



*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.*

(This edition has been sent to all Registered Members)

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## RAYNET PRESENTATION

The Committee of Management has been concerned that for some time the focus on RAYNET has become smudged, and it has therefore been decided to introduce The Network to the User Services at strategic level. One of our concerns was to find a venue which would, in itself, be of interest to the people we hope will attend, and we were lucky to receive an offer from BT to host an afternoon at BT Tower in London on Wednesday 26th. March. All the user services have been invited, together with the "amateur" and "emergency" press, and an invite has also been extended to Ian Kyle, this year's President of the RSGB.

Although the accommodation is limited, we have kept back four places for our own membership, and a draw will take place in Bedale to establish who will attend. The draw is open to any Network member who attended at least four events between 1st. January and 31st. December 1996, or who attended at least 75% of group events if less than four events were undertaken by the group during this period.

Send your name, callsign, group, and telephone number on a postcard, or sealed down envelope, listing the four (or 75%) of the exercises attended to The Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network, Hunters Moon, Station Road, Newton-le-Willows, BEDALE, North Yorkshire, DL8 1SX. If you attended more than four, only list four. This should arrive no later than first post on Friday 21st. March. The successful winners will be contacted by telephone. Please enter this draw only if you can attend if successful. The Committee of Management decided at its last meeting that, to keep the cost of the event down, travelling expenses will not be available and all ZC are funding their own travelling arrangements. Winners will similarly be expected to pay their own travelling costs.

### All correspondence and membership registrations should be sent to:-

"Hunter's Moon", Newton-le-Willows, BEDALE, North Yorks, DL8 1SX

**Emergency 24 hour contact line:-**  
(0141) 621 2121

**CHAIRMAN:** Ron Cowan, GM4SRL  
(0141) 620 1000

### ZONES:

- Z1:** Tom Hanratty, G0JRT  
(01207) 505315
- Z2:** Contact Meantime Brian Tindill, (01677) 450387
- Z3:** Dave Hocking, G4FSS  
(0116) 239 3803
- Z4:** Dave Seabrook, G6HPY  
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- Z5:** David Whiteman, G1ADW  
(0956) 299784
- Z6: and Deputy Chairman**  
Cathy Clark, G1GQJ  
(01844) 351461
- Z7:** Chris Hampson, G8RXA  
(01425) 672002
- Z8:** Contact meantime via ZC 10  
(01244) 336639
- Z9:** Madeley Smith, G8KVU  
(01203) 579411
- Z10:** David Hicks, G6IFA  
(01244) 336639
- Z11:** Contact Meantime via ZC 12  
(01290) 421298
- Z12:** Tom Stewart, GM0BXX  
(01290) 421298
- Z18:** Contact meantime via ZC 10  
(01244) 336639
- Z22:** Iain Strachan, GM4FLP  
(01382) 580356

### SPECIALIST TEAMS

#### Emergency Planning:

Dave Seabrook, G6HPY

#### Publicity:

David Hicks, G6IFA

#### Registrations:

David Whiteman, G1ADW

#### Technical:

Madeley Smith, G3KVU

#### Training:

Cathy Clark, G1GQJ

#### Talk through applications:

Ian Jackson, G8RWH,  
5 Vivien Ct, Chessington,  
Surrey, KT9 2DE

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**A look at Amateur Radio Emergency Communications in the U.S.**

(From the North West RAYNET News)

Mention to most U.K. Radio Amateurs "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications" and they usually come up with one name - RAYNET. In the States, however, you get two for the price of one - there's ARES and RACES! ARES - The Amateur Radio Emergency Service operates along much the same lines as the general public service element of RAYNET, involving work with Red Cross, Salvation Army, Police etc. RACES - The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service is set up more along the lines of our CEPO activities. Administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), it operates only for civil preparedness and in times of civil emergencies. Whilst the two organisations exist separately, the ARRL [U.S. equivalent of our RSGB] advocates membership of both. One other general difference is that Amateur Radio Emergency Operations are given a much higher profile, both within the hobby and publicly.

**OPERATIONS.**

The U.S. differs from ourselves here in that a lot of operations seem to be conducted using local (also some not so local) and/or emergency repeaters although there is also simplex activity. Our "Talkthrough" permit would not appear to be needed. Because of the greater distances involved during some emergencies, HF usage is more common than in the U.K. The above communication strategies are not merely confined to events and emergencies, but are also used for emergency groups' regular nets.

**STRUCTURE & ADMINISTRATION.**

One of the main U.K. / U.S differences is that the U.S. permits third party traffic. Whilst in one respect this might permit a wider access for agencies whose remit would obviously be of benefit to emergencies, in another respect, this sometimes can be a disadvantage.

ARES groups, just like us, have to take care how they apportion their resources. Additionally, emergency and general third-party public welfare traffic can be catered for via the National Traffic System (NTS) - see later. Perhaps the second major culture shock is that ARES members are not insured! Moves are in the pipeline to try and get Congress to insure volunteers on emergency and allied duties, but this may be a long process.

The prime player in the organisation, as in the U.K., is the ARES member. Requirements for membership - and you do not have to be an ARRL member - are to voluntarily register your Amateur Licence qualification and equipment for emergency/public - service duty and have a sincere desire to serve.

Membership (approx. 40,000 recorded) is free. It's not clear how non - licensed people would fit in with these criteria, but one presumes they have similar roles to ours in RAYNET. Next along is the Official Emergency Station or OES, able to operate with emergency power and trained in ARES procedures. Over the

ARES members in an area is the Emergency Coordinator or EC [our equivalent : Group Controller] - responsible for ARES activity in his / her area and user liaison. The EC is appointed by the Section Emergency Coordinator or SEC [our equivalent - Zone Coordinator] on the advice of the District Emergency Coordinator or DEC [our equivalent - County Controller]. The SEC reports to the Section Manager or SM [the equivalent of our RSGB Zonal Representative] who is part of the ARRL's Field Organization which sponsors / supports ARES, NTS and RACES. Unusually, there does not appear to be a dedicated Emergency Committee at National level. ARRL supports with supplies, some training aids and a monthly column in QST [the U.S. equivalent of RADCOM], plus a yearly Simulated Emergency Test or SET [what our NFD was originally intended to be!].

BE ALERT! Two interesting facets of operations are the Long-Tone (DTMF). Zero as an emergency alerting tone and the Wilderness Protocol [similar to the Marine Safety Watch] where a listening watch is kept at certain hourly times, usually on simplex, for Amateur traffic from isolated or wilderness areas.

**TRAFFIC AND MESSAGE HANDLING U.S.**

Amateur Radio had its origins in message-passing across a huge continent - hence the American Radio Relay League or ARRL. Over the years this became the public service / emergency National Traffic System or NTS, served by numerous regular nets throughout the States (it even has its own Public Service Honor Roll with points for various aspects of traffic handling). CW, Voice and latterly, Packet / Amtor are used. Both Emergency and Non-Emergency messages can be sent over it using the standard ARRL Radiogram, which apart from detailing routing techniques utilises a very clever system of a standard numbered messages, with spaces for particular information such as names, dates, times, frequencies, addresses, amounts etc. There are two groups of messages; Group One - For possible Relief Emergency use and Group Two - Routine messages.

For example,

Message:-

**ONE:** Everyone safe here. Please don't worry

**NINE:** Additional \_\_\_\_ radio operators needed to assist with emergency at this location.... or perhaps-

**TWENTY-SIX:** Help and care for evacuation of sick and injured from this location needed at once.

- This gives a twofold advantage of cutting down on transmission time plus giving a certain degree of security to the message (yes, it's within the regs.!).

Conclusion. Food for thought, perhaps, with maybe some ideas worth taking on board? For instance, why not capitalise on extensive message - handling experience gained over decades? Admittedly not all U.S. licence privileges pertain in the U.K., but surely we could customize techniques and procedures to our own requirements. - Why re-invent the wheel? [RARE Link 26- March 1997](#)

<b>Air Fete</b> 97	<b>RAF Mildenhall</b>
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**24-25 May**  
**S**ince 1984 FOREST HEATH RAYNET has supported the Emergency Services at the Annual Mildenhall Air Fete with communications assets. The Air Fete is claimed to be the largest Military Air Show in Europe, which on its best year, was attended by over 450,000 people, producing several hundred casualties of every conceivable kind from sunstroke to a pregnant lady starting labour.

With the greater co-operation between the Military Medical Services, the Statutory Ambulance Authorities, and the Voluntary Aid Agencies the requirement for RAYNET communications has expanded annually. For several years RAYNET CONTROL has been fortunate in having its own building in conjunction with First Aid Control from which we operate Four Main Nets.

**FIRST AID NET.**

As in previous years, we need three operators for each of seven first aid posts, the main operator having responsibility to ensure the first aid services have adequate communications for two walkabout teams to be formed by the First Aid Unit and still maintaining a fixed station at the post.

Last year saw the introduction of Paramedic assets at four of the First Aid Posts providing yet another facility for rapid response to any serious casualty. In order to maintain continuity each Paramedic had their own RAYNET operator.

**AMBULANCE NET.**

To provide an effective Ambulance net, linking four organisations, each St. John (FIVE), Red Cross (FIVE) and Military Ambulance (FOUR) worker has a RAYNET operator, with others manning the East Anglian NHS Trust Control Vehicle.

Both Civilian and Military Doctors on site have operators on this net. Links on this Net include the E.T.A.F. (Emergency Tactical Aeromedical Facility) on site with RAF Lakenheath Hospital, West Suffolk Hospital and Addenbrooks Hospital.

**COMMAND NET.**

With Three Police Forces on site, good communications into the Combined Police Control is essential; this net also includes Air Fete Control, USAF Fire Control, Ambulance Control, Fire Chief, OSMIC 1 (On Scene Medical Comander), Red Cross Director, St John District Commissioner and the USAF Base Commander. The Standby Casavac Helicopter Operators are also on this net.

**HOUSEKEEPING NET.**

Used primarily for resolving non emergency management problems.

**LOS KIDS NET**

We provide Links from the Loskids Center, which handles up to 200 lost children a day, to Combined Police Control.

Each day over 70 RAYNET members from a wide area provide the manpower to make this event run smoothly, if you would like to be one of them, contact John Slater G6EUO Group Controller Forest Heath. 01842-860475

<b>433MHz !!</b>	<b>From the Solihull Group Newsletter</b>
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**70cm Interference From Cordless Headphones**

Bill, G8AVX, recently forwarded to me a rather concerning article that appeared in The New Scientist on 11th January 1997, page 19. It concerns cordless headphones that use one of six wideband FM channels operating on 433MHz. Such devices are illegal for use within the UK but not illegal to import. Extracts from the article read...

“In all the major Western European countries except Britain, Norway, Finland and Denmark, music lovers can now buy radio headphones which work across a band of frequencies around 433MHz. These use analogue FM transmissions to give interference free hi-fi quality sound. There is enough room in the allocated band for neighbours to choose between at least six different frequency channels, and so avoid interfering with each other’s listening.”

“Phillips along with German manufacturer Sennheiser and British retailer Dixons, have for two years been lobbying Britain’s Department of Trade and Industry to release the 433MHz frequencies so that all European countries can use the same technology.”

“So travellers can legitimately bring home 433MHz headphones from Continental shops. And some British shops are importing 433MHz headphones.”

Bill’s main concern is that if illegal use of this equipment becomes common place the DTI will cave in as it did with 27MHz CB frequencies meaning that we will lose a wide segment of our 70cm band where much of the current activity is centred. It is unlikely that we (the radio amateur) could stop this happening so Bill suggests that instead we should lobby for compensation if this should come about, as we would lose use of some of our equipment and our own paging system. I think that this should be addressed by those at the head of our organisation.

As if we hadn’t got enough problems with 2m (RAY~Link Ed.)  
**Durham Alert.** **Tom Hanratty, G0JRT, ZC1**

At 18:40 hrs. on Wednesday 19th. February, the North West Durham Group was put on standby by the Durham Emergency Planning Unit owing to flooding which caused the Bishop Auckland area to be put on Amber alert. Nineteen members responded, and were ready for duty if needed. Two hours later the standby was raised to a Red alert, but by 23:15 hrs. the situation was under control, and RAYNET was stood down, with thanks for being available should the group have been needed.

**Ron Continues to Lead.**

At the January Committee of Management meeting it was unanimously decided that Ron Cowan, GM4SRL should continue at Network Chairman for another term of office. This follows favourable comments from the floor at the 1996 AGM in Durham regarding all the work currently being undertaken by the Committee of Management. At the March meeting, Cathy Clark, G1GQJ, was unanimously elected as Deputy Chairman.

**A Weekend  
Break?**

**Martin Rowland  
G4YUA**

Searching through the ads, I found what seemed a really good deal; two nights in well appointed accommodation, full board, nationally renowned cuisine, staff who are "customer care" personified, a cheap bar and FREE entertainment all day - there was even an excursion on the Sunday morning - all for £35.00! What a bargain!

Such is the advertising power of the National Training Team that I signed up, straightaway, for their course "The role of the RAYNET Volunteer in the Operational Management Team", held at the Emergency Planning College. Mind you, it wasn't all beer and snooker. The programme started straight after dinner on the Friday evening with a thought provoking session from Geoff Griffiths, G3STG, on Personnel Management. He reminded us that we were all volunteers (who can easily vote with our feet) and, as with any business, the key asset is the staff, whose welfare and social needs call for proper attention.

The concept of the OMT was also discussed. It is a management strategy that identifies five key roles, or management activities - operations, communications, personnel, information and logistics - that warrant separate consideration, although not necessarily by separate individuals. The strategy is scaleable, according to the complexity of the event. Therein lies the strength of the methodology. It does not impose a bureaucracy or multiplicity of managers, but provides an effective management structure appropriate to the nature of the event. Perhaps more importantly, it allows for the employment of persons with relevant skills, whether they are licensed radio amateurs or not; if your thumb isn't on the PTT you don't actually need a licence, not for some of the roles anyway. Cathy Clark, G1GQJ, David Hicks, G6IQA and Paul Farrar introduced us to a range of skills for displaying and presenting information, briefing (and just as important debriefing), resourcing and planning. We each considered in more detail one of the key roles. I had not met Ron Cowan, GM4SRL, our illustrious Chairman before. I shall never forget his first entrance to present the subject of personal conduct. He managed to display in one fell swoop all the ways not to conduct oneself in public or in front of a User Service. I can only leave it to your imagination. (Perhaps HE had met ME!). I hasten to add it was scripted, and he reappeared as an object lesson in professionalism that we should all aspire to.

But it made the point that we need to act professionally, even though we are a voluntary organisation, and there are still many in the User Services that remain to be convinced that we can. First impressions certainly do count, but I give Ron the benefit of the doubt on this occasion!

The Sunday morning exercise started (but not at 5 a.m.!) with fireworks and thunder-flashes signifying the demise of Aylesbury telephone exchange. Quite what the Magistrates, also at the College, made of it all is anyone's guess. The frenetic traffic generated by the field operator's provided some useful lessons in communications management.

Was it worth it? It certainly was. I for one and I'm sure the others on the course as well, took home a lot of new ideas to consider and try out. In particular, it's obvious that a live incident is likely to be very different from the annual event that's well known and gets planned in good time. However, that same event provides a training

opportunity that could make the real thing just that bit easier to cope with, through trialling different methods and approaches and practising those that work. Equally, there's room in every group for non-licensed persons whose skills can be employed to advantage; it could even boost membership! Finally we all need to conduct ourselves professionally and look after one another.

No course is perfect, but the Training Team did very well with what was a successful course. It's just a shame that all their effort was not rewarded by a greater response. The course could have accommodated double the number that did attend and it would have been better for it. I hope the Training Team are not dissuaded from running it again, as it would benefit many members. You should try it if they do.

<b>The 1988 Data Protection Act</b>	<b>David G1ADW Registrations and IT</b>
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I have been asked to put together a short article about The Data Protection Act, 1988 and its implications for The Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network and individual RAYNET groups. In putting together these notes I have to state that I am not a lawyer and this article must not be relied upon as an authoritative statement of the legal position. Neither The Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network nor I will accept liability for any consequent action in connection with this legislation.

In other words, you should check out your particular circumstances for yourself!

The Data Protection Act has been in existence effectively for eight years, and whether you like it or not, it affects every group that holds information about its members or any other personal information on a computer.

"Clubs are exempt", I can hear somebody saying, and that may indeed be true. The exemption from registration is enshrined in Section 33 of the Data Protection Act. This states that subject to specific conditions, 'personal data held by an unincorporated members' club and relating only to the members of the club; and personal data held by a data user only for the purpose of distributing, or recording the distribution of, articles or information to the data subjects and consisting only of their names, addresses or other particulars necessary for effecting the distribution...'

The above I quoted verbatim, but as far as I can see, a RAYNET group could safely claim exemption from registration in respect of its membership database, but only if that database contains current members. If past or potential members details are held, then that quite clearly falls outside the scope of the exemption and to remain within the law a group would be required to register under the Act

I have mentioned that there are some specific conditions that must be fulfilled if an exemption under Section 33 is legal. Firstly, every data subject must give their consent to personal data being held. Secondly, the data user must take due care of that data and ensure that it is not disclosed to any person other than for the reason it is collected.

It looks as though I have painted a picture of doom and gloom. I suppose to a degree, I have. However, I do urge all Group and County Controllers to determine for themselves whether they should be registered with the Registrar of Data Protection.

Each group has a responsibility to ensure that it is exempt from registration with the Registrar of Data Protection if it holds personal data on a computer.

Both the Act itself and its interpretation are very well covered on the Internet, and I would commend the following URLs: For the Statutory Instrument, i.e. the wording of the Data Protection Act see <http://www.hmsoinfo.gov.uk/hmso/documents/acts/009884035/datapro.htm>. Having downloaded that document, you will probably completely overwhelmed by the gobbledygook. I know I was!

I would therefore comment the Web Pages maintained on behalf of the Registrar of Data Protection. These can be found on <http://www.open.gov.uk/dprhome.htm>.

I should like to take the opportunity to dispose of some old chestnuts. I am occasionally asked why the Network's members registration forms do not contain a consent statement relating to the holding of personal data. The answer is very simple. The Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network is not an unincorporated club. It therefore cannot claim exemption under the Act for this and a number of other reasons. As the Network is registered under the Act, the specific approval of data subjects is not required.

Any person is entitled to know what data is held about them. The Network makes provision for this as required by law. If an individual makes an enquiry in writing to Hunter's Moon together with the search fee of £10, a statement for data held will be provided within 40 days. This fee is deliberately set at the maximum permitted level to discourage frivolous enquiries.

Members who wish to know their personal data held by The Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network should contact their own Zone Coordinator. The latter facility is not a legal requirement, but is in place for the benefit of members.

## Bandplan

The interests of RAYNET continue to be monitored by the Emergency Planning Team on behalf of the Committee of Management. We have already had a good meeting with the RSGB, and will continue to monitor and advise wherever possible. As soon as we have full details of the proposed method of changeover, announcements will be made on the 80m net and in RAY~Link.

## Interim Payment Calculator

This chart shows the amount payable in respect of each opting-in member to cover the period from 1st. June 1997 and the next Membership Expiry

Date.		Date.		Date.	
Expiry Date	Amount	Expiry Date	Amount	Expiry Date	Amount
30 Jun 97	9p	31 Jul 97	18p	31 Aug 97	26p
30 Sep 97	35p	31 Oct 97	43p	30 Nov 97	52p
31 Dec 97	61p	31 Jan 98	70p	28 Feb 98	78p
31 Mar 98	87p	30 Apr 98	95p	31 May 98	£1.04
30 Jun 98	£1.13	31 Jul 98	£1.21	31 Aug 98	£1.30
30 Sep 98	£1.39	31 Oct 98	£1.47	30 Nov 98	£1.56
31 Dec 98	£1.65	31 Jan 99	£1.73	28 Feb 99	£1.82
31 Mar 99	£1.91	30 Apr 99	£2.00		

## Personal Accident Insurance

Further to our notifications regarding personal accident insurance last year, the Network has, through the good offices of Paul Rigg, managed to obtain a good quotation which relies on only five hundred members taking part.

The death benefit is £50,000 for all members and total temporary disablement is £100.00 per week with a seven day excess. and is payable for up to 52 weeks for persons under the age of 75. Hospital benefit for over 75 year old members is £15.00 per day, with a 72 hour excess, and is payable for up to 26 weeks. The policy will be operational only while members are engaged in activities organised by the Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network, and the premium is only £1.00 per member, plus insurance tax. The following describes how you can join the Personal Accident Scheme arranged by the Committee of Management following requests from members.

The Committee of Management has had to resolve the problem that the insurers will have an annual premium renewal date, whereas groups can renew on any month for either a one or two year period. The solution adopted is described below:-

There is just one condition that has to be fulfilled for this scheme to progress. There must be a minimum of 500 participants on the start date of 1st. May 1997. In order that the necessary administrative tasks can be carried out, all applications must be received at Hunter's Moon by 2nd. April 1997. Should 500 properly completed applications with a remittance to cover the period up to the next group renewal not be received, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE SCHEME WILL GO AHEAD.

Once the scheme is established, Groups must add £1.05 (£1.00 + Insurance Tax) on annual registration or £2.10 in the case of two year registrations in respect of each member opting in to the scheme. Registration forms and coversheets will be modified to take account of this. If you are using old paperwork, you must ensure that your intentions are clear and unambiguous.

Because the scheme is starting on 1st. June, the procedure to cover the period from 1st. June 1997 until your group's following renewal date is as follows:-

Find the date of your renewal on the chart below. Read off the amount alongside. This is the amount you have to pay for each member opting into the Personal Accident Scheme. If your group registration expires on 31st. May, please send £1.04 for annual

renewals or £2.08 for two year renewals in respect of each member opting into the scheme. These payments must be received at Hunter's Moon by 2nd. April if they are to be counted in the 500 minimum requirement. Our suggestion is for individual members to write themselves, enclosing their first remittance. Thereafter, group returns will be the normal procedure.

Please note that the premium and the rate of insurance tax (currently at 4% at 1st. June) can, and almost certainly will, alter in time.

You, the members have asked for this service, please co-operate to fulfil the conditions required for a successful launch. Please remember, if we do not have 500 fully completed applications by 2nd. April, we cannot guarantee that the scheme will go ahead.

**PLEASE DEAL WITH THIS NOW!**

Oct 1996

This involved the North Wilts RAYNET Group whose objectives were as follows:-

1. To test Call out from home.
2. To set up and test long distance voice radio links.
3. To set up and test long distance data links (packet) .
4. To work with other RAYNET Groups.
5. To foster good relationships with other agencies.

The Exercise Scenario was for an illegal Rave that would go seriously wrong. The Wiltshire village of Coate, near Devizes, was evacuated as part of a major county exercise for all emergency services on Sunday 13th October. It involved around 200 people holding an illegal rave in the barn of a local farm, when the roof collapsed, blocking the entrance, trapping many of them in the building. Using ladders the fire brigade had to rescue the party goers, many of whom were injured, some seriously. There were also several deaths among the casualties. To make matter worse, two hours later, a raver trying to get away from the site crashed his car into an LPG gas tank and others accidentally drop a cigarette end into some straw setting fire to aggro-chemicals - resulting in a release of ammonium sulphate which leads to the village being evacuated by the police. Casualties were assessed and then despatched to the District Hospitals as necessary. There were 28 simulated deaths, 32 hospitalised, 10 stretcher cases and 10 walking wounded.

Communication links were needed to be established between the incident site to the district hospitals at Swindon, Salisbury and Bath. Communications were also needed at the County Ambulance HQ where (unknown to us) the communications had really failed (the control head had gone down) and the County Ambulance Major Incident Forward Control Unit. Links were also provided between the site and Kennet District Council and County Hall along with local links to the Survivor Centre and Rest Centres. We were tasked to man and assist the District Councils Emergency Support Unit. However, the best laid plans do not always go according to the script. Someone forgot to call it out! And then when we approached the incident site the police road block waved us through and held back the ESU as it had not received police clearance to go on to the site. So right from the start we were split up. If that were not enough this multi-task unit and its little brother had to be totally abandoned on the site due to its proximity to the leaking LPG gas tank, so all comms had to go through our control vehicle. Never-the-less in the true spirit of RAYNET we coped with all the little wobbles they threw into the system!

As if this were not enough an road tanker carrying liquid chlorine crashed in the village of Broad Hinton, just south of Swindon taking out the telephone lines, requiring an additional radio link between the village Post Office and Kennet District Council.

This large scale operation involved around 300 police officers, 75 firefighters and around 60 staff from the ambulance service as well as officers and councillors from the District and County Councils. In the background were members of the Casualties Union and many students from the local Colleges of Further Education and secondary school 6th Form who played the parts of casualties, party goers and Press Media Teams. Also involved, were Devizes

Community Advisors, who, along with others, flooded the police enquiry line trying to find out what had happened to their relatives. There were over 1000 people participating in the exercise which on the day lasted for six hours, but a further two days for some of the players dealing with the paperwork and mortuary procedures. The Red Cross, St John Ambulance Brigade and 3 hospital medical teams also took part.

RAYNET involvement was crucial to the success of this event since the County Controller along with members of S.W.Hants Group provided the all important Safety and Directing Staff Net on behalf of the organisers. For our part we were assisted by members of the Avon Area Group with members of Dorset on stand-by to assist if necessary and members of SWERV (South West Emergency Radio Volunteers). Messages were successfully exchanged between the site and the hospitals by voice and packet and between all the other centres involved. To facilitate this we had to employ manned inband and hilltop crossband talkthrough units plus digipeaters.

There were in total 48 RAYNET operators and ZC Chris Hampson and his son, with local actor George Baker (better known as Inspector Wexford) playing the part of a Government minister visiting the site and giving a mock press interview.

I must commend the police officer who correctly identified us as a comms unit and directed us to the middle of the collection area "and at least 30 metres from the nearest other comms vehicle". However, the final comments must be "find out where the helicopters are likely to land!". They are very noisy when they operate from just behind you!! And we had to suffer two of them landing and taking off from just behind us. And if you want to be ahead of the rest have an operator on the top of a nearby hill who, with the aid of binoculars, can tell you exactly what is going on below him that no one else can see - "cheating" as the Health Authority EPO commented - "using initiative" I replied!

## Helpline

### **For Sale.**

30ft. Tennamast trailer mast, four year's old, surplus to requirements of the Clyde Coast RAYNET Group. It has been well looked after, and the asking price is £1200 or near offer. The new cost today would be £2300. It might be possible to deliver the mast or at least meet somewhere by arrangement.

Contact the group controller, Wm. McLaren, GM4SVW on 01475 635 462.

### **Equipment Wanted.**

The Rev.Graham J. Smith (G4NMD), is looking for surplus Computers for use at a primary School. Should you heard of anybody that has any and would like to donate them to the School, he can be contacted on CompuServe 100712.2642, or through Madeley Smith, ZC9.

### **Information Required.**

Madeley Smith, ZC9 is looking for information on how to return an Epson Portable Computer Model HX-20 to its original state. At the moment it has a self adhesive overlay marked British Telecomm CM6000 and was used as a hotel room phone charging system.