

Steering Group Meeting 4th December 2013

Andy Russell, GOVRM
Acting Secretary – North Humber Raynet

Members Present

Tony Wilkinson MONIX,
Andy Russell GOVRM,

Dave White MOPLR,
Clive Reynolds G3GJA.

Tony Harris G4SJI,

Chairman's Report

Dave White commented that North Humber Raynet is a new organisation and therefore we are starting with a blank piece of paper. He reported that he has spoken to Cathy Clark, G1GQJ (Chair of Raynet) and Andy Evans (Raynet Regional Coordinator), however he has had no response to emails sent to Charlie Morrison, GI4FUE (RSGB Emergency Comms Representative).

Dave reported that Vince Lewis, G4DQP (East Yorkshire Raynet Controller) has resigned both as EYR controller AND NHR committee member – and that Anne has also stepped down. Clive questioned if the East Yorkshire Raynet members are going to come across? Dave commented that at this time he did not know where we stood with these issues.

Tony Wilkinson commented that he has been in dialogue with Vince Lewis and he was pleased with the outcome. Several people within East Yorkshire Raynet complained because they thought the committee would be made up 50:50 between groups.

Andy Evans has called a meeting of East Yorkshire Raynet to discuss their future role, as Vince's resignation has made the continuation of their group difficult without a controller or representative on the NHR committee.

Policies

Members Availability

The group recognises the differences between emergency situations and the spare time required to practice. It is expected that all members should be prepared for emergencies and that some will support emergencies outside the area, some not.

The group has no intention to work outside of our area on planned events. Although there are no specific boundaries, it was suggested that the group would cover an area bounded by Pickering, Malton, Bridlington, Scunthorpe and, Grimsby – which mirrors that of members of Yorkshire 4x4 Response working based in EY.

The outlook will be the same as the East Yorkshire Emergency Communications Group, in that there are enough people to fulfil our ambitions.

What Do We Expect of a Member?

Members are expected to turn up at least once a year with a 2-metre handheld to practice, or get involved in other exercises. However, before accepting a job, the person acting as a sponsor must first ensure that they have the support of the membership in order to ensure that the group does not accept anything it cannot or that its members do not wish to support.

Do Members have to do what they are told?

Once someone has volunteered, they need to be prepared to listen to the person in charge of the event – this position is non-negotiable. This authority should preferably be gained through respect rather than by force.

The hierarchy of control depends upon the type of event: for an event such as a Dove House sponsored walk, the event organiser is in charge; for a situation involving the User Services, the Incident Commander is in charge.

The Net Controller during an event needs to be detached from the operation and act as a separate party.

Communications with the Membership

Comments have been made by the Membership at large that they are unaware of what has been going on. The Committee must endeavour be as transparent as possible, whilst respecting the need for confidentiality and sensitivity of certain issues.

Subscriptions

Although some other Raynet Groups nationally that earn money from events and do not pay individual subscriptions - we consider the act of paying a £10 annual subscription as a mark of commitment from the individual members. The group does not support the clauses in the draft RAEN constitution whereby the Controller (on their own) decides who can join the Group, but looks to the committee to approve memberships.

As soon as North Humber Raynet is formalised by its first full AGM it will look to register its members immediately with both RAEN and RSGB.

At this time, there are no requirements for Memoranda of Understanding between ourselves and other groups, such as the East Yorkshire Repeater Group and Yorkshire 4x4 Response, as the current committee is embedded within these organisations. But we will look to forming such links formally.

Other Business

Group Call Sign

Andy Russell G0VRM suggested that the group could adopt the call sign G2DPA in memory of Mario Brashill. Whilst it was agreed that using Mario's call sign legacy for something constructive, and appropriate in EY was important, It was agreed to put this on hold whilst the disagreements between the two existing Raynet Groups is ongoing as it could be contentious.

Committee Positions

Andy Russell reported that he had a volunteer willing to produce the training material and act as the group's Training Officer. The Committee agreed that we can appoint him and he should take the post.

Andy has also volunteered to chair a Special Interest Group on Data Communications.

Standardisation

An observation from previous exercises is that there are inconsistencies between the setup of member's equipment – everyone should be using the same FM deviation (i.e. NFM) and this should be in accordance with The Network's standards.

Andy Evans' Comments

Andy Evans suggests we organise the group to support the two types of people that we have and that our Start Date is not set in stone. His next move would be to meet with us!

Meeting Adjourned

All agreed to adjourn the meeting after roughly 2 hours and meet again in the new year to try and finalise the constitution and organise either a meet with Andy Evans or the inaugural AGM (or both)!
