



RAY~Link

Issue Seven - July 1992

STOP PRESS

**New RAYNET
mailing address**

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Zonal Co-ordinator elections

Zonal Co-ordinators (ZCs) play a key part in the updated structure for the organisation. Raynet now needs to find volunteers willing to do this job to get the new structure off the ground. It would be unfair on everyone for any existing Zonal Representatives to automatically take on this new role. The responsibilities are somewhat different so the membership deserves an opportunity to elect their choice of ZC. Therefore, Raynet is calling elections for ZCs in all zones.

To avoid all the new ZCs becoming due for re-election simultaneously, in three years time, it is sensible to build in a stagger. Candidates are therefore being asked to pre-declare their period of office as either two or three years. We expect that there will be sufficient variation to avoid the problem.

The Zonal Co-ordinator's job

The ZC wears two hats. This person is both the chairman of the Zonal organisation and is a full member of the National Raynet Committee. Hence the ZC is expected to hold periodic Zone meetings and co-ordinate the Raynet activities within the zone. This will involve working closely with the Group and County/Region/Island Controllers in the Zone.

Nationally they are responsible with their fellow ZCs for the running of the organisation by determining its policy. Legally they will be both a director of the Company and a trustee of the charity. This aspect of their work will involve them with liaison by correspondence and telephone as well as occasional travel to national meetings.

The provisional budget has made the barest of provisions to meet some of the expense incurred in this work. However, candidates must expect to meet a good part of the expense from their own pocket.

Any of the present NRC members would be happy to discuss any aspect of the above with prospective candidates.

New Zones:

The new zones mentioned in Ray-Link 4 will apply. These are:

- Zone 1: Cleveland, County Durham, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear.
- Zone 2: Humberside, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire.
- Zone 3: Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire.
- Zone 4: Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk.
- Zone 5: All Greater London Boroughs.
- Zone 6: Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, East Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Oxfordshire, Surrey, West Sussex.
- Zone 7: Avon, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Guernsey & Dependencies, Jersey, Somerset, Wiltshire.
- Zone 8.1: Clwyd, Gwynedd.
- Zone 8.2: Dyfed, Gwent, Mid Glamorgan, Powys, South Glamorgan, West Glamorgan.
- Zone 9: Hereford & Worcester, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands.
- Zone 10: Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Isle of Man, Lancashire, Merseyside.
- Zone 11: County Antrim, County Armagh, County Down, County Fermanagh, County Londonderry, County Tyrone.
- Zone 12N: Central, Fife, Grampian, Highland, Orkney, Shetland, Tayside, Western Isles.
- Zone 12S: Borders, Dumfries & Galloway, Lothian, Strathclyde.

Timetable:

Mid August 1992	This call for nominations
30 September 1992	Latest date for receipt of nominations by Secretary
Early October 1992	Nominations and notice of election published
Mid November 1992	Zones to have completed elections

Nomination procedure:

Candidates shall be currently registered to a group within the relevant zone. Nominations shall be supported by at least five or one third of the current group or county/region/island controllers of the zone, whichever is the smaller number.

Obviously, those few groups and county/region/islands which have given written notice of not being part of this organisation will not be eligible to nominate or vote.

Nominations must be made in writing to the Secretary: Trevor Emery, G3KWU, 75 Haig Road, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh, Hampshire SO5 6JF to arrive no later than 31 August 1992.

The nomination shall comprise:

- a) A declaration signed by the candidate stating his/her willingness to serve, if elected; that he/she is not prevented by law, or other reason, from becoming a company director or charity trustee and the period, being either two or three years, for which he/she is willing to serve.
- b) A declaration of support for the named candidate from each nominee containing their name, callsign (or RS/RAY number) and signature. This may be on one or more sheets of paper.

Election procedure:

Clearly, if there is only one candidate nominated then that person will be declared elected unopposed.

Where there is more than one candidate an election will be called in *RAY~Link*. The election itself will be conducted at a zone meeting at which all the group and county/region/island controllers of that zone shall be entitled to vote. Group Controllers should consult their members as to their wishes before voting.

Chairman's Chat

July 1st has been and gone. Raynet is now under its own steam and the world has not yet come to an end! So what next?

In order to form the charity, we first need to form the Company (as explained in *RAY~Link 4*). The necessary steps to accomplish this are under way. This edition contains the election notice for the new Zonal Co-ordinators and we await the professional advice from the National Council for Voluntary Organisations on the proposed

"constitution". We expect to be able to bring all this together in the Autumn.

Meanwhile, the present ZRs, and committee are continuing their work for Raynet. The ZRs and the NRC met together at Coventry on June 20th to work out the arrangements for the next few months, including the elections.

One of our first actions after July 1 was to apply for affiliation to the RSGB. This is the normal club affiliation as we have not yet received any proposals for special affiliation, as suggested by GI3USS, at Umist, last November.

There are a few persistent questions from members which I should answer here:

Despite any rumours to the contrary, talk-through continues to be administered by Ian Jackson, G8RWH. As usual, he asks that you remember to include an SAE with every application.

All the insurance remains in force. We have recently reviewed it and the situation is as follows:

Public Liability: We have taken out our own policy to gain the benefit of £5 million cover. (The RSGB cover is limited to £1 million)

Motor Contingency: Unchanged unlimited cover but now in our own name.

Employer's liability: Unchanged unlimited cover but now in our own name.

Personal Accident: This cover is provided by the RSGB.

NRC are presently considering the possibility of providing some basic cover for loaned equipment used on Raynet activities. One of the possibilities for funding this would be by foregoing the limited benefits available under a Personal Accident policy. Once we have all the facts, we will set out all the options in a future *RAY~Link* so that you can decide which you prefer.

We haven't been sitting on our laurels either! Recently, a Raynet delegation enjoyed a useful meeting at the Home Office with Eric Soden and his colleagues from the Emergency Planning Division. (See the latest issue of *Civil Protection* for a profile.) Eric is the head of the division responsible for liaising between national government and all local authorities - ie your CEPO.

Also of note is our attendance at the Emergency Planning Conference at the Portsmouth Guildhall - see story.

Donations- At the time of writing this, Raynet is receiving a steady stream of donations from all around the country, for which very many thanks. Without these donations, Raynet could not survive.

Now that Raynet is independent of the RSGB, our next objective is to see Raynet grow and develop. No organisation can stand still, we must either go forwards or backwards. We have no intention of doing the latter.

Any volunteer has only a certain amount of effort to give. In the past, probably too much effort was dissipated in unproductive ways. The new management structure is geared to getting the best out of our volunteers through teamwork and co-operation. This won't happen overnight but we are

now on the right road.

The advantage of team work is in the mutual support for everyone. The national teams (registrations, supplies, international, training, publicity etc) are there to support you. Groups support each other in operations and training. By working together we make a single Raynet "team" that is greater than the mere sum of its parts. Unfortunately, there seem to be a few groups who are choosing to go their own way and not be part of the "team". Is this really fair on the others?

Obviously many members and groups will have questions about the future plans. NRC members will be happy to come along and talk to your meeting if you would like us to.

Manuals

Our training team would like to pool the best ideas from around the country. One of the ways that they are doing this is to collect manuals from Groups. If your Group has a manual, or better still, a training manual or other training material, that it feels might be of benefit to others then please send a copy to Russ Needs, G4NUG, 13 Greenway, Great Horwood, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK17 OQR. Thank you in advance.

Conference Report

by Bob Bloodworth G4VWP

I was very pleased to be able to represent RAYNET at this years annual conference of "The Emergency Planning Association."

RAYNET was allocated an exhibition slot within the main conference hall adjacent to the stage, this position gave us good exposure to the 350+ delegates.

The NRC professional display stand measuring 12 feet long by 6 feet high gave us the opportunity to lift our general profile. A large poster sized map showed RAYNET as a NATIONAL organisation split into operational zones and sub-divided by counties or Scottish regions. Photographs displayed various aspects of our capability which we could offer in response to emergency situations. With the emphasis on flexibility, we displayed photographs of temporary control stations, masts and caravans used in conjunction with user services. Operators using hand-portable and mobile equipment completed the picture, showing the ability to mobilise resources.

Delegates were given time to visit all displays. For some this was their first chance to meet RAYNET. I hope that many new contacts will develop from the inquires received. It was also nice to meet and discuss present and future activity with our regular users.

The conference was split into several sections dealing with many aspects related to the response required from different agencies following a major civil emergency.

•Mr. Barisich, head of the Civil Protection Unit - European Commission (Brussels), spoke on the

need for Governments to work together to improve co-operation and planning throughout Europe in the field of civil emergencies. One topic used as an illustration was Forest Fires covering large areas and crossing boundaries.

•Mr. Wardall, representing the Home Secretary's office, spoke of need for essential co-ordination of all responding services. Risk assessment and utilisation of resources should be an on-going task performed by all involved.

•The North Wales Floods 2 years ago involving the co-ordinated response from many organisations which include all full-time emergency services, Military Aid, County and District authorities along with Voluntary bodies. RAYNET'S response was presented as a major factor in the overall success of the councils relief activity.

•Case study following a Fire Disaster on board a Scandinavian Ferry.

•"Dealing with Disasters" - Home Office Guidance given by Mr. David Brook (Civil Emergencies Advisor) and Mr. Eric Soden (Emergency Planning Division).

- Risk Assessment
- Litigation following Disasters.

The 350+ delegates represented many areas of Emergency Planning, these included:

- County Emergency Planning Units and District Authorities.
- Police, Fire and Ambulance
- Water & National Rivers Authority
- other interested parties.

Outside in the Guild Hall Square a display of mobile equipment was assembled representing the various services that could respond to emergency situations.

These included:

- Hampshire Police - Mobile Control Unit.
- Hampshire Fire Brigade - Ambulance and Control
- St. John Ambulance Brigade Unit
- British Red Cross
- RNLI - Inflatable Life Boat
- WRVS - Mobile Display

It was a useful format at which to raise the image of RAYNET as a National co-ordinated Voluntary Body, who can offer a flexible communications service in times of emergency.

Our thanks go to the Emergency Planning Association for inviting us.

To the Editor:

Dear Sir,

As temporary custodian of the Network funds, I have to report that since 30th June this year, I have received donations from 18 Groups and 4 private individuals totalling just over £300. All have been individually thanked for their generosity and all have been sent an official receipt, but I thought it would be nice to be able to thank them publicly through your columns.

The donations have come from Groups and individuals all over the country with the result that it would be absolutely unfair to try and give any idea of what areas are represented. Suffice it to say that the postman has not struck me off his list of delivery so presumably he will be quite happy to deliver more donations that groups and individuals would like to send. I promise that all such donations will receive a receipt within a few days of my receiving them and that they will be banked equally quickly.

Finally and so that there is absolutely no dubiety all donors should be reminded that I use the time honoured method of keeping financial records - they are all written by hand in a suitable ledger book. Although I do have computing capability available I do not use it for keeping such vital records.

May I say a big THANK YOU to all our donors and remind all the other groups that every donation received will considerably help towards the future of the Network.

Yours sincerely

Trevor Emery G3KWU
7th August 1992

Ed: I can't help thinking that what Trevor is *really* saying is: "Come on you other Groups - its about time we had your donation." Remember that just a single issue of RAY~Link costs at least £50 in postage alone so £300 doesn't, unfortunately, go very far.

Registrations

One or two people have been writing and calling asking for clarification about the registration procedure.

Just to make it perfectly clear - please follow the usual procedure but remember to enclose a cheque for the amount of the subscription. To save a lot of hassle for everyone, there is a nice simple form on the back of RAY~Link 6 which guides controllers through the sums.

The subscription is £3.60 per year per member. New members are charged at a pro-rata rate (30p per month) up to the next group renewal date.

Please send cheques *only* with the registration forms and photographs. To save our registrations team a lot of unnecessary work we have suggested that they return the entire batch - unprocessed - if anything is missing or unclear. Please help them to help you by ensuring that all the relevant information on the forms is complete and that you identify and enclose the photographs together with a *suitable* SAE for return. A tiny envelope with an

18p stamp on it is unlikely to be suitable for a big batch of renewals!

Talk-through

We are also getting some enquiries about talk-through. Despite any silly rumours on packet or elsewhere applications for talk-through permits from Raynet groups should be made in the usual way to Ian Jackson, G8RWH. From Monday, August 17th, Ian will have changed address. His new address is:

I. Jackson Esq
Raynet Talk-through manager
5 Vivien Close
Chessington
Surrey
KT9 2DE

Once again, Ian asks that applications for permits are made by post in plenty of time. Please enclose a business size SAE with your application. Once again, Ian has some simple forms which will help you with your application. If you don't have a copy then drop Ian an SAE.

G4NRC/GB7NRC

G4NRC is the club call used by the National Raynet Committee. It is used by the committee every Sunday morning on the 80m net. The net is primarily intended as a vehicle for news gathering and exchange between controllers but any Raynet member is welcome to join in.

The net operates on 3.663MHz from just before 08:30 until about 09:15. News and diary items are transmitted to those taking part at 08:30 and 09:00 prompt. The G4NRC net is ably organised by Eric G4FSN and his team of early Sunday risers.

3.663MHz is also activated whenever anything major happens - snowstorms, major incidents etc, so it may well be worth listening at such times too. GB7NRC is the callsign of the Raynet packet bulletin board. As reported on G4NRC recently, the BBS has been temporarily taken off the air. Some local mis-use prompted the decision which has given us an opportunity to do some housekeeping on the machinery. It should be back on air again soon - hopefully without any further problems.

You can gain access to the diary and other files of information from anywhere - not just local to the BBS (which is in the E. Midlands). You can do this by the REQFIL mechanism (ask your local sysop if uncertain about the procedure) or by dropping a note to the sysop at GB7NRC.

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RAY-Link is published for the benefit of all members of RAYNET. It is posted to all Controllers, Zonal Representatives and National Committee members who are requested to assist in ensuring a wide circulation amongst the membership of RAYNET.

News for inclusion in RAY-Link should be sent to Ron Cowan, GM4SRL, 516 Clarkston Road, Netherlee, Glasgow, G44 3RT, or faxed to 041-633 5353. Please include an evening and, if possible, a daytime telephone number.

Any general correspondence should be sent to the Secretary: Trevor Emery. G3KWU, 75 Haig Road, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO5 6JF.