

Essex RAYNET



News

Emergency Radio

Communications

Issue: March 2009

Editorial



Welcome to the third issue of Essex Raynet news, sorry it has been such a long while since the last issue.

73 Dave G0DEC

Forthcoming events/exercises

2009

Date	Event/exercise	Contact
25 th	March North group meeting	G0DEC
2 nd	April Central group meeting	G7UHE
23 rd	April AGM	MONAS
10 th	May Walk for Life	G7UHE
6 th	June Midnight walk	G0DEC
28 th	June Sunrise walk	G7UHE
4 th	July Bradwell Pilgrimage	G7UHE
13 th	Sept Cycle for Life	G7UHE
20 th	Sept 100mile bike ride	G7UHE

Please call in on the local and county nets for the latest updates to any of these events, or check our web site.

www.essexraynet.co.uk

County NETS

Due to low participation and with immediate effect, the Essex Raynet County Nets (previously held every week), will now be held on the **2nd Thursday of every month only**.

It is anticipated that the nets will be controlled from County Hall, Chelmsford. Please make every effort to call-in. These changes do **not** affect any other area/local nets.

Neil Smith MONAS

Essex Raynet Secretary

Raynet clothing

If anyone requires any Raynet clothing please contact Graham G8PYD

Essex Raynet responds to Kent Raynet's request for help

Following disruption to the SECamb (SE Coast Ambulance) communications at the Coxheath Centre near Maidstone, Kent Raynet were activated during the evening of Thursday 2nd October.

Raynet members from South Kent, Thanet and Medway groups were deployed to the SECamb HQ and a number of ambulance stations and hospitals throughout east and south Kent.

At 0800hrs on Friday 3rd October, a request for assistance was made via the Zone 4 co-ordinator to Essex Raynet. Exact requirements were discussed with the Kent County Controller and 6 members were mobilised. Whilst in transit to the RVP, all Essex operators were stood down after the telephone system was restored.

Thanks to those members of Essex Raynet who offered their services.

Congratulations to Kent Raynet for what sounded like a well run incident

Is your deviation OK?

One of the things to come out of the live call out in Kent was the problem of deviation. With the use of cross band and in band repeaters, some of them being Ex PMR which are often narrow deviation. It is worth checking the deviation of your radio(s), if you need help with this contact your group controllers, if enough need help then we may organise a rig checking/adjustment event.

Your contact details

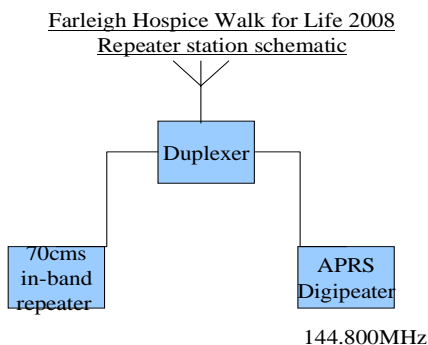
Are your contact details correct? With the recent call outs we have noticed that some members have changed there phone number(s) and/or email address. If you have or know someone who has changed there details then please let your group controller know.

Walk for Life 2008

For the second year running Farleigh Hospice ran their "Walk for Life" fund-raising event. Essex Raynet were approached by the hospice and by their first aid provider, The British Red Cross, to provide communications support for the event.

The event was a 14 mile walk along the towpath of the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation starting at the Heybridge branch of the Hospice adjacent to the Bentalls Centre and finishing at Wharf Road car park in Chelmsford.

We were asked to provide communications between the start, finish BRC ambulance and first aid point and the checkpoints located at Beeleigh, Hoe Mill, Papermill and Sandford Mill locks. Communications using other services were found to be unreliable as GSM/PCS coverage in the Chelmer Valley is patchy at best. Experience from the first event in 2007 showed that a single voice net would be sufficient for the anticipated level of traffic but that we would require at least one talk through repeater to cover the valley with a second likely to be need to provide coverage into Heybridge. In addition to the voice net we also decided to utilise APRS, allowing us to monitor the progress of the tail of the walk, the ambulance and one or two mobile operators.

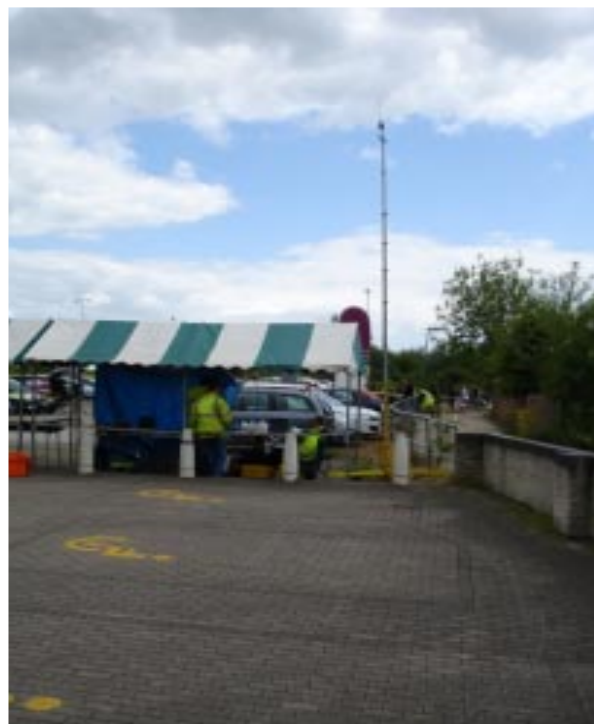


To eliminate any interference issues between the two systems we chose to utilise the 70cms band for the voice net and 2m for the data system as a Nigel, G6ZVV was able to provide a 70cms in band repeater. Neil MONAS provided a APRS digipeater. The repeater and digipeater were set-up, with the Raynet QT12 mast and a heavy-duty battery system, at an excellent site on the ridge above Papermill Lock. This was found in 2007 and the owners were kind enough to allow us to make use of the site again for this event.

Mast was Clark QT12 at approximately 8m

At the control station we utilised a second Clark QT12 mast, both for its PR value and to fulfil the technical requirement of providing coverage to local stations once the repeater was switched off. This station was mains powered with the power being supplied by the Hospice's generator.

While the event generally went well for us, the event did expose a slight problem with co-ordination with the user service, any misunderstandings were quickly resolved on the day and we have started to meet the users on a more regular basis.



Essex Village Bike ride 15th June 2008

Essex Raynet were asked to provide Communications for the British Red Cross at the Farley Hospice 'Essex Village Bike ride'. Which is a new event for us. As It turned out we provided comms for the BRC and St John as due to the number of events that weekend the BRC did not have enough people to cover the event so it became a joint cover between BRC and SJ.



The event consisted of two routes. The first was a loop around Coggeshall (approx 25 miles) and a second loop around Braintree (approx 50miles).

With the prospect of communicating with BRC and SJ, nether of which knew if they could talk to each other.



We ended up with a PMR system for the event control, PMR for BRC/SJ, 2m for APRS (the sweep and the SJ ambulance), 70cm simplex 433.700MHz and GB3BZ as a back up. For the first time Essex Raynet used the mobile communications trailer of the Braintree Amateur Radio Society, which is fitted with two dual band (2m/70cm) aerials. It also has the provision of a Clarke 9m mast. Which was not used on this occasion, instead two



Essex Village Bike ride 15th June 2008

Clarke QT12 masts were used, one of which belongs to Essex Raynet. From the control point 90% of the long route was covered by 433.700MHz with GB3BZ covering the area near Finchingfield.

Just over 160 riders entered the bike ride, with a 50/50 split between the routes. With no major incidents, just one or two riders retiring early. The event went well for all concerned.

My thanks go to all members who were able to help with all/some of the event.

Essex County Council Flood Siren Test

As in previous years, the annual flood siren test was successfully completed on Saturday 6th September 2008 with the assistance of Essex Raynet.

Communications with the siren locations was by two simplex VHF nets controlled from County Hall and Bicknacre near Chelmsford.

In all, over 25 operators manned sites along the Essex coastline from Harwich in the north to Canvey Island in the south.

Within 5 minutes of the test finishing all sites had reported back the operability of the sirens, with only one failure.

The County Controller, Mr N Hull, wishes to extend his and the Council's sincere gratitude to those members who assisted.

Equipment list

Essex Raynet has a good inventory of equipment of its own, but a lot of the equipment used at events is owned by Essex Raynet members. To help us know what resources are available within Essex Raynet can you forward a list of equipment you have to your group controller. It's not just a list of radios but also aerials, masts and generators plus any other equipment such as tables chairs, kettle!

Are you connecting with us?

Essex Raynet have agreed the following standards for all power and antenna connections on Raynet owned equipment. Please make sure you have adaptors for your kit.

Fixed Antenna: - N Female (socket)

Mobile Antenna: - BNC Plug

Mobile DC Power: - Cigar Lighter plug/socket

Fixed DC Power: - Reversed Bullet connectors (socket on positive)

Any queries please contact your group controller

Maps

If you are looking for a good map of Essex with street level information then get hold of a copy of the Essex map book ISBN 0-540-08486-7

Next management meeting

14th May 2009

Contacts

Post	Call	Name	Contact number	email
County controller	G6ZVV	Nigel		
Secretary	MONAS	Neil		
Treasurer	G8PYD	Graham		
North group controller	G0DEC	Dave		
Deputy controller				
Central group controller	G7UHE	Geoffrey		
Deputy controller	G1SNU	Derek		
South group controller	G4RPF	Phil		
Deputy controller				
Training Officer	G DBM	John		

Essex RAYNET Web site

<http://www.essexraynet.co.uk>