



# AREC

info

Monthly newsletter of  
Amateur Radio Emergency  
Communications

DECEMBER 2019

## NEWSLETTER

One of the issues that has been raised from across our membership, is a desire for more information about what is going on across AREC. We hope to bring you this newsletter on a monthly basis to help keep everyone informed about what is happening.

## GROUP LEADERS NET

A reminder that the Group Leader's net is held on the third Monday of each month:  
2030 hours – 3550KHz, 2100 hours – DMR ZK Talkgroup

## ID CARDS

AREC ID cards have now expired and we are working through getting these re-issued.

Prior to this happening, we need to ensure that all our members have completed the Health & Safety induction. This is a reasonably straight-forward interactive training session that Group Leaders will be able to deliver locally.

Group Leaders can contact Dave Wilkins, ZL1MR, for more information.

## MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Also required as part of the ID card re-print process, is for us to determine the membership category of each of our members. This will be a simple way of identifying what deployment capabilities we have and may distinguish between QTH, mobile, and portable operators as well as identifying those who have additional skillsets for them to operate with client agencies such as LandSAR, local Civil Defence etc.

There are two main reasons for this; the first is to understand what capabilities we can offer to our clients now, and the second is to create a framework for members to gain new skills and experience to meet their personal goals.

## TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

We need to develop our membership and are working through developing training packages that can be delivered locally, or remotely through video presentations.

## NZART PORTABLE ACTIVITY DAY

Following a successful inaugural event this year, NZART are promoting another NZART Portable Activity Day on 1 January 2020,

This is an excellent opportunity for AREC members to practise establishing and operating a portable station on HF, VHF and/or UHF. More details at NZART Infoline <http://www.nzart.org.nz/assets/infoline/2019/HQ-Infoline-Issue-402.pdf>

## NATIONAL DIRECTOR

**For those I haven't met, I am Don Robertson, ZL2TYR. I have been National Director of AREC since the 2018 Conference at New Plymouth.**

I took over from Geoff Chapman, ZL3PX, who I would like to thank for stepping-up after Jeff Sayer was unable to continue due to ill health.

AREC has a bright future and I would like to acknowledge all of you who are a part of our organisation. Knowing we have such a capable and committed membership gives me the confidence to work with NZART and our partners to ensure we have an important and relevant role to play, well into the future.

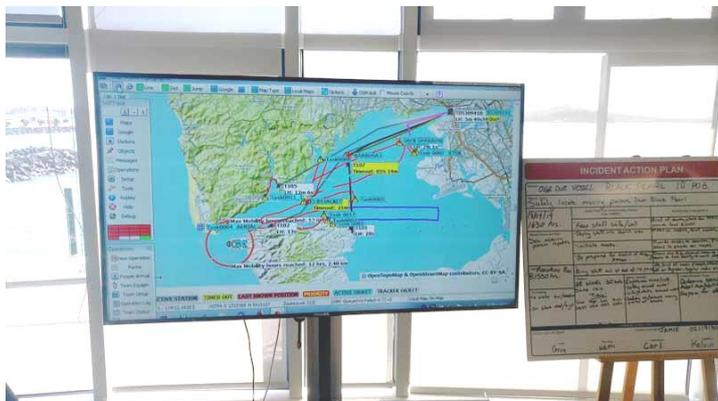
In upcoming issues, I hope to share with you my vision for AREC and talk about the work that I am leading to help build our organisation. While I know there has not been a lot of information out there about what we have been up to at a national level, I can assure you there is plenty going on and lots to do!

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support of AREC this year, and wish you and yours all the best for the festive season. Have a great Christmas!



## Auckland AREC members participate in Search and Rescue exercise by Andy Brill ZL1COP

Over the weekend of September 13-15, a major multi-agency search and rescue exercise was held in Auckland's Manukau Harbour. The participants were the Police Maritime Unit, Police Search and Rescue Squad, Coastguard, Surf Lifesaving Northern Region, Manukau Harbourmaster, NZ LandSAR, Auckland Airport Rescue Fire Service and AREC.



**SARTrack main display halfway through the operation showing search areas and tracks of search vessels.**

The Police helicopter was involved in an aerial search, and it flew reconnaissance missions to familiarise key members of the incident management team with air operations.

Communications used during the exercises included the coastguard marine VHF channel 18 repeater at Manukau Heads, and Surf Lifesaving "Surfcomm" VHF DMR repeaters, both of which were operated from the emergency operations centre at MRC. LandSAR operations used the SAR EE122 and Civil Defence ESB130 VHF repeaters, both in the Hunua Ranges, with backup provided by a portable repeater on the ESB164 inter-agency liaison channel which was located temporarily at Hillsborough.

The SAR comms were handled by AREC members Malcolm ZL1MIT, Ian ZL1IRC and Richard ZL1BNQ from the Onehunga Wharf. Andy ZL1COP, Dave ZL1MR and Soren ZL1SKL operated the SARTrack system at MRC.



**Soren ZL1SKL with the Police Ops manager entering tasking information into SARTrack**



**SARTrack map to assign teams for Tasks 001 and 002 – shoreline search in the Manukau Heads area**

The exercise was voted a success by all concerned. From a communications perspective there were no major issues, but a lot was learned about working with different agencies with a variety of procedures and comms systems.

One of the exercise objectives was to evaluate the use of SARTrack radio tracking and incident management software, in a large operation with several agencies involved, and with the incident management team located remotely from the forward operations base.

An incident control point and radio base were set up at the Onehunga wharf as a base for the various search assets. These included LandSAR teams which handled shore-line searches around the harbour, Coastguard rescue vessels, jet skis from Surf Lifesaving, the rescue hovercraft from Auckland airport and a harbour-masters patrol boat.

As the exercise progressed the various land and sea assets reported their progress, and the positions were logged electronically by SARTrack. Eventually nine of the ten missing people (in the form of a number of volunteers who had been waiting patiently for rescue on various isolated beaches) were found. Some (in the form of floating mannequins) were unfortunately lifeless in the water. It would have been a 100% success rate but unfortunately one of the mannequins sprung a leak, sank and is now somewhere on the sea bed.

Everyone was finally stood down at about 16:00 hrs. on Saturday, with a final debrief for the management team on Sunday morning.

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**Further information about AREC, including regional contacts, can be found online at [arec.info](http://arec.info)**