



## RAYNET Cup Presentation

RSGB AGM, Belfast, 06 May



On Saturday 06 May, Mike (GW3YKZ) and Terry (GW8JOY) travelled to Belfast for the RSGB Annual General Meeting, to receive The RAYNET Cup on behalf of the Group.

The RAYNET Cup is an annual trophy presented to the RAYNET Group that has carried out significant work to enhance the image of both RAYNET and Amateur Radio. In his report to the RSGB Board, Paul Gaskell (RCVS Co-ordinator) proposed the Gwent RAYNET Group *“in view of the substantial work done by them in Tunnel communications, proving through a series of User Services exercises, that the use of 23cm works effectively in a number of tunnels – thus gaining more interaction, support and confidence of the User Services and in doing so, significantly enhancing the image of RAYNET and Amateur Radio as a whole”*.

Many thanks to all members of our Group whose contributions to exercises and events, resulted in this award. ■

## Exercise “Side Track”

28 September 2006

Monmouthshire EPU is organising a “Survivor Reception Centre” exercise, based at Caldicot Leisure Centre, on 28 September between 11:00 and 13:30.

Gwent RAYNET along with other local voluntary organisations, Train Operating Companies and the Police have been invited to participate, with a request for “survivor volunteers”. Additionally, Gwent Police have suggested RAYNET provide a communications link back to Police HQ at Croesyceiliog. It is hoped that a pre-exercise radio test can be carried out at Police HQ, to investigate any possibility of interference problems.

The exercise is based on a scenario of an incident in the Severn Tunnel, with “survivors” who do not require hospital treatment being taken to the “SRC”. ■

## Exercise “Brunel 2”

Severn Tunnel, overnight 17/18 June 2006

Overnight on the 17/18 June, RAYNET took part in another Exercise at the Severn Railway Tunnel. Members of the Gwent, South Glamorgan and South Gloucestershire Groups joined members of the Avon and South Wales Fire & Rescue Services for their second “Familiarisation Exercise” of the year.

Following our previous successes with communications directly involving the Tunnel, this exercise was to have revolved around providing the two Fire Services with useable communication links between their respective HQ’s at Bristol and Pontyclun, with additional stations at Green Lane RVP and Caldicot Fire Station.

Whilst participation in the exercise once again helped

RAYNET prove our own communication links, it is disappointing to note that message-traffic from both Fire Services was very thin on the ground. Indeed, it actually



Dave (2W0DCR) and Andy (2W0BNL) operating the “Brunel 2” Net Control Station at Chepstow Park Wood. (Photo: Steve GW8ZOE)

took a direct request from the RAYNET Exercise Controller for messages to be generated; apparently, AF&RS personnel at Green Lane advised that they would not be providing any messages unless there were incoming requests from AF&RS HQ, whilst SWF&RS staff at the Pontyclun HQ advised they would not be participating any further after just one message had been sent from Caldicot Fire Station.

There is a further Tunnel Exercise planned for 23/24 September. Perhaps RAYNET and the Fire Services could “try again” at this exercise? ■

## 10m for Foundation Licensees

Ofcom have announced, via their web site, that they plan to allow amateur radio Foundation Licence holders to use the 10-metre band with effect from 01 October 2006.

The announcement has been made in the document “IR-2028”, which can be downloaded from the Ofcom web site at:

[www.ofcom.org.uk/radiocomms/ifi/tech/interface\\_req/ir\\_2028.pdf](http://www.ofcom.org.uk/radiocomms/ifi/tech/interface_req/ir_2028.pdf) ■

## 4m (70MHz) Radio Equipment

For anyone thinking of buying new (or ex-PMR) equipment for the 4m band, take a look at the Garex web site: [www.garex.co.uk](http://www.garex.co.uk)

The AKD4001 4m FM transceiver is now back in production and available from Garex. The company also has a reasonable range of ex-PMR equipment for sale.

[From an original message posted by Gareth GW4KJW on the Group's Forum. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gwent\\_raynet/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gwent_raynet/) ] ■

## Police HQ Open Day

Sunday 18 June 2006

On Sunday 18 June, members of the Group put on a display of RAYNET and amateur radio at the Gwent Police Open Day, held at Police HQ, Croesyceiliog.

Norman (MW0HJG), Ann (MW3NNA), Terry (GW8JOY) and George (2W1JLK) put on an excellent display utilising Norman's Camper. Many thanks to them for what they did in promoting both RAYNET and amateur radio.

The Open Day included displays from the Police, SARA, Wales Air Ambulance, WRVS, SARDA and numerous others, providing an enjoyable event for members of the public.

Our own display had a large number of visitors and soon depleted our stock of brochures! (It remains to be seen if we gain any new members though.) ■



The impressive display (above) arranged by Norman, Ann & Terry, with Terry operating the display radio station (below).

Photos: Norman (MW0HJG)



## PowerPoint Presentations

Kevin (GW7BSC) has produced two Microsoft PowerPoint presentations which are now available for distribution to interested parties.

First is the presentation put together after Exercise "Avon Express", and shown to members at the January meeting. A few minor tweaks have been made to the presentation since then. The other is a "general" presentation about RAYNET, covering all aspects of what RAYNET is and does.

If anyone would like copies of these files (on CDROM due to their size), please contact Kevin at [mw1azr@btinternet.com](mailto:mw1azr@btinternet.com) or on 07010-726248. ■

## Visit to Swansea MRCC

For Group members, a visit has been arranged to the Coastguard Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre at The Mumbles, Swansea on Friday 22 September 2006. The visit will start at 10:30 and members attending are requested to meet in the car park adjacent to the MRCC at **10:15**.

If you have not already advised Kevin (GW7BSC) that you would like to go, please would you do so by Friday 11 August. We can have a maximum of 12 persons in the visiting party.

Any "spare" places will be offered to members of the South Glamorgan RAYNET Group. ■

## Tunnel Radio (GSM-R)

GSM-R radio coverage is to be provided in more than 350 tunnels across the UK's railway network under a contract placed by Network Rail with the Swedish repeater manufacturer Avitec.

Avitec will provide both off-air and fibre-fed equipment, depending on the length of individual tunnels. As well as the radio equipment itself, the company will supply design, support, integration and training services. ■

[News item from "Land Mobile", June 2006]

## MW1AZR "Mobile" Web Site

To compliment our main web site – [www.mw1azr.org.uk](http://www.mw1azr.org.uk) – we also have a site designed specifically for mobile devices, at [www.azrmobile.net](http://www.azrmobile.net)

This site is a "cut-down" version of a selection of pages from the main site, and is text only, allowing the pages to load much faster, saving time and money when accessed using a mobile phone or other device.

The site has been tested and appears fully accessible with Palm and Windows Mobile PDA's, Blackberry devices, and also the WAP browser on a number of mobile phones (from Nokia, Sony and Samsung).

It can, of course, be accessed using the web browser on your desktop PC or laptop, though it doesn't look as good! ■

If you would like to provide an article and/or photo for the newsletter, please contact Kevin GW7BSC: [mw1azr@btinternet.com](mailto:mw1azr@btinternet.com) or 'phone 07010726248.