

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2025



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2025 NETS & ADMIN



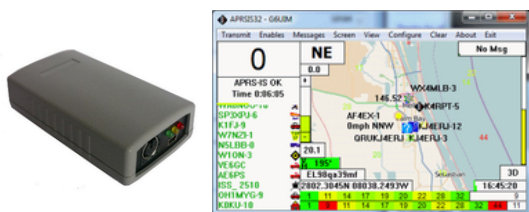
- We will now hold 1 monthly net which will be on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 8pm
- Wed 5th March - Cascade Network via RF + Icom LTE Crosslink @ 8PM with GOIJN**
- Reminders will be sent via WhatsApp/SMS in advance of the Net
- If you would like details on how to join, please contact your Area Controllers
- G8UDD Steve has also held 'Message Handling' Courses, meaning 28 Members are now refreshed

2025 EVENTS DIARY



- Colchester Half Marathon - Sun 16th March
- Churches Together In Maldon - Fri 18th April
- Annual General Meeting - Thurs 3rd April
- VE Community Event - Sat 3rd May
- Walk for Life - Sun 11th May
- Baddow Races - Sun 18th May
- Clacton Pier to Pier Walk - Sun 18th May
- LDWA 100km (ESR) - Sat 24th / Mon 26th May
- Spring/Summer Training Day - **TBD May/Aug**
- Brightlingsea Carnival - Sat 21st June
- Clacton Carnival - Sat 9th August
- Clacton Airshow - Thur 21st / Fri 22nd August
- Cycle for Life - Sun 7th Sept
- Harwich Half Marathon - Sun 7th Sept
- Chelmsford Marathon - Sun 12th Oct
- Winter Training Day - **TBD Oct/Nov**
- Santa Fun Run - Sun 7th Dec

APRS PLXTRACKER UPDATE



- Following an encouraging response from the membership in the PLXTracker Packages, we was able to secure an exclusive discount from Microsat and Essex Radio Hire for accessories
- The PLXTrackers are currently on their way to England, expected to arrive within the next week
- Packages will then be bespoke built and tested, prior to an agreed handover with members
- The PLXTrackers offer a reliable, resilient method of APRS Tracking and simple Digipeating, helping to provide 'fill-in' coverage as required by our members on events/callouts
- We intend to offer these available for purchase, later this year if interest warrants it
- Thank you to all those who have placed orders - we hope to have these with you very soon!

HEALTH & SAFETY



- Briefing Documents will now include a 1 page Health & Safety Risk assessment, which will be signed off by the Event Organiser and one of the Officers of Essex RAYNET
- This is to improve compliance and awareness of H&S, to help mitigate risks and the prevention of illness or injury
- We would ask that you take a moment to read these carefully prior to deployment
- We now have a H&S Incident/Near Miss Reporting form available via a link in MST and via each Event Briefing Document

ENGINEERING

- We have some exciting plans for 2025 for Engineering, to help boost our resilience and capabilities
- These include, installation of a Digipeater at our Burnham Site MB7UBC & LTE Crosslink, Digital Message Passing via RF (currently a work in progress), a Crossband Repeater at our new Colchester Site MB9HAU, purchase of VHF Icom Digital Handhelds/Mobiles as part of a Fleet upgrade from Motorola DMR
- Engineering Tests for Walk for Life, Pier to Pier, Cycle for Life will be arranged and opportunities to take part will be made available

LDWA 24TH-26TH MAY



- East Suffolk RAYNET are seeking additional operators to assist at this years 'Long Distance Walkers Association' Flower of Suffolk, 100 Mile Walk - which starts on Saturday 24th May and finishes on Monday 26th May - a variety of shifts and locations are available across the 3 days
- A great opportunity to assist in East Suffolk with this huge event, which is resource heavy - members from as far away as Scotland are assisting!
- Assisting with East Suffolk RAYNET, will also count towards your membership commitment
- You can find out more about the event by visiting <https://ldwa.org.uk/2025Hundred>
- If you would like to offer your assistance, please email or WhatsApp me directly and I'll notify G0OZS Iain of East Suffolk RAYNET

AGM + EGM 2025



- We can now confirm the EGM & AGM will be held on Thursday 3rd April - proceedings starting at 1930 British Summer Time
- You will be able to join via Microsoft Teams or by attending in person, at Danbury Village Hall.
- We will sending out a formal calling notice within the next 7 days.
- As usual, this is your opportunity to help shape the Committee of 2025-2026, as well as vote on any changes to the Constitution and see what we've been up to over the last 12 months
- There will be the usual opportunity for a natter & refreshments before/after.
- We hope to see as many of you as possible in person and via MST.

PIER TO PIER + BADDOW RACES



- As you may be aware, we are supporting St Helena Hospice with Pier to Pier in Tendring and Baddow Races in Chelmsford, on Sunday 18th May
- This will mean we will need as many operators available from all three areas, to support these events, which are crucial for the charities we support to fundraise for the year ahead
- Neither event is taxing in terms of deployment length or equipment, whether that be on the Tendring Coast or the Country Lanes of Chelmsford
- Please notify M0WRB Richard (Pier to Pier) and 2E0NNZ John (Baddow Races) of your availability ASAP!

MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT

- As we enter the 2025 Events season, its worth reminding all Members of the Membership Commitment which came into force in June 2024
- Current stats are 2 Members attended Zero Events/Callouts and 3 Members attending 1 Event/Callouts
- Area Controllers will be reaching out to those members to discuss this further to find a suitable resolution for all parties.

73 2E0XTA - County Controller