



AREC info

Monthly newsletter of
Amateur Radio Emergency
Communications

FEBRUARY 2020

Jock White Field Day

A reminder that the Jock White Field Day will be held on Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 February 2020.

National Training Advisor

After a call for expressions of interest, and consideration of applicants, Steve Davis ZL2UCX has been appointed as National Training Advisor.

"The range of activities was indicated in the last AREC-Info newsletter and this appointment will see a move toward improvements in our training and competencies planning and delivery to best meet the needs and requirements of our stake holders" says Don Robertson, AREC National Director.



Steve is currently Group Manager at Branch 05 (Christchurch), and has been in this role, or deputy, for more than 20 years. Steve comes with a wide range of training experience across Amateur Radio, AREC, LandSAR, CD, Scouting, RedR and Red Cross in both volunteer and professional roles. Steve also has a long history, and is active, with many of our key partners, and will be working with them to ensure that we leverage existing training systems as well as developing systems for our own needs.

Amongst Steve's first jobs in the role is to put together and coordinate a Training Advisory Committee. So if you have some training background and, are interested in assisting with the range of training related activities as outlined in the National Training Advisor role description in the last AREC-Info newsletter, then please send an expression of interest to training@arec.net.nz including some notes on your relevant training background and experience.

NATIONAL DIRECTOR

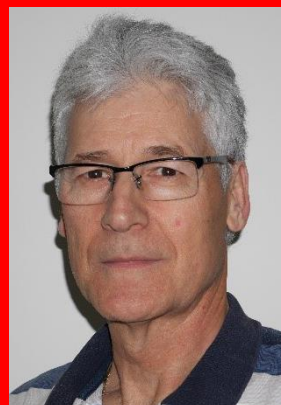
Early this month I attended the NZSAR consultative committee meeting along with the other representatives from across the SAR sector including SLSNZ, Coastguard, MSC, DOC, RCCNZ, NZ Police, FENZ, CAA, WSNZ, NZDF and MoT.

There was a large agenda covering a range of subjects including Sector updates, Risks, 2020 SAR Sector Environmental scan, Volunteer study recommendations, SAR training update, SARdonyx (SAR database), Operational Framework, Public Rescue equipment, National SAR support programme, changes to the Charities Act and the Triennial FED funding which is still waiting on MoT and Ministers.

Later that day I also attended the SAR Sector Health, Safety and Wellbeing committee meeting in place of Steve Mercer ZL2YD who was unavailable due to sickness. So a very busy start to February already.

It is great to see volunteers taking on the role of Training Advisor, thanks Steve ZL2UCX, and thanks to Lindsay ZL4KS for helping us get Project/Services Coordinator role established.

We have been experiencing some significant hot weather lately and we hope all of you and especially those on Southland are staying safe and well.



*Don Robertson, ZL2TYR
National Director, AREC*

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications

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Further information about AREC, including regional contacts, can be found online at arec.info

Call for Applicant to assist AREC at Police National SAR Course

We are looking for an experienced AREC member to attend with Christchurch and Marlborough AREC at the Police National SAR Course at Dip Flat in May.

We provide a small team to assist with communications for the practical exercise portions of the course. This helps Police, and other attendees, attending to get to know a bit about AREC capabilities and see typical SAR Comms in action. As attendees, and trainers, come from Police SAR from around the country it is advantageous to have some AREC presence from other centres. Attending will also give you some experience with providing SAR Comms in a challenging environment and see how other Groups work.

While there are no costs involved, catering and accommodation is covered during the course and AREC will cover travel costs. You will need to be available at a minimum from Saturday 2nd May until Friday 8th May (if possible, a day or two earlier may be advantageous). Suitable travel will be arranged and paid for depending on location of the applicant.

Expectations of the applicant are that they will participate and learn while working with Christchurch and Marlborough AREC Groups and take back some new ideas and skills to their own Group. AREC National will also expect a short report suitable for publishing in the AREC-Info Newsletter (or Break-in) from the successful applicant after the course on how they would use that experienced gained for AREC in their Group.

Applications with a brief experience background need to be sent to manager@chc.arec.net.nz by 31st March

Steve Davis
Christchurch AREC Group

National Project / Service Coordinator

It is pleasing to report that Lindsey Ross has volunteered to be responsible for AREC National Project/Service Coordination and to set up and oversee this role in the meantime. An appointment of a suitable AREC member into this role will be made in the future once expressions of interest have been completed.

Lindsay will establish the role and focus on the priority projects and Services. He will continue with his current role as Deputy National Director.

Thanks to Lindsey for volunteering to get this role underway.



AREC Southland support Civil Defence

In early February, a state of emergency was declared in areas of Southland following the Maitai river flooding. This saw residents from Gore, Wyndham, Riversdale, Maitai and surrounding areas being evacuated.



An overview of the Southland Civil Defence Emergency Operations Centre.

Photo: Daniel Erickson ZL4DE



Nick McEvoy ZL4NB and Brendan Sheehy ZL4BDS working from the EOC. Photos: Daniel Erickson ZL4DE



Southland Branch 37 provided four AREC members to support Civil Defence activities (Brendan Sheehy ZL4BDS, Nick Evoy ZL4NB, Bevan McNaughton ZL4BMC and Daniel Erickson ZL4DE). Their tasks included setting up a camera near the old paper mill where toxic substances were being stored. This enabled the EOC staff to monitor the plant remotely.

The equipment consisted of:

LandSAR Comms case:

- RBI Modem running Southland LandSAR Vodafone plan
- Mikrotik router supplying remote access (VPN) and WiFi as well as PoE Passthrough
- Arduino unit for remote battery monitoring and internal and external temperature monitoring
- 3x 12v 9Ah batteries and 60W of solar panels on a PWM controller

Bevan (who founded SouthLoop) had their spare weather camera with him. It is a Ubiquiti UniFi-G3 1080p camera with microphone, this communicated back to SouthLoop's servers to not only stream and record footage, but take snapshots intermittently too.

Health and Safety is the responsibility of us all

Remember to:

STOP – In your mind you need to be constantly pausing and evaluating no matter the task or the location.

THINK – You need to think about what you see. Identify Hazards and associated Risk (the chance of it going wrong)

PLAN – Talk to others, compare notes, make a plan

COMMUNICATE – Brief the plan and plan to brief others as they arrive.

ACT – Execute the plan, monitor and review progress.

As required – STOP again and then re-Think, re-Plan, Communicate & re-Act.

AREC Auckland, SRAM Tour de Ranges

Auckland AREC again provided radio communications for the SRAM Tour de Ranges, a bicycle race around the Hunua Ranges south of Auckland.

Described as “a celebration of the sport of cycling”, it includes 110km, 65km, or 30km road cycle events and 48km mountain bike events.

AREC provide a communications base, radio operators at 14 locations across the course and in six race vehicles.

Communications take place on a STSP 70cm repeater sited at Kohukohunui (a high point within the Hunua Ranges) which is crosslinked to 2m simplex to provide coverage across the course.



Richard Gamble ZL1BNQ operating Base.

Photo: David Karrasch ZL1DK



Left: Gavin Denby ZL1NUX and his “shack-on-wheels” set up at the Red 9 position at Kaiaua, near the half way point of the 110km course.



Above: Ann-Maree ZL1GIT, Timothy ZL1RDY and Gavin ZL1NUX – three of the four Amateur’s in the Denby household (of the six in the family!)