



*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)

## 1997 Annual General Meeting.

Directions to Devizes, Wiltshire.

### *By Rail.*

The nearest stations are at Chippenham, Westbury and Pewsey. There is little public transport, but it may be possible to make arrangements to pick up from the stations. (About 15 miles from Devizes.) Please contact Chris Hampson, ZC7, G8RXA on 01425 672 002 well in advance if you wish to discuss this.

### *By Road*

Distant talk in by G4NWR on 144.625 MHz. .

Leave the M4 Eastbound at Junction 14, (Hungerford) onto the A4.

Leave the M4 Westbound at Junction 17 (Chippenham) onto the A4.

Follow signs for Devizes and on the outskirts, change to 145.200 for local talk-in from G7NWR. Also, follow the RAYNET signs.

From Swindon, follow A4361 to Devizes. At A4 Beckhampton, the road number changes to A361.

From Bath A4 to Box turn right onto A365 towards Melksham. Take the A350 bypass round Melksham signposted Devizes back onto the A365 and onto the A361 to Devizes.

From Trowbridge follow A361 through Seend. At the bottom of the hill turn right towards Devizes. Follow A361 through Seend. At the bottom of the hill, turn right towards Devizes. (A361).

From Salisbury follow A360 to Devizes.

From Amesbury follow A345 towards Marlborough. Just before Upavon bear left onto A342. In Rushall turn right towards Devizes.

### *Car Parking.*

Local Talk in on 145.200 MHz. (G7NWR)

After parking your car you will be directed on foot to the town hall. Station Road car park costs 15p per hour, or 80p per day. All other car parks cost 25p per hour.

### *Town Hall.*

Please note that there is a no smoking policy in the town hall. There is an access facility for disabled people, and light catering refreshments(soup, sandwiches, etc.) and a bar will be available on the premises.

*All correspondence mid 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, GOJRT  
(01207)505315
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- Z5:** David Whiteman, G1ADW  
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- Z6: and Deputy Chairman**  
Cathy Clark, G1GQJ  
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#### **SPECIALIST TEAMS**

##### **Emergency Planning:**

Dave Seabrook, G6HPY

##### **Publicity:**

David Hicks, G6IFA

##### **Registrations:**

David Whiteman, G1ADW

##### **Technical:**

Madeley Smith, G8KVU

##### **Training:**

Cathy Clark, G1GQJ

##### **Talk through applications:**

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

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Emergency Network.

## Frequency Change Day.

The Committee of Management suggests that all RAYNET groups change to the new band plan on 1st. November 1997, if they have not already done so by that date. Consequently, talk in to the AGM will be on 144.625 MHz and 145.200 MHz.

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## GOIPF

The National RAYNET Committee was saddened to learn from Ron Horsley, G0MRH, South Warwickshire Group Controller, of the death of the Group Membership Officer and Treasurer, Ted Malpas, GOIPF.

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## RAYNET Grab Bags

At the recent National Committee meeting, a question was asked regarding the kitting out of Grab bags. There has already been a RAY-Link article concerning these, but never-the-less, the Committee would like to hear of unusual, but useful items which members keep in their own grab bags. A selection will be published in a future RAY-Link, and a prize of a free year's RAYNET membership (including personal accident insurance) will be awarded to the best entry. Please send your suggestions to Hunters Moon to arrive by 31st. October.

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## What is OMT? - a Reminder.

by Paul Farrar G8SJA

Let's start off with a few questions.

Since the course on OMT awareness, how many of you have actually tried the technique? For those that have, well done and how did you get on? (We do need feedback)  
For those that haven't, a big "WHY NOT YET?"  
Maybe you just haven't had that BIG event where OMT can be seen to have directly positive benefits or you just "haven't had the free resources". However, that is really missing the point.

This article is to refresh the concepts of OMT and to persuade you to really give it a try at any opportunity.

## OMT Concepts.

The concept of OMT is "a methodology which promotes creativity in devising solutions to problems, managing resources and reducing overall workload."

It is NOT a job creation scheme, taking scarce resources away from an already over-stretched event, rather the opposite. By appraising the need, and rationalising, roles, it can actually promote more efficient use of resources by controlling circumstances rather than being controlled by them.

*So when should we be using OMT ? - at **ALL opportunities.** Remember that most events we take part in are defined by our license as **exercises**, which mean practice, and testing. Thus most events should be seen as an opportunity to try out new ideas, evaluate them; and, where appropriate, adopt them.*

*How can this approach affect our decision to incorporate OMT? Well, what better circumstances than to take an existing event that you are fully familiar with and subject it to the OMT technique. By comparing the results of OMT and your current practice, you will discover:*

- a) You have everything covered and the event is 100% OK.
- b) You have consistently overlooked some detail, which, but for the grace of God has not caused you any real problems "as yet", but could be catastrophic.
- c) You have not deployed your resources as effectively as you could have.  
Why do we always put Control there when we know that we always have great difficulty talking to the outer stations?
- d) Your organisation is more a reaction to events, in panic, than a rapid "considered" response.
- e) You are constantly having to make local decisions to compensate for oversights.

*So how can we effect this change in approach? Why not form OMT teams to review your regular events? This could be done during the winter months as desktop exercises, or sometime before the event to generate some new ideas. Either way the process is simple.*

KEY:

\*) = an action- = a learning topic

Exercise:

\*) Appoint an Operations Manager for each event.

- An opportunity to get more members involved in the planning process.

\*) The Operations Manager then builds the Operations Management Team for the event, allocating roles.

- An ideal opportunity to involve and stretch the members.

\*) Throw away any preconceptions of how to run the event.

Treat the event as completely new. Existing information may be useful after this process has been completed.

\*) Brainstorm the event from the "USERS" perspective  
e.g. identify what you know/believe they are trying to achieve.

- putting yourselves into the "USER'S" shoes should give you a better appreciation of situations.

- any new/unresolved questions can be used later.

\*) You should now have a clear idea of the Objectives of the exercise, and general requirements.

\*) Delegate each role to review how their area of responsibility should be handled, and each prepares a plan to meet the Objectives, but taking into consideration the practical capability of RAYNET.

- First pass on this process let roles "take their time" to get ideas.

- repeats of this exercise can be done with "Time constraints" to promote rapid response.

- If a role is deemed/proven to be unnecessary or can be incorporated with another role NOTE this (remember we are not a Job creation Scheme)

\*) Contact with other members of the team should be encouraged but "restricted" to

requests for:  
information  
resources etc.

At this stage restrict consultation for advice, except from Operations Manager.

We are trying to encourage "freedom of thought and action" (- not committee management) so delegation can be more easily used in the future.

\*) Each role then presents its plan back to the group.

- briefing techniques here.

\*) The role of Operations Manager is to "delegate" and oversee the exercise, and to appreciate the element of "detachment" which

should free the mind from concern that things won't go well.

- delegation

- parallelism - multiple tasks simultaneously.

- standing back

- monitoring - finger on pulse

- remember on a Desktop exercise you may feel left with nothing to do, on a REAL event this will most certainly not be the case.

\*) Debrief the exercise, and summarise the lessons learnt.

- debrief techniques

- time-line the exercise

- how long did it take?

- less than you thought?

- did the team members feel empowered?

- did they feel able to cope?

- did they have the right skills?

- did they "relinquish" unnecessary roles or try to make it "fit"

Did the Operations Manager feel -

- involved?

- excluded?

- mentally freed?

- worried they were not "in control"?

- comfortably in control?

- was the right person allocated to a role?

(Remember this is an exercise to find out these things, not to point fingers of blame. A mistake now is an opportunity to learn!)

- what skills were they lacking?

- could the event be better run next time?

\*) Review the necessity for any particular role.

\*) Review how the reallocation of roles could be used to suit the resources available and would benefit the exercise.

\*) You now have a "new" plan for your event, and a great opportunity to "try it out" next time.

\*) Each time you practice this process it will get more efficient.

- people will tune into the process and learn how to react and respond.

- fundamental actions will become "instinctive"

- members will become more confident in their roles and therefore less stressed and better able to cope under pressure.

- you will build confidence and trust between members of the group, which again eases the management of the group, gets more involvement and commitment.

When an emergency hits, you will be prepared!

## **EMERGENCY CALL-OUT - Tues. 16th September 1997**

Bob Bloodworth - RAYNET Hampshire County Controller

A fire which involved a domestic garage occurred in a residential area within the village of Four Marks in the eastern part of Hampshire. The fire started during the early afternoon and was dealt with by the fire service and did not give any initial reason for abnormal concern. It was known that a set of oxy-acetylene cylinders were involved in the fire and appropriate actions and procedures were adopted.

As time progressed the acetylene cylinder showed signs of abnormality and gave rise for concern. Following inspection by experts it was deemed to be possibly seriously hazardous. An exclusion cordon of 500 metres was imposed which involved the evacuation of 50 domestic properties.

Due to the displacement of a significant number of residents, East Hampshire District Council took the decision to activate the District Emergency Plan in order to co-ordinate and actively respond to the developing requirements.

The telephone call-out system for senior council staff was initiated at 19.15 with instructions to open up the Emergency Centre at the council offices in Petersfield. The divisional Emergency Planning Officer for Hampshire County Council was also alerted who then travelled to Petersfield and joined the team.

The head of Engineering services for EHDC rang Steve Codings G4SAC (Group Controller-South East Hampshire) at about 20.20 and requested a communications support link between Petersfield and Four Marks.

Mike Hannan G4FVG who lives local to the incident was immediately available and was mobilised to Four Marks Village Hall with instructions to rendezvous with the EHDC Incident Officer. Jan and Bob Bloodworth G4VWO/G4VWP who live very close to the council offices proceeded to the emergency centre in order to liaise with EHDC Officers and establish RAYNET operations control. Communications were established between Petersfield and Four Marks at 21.00.

Steve Codings organised a full cascade alert for the South East Hampshire group with a support net being established on a separate radio channel and controlled by Jeff Woonton G8HUL

2 additional operators were mobilised to Petersfield to assist with control, logging and liaison. Plans were being made to organise extra operators to go to Four Marks along with radio equipment, aerials plus a mast. This did not happen as the developing situation indicated that residents may not now be allowed back into their homes until at least the following morning.

The next stage of the EHDC plan was then implemented which involved opening up the Prepared Rest Centre at Alton sports Centre. All evacuees and personnel were moved out of the holding area at Four Marks Village Hall and proceeded to Alton. 2 extra operators were redirected to Alton Sports centre to assist Mike Hannan.

Direct communications from Petersfield was no longer possible and operational communications were temporarily switched to the local VHF general repeater GB3SN. A radio map exercise covering the whole of the EHDC area had been carried out back in 1990 and this gave a fair picture of where direct communications would or would not work.

2 operators from Portsmouth proceeded towards Stoner Hill which is 4 miles west of Petersfield taking with them VHF/UHF equipment suitable for talk-through operation. Once they arrived at the hill top, talk through was established using 433.700 MHz and 144.775MHz which dramatically improved the communications facilities.

By 23.00 it was confirmed that re-inspection of the cylinders would not take place until about 06.00 and reduction of the cordon area would not be until at least then. We reassessed RAYNET staffing requirements and arranged for relief/Es at Petersfield at 04.00 and the talk-through site at 06.30. We also had to assume that the operation could possibly continue well into Wednesday morning if the situation was not resolved at the incident.

The operators at the talk-through site were sat in cars which was not practical or safe for an extended period of operation. Steve Collings moved the control caravan from the EHDC offices at Petersfield up to the Stoner Hill talk-through site at about 01.00.

The South East Hampshire support net was stood down at 23.30 with the provision that we would ring members at any time through the night if there was a requirement. This was in line with EHDC reducing their operation to a skeleton staff for the night period. Had the cylinder exploded the situation could have changed at short notice and it was important to maintain the presence.

Eddie Ogden G0EWO (Group Controller-North West Hampshire) was now at Alton and agreed to arrange shift changing for that end of the link. Full stand-down was given at 07.05.

A total of 14 RAYNET members plus one supporter were directly involved in the operation with others on stand-by. In reality many residents made their own arrangements and only a small number of people took up the option to use the rest centre facilities. Had large numbers of people been involved we could have needed extra operators to provide other communication links.