

FAQs on the re-unification of RAYNET

What are the changes going to mean for me?

How will my group join RAYNET-UK?

- Members will complete several forms – one giving personal details and another which limits an individual's liability to £5 should the charitable company be wound up in the future). They will then be entered on a master sheet and sent either electronically or by post, with the membership fee, and a passport-standard photo to Registrations. The cards are then returned to the group for distribution to the members. The forms and the procedure are now available on the RSGB website.

As a member, what do I get for my £7.20?

- Combined Liability insurance to members whilst on RAYNET activities and Personal Accident Insurance to members whilst on RAYNET activities. This scheme, unlike many others, provides benefit to those members over 75 years of age, unless in gainful employment.
- A secure photo ID card, recognised by the User Services.
- Provision of an e-mail forwarding service with a dedicated forwarding address, enabling Members to receive e-mails without the problems associated with changing ISP.
- A discounted Supplies service on both a mail order basis and direct sale at major Amateur Radio rallies.
- Discount on purchases from certain suppliers. This is unlikely to include equipment, although some suppliers do give a small discount, but there are other suppliers with whom there are discount agreements.
- An exclusive members-only area on the website to give members access to resources that are provided as a privilege of membership. The facilities provided include management of your personal details, management of your own e-mail services to receive various mailings, including the weekly news script, newsletters, announcements and Met Office weather warnings.

As a Group Controller, what support can I expect?

- Provision of support and advice to Group officers.
- The issue of Talkthrough permits. The data provided gives valuable information about frequency usage to inform discussions on band planning within Spectrum Forum and a report is provided to Ofcom annually.
- Technical evaluation of components relevant to RAYNET operations and general technical support.
- Production of profession standard display material for local use at User Service functions, Radio Rallies and recruitment activities.
- The provision of Group membership details, appointment information and resources via the Members Website.
- Provision of on-line diary facilities to record activities, publicise events and request assistance.
- Access to the specialist teams whose remit is to support the organisation at both a National and local level – Emergency Planning, Information Systems, Media, Supplies, Technical and Training. These teams are accessible to both Members and Groups.
- Provision of a 24-hour Emergency Contact phone number on 03030 40 10 80 to back-up local contact arrangements for User Services.

Can I still be part of the RSGB?

RSGB affiliation will remain open to groups. They will only be able to use the word RAYNET in their title if they are part of RAYNET-UK, and affiliation will only offer the standard radio club advantages. It will not include insurance for specialist RAYNET activities.

Members can also still join the RSGB as individuals.

Why are there two Raynet organisations?

- RAYNET was formed in 1953 following the East Coast floods, when radio amateurs provided emergency communications, and was administered by the RSGB.
In the early 90s for various reasons a split occurred in RAYNET with some groups remaining with the RSGB, some forming a new organisation, the Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network, known as the Network or RAEN, and some operating independently.
- Attempts have been made in the past to bring all the groups back into one organisation. Since 2013 the RSGB's Emergency Communications Committee has been working towards bringing the Raynet groups back under one organisation.

How is the unified Raynet interface with the RSGB?

- A RSGB/RAEN joint working group was formed to consider the requirements for a unified Raynet. They produced their first statement in October 2014 and started a consultation process with the membership of both organisations. This consultation continued for almost two years as new proposals were developed based on the consultation input. A joint statement on the detail and how amalgamation will be achieved was drawn up by the RSGB and the RAEN and released on 1 Sept 2015. This was further refined leading to the signing a memorandum of agreement between the RSGB and the unified RAYNET which sets out their new, complimentary roles and co-operative relationship.
- The memorandum of agreement can be viewed on the RSGB website.

What is BPSS?

- This is a check recognised by industry, government & security services as a valid way of establishing a person's identity.
- There is an increasing requirement on all types of organisations that its members are confirmed as to who they are. This equally applies to voluntary and charitable organisations of which RAYNET is one. The requirement includes checks on each member to confirm their identity, where they live, that they are entitled to reside in this country and that they have no unspent criminal convictions.
- This is best achieved by following the Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) as detailed by the Cabinet Office, but since RAYNET does not have any employees, the requirement for employer checks and references is waived.
- All groups are encouraged to use the BPSS scheme currently, run by the Network, to document the checking of members' identity. Initially, we considered that this should be a requirement but it became apparent that it was likely to complicate and delay the RAYNET-UK application process.
- The BPSS check is **not** a formal security clearance or vetting against government held lists. It is entirely internal to RAYNET without reference to outside agencies.

How would BPSS benefit Groups?

- Confidence that your members really are who they say they are.
- User Services would see that you are exercising due diligence using a recognised standard when accepting new members.
- In the vast majority of cases this scheme would satisfy any general requests from our User Services for RAYNET members to be "checked".