

ECC REPORT TO SPECTRUM FORUM - NOVEMBER 2014

Purpose

The Emergency Communications Committee was formed in September 2013 with the broad remit to improve the support given to RSGB affiliated RAYNET groups and to improve relations with RAEN (the Network). It is a small committee with only 4 members, for Scotland and the North, Midlands, South East and South West respectively.

The tasks we are currently working on include:

- Co-ordination and checking the group membership information held at RSGB headquarters, primarily to ensure that the members are correctly insured when taking part in RAYNET activities. This activity is well advanced.
- Stimulating and improving co-operation between RSGB Raynet and the Network groups, moving towards unification. This will be the main activity for the coming year. We are supporting a joint ECC & RAEN working group that will come forward with detailed proposals.

Spectrum Matters

Busy weekends are posing a growing challenge for frequency co-ordination between Raynet groups. As part of our improving relationship with RAEN, all RSGB Raynet groups have been asked to use the event diary on the RAEN website. This will provide a single place for registering the proposed use of emergency comms and other frequencies.

However, to ease the problem further, we would ask for some Emergency Communication slots, including data modes, in the bandplan for 146-147 MHz. (We refer to the RAYNET report, for fuller details.)

We would also put a marker down for an emergency communication allocation within the new 60m bandlets. 60m is excellent band for NVIS work, particularly for interregional working. We've tested it between Kent and Sussex very successfully. In Scotland, NVIS is excellent for getting into deep valleys.