

# March Newsletter



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## Admin

1. Our Annual General Meeting will be on the 20<sup>th</sup> April this year. This is an important event so please make time to attend as we are seeking to elect a new County Controller and our first Deputy County Controller. Look out for a briefing pack explaining the changes in responsibilities to reduce the commitment.
  2. We have set a date of the 20<sup>th</sup> April to close our online storage on Dropbox and migrate to MS Teams. Look out for an email with guidance documents and an offer of short briefing sessions
  2. Congratulations to John Hammond on gaining his Full Licence and new callsign, M1JDH.
  3. Welcome to Tom James who joins Essex RAYNET this month in the Central Area
  4. Central Area have held their Annual Area Meeting and voted in John 2E0NNZ as Area Controller and Ian M0LZI as Deputy.
  5. Similarly, North Area held their Annual Area Meeting and voted in Owen 2E0XLS as Area Controller and Jon 2E0JHL as Deputy.
  6. South Area's Annual Meeting is planned for w/c 15<sup>th</sup> March.
- Congratulations to the new Area officers who take up their new roles at the end of the AGM

## Exercise White City II



*Lots of screens for maps, plans, and Apps*

On the 11<sup>th</sup> February we attended an exercise to test the Emergency Response Plan for the MoD establishment at Shoeburyness. It was held over MS Teams and four Essex RAYNET members were virtually at the Tactical Coordinating Group (TCG). The event went well and good learning points arose for all attending agencies. For us it confirmed that having a Zello and WhatsApp group as back-channel comms was very useful, being familiar with our call-out process really helped, and it brought it home that major incidents can happen at any time, and we are now part of this formal plan.

## Engineering

1. Thanks to Jason, our Engineering Officer, Rover Rescue (RR) were made aware of, and now using, the professional version of Zello. We have taken the opportunity to put in place a Zello Crosslink – a specific joint 'Channel' that allows interworking between RR and ourselves.

## Forthcoming Events

1. We have been invited to help at the Chelmsford Marathon, with a confirmed date of the 17<sup>th</sup> October. John DBM is taking the lead for organisation, but he'll be looking for assistance
2. Although the Clacton Airshow is on the website for 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August, the decision to proceed has not yet been made. So please pencil it into your diaries, but it's a definite maybe
3. As soon as restrictions are lifted we would like to hold a Field Day in advance of any organised events. We are open to ideas on what you'd like to put on the agenda. Feed these into your Area Controllers

## Training

1. As mentioned last month we want to hold another briefing session on our refreshed call-out process. As this is fundamental to what we do, can those that missed the previous sessions book in for the next one
2. An outcome of the process refresh is a need to have trained 'Officers' that can be appointed during a call-out: Duty Officer, Base Officer, and Incident Officer. We will soon be inviting anyone from the membership who wishes to be trained up for these positions. Look out for further information