

## News from the Radio Room – August 2010

### Advice on radio equipment and maintenance

Radio Room operators can be a source of information on radio equipment operation and maintenance matters.

### Radio Courses

For many years the Radio Room has run two radio operators license courses each year. Operators of VHF and HF equipment are required to be licensed and even if your vessel only carries a 27 MHz radio it is useful to know correct operating procedures.

Courses are usually run early in the year and then around October to December. Course dates and times are publicized in Club publications and on the website and enquiries can be directed to the Radio room on 3396 2778.

### Notices to Mariners

The Radio Room holds hard copies of Queensland Notices to Mariners and these are available to members who may wish to check recent aids to navigation changes.

### Number of calls we make each year

During its weekday shifts VKQ 447 answers for Coast Guard Brisbane, VMR North Stradbroke, VMR Raby Bay, VMR Sandgate, CG Redland Bay and VMR Victoria Point, deals with much of the Manly Boat Harbour traffic, liaises with the on air rescue service stations, Brisbane Water Police, Environmental Protection Authority and Brisbane Harbour Control. Our statistics recorded a total of 5900 in and out calls were made in the last 12 months.

### Vessel Transit Advice (VTA) System

VKQ 447 participates in a VTA system used for vessels traveling beyond Moreton Bay-Gold Coast. Following logging on these vessels will have their details faxed to Coast Guard Mooloolaba or Seaway Tower who will pass on their details to the next coast station appropriate to their destination after you have logged in with them.

Occasionally VKQ 447 will receive VTAs from outside our immediate area and these are dealt with in accordance with our operating procedures to ensure a good level of service to the vessels involved.

### MBTBC Vessels Log ons

All members are encouraged to log on with VKQ 447 during the week and with Coast Guard Brisbane on weekends and public holidays.

Anecdotally only 30% of vessels using our ramp log on. Logging on gives us a chance to initiate enquiries and possible rescue service action if you are overdue and provides a useful check on your radio equipment should you have a need to use it in an emergency. VKQ 447 is always happy to hear from you.

**Remember:** For Your Safety, Log On. For our Peace of Mind, Log Off.