



*This edition of RAY~Link has been sent to all registered members who have provided an e-mail address, and by post to Group Controllers who do not have e-mail facilities. Controllers are asked to ensure that all members of their group have sight of a copy of this edition*

**Membership Fee 45p. per month.  
PAI £1.50 per year or part year  
(1st May - 30 April).**

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## 2005 AGM

Members are reminded that the **2005 AGM** will be held in Coventry on **Saturday 5th**. November and that they should keep that date free. Full details of the programme will be included in the next edition of RAY~Link, but meantime, make sure that the date is in your diary!

The new RAYNET ID card will be launched, and those attending will have the opportunity to be first to have the new card, as photographs will be taken on site and immediately etched on to your new secure card.

## 80m Sunday Morning Net.

A regular 80m net is held every Sunday morning on 3.663MHz LSB at 0830 Clock Time and this is the first place to get all the latest RAYNET News, and to check your HF servicability.

## Have You Got News for Us?

The 80m Team of Readers is looking to increase its numbers. If you enjoy HF operation, and have a signal which will cover most of the UK given good conditions then why not join us?

Readers are tasked with reading the news about once every two months, and also acting as a standby reader at about the same interval. The net begins formally at 0830, and is completed by 0915. You get the script emailed to you on the Saturday before transmission, so email is really a requirement.

If you would like to volunteer for this important task, or would like to know more, then please drop a note to [g3stg@btinternet.com](mailto:g3stg@btinternet.com) - he would welcome your help!

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## **British Special Olympic Games**

**Ron Cowan, GM4SRL, City Emergencies Planning Officer**

**A**s the July RAY~Link is being edited, RAYNET members are currently assisting Glasgow City Council which is hosting the 2005 Special Olympic Games. The opening ceremony, which attracted a crowd of over 17,000 people, was held in Celtic Football Club's stadium in Parkhead, Glasgow on Saturday 2nd July and during the four and a half hour event, RAYNET controlled the City Council's communications from a position within the Police Control room at the stadium.

During the week, RAYNET are acting as the hub of communications, controlling nine PMR nets as well as setting up a two mtr. comms link between the venues. There are always day to day issues which arise during such large events, and the organisers are extremely pleased with the professionalism of the RAYNET team which is led by Paul Lucas, the controller of the Greater Glasgow RAYNET Group.

The closing ceremony will be held on Friday evening, when about eight thousand people, athletes, volunteers, parents and friends, will attend a three hour party on Glasgow Green in the centre of Glasgow. There will not be any members of the public in attendance, and the event is designed to be a grand finale for the athletes and their families and as a thank you to the volunteers.

RAYNET will be working that night, providing communications in the Joint Agency Control Centre (JACC), alongside the Police, The Scottish Ambulance Service, the First Aid Societies and the firm which provides the event security. The JACC facility was purpose built for the many events which are held on Glasgow Green, and RAYNET has full facilities including four antenna installations on the building, and a permanent 12 volt power supply wired out to RAYNET power connectors on the trunking which backs the operating and logging positions within the air conditioned room. In an adjacent room, a purpose built camera monitoring system allows operators to see exactly what is happening on the site.

Attending Special Olympics is a wonderful experience, and those volunteered to assist this year will always remember the friendliness of the many athletes who took part, competing to the best of their ability, and, even if they did not win an event, they enjoyed participating, taking pride in the fact that they were chosen to attend the 2005 Special Olympic Games in Glasgow.

Volunteering for such an event is a huge commitment, many operators being involved for up to ten hours during each of the seven days. To all the RAYNET operators, and all the other volunteers, 'Well Done, and Thank You!'

### **Ray Hill, G0BDA**

**L**isteners to G4NRC will be sorry to learn that Ray Hills, G4NRC, has put down the news script for the last time, a decision hastened by a back injury which he suffered whilst dealing with storm damage last year. Ray first appeared on G4NRC about fifteen years ago, and his distinctive voice, which was carried throughout the UK by an excellent signal from his home QTH in Cumbria, was

particularly welcomed by stations in Scotland and the north of England.

On behalf of all RAYNET members, Thank you, Ray, for years of sterling service to the Network, All RAYNET members, and to the amateur radio population in general.

The regular 80m net is held every Sunday morning on 3.663MHz LSB at 0830 Clock Time and is the first place to get all the latest RAYNET News, and to check your HF serviceability.

## SeeHear July 2005 - Geoff Griffiths

Once again, a trawl through the Amateur press for items which may interest you, or spark off a thought.

RADCOM in April carried the story of Jesse Jones KL1RK' adventures near Anchorage in Alaska after falling more than 200 feet down a ravine.

Fortunately he was able to summon aid via his 2m handheld and a repeater some 40 miles away. The rescue helicopter and team finally rescued him six hours later, and he is reported to be non-the-worse for his adventure. Moral of the story - don't forget your 2m portable when out for a stroll. (Radcom Apr2005 p10)

The same issue carries news of the N Anglia call-out in February after predicted high tides, and also of the forthcoming Special Olympic Games to be held in Glasgow in July. I can report from previous experience of this event in the East Midlands that it will open your eyes to the wonderful spirit and fellowship of these youngsters, and I can thoroughly recommend that you volunteer if you can for this event - it will restore your faith in human nature! (contactolympics@raynet-uk.net) There is also an interesting article about radio-controller photography from kites, with some spectacular examples of the end product. (Radcom Apr305 pp18-23)

Raynet Groups are always looking for funds, and the Lottery "Awards for all" scheme can be a valuable source for all Groups. Several reports have been seen from Groups to benefit from applying. (RADCOM Apr2005 P44-45)

Did you spot the April spoof in this issue?

There is also a useful two-part article on constructing and operating a multi-band inverted-V antenna for portable operation - might be just what you are looking for. (RADCOM Mar05 pp85-87 & Apr05 pp86-87) RadCom also contains a description of an "easy-to-build 2m Yagi for portable operation which is worth a look. (Radcom Mar05 pp48-49)

If you have ever wondered how best to fit a mobile transceiver into a standard car radio slot, have a look at February "Whatever next" (RadCom Feb05 p68)

Most of the Amateur Press carry reports from the Tsunami event, and make some interesting reading. Sounds as though the situation was much as we would expect here in similar circumstances! (CQ Apr2005 pp13-20)

CQ Magazine carries an interesting report that FCC (the US Licensing authority) is considering administering

mandatory psychological tests to licence applications to try to cut down "operator rage" I wonder if I would pass? Don't tell OFCOM whatever you do!!! (CQ Apr2005 pp44-46)

The CQ public service pages carry lots of interesting news from the US. WA3PZO write a very interesting piece about International Assistance in times of Disaster, and stresses that Amateur Radio is becoming MORE important in these events. This article seems to have been one of the things that has sparked off the FCC changes in third party traffic arrangements between the US and other countries. There is of course yet more reporting of the post-tsunami operations. In particular there is comment about how useful the VoIP service was in this event. (CQ Apr05 56-61)

This is one of the areas where the UK seems to fall down. We really should better understand the need for proper post-event reporting, and it is only this consistent reporting of RAYNET Member's service to the community which helps the Administration understand the importance and capability of our public service.

The 2004 Hurricane season is extensively reported, with the Ham's service described as "magnificent" (CQ Mar05 pp38-42) There is also pictures of nice mobile shack in Alaska (QST Mar05 p73-74)

Do you have problems with your PL259's. Try looking at Steve Ford W8BMY's article. Lots of useful tips - OK so you know all about it.!? (QST Mar05 p47) Problems with your earth in an upstairs shack? or your mobile antenna? Try this. (QST Mar05 p55)

### **And finally:**

CQ are running a series entitled "60 great things about Ham Radio" (Shades of Morrisons on TV?) I really can't resist quoting reason no 16.

"The opportunity to help neighbors by providing public service and emergency communications - This is the main reason ham radio continues to exist and our frequencies haven't yet been auctioned off to the highest bidder. We're not the technical innovators we used to be: the government trains its own communicators and technicians, and the state department doesn't really put much stock in personal diplomacy. But the simple fact remains that when disaster strikes and our ultramodern, ultrasophisticated telecommunications network crumbles, hams still know how to get through. And we do."

So that's it for another issue. Acknowledgments to all the mags quoted. As always if you can't find a copy of any of these, drop me a line and I can probably help. g3stg@raynet-uk.net

# Reports

## Media Report

In March, a media release was issued to both the RSGB News and radio amateur press reporting that The Network had recently met with the Central Sponsor for Information Assurance (CSIA) looking at ways to augment the nation's IT and telecommunications services in times of emergency and disaster. The opportunity was taken at that time to request that a 'Media Release' section would be incorporated within the Network's new web site allowing the press to browse through previous media releases issued by the Network.

**RAY~Link** is currently being assembled, but the current edition lacks information from around the country. This information was included in the previous issue and several messages of appreciation were received. Hopefully this can again be incorporated in future editions, and zonal co-ordinators are asked to assist by providing zone reports.

Ron Cowan, GM4SRL

## RAYNET Technical Team

### Current Projects

- \* Interference to/from Airwave systems.
- \* Keeping watch on OfCom consultations, changes in legislation etc.
- \* Use of fibreglass fishing poles as antenna supports along with considerations for any antenna support system.
- \* Revision of RF Safety Document following new guidance from NRPB.
- \* Revision of EMC guidance
- \* Standard power connectors - what power can they really take?
- \* The promotion of SSTV as a possible mode for RAYNET use.
- \* Collation of talkthrough instructions for radios in RAYNET use.
- \* Examination of standards for Internet linking of stations/repeaters.
- \* Collation of information relating to 'alternative' power supplies. This includes; information on testing of lead acid batteries for standby use; 'off grid' charging systems such as solar panels, generators etc.

### Future Project Proposals.

Production of data sheets for :-

- \* Links to interface units for computer soundcard to radios for data use.
- \* Preferred modes for SSTV (Robot/Wrasse/Martin/ etc.)
- \* 'How to' guides for modes such as APRS. Members may be aware of the modes but need information on how to set up stations using them along with the uses to which they can be put.

Greg Mossop, G0DUB

## Emergency Planning Team Report

Chris Sheridan M0AZQ has joined the EPT and attended his first meeting on March 19th.

## National Voluntary Forum

Liaison continues, with Trevor G4KUJ attending the meetings. The last one discussed the results of the questionnaire to voluntary organisations. 85% were supportive of some kind of voluntary forum to represent their interests at a national level, but highlighted the problem of making this forum representative.

## Civil Contingencies Act submission

The Network made only minor amendments in their submission, mainly concentrating on the inaccuracy to references to RAYNET in the guidance and supportive of the larger submission of the other voluntary organisations.

## Garec 2005

David Smith G8IDL is to represent the Network at the conference in Tampere, Finland on 13-15 June. RAYNET has been invited to give a 15-minute presentation, outlining the formation of the organisation, and its present structure. Cathy Clark, G1GQJ

## RAYNET Supplies

Blackpool Show was busy at the RAYNET stand. Sales were moderate but goodwill and conversation flowed!

A large counter display board was made by GM4SRL and this proved invaluable at the show.

Supplies are well stocked and orders have been sent out quickly. Sales are steady.

Katie Cowan, GM0UIG

## Training Team

All the files for the Training Scheme have now been converted from Wordperfect to text/word/pdf now; thanks to Geoff Darby for help on this.

I also intend to contact the groups who initially received the Training Scheme to see if there is any follow up we can do to help. Paul Farrar, G8SJA IST

## Registrations

Development is progressing, working towards the target of being able to start parallel running by the end of September. The ID card printer has now been delivered.

## Website

The ISP move has gone very smoothly.

There have been occasional reports of people not being able to get past the login page, even though the details have been entered correctly. I have re-written the page and am waiting to see if this cures the problem.

Jim Andrews, G1HUL

**W**e counted them all out and we counted them all back - with a little help from the SPORTident system.

The fell runners' challenge was to complete the Yorkshire Three Peaks Race, which the winner achieved in a time of 2hrs 57mins.

Our challenge was to provide safety cover as the 374 runners raced over 21 miles and climbed Pen-y-ghent, Wharfedale and Ingleborough - a total ascent of 5,000 feet. All but 34 completed the race.

Event co-ordinator Leeds RAYNET Controller Graham Belt G0SCV used a total of 26 radio operators from his own group and from Keighley, Kirkstall, Rossendale, Nidderdale and Richmond, plus people from as far away as West Dorset and Scotland.

Fortunately, after carrying out path tests in the Yorkshire Dales on the Saturday, he had allowed plenty of time to check out the compatibility of hand-held radios with the SPORTident equipment. Each runner carries a 'dibber' on a wrist band, which is pushed into a dibber box at each checkpoint - confirming that the time has been recorded by flashing and beeping.

Up to three dibber boxes are connected to a modem which links to a radio via the auxiliary microphone and speaker sockets, sending the data back using the AX25 protocol.

But when we came to test a variety of hand-helds on the day before the race, it was found that the connecting leads from the modem were only compatible with a small number of radios.

Five hours later, after Mark G7LLD - Data Communications Liaison - finally put away his soldering iron, Graham and the SPORTident team were satisfied that we had sufficient working combinations to run the race.

But there were some worries the following morning until Brian G0RHI and Tony G4LLZ sent test signals from the first checkpoint at 2,266ft on top of Pen-y-ghent.

The SPORTident system proved to be an excellent way of recording the individual times of the runners at the five checkpoints, but care needs to be taken to ensure licensing conditions are satisfied as the data is sent back to control.

Sadly, the race was marred by a serious incident involving a fell runner who had retired at Ribblesdale. As he jogged back down the road to race control in Horton-in-Ribblesdale, he was involved in a collision with a motorcycle.

The runner suffered a severe lower leg injury and North Yorkshire Police closed the B6479 road for 90 minutes while he was stabilised by paramedics before the air ambulance flew him to hospital in Leeds.

The road was the main link between RAYNET control and the checkpoints to the north, including those on Wharfedale 2,383ft and Ingleborough 2,372ft. Once it was closed the only alternative was a 21-mile diversion.

The incident underlined the importance of having radio operators in place well before their opening times. All checkpoints and the talk-through site were staffed before the collision and there was no disruption to radio traffic.

But the detour had to be used when it proved impossible to transmit the data from the modem at Ribblesdale and it had to be brought back to control to have the stored information downloaded to the computer.

The Three Peaks Race, held for the 51st time, was a valuable training exercise for RAYNET members from different groups, some of whom only work together on major events like the Long Distance Walkers' Association 100-mile walks.

It proved to be invaluable when many of the same radio operators helped each other on two charity fundraising walks over the Three Peaks - the first being run by Richmond on June 4 and the second by Keighley being scheduled for July 2.

## Greater Glasgow Group 'Underground'

**N**ine members of the Greater Glasgow Group went to ground recently when they were asked to carry out a series of communication checks on the Glasgow Subway (Underground Railway) for the City Emergencies Planning Officer. An emergency services tabletop exercise was held in April, and there will be a live on-site exercise later this year.

The group met at Govan Subway Workshops and were taken by special train round the outer circle of the system to the location of the proposed exercise, where they left the train and walked through the tunnel to the next station under the supervision of an Subway official. In the selected section of the network communications are hindered by the tunnel both dipping and turning, preventing line of site.

Tests were carried out on 2m, 70cm. and on PBR high band VHF. In addition to the underground tests, checks were made on communication paths between the tunnel and the surface at the two stations.



Group members on their way to the section where they were to undertake tests.



VHF & UHF tests into the tunnels

## City of Sunderland RAYNET Group - Scout DMA Challenge Hike 2005

**T**his year the annual Scout DMA Challenge Hike event will again take place in the Lake District over the weekend of 8th to 10th July 2005. Teams of Scouts will be competing for a Trophy by planning and covering routes and gaining maximum possible points over peaks in the Lake District. The event actually takes place on Saturday and Sunday, but the teams and Scout Support will gather at Base from Friday afternoon. Because of the nature of the mountainous terrain, Sunderland RAYNET provides the communication system for safety purposes.

This is a complex event to organise, and we would welcome communication from potential RAYNET volunteers. We always have a great time, although the weather can be very variable but anyone with a degree of map-reading/fell-walking ability will be made especially welcome. The Scout support team will provide catering, although some individuals may be deployed away from base for longish periods of time. Bunkhouse accommodation can be provided, and there is camping.

For further information, please contact Terry Elliott G0EHX City of Sunderland RAYNET Group at [terry.elliott@raynet-uk.net](mailto:terry.elliott@raynet-uk.net) or on telephone 0191-528 9662