



AREC info

Monthly newsletter of
Amateur Radio Emergency
Communications

MAY 2020

New Deputy National Director

Don Robertson, AREC National Director, would like to announce the appointment of Andrew Brill to the position of Deputy National Director, Northern.

Andy takes over from David Wilkins who has decided to step down to pursue other interests in AREC. In particular, Dave has picked up the Health & Safety portfolio and is keen to drive the AREC remote HF network.

“Andy brings a wealth of experience, both technically and in leadership. Having someone of his calibre step into Dave’s shoes will certainly help our organisation move forward” says Don.

Membership Database

Darren Sharland ZL2DAZ and Lindsey Ross ZL4KS are reaching out to Group Leaders to update our membership database ahead of the membership card re-print.

Darren will be contacting North Island Group Leaders, and Lindsey will be contacting for the South Island.

The information we need is pretty straight forward; name, callsign, affiliated NZART Branch, cellphone number, e-mail address and a recent head and shoulders photograph please.

Training Update

Steve Davis ZL2UCX, National Training Manager, is working on how we can deliver training to our members and will be contacting Group Managers soon to progress this.

In the meantime, Steve advises that some LandSAR Courses will shortly be available to AREC members who are not also members of a LandSAR Group. These are the "1000" level course which are run by LandSAR themselves. Later we will work on a process for other courses such as the ones run through TPP. More information on the process for finding and booking courses will be coming to Group Leaders soon.

Courses that will be of most interest are SARTrack, LandSAR Radio Comms, and Outdoor Risk Management, but others are also available for those with an interest in the Search side as well such as Navigation, Search Techniques, Tracking etc.

NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Hello to everyone,

I hope you are all doing well during these times. The good news is that things are slowly returning to normal as the COVID-19 response runs its course.

I would like to take a few moments to recognise the volunteers that make up AREC. Without each and every one of you, our organisation would (literally) not exist.

It will be no surprise to many that volunteer hours nationally are decreasing overall (that is all volunteering – not specifically AREC). And the other interesting point is that people's volunteer involvement tends to be for shorter periods. Within AREC, we have a base of members who have been involved for 20, 30, 40 or more years. What is great is that people have been sufficiently connected to what we do to keep active for the long-term.

However, we need to realise that people's spare time is precious and that there are many competing demands on this time and we can't just expect our core to keep us going, we are all getting older!

To that end, Deputy National Director Lindsey Ross, ZL4KS, has been working with Volunteering New Zealand to develop a strategy for how we can better support you, our volunteers, to make sure AREC is giving you what you need to stay interested and involved.

If you have any thoughts or suggestions, please get in contact with Lindsey.

Until next month, thank you for your ongoing support and stay safe.



Don Robertson ZL2TYR, AREC National Director

Operation Lords

By Daniel Erikson, ZL4DE

Just before lockdown, a hunter from a party went missing off Lords River, Rakiura. The Southland AREC team responded and had one member head over to manage on-site communications in the remote location. His first afternoon involved a BK Helicopter and an open-door flight over the area, initially scoping for the missing hunter.

Unfortunately, a key piece of kit of his was missing. Apparently flying around in southern winds with shorts can be quite a knee-knocking cold experience!

Communications for the three-day search involved a mix of the local marine and ESB repeaters, an on-site linking repeater with passive polling into SARtrack for GPS positioning. Outside of VHF areas we benefited from the Garmin Inreach tracking and texting system.

The missing person was found 12km from his last known point and involved covering around some large water bodies to get to where he was found finally from an aerial search.

Once again, a big thank-you to those who gave their time to help out with this search. We couldn't do it without you!



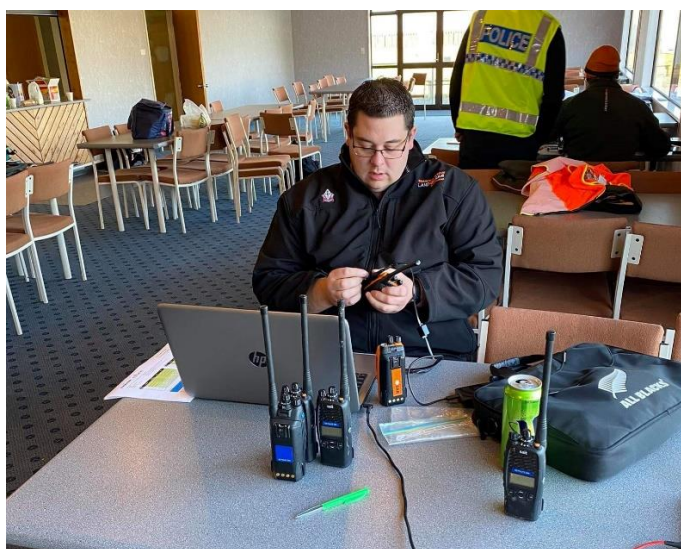
Southland SAR Operation, 16 May 2020

As this newsletter was being prepared, Daniel Erickson ZL4DE sent photos of another search where Southland AREC members were providing communication services.

Brendan Sheehy ZL4BDS, Nick McEvoy ZL4NB, Bevan McNaughton ZL4BMC and Daniel Erickson ZL4DK turned out to assist.



. Brendan ZL4BDS and Nick ZL4NB in the Southland AREC van.



Daniel ZL4DE, uses the Tait Enable Fleet system to update LandSAR radios before they head out.



Civil Defence trailer and Police Community Hub.

Meet our new Deputy National Director, Northern



Andrew Brill ZL1COP was recently appointed as Deputy National Director, Northern. Here he talks about his background and what he is looking to help us achieve in his new role.

Andrew Brill - A bit about me:

I've been involved in amateur radio since I was licensed in 1972 with the call ZL1BNN. I originally worked as an electronics technician in the industrial control and telemetry field, but in 1978 made a major career switch and joined NZ Police, where I remained for the next 40 years.

In the late 90s I moved from front line policing to the police communications centres where I held various roles including national training manager for the communication centres, finally retiring in 2018 as a shift commander at the Northern Communications Centre in Auckland.

Since retiring I have been able to devote more time to amateur radio and to AREC in particular and have been the AREC group leader at Branch 29 North Shore since 2018.

I am very enthusiastic about the future of AREC and with a number of very positive developments on the horizon I am keen to help make AREC an interesting and desirable aspect of amateur radio that will attract new members both from existing amateurs and newcomers to the hobby.

I look forward to working with the hams in the Bay of Plenty, Waikato, Auckland and Northland together with the HQ team to develop an organisation which is amateur in terms of membership but professional in terms of performance. I believe the key to this will be an excellent training programme, regular and meaningful exercises and activities, embracing and responding to changes in the technology and operational systems and requirements of our client agencies, and most importantly making what we do relevant to the new generation of hams.

It will be a whole lot of challenges but I am grateful to have the opportunity to take part.

73

Andy Brill
ZL1COP/ZL6EXB
Deputy Director (North)

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.

Addition to ZL-TRBO AREC DMR Repeater Network

By John Yaldwyn, ZL4JY

The first NZ licensed 33cm repeater joined the ZL TRBO network at 1610 on the afternoon of Sunday 10 May.

The repeater is at Colonial Knob and has already been worked by Jeff ZL2JG, Steve ZL2KG, and John ZL4JY with coverage from Wellington to north of Otaki. The repeater is experimental and was built at no cost to AREC.

DMR on the 900 MHz band is a useful extension of amateur radio technology with the band combining similar wide area coverage as with UHF and superior in-building coverage. Coverage will take a few months to fully evaluate. Operating under tight RSM rules for 900 MHz, the repeater has a relatively modest 25W output including antenna gain.

I wanted to formally thank NZART Council for supporting the rapid adoption of a interim band plan for 33cm and AREC for supporting the connection of this machine to the AREC DMR network.

ZL-TRBO AREC DMR Repeater Network				ZL-TRBO Channel Details				Updated May 2020			
Location	Repeater Output	Repeater Input	Status	Colour Code	Talkgroup		Description				
					Number	Name					
Auckland	439.7000	434.7000	On air	1	530	ZL	All NZ, General				
Hamilton	439.7250	434.7250	On air	1	8	ZK	All NZ, AREC				
Tauranga	439.7500	434.7500	Expected live 2020	1	9	LCL	Local Area				
Hawke's Bay	439.2375	434.2375	On air	1	1	WW	Worldwide				
Manawatu	439.7125	434.7125	On air	1	13	WWE	Worldwide English				
Kapiti	439.7000	434.7000	On air	1	113	UAE1	User Activated English 1				
Porirua	439.7500	434.7500	On air	1	123	UAE2	User Activated English 2				
Wellington	439.7250	434.7250	On air	1	119	UAA1	User Activated 1 (any language)				
Wellington	927.8000	915.8000	On air	1	129	UAA2	User Activated 2 (any language)				
Wairarapa	433.8250	438.8250	On air	1	153	DMRpSP	DMR Plus South Pacific				
Tasman	439.6875	434.6875	On air	1	99	Simplex	Simplex				
Christchurch	439.7000	434.7000	On air								
Oamaru	439.2375	434.2375	On air								
Dunedin	439.7000	434.7000	On air								
DMR STSP	438.7500	433.7500	Portable Repeater								

Radio Settings:
Use Timeslot 2 for ZL and Local and Timeslot 1 for all others
Admit Criteria - Colour Code Free
Automatic Registration Service (ARS) - Disabled
IP Site Connect (IPSC) - Enable

Users outside the network coverage area can connect using a local or personal hotspot connected to DMRplus reflector 4850 as detailed on the DMR section of the AREC.info website.

Further information: <http://arec.info/arec-dmr-network/>

Situations Vacant

AREC District Manager, Wellington

This role has recently become vacant. This is one of 10x District Manager roles across New Zealand. It covers the geographical area bounded by the NZ Police Wellington district and includes all Branches and AREC Group/Sections within.

Full details were included in last month's newsletter, including a list of general duties of the role.

All expressions of interest in this role should be sent to the AREC National Director, Don Robertson, ZL2TYR/ZK6EX by email AREC.MGT@gmail.com. Please include a short BIO/CV with your background and AREC and SAR experience.

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications

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