



Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

April 2011 Newsletter

ZL1AC, Branch 03 NZART 3000 Great North Road New Lynn,
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President: Ian Sangster ZL1RCA, Vice President Ross Reddell ZL1VRR.
Secretary: Roy Milam ZL1WI. Newsletter Editor – John Neill ZL1NE
VHF Club Net Wednesday 07:30pm 146.525 MHz,
HF Club Net Fridays 07:30pm 3.623 MHz
Website <http://www.qsl.net/zl1ac>

Club Calendar

Saturday	9 th	April	WSRC Annual General Meeting
Wednesday	20 th	April	Jumbo Challenge Indoor Bowles
Saturday	14 th	May	Paul ZL4AX on Packet Radio
Monday	30 th	May	AREC Section Meeting 7:30pm WSRC
Wednesday	12 th	October	Jumbo Challenge Indoor Bowles

April Meeting

The April meeting on the 9th will be the Annual General Meeting (AGM). This will commence at 10:00 am. The AGM will be preceded by a committee meeting commencing at 09:15. The agenda for the AGM is as follows.

Agenda	Election of Officers
1 Presidents Introduction	1 President
2 Apologies	2 Vice President
3 Minutes of 2010 AGM	3 Treasurer
4 Treasurers Report	4 Secretary
5 AREC Report	5 Four Committee Members
6 Presidents Report	6 Auditor of Accounts
7 Election of Officers	7 Newsletter Editor
8 General Business	

AREC

The only AREC activity during the month was the AREC nets. We watched with interest the developments at Christchurch and were please to hear that radio was a reliable means of communication when other services were affected.

Newsletter Archive

On the club web I have placed all the past newsletters that I can find. I am missing from November 2001 until October 2002 and all newsletters pre February 2001. If you have a collection of past newsletters then I would appreciate a copy of these so that I can place them on the web. Either a paper copy or in pdf file format would be all I need. Alternatively I could borrow and make a copy. For the record, the past newsletters that I have can be found at:

http://www.qsl.net/zl1ac/newsletter_files/newsletter-archive.html

Any assistance gratefully accepted.

Ed - ZL1NE

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia

In times of crisis and [natural disasters](#), [amateur radio](#) is often used as a means of emergency communication when [wireline](#), [cell phones](#) and other conventional means of communications fail.

Unlike commercial systems, Amateur radio is not as dependent on terrestrial facilities that can fail. It is dispersed throughout a community without "choke points" such as cellular telephone sites that can be overloaded.

Amateur radio operators are experienced in improvising antennas and power sources and most equipment today can be powered by an automobile battery. Annual "[Field Days](#)" are held in many countries to practice these emergency improvisational skills. Amateur radio operators can use hundreds of frequencies and can quickly establish networks tying disparate agencies together to enhance [interoperability](#).

Recent examples include the [September 11 attacks](#) on the [World Trade Center](#) in [Manhattan](#) in 2001, the [2003 North America blackout](#) and [Hurricane Katrina](#) in September 2005, where amateur radio was used to coordinate disaster relief activities when other systems failed.

On September 2, 2004, ham radio was used to inform weather forecasters with information on [Hurricane Frances](#) live from the [Bahamas](#). On December 26, 2004, [an earthquake and resulting tsunami](#) across the [Indian Ocean](#) wiped out all communications with the [Andaman Islands](#), except for a [DX-pedition](#) that provided a means to coordinate relief efforts. Recently, Amateur Radio operators in the [People's Republic of China](#) provided emergency communications after the [2008 Sichuan earthquake](#) and U.S. hams did similar work following [Hurricane Ike](#).

The largest disaster response by U.S. amateur radio operators was during [Hurricane Katrina](#) which first made landfall as a Category 1 hurricane went through Miami, Florida on August 25, 2005, eventually strengthening to Category 5. More than a thousand ham operators from all over the U.S. converged on the Gulf Coast in an effort to provide emergency communications assistance. Subsequent Congressional hearings highlighted the Amateur Radio response as one of the few examples of what went right in the disaster relief effort



Solar-powered Amateur Radio Station in tents. Note the portable [VHF/UHF satellite](#) and [HF](#) antennas in the background

Organization

While all hams have some emergency communications capability, those who are particularly interested in the public service aspects of the hobby usually affiliate with an organized group for disaster specific training, quick mobilization and to practice emergency skills. These major organizations include:

International

The [Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference](#) (GAREC) is held in a new location yearly by the [International Amateur Radio Union](#) (IARU), hosting discussion and coordination of large-scale and cross-border amateur radio emergency response.

Australia

In Australia WICEN (pronounced "wee-sen"), the Wireless Institute Civil Emergency Network is the officially recognized group that manages Amateur Radio operators to provide emergency communications. It is organised by [state](#) and region, with autonomous bodies in each state some of which are linked to that jurisdiction's disaster plan: in other states it is an ad hoc arrangement at best and virtually defunct at worst. In most states, WICEN is organized by a committee of the WIA state organization, but in [New South Wales](#) and [Victoria](#), WICEN is separately incorporated. WICEN has been activated for various emergencies, notably in recent years the [Black Saturday bushfires](#) on 7 February 2009 in Victoria. In NSW, WICEN is an accredited squad of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association. In the February 2011 Cyclone Yasi WICEN had no role to play as the Emergency services prefer to use their own communication systems.

Canada

In Canada, [Amateur Radio Emergency Service](#) (ARES) is sponsored by the [Radio Amateurs of Canada](#). Often other less formal networks of volunteer radio operators are also used and organized by the local emergency response agencies in conjunction with local ham radio operators. As in the United States, Radio Amateurs of Canada has memoranda of understanding with numerous agencies expected to receive services[2], including the Canadian Red Cross and Salvation Army.

India



Indian amateur radio operator, Bharathi VU4RBI, demonstrates Amateur Radio to local students in [Port Blair](#), Andaman Islands, a few days before the [2004 Indian Ocean earthquake](#)

In India, Vigyan Prasar (a science promotion body under the Indian Department of Science and Technology) coordinates simulated disaster communication exercises and also organizes training to help people get a ham radio license in areas which are vulnerable to natural calamities.

Ireland

In Ireland (26 counties), the Amateur Radio Emergency Network (AREN), co-ordinates emergency communications activities on behalf of the [Irish Radio Transmitters Society](#) (IRTS). AREN membership is, however, open to all amateur radio operators whether members of IRTS or not.

The Netherlands

The Dutch Amateur Radio Emergency Service (DARES) was founded in 2003 as a result of the World Radio Conference 2003, where was decided that licensed Dutch radio amateurs were allowed to offer their services to third-parties in an emergency situation. DARES is recognized by the State Department of The Netherlands and supported by the two largest national radio amateur organisations: VERON and VRZA.

DARES consists of a group of radio amateurs and shortwave listeners who offer their knowledge and radio equipment during a disaster or major incident. The organisation is built upon the 25 safety regions defined by Dutch authorities.

DARES has been represented at the [Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference](#) (GAREC) since 2005.

New Zealand

In New Zealand the [New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters](#) provides the AREC - Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (formerly Amateur Radio Emergency Corps) in the role. They won the New Zealand National Search and Rescue award in 2001 for their long commitment to Search and Rescue in NZ.

Trinidad and Tobago

In Trinidad and Tobago, the Emergency Amateur Radio Service (EARS) is a non profit organization registration number E 1772{95} and is part of the Trinidad and Tobago Amateur Radio League TTARL. They coordinate emergency communications activities within its membership and others who wish to volunteer with EARS in times of emergency. The Office of Disaster Preparedness Management (ODPM) is actively involved in amateur radio and maintains an active amateur radio station and five repeaters.

United Kingdom

In the United Kingdom [Radio Amateurs Emergency Network](#) (RAYNET) provides the organizational backbone of their amateur radio emergency communications groups. It was formed in 1953 in the aftermath of the [North Sea flood of 1953](#).

United States of America

In the [United States](#), there are two major methods of organizing amateur radio emergency communications: the [Amateur Radio Emergency Service](#) (ARES), an organization of amateur operators sponsored by the [American Radio Relay League](#) (ARRL); and the [Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service](#) (RACES), a standby replacement radio service regulated by the [Federal Communications Commission](#). Operations under the RACES rules requires preregistration with a local civil defense organization, to allow continued operation under Part 97.407^[2] of the FCC regulations in the event the Amateur Radio Service is ever shut down by presidential order. Thus ARES and RACES involvement within the same area are usually intertwined, with many governments requiring membership and service in that locale's ARES organization to allow operations within the Amateur Radio Service as well. Many government [Emergency Operations Centers](#), Red Cross Chapters and [National Weather Service](#) facilities have permanent Amateur Radio stations installed for such operations.

Radio clubs independent of the ARRL and ARES also participate in emergency communications activities in some areas, and some non-radio organizations have their own amateur arm. The [Department of Defense](#) sponsors the [Military Auxiliary Radio System](#) (MARS) program which utilizes Amateur Radio operators for emergency communication using military radio frequencies. The National Weather Service [Skywarn](#) weather-spotter program has a strong amateur radio contingent. And amateurs dedicated to the Salvation Army are organized under their [Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network](#) program.

Emergency communications and disaster assistance is usually done in conjunction with volunteer disaster relief organizations such as the [American Red Cross](#), the [Salvation Army](#), local government emergency management agencies, as well as volunteer fire departments and ambulance corps.

The [ARRL](#) has memoranda of understanding with numerous agencies expected to receive services^[3], including the [American Red Cross](#) and [Salvation Army](#) and is a partner in the [Citizen Corps](#) program of the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) (FEMA). The ARRL also is a member of the [National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster](#) (NVOAD) and conducts emergency communications certification courses for interested Amateur Radio operators.

Club Nets

VHF Net 146.525 MHz 7:30pm every Wednesday, HF Net 3623 KHz +/- QRM/QRN 7:30pm every Friday. All are welcome to check in on the nets. The full HF Net Roster can be found on <http://www.qsl.net/zl1ac/wsrg-hf-roster.html>

1-Apr-11	ZL1MW	Brian
8-Apr-11	ZL1NE	John
15-Apr-11	ZL1ACZ	Barry
22-Apr-11	ZL1WI	Roy
29-Apr-11	ZL1VRR	Ross
6-May-11	ZL1RCA	Ian
13-May-11	ZL1MW	Brian
20-May-11	ZL1NE	John
27-May-11	ZL1ACZ	Barry

Paper Wasps

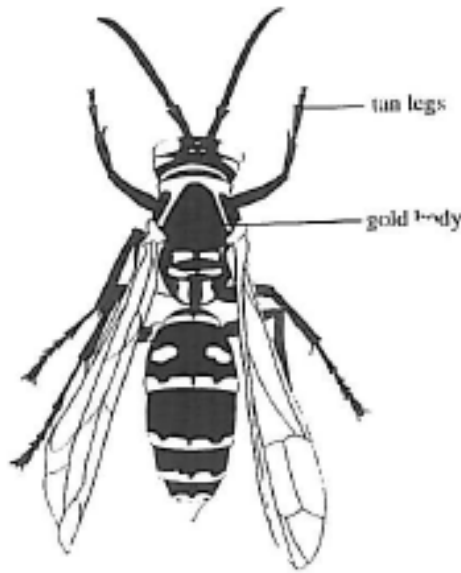
Paper wasps are slightly easier to eradicate than German or common wasps.

Their delicate paper nests are usually found 1 to 5 metres above the ground and are easy to control with household fly spray. Just before dark or on a damp day, quickly spray the dozen or so adult wasps on the nest until they turn white with foam. The spray sticks to the wings and after a couple of minutes the adult wasps will fall on to the ground to die.

Watch out for the falling wasps.....

Don't use a torch as they can fly up the light beam and sting you.

Remove the nest containing the larvae by snipping off at the base with scissors and dropping in a plastic bag. Freeze for three days or seal the bag and place in the rubbish.



Information and further help

If you have any concerns in dealing with wasp nests yourself then get in touch with a pest control firm. Check the yellow pages. Nests on Auckland Regional Council land in the Waitakere Ranges should be reported to the local Parks Ranger. If a nest is on Waitakere City Council land or you wish for further advice and information then ring Council on 837-3700 and ask for Pest Control.

TAKE ACTION NOW!

What you can do...

If nests are on your own property try to deal with the problem yourself - BUT TAKE CARE.

CONTROL MEASURES

Flying wasps can be tracked in early morning or at dusk when other insects such as bees and flies are not flying. Wasps can be dusted with flour or icing sugar to make them more conspicuous.

WASPS CAN BE DANGEROUS, SO TAKE THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONS

- Carry out the work in the evening, after the wasps have ceased flying.
- Wear gloves and a veil.



German and Common Wasps

These wasps generally nest underground and the following eradication techniques can be used:

PETROL- Pour in about 2 litres of petrol in the hole. A bottle, sack or dirt sod should be left in the hole as a plug. **DO NOT LIGHT THE PETROL** - The fumes kill the wasps. Diesel or kerosene is also effective if it can reach the nest itself. The oil saturates the nest, which will eventually collapse. These fuels should not be used near buildings or valuable shrubs.

Large nests may have a number of entrances. Be sure to block them all.

INSECTICIDES - Most garden centres stock powdered insecticides particularly carbaryl based products. Dust around and into the entrance of the nest after dark when all the wasps have returned to the nest for the night. Use 50 grams (about 2 tablespoons) or more of the insecticide powder and do not plug the hole.

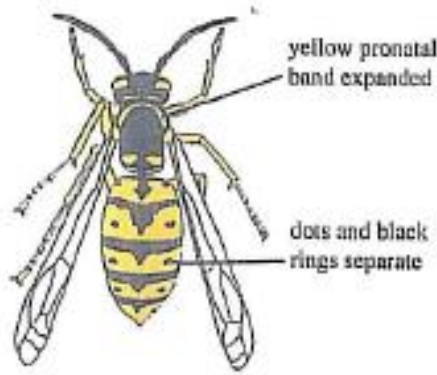
Carbaryl in a puffer pack works well. A short piece of plastic hose attached to the puffer can assist.

It may take a few days to kill all the wasps by this method, as young wasps will continue to emerge from the brood combs. If necessary repeat the operation after about 7 days. After all adult wasps have died, the hole should be blocked to prevent any newly hatched wasps from emerging.



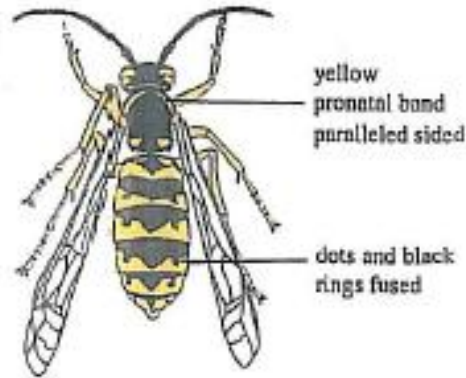
Always follow the instructions carefully!

The enemy



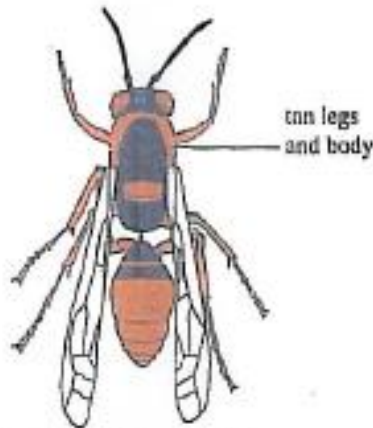
German Wasp

The German wasp has been in N.Z. since the 1940's. It is characterised by an expanded yellow pronotal band and separate black dots and rings on its back



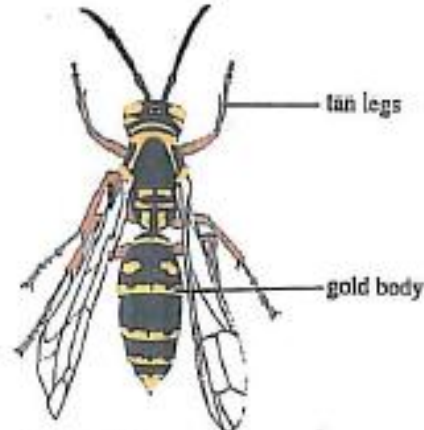
Common Wasp

The Common wasp is a recent arrival in N.Z. but is already widespread. Its pronotal band is yellow and parallel sided. The dots and black rings on its back are fused.



Australian Paper Wasp

Australian paper wasps were introduced to N.Z. in the 1880s. They are reddish-brown in colour and are smaller than Asian Paper Wasps.



Asian Paper Wasp

The Asian Paper Wasps were first found in North Auckland in 1979. They are yellow and black. The males are smaller and more yellow than the females. Paper wasps are smaller than the German and Common Wasps.