



Aylesbury RAYNET Group
Newsletter
October 2003

In this issue:

- Group AGM & Bucks County RAYNET AGM 2003
- Donation from Bucks EPU
- Events
 - Chinnor Christian Aid
 - Waddesdon Horse event
 - London Oxford Bike Ride
 - Blenheim International Horse Trials
 - Philips Tour of Mull car rally
 - Abingdon Marathon
- HFT plea for help

It's AGM season!

Enclosed with this newsletter are calling notices for both the Aylesbury Group's AGM and the Bucks County RAYNET AGM on 12th and 19th November respectively. Please try to make them if you can!

This year, I step down as both Group and County Controller, in order to concentrate on my role as Network Chairman from Jan 1st 2004. I can assure you that I will remain as a member of the group (I do not intend to switch my membership to the Chairman's Group, as that is purely for administration purposes) and hope to stay as active as ever, as much as official duties permit.

Donation from Bucks EPU

A donation, totaling £1800, was made to the three groups in Bucks for their services and support over the last 12 months. The £600 donated to the Aylesbury group has been spent to provide some little extras for members, and I hope to be able to distribute them at the AGM. Unfortunately, one project met with a slight hiccup at the printers, and the order has had to be reprinted.



In addition, we purchased a good-quality gazebo for use as a control facility. Its first outing was on the London Oxford Bike Ride in July. The photo shows RAYNET Control co-sited with BRCS personnel at Watlington Hill.

Events:

I realised, much to my horror, that the last newsletter was back in February, so there is a lot to catch up on!

Chinnor Christian Aid:

Thanks for the support for this event. It was uneventful, and the group received a donation of £85.

Waddesdon Manor Endurance Horse Ride:

The event had assistance from SW Herts, and RAYNET Control was sited in Trevor G4KUJ's Range Rover. A donation is on its way to the group.

It is likely that in future, the event will stay at Waddesdon (rather than alternate with Claydon House) and become an annual event.

London Oxford Bike Ride:

The group came up trumps, as there was no assistance from London owing to a clash of events. The gazebo saw its first operational duty and provided us with spacious accommodation for both the RAYNET operators and BRCS staff. We were also grateful to Simon Curry from Surrey BRCS for towing a large trailer-mounted mast onto the site and assisting us to rig what was the tallest aerial array we've ever used on the event - we even managed to clear the trees this year!

Now for a couple of funnies - it was VHF Field Day, so I took the opportunity to give away a few points on the Saturday evening - I even worked 1750Km on the 50MHz collinear.....

During the morning of the event on Sunday, the following was heard in the middle of RAYNET operations.

" UK Station, UK Station, Ukraine calling.....speak, **SPEAK!**" He repeated his frantic call again and again. But unfortunately we had to ignore him.

Blenheim International Horse Trials:

Though not strictly a RAYNET event, as we operate on PMR, we were again assisted by the 4x4 boys. There were considerable technical difficulties at Control, owing to the considerable use of other frequencies on the estate, and Ray and I found ourselves in a control caravan all to ourselves.

It is unlikely that we will be involved in the event in the future, as there is a motion under discussion to drop roads and tracks and steeplechase from 3* and 4* horse trials from 2004/5.

Philips Tour of Mull:

Ian G3ZHX, Alasdair M1LAN and the Clark family made the journey to Scotland for the Tour of Mull in mid-October. The rally was overshadowed by the death of Susan Cameron, whose car, driven by her husband Duncan, left the road on stage 3 and hit a tree on the Friday night. As a result, a number of the stages were cancelled and the mood was somewhat subdued for the rest of the weekend.

On the positive side, APRS coverage was considerably enhanced, with two recovery vehicles being tracked in addition to the course vehicles. Rally HQ was fitted with laptops in front of each net operator, who had the ability to watch the official vehicles through their particular stages. In quiet moments, operators were seen to interrogate the system to find out estimated speeds of travel! Further development of the system is planned for next year.

Abingdon Marathon:

This was much more successful than last year, with the course medical co-ordinator co-sited in the RAYNET caravan, rather than mobile on the route. Many thanks to those who assisted Oxford with the event.

HFT event - 18th December 2003 at Dorchester Abbey:

Home Farm Trust might have ceased doing the Hare and Tortoise walk in our area, but Hilary Colbert still has my phone number apparently!

This is not a RAYNET event, but she is looking for some volunteers to help with marshalling the car park for their Christmas Event at Dorchester Abbey and wondered if I could assist. To reward your assistance, you can get in to the concert for free (tickets are around £20) - seasonal music provided by Magdalan College Choir and readings by actor Timothy West. If you're interested, please let me know.

RAYNET cards:

Those of you I haven't seen recently will find your RAYNET cards enclosed. Welcome to Chris Martin 2E1PPM who has joined the merry band! I hope to see most of you at the AGM(s).