls  
Procedure for making distress, urgency, safety and routine calls
- ▶ Satellite communications  
Overview of Inmarsat, Inmarsat-C and EGC SafetyNET

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## GMDSS Long Range Certificate...

### **The agenda for each day is as follows: -**

- Day 1 - GMDSS, radio propagation, frequencies and SSB and VHF equipment
- Day 2 - Digital Selective Calling and Licensing, regulations and radio calling procedure
- Day 3 - Inmarsat Satellite, radiotelephone exercise, operational performance exercise
- Day 4 - Revision, course conclusion and exam

The course starts at 09:00 and finishing each day by 17:30.

### **Pre-course study**

It is advised that students do some pre-course study before attending the course.

To support students, YachtCom offers an online training package where students can download LRC training material including PC simulator programs for the ICOM M710 & M801 HF SSB transceiver and ICS DSC2 class 'A' DSC controller and an LRC multiple choice software program with over 200 LRC questions.

The online material is offered to students free of charge when booking the course and ordering the book 'GMDSS - A Users Handbook Third Edition' by Denise Brehaut ISBN 0-7136-7856-7 from YachtCom.

It is also worth remembering the following distress frequencies: -

<u>Band</u>	<u>Radio Telephone</u>	<u>Digital Selective Calling</u>
MF	2182.00 kHz	2187.50 kHz
HF	8291.00 kHz	8414.50 kHz
VHF	Channel 16	Channel 70

#### Distress location beacon frequencies

EPIRB 406MHz & 121.50 MHz      SARTS 9GHz/3cms

Finally do learn the phonetic alphabet, you will need it during the exam.

The phonetic alphabet: -

<b>Alfa</b>	<b>Bravo</b>	<b>Charlie</b>	<b>Delta</b>	<b>Echo</b>	<b>Foxtrot</b>
<b>Golf</b>	<b>Hotel</b>	<b>India</b>	<b>Juliet</b>	<b>Kilo</b>	<b>Lima</b>
<b>Mike</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>Oscar</b>	<b>Papa</b>	<b>Quebec</b>	<b>Romeo</b>
<b>Sierra</b>	<b>Tango</b>	<b>Uniform</b>	<b>Victor</b>	<b>Whiskey</b>	<b>X-ray</b>
<b>Yankee</b>	<b>Zulu</b>				

### **About your instructor: -**

Bob Smith is a RYA Yachtmaster with thousands of miles of sailing experience around the UK, Mediterranean and Caribbean. Bob is an RYA Instructor with over 7 years teaching experience and has a technical background in mobile communication, radar and mobile data systems and holds a full UK amateur radio license.

### **What to bring: -**

On the day of the exam, candidates **must** bring along **2 current passport size photographs** (not scanned images) of themselves and a **cheque** (no cash) made payable to '**AMERC Limited NAC (GMDSS)**' for **£83**.