



RAY ~ Link

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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)

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Annual General Meeting and Symposium

- by Ron Cowan, GM4SRL

Come to Glasgow for real Scottish Hospitality!

This year the Network's Annual General Meeting will be held in Glasgow on **Saturday 6th. November 1999**. As Glasgow is further north than the RAYNET AGM has ventured before, it has been decided to incorporate it into a RAYNET Symposium and to hold a "Weekend in Scotland" event.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 16:00 hrs. on Saturday 6th. November, and members are, of course, welcome to attend it on its own, but I hope that the majority will come to Glasgow for a great weekend.

For those arriving on the evening of Friday 5th. November, Glasgow City Council is putting on a Firework display in Glasgow Green. (The residents of Glasgow have also been invited!!) The doors of the symposium will open at 10:15 hrs. on Saturday 6th. November, and there will be presentations from then until the AGM starts at 16:00 hrs.

Speakers will include Walter Renton, Head of Emergency Planning at the Scottish Executive, who will talk of the Scottish perspective as well as covering the views of the Home Office, a volunteer from the WRVS who will describe her experiences at the sharp end of a disaster, Superintendent Green of Strathclyde Police who will tell of some of the funnier moments preparing for the Year 2000, and the Rev. Neil Galbraith of the charity "Glasgow, The Caring City", who has been out to Kosovo twice this year, will describe his experiences, and tell us how he was so successful in obtaining money and equipment for his venture. (I was one of the people who could not say "no" to his tireless efforts extracting help from the City Council!) Jim Andrews, G1HUL, Head of the Network's IT Services, will give a presentation on the latest e-mail innovation which members will be invited to join.

The Lord Provost has kindly agreed to provide a Civic Lunch Reception to mark the Symposium coming to Glasgow.

Over -->

All correspondence and membership registrations should be sent to:-
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SPECIALIST TEAMS

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Cathy Clark, G1GQJ

Finance:
Martin Green, G4PMG

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AGM and Symposium - continued

Wives, husbands and partners are welcome too, with an alternative programme being arranged while the RAYNET member is attending the symposium. The cost of this programme will depend on the number attending, but will be nominal.

In the evening we will all meet up again for a dinner followed by a ceilidh, with tickets being priced at £10.00 each. The symposium will close after a leisurely breakfast.

As we require to let the City Council know our numbers for lunch, and the Hotel know the numbers for dinner, please return the form included with this RAY~Link to me no later than 23rd. October. If you are only coming to the AGM, there is no requirement to return this form.

I look forward to seeing you for the whole weekend, but in particular, from 11:00 hrs. onwards on the Saturday. I have heard all of the speakers before, and am sure that you will enjoy their presentations.

The "recommended" hotel for the symposium is the Glasgow City Centre Lodge Inns, 10 Elmbank Gardens, Glasgow G2 4PP. (Telephone 0141-221 1000, Fax 0141-248 1000) The hotel, which used to be known as the Charing Cross Hotel, is only two minutes away from the location of the symposium which is the Council Chamber, House 5, Charing Cross Complex, 94 Elmbank Street, and is the venue of the Saturday evening dinner.

Please make your own accommodation arrangements directly with the hotel. The cost is £44.50 per room per night, and breakfast is from £3.95 to £5.95.

Why have a National RAYNET Diary?

**Ray Clark G8GQJ, Deputy GC
Aylesbury 06/BU/196**

Why have a National RAYNET Diary? (Or "Just how many events can there be on one day?")

Every Sunday morning on 80m, whether there are notable items or not for the weekly news, our gallant band of newsreaders plough their way through a long list of diary events for the following weeks. Often it is the only item - so why include it? Why not just have a straight-forward net of people "on air"? Just what is the point of the 80m diary?

As a deputy group controller, whose role within the group is to organise the technical and frequency planning for events, I find them extremely useful. Having listened to the broadcast, or received my e-mail copy of the week's news, I then check them against our commitments (which we send up for inclusion) and work out where my headaches are likely to be coming from!

One such example occurred on Sunday July 4th 1999. Aylesbury group, along with groups from London, the West Midlands, Warwickshire and Oxfordshire, were involved in the London - Oxford and Birmingham - Oxford Bike Rides for the Red Cross. This date saw no fewer than ten other events, ranging from a 140km horse ride in Suffolk, a bike ride from Hampton Court to Brighton, another one in South Glamorgan, and a local hill climb just a few miles away. Purely by chance, a phone call from a neighbouring group controller alerted me to an eleventh event in Hertfordshire! With the limited number of frequencies available to RAYNET, and the terrain of the London - Oxford route necessitating the use of several strategically sited talk-through units, frequency planning became a major worry.

My first job was to draw up a diagram of all the known events

for the day. I then set about contacting the controllers of the various groups involved to liaise with them on the frequencies they would be using, NGRs for their TTUs and control stations, and where available, a control station telephone number in case of problems. Having collated the information, I started entering details into Tempath, a path profiling programme to give me a rough idea of possible problems. This indicated that a major problem would probably be with the Hampton Court to Brighton event, so phone calls to Brian G3OYU CC Surrey to discuss the matter resulted in an agreement for them to use a beam.

Having done this, I set about planning the frequencies for our own event, making use of frequencies on 50MHz and 70MHz for inter-site links and 2m/70cms for TTUs. The aerials used on most UHF links to and from TTUs were beams. Bearing in mind the choice of frequencies for other events already planned, I came up with a "best-fit" solution; I then tabulated all the information about the various events and sent copies to those groups involved in activities on the day.

Despite all the planning, I was not able to take into account those little glitches with which we in RAYNET are so familiar - the problem of propagation, with Sporadic E on 4m, and lift conditions on 2m, resulting in Surrey Control putting out a call to one of their operators, which was answered by an operator on the Birmingham - Oxford event!

So just remember - please include your events on the National RAYNET diary - it makes life for those members in similar situations throughout the country so much easier when it comes to frequency planning for an event!

**Alan
G4YMU**

Elections for Zonal Co-ordinators.

There is not a requirement to hold elections in any zone for incoming ZCs this year.

Nominations have been received as follows:-

ZC1 - Tom G0JRT the only nomination, is supported by all Groups. ZC2 - status quo - Brian G4HVA continues in the caretaker role. ZC5 - David, G1ADW is standing down for business reasons, but no nominations have been received. The COM will discuss the position at its next meeting. ZC12 - Tom, GM0BKX, is the only nomination and is replacing Liam GM4VYQ who is standing down for business reasons.

Leicester Rally

RAYNET was represented at the Leicester Amateur Radio and Computer Show held at Castle Donington on September 24th and 25th.

Members of the County manned a RAYNET stand which showed examples of RAYNET's work for the Community, and many members visited the stand. In addition, publicity flyers were included with the Show Guide handed to all visitors, and this resulted in a number of enquiries about the Network and its work. The stand was also supported by Cathy Clark, the Vice-Chairman on Saturday 25th.

RAYNET Supplies also attended on both days of the show, and did a great job in further promoting the Network's professional image as well as making the range of supplies available to members. Thanks are due to Brian and Moira who made the long journey down to support the County's efforts.

Brian and Moira at Leicester

Training Day at Leicester

**Tom Hanratty
G0JRT**

On Saturday 10th April 1999 the training team travelled to Leicester to put on a training day for members of the Leicester, Melton Mowbray and Four Counties RAYNET Groups based on "Operational Management Team" (OMT). There was a full and demanding programme, with OMT presentations being made in the morning session followed in the afternoon by a tabletop exercise "Operation Crusade" which was written by B.L. Davies Wiltshire County Controller. This exercise was based on a real incident. Unexploded World War II bombs found in Chippenham Wilts.

Everyone had a great day, and the Training Team would like to thank all the members who took part, and also Cathy Clark G6GQJ, Dave Hicks G6IFA, Geoff Griffiths G3STG, Alan Wallis G4YMU and Ray Clark G8GQJ for their valuable help in making the day a success.

The Team would also like to thank Jim Andrews G1HUL Leicester Group controller for the facilities and hospitality he provided, And a special thanks to Jim's parents and parents-in-law for organising an excellent lunch.

The team is available to organise training sessions throughout the UK. Controllers and or Group Training officers who would like to find out more should contact the Training Team director, Tom Hanratty G0JRT (QTHR), Tel: 01207 505315 or via E.mail tomhanratty@ic24.net



Ian Patrick, G0TAW

By Teresa Lee M0BQB

It is with great regret & sadness that I have been asked by Zenda, G0TAW's widow to inform you of his death on Sunday the 29th August in Papworth Hospital. Ian had suffered from heart problems for some time, although those that knew him might be forgiven for not knowing he was in fact "kept going" by an internal pacemaker and defibrillator.

Sadly during the last year he suffered difficulties which necessitated his return to Papworth for a further operation, from which he did not recover. I personally have many good thoughts and memories of Ian, he was a great friend and an active member of the Mid Norfolk RAYNET Group always willing to help out and even during his ill health did not allow that to stop him helping.

When RAYNET were asked to assist search for a missing child in a local village, Ian was there operating "talk in" from his QTH for RAYNET members trying to locate the small village. Ian was a keen CW operator and recently received his "Fist's" century certificate, that he was rightly proud of. I recall that it had taken him considerable time to get the 100 stations due to his poor health, but persevere he did.

He was responsible for "gently persuading" me to take my "A" licence and spent many an hour in his shack thumping the key trying to make me understand it all. I did reward him with a pass first time and still use CW although I am not as fast as Ian was. The last person I know he helped through their CW to their "A" licence was my husband, but I know that he helped many other Amateurs over the years and we all will always remember him. He will be sadly missed, but never forgotten.

New registration Forms

Jim Andrews (G1HUL)

Head of Information Systems

New registration forms have been introduced, and have been sent to controllers and membership secretaries. These should be used for all future applications etc. and all previous versions should be destroyed. (We still occasionally get groups sending in the original box-shaded form, circa 1991!).

Your attention is drawn to the significant changes with the membership form REG-02, a new one-time declaration REG-06 and new method of operation of the Personal Accident Insurance on form REG-05. ***Due to these changes, applications on the old forms will be rejected.***

The forms are available in Adobe Acrobat .PDF format from either the web site at <http://www.sgi.leeds.ac.uk/raynet>, via e-mail request from reg.forms@markfield.u-net.com or by sending a 3½" disk to 'Registration forms' at the Hunters Moon mailing address. The September 1999 forms are contained in the file [frm02a.pdf](#) (94K).

The Acrobat reader required is available free from www.adobe.com.

REG-01 - Registration and PAI cover sheet

This form must accompany all registrations and Personal Accident Insurance applications. It has been updated to include sections for a group to change its renewal period and summary of the new PAI applications. It is also now a requirement for it to be validated by the group controller or registrations officer.

REG-02 - Application to register / re-register

Revamped to remove ambiguities such as membership period and e-mail addresses are now being captured for the purposes of dealing with registration queries, not for long-term use. Personal Accident Insurance is no longer tied to this form - please refer to REG-05.

Major change - No member signature is required on this form. A one-time declaration form REG-06 is now required.

REG-03 - Advice of termination of membership.

Form is self-explanatory, no major changes to the content, simply that it can now list multiple members.

REG-04 - Advice of appointments

Now consolidated for groups, counties etc. Please ensure you use this form to inform us of changes within your group, otherwise mailings may be lost and contact lists will be inaccurate - It is in your interest to keep it up to date!

REG-05 - Application for Personal Accident Insurance

New form, which must be used for all PAI applications.

Please note that the PAI 'box' has been removed from REG-02 and all applications must now be made with REG-05. Details of how the scheme operates are on the form and, if your group already has members in the PAI scheme, your Registrations Officer will have received a letter detailing who is currently covered and explaining more detail about the scheme's operation.

REG-06 / REG-06J - One time declaration

New form, which replaces the signature on the membership form REG-02.

The notes on each form clearly indicate who is to fill it in and when.

Please note that all current members should fill out this form as soon as possible. No registrations will be accepted after 1st October unless The Network is in possession of a declaration, either by accompanying the next registration or having been filled out beforehand.

CIN-01 - Confidential information

For the supply or removal of confidential information about a member.

COR-01 - Advise of change or error

For changing details on the database that have either changed or have been found to be in error. Now includes a request for a new ID card (e.g. for change of callsign or name).

DPA-01 - Request for information

Request, as allowed under that data protection act, for information held on an individual.

TMP-01 - Temporary member

Advice of temporary member. Please note that this now requires the authorisation of the Group Controller.

GARF-01 - Annual report

New form for collection of statistics about group operations. Please take the time to fill in a form each year as the information is very useful when in negotiations with user services and other organisations, as we can say with confidence what the activity levels are within the organisation.