AREC – Winlink Weekly Check-In Net

A weekly AREC Winlink check-In net will be available to all Amateur Radio Operators

In a Communication Blackout in a district or the whole of NZ, Winlink will be the only Email service available as it is designed to operate without the internet.
Winlink is the email operating software that is used throughout the world for emergency communication in the event of a natural disaster or emergency. Winlink is also used by many government agencies including military and humanitarian services, on non-ham frequencies.
The very existence of Amateur radio is a result of providing emergency communication in a national emergency and it is prudent that all amateur operators that are capable of sending an email learn how to operate this software as it may be your lifeline in a communication blackout.

The first thing AREC managers need to know in an emergency is who is available, and what is the situation at your location.

This net is to practice using a Winlink Check-In Form.
The information submitted will give AREC and all of us a guide on how prepared we are to provide communications in a National Emergency.
This information will also be a good guide for Branches to measure their level of readiness among members and areas of training required.

We would strongly encourage all AREC members to participate.
We would also like to invite all non-AREC members to participate and enjoy learning and training with this mode.

Winlink can be operated without a radio i.e., through the internet using telnet. But we would encourage those that do have the ability to send messages via radio, that this mode is used to test your equipment and show your capabilities.

The aim of the net is to;
1. Practice for an Emergency Event
2. Test your skills and equipment.
3. Keep your software current and operation skills up to date.
4. Provide valuable information to AREC about how ready we all are for a communication blackout event.

For those amateurs radio operators who are not already using Winlink, there is reference information with training videos and documents on the last page of this document.

How to Participate

The Winlink Check-in Net is open between the hours of **7:00 PM Saturday** and **7:00 PM Sunday.**
Any submission between these hours will be counted.
You are welcome to practice any time should you wish, but only check-In's between this time will be counted.

Task 1 Submit a Position Report.

As per the example below
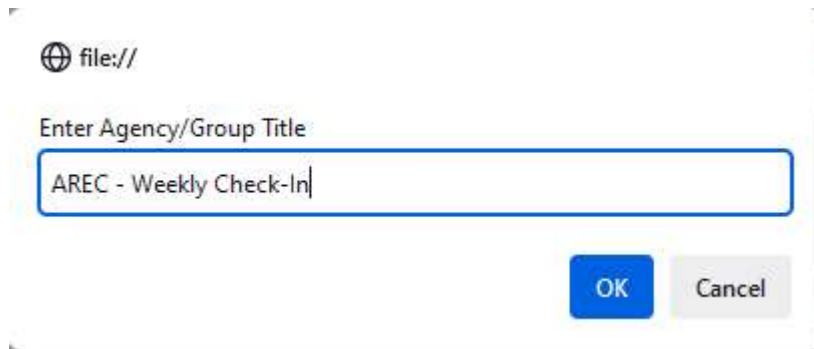
Task 2 Complete and Submit a Winlink Check-in Form to the Tactical Winlink Address AREC-CHECKIN

The Winlink Check-In Form Template is located in Winlink express in the template section after you open a new message as shown below.
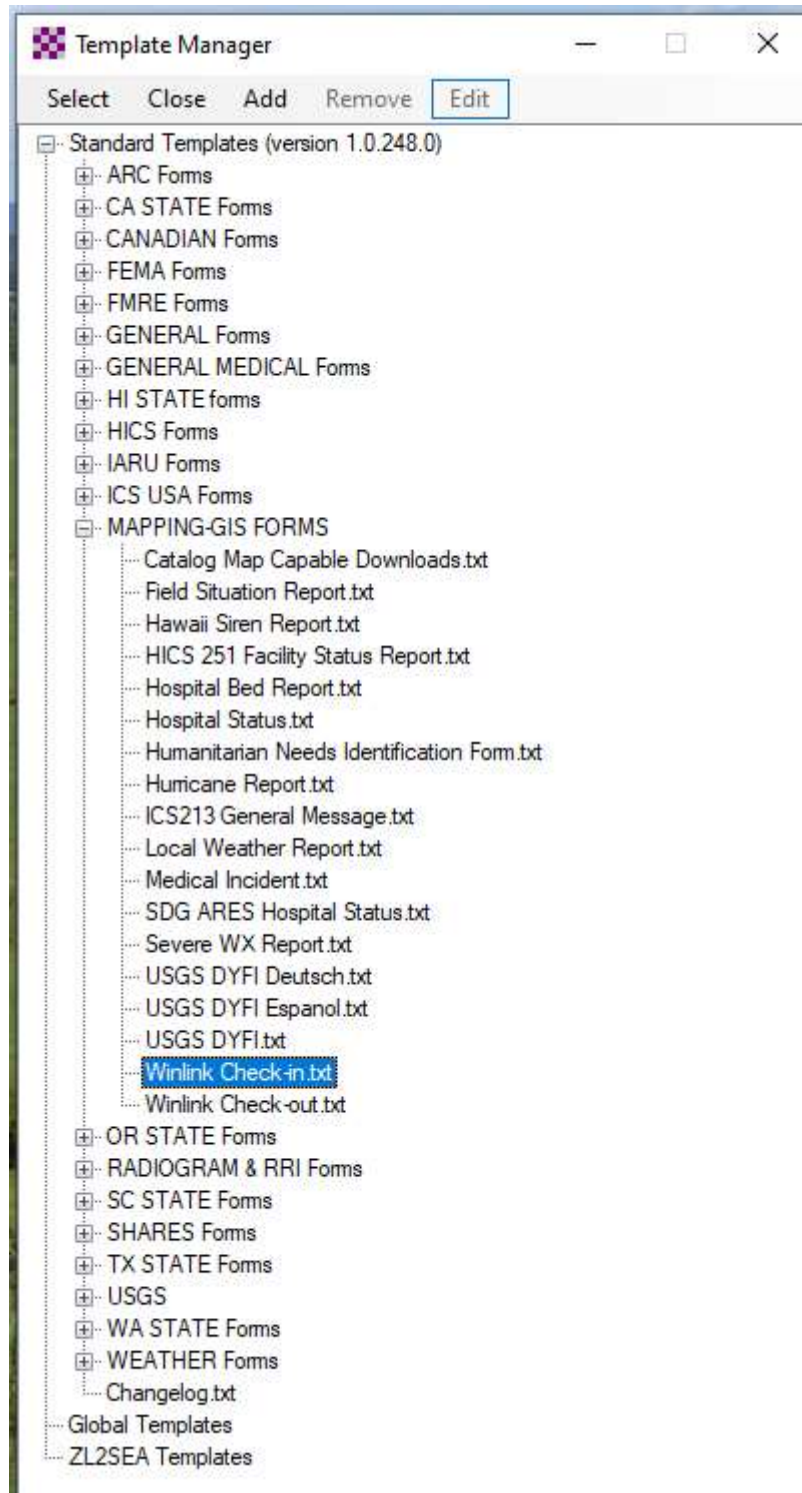
Press the Setup Button top left side and enter "AREC Weekly Check-In".
Example Below, press ok to return to form.

Contextual help for each field is shown if you select the "Form Info" link at the top right.

Complete the Form as shown in the example below,
1. Station - Information Box

Note the message needs to be sent to the Tactical Address "AREC-CHECKIN" enter this in the To: Field no quotation marks example.

2 Session - Information Box
Complete as per sample but using your own data as appropriate.

2 Location – Information Box
Complete as per sample but using your own data as appropriate.
Note add your branch number after your town or city, if you do not belong to a NZART Branch just enter Home

3 Comment – Information Box

Enter your name, Call sign, answer to the 10 questions below, and your score.

Refer to the 10 questions below and answer Y or N

	Emergency Communications Readiness Rating	
No.	Question	Y/N
1	Do you have radio equipment ready and available for Winlink HF communications in an emergency for home QTH and portable use?	
2	Do you have radio equipment ready and available for Winlink VHF/UHF communications in an emergency at home QTH and portable use?	
3	Do you have backup power supply to operate in a power blackout at home QTH and portable use?	
4	Do you have backup power supply to operate in a power blackout at home QTH or remotely for 24 hour operation?	
5	Are you competent in being able to send Winlink, emails, forms, photos in an emergency via HF/VHF/UHF?	
6	Are you competent in being able to send Winlink Point to Point and "Radio Only" messages ?	
7	Are you competent in being able to setup a Winlink radio station unaided at a remote site and being able to configure VARA software for maximum speed?	
8	Have you a current Winlink email address "Contact" listing and have you sent a message to your family and friends that you wish to contact in an emergency advising of this address?	
9	Have you participated in an AREC Emergency Communication Exercise simulating a power and communication black-out event in the last 6 months?	
10	Have you a current Winlink email address "Contact" listing of your AREC group and Area mangers/ leaders that you need to contact in an emergency and have you included them in your weekly checkin Excersise?	
	Total Score (Y=1, N=0)	

Example

Nigel, ZL2SEA, Q1=Y, Q2=N, Q3=Y, Q4=Y, Q5=Y, Q6=Y, Q7=N, Q8=Y, Q9=Y, Q10=N, Total=8

- Submit the Form.
- All the data should be transferred to your Winlink Express Message
- Add your AREC Area Manager and Group Leader to the Cc. Tab example Below

Enter a new message

Post to Outbox Select Template Attachments Spell Check Save in Drafts Close

From: ZL2SEA Send as: Winlink Message ☑ Request message receipt Set Defaults

To: AREC-CHECKIN;

Cc: ZL1BNQ;ZL2RI;

Subject: Winlink Check-in EXERCISE - ZL2SEA - Kaeo, Branch 78

Attach: RMS_Express_Form_Winlink_Check_In_Viewer.xml;FormData.txt;

```
Winlink Check-in
0. HEADER
  0a: Organization:    AREC - Weekly Check-In
  0b: Subject          Winlink Check-in EXERCISE - ZL2SEA - Kaeo, Branch 78

1. STATION
  1a. Date/Time:       2024-04-01 07:42:40
  1b. To:   AREC-CHECKIN;
  1c. From: ZL2SEA
  1d. Station Contact Name:       Net Paticipant
  1e. Initial Operators: ZL2SEA

2. SESSION
  2a. Type: EXERCISE
  2b. Service:         AMATEUR
  2c. Band: VHF
  2d. Session:         VARA HF

3. LOCATION
  3a. Location:        Kaeo, Branch 78
  3b. Latitude:        -36.418500
  3c. Longitude:       174.723000
  3d. MGRS:            60HTE9585367223
  3e. Grid Square:     RF73in
------------------------------------------------------
4a COMMENTS:

Nigel, ZL2SEA, Q1=Y, Q2=Y, Q3=Y, Q4=Y, Q5=Y, Q6=Y, Q7=Y, Q8=Y, Q9=Y, Q10=Y, Total=10


------------------------------------------------------

Winlink Check-in 5.0.10
Map file name: Winlink Check-in V5

[No changes or editing of this message are allowed]
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- Post to Outbox and send as selected.

All messages will be acknowledged. A list of participants and a position map will be returned to all.

We trust you find this exercise useful and we will be adding a different exercise for training once a month.

Please encourage as many of your ham friends as possible to participate and provide help to those that need it.

Example Completed Form

Winlink Check-in
AREC - Weekly Check-In

Setup Click to add your agency/group name to title   Load Check-in Data   Form Info

1. STATION

a. Date/Time: 2024-04-01 06:35:26

b. To: AREC-CHECKIN;   *Clear ALL "Send To" Entries.*

c. From: ZL2SEA   **d. Station Contact Name:** Net Paticipant   **e. Initial Operator(s):** ZL2SEA

2. SESSION

a. Type: ● EXERCISE ○ REAL EVENT   **b. Service:** ● AMATEUR ○ SHARES   **c. Band:** ● NA ○ Telnet ○ HF ○ VHF ○ UHF ○ SHF

d. Session: ○ Telnet ○ Packet ○ Pactor ○ Robust Packet ○ Ardop ○ VARA HF ● VARA FM ○ Iridium Go ○ Mesh

3. LOCATION

a. Location: Kaeo, Branch 78

b. LATITUDE: -36.437500   **c. LONGITUDE:** 174.708333   **d. MGRS:** 60HTE9458865083   **e. GRID SQUARE:** RF73in

LAT/LON and MGRS default to the center of the grid square listed in Express Settings, unless a GPS is used or Lat/LON or MGRS must be entered manually.
Without properly formatted GPS coordinates this form cannot be mapped in Winlink Express.

4. COMMENTS: *Max Characters 500*

Nigel, ZL2SEA, Q1=Y, Q2=Y, Q3=Y, Q4=Y, Q5=Y, Q6=Y, Q7=N, Q8=Y, Q9=Y, Q10=N, Total=8

Submit   Save Check-in Data   Reset Form   Ver 5.0.10

Winlink for Emergency Communication Reference Information.

Reference Sites

- Winlink Website https://winlink.org/

Software

- Winlink Express https://downloads.winlink.org/User%20Programs/
- VARA modem Software https://downloads.winlink.org/VARA%20Products/
  - VARA HF
  - VARA FM
- Packet – Sound Modem http://uz7.ho.ua/packetradio.htm

Training Videos

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-7mirT-kjfs84FQzLr-qv066Kl94rtYM

Wave Talkers
Winlink Basics
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcBrg-5drc84N1GU9zhWwCF9HisFc8L_a

Winlink Portable
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcBrg-5drc85PthVa48UCS6FSDipvHcqo

Winlink – Gateway
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcBrg-5drc85OKGcsVvhVIzyTP9gugZIf

Winlink Master Class
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6-R6KDZjbxU&list=PLcBrg-5drc86usyVmDlL8jFHc8MYep_nv
Index
https://wavetalkers.com/resources/index.php

VARA FM for Emcomm – Must watch.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAn8eg3Lk3A

RATPAC

https://www.ratpac.us/home
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJSh_yk04TNCUrjkbg82tUxeHjOyKVfIj

Training – Live Hands On

Winlink Wednesday - weekly

http://winlinkwednesday.net/

Winlink Thursday – Monthly (Emcomm Training)

https://emcomm-training.org/