

War games for RAYNET

RAYNET may be invited to take part in the civil defence exercise, WARMON 83, according to a spokesman for the RSGB.

Originally set up to provide aid in peacetime emergencies, participation in the exercise, scheduled for March 12/13, represents a new departure in the organisation's original scope of operations.

According to sources at the MOD, RAYNET's function would be to pass on simulated data about the position and strength of nuclear explosions and their radioactive fallout, from monitoring posts to Government bunkers.

The organisation would only take part at the invitation of the local CEPO — Local Emergency Planning Officer.

and peace games...

The Home Office has also lifted other restrictions on RAYNET. It is to be allowed to provide radio links for events like sponsored walks and marathons. Each RAYNET group will be limited to one exercise a month.

Radio amateurs will also be able to call for help over the air if they arrive at the scene of an emergency, but only if no other means of communication is available. If, for example there is an accident on the motorway, amateurs can only be used to call for help if the emergency telephones are out of action.

Another valuable change allows people other than licenced amateurs to speak into the microphone in an emergency. Rescue workers can now communicate directly, rather than having everything repeated by the operator. There will however still have to be a licenced amateur keeping an eye on things.

At the moment emergency communications can only be sent on behalf of the British Red Cross, the St John Ambulance Brigade, a CEPO or the police. But the Home office says that it is willing in principle to add other organisations to the licence if requested — so if, for example, a mountain rescue team wanted RAYNET to provide radio facilities for them, the Home Office would consider their request.

G4DYA

RADIO TODAY

Can you help?

Staff and students at the Haywards Heath College are struggling to set up a permanent radio station and general electronics department with, they add, very little cash. They would be 'overjoyed' to hear from anyone who can offer them radio equipment, aerial cable, components, PET/BBC software or anything at all in fact.

If you think that you may be able to help them out please contact Pete Metcalfe G8DCZ at Haywards Heath Sixth Form College, Harlands Road, Haywards Heath, Sussex. Phone 0444 456281 and ask for the Physics Department.

Wrong price

SMC, the Yaesu main agent with headquarters in Southampton asks us to point out that it was not bargain time of the century as may have been believed by reading the company's ad in our March issue (p42/43).

The ad showed the FT902DM priced at £185 when it should have appeared as £885. The price indicated in the advert was a genuine printing error and therefore the company has no obligation to supply any sets at that price even though there were lots of potential customers! In our defence we must point out that the advertising copy was provided for our magazine via Practical Wireless which also carried the same error.

Wireless revival

The East Suffolk Wireless revival 1983, a popular annual mobile rally, will take place on the Bank Holiday Sunday, May 29 at the usual venue of the Civil Service Sportsground, The Hollies, Straight Road, Ipswich. The site is between Bucklesham Road and Felixtowe Road and is adjacent to the Suffolk Show Ground.

The rally will open at 10 am and will be similar to previous events except that the 'bring and buy' stall will be replaced by a fleamarket and car boot sale. The transceiver clinic and aerial testing range will be featured as usual in addition to the traders and stands, displays and other attractions for the rest of the family.

More details will be available nearer to the time and requests for stand space should be addressed to George Spencer G6CRN, 83 Tuddenham Avenue, Ipswich IP1 6PX. Phone 0473 44047.

RAE changes

The people who set the Radio Amateurs' Exam are canvassing for ideas about how the exam could be improved. If you didn't like the May Exam, or any of the other ones for that matter, now is the chance to air your views.

The City and Guilds is setting up a working party to review the exam. It says 'The principle objective of the examination is to ascertain the candidate's

ability to operate an amateur station within the terms of the licence and not necessarily to test expertise in particular aspects of the amateur service.'

Ideas for changes to the syllabus should be sent to Mr S Allison, City and Guilds Institute of London, 46 Britannia Street, London WC1X 9RG.

Judging by the postbag which we regularly receive on the topic there are quite a few people with something to say about the matter. If you don't like the RAE, write now (but not to us).

Show postponed

We regret that the SOUTHERN HAM RADIO SHOW, which was to have been held on Sunday, April 17, has had to be postponed to a later date.

The organising of the new Horsham based event has been severely hampered by the short timescale upon which both ourselves, and the organisers, Corinthian Exhibitions had embarked on. Watch this column for details of the new date.

PRACTICE RAE ANSWERS to the papers which appeared in the February edition of Ham Radio Today.

Page 58: licencing regulations
1 b, 2 d, 3 a, 4 d, 5 c, 6 c, 7 d, 8 a, 9 d, 10 b.

Page 59: radio theory
1 b, 2 d, 3 b, 4 d, 5 c, 6 a, 7 a, 8 c, 9 b, 10 c, 11 d, 12 d, 13 b, 14 a, 15 c.