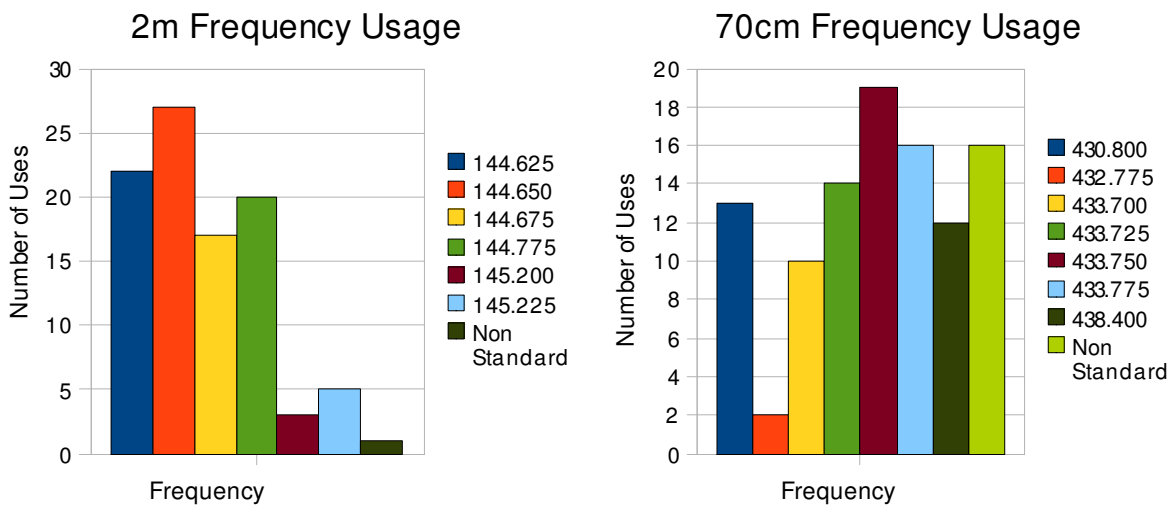# RAYNET report for Spectrum Forum
November 2010

Activities

2010 has continued to be an extremely busy year for RAYNET. Some 565 events and exercises have taken place up until 31st October 2010 (the busiest month being May with 97 events) and another 49 are notified in the Network's national diary before the end of 2010. This has already exceeded the number of events undertaken in total in 2009, and does not include assistance provided by other groups to support some major events.

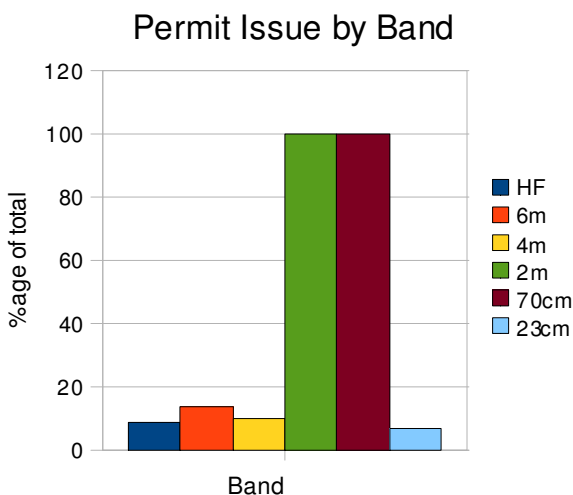Most activities take place on 2m and 70cm, although some groups are also using 4m, 6m and 23cm.

The graphs below have been compiled from the Talk-through reports received following their usage:

Data communications is seen by our User Services as important in current times. The Committee of Management has requested that the Technical Team Leader, Greg Mossop G0DUB, co-ordinate an analysis of the various systems available to RAYNET and to collate the work undertaken so far by individuals and groups. There will be no "one system fits all" as the data requirements of our Users will vary considerably.

A RAYNET EchoLink conference server has been implemented to provide a focus for emergency communications in the UK. Usage is currently light but it is hoped that groups will experiment with this alternative mode during exercises.

RAYNET use of Talk-through facilities

The annual Talk-through usage report was submitted to Ofcom as requested at the end of March 2010. This year's report resulted in a request for clarification on several issues and these were dealt with by an exchange of e-mails.

The RSGB removed the requirement for their member groups to apply for permits with effect from 16th October 2008 and asked their groups for an annual report of usage with effect from 1st January 2010. As no RSGB data was available for the period leading up to 31st December 2009, the information submitted to Ofcom only covered talk-through usage

by Network groups. There were 102 reported uses of talk-through in 2009.

Interference

There was no interference reported to have been caused to other users of the radio spectrum by RAYNET talk-through units.

However of 92 talk-through usage reports analysed, 11 reported interference to their operations with just one of these events reported as deliberate. The majority of the reports related to unintentional interference from other amateur users or other RAYNET groups on the same frequencies. One example was caused where French amateurs operating in accordance with their band plan affected RAYNET operations on the South Coast and were reluctant to change frequencies. Others were inadvertent interference from other amateurs which was solved by the use of CTCSS tones.

The deliberate case of interference reported was a continuous carrier transmitted on a 144MHz Talk-through frequency. The Group concerned changed frequency to avoid the interference and were then subjected to another long duration carrier on their 430MHz frequency. They chose to ignore the interference and continue operations.

The most obvious RAYNET Activities on HF are focused on the RAYNET HF team which is an informal group of Network, RSGB and independent RAYNET members who have an interest in diversifying beyond the normal 2m/70cm RAYNET operations over a wider area. There are now ~130 members of the mailing list with a good proportion of members participating in the weekly nets on 80/40m and 5MHz. A short notice exercise has been held this year with a good response from members and the team continues to provide the Region 1 HQ station for voice or data modes in the Global Simulated Emergency Test.

2012

With 2012 fast approaching, we were asked to submit information on RAYNET activities to support the RSGB's case for the safeguarding of certain frequencies during the period of the Games. Thanks to the information stored in the national diary database, this was accomplished and our thanks go to the negotiating team from the RSGB, as the recent Ofcom update has shown that certain frequencies will still be available for RAYNET use should the need arise.

Dorset RAYNET, together with the Dorset County Council Emergency Planning Department, has prepared a case for a microwave high speed data demonstration system. This has been submitted to Cabinet Office for consideration and funding approval.

If successful, this would be the first step towards implementation of a RAYNET emergency data system for the 2012 Olympic sailing events at Weymouth/Portland.

Submitted by:

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