

August Newsletter



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

Twitter: @EssexRAYNET

Engineering



1. Two working party events have been held to strip down and repair the donated trailer mast. The work is being led by Vince, and good progress is being made. Steel cables have been replaced, the winches have been serviced and re-fitted, and all steelwork has been prepared for painting. The next phase is all about strengthening the trailer, improving the extending supports and legs, fitting a storage box, and adding a trailer board. To follow will be the fitting of feeder and antenna extension
2. A site visit was made to County Hall, and from that a remote switch unit has been built by Graham so that the repeater can be remotely activated. We are now waiting for site access so that the unit can be installed
3. We are looking to replace our Byonics APRS units and

Steve and Andrew undertook a set of coverage tests to compare their performance with an Anytone D878 and a Yaesu FT1-XD handheld. All units produced the same tracking information, but the D878 did crash a couple of times. Information passed to the Engineering Officer

4. PAT testing was carried out this month at the stores for all our mains-driven devices and their leads.

5. All our 70cms repeaters have been re-programmed to the new offset frequencies and are ready to go. Guidance documents will soon be available

Training

1. A successful online session was run this month on Checklists and Go Bag items.
2. Preparations for the Field Day on the 30th August are progressing well. There will be a number of training bases covering a variety of activities, including the opportunity to get your Essex RAYNET radios re-programmed.
3. There is a DMR Zoom training event booked for the 28th August that is now fully subscribed. However, if you'd like to just 'listen in' then get in touch with Jason at: jason.moore@raynet-uk.net
4. The design of next term's training sessions will start in September, so watch out for new subjects coming out

Events

1. Saltmarsh Ultra is going ahead this year on the 3rd October. To be compliant with COVID-19 requirements the scope and length of the event has been modified. This is the big one for us, so please reply to Andrew's recent email so we can press on and start the detailed planning. More information will follow once we get further information from Maldon District Council
2. Maldon Bubble Rush and Walk for Life have been cancelled for this year. However, Farleigh Hospice are hoping that the Santa Fun Run can go ahead in December

Admin

1. A small team has been set up to bring the Essex RAYNET Manual up-to-date. Good progress is being made, with the focus on the Call-Out process and ancillary sections. Once this is ready a training session will be set up for all members
2. We will lose access our repeater site at East Hall Farm after this year's Saltmarsh event. Work has started to locate a site where we can erect a temporary mast that will give the same approximate coverage
3. Our 'sell to buy' initiative of disposing of spare equipment has started, with units being sold on eBay and discounted to members