



# RAY~Link

Issue Thirty  
July 1998

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.*

(This edition has been sent to all Members' Addresses)

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## 1998 AGM

The Network's 1998 Annual General Meeting will be held in the Cheshire Constabulary Training and Conference Centre, Nantwich Road, Crewe, Cheshire, on Saturday 7th. November at 14:00 hrs. As usual there will be a morning pre-meeting, starting at 11:00 hrs. and it is hoped that the choice of this central location will encourage a large turn out of members.

## Annual Subscriptions.

The Network's annual subscription rate increased to £4.20 per year on 1st June. The second stage of the increase is programmed for 1st. June 1999, although members whose payments reach Hunters Moon before 31st. May 1999 will, like this year, pay at the prevailing rate, whether renewing for one or two years.

## September RAY~Link

Articles for the September RAY~Link, which will be sent to all registered members, should be sent to Ron Cowan, GM4SRL, as soon as possible, and no later than 31st. August 1998.

Ideally they should be e-mailed to [roncowan@zetnet.co.uk](mailto:roncowan@zetnet.co.uk); or supplied as an ASCII file on an IBM format diskette to 85 Eastwoodmains Road, Clarkston, Glasgow, G76 7HG.

## The RAYNET Manual.

The final draft of the 1998 RAYNET Manual has been distributed to all Zonal Co-ordinators for proof reading, The closing date for the return of all comments was 22nd. July and it is expected that the finished document will be available at the AGM in November.

*All correspondence and membership registrations should be sent to:-*  
"Hunters 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  
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**Z3:** Dave Hocking, G4FSS  
(0116) 239 3803  
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(01422) 828678  
**Z5:** David Whiteman, G1ADW  
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**Z6: and Deputy Chairman**  
Cathy Clark, G1GQJ  
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(01244) 336639  
**Z9:** Madeley Smith, G8KVU  
(01203) 597411  
**Z10:** David Hicks, G6IFA  
(01244) 336639  
**Z11:** Contact Meantime via ZC 12  
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(01244) 336639  
**Z22:** Iain Strachan, GM4FLP  
(01382) 580356

### SPECIALIST TEAMS

#### Emergency Planning:

Cathy Clark, G1GQJ

#### Finance:

Martin Green, G4PMG

#### Publicity:

David Hicks, G6IFA

#### Registrations:

David Whiteman, G1ADW

#### Technical:

Chris Hampson, G8RXA

#### Training:

Tom Hanratty, G0JRT

#### Talkthrough applications:

Ian Jackson, G8RWH,  
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**I** use PacketRadio only for RAYNET operational purposes and so am spared the mass of opinions which are taken, apparently, to be "absolute fact" by a large number of the Amateur Radio community without any effort to check with, for example, one's ZC on matters relating to The Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network. And if the ZC does not know, s/he should know someone who does! What on earth has this to do with PAI you ask?

Just this. In June '98 I learnt of messages in the Packet world to the effect that one of the shortcomings of the Network PAI Scheme is that it does not cover you while going to or from a RAYNET duty - so it is pretty useless. And, of course that statement is believed - well it must be a fact because it's on Packet!

**FACT:** At the beginning of April 1998 a member of our PAI scheme unfortunately suffered an accident whilst returning home from assisting another Group. It resulted in being unable to work for five weeks until the doctor issued a clearance certificate. The member's details were sent via Hunters Moon to the Insurers and within 72 hours of the accident our member received a claim form. Within 72 hours of the loss adjusters issuing their compensation cheque, the claimant received our Treasurer's cheque. The Network is the agent acting on behalf of its members in the scheme and the Insurers will pay compensation only to The Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network.

Food for thought? Although the claimant has not made any comment to me, I would like to bet that, while wishing that the accident had never happened, might agree that the £1.04 paid for the PAI premium from the previous 1st May was money well spent!

The records for the PAI scheme are maintained at Hunters Moon. You may remember, one of the conditions for the start was that we had to have a minimum of 500 members, so the records were started as a counter, and in case we had to return the money which was sent both by individuals and by groups. I have simply kept them running and that is where the first problem arose! As soon as it was discovered that there could not be a monthly premium (after the long established pattern of monthly membership subs) by Lloyds saying "What do you want for £1 a year?" (the 4p tax goes to the Government!), I opened a column headed "Arrears", into which is entered the difference between the money paid on the original monthly sliding scale, and that which the Treasurer had to pay to the Insurers on your behalf. That column title seriously upset a couple of Scottish gentlemen and has now been changed to "Deficit/Surplus", but I remind any "angry people" that one meaning of the word "arrears" is "that which remains to be done" - and ask them to pay their net deficit and then the column can be closed! The Treasurer thanks those Groups, that County and that Zone who have cleared their deficit so promptly. Judging by the number of cries for help from newly appointed Group Officials, we do not seem to be very good at passing our accumulated knowledge to our successors

when we leave office. In case any of you have the (mis)fortune to become Controller, Treasurer or Registrations Secretary of your Group tomorrow - or even the day after - I will let you see the "Notes and Summary of the Rules for the PAI Scheme Premium and Cover Periods" which were passed by ZCs to all Groups which had members in the Scheme on 4th June 1998. This should avoid having to refer to back issues of RAY~Link which might cause you some confusion!

1. The PAI year starts on 1st May and runs to 30th April inclusive. It cannot therefore be tied to Groups' re-registration dates, unless those happen to be 1st May.
2. The premium is, currently, £1 per PAI year or part thereof plus tax, currently 4%, a total of £1.04.
3. Cover is provided from the date that the correct premium is received at Hunters Moon. For a new member whose registration date has not yet been reached cover starts from that date of registration.
4. No reminders will be sent by us. It is the responsibility of individuals or, preferably, of Groups to ensure their renewal premiums reach Hunters Moon at least 10 days before 1st May so that the necessary administration can be done. We have to send a complete list of participants and the total premium to the Insurers by 1st May. An update is sent for the first of every succeeding month in the PAI year.
5. The recommended way of ensuring continuous cover and combining the premium payment with registration subscriptions is to provide cover to 30th April after your next registration date, if that is not 1st May.
6. and 7. Referred to the "Arrears" (whoops - "Deficit/Surplus") and our hopes for clearing them, so, by the time you read this they could be "n/a". 8. If any confusion remains, please ask Hunters Moon for clarification. (Ref 1, 2 and 3 above: if you were to insist on joining the Scheme on 30th April, £1.04 would provide cover to midnight on that day only!)

PS: "At least 10 days before" could well be applied to registration submissions as well - although a month would be much better! At least Rule 5 for PAI would mean that those who regrettably manage to submit re-registrations after the effective date would not deprive their members of PAI cover.

PPS: The second problem? Getting the money back for the Treasurer of course!

PPPS: 70% of our membership is currently in the PAI Scheme.

G4HVA hopes he did not bore you with all that - but he does not apologise - IT IS ALL FACT!

# The Emergency Planning College.



The Emergency Planning College is based at the “Hawkhills”, an impressive county house estate located ten miles north of York, on the A19. The estate comprises some 230 acres of garden, farmland and woodland situated on the outskirts of Easingwold. The extensive and modern conference facilities in the main house on the estate include a 125 seat lecture theatre, two 30 seat seminar rooms, a block of 9 syndicate rooms and a splendid 12 seat Georgian meeting room. All are equipped with a wide range of training aids and equipment.

The main house also includes three dining areas, a comfortably furnished lounge and a spacious bar. It is equipped to cater the disabled and those with special needs. The College library, situated in an adjacent courtyard, houses an extensive and unique collection of emergency planning related material in the form of books, videos, periodicals, slides, plans, reports and newspaper cuttings. It has been designated the UK Documentation Centre for Emergency Planning by the European Commission, and access is open to all. All courses are residential and accommodation is provided in single study bedrooms near to the main house. Special rates for voluntary agencies reflect Home Office support for this key community issue. If you are interested in attending a course at the college, contact the Chairman, Ron Cowan, the Training Team leader, Tom Hanratty or your Zonal Co-ordinator.

## SPECIFICATION FOR HIGH-VISIBILITY WARNING CLOTHING

Madeley, G8KVU

The above is covered by British Standard BS EN 471 : 1994.

The reason behind this paper is that there is concern by some Emergency Planning Officers that RAYNET Members on duty are not identified very clearly, and it has been suggested that the Safety Clothing used by RAYNET members should be of a type which will identify them with the words RAYNET front & back and with reflective bands, so that they can be seen during hours of darkness.

Here are some drawings of clothing with reflective tape which could be used by RAYNET Members, with the words RAYNET on front & back. If any group wants more information then I suggest that they obtain a copy of the British Standard.

I understand that in about two years time a change will take place as regards to the colour now being used at certain incidents from yellow to orange, to bring this country in line with the rest of Europe.

The reflective material is a minimum width of 50mm and the distance between bands of reflective material or between bands and the bottom of the garment must not be less than 50mm



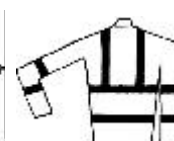
Waistcoat A



Waistcoat B



Tabard



Jacket

## ***Zonal Elections***

The term of office of Zone Co-ordinators in zones 3, 6, 9 and 22 finish at the end of this year, and nominations are now called for to fill these important positions within The Network. In addition, elections are being organised in Zones 2 and 12 as there is no Zonal Co-ordinator for Zone 2, where Brian Tindill is providing cover as an acting ZC, and Tom Stewart wishes to stand down as ZC in Zone 12. Please note that all current ZCs are eligible for re-election.

Zone Co-ordinators have four distinct roles to fulfil. They are:

- 1) Directors of The Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network, a company limited by guarantee.
  - 2) Trustees of the Registered Charity
  - 3) The voice of the National Organisation to members
  - 4) The voice of the members to the Committee of Management
- As Directors of the Network, ZCs may also be the leaders of the Volunteer Teams, co-ordinating its work, and reporting to the other Directors.

Any member of the Network, who is registered by a Group defined to be within the named Zone is eligible to stand. Nominations should be sent to the Company Secretary at the BEDALE address, marking the envelope "ZONE ELECTION", to arrive by 17th. August 1998.

The nomination must contain a declaration from the Nominee stating that he/she is willing to stand for the post and is not disqualified from being either a Company Director or Charity Trustee. (see Charity leaflet CC3a, and Article 54 of the Articles of Association of the Network). The nomination should be supported by Controllers or Members from within the Zone. If the post is contested, ballot papers will be distributed to controllers on 1st. September and these should be returned by 9th. October. The result of the elections will be announced at the Annual General Meeting in Crewe on the 7th. November. (Note:- All group, area and county controllers in the Zone, who are registered with the Network, are entitled to vote.)

If there is a current local arrangement to elect a ZC at a Zonal Meeting a Zone may notify the Company Secretary and then conduct its own election, notifying the result to the Company Secretary by 23rd. October 1998.

It is YOUR NETWORK. Please check that your group controller knows your views on who should represent your zone during the next three years.

## ***Registration Forms***

High quality registration documents are available for downloading from the Network's national web site and also from the telephone BBS. On the Web pages these documents are in Adobe Acrobat PDF format and will require the Acrobat reader to view and to print them. A link to Adobe's web site is provided so that the latest version can be downloaded free of charge if required. A word of warning, however, the file large so you are advised to pick a quiet time to download. Saturday and Sunday mornings are to be recommended when our cousins to the west of the Atlantic are still fast asleep!

If your group does not have download facilities for either the Web or the telephone BBS, send a large stamped addressed envelope to Hunters Moon to receive printed copies.

## **The RAYNET TROPHY**

(This item also appeared in the last edition of RAY~Link.)

The Trophy will be presented annually at the National RAYNET AGM.

The Trophy will be held for 10 months, and then returned to an address specified by the Committee of Management.

The recipient will be responsible for its safekeeping and for its insurance while in their possession.

The CoM will be responsible for its engraving.

Upon the Trophy's return, a miniature will be presented as a permanent memento.

All members of The Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network (RAYNET) will be eligible for nomination.

Any individual member or group can be nominated and seconded by other members, together with suitable supporting evidence; the nomination should be endorsed by a Group, County or Area Controller, or Zonal Co-ordinator.

The Trophy will be awarded by the CoM. Their decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

The CoM have the right to withhold the Trophy if no suitable nominations are received. However, previous nominees may be re-considered.

### **Criteria for nomination**

The Trophy will be awarded to an individual or representative of a group considered to have provided services beyond the call of duty in the furtherance of the aims and objectives of RAYNET.

The closing date for nominations will be published in RAY~Link and nominations received after the closing date will be held over for consideration in the following year.

The closing date for this year will be  
17th. September 1998.

## ***RAYNET Supplies***

**R**AYNET Supplies has moved to Dunoon. At last year's AGM, Barbara Slater and Ray Waller intimated that they wished to stand down for the organisation of this essential service, and a notice asking for new organisers was placed in the last edition of RAY~Link. Brian Shearer, the controller of the Cowal Group, volunteered, and the Committee of Management was pleased to appoint him to organise RAYNET Supplies on its behalf. There may be a slight delay caused by the change-over but it is expected that a full service will be up and running by 1st. August. The new address will be Brian Shearer, RAYNET Supplies, 1 Marine Parade, Kilm, DUNOON, Argyll, PA25 8HE. The telephone number is 01369 708760 and the Fax Number 01369 708769. The e-mail address for queries will be raynet.supplies@latheron.demon.co.uk The Committee thanks Barbara and Ray for the enormous work done for RAYNET Supplies over the past years, and wishes them well continuing their RAYNET duties with the Forest Heath Group.

## ***RAYNET on Standby***

**R**AYNET members in the West Midlands were on stand-by for CEPO during the G8 Summit Conference, from 13th. to 17th. May. Although there were no incidents, they received a message of thanks from the Emergency Planning Manager of the West Midlands Fire Service for being available should the need have arisen.

## ***Network Information***

**D**ue to a recent house move by Geoff, G3STG, the Network's Packet BBS, GB7NRC, has been moved to the QTH of Jim, G1HUL. There was a short break in service on Sunday 5th. July, during the changeover but the system is again up and running providing 24 hour access to the Network's information via packet. Geoff will continue to Sysop the telephone BBS which can be accessed on 01296 39 37 37. Our Web pages, are sysoped by David, G1ADW and can be accessed at <http://www.sgi.leeds.ac.uk/raynet/>

## ***Help Required***

**D**erek Harrison G1SPA has asked for assistance on Sat/Sun 15/16th August. The event is a weekend at **Mallory Park Race Circuit**, and the Police have asked RAYNET to provide overall safety cover for the weekend, very similar to the "Riders for Health" event. Help is needed on both days, and food and drink will be provided together with good opportunities to watch the racing! Offers should be made to Derek Harrison G1SPA on 01332 811 087

## ***Committee of Management Working Teams***

**T**he new technical team has been formed with Chris Hampson, G8RXA as the team leader. Other members are Philip Howarth, G3YAC; Ray Clark, G8GQJ and Mike McCreery, GM0ETC. There is still another vacancy, and any interested member is asked to contact Chris, G8RXA for further details.

The new training team, with team leader Tom Hanratty, G0JRT, has been confirmed as June Wallis, G0OGB; George Boundy, G0VII, Dave Austin, G0WYW; Eric Curd, G7DPZ; Geoff Derby, G7GJU and Paul Farrar, G8SJA. Groups which have taken part in exercises which could be shared with others are asked to pass copies on to Tom, G0JRT.

## ***HF Information sought***

**T**he NORTHWEST (Zone 10) RAYNET HF team would be interested to hear from any other RAYNET Groups or individual members who have had experience of contacts or exercises specifically using HF NVIS [Near Vertical Incidence Skywave] techniques for short/medium distance communications. Replies should be sent to either Paul Gaskell, G4MWO, QTHR, (e-mail address pauldgaskell@mcmail.com ) or to Eric Walton, G4FSN, QTHR, (e-mail address Eric.Walton@btinternet.com )

## *The Emergency Planning Team*

This is the first of what we, the Emergency Planning Team, hope will be a regular column in RAY~Link, aimed at keeping members informed of our current projects.

The members of the Team are: Cathy Clark G1GQJ, Bob Bloodworth G4VWP, Trevor Groves G4KUJ, Eddie Ogden G0EWO, David Seabrook G6HPY, David Smith G8IDL, and John White G4BCY. Corresponding members are John Gatheshill (EPO St Edmundsbury BC and Forest Heath DC) and Dai Brogden (EPO [Comms] Buckinghamshire).

Our responsibilities were revised in January 1998 and are:

Liaison with all User Services International Liaison Talk Through Permits (in conjunction with Ian Jackson G8RWH) Support for emergencies Liaison with the RSGB and its Emergency Radio Liaison Officer Liaison with the Home Office Liaison with the Radiocommunications Agency

It was the EP Team that entered into successful negotiations with the RSGB's Data Communications Committee in February last year for the smooth exchange of RAYNET frequencies with the data communications sub-band, following the IARU Region 1 conference in Tel Aviv. A phased change-over meant that RAYNET groups were able to continue their work uninterrupted while the swap was taking place. The Team were also able to negotiate the use of 144.800MHz for emergency communications data traffic with the DCC's full approval.

The full list of "emergency communications priority" frequencies is as follows:

144.260MHz	SSB centre of activity
144.625MHz }	
144.650MHz }	Emergency communications priority
144.675MHz }	
144.775MHz	Emergency communications priority
144.800MHz	Emergency communications data traffic
145.200MHz }	
145.225MHz }	Emergency communications priority

The Team have already started work on a number of important projects, the most notable of which is linked to RAYNET's use of all bands from 6m to 23cms. We are currently putting proposals to the relevant RSGB Committees for a range of frequencies for "emergency communications priority" use.

As part of its liaison role, the Team were delighted to be joined at their March meeting by Tom Reilly G0NSY, the RSGB's Emergency Radio Liaison Officer. It is hoped that this will lead to fruitful co-operation between the RSGB and the Network.

Members of the Committee of Management recently met officials from the Radiocommunications Agency, in response to detailed groundwork undertaken by the EP Team. Discussions took place on several points concerning the licensing conditions in relation to emergency communications. It was gratifying to hear that the Radiocommunications Agency is pleased with RAYNET procedures, and that our good on-air behaviour has led to no complaints being received by the Agency.

Work is on-going in order to provide some guidance notes for Group Controllers and their members regarding the wider aspects of emergency planning management.

Correspondence from members is always welcome, and the Team can be contacted by writing to the Hunter's Moon address (marking the envelope "Emergency Planning Team") or on e-mail to [cathyclark@zetnet.co.uk](mailto:cathyclark@zetnet.co.uk)

## *80 m Net Controllers*

The roster of duty controllers for the 80m net for the period 5th. July to 30th. August 1998 is as follows:-

5th July -	Duty G0EWO,	Standby G4FSN
12th July -	Duty G0MRH,	Standby G4KUJ
19th July -	Duty G4FSN,	Standby G0BDA
26th July -	Duty G0BDA,	Standby G0MRH
2nd Aug -	Duty G0VPJ,	Standby G3STG
9th Aug -	Duty G0BDA,	Standby G3STG
16th Aug -	Duty G0MRH,	Standby G0EWO
23rd Aug -	Duty G3STG,	Standby G4FSN
30th Aug -	Duty G4KUJ,	Standby G0BDA

## *Radiocommunications Agency*

Ron Cowan, GM4SRL and Cathy Clark, G1GQJ, recently met officials from the Radiocommunications Agency to discuss several points relating to the licensing conditions attached to Emergency Communications. It was nice to hear that the Radiocommunications Agency is pleased with RAYNET procedures, and that our good on-air behaviour has led to no complaints being received by the Agency.

The RA propose to change the conditions contained in BR68 within the next two years, and it is important that our wishes are taken into consideration. To progress our input, Ron, Cathy and Ian Jackson, G8RWH have arranged to meet with Ian Kyle and RSGB nominees, hopefully including the ERLO, on 2nd. August, to discuss a combined response to the RA.