



# RAY ~ Link

Issue Thirty Eight  
October 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 current members' registered addresses.

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## Annual General Meeting 2000

As previously intimated, this event will be held at Bletchley Park on 4th November 2000.

Please refer to the enclosed RAYNET AGM flier and the Directions to Bletchley Park.

## Risk Assessment

Enclosed with this issue is a separate document and Risk Assessment form. Further details are in the Emergency Planning Team's report

All correspondence and membership registrations should be sent to:-  
"Hunters Moon", Newton-le-Willows,  
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**Emergency 24 hour contact line:-** (0141) 621 2121

### CHAIRMAN:

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(0141) 620 1000

### ZONES:

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**Z2:** Contact Meantime Brian Tindill, (01677) 450387  
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### SPECIALIST TEAMS

#### Emergency Planning:

Cathy Clark, G1GQJ

#### Finance:

Martin Green, G4PMG

#### Publicity:

David Hicks, G6IFA

#### Information Systems and Registrations:

Jim Andrew, G1HUL

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#### Technical:

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#### Training:

Tom Hanratty, G0JRT

#### Talk through applications:

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<b><i>Committee of Management</i></b>	<b>Ron - GM4SRL</b>
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<b><i>80m Net Duty Roster</i></b>	<b>Eric G4FSN</b>
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It was with great regret that I had to cancel the September meeting of the Committee of Management owing to the fuel crisis. The timing could not have been worse, and we were affected as several ZCs found that they could not travel to Beaconsfield for the meeting.

As the dates for the COM are set yearly in advance, and as ZCs have many other commitments, it was not possible to schedule another meeting before the AGM. This has caused several problems, including the selection of the recipient of the RAYNET Trophy. E-mail has been used more than usual, and it was hoped to organise a multi-way telephone link. In the end, owing to my failure to find a suitable time for all ZCs during the following week, this did not happen.

It was thought by some ZCs, and I would tend to agree, that there is no substitute for sitting round a table for a day discussing RAYNET business face to face. Hopefully we will be able to get together for a brief meeting at Bletchley Park, either before or after the days proceedings.

The net controllers for the next three weeks are as follows:-

**15th Oct - Duty G4KUJ, standby G3STG**

**22nd Oct - Duty G0BDA, standby G3STG**

**29th Oct - Duty G0MRH, standby G4AAL**

<b><i>The Web Diary.</i></b>	<b>Geoff G3STG</b>
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<b><i>Improved News Deadline</i></b>	<b>Ron - GM4SRL</b>
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Members who look at the diary entries on the RAYNET web pages from time to time may have noticed that some additional icons have been appearing recently. These indicate that additional information is hidden away, which can be revealed by allowing your mouse to hover over the icon for a moment.

Additional information such as contact names, rendezvous locations, details of event timings and operational frequencies can be provided here if the event controllers wish to share that information. This sort of detail can be extremely useful for planning the operational frequencies for your event so as to avoid mutual interference, or for giving further information when help is needed by your Group.

So why not have a look at the Diary pages for this Autumn, and see whether you think this provides a useful service. The Diary pages can be accessed via the 80m news page on <http://www.raynet-uk.net/> Any comments or suggestions should be mailed to [diary@raynet-uk.net](mailto:diary@raynet-uk.net) which is also the address for submissions for the Diary entries.

We have taken advantage of improved e-mail communications and consequently news items for the Sunday net can be received until 19:00 hrs. on Thursday evenings. I hope that this will later be extended to Fridays, but it must be remembered that all involved are, like you, volunteers, and may wish to go away for the weekend starting, in some instances, on a Friday.

All news, for the 80 metre net or for RAY~Link should be sent to [news@raynet-uk.net](mailto:news@raynet-uk.net) or [raylink@raynet-uk.net](mailto:raylink@raynet-uk.net) by 19:00 hrs. on a Thursday evening. After checking and collating, I send the news to Geoff G3STG who integrates it with the Diary Dates information before forwarding it to the duty and standby net controllers for transmission at 08:30 hrs. local on 3.663 MHz on Sunday mornings.

Copies of the news are also sent to the telephone BBS, sent on packet, and e-mailed to an ever increasing list of controllers or group representatives.

Controllers use the news in their own nets during the following week, or re-forward it to members by e-mail.

## ***The Emergency Planning Team***

The Network's Emergency Planning Team consists of seven people drawn from a vast range of RAYNET expertise and come from throughout the South and East of England. Led by Cathy Clark G1GQJ, other members are Bob Bloodworth G4VWP (County Controller of Hants), Trevor Groves G4KUJ (County Controller of Herts), Eddie Ogden G0EWO of NW Hants RAYNET, Dave Seabrook G6HPY (member of Forest Heath RAYNET), David Smith G8IDL (member of Cambridge RAYNET) and John White G4BCY of Surrey RAYNET.

### **Their responsibilities are:**

- To liaise with all the User Services at a national level
- The publication of Standard Operating Procedures (such as the Voice Procedure document issued in 1998)
- International liaison
- Talk-through permits, in conjunction with Ian Jackson G8RWH, and liaison with the Radiocommunications Agency.
- To liaise with the RSGB and its ERLO (Emergency Radio Liaison Officer) and with RSGB Committees on such matters as frequencies and band planning.
- Support for emergencies (examples being the "Guidance Notes for Emergency Plans" issued in September 1998 and the preparation of an Emergency Planning Resource Database [EPRD])
- To maintain contacts with other organisations ? The production and updating of the RAYNET Manual (issued in January 2000)
- The collation of documents such as the "Report on Millennium Duties" (copies of which are available from Zonal Co-ordinators)
- The preparation of documents relating to Health and Safety matters, such as Risk Assessment.

In addition, the Team also liaises with the other voluntary teams within the Network, such as the Technical, Publicity, Information Systems and Training Teams, on matters of mutual interest.

### **Health and Safety issues.**

One of the most important matters which the EP team is currently involved in is Health and Safety. The Team has, for some time, been trying to formulate a Health and Safety Statement on behalf of the Committee of Management, but this has been fraught with problems, mainly because of conflicting advice from the "experts" whose counsel we have sought.

However, the one thing most groups seem to be increasingly asked to undertake is risk assessments. In order to assist groups with this task, the EP team has prepared a simple form, RA-01, which leads event controllers through the process. To support this task, David Green, Group Controller of Coventry RAYNET, has prepared a document, outlining a number of possible risks, how these risks might be reduced during RAYNET operations, the likelihood of them

happening and the impact such a risk would have should it occur. This document is only issued as guidance and should be adapted to suit local situations.

### **Who fills in the form?**

An RA-01 form should be completed for each event undertaken. It should be filled in by any of the following: the Group/County or Area Controller, Event Controller or other officer of the group(s) taking part. Upon completion, it should be signed and dated by the person completing the risk assessment, and filed for future reference. It is probably best filed as part of the event paperwork, and can be referred to again if the event is carried out in future years.

The examples given on the form are for your guidance, and are not intended to be all-encompassing. The idea is to reduce the hazard by taking precautions. Any "risk" which you feel is not adequately controlled should be brought to the attention of both the event organiser and your own members during a briefing for the event.

## ***Meeting with the RA***

Ron, GM4SRL, Cathy, G1GQJ and Martin, G4PMG attended a meeting with the Radiocommunications Agency in London in July. Representatives from the RSGB and UKRS were also present, and all found the meeting most constructive.

The Network had previously given the Radiocommunications Agency a list of improvements which it would like to see incorporated in a revised BR68, and all these suggestions and recommendations were discussed in great detail. It was pleasing to note that nearly all of them were accepted without alteration. Although we cannot at this time give full details of all the accepted recommendations, one has already been implemented. This allows Novice license holders to pass messages for third parties, when working for a User Service in the same way as A and B license holders can. At the request of the chairman, the RA agreed to allow this working with immediate effect, and an item to that effect appeared on the 80 net on Sunday 13th. August. Officially license holders should wait for the issue of a Gazette Notice, but the RA said, in this instance they would allow immediate relaxation.

Other changes will include an increased list of User Services and changes to the talkthrough concession. In the meantime, however, nothing else has changed, and current licensing conditions must be adhered to.

The only disappointment was the refusal of a GB2 callsign for the 80m net. We thought that we put forward a good case, but the RSGB advised strongly against the granting of such a license. We had originally applied for such a callsign to the RSGB when Ian Kyle was president, and he was kind enough to recommend that it be granted. The application appeared to get lost and/or muddled between the RSGB and the Radiocommunications Agency, and, after a lot of chasing it was agreed that it would be raised at the July meeting, when the decision went against us.

The chairman will be giving a fuller report on our BR68 submissions at the AGM on 4th. November, so if you want to hear first hand about the points put forward by the Committee of Management, go along to Bletchley Park

**RIAT Cottesmore**  
**22 – 25 July 2000**

**Geoff**  
**G3STG**

This year the Royal International Air Tattoo was staged at the RAF base at Cottesmore in Rutland in late June, due to reconstruction of the runway at the Tattoo traditional home at RAF Fairford.

Little advanced warning was given to the County Emergency Planning Officer compared to the 15 months normally spent in preparation, and the situation was made worse by the fact that the County of Rutland's Emergency Planning function was only passed over to the newly reformed County 3 months before the event, and a specialist EPO was only appointed one month before the big day!

RAYNET members from Leicester, Melton Mowbray and the Four Counties Group in Cambridgeshire responded to the request for assistance from the EPO team, and a network was set up from Silver Control on base to the County Highways team at Greetham, and to the press centre at Ashwell. In addition, coverage was provided for on-base handhelds for the operators accompanying the EPO team, and later these operators provided valuable assistance to the Police for missing person operations.

The silver control, which was set up in the base County Primary School, contained operators from Military, Police, Fire, and Ambulance, as well as the RAYNET/EPO team, and in order to guard against mutual interference, the team operated a VHF link to a talk-through units sited elsewhere to give solid coverage over the entire base for the portable operations. In addition, a VHF packet network was maintained to reinforce the voice links to the two outstations. The on-base transceivers were protected by the use of additional filter units to give improved immunity in this noisy RF environment, and this precaution seemed to work very well.

Off base, the levels of traffic were in general very low, and once some initial problems were overcome, the operation went very smoothly. Plans are already being laid for a probable repeat duty next year.

#### **Silver Control**

RAYNET operations at Silver with Jim G1HUL, Roger G6CKR and Ivon G1IMJ manning the desk

Putting up the 40ft pump-up mast at Ashwell with Derek G1SPA and Bob G7PNG doing the hard work.

**New Idea.**

**Ron - GM4SRL**

Tom Stewart and I attended an Autumn Study at Crieff Hydro, Perthshire, which was organised by the Scottish Branch of the Emergency Planning Society. The programme and the venue were excellent, and we thought that it would be great to gather RAYNET members and their families at the Hydro for a weekend of doing nothing! The Hydro has special rates during the winter which include Dinner Bed and Breakfast, and there are also chalets and cottages which can be hired. The range of activities which can be undertaken is vast. They range from horse riding to tennis and from bowls to four x four off road driving. There is also a leisure complex, complete with a gym.

We intend to let members do whatever they wish to do during their stay, and probably to have only one RAYNET presentation. The in-word for the weekend will be "Networking" and there are many places in the Hydro that members can gather for head to head, or group discussions.

While the weekend will be targeted at local members, those from the rest of the UK will be welcome, and it is hoped, will be tempted to attend.

The proposal will be aired at the AGM, and full details, including dates, will be announced on the 80m net in due course. In the meantime you may wish to look at the Hydro's website at [www.crieffhydro.com](http://www.crieffhydro.com)

**ZONE 3**  
**ZC**

**Ian Jackson**  
**Company Secretary**

This is an important announcement for members of groups in Derbyshire, Leicestershire Lincolnshire Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire

The post of Zone Coordinator for Zone 3 has unexpectedly become vacant and nominations for this post are now sought.

Any member registered to a Group within Zone 3 is eligible to be nominated although ideally the nominee should have had experience as an group or county official e.g. controller.

The role of Zone Coordinator is important in three ways. The person elected is (1) a Director of The Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network as defined by company law, (2) a Trustee of the Registered Charity and (3) the vital link between members and the National organisation.

Nominations should include the name and signature of the nominee stating that (s)he is eligible and willing to stand for the post, and names of controllers & members supporting the nomination.

The closing date for nominations to be received at "Hunters Moon", Bedale DL8 1SX is 15th November 2000

More details of the duties and responsibilities of a ZC can be found in the last issue of RAY~Link (Issue 37 July 2000) or questions can be sent to [secretary@raynet-uk.net](mailto:secretary@raynet-uk.net)