



*RAY~Link is published for the benefit of all members of the Network. It is posted to all controllers who are requested to assist in ensuring a wide circulation amongst the membership.*

## *In This Issue:*

- **The National Training Scheme** - Russ Needs tells us what it is all about, and when it's coming.
- **Emergency Management Course** - Liam Harvey, GM4VYQ explains why he would be back for another Easingwold Integrated Emergency Management course.
- **Chairman's Jottings** - a round up of all the things that have been happening nationally by Geoff, G3STG.
- **Three Peaks Fell Race** - Mike Davison, G1SBN, reports on an old Yorkshire tradition - a marathon run over mountains in freezing spring weather!
- **Suffolk RAYNET Moves Into Banking** - Mike Watson, G8CPH, describes how a talk to a billion of bank managers has resulted in a strong room.

## *In Brief*

**LOGO COMPETITION.** Thanks for all the entries to the new RAYNET logo competition. At the end of the day there were over sixty entries and, as the standard of all the entries was very high, it will be a hard job to select the winner.

**INSURANCE.** Amateur Radio Insurance services have recently confirmed that *'Volunteers who are not members of the company are covered for legal liability risks within the terms of your public liability insurance whilst working with company groups.'*

**PO BOX.** Now that the Network has established its registered office, all correspondence should now be sent there rather than to the previous PO Box.

## *Editorial*

*RAY-Link* is slowly changing to being your newsletter, with more articles from Group members. I hope that the balance of Committee information and Group News is about right. One thing is certain, however, if you don't tell us about what you are doing, it won't appear. As well as group news, technical topics will be welcome on these pages, so if you have a pet topic, or have done something clever recently, please let *RAY~Link* know. Articles on disk are especially welcome, (it means the spelling mistakes are all yours!) and should be sent to me at 85 Eastwoodmains Road, Clarkston, Glasgow, G76 7HG. Articles sent via packet should be sent to GM4SRL @ GB7SRL. The closing date for the July edition (due to be posted during the week beginning 5th. July is Wednesday 16th. June.

The National Committee is currently producing a video about the work of RAYNET, and I would be glad to hear from any group which is providing communications at a large event, and would welcome a small video crew recording their activity. ♦

*All correspondence for the Network should be sent to its registered office:*

30 A Mill St, Bedford, MK40 3HL

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## National

### The National Training Scheme.

Russ Needs, G4NUG,  
National Training Team Leader

## Easingwold

### Emergency Management Course.

Liam Harvey, GM4VYQ

**Y**ou are probably all keen and anxious for information on the progress of the RAYNET National Training Scheme. Space does not permit us to give you the full story, but to bring you up-to-date, here's the best of it.

The Training Team was formed in January 1992 and since then has been working hard on producing a training scheme, which has, as its main aim, the standardisation of all training nationally.

We've developed a scheme which is role and skills based. That may be an unfamiliar concept to you, so let me explain. A role is a function you fulfil as a group member. This could be as a radio operator, a member of an engineering team, the group secretary or group controller etc. A skill is the ability to do something, such as read a map, drive a car etc. Skills, when pieced together, enable you to fulfil a role.

The RAYNET training Scheme is not the RAYNET manual. The two are totally different, in that the Training Scheme documents will tell you how to train, whereas the RAYNET Manual will contain the core RAYNET documentations such as copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, insurance details and default constitution etc.

The Scheme will work through the appointment of local training coordinators, so for example, your group will have a training coordinator who will act as a focal point for your individual and group training. He will act as a facilitator - in other words, he does not necessarily have to have the knowledge and expertise for every subject, but he is able to call upon someone who has i.e. he can't but he knows a man who can!

The Scheme is modular. We have identified and sectionalised under various headings the skills required to make up the various roles. You as an individual can therefore decide which role you can best fulfil, and select the skills required to do it. The skills are rated at different levels so, for example, if you consider map reading, then one of the requirements at the basic level is to be able to read and give an accurate six-figure grid reference, whereas at the advanced level, a member is required to navigate cross-country at night.

We still have a considerable amount of work to do and before the Scheme can be launched nationally, it must be submitted to the Board for approval. One of the pre-requisites is to satisfy ourselves that what we have produced suits the members' needs and is workable. To this end, we are running a pilot scheme based on groups in the Thames Valley. Feedback from the guinea pigs will be incorporated into the final product.

We expect the pilot scheme to run for 3 - 4 months and there is certain to be refinement as a result.

So be patient; be content in the knowledge that something is happening, but please try to understand that it will take a little time. We are as keen and anxious as you are to launch the scheme nationally, but we must get it right first! ♦

**W**rite a report on Easingwold the packet message read, and keep it *short*. The request from Ronnie GM4SRL was on first observations a reasonable one. That is until I started to jot down the notes and then it dawned on me. I could easily fill this edition of *RAY~Link* by myself, however here is the abridged version!

The course took place the second week in March at the Emergency Planning College in Easingwold and four members from RAYNET were invited to attend. These were Geoff G3STG, Dave G4FSS, Ronnie GM4SRL and myself Liam GM4VYQ. Other voluntary organisations represented included BRCS, WRVS, BASICS, St. John and St. Andrews Ambulance Services, VASEC, SSAFA, Salvation Army and the Samaritans. Many of the delegates present had taken an active part in disaster relief at such incidents as the Bradford Fire, Lockerbie and the Towyn Floods. The experience gained in these situations has proved useful when taking part in exercises and responses to other incidents.

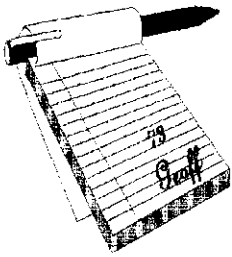
The aim of the course was to give members of voluntary organisations an understanding of Integrated Emergency Management and took the form of presentations from members of the voluntary organisations present, including a RAYNET presentation by Ronnie, GM4SRL, as well as the statutory services i.e. Police Fire and Ambulance. These were very thought provoking and at times gave a stab at your emotions. There were also two desktop exercises where the delegates were organised into syndicates and were given a narrative of a disaster scenario to study. The syndicates were then presented with a list of requirements and each organisation had to present their solutions to the particular problem set to that syndicate. These were then presented to the assembled delegates in open forum. The discussions resulting from these exercises both within the syndicates and in open forum provided valuable information on the workings of the various organisations.

This course has grown from what was once a Red Cross and St. Johns Ambulance course and now encompasses the work of many other voluntary groups ranging from BASICS and The Samaritans to our own RAYNET. It was the first of what is hoped will become a bi-annual occurrence.

The getting together of so many different organisations under one roof with all their thoughts channelled in one direction unearths a multitude of ideas and perspectives that could otherwise be missed and if you are ever offered a chance to attend this course in the future I would encourage you to do so.

To quote from an Arnold Swartzenager movie, 'If I am ever given the chance - *I'LL BE BACK* ♦

**RAY~Link**  
*Your Network's Newsletter*



# Chairman's Jottings

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**W**e are going through a time of change within RAYNET, and sometimes it is difficult to keep up with where we have got to!

When last I wrote to you, we were very uncertain about our relationships with the RSGB, and now that uncertainty has been largely resolved. I am as disappointed as you that we couldn't have reached a sensible compromise with the Council, but take it on trust, we certainly have tried very hard. However, now it is time to put these negotiations behind us and to concentrate on positive things.

First of all, our communications links with you are being strengthened. Thanks to all who responded to my post-script insertion into *RAY-Link* last time. It seemed to be welcomed by most.

May we encourage you to send all correspondence to the Company Office in Bedford. This should mean that the mail can be cleared daily, and that we can eventually save some money by closing down the PO Box. I realise that you have only just got used to sending everything to the old address, and apologies for the confusion, but I hope that it will help us to give you better service.

Eric Walton G4FSN who organises the duty operators for the Sunday Morning Nets has recommended some changes to the frequencies of operation, and details of these will be given on air shortly. The suggestion is that 40m should be used as an alternative frequency when conditions require this. The intention is to improve the coverage and readability of the transmission throughout the UK, and we hope that this will help keep up to date on what's going on. The Net (presently on 3.663MHz at 0830 local on Sundays) is still the best way of getting the latest items of information, and details of activities of your organisation.

For those of you who have packet access amongst your Group Members, I can report that GB7NRC, the RAYNET Bulletin Board is back on air, and the database of information available there is to be strengthened and diversified. Please let your ZC know what you would like to see. Next, preparations are advancing for our first Annual General Meeting where every RAYNET member will have an opportunity to influence the planning, operation, financing and progress of our National Organisation.

Our Registrations service is undergoing something of an overhaul, with the software being updated to ensure that we can deal properly with two year Registrations for Groups who wish to do that. These have been causing some delays recently, and I would apologise if you are one of the Groups caught in that trap. The Committee have decided however to allow the three month period of grace for re-registration to

lapse. In addition, the Registrations Team are taking the opportunity to clean up some of the features which are not now needed, and to improve the 'operator-friendliness' for the work. New links have been established with the suppliers of our transparent pockets, and new supplies laid in.

Membership Sales continue to provide an excellent service to Members, and we are looking at extending the range of products available, and at improving attendance at Rallies and Shows to continue to fly the flag.

Our Publicity Team are looking for good events to record on video, and if you have photogenic events, or newsworthy items which will help present RAYNET to the public, to our User Services, and to our fellow amateurs, then do please let Ronnie know, (041-620 1000). For the time being, we will continue to use the existing display photographs, but good photographic material is always needed.

The Training Team have been indulging in a frenzy of activity over the last two months which culminated in a pilot launch of the new training package to an invited group of trainers at Beaconsfield on 18th April. The scheme is intended to provide training officers at Group, County or Region level with the tools to enable to assess training needs, and to set up training programmes.

I recognise that not all Groups wish to undertake a formal training programme, but it is becoming increasingly necessary for a professional service to our Users and the public. The progress of the pilot launch will be closely monitored, and further information given soon.

The very important area of the Emergency Planning Team will be the next one to turn attention to, and I hope that by the next issue of *RAY-Link*, I will be able to report progress on that front too.

Four Raynet Members attended a recent meeting at the Home Office Emergency Planning College at Easingwold, and whilst there, some very effective contacts were cemented with other National Voluntary Organisations. A report appears in this edition of *RAY-Link*. So as you can see there is much changing in RAYNET.

However the most important thing which doesn't change is your willingness to work for the Community whether it be for disaster relief, or for social and community events. Whether it be for large events which involve thousands of member-hours, or whether for a local fun run involving three or four members.

I raise my hat to you!

**Geoff, G3STG**

## Event:

# Three Peaks Fell Race, 25 April 1993. Mike Davison, G1SBN, Leeds RAYNET

**W**as it really 5:15am when my clock radio woke me up that Sunday morning? Did I really fill that flask with hot steaming oxtail soup carefully heated in the microwave? Was I really only 100 feet below the summit of Whernside hill when Barry, G6GUU, announced to the world that the race was underway? Could I think of a logical reason why my right glove was more sodden with water than my left when both my feet were equally wet?

It was no dream, Leeds RAYNET was once again out in force covering the safety aspects of the famous fell race and I was again posted to the summit of Whernside, the highest, just(!) of the three peaks in question. The others are Pen-y-Ghent and Ingleborough.

For those not familiar with the event, the start and finish are in the village of Horton-in-Ribblesdale and the course takes the runners firstly to Pen-y-Ghent then Whernside and finally Ingleborough. It's a distance just under that of a marathon. There are checkpoints at each summit and additionally at Ribbleshead (in the sight of the famous railway viaduct on the Settle to Carlisle line) and Chapel-le-Dale. Leeds RAYNET has covered this event since at least 1985 and these days it heralds the start of our 'season'.

I had been watching the BBC TV weather maps very closely during the previous week and was hoping that that elusive 'H' symbol would settle over the Pennines but it was not to be! It could even have been worse, those funny electric flash symbols began to appear on the chart.

We met up with our marshall teams at Race Control in Horton at 7:45am and the summit parties went their separate ways.

Suffice to say - it was wet - it was cold - it was windy - but thankfully no thunder and lightning.

From a safety point of view, all went very smoothly. We lost no-one this year, or should I say, no-one lost themselves as has happened in previous years. Last year a competitor was banned from competing for two years for failing to comply with the safety rules and wasting the mountain rescue team's time.

We don't set our control vehicle (known affectionately as "*The Tardis*" but lacking that vehicle's property of being bigger inside than out) in Horton village as communication between Chapel-le-Dale and there is difficult with Ingleborough in the way, but put it at Ribbleshead where there is no problem with any of the checkpoints or Horton village. We normally use 144.800MHz and if anyone has 70cms, 433.775 MHz. This usually means we hear other areas' events particularly the summit stations but the distance and capture effect of FM mean that this is of no consequence to any of the parties. At this stage I must add that I tried to contact the Penrith station I heard (G6WAM was the callsign heard - I don't send QSL's!) but I got no reply so I turned up

the squelch on my old 290 to get rid of him and everyone is happy. Who else were the mad fools out that day?

Here's the list:- Pen-y-Ghent summit G7LUS and G0TGH; Horton Race control G6GUU and G8XIG; Tardis staffed by G1UDB, G6CLL and G1YNH; Ribbleshead checkpoint G4FKS and G8TGY; Whernside summit G1SBN; Chapel-le-Dale checkpoint G0MYM; Ingleborough summit G0SCV; Sulber Nick G4LXV. I almost forgot G6TKC from Wakefield RAYNET who helps us very frequently and went to an intermediate prewarning point before Ribbleshead.

After the event we congregated in the car park at Horton and *all* agreed it had been the worst one we had covered for weather conditions - and you should have seen the field where the competitors cars had been parked! Anyone know a cheap supply of grass seed or shall we put potatoes straight into the furrows left by the tyres?

I know I said 'never again!' to most people around afterwards but I bet I'll be back next year, as will the above members of the group. After all, it couldn't be any worse than this year regarding the weather - or could it? ♦

## Report:

**Suffolk RAYNET moves into Bonking.  
Mike Watson, 68CPH - Suffolk CC**

**F**or over fifteen years RAYNET in Suffolk has had problems in finding premises for workshops and storage. We have had the use of the Suffolk County Main Emergency Centre courtesy of our CEPO in the basement of Ipswich Police Divisional HQ as an operational base but lack of space prohibits us from storing much of our equipment.

One of the major clearing banks, with whom we have all our RAYNET accounts, charge free of course, has offered us the use of one of their banks which has recently been closed until the premises are sold. Admittedly this offer followed a talk I gave to 'A Billion of Bank Managers' - the new collective noun for a group of bank managers. The premises are on four floors, with a strong room in the basement, main banking hall and several offices on the ground floor and many other rooms on the first and second floors. Some of our RAYNET members have ideas how the surplus space could be used, but we won't go into that here!

We are currently storing over one hundred and sixty 6 channel UHF radios, one hundred plus Epson PX4+ laptop computers, battery chargers, 12V petrol generator sets, Creed 444 teleprinters, terminal units, etc. and we hope to acquire in the near future over four hundred VHF synthesised FM radios which will take up a lot of the available space. ♦

**Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network Ltd**

# MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Please write *clearly* and in CAPITAL LETTERS.

Details on this form will be circulated to other controllers only where there is a need for this information to ensure the efficiency of the Network's response for an emergency.

*To be completed by the controller or the membership officer of the group that you are joining.*

Group name: ..... Group reference number: ...../...../.....

✓ box if form is for:

- New member.  Renewal of existing membership.  
 Lapsed member rejoining.  Other: .....

Call-sign / RS / RAY number: ..... Old call-sign (etc) if changed: .....

Title (Mr etc): ..... Initials: ..... Surname: ..... Preferred (ie first) name: .....  
*(for local group information only)*

Home address: ..... Company name: .....

..... Company address: .....

.....

..... Post code: ..... Post code: .....

*Please give full STD (ie all figure) telephone numbers.*

*Ex-directory ✓*

*Ex-directory ✓*

Home tel: .....  Carphone: .....

Work tel: ..... Ext: .....  Pager tel no: .....

Fax: .....  " unit no: .....

**DECLARATION:**

*I agree to be a member of the Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network Ltd., to participate actively in its work and to observe its rules. Should the company be wound up, I promise to pay the sum of £5 towards its debts if asked to do so. I understand that the Network's insurance policy only covers current members while engaged on the Network's business.*

**Young persons:**

Persons between 14 and 18 need the consent of their parent / guardian. Those under 14 cannot be members.

Age (if under 18): .....

Signature: ..... Date: ..... Signature of parent / guardian: .....

**You must enclose with this application a passport sized photograph with your name / call-sign clearly printed on the back. When completed, please return this form to your group controller or membership officer who will then forward it together with a cover sheet to Registrations.**

**Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network Ltd.**

# REGISTRATIONS COVER SHEET

Please write *clearly* and in CAPITAL LETTERS.

**From:**

Group name: ..... Group reference number: ..... / ..... / .....

**Change of Details:** (if required)

**Membership Officer:**

The (new) membership officer for my group who is to receive all future correspondence from RAYNET Registrations is:

Name: ..... Call: .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

.....

**Renewal Period:**

In future all cards are to be renewed for:

1 years  2 years

**Group Controller's Approval:**

Signed: ..... Date: .....

Name: ..... Call: .....

**Renewals:** (ie. forms from members with current ID cards)

Does your group use 1 or 2 year renewals? (a) .....

How many renewals are you enclosing? (b) .....

I enclose £3.60 per member per year of membership (ie. a x b x £3.60) £ .....

**New / Lapsed Group Members:** (ie. forms from those without a valid ID card)

*These cards will be validated to expire at the same time as your other group members'. If your group has one year renewals, then cards for new members will be valid for between 6 and 18 months; for two year renewals, between 6 and 30 months.*

When is your group's next expiry date? .....

How many complete months are there from now until then? (c) .....

How many forms from new/lapsed members are you enclosing? (d) .....

I enclose 30p per member, per month of membership (ie. c x d x 30p) £ .....

**Total Enclosed:** £ .....

*Please make cheques payable to "Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network Ltd." and crossed "A/C payee".*

**Please send to:**

**Radio Amateurs' Emergency  
Network Ltd.  
30a Mill Street  
BEDFORD MK40 3HL**

**Enclosures:**

- Your registration forms
- A photograph with each form
- A stamped addressed envelope
- Your cheque