

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2025



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CASCADE NET



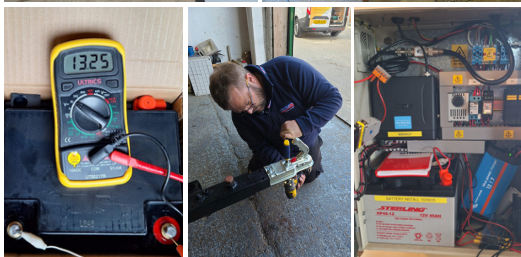
- We hold 1 monthly net which will be on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 8pm via FM + LTE
- Wed 5th Nov - Cascade Network via RF + Icom LTE Crosslink @ 8PM with GOIJN John, MONAS Neil or 2E0NNZ John as your Net Controllers**
- Reminders will be sent via WhatsApp/SMS in advance of the Net
- If you would like details on how to join in, please contact your Area Controllers

UPGRADING EQUIPMENT



- As part of our Equipment upgrade programme, we have ordered a new Icom Dual Mode - Digital Voice Repeater for UHF, which will complement our existing fleet and that of our Members, whilst still offering FM Voice as required
- The purchase has been made possible thanks to generous donations received throughout 2025 - thank you!

ENGINEERING



- The Engineering Team recently took part in a works party to refurbish and replace elements of the Trailer Mast - including a new tow hitch and breakaway cable, new mud-guards, plus rust-proofing.
- We also checked the operational status of the Leisure Battery, Solar Panel and Victron Energy MPPT - all of which were in great condition - securing our ability to operate off-grid if required
- A visit to our Burnham RF to Icom LTE Crosslink site was carried out, to upgrade the Battery (which had been in service for 15+ years) and check the Antenna - all perfect!
- We also carried out a pre-works inspection of our Maldon & Chelmsford Sites, ready to prepare a schedule of works, due to take place during October - primarily Antenna replacement and general improvements

2025-2026 EVENTS DIARY



- Chelmsford Marathon - Sun 12th Oct
- Santa Fun Run - Sun 7th Dec
- Winter Training Day - **TBC Jan/Feb 2026**
- Colchester Half Marathon - Sun 8th Mar 2026
- CTIM - Good Friday 3rd April 2026
- Walk for Life - Sun 10th May 2026
- Pier to Pier - **Sun 17th May 2026 (TBC)**
- Brightlingsea Carnival - Sat 20th June 2026
- Multi-Group Demo Day - **TBC June/July 2026**
- Dengie 999 Weekend - **TBC 1st-2nd August 2026**
- Clacton Carnival - Sat 8th August 2026
- Clacton Airshow - Thurs/Fri 27th-28th Aug 2026
- Cycle for Life - **Sun 6th Sept 2026 (TBC)**
- Harwich Half Marathon - **Sun (TBC) Sept 2026**
- St Helena Midnight Walk - **Sat (TBC) Sept 2026**

CIO UPDATE



- As you will be aware, a mandate was set out at the AGM earlier this year, to you our Membership, regarding the aspiration to deliver on our goal of setting up Essex RAYNET as a CIO Charity during 2025-2026
- Following months of discussion, seeking independent advice and researching the various options available, we feel we now have the relevant information we need to proceed further
- As such, we are currently in the process of fine tuning the draft Constitution, MOU and Policy Documents for the Charitable Incorporated Organisation, as well as the application form for the Charities Commission
- Further details regarding the merger between Essex RAYNET CIO and Essex RAYNET 'as-is' will be explained in a email / Microsoft Teams Meeting at a future date
- In short, Essex RAYNET CIO and Essex RAYNET will operate in a 'hybrid' manner, which enables us to setup and run the CIO, in a way which best supports the objectives of Essex RAYNET

CLOTHING ORDERS



- We will soon be submitting another clothing order to our supplier, so this would be an ideal opportunity to refresh your clothing or get yourself that winter beanie you've been meaning to order!
- Keep a look out for the email which will be sent via the County reflector, which will contain ordering / payment instructions
- Please send all orders/enquiries to supplies@essexraynet.co.uk
- We are also trialling a new style of 'Essex RAYNET' branded lanyard, which based on the feedback at Midnight Walk, is proving popular - more details to follow later this year!

HELP REQUIRED - CHELMSFORD MARATHON



- Are you available on Sunday the 12th October? If so, why not help out at the Chelmsford Marathon.
- We will be providing Safety Radio Communications to the Event Team, Marshalls and First Aid provider
- A great opportunity to help raise funds for this local charity and hospice, providing a vital service to the community, for those in need of help
- If you'd like to volunteer, please WhatsApp or email 2E0KFG Chris chris.freebody@raynet-uk.net

ST HELENA - HARWICH HALF MARATHON



- We helped provide Safety Radio Communications for the Marshalls & Road Closures, at the Harwich Half Marathon, on behalf of St Helena Hospice & Nice Works
- A team of 6 Operators helped cover the route course, ensuring that participants could navigate safely across Harwich
- Richard MOWRB would like to extend his thanks to all those who were able to volunteer for this event - it really made all the difference on the day!
- We have been asked to assist at next years event - so keep an eye on the diary!

73 2E0XTA - County Controller

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SK SHACK - ITEMS FOR SALE

- Following the sad recent loss of G1SNU Derek, who was an Essex RAYNET Member for many years, a number of items of Amateur Radio & PMR Equipment are available for purchase - with received funds being split between Essex RAYNET and the family of G1SNU Derek
- All items available are sold as seen, with no warranty offered or implied, no refunds or returns given.
- All items will be available to be inspected prior to purchase, at a secure location in Essex
- A full list of available items can be requested by emailing - chairman@essexraynet.co.uk

FARLEIGH HOSPICE - CYCLE FOR LIFE 2025

- We supported Farleigh Hospice on Sunday 7th September, by providing resilient Safety Radio Communications, using Amateur Radio, to keep the Cyclists, Marshalls and First Aid Team safe, on the 20-50-100km routes on the Cycle for Life Event in Chelmsford
- A team of 18 Operators, including assistance from Mid-Herts (G1BYY), Kent RAYNET (M1EGP) and Forest Heath (G6XRX) who in total volunteered over 162 Hours - thank you so much, it wouldn't be possible without your support!
- We deployed a FM Voice Inband Repeater + 3x Crossband Repeaters (MB9HAT + MB9HAR + MB9ADY) and Automated Packet Reporting System (APRS) to enable us to track the location of Operators and Sweeps as they navigated the three routes
- We did experience some abnormalities whilst using FM Voice on our Inband Repeater, however we were able to overcome these issues through the use of a pre-planned deployment of our Fixed Repeater Network across Essex, which linked into our Temporary Network deployed on the day - resilience at its very rawest form!
- We can report that over 300 Cyclists took part across the three distances, raising an impressive £20k+ in donations for Farleigh Hospice, which is a really good result

ST HELENA - MIDNIGHT WALK 2025

- We supported St Helena Hospice on Saturday 27th September in the city of Colchester, providing resilient Safety Radio Communications, using Amateur Radio, to keep the Walkers, Marshalls and First Aid Team safe, as they navigated the 4 and 7.5 mile routes
- This year was a special one for St Helena, who celebrate 40 years of providing Hospice Care in Essex - as such, the theme was 80s - party like its 1985!
- The event saw some 500+ walkers take part, all helping to commemorate and raise funds for this fantastic hospice - so far, donations are estimated to be in the region of £33k+ - what a great result!
- We deployed FM + Icom Digital Voice Crossband Repeaters, as well as using Automated Packet Reporting System (APRS) to track the Sweep Operators and check Operator position on the two routes - thanks to Martello Tower Group for the use of MB7UCE, plus the hosting of MB9HAU Colchester for Essex RAYNET
- This was also the first opportunity we have had to test the coverage of MB9HAU, our FM Voice Crossband Repeater located in Colchester, with the results being promising - Colchester due to its topography, can be an RF nightmare!
- Thank you to Trident Medical who worked closely with Essex RAYNET and St Helena Hospice, to help provide Medical Assistance across the event
- We look forward to supporting the event next year - keep an eye on the diary!
- MOWRB Richard would like to thank everyone who took part, with 12 Operators volunteering 96 hours to this event - not bad for a Saturday Night

