





East Suffolk Group


History

- ▶ **RAYNET** was formed in 1953 after the severe East coast flood disaster
 - ▶ Communications at this time consisted mainly of overhead telephone lines, and many of them were brought down by wind or falling trees
 - ▶ No-one knew what the full extent of the crisis was; the police authorities, in desperation, sought help from the few Radio Amateurs then licensed, and, although such assistance was at that time illegal, the Home Office permitted the use of amateur radios in order to direct and co-ordinate the land and waterborne rescue teams, and to ascertain the scale of the relief measures which would be required.
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Emergency communications

- ▶ The provision of emergency communications is one of the fastest growing areas of amateur radio around the world.
 - ▶ Amateur radio is so useful to emergency communications because it does not depend on any infrastructure.
 - ▶ That means amateur radio does not rely on the electrical power grid or any cabled network.
 - ▶ Although mobile phones and the internet have wireless capability, they are still dependent on fixed masts and cabling which can be severely disrupted by a natural or man-made disaster; so while very useful in an emergency, mobiles and the internet cannot be relied upon completely.
 - ▶ When the phone lines are down and the electricity is off, it is still possible to communicate worldwide with amateur radio using only battery power.
 - ▶ This versatility has saved many lives over decades of amateur radio emergency service.
 - ▶ Amateur radio still gets through when everything else has failed.
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High profile RAYNET involvement

- ▶ Lockerbie air crash
 - ▶ Zeebrugge ferry disaster
 - ▶ Mildenhall Air Fete
 - ▶ Duxford
 - ▶ And many others...
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What we do now

- ▶ Communication support at local events such as:
 - Marathon runs e.g. Heritage Coast Walk
 - Long Distance Walks
 - Horse rides
- ▶ Support for Charitable organisations like:
 - St Elizabeth's Hospice
 - Anthony Nolan Trust
- ▶ **RAYNET Response**
 - We are still a call-out organisation and have been available for recent coastal/river flooding events at Snape.
 - RAYNET may be called in to provide a link between the police station or incident control centre and a volunteer organisation such as [Eastern Community Assistance Team](#) or [Suffolk Lowland Search & Rescue](#) if their own radios can't reach the incident control room base or mobile phones are out of signal to land mass or woodlands. Our members may be assigned to a search group handling comm's or working with The Coast Guard, Ambulance and Fire and Rescue service in times of natural disaster or emergency.



Communications Support at the Suffolk Show providing an overall command and control net.



Woodbridge 10K run on behalf of various medical services.



Midnight Walk in Ipswich on behalf of St Elizabeth Hospice

Heritage Coast Walk – in and around Thorpeness



Many cross-country runs such as Sutton Heath (Left) and Stowmarket ½ Marathon below.





Equipment and Funding >>>

Our sole source of income is through donations we receive from supporting community events.
All our other equipment used is supplied by individuals own kit.

We have recently purchased a mobile control unit (see photo above) which took a good chunk of our funds. This year we would like to get it fully equipped which is why we are looking for some financial sponsoring.

Any help that can be given will enable us to provide a more professional service to the people we support locally.

RAYNET is a registered Charity