



RAY ~ Link

Issue Thirty Six
May 2000

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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AGM 2000

The 2000 AGM will be held in the Ballroom at Bletchley Park Museum, Bletchley, Milton Keynes on Saturday 4th. November.

The Museum is closed that weekend, but a member of the BP Trust has been invited to give a short talk (around 30–40 minutes) on the history of the Park during our morning session.

Coffee will be served on arrival in the Chapel from 10.30am. and lunch will be available between the morning and afternoon sessions.

We intend to arrange a dinner and social evening following the AGM, and details of this, along with full AGM details will be given in future editions of RAY~Link. Meantime, please mark Saturday 4th. November in your diary!

Membership Renewals

Several members have asked why existing members are being requested to sign an "Individual Member's Agreement and Guarantee" form (reg-06). Up until now, this form was incorporated in the renewal form, but in order to allow future developments including the facility of electronic re-registration for groups, a "once only" form has been issued. Once this has been signed, members can re-register without having to send in a signed document.

80m duty Roster for May and June 2000

7th May -	Duty G0EWO,	Standby G0BDA
14th May -	Duty G0NZU,	Standby G4KUJ
21st May -	Duty G0MRH,	Standby G4AAL
28th May -	Duty G0VPJ,	Standby G0MRH
4th June -	Duty G3STG,	Standby G0NZU
11th June -	Duty G4AAL,	Standby G0EWO
18th June -	Duty G0BDA,	Standby G4KUJ
25th June -	Duty G4FSN,	Standby G0VPJ

All correspondence and membership registrations should be sent to:-

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I arrived in good time for this seminar that covered two days. What I wondered was it all going to be about. The first friendly face I saw was that of our Zone representative Cathy Clark, shortly followed by Tom Stewart, David Hicks, Alan Hopkinson and finally our illustrious Chairman Ron Cowan.

It soon became obvious that the Emergency Planning College at Easingwold were well used to looking after our needs! After having booked in and found my room I was invited to lunch. This proved to be in a fine old house that functions as the main reception area together with the lecture theatre and seminar rooms.

After lunch and general chit-chat with the other five Raynet the seminar proper commenced at 14:30, after the usual introductions the main business got underway.

The first Speaker was Peter Davies, Head of Home Office Emergency Planning Division, he told us something about the background to the College and its function which is to train Emergency Planning Officers, and their colleagues, in all matters pertaining to disaster planning.

Inspector Glenn Brown, Leicestershire Constabulary, described how he saw the use of the volunteer sector in times of emergency both minor and major. He started by stating that the Police do not control anyone! They see their job as facilitators, that is they make it possible for other emergency organizations to do their job. The Fire and Rescue Service to 'rescue' people and the Ambulance Service to carry out all medical work. The Police would clear the way for these other services to get to the scene of the disaster and generally ensure that the scene was maintained in such a state as to enable them to carry out any investigation that might be necessary, should any future inquiry be instigated.

It appears that the terms bronze, silver and gold - as applied to the areas around an incident - are now outdated. These are more generally referred to as operational, tactical and strategic respectively, the latter being rarely used except in the most serious of disasters. (Gold, Silver & Bronze have never been used in Scotland - Ed)

He went on to say that all voluntary organizations must ensure that all individuals must be readily identifiable, either by an armband or tabard, and that they should carry some official identification and he hoped that all organizations did issue identity cards to each of its members.

Raised by Inspector Brown was the subject of log keeping - no not the log need under our Amateur Radio Licence! This is the personal log each and every person involved in an event must keep. It was point out that in these days of suing all and sundry you must be able to accurately state what you did, what you said, when and to whom. The only way to do this is to keep a written log of everything. To this end, Raynet Groups - and Surrey is no exception - have a log keeper in Control making notes of every

transmission and reception together with times. This need not be ultra detailed, suffice that it provides confirmation of what was said, by whom and when.

Because written notes can be challenged, Surrey Raynet are experimenting with a new system based on recording both sides of a transmission onto a PC. The software capable of achieving this is already in the Shareware Domain. The program will record directly onto the hard disc providing a .WAV file, time-stamping is automatic and a VOX system ensures that pauses, and gaps in transmissions, are removed. The program is RecAll Pro from Sagesoft, an American company. You can download a time-limited version from the Web, sagesoft.com should find them.

One interesting piece of information - quite new to me - is that the Police do now carry insurance to cover volunteers, provided only that the Police have asked for these volunteers officially. The law for this was passed as the Police Insurance of Volunteers Act 1997.

Two other things were said one was that however enthusiastic you may be if you haven't been asked to attend the party please don't go, and secondly he ended on a quote from the bible. Matthew 25 v 13. "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day nor the hour".

Next under the spotlight was Squadron Leader Mike Thompson from the MOD. He is primarily concerned with The Joint Casualty Reporting and Reception Plan, (JCRRP affectionately known as JCRAP). This plan is to do with the medical treatment of military personnel in times of action. This might be a major altercation or something like the recent Kosovo incident. It appears that after immediate treatment in the field all military casualties are flown back to Britain as soon as they are sufficiently stable to be transported.

All military hospitals have now closed so the NHS now undertakes treatment of the military, in the UK. The fact is that should a plane with more than 8, yes eight, casualties be flown into the UK the military could not cope without the assistance of the Emergency Services. Should a major incident occur - such as nearly happened in Kosovo - it was estimated that a medical aeroplane, a 757, would land with at least 242 casualties. Given this it is anticipated that the voluntary services, such as Red Cross and St John would be required, because the Statutory Services would be overwhelmed.

The fourth Speaker was from the Department of Health. Duncan MacPherson being their Head of Emergency Planning Co-ordination Unit. He spoke mostly about training and that the volunteer organizations should assemble their team, that the team must be able to work through any stress situations and that they must have a designated person in charge to which the co-ordinators could refer. He also talked about the need for a robust means of contacting members 'on the night'. He also felt that we should exercise regularly with other groups.

We were also asked several salient questions such as 'do we have the right gear?' 'does it work?' 'do we have the right skills and training?' I would add others. Do you keep your radio batteries fully charged up? Have you sufficient petrol to get to your designated location, at all times? It is useless having gear that will fail after 10 minutes use or a car that runs out of petrol 5 miles down the road.

We should also have flexible written plans and procedures - (these are currently under discussion in committee) - and essentially that we must be able to abandon the plan if common sense dictates. The stress was on a cycle of needs. TRAIN - EXERCISE - REVIEW and repeat after each review!

The final Speaker for the afternoon was Brian Ward the Chairman of the Emergency Planning Society. He feels that each volunteer organization should meet with other organizations to train with them and to exchange information. He feels that we can all learn much from each other and understand their particular problems.

He also felt that plans should not be cast in stone and that orders to others must be thought out carefully. He cited an example of a major incident where the military were in charge and they had placed a marine at the door of their incident room with the instruction no but no one comes through that door, and no one did not even the Police Chief. No one that is until the WRVS lady arrived at the door with the tea trolley. On being told no entry she replied that those inside could not possibly function without refreshment. She was allowed in!

Next on the agenda was dinner - and very good it was too! Later we were asked to take part in a quiz. Four groups were assembled including Ron's Rogues - these of course were the Raynet contingent - together with some outside help - and I'm delighted to say that we won by one clear point.

Day two dawned cold and frosty, but very bright. After one further Speaker, Pamela Dix the Press Officer of Disaster Action, who talked about the Bereaved and Survivors of an Incident. For me this was a particularly moving talk. Pam explained that Disaster Action came into being in the aftermath of Lockerbie, her older brother having been a victim. It was felt that none of the emergency services had enough knowledge to understand the needs and aspirations of the bereaved or the survivors, so with others she formed this self-help group. As a result of this much has changed in the way relatives and survivors are handled.

Until Lockerbie relatives were shielded from the reality of such disasters, this is now understood to be wrong - much more important for the grieving process is to have as much information as possible. This is not counselling, in fact at the initial stage relatives do not want counselling at any price. They angry, upset - they want answers, they want the whys' and the wherefores', they desperately want to know as much detail as they can get. It is only later that counselling will be of assistance.

It appears that a representative of Raynet did contact Pam much later to ask if he could call and see her to tell her about the role that Raynet played in the days after the crash. Pam welcomed this as she said, "I want every scrap of information I can get - in order that I can more readily come to terms with what has happened". After eleven years you could still see the pain in Pam's eyes - how she could talk about her experiences like this I don't know. Many others and I felt very privileged to be at this talk.

Following this we moved onto a couple of workshops. There were a choice of several, the ones I chose were Training, and The Use and Abuse of the Volunteer Sector.

Several points came out that are relevant. The single most important is that the Voluntary Aid Societies should and must get together more often, both to train together as well as to swap ideas and general thoughts on our roles. This would give us the opportunity to understand others problems and how we can help them. More importantly, it would enhance any operation if you already know the people you are working with.



Title for Picture Here

Live training exercises were considered a must. Not just working with the other volunteers, but the Statutory Services must be made to realize that they should come along as well.

Credibility of volunteers is also a must. Until we show credibility to the Statutory Services they will not want to know us, so training with them is vitally important.

One important point did come out of the workshop on abuse and use of volunteers was that we must learn to say NO. If we feel that we are being asked to do something that we have neither trained for nor feel competent to carry out we must say NO. For example say we are out on an event. The Marshall fails to arrive - we inform the organizer who says "Oh can your operator do that marshalling for us?" The answer is NO. That is not what we are there for. Unfortunately there is also the question of liability should something go wrong. Suing when matter go wrong is here to stay - if we step outside of our remit we leave ourselves open to a court case. To reaffirm our position Raynet are available to pass messages on behalf of a designated user service. That is all! We don't hand out drinks - we don't treat the injured however minor - we don't control traffic, not even to advise them that there may be a problem close by. It was accepted that this might be very difficult. To say NO when your instinct say YES is very very difficult, but you must learn to do so.

It was also felt that at times we must have someone stand back and take a long hard dispassionate look at what we do, and how we do it. From the inside we get a blinkered view of our activities, whilst standing back and taking stock may well show up shortcomings that we would do well to dispel.

All in all this has been a valuable exercise for me. I have learned a lot and hope to be able to put some of it into practice in future events.

Report on RAYNET's Millennium Activities

Many thanks to the thirty-four groups and counties who responded to the request for information on their activities during the Millennium period. A report has now been compiled from the information given; the entire document is 14 pages long, and gives not only an overview of RAYNET's participation, but also reports from certain areas of the country, which illustrate specific involvement with User Services such as the NHS, Police, Emergency Planning, and combined BRCS, SJA and Ambulance Service operations.

In total, some 408 members were prepared for possible deployment over the Millennium period. This number far exceeded expectations. Even though in most cases, RAYNET members were not required, the level of preparedness, in terms of both testing and installation of equipment at key locations, and the availability of members to assist over the period, is duly recognised.

Considerable time, in excess of 321 hours, was given to attending planning meetings, both with the User Services and with other volunteer organisations. RAYNET undertook many maintenance tasks at key locations, such as the replacement of aerials and the installation of new equipment, and this amounted to nearly 100 hours. These figures are not fully comprehensive as some groups were unable to calculate the time that had been spent. We are also aware of other groups who have had involvement but may not have been able to provide details. Regardless of the actual statistics, this level of commitment from a voluntary organisation is outstanding.

Many groups reported an increased awareness of RAYNET and its capabilities. This liaison will undoubtedly have achieved much in terms of future involvement of the organisation with its User Services. Groups are advised to continue the level of RAYNET awareness the Millennium preparations demanded; in particular with those User Services who, in the past, have been reluctant to call upon the services of our organisation.

The range of User Services involved indicated the level of multi-agency co-operation needed for this type of event. Many groups reported that their local EPU was co-ordinating any requests for RAYNET involvement, and this is reflected in CEPO/Local authority being listed as the User Service 25 times. Others included Police (9), NHS/Ambulance trusts (8), BRCS, SJA and Fire (2) and the Manx Government on the Isle of Man.

Frequency usage, had all groups been active, would have created considerable problems. Many groups listed recognised emergency communications frequencies on 2m as their main operational frequency, with just eight groups also opting for an alternative 70cm frequency. Even so, it might well have been necessary to use other non-RAYNET frequencies in order to avoid co-channel interference. The current allocation of emergency communications frequencies within the various amateur bands is crucial and these must be safeguarded for the future. If possible, the use of bands

other than 2m and 70cm should be investigated, and emergency communications frequencies allocated on these alternatives, more importantly on 4m & 6m and, to a lesser extent, 23cm.

The use of HF was not viable in this instance. An HF listening watch was maintained on 3.663MHz (the frequency used by RAYNET for the Sunday 80m net) from 2000hrs on 31st December by Eric Walton G4FSN. Signals were heard at 2000hrs from Ray Hills GOBDA in Cumbria and Ron Horsley G0MRH in South Warwickshire, but on subsequent hours, operators were prevented from using the frequency by ON5XA, who stated that he was the Belgian Red Cross Station and needed a clear frequency. Assuming that he had genuine traffic to send, the UK stations kept the frequency clear and nothing further was heard from the UK RAYNET stations for the rest of the night. The importance of HF in this type of event is questionable and its only purpose would have been as a listening watch to gain an overview of nation-wide activities.

Many groups reported on the ways in which a callout of members would have been undertaken had the telephone network proved unworkable. Though most ran a radio net (8), some form of personal visit was the next most favourable method. In at least two cases, the police were willing to undertake this duty. Six groups would have used pagers or mobile phones, two groups maintained a listening watch on the local repeater, and one group would have been alerted through an announcement on local radio. However, four groups reported no alternative method of callout.

Credit must be given to all those dedicated RAYNET members throughout the country who devoted considerable time and effort to preparations for possible deployment over the Millennium period. The event has proved the organisation to be thorough in its approach to potential emergency situations and that RAYNET would have responded with flexibility and professionalism.

Finance Team

**Martin Green
G4PMG**

Thanks to Madeley who sent down an application pack for the Whitbread Volunteer awards. I have found a sponsor, provided him with the pack and asked him to nominate us. Potentially there is up to £2000 available should we be successful. There is a need to have a project and I have used the Business Case which Jim produced as the project which requires funding. Nominations had to be in by 10 April but I guess it will be sometime before we hear back.

I have applied for £500 from the "BT in the Community" funding scheme.

Finally I have written to Brian (G1HFY) to commence trying to obtain funding via the "National Power in the Community" awards scheme.

Zone 10 Report

Dave Hicks

G 6 IFA

March 5th. saw the Seventh Annual General meeting of the North West RAYNET Association, and Zone 10 meeting. The morning session was given over to Frank Avenia, G4MWM, who gave a talk on "Amateur Radio Equipment & Emergency Communications". Frank is the Chief Engineer at Amateur Radio Communications Ltd, in Newton-le-Willows Merseyside and talked about design philosophies, together with common problems and expectations of equipment performing in an Emergency Communications environment. The talk was very well attended, and the question & answer session which followed was extremely varied and technical. Our thanks to Frank for a very interesting Morning. The NWRA AGM was held after lunch and David Hicks G6IFA was re-elected as Chairman, Mike Hampson G8RXB elected as Deputy Chairman, G4MWO re-elected as Secretary, and Mike Barnes M1CQF elected as Treasurer. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Ray Hills G0BDA who stood down as Treasurer this year, having done the work of treasurer over the Eight years that the NWRA has been in existence. The AGM business was concluded in approximately 20 minutes and the Zone general meeting commenced. Firstly there was a de-brief on the Millennium operations in the Zone and reports were heard from all the County Controllers. Summing up, a total of 118 operators were involved over the Millennium within the Zone. The main user services were the Police in Cumbria Cheshire & Merseyside, CEPO in Lancashire, Fire Brigade in Greater Manchester, NHS in Bolton, and the Manx Government in the Isle of Man. Total Planning hours were approaching 100 hours, but this would multiply up if converted to man hours. Engineering tests also counted in some of this planning time but members are unsure of the time expended. Operators were deployed at the Police Headquarters Control Rooms in Chester and Liverpool, and also located at Bolton NHS Trust HQ on New Year's Day. The only problems encountered were with frequency clashes on VHF & HF, and the loss of mobile phones during the first hour of the new millennium. A discussion was held on the new PMR 446 radio frequencies, and their possible use on RAYNET events. It is possible that in some instances amateur equipment can monitor these frequencies and it was stressed that it would be illegal for licensed radio amateurs to transmit, mainly because of the limitations on power output. We may also suffer interference from these PMR 446 radios as they will tune down to 443 in some instances. We need to prepare an advice feature in RAY-Link, explaining the full implications of this new area, and the pitfalls we could encounter.

Various other areas were covered during our discussions including NVIS on HF, 2-metre frequencies, talk-through devices, novice operators, cross border liaison etc.

Also in attendance at the meeting were members from North Wales RAYNET, who actively got involved with the discussions and also gave a report on activities in the North East of Wales.

ZC10 also gave a report on the national scene and it was notable that the RSGB affiliated groups were complaining of the lack of support and information from the RSGB. It was also evident that 2000 would be another busy year for RAYNET Groups within the Zone, and that cross border liaison both within and without the zone would be critical in discharging our responsibilities to the full.

Zone 12 Report

**Tom
GM0BKX**

Things have been reasonably quiet with most of the activities starting around Easter.

There are two forthcoming major events in the same weekend in May. They are the Scottish Islands Peaks Race on 19th - 22nd May and the Weldex Argyll Rally on Saturday 20th May.

Both of these events require a large number of operators and the use of a number of talkthroughs, however, with careful planning courtesy of Derek, GM4LCZ for the Weldex Argyll Rally and David GM0ADF for the Islands Peaks Race it is hoped both events can co-exist on the Saturday without any problems.

The Ayrshire Group has provided communications at the Scottish Cross Country Championships on behalf of St Andrews Ambulance Association/Emergency Planning Officer North Ayrshire Council.

The event attracted more than 1200 runners from all over Scotland and as there were several runners injured RAYNET had a very busy day.

The Group attended Exercise Nighthawk on 19th January at the request of the South Ayrshire EPO. This was a simulated aircraft accident and although we did not provide communications on the night I felt that it was a great chance for our members to see the Emergency Services in action and also to experience first hand the problems encountered in such an operation. Some of our members acted as survivors with serious injuries while others acted as aggressive persons. I have been asked by our members to volunteer their services for any similar event!

The Group also assisted at Exercise Outhouse in one Ayrshire's Rural villages, when a large number of people were evacuated due to storms and damage to their homes.

**Suffolk,
All at Sea**

**Dave Sparrow
G8XOR**

Suffolk RAYNET has been invited to take part in the "Maritime Disaster Project". This is a European Community sponsored forum looking at each member country's response to a major maritime incident involving ships either within EC waters or ships belonging to EC member countries. It is hoped that this will lead to greater co-operation and understanding of the responsibilities and working of the emergency services and authorities within each country.

The UK are taking a lead role in this project, with Suffolk County Council CEPO playing a major part with representatives from the Fire, Police, Ambulance and Coastguard.

Zone 6 Report

**Cathy Clark
G1GGQJ**

Many groups are now beginning their "active" RAYNET seasons, having had a relatively quiet winter period, when training and preparations for the Millennium were undertaken.

South-East Hants, under the leadership of Dave Walker G3ULL, has reported that the search for a replacement to the group's control caravan drew a blank with regard to the acquisition of a second-hand site trailer. Upon viewing one, it was felt that it did not create the right impression and could not, however much work was put into it, look the part. The alternative was to make a purpose-built trailer to a design by the group. One of the group's members works in the dockyard at Portsmouth, and the plan was to involve the apprentices as part of their training, with £1500-worth of materials and free labour being promised as part of the deal. Unfortunately, this did not come to fruition, and although a sum of money was promised by the local District Council, it left a considerable shortfall. Alternative sources are now being considered.

The largest event on the horizon for six groups in the Zone is the London-Oxford and Birmingham-Oxford Bike Rides on Sunday 25th June, working for the British Red Cross. This involves members from Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, as well as London, Warwickshire and the West Midlands. The planning for such an event is mammoth and involves considerable liaison with the Red Cross, as well as frequency planning (taking into account RAYNET events which might be occurring in other areas of the country) and technical challenges, such as the siting of control stations and talk-through units to facilitate communications across difficult terrain.

Radiocommunications Agency

Over two years ago we applied for a GB2 callsign to use in connection with our 80m Sunday morning nets on 80m. The application was made, as requested, via the RSGB, and was approved by Ian Kyle, who was the current President.

We also, well over a year ago, met with the Radiocommunications Agency and thereafter with the RSGB to discuss the proposed update of BR68. At the time it was reported that the meetings were constructive and it was hoped that our views would be included in the update when it was published.

On chasing the progress of these two actions, we were surprised to learn that our documents had not been seen by the Radiocommunications Agency and we have now resubmitted both documents directly to the RA.

Among the changes requested in the BR68 document were suggestions concerning the use of Novice licence holders during RAYNET events. At present, Novice licence holders may not undertake RAYNET duties using their own callsigns, but we have requested that this is modified to allow those over eighteen years of age to do so. Members are reminded that these recommendations have not yet been (and may not be) incorporated in BR68, and consequently all Novice licence holders can only participate under instruction of an A or B class licence holder.

Publicity

**David Hicks
G6IFA**

The April edition of RADIO ACTIVE magazine has a two-page spread on RAYNET. It has 4 photographs of the 1998 AGM and a detail from the May 1999 national diary. The article is based on our "short history" document and is well written, giving an accurate appraisal of RAYNET overall. There is no doubt that it will not satisfy some people but you can't please all of the people all of the time. The unsolicited letter published in PRACTICAL WIRELESS magazine in March, written by the DORSET RED CROSS EPO Peter Hill, was an added bonus on the Publicity for RAYNET angle. The subject of this letter was thanks to Dorset RAYNET for the operation carried out over the Millennium Critical Period, and the support given over many years to the British Red Cross.

During January I sent a mailshot to the Radio & Emergency Press with a release on the national response & work carried out over the Millennium Critical Period. I followed this up in February with a copy of the Report On Millennium Duties to the Emergency Press. I have had no response whatsoever on this, and fear that anything Millennium is now ancient history and is certainly not newsworthy, but at least we have tried and may even be pleasantly surprised. I have again advised the press that our web pages have a weekly news report which they are welcome to use, and that if they require further information that we would try to expand on the report. In this regard I would like to see any reports produced by Groups when they have been active for any reason.

I have also looked again at the subject of posters, and am still of the opinion that several are required to target various areas, i.e. potential new members, EPO's, Blue Light services, Voluntary aid societies etc. Perhaps we could have a competition in RAY~Link to get poster/s designed by the membership, the best of which could be used. The only proviso being that it should be cheap to reproduce similar to the old RSGB poster, which is incidentally still the best general poster to date. Perhaps we should redo this as the Network poster.

Zone One

**Tom Hanratty
G0JRT**

Not a great deal to report for the period.

The event diaries for all of the groups in the zone are beginning to fill up. There will be a zone meeting on Saturday 15th April where I hope to receive group reports to go into the next issue of Raylink.

N.W. Durham held their AGM on Monday 13th March it was well attended. There was no change in the group's officers, all were re-elected en-bloc.

Sunderland have had a recent change to their groups officers with Joe Gordon G4LIA taking over as group controller.

Tyneside, Northumberland, East Durham and Cleveland groups are also preparing for future events.

The majority of groups are establishing their duty diaries for the coming year.

In Suffolk a County Constitution has been established and elections held. This has seen Chris Irish (G6PDE) become County Controller with Dave Sparrow (G8XOR) as his deputy. The Treasurer post resulted in a tie and after discussions with the Group Controllers and those nominated John Smith (G3WTS) was elected. Suffolk are also about to try APRS/UIview packet systems in connection with the "Heritage Coast" event. This requires safety cover for 1000 competitors in Walks and runs of up to marathon length so should be a good test and training opportunity. Work progresses in establishing a response for Mildenhall Air Fete on 27/28 May.

The Bedford (unaffiliated) group have little on since the Millennium activity which saw some 10/12 mandays in planning come to little when the requirement for RAYNET was removed in December. They continue to have regular meetings and have promised to invite myself along this year!

Cambridge group is preparing for a very busy season of events, indeed they have 2 on some of the busy summer Sundays. The Millennium saw a listening watch and informal contacts with neighbouring Counties. There has been improvement in linking with the CEPO and a review of all County owned RAYNET equipment is underway.

Up in Norfolk work continues to prepare for the coming summer events. They report that some stations were on over the millennium period and that 40 mandays of preparation effort was expended in liaison with the our User Services.

In Hertfordshire the usual pattern is emerging with Peak Assault taking place in Dartmoor National Park and some super team work emerged with the West Devon Group team members. HESMIC (Hertforshire Emergency Services Major Incident Committee) Seminar was attended by a number of RAYNET members and adjudged to be useful, relevant and an excellent day. Meeting of all Group Controllers continues on a regular basis to co-ordinate efforts in a uniform manner across the county.

Looking back on the activities of the Training Team has prompted the necessity of the following statement.

It is more beneficial for a Zone to ask the Training Team to run a training day/weekend. By including all of the groups in the Zone the costs can be spread between those participating. The Training Team is at present self-financing and cannot afford to fund Training Days. To ask the Training Team to attend Training Days/Weekends will incur the following costs.

Travel: - Even though it does not amount to the total cost of running a car travel will be the cost of the petrol for the total journey.

Accommodation: - It is not necessary to supply accommodation in a five star hotel, we will be quite happy if members of the Zone can offer overnight stay.

Materials: - it is necessary for all materials used in the production of the program and exercises for a Training Day/Weekend to be added to the account (at Cost). e.g. Stationary, Printing etc.

The Zone will be asked to furnish the following: -A venue big enough for the requirements of the Day. (Check with Team) Flip Charts / Whiteboards & Pens Overhead Projector (If available) Refreshments.

We have decided to put this statement out because of the embarrassment felt by the Team when we have to tell a Zone what it will cost. However bearing this in mind we are working very hard on Mail Order Training. This will be in the form of packs to cover different parts of RAYNET activities. We can at present offer a training pack on Operational Management Team (OMT). This pack needs to be presented by a Group/Zone Training Officer with experience. Watch this space for others, as they become available.

The Future's Orange

The Coventry Group has recently been given a donation by Barclay's Bank which will enable it to purchase Orange Hi-Visibility waistcoats.