

February Newsletter



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

Twitter: @EssexRAYNET

Admin

1. Message from Steve, our Chairman and County Controller:

We will soon be formally notifying all that our Annual General Meeting will be held April. Its purpose is to review the past 12 months and elect all the members of the management team for 2021. I'd like to advise you that I will not be seeking re-election to my current position, but I will be staying as an active member of the group.

In preparation, the current management team is keen that all members give thought to considering a management position in 2021.

2. Adoption of Microsoft Teams – nearly all members have now signed up for MS Teams to enable us to have free and unlimited video and audio calls. With this in mind the next phase is to transfer all documentation away from Dropbox and use the MS Teams storage capability. Watch out for more information and briefing material.

3. Migration of Zello to ZelloWork – similar to above, nearly all members have transferred to the new professional system. This is a more stable environment that gives us county wide secure communications. We have also hooked up with Essex Rover Rescue and established a specific 'Channel' to be used when working together.

Operation Delivery



Interruption to your water supply - Parts of Essex and Hertfordshire
Wednesday 27th January 2021

On the 27th January we were asked by the Essex County Resilience Team at 10:00 to go onto STANDBY to potentially assist in dealing with a major failure of water supplies. Our refreshed call-out process was implemented and all members put on standby. Base Officer and Incident Officers were appointed and briefed. The situation was monitored throughout the day and briefings sent out as progress reports. Thankfully the water company was able to deal with the problems and we were stood down at 21:00.

A report on key activities has been placed on MS Teams under 'Events'

Engineering

1. Further improvements have arisen from tests made to our APRS beacons. The micromag aerial was replaced with a ¼ wave semi-rigid antenna giving a major improvement in reception.

2. To enable the flexibility of fully interconnecting all Essex RAYNET equipment we have adopted the Powerpole connector for all power leads. We have purchased a professional crimper to make up the leads, and for members add their own crimps (don't buy the cheap Chinese versions, advice will be given) – when we can meet up.



Health & Safety

All of our Risk Assessments have been reviewed and brought up-to-date, plus the addition of a COVID-19 document. These are stored here until they are moved to MS Teams:
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/phaano23ym0hrf/AAAP7cqwe-wiFNprrO8eOKgSMa?dl=0>

Look out for information on important briefing sessions

Training

1. Two training sessions on our refreshed Call-out process have been run this month. There will be one more mop-up session for those that were unable to make it; this is fundamental to our operation so please make every effort to attend.