



RAY~Link

Issue Thirty Two
January 1999

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 each Household)

In This Issue

- Training Update - The latest on Page 3
- Chairman's Report - 1998 reviewed Page 2
- See the Newsreaders - Page 5 reveals all (well some!)
- Emergency Planning - Team Report - Page 8
- GPS/TNC/VHF - Remote Tracking- Page 4

November AGM

The AGM of the Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network was held in Crewe on Saturday 7th. November. There was a good attendance, both at the informal morning session, and at the Afternoon AGM and Open forum.

In the morning, Mike Slaney, CEPO Staffordshire, gave an excellent presentation on possible Millennium problems, and Cathy Clark, G1GQJ, the Network's vice chairman, led a session on Emergency Planning. In the afternoon, the chairman, Ron Cowan, GM4SRL, presented his report for the current year and the treasurer, Ray Webb, presented the annual accounts.

It was announced that Keith Gudgeon has been appointed Zonal Co-ordinator for Zone 3, replacing David Hocking who retires in December, and Liam Harvey will be looking after Zone 12 in place of Tom Stewart, who also steps down in December. The chairman welcomed the new committee members, and thanked David and Tom for the amount of work each has done for RAYNET.

It was also announced that the chairman has been invited to address the RSGB Council on the work and organisation of the Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network, and that John Layton, G4AAL, a Network member, has been elected unopposed to RSGB Council.

Bruce Williams, G1ORS, County Controller for Cheshire then presented the Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network with a cheque for £225.00. The cheque resulted from the work done by RAYNET at the annual Frostbite exercise.

The chairman then presented the RAYNET trophy to David Green, controller of the Coventry Group, in recognition of the work he has done for RAYNET since joining in 1977. He became group controller in 1987 and was responsible for covering the failure of the Coventry telephone exchange, the Coventry air crash, and a serious fire incident. In the open forum a number of varied subjects were discussed, including the past history of the organisation, ID Cards, the distribution of RAY~Link, and the possibility of a GB call sign for the 80m net. It was also announced that the Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network has recently arranged insurance for all its members who are required to fly in MOD search & rescue aircraft, both during exercises, and callouts.

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Emergency 24 hour contact line:-
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(0141) 620 1000

ZONES:

- Z1:** Tom Hanratty, G0JRT
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- Z2:** Contact Meantime Brian
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- Z3:** Keith Gudgin, G0CXP
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- Z4:** Martin Green, G4PMG
(01422) 828678
- Z5:** David Whiteman, G1ADW
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- Z6: and Deputy Chairman**
Cathy Clark, G1GQJ
(01844) 351461
- Z7:** Chris Hampson, G8RXA
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- Z8:** Contact meantime via ZC 10
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- Z22:** Iain Strachan, GM4FLP
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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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Chairman's Report

Presented at the AGM on 7th. November 1998

Ron Cowan GM4SRL

1998 got off to a good start, with the January Committee of Management Meeting endorsing all the decisions and recommendations made at the 1997 AGM. Teams were reviewed, some having a new leader, some with new members and some with both.

An item in RAY~Link, asking for someone to take over RAYNET Supplies received only one reply. But we could not have been more fortunate with the applicant, Brian Shearer, group controller of the Cowal RAYNET Group. For those without higher geography, Cowal is a peninsula in Argyll lying between the Rest and be Thankful, the Firth of Clyde and Loch Fyne. It is well known for its salmon, venison, kippers, the Younger Botanical Gardens, and hosting an RSGB AGM a number of years ago! Brian has been an excellent "catch" and has already started to renegotiate with our suppliers, and has taken the Supplies Road Show out to a number of rallies.

Cathy Clark and I were invited to meet with the Radiocommunications Agency in London in the spring, and this led to a meeting between Cathy Clark, Ian Jackson, the RSGB President, Ian Kyle, the RSGB ERLO, Tom Reilly, and his assistant, Simon Lloyd Hughes at the University of Surrey to discuss a joint response to the request from the RA for a review of BR68.

Our meeting was very successful, and there were no items on the agenda which either party felt uneasy about. As well as completing the task in hand, we had a most enjoyable day, and I have been asked to address Council with my thoughts on RAYNET generally, and to bring it up to speed on how The Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network is organised and operates. I was originally asked to attend today, but when Ian Kyle realised that this was our AGM he suggested that I might like to go to the next meeting and Ian asked me to pass on his best wishes for our AGM today.

At previous AGMs I have expressed concern at our relationship with the RSGB. I now feel that things are going really well, and I feel that the long struggle has been worth the worry and effort. If things go as well next year as they have done this year, I think that RAYNET can only flourish.

One word of caution, however. Our numbers are down, not a lot, but they are down, and we must all work to reverse this trend. Some, I know, became saddened at the split and the ensuing arguments, and took the easy option of early retirement from RAYNET. We should target these former members, as well as the new recruits to amateur radio.

The teams which I mentioned earlier have all tackled their own areas of responsibility. Cathy Clark's emergency planning team, David Hick's publicity team, Martin Green's finance team, David Whiteman's registration team, Tom Hanratty's training team, and Chris Hampson's technical team all supported the work of the Committee of Management during the year. In addition, I would like to pay tribute to Ray Webb, our treasurer; Ian Jackson our secretary and talk-through administrator; Brian Tindill our postman; Geoff Griffiths who compiles the dairy dates and services our telephone BBS; Jim Andrews who has taken over the running of GB7NRC and Mike Barker who does all the registration work associated with the issue of our ID cards. Barbara Slater and Ray Waller have now stood down from their responsibilities with RAYNET Supplies, and handed over a well run ship to Brian Shearer.

The 80m net is held every Sunday morning at 08:30 hrs. clock time. The regular net controllers who operate a duty rota, led by Eric Walton, G4FSN, give unstinting service.

We are currently running at the rate of four RAY~Links per year, and managing to post each copy out to each household. As our original intention was to send all but the AGM issue out to group controllers for copying to their members, I am pleased with that the Committee has agreed that we can get each edition into every house. I would like to thank Mike McCreery for all the desktop publishing work he does on each issue. There is always a time issue raising its head by the time Mike gets the copy to work with, but he never complains, and quickly completes each issue and sends it on to the printers.

Our personal accident insurance scheme has been very successful, and is excellent value at just over £1.00 per year. We have had one claim, which was paid promptly by the insurance company. I am delighted that so far over two thirds of our membership have joined the scheme.

I would like to thank the Zonal Co-ordinators for all the work they do in their zones as well as at National level. It is not easy being a ZC, and their labours are greatly appreciated.

There are two zonal Co-ordinators leaving us this year. Zone three loses Dave Hocking, a long serving member who is prevented by ill health from attending today. I would like to thank him for all the work he has done for RAYNET in the past, wish him all the best in his retirement, and hope that his health will soon improve.

Tom Stewart is also standing down. I have known Tom for many years and would like to acknowledge all the work which he has done at Group, Region, Area and National level. Tom is one of those people who will do a job because it has to be done, and will do it well. He will be missed at the Committee of Management meetings, where his quiet confident manner has been respected during his time with us.

The new ZC for Zone three will be Keith Gudgin (G0CXP) while Liam Harvey (GM4VYQ) will be looking after Zone twelve's interests as from 1st. January.

The millennium will soon be with us, and I would caution groups not to take on any commitments until they know how many volunteers they will have at the time. It is all too easy to say "yes, we can cover that event, or provide help with any envisaged situation," but we don't yet know just what the social pressures will be, with many family and street parties still to be organised. Some organisations have already cancelled all leave, and more will do so. This could also affect the number of volunteers we have available.

In the coming year I would like to get round as many groups, counties, zones etc. as I can, and hopefully talk with our members and our user services. The Chairman's job can be lonely at times, with some members not wishing to bother him, while at other times, everyone wants to bend his ear! Hopefully I will be able to attend some events, and look forward to flying the Network's flag when appropriate.

The venue for the 1999 AGM has yet to be discussed at the Committee of Management, but I have made no secret that I would like it to be in Scotland, and I will be putting forward a strong case when the time comes. Think of it not only as an AGM, but as a gathering of the clans and a ceilidh! If you have ever been to a ceilidh, you may be able to remember how good it was. If it was really good, you probably won't remember it at all!

Let's make 1999 the best year for RAYNET this century! Take

Training Team

**Geoff Darby,
G7GJU**

There have been a number of things happening since my last report.

Tom G0JRT is doing a great job keeping us all in order and co-ordinating what comes out of the sausage machine at the end of one of our hectic meetings!

George G0VII is trying to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear by trying to make actors of us all and produce a training video which hopefully will be ready next year. We were able to kill two birds with one stone in November, as Trevor Carroll G0HCD who came to talk to us on Personal Survival agreed to be on camera. None of us knew what to expect when Trevor turned up complete with ammunition box, flint and steel, a good old Swiss Army Knife and a tin of Corned Beef! For the outcome you will have to wait until the video is finished. All I will say is that those who were able to attend found it very interesting and we learned a lot.

June G0OGB has had to curtail her activities to look after her husband Alan G4YMU who is unwell at the moment. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

The rest of us are working on other projects concerning Group and Zone training.

I am at present trying to create dialogue with some companies with a view to gaining some sponsorship. If we manage this, we may be able to hold training weekends at establishments like Easingwold with a reduced cost to you. Let's all keep our fingers crossed!

Lastly Tom G0JRT & I attended the RAYNET AGM in Crewe where Alan Foster, M0ABS, Training Officer for the East Cheshire RAYNET Group approached us with the view to becoming part of the Training Team.

We have had the offer of help from Michael Nyman G4OMP who's QTH is in Birmingham. His expertise is the writing of exercises so we are hoping to keep him busy.

Then came what we hoped for! A request to put on a training day from a group in Leicester.

If you have any ideas on training or want us to advise or organise a training session for you please contact Tom G0JRT.

(cont from page 2)

the message of what needs to be done to every radio amateur, and take the message of what we can do to every user service. We have the knowledge, we have the technology, we have the interest, and this gives us the chance to help our communities.

Thank you for your interest in RAYNET in 1998. Enjoy 1999!

100 Mile Walk

**Alan
G4YMU**

The Northumbrian Long Distance Walkers' Association Durham Dales 100 Mile Walk. by Alan, G4YMU Group Controller, North West Durham RAYNET Group)

The Northumbrian Group of the LDWA have asked North West Durham RAYNET Group 01/DH/205 to organise comms for the above event which will be held from 10:00 hrs. on Saturday 19th. May until 10:00 hrs. on Monday 31st. May 1999 (Spring Bank Holiday) This is a prestigious National event which attracts walkers from all parts of the United Kingdom. The entries are limited to 500 walkers and participants must show a confirmed track record of long distance walking, with at least one walk of more than 50 miles completed in the past 12 months.

N.W. Durham RAYNET has provided comms for the Northumbrian LDWA Group's annual 28 miles Durham Dales Challenge Walk for the past 11 years and has proved that Northumbrian LDWA are very capable of organising and planning this type of event. Our Deputy Group Controller and I are involved with the LDWA working party.

The walk starts and finishes at Wolsingham in Weardale, County Durham (Grid NZ071376) and follows a circular route over the hills and dales of West Durham. There are a total of 15 check points requiring comms. All checkpoints are accessible by car (normal 2 wheel drive!) and the majority are in buildings (village halls, church halls and schools) and are within striking distance of civilisation.

The User Service will be St John Ambulance, with whom we work on the annual Dales Challenge Walk. A senior member of their division also sits on the working party.

We are sure that you will find that this event will provide an opportunity for good training and a stimulating challenge to your members in a very attractive area of the North Pennines, as well as promoting RAYNET countrywide.

If your group, or members of your group, would like to help at this event, further information can be obtained from either Alan Wallis, G4YMU, Group Controller, QTHR, 01207 520 477 (e-mail on june_alanwallis@compuserve.com) or from Tom Hanratty, G0JRT, Deputy Group Controller, QTHR, 01207 505315 (e-mail tomhanratty@compuserve.com)

Wanted

Original brown leather civilian case (top opening type) required for Model 8 Mk2 Avometer. Nearly new/good used condx would be fine. Any reasonable price paid.

Contact Eric G4FSN on 01204-691536 (evgs) or e-mail to eric.walton@zetnet.co.uk

An account of the involvement of South Lakeland RAYNET in tests for Mountain Rescue.

Early in 1997, a member of South Lakeland RAYNET, Rob Brookes G6YCM, who was also a member of Kendal Mountain Rescue Team with special responsibility for communications, was approached with a request to investigate the use of GPS for remote tracking of Rescue Teams, SARDA dogs etc.

There were two aspects to this task, one the hardware and the other the software. He had already done a lot of work modifying ex-PBR sets both for RAYNET and MR use, and was familiar with computers and their use, so he knew where to start. In particular, Keswick Mountain Rescue were interested, and had already had some work done on the software side. It is perhaps as well to point out that this was not an attempt just to reproduce work already done and successfully used by RAYNET elsewhere, with A.P.R.S. software and hand drawn maps, i.e. re-invent the wheel. What had been achieved is the introduction of high resolution software mapping.

At first, the work made use of the 2 metre band, and hence the RAYNET involvement, although MR frequencies were also used. Many enquiries were made of various people, both professional and Amateur, and gradually information came together to enable the necessary interfacing between GPS TNC and Transmitter at incident location, and between receiver TNC and computer at base. The ability to convert from Lat/Lon to NGR was required, and this had to be written into the software. This caused Rob a few headaches, but with assistance on the mathematics this was sorted out.

The Home Office provided support with information, and also by issuing special MR type call signs for use by RAYNET and MR members for the duration of the tests. The first tests involving RAYNET were carried out locally in the Kendal area, and tracked operators on a fell, and travelling along the roads, with RAYNET members at home acting as monitoring stations for the GPS data strings. Further tests were carried out by G6YCM and MR personnel and things began to look quite promising.

G6YCM was then asked by Keswick MR to mount a full scale demonstration.

On the first Saturday in July 1998, a number of members of South Lakeland RAYNET arrived at Keswick Mountain Rescue HQ, armed with ex-PMR sets, TNCs, tools, back packs, batteries, aerials and other gear. The software specialist brought a computer system. Setting up took some time, and was not helped by my BSX TNC going

u/s due to my having over-tightened the fixing bolt on the voltage regulator heat sink (I later modified the whole mounting). It had worked fine the previous night, with no problems ! Soddes law. However, on site repairs got it going, thanks to the MR soldering iron, I having thought that I had brought all that might be needed.

Three operators the set off to their designated locations. One to provide talkthrough from a fixed point, and the other two to park their vehicles, at different places and set off up two different fells. We had followed their progress across Keswick, with the transmitters beaconing the data at regular intervals, and saw the start of their walk, when an emergency telephone call came through for Keswick MR team to go to an incident where someone had fallen from a rock in Borrowdale. This involved the RAF Rescue helicopter as well. The GPS tracking tests had to be put on hold to prevent any possibility of adjacent channel QRM for MR.

The incident lasted for some three hours, during which time, we kept out of the way, whilst be able to see what went on. This included the return of the MR team with crew members from the chopper, and the eventual arrival of the chopper having taken the casualty to hospital, to pick up the other crew members.

In late afternoon our operators, who had been recalled, set out again. However, after little more testing was done, the MR team leader advised that he had seen sufficient to prove the system, and as time was getting on, tests were considered complete for the day, with the possibility that, if needed, a further demonstration and tests would be set up. We eventually set off to our homes having spent a very instructive and enjoyable day.

We would like to thank the Keswick MR team leader for his welcome and providing tea, coffee, and sandwiches during the day, and in addition for his very kind words in which he spoke of his opinion of the professional approach of RAYNET to the tests and to keeping from under their feet during the incident, which words, he later followed up with a letter. We can report that he subsequently recommended, on the strength of the demonstration and the other evidence, the purchase by MR of the equipment to provide GPS tracking. G6YCM is still involved in this.

One of the EPOs from the County EPU was also able to be present during part of the demonstration, and expressed considerable interest. I should also add that the software specialist carried out a considerable amount of programming work during the day, both during the tests and the incident. RAYNET members directly involved were G0BDA, G1IGC, G1IIE, G6IPN (Group Controller), and G6YCM. Thanks are due to G7NCN for the loan at short notice of his TNC.

Your 80m Net Newsreaders



Back row : Ray G0BDA, Ron G0MRH, John G4AAL, Trevor G4KUJ
Front row : John G0VPJ, Eric G4FSN, Geoff G3STG

(Eddie G0EWO and Roy G0NZU were not present)

The RAYNET 80m net meets at 08:30 hrs. clock time on 3.663 Mhz. The net controller duty roster is as follows:-

3rd January - Duty G4KUJ, Standby G0BDA
10th January - Duty G0BDA, Standby G0EWO
17th January - Duty G0EWO, Standby G0MRH
24th January - Duty G0MRH, Standby G0VPJ
31st January - Duty G0NZU, Standby G3STG

7th February - Duty G0VPJ, Standby G4AAL
14th February - Duty G3STG, Standby G0BDA
21st February - Duty G4AAL, Standby G0EWO
28th February - Duty G4FSN, Standby G0MRH.

Committee of Management

The next meeting of the Committee of management will be held in Beaconsfield on Saturday 17th. January. If you have any "traffic" for the Committee, please contact your Zonal Co-ordinator as soon as possible.

Presentation to RSGB

Ron Cowan, GM4SRL has been invited to make a presentation on the work of the Network to RSGB Council on Saturday 23rd. January. This invitation follows discussions between the RSGB's outgoing president, Ian Kyle and members of the Committee of Management, and the joint working group which met to discuss a response to the Radiocommunication Agency's proposals to update BR68 which was held at the University of Surrey earlier this year.

Action Research 100 98 Bike Ride 30 August

**Lance Whitelegg, G0CCU,
Avon Area RAYNET
Controller**

May I first explain that Action Research is a charity who raise money to fund research into diseases and disabilities which are usually grossly under-funded. Vaccines for polio and German measles, the use of ultrasound in medicine and artificial hip replacements are all major research projects that Action Research has been involved with. Currently 175 projects are supported nationwide, a commitment approaching almost £13,000,000 to improving our health.

“The Action 100 Bike Ride” Sunday 30th August 1998 was the second successful operation of this event by RAYNET. Previous to last year (97) the rides communications were handled by a territorial army signals group for some 17 years. However, last year they announced that they couldn't take part due to cut backs, so the organisers were advised to seek RAYNET assistance. Apparently their counterparts who organised other events for the same charity couldn't understand why they were not already using RAYNET!

The user service for the event is St John Ambulance. The Bath division fields 4 ambulances and a control car. The event started simultaneously at Bristol and Bath (manned at 0600 hrs local, riders set off from 0630 - 0800 hrs) The course follows the A4 through Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, North Wiltshire, West Berkshire, East Berkshire and the A308 to finish at Kempton Park racecourse in Surrey. The event is closed down at 2000 hrs local time.

It is quite an achievement for 6 RAYNET groups in 4 counties to support an organiser's control vehicle plus 4 other marshal vehicles, 4 ambulances, 1 ambulance control vehicle, up to 2 cycle repair vehicles plus two start points and the feeding stations and other logistics as well as manning high risk traffic danger spots on a course of 115 miles and of some 14 hours duration!

The organisers control vehicle (Marshal 1 / G8XAA) was manned this year by two RAYNET operators. G0CCU (me) and Alan, G3ZKI. I learned from last year that it is a long time for one person to do the lot so I invited Alan, G3ZKI to assist. (The smartest move this year!) The organisers have been very quick to point out that we have handled the message traffic better than the T.A. as we are not adamant that we have to pass the info in the army manner and make it awkward for the organisers to get the information they need in their preferred format. For instance they had refused to refer to the ambulances by their PBR call signs and insisted on using the full registration number. In Avon we have always used the Golf Alpha +3 figure callsigns which are conveniently written on the sides of the vehicles because it is easier!

We in the control vehicle had an especially long day, I personally got up at 0400 and returned home at 2315, Alan was picked up before me and dropped off shortly afterwards as he doesn't live very far away. We look forward to hearing the final outcome next year but riders numbers were down from just under 500 to under 300 this year, mainly due to the organisers altering the entrance form conditions.

Last year's event raised £37,000. We are very pleased to be able to help such a good cause.

The experience has proved just what can be done of a fairly long distance by letting the local groups “do their own thing”. Local knowledge and regular training are very valuable!

This year the Avon Area control station was manned by members of the newly formed (1998) Bath and North Somerset group (BaNES) supported by some Bristol Group members from the Lansdown site. Lansdown is an old Royal Observer Corps hill top comms bunker in the grounds of Avon Fire Brigade's Headquarters.

The Lansdown site proved to be very effective in its coverage of the course and the signals were favourably commented upon by stations as far away as Berkshire. Not bad for a 10 Watt TCVR! The aerial was mounted on a 40 foot crank up tower and the site is 237 Metres above sea level. Unfortunately the Bath Start point wasn't readable from Lansdown as the bunker is on a plateau but set back from the edge and therefore cannot “see” down into some of the city. The operator in Bath was only using a hand held as he was having to pop in and out of the building. Luckily BaNES group have a member just up the road from the Guildhall who ran talk through at home and saved the day. Last year we operated a mobile at the south of the city who relayed to Roy - GONZU, the control station in Filton, North Bristol. This arrangement was an improvement with one less operator going /M.

This year to prevent the few complaints that were received last year of low power signals from the control vehicle, (1997 was 5W from IC32E to a mag mounted 1/2 wave) we used my FT290R MKII with attached 25W PA running from a 75AH leisure battery (provided by Alan - G3ZKI). We were also equipped with an IC32E each and plenty of charged nicads and a couple of 12V 6.5AH gel cells I bought at the Longleat Rally this year. (Be prepared!!) My thanks go to the members of the following groups for their support and I believe at least one operator who assisted from outside these groups areas. Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, North Wiltshire, West Berkshire, East Berkshire, Surrey. We just couldn't have done it without them!

Great Yarmouth UXB

**Tony Lee
(G1ULE)**

(County Controller Association of Norfolk RAYNET Groups)

On 21st October 1998 at 13:30 hrs, I received a telephone call from Gt. Yarmouth police asking if RAYNET could supply radio communications as an unexploded bomb had been dredged up in the River Yare, and the ship had brought it back into the port!

I started ringing round the members of my group, I asked Clive (G1EPB) & Bob (M1CQR) to meet me at the Joint Operation Centre at Gt. Yarmouth police station. On my arrival I was asked if we could provide communications from two evacuation centres, one being at the Marina Centre on Gt. Yarmouth's sea front and the other three miles away at the Wroughton School, Gorleston.

I then telephoned two more of my group members, Nigel (2E1BFX), John (2E1BEE) & Colin (G8PEN) These operators were dispatched to the evacuation centres as a first response and liaison point, and I then phoned the County Controller Tony (G1ULE) who said that he would come out to Gt. Yarmouth to liaise, in case more operators from other groups were required. Further operators were then called in and dispatched to the evacuation centres. (As it turned out, we were well covered by members of our own group.)

We set up a working frequency of 144.650 Mhz, along with a standby net on which the updates to other members who were standing by were sent out. We were all "up and running" in both centres & the J.O.C. by 14.50 hrs. We had regular briefings from every one of the parties who were involved with the incident.

These were initially scheduled for every hour, but as the evening wore on it became obvious that a flexible briefing pattern would work better and this was put into place, with briefings being held when new information was available. By 18:00 hrs we had eleven members of Gt. Yarmouth RAYNET Group available, and were able to send replacement members out to the evacuation centres to allow the first shift of operators to have a break for food etc. I handed over control over to Mike (G4GLI), so that I could have a break. By 20.30 hrs when I took over the control again, every member had had a break and we were preparing for a long night.

The bomb disposal team now had the special equipment that they needed and were working to make the bomb safe. At one point it was thought that the incident might be ongoing for two to three days but the Navy specialists managed to make the bombs safe, so that it could be safely towed out to sea for disposal the next day. Meanwhile we were dealing with 1500 people who had been evacuated to the two centres.

The police stood the RAYNET Group down at 00:05 hrs on 22nd October. My thanks to all who helped & all who offered assistance.

Members involved were: G5NB D/Group controller G4GLI, G1EPB, G7WHM, G1EFM, G7ATW, M1CQR, G8PEN, 2E1BFX, 2E1BEE and John Barnard (G7RPJ) Gt. Yarmouth Group Controller.

Further to this I would like to add my thanks to the Police at Gt. Yarmouth for their hospitality to the RAYNET Members as they made us very welcome and to G6EUO, G7PRC, G1SCQ, M0BQB and all the members of their groups who were willing to turn out to assist at this Incident.

Mobile Comms

**Eddie
(G7OMK)**

(SW London RAYNET)

An article in the June '98 edition of Radio Communication referred to the code of practice for mobile installations from the Radiocommunications Agency. I downloaded and read the document. Some points are relevant to installation of PBR by commercial companies but, in general, the document is a source of helpful information we should all consider. Some points arise from the article which are relevant to us as RAYNET members.

1. After 2002 only "type approved" rigs may be installed in "type approved" vehicles.
2. MPT 1362 is a good place to start when looking for advice on installation.

Most of us will probably change our rigs and cars in the next few years so it would be sensible for us to have "approved" rigs and comply with the code of practice especially as we are often seen as the "public" face of amateur radio. In particular the sections relating to EMC and on board computers (engine management systems and ABS), also the section on aerial location and radiation patterns is useful. I am not sure how we can safely test the ABS while transmitting and not put ourselves (and others) at risk! Probably the only way is to find a friendly garage with a rolling road facility. A work colleague tells me his cars ABS works at low speeds on his gravel drive! (He is not inviting people round to try it out though!)

The address for the document is :- http://www.open.gov.uk/radiocom/mpt/mpt_pdf/mpt1362.pdf

This is a 34 page Acrobat file but well worth a read. You will need the Acrobat file reader which can be downloaded from the R.A. site or :- <http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/readstep.html>

My rig is the first that does not comply as it is too old for a "CE" mark, luckily my car has neither ABS or an electronic engine management system.

This document is also available from the R.A. though I am sure those of us that are connected to the Internet would be able to pass on copies to those who are not.

NVIS Book

**Paul
G4MWO**

Following Eric Walton, G4FSN's mini-review of the book 'Near-Vertical Incidence Skywave Communication' by LTC Fiedler and Maj. Ed Farmer, AA6ZM, which covers local-to-medium distance HF communications, RAYNET HF enthusiasts may like to know that they can order a copy from Paul Gaskell, G4MWO, NW RAYNET Secretary. The cost is £10 [£8.75 plus £1.25 post & packing]. Cheques should be made payable to P.D. Gaskell. G4MWO is QTHR or can be contacted by e-mail at pauldgaskell@cwcom.net

The book has been very favourably reviewed in QST.

Emergency Planning Team

Cathy Clark G1GQJ

The Emergency Planning Team gave a presentation at the Network's AGM in Crewe on emergency planning issues. This included a brief introduction to the Team and its responsibilities which are:

Liaison with all User Services

Liaison at a national level

International Liaison (This involves fostering links with similar organisations overseas.)

Talk Through Permits (in conjunction with Ian Jackson G8RWH)

Support for emergencies (The Guidance Notes for Emergency Planning and Voice Procedure document were part of this.)

Liaison with the RSGB and its Emergency Radio Liaison Officer (The Team has a good relationship with Tom Reilly G0NSY, RSGB ERLO).

Liaison with the Home Office

Liaison with the Radiocommunications Agency

Various members of the Emergency Planning Team then went on to outline the particular projects which are currently being undertaken.

Incident Response and Resource Tracking document.

This takes the form of guidance on the response to a major incident and the benefits that may be gained by pre-planning and data-gathering activities. It addresses both the operational and tactical response of local controllers and the relationship with county/area controllers and/or zonal co-ordinators.

This work is now being considered by the Training Team for inclusion in the Training Scheme.

Emergency Planning Resource Database (EPRD)

From the Incident Resource document came a need for a database of equipment held by either groups or individuals which may be available to a group involved in a major incident. This includes a number of categories e.g. specialist equipment (such as vehicles, caravans, talk-through units, generators etc), members' skills (such as keyboard or computing skills) and aspects of local knowledge which may be useful in an emergency (24hr shopping, petrol stations etc).

Groups and individuals will be able to submit information for inclusion on the database (a copy of the form will be included with the next edition of RAY~Link, as well as brief explanatory notes) which, when completed, can be submitted to the Network in a variety of ways. The database itself will be available in ASCII format for downloading from the telephone BBS and can be imported into a variety of familiar computer packages. Access to the designated area on the BBS will be password-controlled, to ensure security of the information.

Guidance Notes for Emergency Planning

There was a presentation about the notes issued with the last edition of RAY~Link. The presentation covered:

What is a major Civil Emergency?

What happens when a major incident occurs?

Local Authority actions

Integrated Emergency Management

Checklist of Emergency Plans

What is RAYNET likely to be asked to do?

The Emergency Planning Team would be delighted to receive any comments/feedback about its work - this is important, as it

will offer guidance for our work in the future; we need to know what you are doing, so that we can formulate projects for attention. Please let us have any feedback by the end of January 1999 so that your comments can be discussed at the next Emergency Planning Team meeting.

Comments can be sent to the BEDALE address (marking the envelope "FAO Emergency Planning Team") or on e-mail to cathyclark@zetnet.co.uk

***Search and Rescue
insurance***

**Martin
G4PMG, ZC4**

The Committee of Management has agreed to take out insurance cover for RAYNET members in MOD aircraft which are engaged in "Search and Rescue" training or call out. RAYNET is now registered with each Search & Rescue base in the UK as a bona fide organisation in conjunction with Search & Rescue duties. The current cover runs from 1 November 1998 to 31 October 1999.

The insurance will cover us for 3rd party claims against the MOD or RAYNET following an accident during search and rescue or training flights. It also allows RAYNET to make claims up to £50,000,000 against the MOD in the event of a RAYNET member being injured due to MOD negligence. The cover starts from the time of boarding until leaving the aircraft at the completion of the training flight, and includes persons being transported by winch.

Some examples of possible claims are quoted as being:

- 1) During a helicopter flight requested by RAYNET the downwash causes cars to be damaged by flying stones and fences to be blown down. The policy covers repairs to cars and fences;
- 2) During a flight a RAYNET member is transported by winch. Due to a faulty mechanism the member falls and is injured. The policy would pay compensation.

We hope that the provision of this insurance will facilitate better liaison not only with MOD establishments but with our colleagues in HM Coastguard and other Search and Rescue organisations who work closely with the MOD. Not only will it benefit our Coastal Groups but may well be useful during severe inland flooding.

You are reminded that you will be in the aircraft for transportation purposes only and, due to the terms of your license you do not have rights of radio operation from aircraft in flight. Any ground radio operation in the proximity of MOD aircraft should only be with the permission of the aircraft commander.

Any group using this facility is asked to ensure a report is sent to Bedale at the earliest opportunity to enable the COM to review its usefulness. Further details, including a copy of the "MOD confirmation of policy activation" are available from our Bedale address.