



RAY~Link

Issue Eleven
August 1993

The Regular Newsletter of the Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network Ltd.

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:

- **Liverpool's Caravan** - Les Hancox expounds on Liverpool RAYNET's pride and joy.
- **The Ride Down Memory Lane** - Birmingham and Hereford & Worcester RAYNET help the British Heart Foundation in a 40 mile cycle trip.
- **Chairman's Jottings** - a round up of all the things that have been happening nationally by Geoff, G3STG.
- **National RAYNET Training** - Russ, G4NUG gives us an update on the Scheme.
- **Mildenhall** - The last of the spectacular Air Fêtes and it was not without its moments
- **Pagers From Kent** - Chris Ashby lets us in on a source of pagers for 2m.
- **Islands Peaks Race** - A major Scottish event - makes the 3 Peaks Race look like a Sunday afternoon out!

In Brief

FREQUENCIES AND BANDPLAN. Paul, G4MWO has been looking at RAYNET use of the 70cm. band and, together with Eric, G4FSN, has been looking at our use of the HF bands. If you have any thoughts on the matter, or would like more information, please contact Paul or Eric for the details.

RECORDS. If you are moving, or your group is changing office bearers, please let us know by writing to Bedford. There are always some changes taking place, and unless you tell us, you are likely to drop off the current mailing list.

PETERBOROUGH DISTRICT HOSPITAL INCIDENT. Congratulations are due to the teams of operators who helped provide communications during several telephone breakdowns at Peterborough District Hospital. A full report appeared in the Emergency Column of the August edition of *Radio Communication*, and so I will not repeat it here. Well done to all concerned!

Editorial

The next edition of RAY~Link is due for publication at the beginning of October, just before the AGM. Please let me have any items for it, to 85 Eastwoodmains Road, Clarkston, Glasgow, G76 7HG, by 1st. September. Disks with Wordstar, or ASCII would be most welcome, or packet to GM4SRL @ GB7SRL.

73 Ronnie, GM4SRL

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Emergency Network Ltd.,

Equipment:

Liverpool's Caravan.
Les Hancox, GOLBG

Report:

The Ride Down Memory Lane

Les Hancox, GOLBG, deputy controller of the Liverpool RAYNET Group has written to tell us of their group's caravan.

The group is small, having only 12 members, but those are, according to Les, dedicated. They recently managed to acquire an old Sprite Muskateer caravan. After many weeks of very hard work, they are now the proud owners of an excellent Radio Control Caravan equipped with a 2m and 70 cms. equipment, a thirty foot mast and petrol generator. The caravan has been used as a mobile control centre on several occasions including the Mersey Marathon and the arrival of the Tall Ships, code named operation 'Columbus.'

Les says they know that the Logo will have to be changed very soon, but says it will be no problem to the Group.

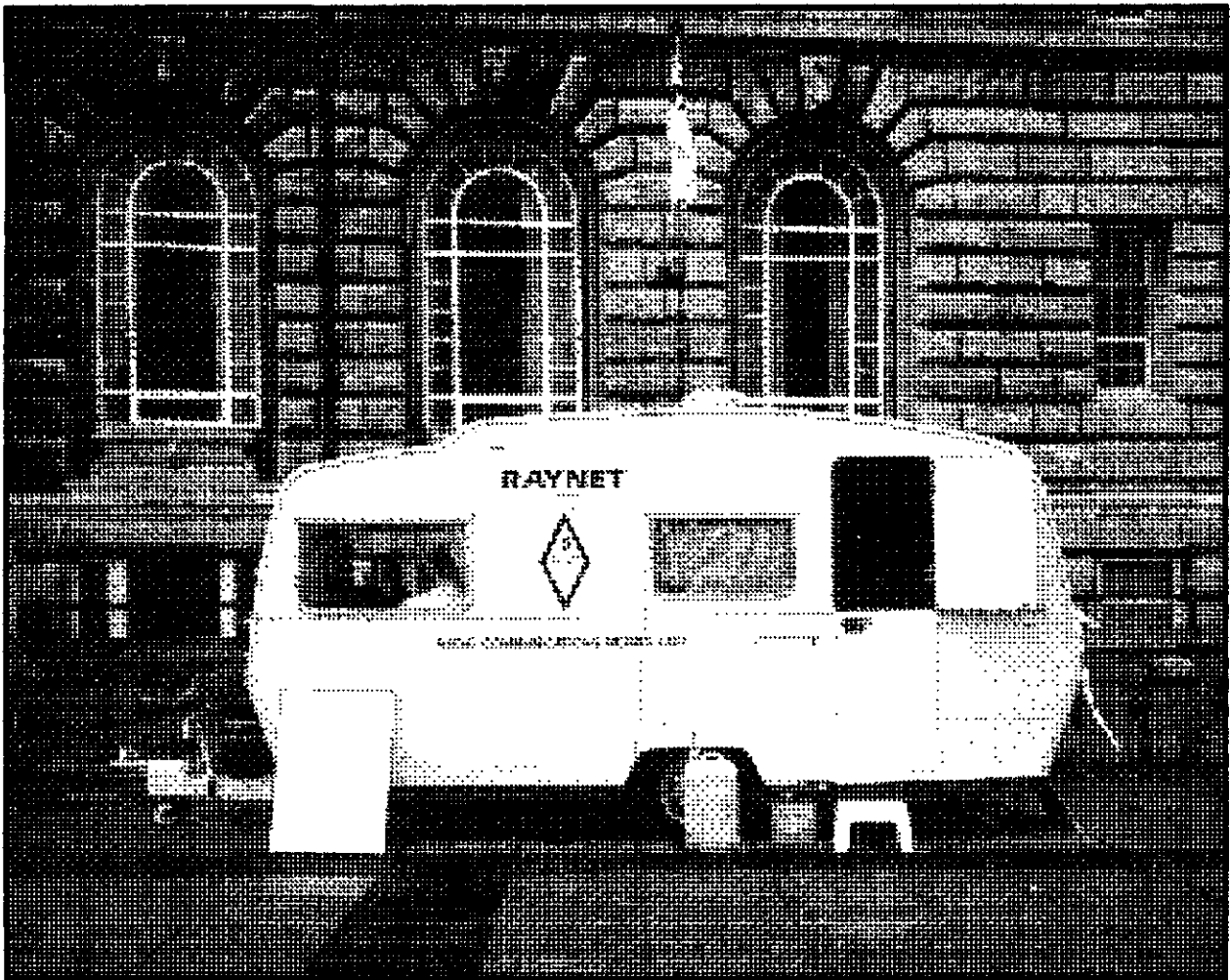
◆Has your Group acquired some equipment that you can tell us about? If so, please write and let RA Y~Link know and we will include an item in a future issue. If you got it all done free, and don't want to reveal your sources, we understand, and will respect your wishes! ◆

On Sunday 6th. June, 350 cyclists set out from Centenary Square, Birmingham, on the first 'Ride Down Memory Lane' in aid of the British Heart Foundation. The 40 mile ride took participants along the Rea Valley Cycle Route out into the peaceful lanes and villages of Hereford and Worcester and back to Centenary Square via the Lickey Hills and Woodgate Valley Country Parks.

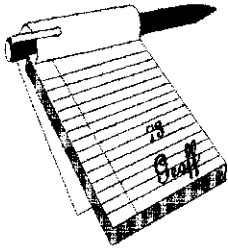
Participants were full of praise not only for the attractive and varied nature of the ride, but for the help and support they received from the marshals and RAYNET personnel, drawn from the Birmingham and Hereford & Worcester groups, who were positioned along the route.

Elaine Campbell, BHF Regional Director said, 'We have to thank RAYNET for the very positive contribution they have made to this ride which by its very nature is far from easy to organise. We hope they will be back to help us again next year, as, to be honest, we could not run the event without them!'

Don't worry Elaine, RAYNET enjoyed it too! ◆



Liverpool RAYNET's newly fitted out Sprite Muskateer Caravan.



Chairman's Jottings

POLITICS

Have you noticed that there has suddenly been a great surge of packet messages about RAYNET, and about the Network? If you don't suffer the packet mode, then you have mercifully been spared a great deal of vitriolic comment from a few who presume to be the guardians of your hobby, and to have a unique insight into how Radio Amateur Volunteers should behave. Needless to say, most of these messages come from amateurs who are not members of RAYNET, and have probably never been members, nor volunteered for community service.

I wonder whether the approach of the RSGB Council elections might have anything at all to do with this?

I do hope that those of you who are members of the Society will indeed vote in these elections, and that you will ask all the Candidates what their attitude to RAYNET might be, including of course their views on the relationship between the Network and the Society. I am sure that the answers will prove very interesting.

MEETINGS AND QUESTIONS

I had the opportunity to meet Controllers from Zone Ten at Lancaster University in late June, and despite the fact that they really put me through the mill for a couple of hours, I found it very interesting and enjoyable.

It's quite obvious that there are still many areas where members may be puzzled about what on earth is going on with RAYNET, and I wish that I could have an opportunity to meet *every* member and try to answer all the questions that really concern you. Of course, there will be an opportunity to meet at our Annual General Meeting, but I doubt that there will be enough time to meet all the members who come individually.

So in the meantime let me try to answer just a few of the more common questions that arise.

The present Committee of Management are as disappointed as many RAYNET members that it doesn't seem to be possible to reach a good working relationship with the RSGB. This is not for the want of trying on our part. You will remember that the National Conference at UMIST sought a special affiliation arrangement through the President, but the Society have not been able to arrange this.

We have sought to negotiate the continuing use of the diamond logo, but despite being offered very favourable terms, the Society are determined not to allow this.

We received over sixty entries for a competition to design a new logo for RAYNET, and a clear winner has emerged. The practical arrangements for registration of the new logo are going ahead, and full details will be published as soon as the design is protected.

RAYNET Members affiliated to the Network now have far greater control over the running of the organisation than was ever possible under the old RSGB Raynet Committee. They elect all the members of the Committee through their Group Controllers, and the Company is fully accountable to its membership at its Annual General Meeting.

All registered members will be receiving a direct invitation to take part in our first Annual General Meeting to be held at Salford University on October 30th.

The University is on the outskirts of Manchester, and extremely well placed for links by road, rail and air. The Meeting will be your first opportunity ever to take part in a RAYNET AGM, so please put the date in your Diary.

As far as finance is concerned, the Committee have taken very seriously the mandate given at UMIST that they should concentrate on the funding of core activities only. As a result, the money you have paid to the Network in registration fees has been put to the costs of Registration, Communication and setting up the AGM only. Central administration costs have been kept right down to an absolute minimum.

There are lots of things that the Committee want to get on with which require funding, but they recognise that to do so, they need your mandate.

The latest update on insurance is confirmation about revisions relating to RAYNET members not affiliated to the Network who work with us at events or emergencies.

The Committee are always anxious to encourage cooperation and understanding between individual Network and non-Network members, and have negotiated with our Insurers additional cover to recognise that.

All Communications Volunteers who are not members of our Network but who work with Network Raynet Groups at properly organised events or emergencies *are* covered for legal liability risks by the Network's Public Liability Insurance Policy. And this includes the recent extension of The Network's cover from £2m to £5m!

And as far as relationships with our User Services are concerned, I have already written a personal letter addressed to every County and Regional Emergency Planning Officer in the British Isles, explaining our willingness to continue to serve, and putting straight the record following certain other misleading information from elsewhere.

If you have yet more questions, or worries, then please send them to me at Bedford, and I will try to answer them in a future issue of *RAY-Link*.

Oh, and by the way, I don't think that packet Bulletins are the right medium to use for debating these matters, so don't expect to see me joining the fray around the BBS's.

Geoff, G3SFG

Report:**Flooding in Wales**

RAYNET members in North Wales were active during the flooding and storms which struck the Llandudno and Conway areas in North Wales during the period beginning on 10th June. The storm was described as a one in five hundred year event, and resulted in a five and a half inch rainfall in two and a half hours!

The resulting chaos was described as far exceeding the difficulties at Towyn last year, and members carried out their work in the calm and well organised way which the professional User Services have come to expect.

Congratulations to members from West, North and Central Gwynedd and from West Clwyd Groups, all affiliated to the Society, and to all others who assisted. ♦

Offer:

**Pagers from Kent.
Chris Ashby, G4AYT, CC Kent**

Chris Ashby, G4AYT, controller of the Kent County RAYNET Group has written to say that they have a surplus of ex-Fire Brigade pager systems which they are willing to sell to Radio Amateur Emergency Network Ltd. groups.

Kits, which currently operate on 147.8 MHz. (so should be able to convert to 2 metres,) include a transmitter, an encoder, a large battery pack/charger unit and six pagers and would cost £25.00

Some additional pager units may also be available.

Buyers will be required to collect, and further details are available from Chris at 5 Lambs Walk, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 4PJ. ♦

National:**National RAYNET Training
Russ Needs, G4NUG**

The pilot scheme has now been launched. It has been shown to members of the groups taking part and there has been a positive response. Following their feedback, the Team is currently working on clarification and fine tuning of the Scheme.

There is now a need to recruit other interested people to, primarily, review the documentation and offer ideas and suggestions, prior to a national launch. The only qualifications needed are that they are willing to take an active part in the hard work, and that they are able to motivate.

Anyone who feels that they would like to contribute to the work of the Training Team should contact Russ Needs, G4NUG, through the Registered Office, giving a brief outline of any relevant experience. ♦

Report:**Islands Peaks Race**

Members of Argyll North, Argyll South, Ayrshire, East Renfrewshire and Tayside RAYNET Groups combined during the weekend 21st./24th. May to provide safety cover for this annual event. The race takes the form of teams having to sail from Oban to Mull, go ashore and race to the top of Ben More and back, sail to Jura, and race to the tops of the three Paps and back, sail round the Mull of Kintyre to Arran, race to the top of Goat Fell and back to the boat at Lamlash, and then sail to Troon. The event usually takes three days and nights, and RAYNET has to be active for the whole time.

Under the guidance of Strathclyde's Regional Controller, Tyge Olsen, GM0EQW, RAYNET provided operators at sea level and on the peaks themselves, together with a VHF/UHF link back to the Race headquarters at Troon Marina. All went well this year, with no serious casualties, although one team got lost in the mist and climbed the same Pap on Jura twice! ♦

Report:**Mildenhall.
John Slater, G6EU0**

74 members of RAYNET converged on Mildenhall Air Base on the weekend of May 29th and 30th for what may be the last of the USAF Airfête events in the UK. During the two very busy days working for St John, Red Cross, the statutory Ambulance Service, and both civil and military police forces, some 567 casualties were dealt including, sadly, two sudden deaths and a helicopter casualty evacuation of a young lady. As always, the authorities praised the RAYNET teams efforts highly, and the team this year was formed of members affiliated to both the Network and RSGB operating for the first time under the new insurance arrangements.

John G6EU0 asks particularly that thanks be sent to all who helped. ♦

National:**Report Forms
Trevor Emery, G3KWU**

We have included as a back page to this issue of *RAY~Link* a master copy of the RAYNET report form. We are always interested in knowing what is happening with your group, so please feel free to copy and send in the form. Thanks!

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

RAYNET REPORT

We are always interested in knowing about RAYNET group activity. Only by your reports can national activity be monitored for the benefit of the organisation, as well as the interest of members and User Services.

If your activity was an emergency, or something particularly noteworthy happened on your event, please attach a short report, so that your experiences can be passed on for the benefit of others.

Please send this form to:

Radio Amateurs' Network Ltd.,
30A Mill Street
BEDFORD
MK40 3HL

Thank you for taking the trouble to complete and post this form.

7/93

Event:

Event start date:

Activity: EMG Emergency
DRE User Service disaster relief exercise
NDE User Service non-disaster event
IPE Internal practice exercise

Duration of event: hours

User Service(s):

Approximate number of RAYNET members involved:

Name of group:

Group reference number:

Talk-through - was it used?

Yes ➔ Talk-through station c/s:

Permit number:

No

Date:

Report submitted by: Call-sign:

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