



RAY~Link

Issue Thirteen
January 1994

The Regular Newsletter of The Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network

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 membership circulation.

In This Issue:

- **Not once but twice** - Central Fife RAYNET gets called out on two occasions.
- **Coastalplod**- Richard Trotter gives a comprehensive report on the Met Police's sponsored walk with the blind.
- **Chairman's Jottings** - the latest from Geoff including details on how the AGM went, progress, team changes, the registered office.
- **Policy Statement** - What the Network is all about.
- **Insurance** - Geoff encourages us to learn more about our insurance policies .
- **Registrations** - David Whiteman explains how his questionnaire on the registration database is progressing.
- **Operation Frozen Forest** - SW Hants in a cold callout exercise.
- **Voice Procedure** - Lothian RAYNET make available their new voice procedure manual.
- **Contact List** - A new list of the national team for your 1994 diary.

Emergency:

Two fallouts for Central Fife.

Jim Burke, GM4INP

On Monday 25th. October, Central Fife RAYNET were called out by the Emergency Planning Officer to assist in manning the Communications & Support Unit vehicle and provide a radio link from Fife House to the location of an overturned Tanker at Cullaloe Reservoir on the A987(T) road. A BP Fuel tanker crashed through a roadside wall coming to rest in a field. Punctured tanks spilled diesel fuel into the field and onto the roadway. Group member Michael Greig, GM0MMN, collected the CASU from the roads depot at Thornton and met with Frank Wallace the Senior Emergency Planning Officer at the incident.

Communications were established with the CASU whilst on route to the incident and a good radio link was provided via cross band from the site back to Fife House the Regional Emergency Coordination Centre. At Fife House the questions of how long the incident would run, manpower required and provision of food etc. were addressed. High on the list of priorities was the provision of lighting towers to allow night-time working at the incident site.

All correspondence and membership registrations should be sent to;

'Hunters Moon', Newton-le-Willows,
BEDALE, North Yorks, DL8 1SX

CHAIRMAN:

Geoff Griffiths, G3STG

ZONES

Z1: Alan Wallis, G4YMU
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Z2: Ray Webb, G3EKL
Tel: 0748-832809

Z3: Dave Hocking, G4FSS
Tel: 0533-393803

Z4: Dave Seabrook, G6HPY
Tel: 0638-750571

Z5: Ian Jackson, G8RWH
Tel: 081-397 8017

Z6: Cathy Clark, G1GQJ
Tel: 0344-351461

Z7: *(Caretaker appointment)*

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Tel: 0425-72002

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Z10: Paul Gaskell, G4MWO
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TEAM LEADERS

Emergency Planning:

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Publicity:

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David Whiteman, G1ADW

Sales:

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Talk-through applications:

Ian Jackson, G8RWH,
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Emergency Network.

At the incident scene the leaking fuel was found to be draining quickly into the earth and into a field drain which went to the disused Cullaloe Reservoir. This in turn was connected to another reservoir by the Dour Burn and so steps were taken to prevent any contamination to this water. Cullaloe Reservoir was 'boomed' and drains and waterways dammed. The road from which the tanker crashed was closed for many hours and opened to single line traffic for many days after the incident whilst clean up operations continued.

The area of the incident is a 'Site of Special Scientific Interest' and there were great fears for the wildlife in the area. Clean up operations were quickly established and the need for RAYNET operators quickly diminished from what was expected to be a three day requirement to just a one day requirement.

The radio link was used often and provided the on site Emergency Planning Officer with communication from all areas about the site to the Emergency Centre at Fife House.

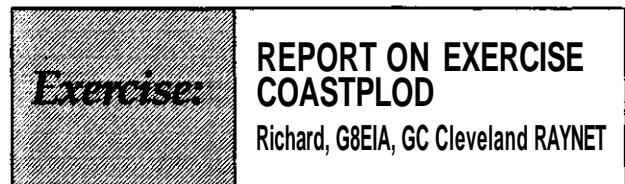
I was amazed at just how many agencies were involved in what seemed to me to be a simple fuel spill. The long list included Fife Regional Council, Dunfermline District Council, Kirkcaldy District Council, BP Tankers, BP Oil Spill Response Team, Forth River Purification Board, Scottish National Heritage, Scottish Wildlife Trust, RSPB, SSPCA, Environmental Health, Water and Drainage, Fire, Police, Ambulance... the list goes on and on. Today, almost a month after the accident, the clean up operation continues and the area will require attention for years to come.

On 18 and 19 November, Central Fife RAYNET were asked to assist during an incident at Cowdenbeath where a gas main was fractured during digging operations. This resulted in an area containing 1800 houses being without gas overnight. The Fife Regions Emergency Planning Communications and Support Unit Vehicle was taken by RAYNET to Cowdenbeath. Cellular phones, fax machine, generator and radio link were set up. A list of houses without gas and a list of vulnerable, elderly or infirm people was sent by fax from the Regional Emergency Control Centre at Fife House Glenrothes to the CASU and passed on to the British Gas personnel. Over 150 electric fires were located and arrangements made for delivery, fitting of mains plugs and testing before distribution to those people in need. Phone and fax lines in the CASU were busy throughout the evening and the next day, this meant although a RAYNET radio link was not needed, RAYNET members were kept very busy with general communications. The gas supply could not be reinstated until all gas appliances in the area had been switched off. This meant a forced entry into some houses where the residents were not at home.

RAYNET provided assistance on Thursday 18th and Friday 19th of November, driving the CASU vehicle to and from the incident on both days. Four RAYNET members were called out, Julie GMOREW, Mike GM0MMN, Graeme GM1NLD and Jim GM4TNP. ●

STOP PRESS

Trafford RAYNET were called out to help with communications between 2 hospitals when their link failed. Full details in the next issue ●



INITIAL CONTACT

I was approached last January by North Yorkshire Police. The Metropolitan Police Company Fraud Squad had decided to raise funds for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association (GDBA) by holding an event in September 1993. It would consist of blind walkers completing the 192 miles of the Coast to Coast walk. Lottery tickets would be sold to raise the money and purchasers would attempt to forecast the total walking time. The blind people would be accompanied on foot by the Met. Police and others. There would be support vehicles present to transport the walkers, the guide dogs and food and drink. The walk would take two weeks starting on 5th September and they required RAYNET assistance to provide safety comms between the walkers and the support vehicles. Could RAYNET help? I replied that in principle, RAYNET could probably help, but because the walk would last two weeks I wasn't sure if there would be enough operators available each day and would have to make enquiries.

The Coast to Coast walk was being attempted in the reverse direction to what is usually done. It would go west across the North York Moors then cross The Pennines and continue through The Lake District to the west coast at St. Bees. I sent packet bulletins asking for assistance from other RAYNET groups hoping that the 8 months notice would allow some people to arrange time off work. The weekends would be no problem, but getting sufficient RAYNET members for the weekdays seemed less likely.

MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

North Yorkshire Police were helping to organise the event as a lot of the walk went through their territory. I eventually organised a chat with North Yorks. Police at which detailed plans were discussed. The main points were:

- 1) At least one RAYNET walker was to be with the walking party all the way and two would be better in case the walkers split into two parties.
- 2) RAYNET operators were needed on the 3 police support vehicles.
- 3) Accommodation was arranged for each night and would mainly be at police or military premises. It was thought that there would be enough spare room for RAYNET personnel but the accommodation was mainly space for sleeping bags.
- 4) It was thought that food and drink for RAYNET personnel would be freely provided.
- 5) The two blind walkers would walk all the way. Some of the police officers would walk all the way. Some would walk for a number of days then go back to London. Others would arrive later and join the walk. Some of the support personnel (which would include kennel maids for the guide dogs) may want to walk for a day or two.

RAYNET PLANNING

The RAYNET planning needed to include the following:

- a) Manning availability, facilities and allocations of tasks including the provision of stand-by walkers each day.
- b) Transport to and from the event.
- c) Sleeping accommodation.
- d) Relay locations to cover the walking party all the way.
- e) Possible extra relay locations to cover the three support vehicles, depending where they went each day.
- f) The RAYNET operator who would be in charge of the event each day.
- g) Rapid dissemination of new information learned, once the event had started.

Although the requested comms were only to link the walkers and the vehicles, it occurred to me that they may eventually ask for comms between Scotland Yard and the event. Packet messages were sent and ideas received about using mobile 80m links back to a RAYNET telephone point. The minor additional nightmare eventually came true. In case The Met needed to contact their officers urgently, Scotland Yard asked for daytime telephone contact numbers and these were provided.

Control of the event passed between groups involved along the route. It started with Cleveland Group then passed to Richmond (North Yorkshire) and Central Lancashire.

RADIO PATHS

Relay points were planned using a computer program and local knowledge. I ran out of local knowledge sixty miles from the start! The program is extremely useful in that it shows which locations will work and which paths may be marginal.

CHANGES

Due to communications problems, there were some changes before the event. The spare accommodation wasn't present in practice and there was no free food for RAYNET. This changed the manning list a little and it was sparse on some days. Some people turned up who weren't expected and some didn't turn up when they were expected.

BULLETINS

All groups involved were sent many packet radio messages before the event to keep them informed and confused. When possible, on each day of the event, progress and pointers were passed by packet to the other groups. Once my own involvement had ceased after the first few days, I much appreciated these updates from others.

THE START

The walkers, most of the support party and one RAYNET walker had arrived at the GDBA Training Centre in Middlesbrough the night before.

RAYNET used a car park near Whitby as an RV point and main relay for the first day, Sunday 5th September 1993. Some stopped at the RV point and others were transported

to the start location at Robin Hoods Bay. This proved to be a car park where payment was required.

When all was ready and it had been checked that the walkers were in contact with the relays, we made our way to a cafe to discuss the rest of the day. It was then that we learned that the support vehicles would be transferring all the sleeping gear and stores to North Yorkshire Police HQ. Most of the route there would be out of contact with the relays. This was where the fallback plans, flexibility and spare troops came in handy. The walkers would update the relays with their location and the support vehicles would RV at the day's finish point once their ETA was known. The walkers broke up into two parties with a small distance between them. They made good time and as the support vehicles were still travelling when the walkers reached their finish point near Goathland, they decided to get a few more miles in hand and carried on to Grosmont, reaching there by 1600 hrs. This is the part of the country where the TV series 'Heartbeat' is filmed.

POLICE CONTROL

Peter, the main organiser, was walking the event. Two others would make decisions as needed. This left no 'power vacuum' problem at any time but did sometimes give the 'committee effect' of three sets of incompatible instructions. Experience proved that if there were differing instructions then the one requiring a visit to a pub would be the correct one to follow!

TIME & MONEY

For those who bought lottery tickets, the total walking time for the 192 mile journey was 84 hours, 18 minutes and 37 seconds. The event raised £30,000 for GDBA.

THE CAST

The event succeeded thanks to the co-operation of the RAYNET groups involved. It was a team effort.

Leeds: Graham G0SCV.

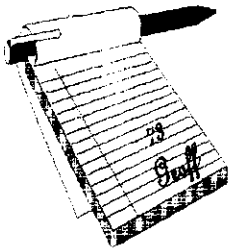
Cleveland: George G0NAQ, Alan G1AAG, Helen, Gordon G4JXR, Joe G4LIA, Colin G4MCF, Sue G6AJF, Rod G7AOR, Tom G7NQT, Chris G7NRO, Richard G8EIA, Denis G8KIK, Pauline G8MBK, Peter G8VFE, John G8YDC.

Richmond: Ken G0AWE, Mike G0GCK, Roger G0PIR, Brian G0RHI, Joan G1FZR, Johnny G3EJF, Ray G3EKL, Jean G3JZP, Brian G4HVA, Nick G7COC, John G7HSN, Tony G7NKJ, Gerald G7ONT.

Central Lancashire: Gayle 2E1AFH, Jim G0OVM, Mike G1ASX, Fred G4RPW, Andy G4UQI, Phil G6ZOL, Phil G8YQK.

South Lakeland: Ray G0BDA.

Editor's Note. It has been necessary to condense Richard's 10 page report owing to the lack of space, remembering that many group controllers duplicate RAY-Link for their members. Those wishing a copy of the full report should contact Richard directly. ●



Chairman's Jottings

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SALFORD

The last time I sat down to write to you, I was just emerging from a frantic session of collecting material from the printers, addressing envelopes, and stuffing the results of one operation into the other. It seemed to be an incredibly busy period which continued to a crescendo at Salford at the end of October.

The hard work seemed to pay off however, and the many members who managed to attend seemed to feel that the day was very worth while. Certainly from your scribe's point of view, the day was quite remarkable.

Too many Annual General Meetings are either absolutely boring, or incredibly ill-tempered and destructive, or both. Not however our first AGM! There was only a minimal amount of formal business, ample opportunities to hear about the work of the volunteer teams who do so much of the day-to-day work for us all, and an extremely useful debate during the afternoon where members present had an excellent opportunity to discuss how the Network should develop, and what changes and improvements they wanted to see coming through.

The local arrangements worked extremely well, and as usual, that was because so many members had worked hard in the background to make the day a success. The talk-in, car park stewarding, registration, vote counting and microphone carrying don't all happen just by chance! So a particular word of thanks to Paul G4MWO, to Peter G0KBA and to their large and enthusiastic team.

We were grateful too for the co-operation from the University authorities who broke quite a few of the rules for us, and provided assistance which would have cost other organisations quite a bit of cash!

But especial thanks to those who supported us by being there, or sending in their proxies. Without your support, the progress made would not have been possible.

RESULTS

So what was achieved? The company has now been able to drop the word limited from its title, is able to go forward towards charitable status, and has put its democratic representation on a firmer footing. All three of the resolutions which you saw were passed either by very large majorities, or by unanimous support.

Many members expressed their disappointment that the relationship of support with the RSGB was not continuing, and the Chairman made it clear that the committee shared that disappointment. The long term aim of all was confirmed to be a return to a united volunteer service in the UK.

Messages which members gave to the management included the need to acknowledge the work done by RAYNET Groups not affiliated to the Company, and that policy change has already been put into effect on packet and on 80 metres.

Members endorsed the statement of company policy which had been drafted by the management team, and asked a number of important questions on the insurance policies maintained by the company for the benefit of members.

Other areas discussed included the changing role of our users services, the new company logo, the roles of novice and non-licensed members, the company registered address and mailing arrangements, the membership subscription level, the recruitment of new and lapsed members, and the generation of messages by RAYNET members in real events.

All these messages and comment are being thoroughly considered by the committee at their meetings, and I am sure that you see progress in all of these areas soon.

PROGRESS

I recently had the pleasure of a two hour discussion with Greg, G0MAM, who has recently been appointed Emergency Communications Officer by the RSGB. We took the opportunity to begin to establish what we both hope will become a good working relationship.

Certainly, all the initial signs are good, and I was able to take the opportunity to fill Greg in with much of the background history of RAYNET, and its working relationship with the Society over the years. I must admit that I don't envy Greg his task, but I am sure that all Groups will do their best to support the Company in its policy of full co-operation between all groups, whatever their affiliation.

REGISTRATIONS

Jim Andrews who has done so much work on the software for the Registration system, and supported the work of Mike and Yvonne Barker has indicated that he will be leaving the team at the year end. His immense contribution is gratefully acknowledged, and we wish him well. Daw Whiteman, G1ADW, who has taken over the task of team leader for registrations is anxious to take soundings of members' and Groups' views of the operation of the system, and he would welcome your views. Dave may be reached at 17 May Close, Chessington, Surrey, KT9 2AP.

New Registration and cover sheets have now been prepared and in addition, a new form which will make it easier to notify Group appointments has also been approved for your use. I hope that you will use the new paperwork, and make sure that previous versions are destroyed.



**CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION
ON CHANGE OF NAME**

No. 2771854

I hereby certify that

RADIO AMATEURS' EMERGENCY NETWORK LIMITED

having by special resolution changed its name,

is now incorporated under the name of

THE RADIO AMATEURS' EMERGENCY NETWORK

Given under my hand at the Companies Registration Office,

Cardiff the 22 NOVEMBER 1993

an authorised officer

FORM 1

MEMBERSHIP SUPPLIES.

By the time you read this edition of *RAY-Link*, membership supplies expect to have available new lapel badges and ties carrying the new logo. In addition, we hope to have copies of the logo and letterheads for your group to use on floppy available this month.

All the other old favourite items continue to be available, and John and Barbara are looking forward to meeting many of you as they visit rallies and shows in the coming year.

TRAINING

The valuable work of this team continues strongly, and they have now produced a much fuller version of the supporting manual. Cathy Clark has agreed to take on board the role of team leader for this work for the time being, isn't remarkable how you always ask a busy person to take on yet more!

PUBLICITY

The Committee saw the first video material produced by the publicity team recently, and are looking forward to seeing more of the same high quality.

The first contribution came from Dorset, and showed RAYNET's part in Exercise DORSEX, an exercise at Hum Airport. Please let Ronnie Cowan, GM4SRL, have as much notice as possible of events which you feel would provide interesting footage of future publicity and training value.

COMPANY SECRETARY, AND THE REGISTERED COMPANY ADDRESS.

The last issue of *RAY-Link* carried an announcement about the retirement of Row Watson as our Company Secretary. You will recall that all mail has for some time been targeted at ROW's Office which has been our registered company office. With his retirement, obviously this arrangement has had to be changed.

I am delighted that the management committee unanimously confirmed the appointment of Brian Tindill G4HVA as our new Company Secretary at their meeting in November.

Brian is a long serving member of RAYNET, and has volunteered for this very important role in the development of the network. I know that members will find him very efficient and courteous, and that the effectiveness of the service to members will be well maintained by his appointment.

General mail for the company should now go to his address which is:

Mr B Tindill G4HVA, 'Hunters Moon', Newton-le-Willows, Bedale, North Yorkshire, DL8 1SX

The committee have approved the appointment of The Barker Partnership as the Company's auditors, and as from January 1st, the Company Registered Office will be located at their offices. The full address is as follows:

The Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network, 4, North End, BEDALE, North Yorkshire, DL8 1AB.

AND FINALLY

I do hope that you and your family and friends will have a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas, free from emergency call-outs, and that 1994 is a good year for all RAYNET members everywhere.

73 and Seasons Greetings

Geoff, G3STG

POLICY STATEMENT

1. OBJECT

The Company is formed to provide national support, representation and organisation to RAYNET in the UK.

2. PRIMARY AIM

To support RAYNET in the provision of supplementary communications for the benefit of the Community in times of need.

3. CENTRAL ACTIVITIES

These comprise:

- Insurance
- Membership Supplies
- Organisation
- Registration
- Representation

4. REGISTRATION

The Company provides a service to its members which supplies a nationally recognised identification document which confirms membership of the organisation, and which is recognised and respected by User Services.

Carrying this identification document confirms a level of skill and responsibility, an acceptance of a code of conduct, a level of competence, and the provision of a comprehensive public liability insurance cover.

The identification includes photographic identification, name, signature, call-sign and details of group allegiance.

5. INSURANCE

The Company shall provide for all its registered members a level of insurance against public liability, and against accident and injury in service adequate for the risks as assessed from time to time by the National Committee and its advisers.

The Company shall continue to consider the needs of its members in relation to their security.

6. MEMBERSHIP SUPPLIES

The Company will make available to members such supplies, publications and goods as will assist them, and their parent Groups in the provision of an effective service to their Users and to the public.

These items will include protective and high visibility clothing, insignia and identification items, publications and any other items which are judged appropriate by the National Committee.

These items may be sold to members. They may also be sold to non-members at an appropriate price differential where such a sale is appropriate, and not detrimental to the proper identification and service levels of the registered members.

7. REPRESENTATION

The Company will ensure proper representation of members' best interests at national level with other voluntary Agencies.

Examples of such organisations will include Red Cross, St. John, St. Andrews, WRVS.

In addition, the Company will provide representation of the members' best interests with other User Service Organisations at a national level, including the Home Office, Civil Defence College, Overseas Development Agency, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Home Office (Police), Home Office (Fire Authority).

The Company will ensure that the interests of RAYNET are represented at national level with the Radio Amateur Licensing Authorities.

The Company will maintain good working relationships with User Service professional organisations such as the CEPO's Association, ACPO, etc.

The Company will promote the reputation of the UK Radio Amateur in Emergency Communications or the community with similar organisations abroad.

8. ORGANISATION

The Company will provide whatever level of central organisation and support its members deem necessary to support the activities of local Groups, and which are required to support the foregoing objectives.

The Company will undertake whatever measures are necessary to protect its members in relation to Data Protection legislation, Health & Safety at Work etc. by providing advice or undertaking registration as may be appropriate.

The Company will pursue whatever measures are necessary to gain and maintain charitable status.

9. COMMUNICATION

The Company will employ democratic processes to consult with its membership, and will ensure that communication with Controllers and individual Company members are maintained.

These communications may include meetings, seminars, training sessions and publications of various types.

10. PR AND PUBLICITY

The Company is always on the look out for good opportunities to promote RAYNET and welcomes advice on events and activities which will provide good visual material. Report of events are always in great demand.

Photography, exhibitions material

The Company seeks to provide a resource of publicity and display materials for use at rallies and shows, and to promote the work of the Network.

By doing this, it seeks to promote the skills and public service commitment of Radio Amateurs to User Services and the public at large, as well as to the Amateur population.

Other organisations.

The Company seeks to work co-operatively with other communications volunteers who are not members without discrimination.

Why is it that Insurance Policies always have to be written in gobbledygook? And why are they always written in a way which takes a legal mind And why do insurance policies always seem to spend so much effort on making sure that you can never claim against them, or when you do, making sure that the Insurance Company doesn't pay out?

Well, it may come as no surprise to members that the policies taken over by your Company from the RSGB RAYNET Committee are no exception to these generalisations.

I have tried to set out, in what follows, a poor man's guide to the policies held for members' benefit, but I am not an Insurance expert, nor have I trained legal mind. I am arranging to get some expert advice on whether the interpretation contained here is accurate enough, but: **DO PLEASE GET HOLD OF A COPY OF THE POLICY DOCUMENTS YOURSELF** by sending a large stamped addressed envelope to the office, and form your own view.

There, that's the health warning over, so let's begin.

The Company holds two main policies which are: Employers' Liability Policy No E/7538011 Cornhill expiring on 2/7/94 and Public Liability Policy No L/7538004 Cornhill expiring on 2/7/94.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY

This policy seems to satisfy the legal requirements on the Company to provide cover for any Company Member whilst going about the provision of Emergency Communications. Members covered include those providing labour only, undergoing training, or providing or managing social or welfare activities.

The cover is intended to provide indemnity for the

Company (i.e. its members) against any legal liability to pay compensation and claimant's costs in respect of injury sustained in connection with the Company's activities.

The policy also refers to cover for certain liabilities related to health and safety at work provisions.

The policy contains the usual exclusions related to radioactive contamination, ionising radiations, toxic waste or nuclear components, nor those risks properly covered by other insurance policies!

PUBLIC LIABILITY

This policy seems to provide protection for the Company and its members against claims for compensation, costs and expenses relating to accidental injury, loss or damage to property or trespass, obstruction resulting in financial loss raised by the general public.

The limit of indemnity is £5,000,000, except when the claim relates to incorrect content of messages passed, when the cover is limited to £2,000,000.

Neither of these Insurance Policies seem to provide cover for Motor Vehicles used by members, and they should make their own arrangements for these in the usual way.

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA.

These policies cover the UK and installations within its territorial waters.

FINALLY

Can I once again emphasise that these notes of information are based only on a layman's interpretation of the policies, and as soon as more informed guidance is available, then this will be made known as widely as possible.

In the meantime, you should ask for a copy of the policy documents before making any important decisions about these matters. ●

The project to redesign RAYNET's Registrations Database is now under way. To those of you who have completed the questionnaire and returned it to me, I thank you most sincerely. The deadline for those who have still to return questionnaires is 31st December 1993. If some of the categories are a bit obscure to you, then please don't worry, just fill in those parts of the questionnaire that are relevant to you.

Your responses are to be collated and will be sent to a number of members of the Company who have volunteered to act as 'evaluators', in the first few days of the New Year. They will assess the desirability of all your suggestions, which will enable me to produce a "Definition of

Requirements' and a 'Functional Specification'. The first document will be a statement of what The Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network wants. The second is a statement of what the new system will do.

Some respondents have suggested using a proprietary piece of software specifically designed for use by Voluntary Groups such as RAYNET. This is a perfectly valid comment, but until it is agreed in detail just what is needed, it is not possible to select a package to do the job. That does not mean that I am not evaluating possible contenders, but it would be very foolhardy to select a solution to a problem when the problem itself has not been properly defined.

Watch this space for news as the project progresses. ●

Exercise:

OPERATION FROZEN FOREST 1993

James, G4ZAS, Member SW Hampshire RAYNET 069/HA/050

This exercise was a major exercise prepared by the Emergency Planning Officer for the New Forest District of Hampshire. The area includes the large number of small villages inside the rectangular area between the Western Solent, the River Test, Winchester, Salisbury, and Bournemouth. Severe weather during the winter is rare, but the scenario was based on actual data, and that unlike in the north of the United Kingdom the local population would not be prepared for any prolonged isolation in their villages.

The exercise was planned as two phases. There had been a hard frost for several days, a rise in temperature brought large falls of snow, the depth of which resulted in blocked roads, fallen trees, power lines down, and telephone failures. The second phase of the exercise was dealing with major flooding in the Avon Valley between Salisbury and Christchurch, local floods in the Forest, and more along the River Test. These would have resulted from the thaw upon the still frozen ground. Some power and telephone lines not yet restored, would effect the role play in the second phase which was controlled by a second team of players.

RAYNET were asked to provide radio input for both phases of the exercise, which was to take place on two consecutive Tuesdays in October from 0800 to 1230 hrs. each day. We were fortunate enough to have ten volunteers available for both days, along with support from Dorset, Salisbury, and Isle of Wight RAYNET Groups.

Two RAYNET members were brought into the confidence of the exercise organiser in advance of Phase One so that some planning and co-ordination would make the exercise meaningful. Two operators were to work from their home QTH and bring in a local parish representative. Two more were to work mobile from isolated villages as if they lived there, making contact with a local parish representative. One member was to act as a relay station because it was anticipated that the mobile stations would not reach Lyndhurst direct, and the group's controller and his deputy were sent to the bunker in Lyndhurst with not the slightest idea what was to happen, until the sealed envelopes were opened.

We had the assistance of five members of the Waterside Radio Club, who were to transmit input into the system as if they were in selected villages. Three further RAYNET members were on stand-by to log the traffic and to assist as required. A County EPO (also RAYNET) was also monitoring the traffic from County Control at Winchester.

This exercise involved all of the public emergency services, local authorities and voluntary organisations. The exercise was directed by a team of 30 personnel in Lyndhurst and the exercise control in the bunker involved a duplicate team of 27, including a communication team of 7.

District Depot staff were amazed to learn that the RAYNET member who arrived on their doorstep some 90 minutes after the start, had been called out from work in order to provide the service they needed. The amazement turned into an appreciation of the service he could offer, and finally he left with their thanks.

At the 'washing up' we found ourselves satisfied with the service we offered, and also with the feeling that we could have done better. All Exercise traffic was handled on 144.775 MHz. and all relay traffic (QSP) was carried on 144.850 MHz. This meant that some mobile stations were prepared to carry two transmitters and two antenna systems. Between the two phases RAYNET members experimented with antennas mounted on fishing rods, borrowed more equipment and invested in extra batteries since mains power supplies were not used by us.

We did get real emergencies, the power input leads to the bunker transmitter were missing and the internal telephone system crashed. When the power supply was cut, it was RAYNET that had the first torch available, and battery power in operation before the emergency generators restored light, power, and air conditioning to the bunker.

Where do we go now? We have to make more use of 70cms, and use it together with talk through experiments from the isolated valleys. We should use CB radios so that we can make better use of local farmers who use it on their farms. The PMR system was widely used and we need to be part of that scene to get a more complete picture. Some of us need to be part of the local parish life. By enlisting local radio amateurs, who live in the villages, but who do not wish to be part of RAYNET under normal conditions, we can widen the catchment area of information available. ●

Operating:

VOICE PROCEDURE

Vic, GM30WU, Lothian Group.

Lothian RAYNET operates a formal voice procedure using service procedure adapted to comply with the licensing requirements. The group has recently updated its comprehensive manual using desk top publishing facilities. The text has been brightened by some amusing cartoons illustrating the sort of practical problems most RAYNET operators have come across in providing comms links at outdoor events.

While not everyone will not necessarily want to follow the procedures in detail, the handbook does cope with virtually every situation a group could be faced with in providing voice comms for both informal and formal (i.e. written) messages. Because the group was set up at the request of the EPO to handle formal messages it had to develop an effective message handling system, hence the manual. The latest version has been comprehensively re-written and builds on the group's considerable experience.

Should your group like a copy, please send an SAE (A4 size) with 67p postage (1 st.) or 52p (2nd) to A. Sinclair, EPO, Lothian Regional Council, Emergency Planning Department, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh. ●

THE RADIO AMATEURS' EMERGENCY NETWORK

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