



RAYNET Report

Spectrum Forum – Nov 2015



This is a joint report submitted the RSGB's Emergency Communications Committee and The Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network.

In total, there are approximately 200 groups active throughout the United Kingdom, with a membership of roughly 2200.

There have been 600 operational duties carried out since 1st January 2015, and a further 36 are planned during November and December. Large-scale RAYNET operations in 2015 included Endurance 80 (80km day/night scout hike), Etapes du Dales (110km bike ride), LDWA walk (3-day 100 mile walk), Royal International Air Tattoo (5-day operation), the Ridgeway Challenge (30hr 87-mile ultra-run from Ivinghoe Beacon to Avebury) and the Tour de Trigs (30-hr 80km day/night scout hike).

The months of January, November and December see the lowest levels of activity with around 15-20 events a month, whereas May to September each see duties numbering between 70-82. Some of these are 24-48hr events where a number of frequencies are in use on both 2m and 70cm, and can also involve any number of talk-throughs being deployed to aid communications over a wide area or difficult terrain. These talk-throughs are operational under a permit system operated by the Network and are given an individual ID number, making its use traceable to a particular group. Reports on the use of talk-through are requested as soon as possible after the event, particularly if the group has experienced accidental or deliberate interference during their operation. Thankfully, these instances are rare, but details are then forwarded to AROS. All RAYNET groups are encouraged to submit their duties to the events diary, which is published every week and distributed by email. Groups can opt to publicise their frequencies and whether or not talk-through is being used; however, some choose not to, as this can attract unwelcome attention.

Groups are exploring the use of other bands (such as 4m, 6m, and 23cm) and HF NVIS in difficult terrains, as well as technologies such as digital modes and MESH networking. The RAYNET-HF team continue to run a weekly net on voice, with the final net of the month exploring data modes.

Where groups in a similar geographical area are operational on different events on the same day, the diary listing assists group controllers to contact each other and co-ordinate frequency usage to avoid clashes. This on the whole works well, though occasional lift conditions can thwart even the most careful planning. This is often resolved by a telephone call or on-air conversation, and one group will invariably QSY.

Points for attention:

- Is there an update on the 'guidance notes' which were proposed for the licence?
- Can the footnote to the wide split UHF repeater channel requiring RAYNET to be inverse split to the rest of the UK be removed? Some groups, because of the siting of existing repeaters, are forced to use the pair as intended and not inverted.

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