



## RSGB Appoints New RCVS Co-ordinator

The RSGB have appointed a new Radio Communications Voluntary Services National Coordinator.

He is Dr. Robin Bellerby (GM3ZYE). Robin, who hails from Newton Stewart, has more than forty years experience of RAYNET and providing radio services to the local community behind him.

His principal role is that of the working interface between all RAYNET groups and the RSGB and to work closely with the "Network" on all emergency communication matters.

Robin takes up his post immediately. ■

## Visit to Burnham Area Rescue Boat Station



© Photo courtesy of Mark Newman, Burnham-on-Sea.com/BARB

On Saturday 10 March, members of the Group paid a visit to the Burnham-on-Sea Rescue Hovercraft station; a visit organised by Mike (GW3YKZ).

In a very enjoyable and informative visit, the Group were given a short presentation detailing the hovercraft and the reasons for it being established at Burnham, the history of its naming and, of course, how it all works.

During the visit, the hovercraft station staff mentioned the difficulties they encounter when using the VHF radio and intercom equipment whilst the hovercraft is in use. Brief investigations whilst at the station revealed that this was probably due to technical rather than environmental issues, and some of the Group members offered to pay a return visit to the station to assist with overcoming these problems for the station.

It is hoped that a further report can be included in a future issue of this Newsletter regarding this work.

Group members would like to thank the Hovercraft Station staff and crew for providing a very interesting visit, and to Mike for arranging it. ■

## Brecon Beacons Challenge 02 September 2007

The British Heart Foundation is organising the Brecon Beacons Challenge Charity Hike on 02 September and has approached Gwent RAYNET to assist with the provision of communications. (The North Powys RAYNET Group are not available to cover this event.)

Only basic details are available at present, with the start/finish point being the Brecon Beacons Visitor Centre and around 8 checkpoints along the route. The Red Cross will be providing First Aid and minor injury cover, with serious injuries being covered by the local Mountain Rescue Team.

Approximately 300 participants are expected for the event which is expected to entail a distance of around 12-miles. The event is planned to start at 08:00hrs at the "BBVC" which will be the location of the main Control Station. All checkpoints will have a RAYNET operator and at least one fully qualified "mountain leader".

We currently have eight members who have expressed an interest and will be looking to neighbouring groups for further operators if necessary. I am hoping to have more detailed information on the event in time for our May meeting, should anyone else wish to "put their name down" to help. Unlike the "Cant Canolbarth 100" event taking place over the 26-28 May Bank Holiday weekend, the BHF event should be completed same-day. [Kevin GW7BSC] ■

## New Talk-Through Radio

Through the generosity of the Torfaen Emergency Planning Unit, our existing Yaesu FT-8100 dual-band radio used for Talk-Through, will be replaced.

Although the efforts of Steve (GW8ZOE) in repairing the 8100 were reasonably successful, the 8100 is not back to performing 100%. This was mentioned at our recent Annual General Meeting and, shortly afterwards, I was asked to contact Bob Crimp at Torfaen EPU regarding a replacement for this radio.

Details of the replacement – Yaesu FT-880R – have been given to Bob and the radio will be passed to us at an official presentation in the near future. ■

## Correction

In the January issue of our Newsletter, there was a report of our Communications Exercise with the Longtown MRT. The exercise took place at various locations within the Black Mountains and not the Brecon Beacons as stated. ■

## FOR SALE

Pye "PFX" Handheld transceiver, ex-PMR unit converted for the 4m/70MHz band with 12.5kHz channel steps. Complete with aerial (not very straight!) and instruction sheet listing channel/frequency settings.

Frequency range: 70.0125–70.4875

No battery charger but instructions give details on how to make one.

**£15** contact Kevin GW7BSC.

## Gwent RAYNET to join the "Network"



At our recent AGM, a proposal was put forward that the Group become members of RAEN when our RSGB Affiliation expires. The main reason for this proposal was the seemingly increasing disinterest being shown by RSGB toward RAYNET generally, and the fact that RAEN offer more comprehensive insurance cover, as well as, obviously, being more "in tune" with RAYNET in the UK.

Comments from members received since the AGM show that a large majority are in favour of this change and appropriate application forms have been distributed to the members.

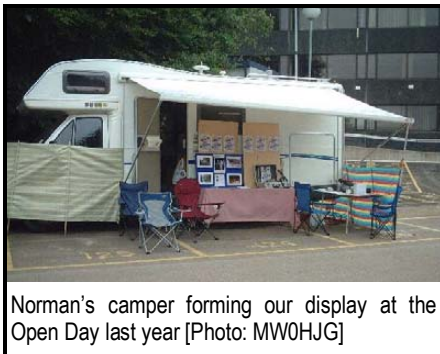
Mike (YKZ) our Treasurer, will be collating these forms and the membership fee, which should be passed to Mike **at or before** our next Group Meeting on 09 May for processing by the end of that month.

*If anyone has not received the forms, please let Kevin GW7BSC know as soon as possible; spare copies of the forms will also be available at the May meeting.* ■

## Gwent Police Open Day 24 June 2007

Gwent RAYNET have been invited to put on a display again, at this year's Gwent Police Open Day, to be held at Police HQ Croesyceiliog on Sunday 24 June.

Last year's event drew a considerable number of visitors and our own RAYNET display also attracted a fair bit of attention. Whilst we won't, unfortunately, have Norman's camper this year, we are still aiming to have a similar display and active radio station. If you would like to help, please let me know (if you haven't already). [Kevin GW7BSC] ■



Norman's camper forming our display at the Open Day last year [Photo: MW0HJG]



Dave (2E0DCR) sat at the Control Desk of Studio 5 (Radio) during the recent Gwent RAYNET visit to the BBC Studios at Llandaff, Cardiff. More pictures and report in the next Newsletter.

[Photo: GW4JDE]

## Comms Exercise with Blaenau Gwent EPU

A communications exercise is being arranged by the Emergency Planning Team at Blaenau Gwent, to be held on Saturday 29 September starting around 10:00hrs.

The exercise aim will be to establish a comms. link between the old Aberbeeg Railway Station (or close by) to the Emergency Centre at Brynmawr.

As the exercise is being planned mostly by the EPO's, there will be limited information provided. A "Group Callout" may be used prior to "StartEx" as an additional test of our systems. For this geographical area we will, undoubtedly, need to make use of one or more TTU's. ■

## Exercise "Sabrina 5"

A re-run of Exercise "Sabrina 5", covering the Bristol Channel/Severn Estuary area is planned for the afternoon of Saturday 22 September.

To gauge the interest in this exercise and to determine whether or not it goes ahead, RAYNET Groups and EPO's in the area will be contacted in the very near future.

Our previous attempt to run the exercise unfortunately had to be abandoned due to the failure of the radio being used for the TTU. ■

### Next Group Meeting:

**Wednesday 09 May 2007, 19:30hrs**

**The Old Ferry Inn**

**Beachley, near Chepstow**

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