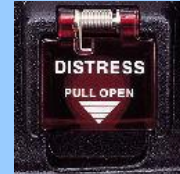


## RYA VHF ~ 'Short Range Radio Certificate'



The VHF Radio course lasts one day and is both essential for safety but also great fun and very informative too. The course is relevant to everyone who goes afloat from kayakers to all of those that use a boat, if you have a VHF on your vessel then it is a legal requirement that at least one person has a VHF Operator's Certificate. We have created a fun and informative course that fully addresses the syllabus but shares the considerable experience of our Instructors, to ensure your course is as beneficial as possible we have invested significantly so that the resources available are second to none. We run the course in Poole every two weeks and can run courses at your location at a time to suit you if you are a group or company.

To make your course as beneficial as possible we mix discussions on all aspects of using a VHF radio for both routine and emergency calls with hands on practice with you making real calls between the radios. To make things more straightforward and relaxing we start off with scripted calls culminating in you going through the process of issuing live distress calls through our special training VHF sets.

Some of the topics that your instructor will cover with you during your course include:

- The basics of a VHF radio
- Which aerial to choose
- The pros/cons of handhelds vs fixed sets
- Simplex and duplex radio channels
- VHF range and the 'capture effect'
- How to structure a call
- Digital selective calling
- MMSI numbers and radio licencing
- Distress alerts and mayday calls
- Urgency alerts and pan-pan/mayday relay calls
- Safety alerts and securite calls
- Procedures words and call etiquette
- Choosing a VHF radio
- EPIRBs and Personal Locator Beacons
- SARTs and active and passive radar reflectors
- NAVTEX

At the end of the course there is a mandatory short test. It is very straightforward and given that we cover all of the areas that may come up during the course there is a very high pass mark. Whilst this is a written test in certain situations it may be possible for us to undertake the test with you on a one to one basis and verbally – call to discuss this with you if you feel this is relevant.

After the successful completion of this test the RYA will issue you with the "United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Certificate of Competence and Authority to Operate". There is an exam fee payable directly to the RYA on the day. You will need to bring one passport sized photo with you on the day of the course.

**Training equipment:** The RYA require that we provide one radio per three students. We actually have eight radios so for all but the largest courses (Twelve students is the maximum) each student has their own radio which makes the course even more beneficial. McMurdo have also provided us with the full range of their EPIRBs including the newer GPS versions and the Personal Locator Beacons. Sea-Me and Echomax have provided their active radar reflectors whilst we have SARTs and VHF radios from numerous suppliers. We even have a couple of tin cans connected by string to take you back to your youth!

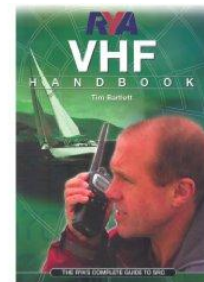
The equipment that we have invested in means that we are certainly one of the best resourced schools in the UK. Which is precisely why other schools hire our equipment for use on their courses.



**Our presentation:** Inevitably a shorebased course such as VHF makes the most of a resource such as powerpoint. Rather than rely on the basic RYA supplied presentation we've invested lots of time and effort to ensure that our presentation is comprehensive, fun and inspiring – after all a day in a classroom should be an enjoyable experience! We use videos, images and a host of photos to create a clear and concise presentation. We are also linked in to a VHF demonstration program that can show how the various elements of the digital calls that we make are 'seen' by the Coastguard and other users.

**Getting the licence for your vessel:** As we will discuss on the course in addition to the operators certificate you will achieve as an Operator then you will also need to obtain a licence for the radio. You don't need to wait for the course to do this (although you may wish to if you are at all unsure) and you do so online at [www.ofcom.org.uk/licensing/olc/](http://www.ofcom.org.uk/licensing/olc/)

**Books to buy:** whilst there is no need to undertake any preparation ahead of the course (except to learn the phonetic alphabet) you might wish to buy a book to act as a reference guide. We recommend the RYA VHF Handbook written by Tim Bartlett.



As a family run, professional school we pride ourselves on being totally honest with you when deciding what course best serves your needs. Please feel free to call/email us to discuss your particular situation, we can be reached on 01202 686666 – Vivien & Paul Glatzel