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AREC.info is the newsletter of Amateur Radio Emergency Communications, the public service arm of the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters. AREC.info is published monthly (except January).



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Cover:

Alec Lilley ZL1HAZ taking part in the Auckland AREC's "Lockdown" on-air exercise in September. Alec's portable set-up includes a Tait TM8200 mobile radio, SLA battery and home-brew Flowerpot 2m antenna.



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Despite the COVID-19 restrictions, there has been plenty going on at AREC!

Appointment to Regional Manager, Central

Firstly, I would like to welcome Don Wallace ZL2TLL to the role of Regional Manager, Central (LNI). I am sure many of you know of Don's background and involvement in all things radio amateur and roles in NZART as ALO among others. It is great to have someone with his experience join our National Officers team.

AREC Rules

Like many organisations, AREC has rules and policies that talk about our vision and purpose – and provide the framework for how we need to operate. We have recently come out of a process to update our rules to reflect the current organisation and to ensure that we capture what we need to do to meet the needs of our partners. The new rules have been sent to District Managers for distribution to groups and will soon be available on the arec.nz website.

AREC.info is now AREC.nz

Some of you may have noticed a subtle re-direct when navigating to the AREC.info website. Our new website address is now AREC.nz which is also the domain that is used for our e-mail server.

The original AREC.info, and AREC.today websites were started by John Yaldwyn ZL4JY to give our organisation and online presence. The .info site was about providing information and resources to members, and the .today site is public-facing. I would like to thank John for his work on these sites, and also acknowledge Steve Davis ZL2UXC who is now working with John on the content.

SPAM Folder

Members have been providing feedback that bulk communications from arec.nz e-mail addresses have been sent straight to their spam folder. There are several technical reasons for this, which we are working with The IT Team (our helpdesk provider) to resolve – however, to give our e-mails the best chance of getting through, can you please trust-mails from arec.nz (the process to do this differs by client but Google should point you in the right direction).

Training Survey

Everyone has been sent a link to the training survey – I would like to encourage everyone to complete it to give us a better idea of our training needs to help us build a delivery strategy to suit. More information can be found in this newsletter.

AREC Training Weekends

We are about to start AREC Training Weekends within districts to upskill Group Leaders and Deputies around the changes that have happened in AREC, updated roles and responsibilities of our leadership team, and the things we need to achieve going forward. I am really looking forward to getting out and about and spending time in the districts and learning more about AREC in your areas and how we can best support you.

PPE Jackets

Thank you to those who returned PPE jackets where a logo was missed being printed. We have been delayed getting these back to NZ Safety Blackwoods due to them not being able to process returns during the Auckland Alert Level 4 lockdown but these should be sorted soon.

Group Safety Signage & Equipment

Andy Brill ZL1COP, who is leading the rollout of PPE, has been following up groups who need safety signage and equipment.

Could Group Leaders who have yet to respond to Andy please do so to allow orders to be placed.

Until next month, stay safe!

Don, ZL2TYR

Chief Executive Officer, AREC



Auckland AREC “Exercise Lockdown”

Lockdown in Auckland saw the postponement of the area SAREX as well as Greenhithe community day, both hands-on activities supported by AREC. Not to miss an opportunity, AREC Regional Manager – North and Branch 29 Group Leader Andy Brill ZL1COP used the date to conduct “Exercise Lockdown”, an on-air exercise designed for people to do from home.

The exercise attracted 18 AREC members from across Auckland. Six were base operators, using the SARTrack system to assign tasks and record messages sent and received. The rest were field stations – their job was to receive a task from Base (in the form of a question relating to radio or other field), use local resources to find the answer and compose and send their reply in a message format back to base.

To keep traffic moving, the exercise was split across the 730 Rodney and 670 Waitakere repeaters.



Above: Terance ZL1BTS running base from his QTH.

There were two base teams, one person would handle the radio traffic; another would complete the SARTrack work and a third to deal with any other tasks that came up – with members cycling through the roles. We originally looked to use the SARTalk system for back-channel communications between base operators (everyone was working separately at their own location) however we had a few technical issues so the “670” team used EE122 and the “730” team used the ZL-TRBO DMR ZK talkgroup.

A screenshot of the SARTrack software interface. The main window displays a list of tasks with columns for ID, TaskName, Description, Assigned, and Time Assign. Below this is a 'Field Stations' table listing names, call signs, locations, and talkgroups. On the right, there's a 'Log Entry Form' and a 'Summary' section. The bottom of the screen shows a 'New LOG Entry' button and a 'Switch to RadioOps View' button.

ID	TaskName	Description	Assigned	Time Assign
1	Q1	What is the latitude and longitude of North Head	NOT FOR TRANSMISSION answer = 36°49.655, 174°48.72 E	25 Sep 10:00
2	Q2	What is the latitude and longitude of North Head	NOT FOR TRANSMISSION answer = 36°49.655, 174°48.72 E	25 Sep 10:00
3	Q3	What is the name and phone number of the electricity line company responsible for power lines in the Auckland region...	EBV	25 Sep 10:10
4	Q4	What mode is used for AREC HF voice transmissions	NOT FOR TRANSMISSION answer = Upper Side Band	25 Sep 10:10
5	Q5	What type of radio transmission has the emission designator 3E	NOT FOR TRANSMISSION answer = USB voice	25 Sep 10:10
6	Q6	What PRS repeaters are active in Auckland	NOT FOR TRANSMISSION answer = Kildyke Chan 6, Waitakere Chan 5	25 Sep 10:10
7	Q7	On a NZ Topographical map what is the name of the grid lines which run vertically on the map	NOT FOR TRANSMISSION...	25 Sep 10:10
8	Q8	What is the repeater split used for USB band repeater channels	NOT FOR TRANSMISSION answer = 3MHz	25 Sep 10:10
9	Q9	How many short term special purpose repeater channels are licensed for the 70cm band	NOT FOR TRANSMISSION ans...	25 Sep 10:10
10	Q10	What are the lowest and highest tones used in the standard CTCSS system	NOT FOR TRANSMISSION answer = 67 Hz	25 Sep 10:10
11	Q11	What channel is used for Auckland Region primary command and control by Auckland Emergency Management and where...	EBV	25 Sep 10:10
12	Q12	What channel does the STSP repeater at Kohakuhana in the Haurua Ranges operate on	NOT FOR TRANSMISSION ans...	25 Sep 10:10
13	Q13	What is the name of the system used for the 70cm band	NOT FOR TRANSMISSION ans...	25 Sep 10:10

Name	Call	location	ZK
Graham Barton	ZL1GMB	Devonport	730
Japie Nel	ZL1JN	Howick	670
Kevin Gill	ZL1KG	New Lynn	670
Peter Henderson	ZL1PJH	Waiuku	670
Philip Sharp	ZL1PSH	Glenfield	670
Vaughan Henderson	ZL1VH	Glenfield	670
Alec Lilley	ZL1HAZ	St Johns	730
John Baxendale	ZL1CD	Mahurangi	730
Julian Dukes	ZL1ABX	Torbay	730
Matthew King	ZL1YOT	Wainui	730
Rob Fischer	ZL1EMR	Mahurangi	730
Simon Walkden	ZL1HMD	Waitakere	730

Above: The SARTrack screens and exercise information at Soren ZL1SKL's home base workstation.

The purpose of the event was to give operators the opportunity to practise message passing, and to help Base operators get to grips with using SARTrack. “Overall, the exercise was a success” said Andy ZL1COP, “the award for best field operator of the day has to go to Alec Lilley, ZL1HAZ. (ZK1EAL) on the 730 repeater. His radio procedure was exemplary. His use of procedure phrases, message composition, speed of delivery and clarity, together with his ability to follow the instructions for the operation were a lesson to us all. Well done Alec – a most professional performance.”

Tauranga DMR Repeater Installed!

Members of Branch 88 Tauranga Emergency Communications Group recently installed two new DMR repeaters near Te Puke. This included a 70cm machine on the ZL-TRBO AREC DMR network and a EE122 machine for Search & Rescue activities.



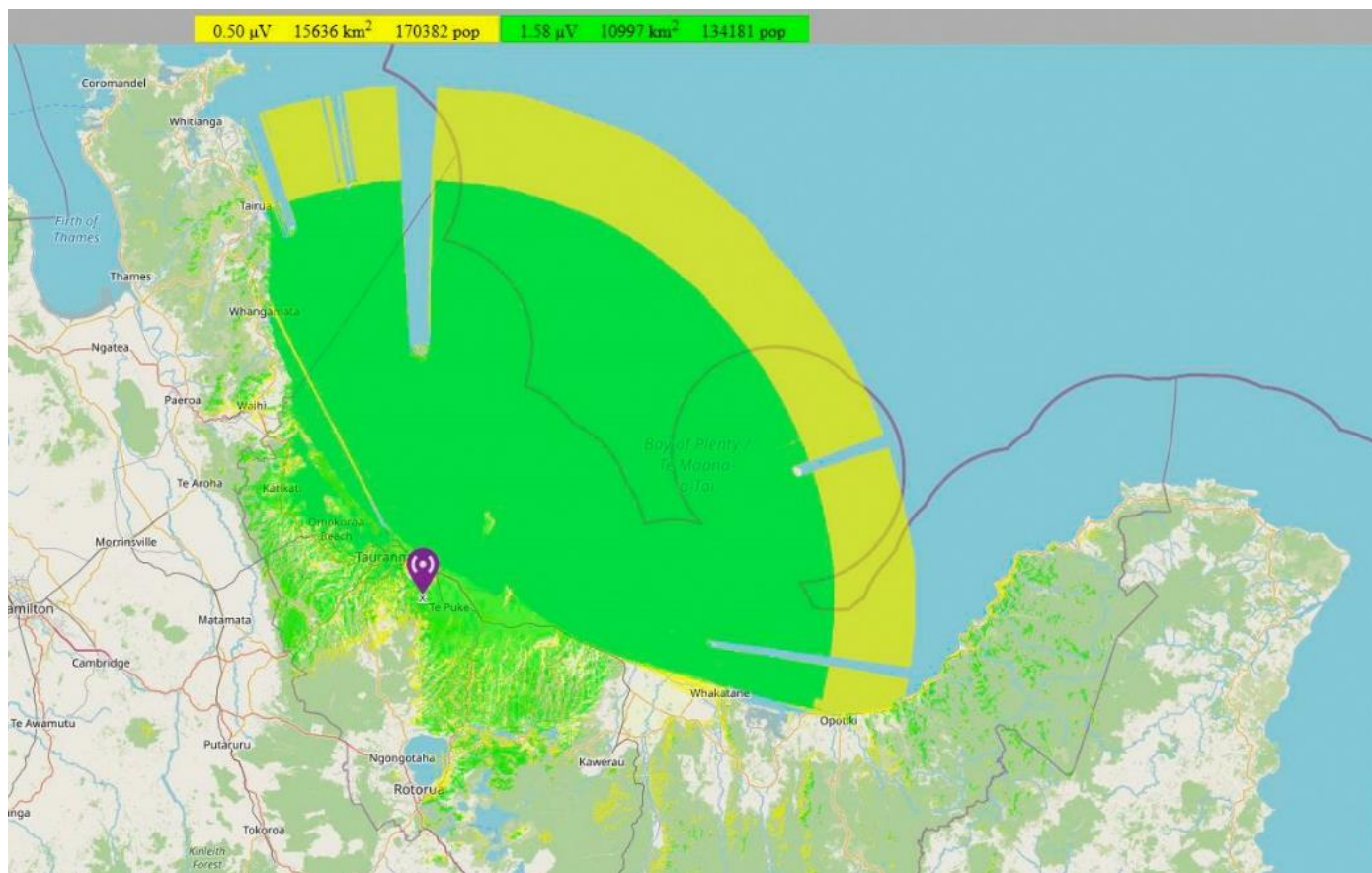
Previous page:

Top: The new equipment installed within TEGC's container. Photo: Brian Heywood ZL1IE

Left Centre: The container is lifted into place onto its foundation posts. With Brent Martin ZL1BPC, Brian Heywood ZL1IE and the crane driver. Photo: Robert Taylor ZL1RKT.

Left Bottom: Brent Martin ZL1BPC standing next to his specially-built access steps with Arthur Hudson ZL1RTY. Photo: Robert Taylor ZL1RKT.

Right: VHF Antenna on the left and UHF antenna on the right. Photo: Brian Heywood ZL1IE



Above: Coverage prediction of the UHF repeater, courtesy Steve Jepson ZL2SJ.

ZL-TRBO AREC DMR Repeater Network

Location	Repeater Output	Repeater Input	Status
Auckland	439.7000	434.7000	On air
Hamilton	439.7250	434.7250	On air
Tauranga	439.7500	434.7500	On air
Hawke's Bay	439.2375	434.2375	On air
Manawatu	439.7125	434.7125	On air
Kapiti	439.7000	434.7000	On air
Porirua	439.7500	434.7500	On air
Porirua 900MHz	927.8000	915.8000	On air
Wellington	439.7250	434.7250	On air
Wellington 900MHz	927.8500	915.8500	On air
Wairarapa	433.8250	438.8250	On air
Tasman	439.6875	434.6875	On air
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

ZL-TRBO Channel Details

Colour Code	Timeslot	Talkgroup		Description
		Number	Name	
1	2	530	ZL	All NZ, General
1	1	8	ZK	All NZ, AREC
1	2	9	LCL	Local Area
1	1	1	WW	Worldwide
1	1	13	WWE	Worldwide English
1	1	113	UAE1	User Activated English 1
1	1	123	UAE2	User Activated English 2
1	1	119	UAA1	User Activated 1 (any language)
1	1	129	UAA2	User Activated 2 (any language)
1	1	153	DMRpSP	DMR Plus South Pacific
1	1	99	Simplex	Simplex

Radio Settings:

Use Timeslot 2 for ZL and Local and Timeslot 1 for all others

All Timeslot 1 talkgroups are PTT activated

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.nz/arec-dmr-network/>

Anytone DMR Radios – Roaming Issue

A problem has been identified with the way roaming works on Anytone radios which cause interference issues on the ZL-TRBO AREC DMR repeater network.

If you have an Anytone radio, please do not use the roaming feature on the ZL-TRBO network.

Situations Vacant

An exciting opportunity to represent NZART/AREC on the international stage as....

IARU Region 3 Disaster Management Coordinator

- Are you interested in the chance to liaise and build international relationships with IARU member societies?
- Share best practices in emergency communications?
- Explore and exercise with digital HF data transmission?
- Are you interested in seeing how IARU functions elsewhere, what we can learn and bring back to AREC & NZ?

If you have said yes to any of the above, email AREC's Administrator Annalise admin@arec.nz to find out how to apply.

AREC Training Survey

All members by now will have received a link to the AREC Training Survey. Thank you to those who have been able to complete the survey – your feedback is valued. For those who have not yet done it, can you please find a few minutes to complete it. This is important information for us to build our training delivery.

You may have seen from the e-mail that all members completing the survey will go into a prize draw; first prize is a TYT DMR handheld radio, second prize is an NZART 2022 subscription – the closing date for the draw has been extended to Friday 15 October.

If you haven't received a link, please click below:

[Survey Link](#)

Microsoft 365 Rollout

AREC Project Coordinator John Murphy ZL2XJ reports the rollout of AREC's Microsoft 365 accounts is now taking place to our 60+ Group Leaders and Deputies.

"The Microsoft 365 E1 licence assigned to AREC Group Leaders and their Deputies includes web-based apps like Word, Excel and Outlook integrated with cloud services like OneDrive, SharePoint, and Teams that enable productivity from anywhere. These are supported on both PC desktops and Mobile devices. Teams and SharePoint are vital platforms in transforming AREC online and provide a platform for communications across the organisation with online meetings and collaboration, as well as the storage and publication of documentation."

Members in this group should have received an e-mail from John, for more information contact Projects@arec.nz

AREC is not unique in what we do internationally. The idea of Amateur radio operators joining together in times of crisis and turmoil is something that we see all around the world and is supported by recognition at the Governmental level. For many amateurs the idea of being able to help out in these circumstances is something that draws people to our hobby.

The American Radio Relay League is the national association for Amateur radio operators in the United States. Like NZART is that parent body of AREC, ARRL is the parent body of Amateur Radio Emergency Service, or ARES. You can read their training material and other information at <http://www.arrl.org/ares>.

You may notice in the ARES publications and in other organisations posted information that the purpose to deliver a communications resource able to transmit health and welfare information is clearly described.

What is often not so clear is how members of these organisations are meant to maintain their own Health, Safety and Wellness! If the operator doesn't start by thinking about themselves and their personal safety, health and wellness they will soon become another problem that has to be fixed.

AREC is in the same boat and we need to turn this around and ensure we have a balanced approach. To do this we need to think of three key aspects: Task, Team, and Individual (you).

What is the Task we need to achieve – is it clearly stated and achievable, what resources are required, what are the hazards and the degree of control we have over those hazards?

Who is required in the Team – are they up to the task by being competent, do they fit in with each other, are they suitably equipped mentally and physically to achieve the task, do they have the correct set of gear to achieve the task, will the knowledge and equipment within the team ensure we are all safe?

As an Individual – can I safely and usefully contribute to the team achieving the task, am I fit and able and not fatigued, have I thought about both the task and the hazards that lie ahead, have I anticipated all the key factors before I deploy, do I have a few personal checklists and reminders so I don't mess things up?

AREC is putting together some guidance material on how we should deploy and what checks we need to make before we accept a tasking. Keep an eye out for this information that should get posted onto the AREC website in the not-too-distant future.

Have a safe month ahead. Hopefully we will all be into a safer low COVID-19 risk environment soon – fingers crossed, especially for the Jafas!

If you want to reach out any anytime, drop me a note or give me a call.

David Wilkins ZL1MR

AREC Health & Safety Advisor



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.