

springing up throughout the country.

Norfolk Raynet, in conjunction with the local Rover Rescue Team, organised in three days (and raised the money to cover fuel expenses) for six vehicles (including one YL) to make the three thousand mile journey to an Italian earthquake disaster zone; amid plague, more tremours, impossible weather conditions and just to make it more interesting... Mafia activity!

And so we could go on around the counties... it's obvious from the incidents quoted that the motto of Raynet members must be 'be prepared'... and not just radiowise. It's advisable to have a container of some sort ready packed so you can pick it up and 'go' when called out; knowing you have with you some food, in the form of chocolate/peanuts (or whatever you fancy) in a sealed box, plus a couple of cans of lemonade or similar (not beer — apart from affecting your operating it makes you thirsty); a change of clothing (particularly socks). There's nothing worse than working in cold wet feet and when the going gets really cold an extra jumper and dry gloves will help to keep you at maximum efficiency while you are helping the less fortunate. Remember it could be a long time before you are relieved or get any food. Always wear your hard hat and any other Raynet identification you have. If you're at the site of an incident mark your car with large Raynet posters, better still an illuminated sign and, while you are stationary, a flashing green lamp is permissible.

How Do I Join Raynet?

Simple, just ask your local Club Secretary or Raynet Controller; otherwise a note to the RSGB, enclosing a SAE will bring full details and the necessary forms. You will require a couple of passport size photographs of yourself; one for Raynet records and the other your ID card.

If you're still not sure if you would enjoy working with a Raynet Group, and you must enjoy doing the work (after all it's your hobby), talk to your local Raynet Controller and join in some of their activities for a few months, no one will complain or think any the less of you if you drop out after a while; if it

doesn't grab you, you probably wouldn't have become a useful member of the group anyway!

Keeping It All Together

It's obvious, where groups are spread over a large area, contact must be maintained between members; meetings are usually no more than monthly. Most Groups hold a weekly net. Nets give everyone the opportunity to try their hand at being controller and teaches the art of message handling, map reading, and the opportunity to report equipment and personal status etc. Recognising a familiar voice could be of immense use and comfort in a live civil defence operation, something else in which Raynet will no doubt play a large role. (It is under consideration by the Home Office now).

There are several national frequencies allocated to Raynet, for live, exercise and net use:—

144.260	70.355
144.775	70.375
144.850	433.200 (RB/SUB)
145.200	(S8)

There is also a controllers' net every Sunday at 08.30 hours on 3.790MHz.

The Home Office have recently granted permission for Raynet to participate as an exercise, if requested by user service in charity walks, marathons etc and have also granted permission for third party operation of your equipment i.e. it could be easier and quicker for a doctor to talk direct to a colleague than via a message pad, but you will remain in strict control of the radio equipment and it's at your discretion as to who uses this facility.

Organisation

Naturally it took time to organise a nationwide network of this calibre and there have been many changes during the course of its lifetime. The present arrangement is still being adjusted from time to time in an attempt to reach the ultimate structure.

Governed by the RSGB General Council, the Raynet National Committee, consisting jointly of RSGB Council Members and a member from each of the twelve Raynet zones, on through zonal controllers, county controllers to group controllers and Raynet members.



The structure gives the impression of being heavy in executive control, however, it does work and is much appreciated by the user organisations.

As already mentioned, emergencies have a habit of happening at inconvenient times. It's a good idea to explain to your employer what Raynet is all about, or show him this article and ask if he is prepared to release you from your place of employment without loss of pay to attend live emergencies. Proof of live incident and your attendance will be provided by your controller.

Most companies agree to this, as they do for Territorial Training Camps, the excellent publicity they receive as a public spirited company is good for their local image.

As a registered Raynet member, attending a live emergency, you are insured against accident by the RSGB.

If you think you fit the bill, Raynet needs you. A well organised and trained service is far superior to any untrained volunteer group. ●

