



Essex RAYNET supporting Jaywick evacuation

The county of Essex has been featured heavily in the news in recent days, due to warnings from the Environment Agency of a 'risk to life' due to a risk of flooding.

In the early hours of Thursday morning on the 12th of January, Essex RAYNET was given notice that assistance may be required, and later in the morning the group was formally notified by Tendring District Council, via the Essex Civil Protection and Emergency Management Team that RAYNET's support was required. Within a few hours, members of Essex RAYNET had established a Control station at Tendring District Council's DERC (District Emergency Response Centre), with cross-band repeaters active for local coverage, and county-wide for members en-route to the incident.

Essex RAYNET's primary involvement was to support Tendring District Council who were coordinating the evacuation of a potential 2,500 residents from Jaywick. An emergency rest centre was opened at the nearby Tendring Education Centre, with a team also at Frobisher School to support evacuation. Essex RAYNET quickly deployed a team to each location making use of a cross-band repeater for robust communication back to Control at the council offices in Weeley.

Essex RAYNET was also deployed to the Forward Command Point, which was the central command for the police and fire and rescue teams. A large number of emergency vehicles were gathering at this point for operational briefings, before deployment to Jaywick. In the run-up to the expected tidal surge, most of the effort was contacting the residents (with police knocking on over 2,000 doors, leafleting and media), and preparing to evacuate the most vulnerable to a rest centre.

Essex RAYNET was active through the night, and a small number of residents had already settled in for the night at the primary rest centre. Some of the RAYNET team were able to take shifts in getting a few hours shut-eye on inflatable mattresses ahead of a busy morning.



Media interest in the event was very high, with satellite trucks and radio cars from BBC and Sky in attendance, as well as local and national print media arriving from Thursday into Friday. The evacuation was in full flow from 7am on Friday, but after a few hours, it became clear that the tides and high wind predicted for midday were likely to be less severe.

As teams were preparing to scale back the operation, the Environment Agency reported that the latest information was that midnight high tide was of greater concern than middays. With the prospect of overnight floods and rescue operations, the operation ramped up again.

By this point, most of the emergency services, council officials, volunteers and RAYNET members had been active for 24 hours, and a call was put out for additional RAYNET members to assist. As it was a working day, many members were unable to attend immediately, and a call for assistance from nearby RAYNET organisations was made, with Mid Herts RAYNET on standby for deployment on Saturday. In the end, enough Essex RAYNET volunteers were able to support the event, with nearby groups on standby if the incident either escalates or became protracted. RAYNET's national emergency planning team were also kept informed and monitored the situation throughout.

Evacuation activities continued through Friday evening. At the peak, 230 residents from Jaywick heeded the advice to gather at the rest centre, some bringing their pets. Fortunately for all concerned, the predicted midnight tidal surge didn't happen, and residents returned home on Saturday morning. Essex RAYNET were stood down a few hours later, with some members having been active for over 40 hours, and looking forward to a decent sleep on Saturday.



16 members of Essex RAYNET were in attendance in a support role, and were deployed as part of Tendring District Council's contingency plans. The team expended a total of 332 man hours over the two days. Mobile phone coverage in parts of the affected area was not great, and had the worst happened, it would likely have been necessary for a significant amount of message handling to be done by the RAYNET team. Numerous important messages were passed by RAYNET during the operation, and operators were able to keep council official and volunteers aware of events taking place at other key locations without tying up landline and mobiles.

Incidents like this serve to highlight the need for volunteers to be available to assist communities in times of need. If you have an amateur radio licence, volunteering for RAYNET is a great way to put your skills to good use. Although emergencies requiring RAYNET are fortunately few in the country, RAYNET supports many community events and charity fundraisers throughout the year, which not only provide a valuable service to the community, but help RAYNET members hone their message handling skills and test the network's infrastructure. For more about Essex RAYNET, go to www.essexraynet.org.uk, or nationally, go to www.raynet-uk.net

Bron: Southgate Amateur Radio News

Cape Cod National Seashore to Host W1MGY

Titanic Memorial Special Event

Cape Cod National Seashore in Massachusetts has invited organizers of an Amateur Radio special event in April marking the 105th anniversary of the RMS *Titanic* disaster to set up at its [Salt Pond Visitor Center](#). The *Titanic*/Marconi Memorial Radio Association of Cape Cod -- [W1MGY](#) -- is sponsoring the worldwide commemoration to honor the approximately 1,500 passengers and crew who died when the *Titanic* -- thought to be unsinkable -- struck an iceberg and sank on its maiden voyage from England to the US. W1MGY operators have permission to operate from the national park for 3 days and 2 nights.

Sponsors point out that the 740 *Titanic* survivors were rescued by the *Carpathia* as a result of wireless messages sent from Marconi's [Wellfleet Station](#), today preserved within Cape Cod National Seashore as its "Marconi Beach" site. Between April 13 and April 22, the national park will host commemorative events, including the special event, centering on the *Titanic* disaster and the evolution of wireless communication, culminating in the worldwide International Marconi Day. All *Titanic* events will be held at the Salt Pond Visitor Center in Eastham. Events are free and open to the public.

"We will operate from there on April 13, 14, and 15 until 0527 UTC, the time the *Titanic*'s last radio message was heard by the *Virginian*. The vessel foundered 20 minutes later," said Barry Hutchinson, KB1TLR -- the new trustee of W1MGY, which itself recalls the *Titanic*'s MGY call sign. W1MGY, which has been on the air for past *Titanic* on-the-air events, will transmit a message at the time the ship foundered.



Salt Pond Visitor Center at Cape Cod National Seashore.

[National Park Service photo]

For more than a decade, W1MGY special operations have marked *Titanic* anniversaries. ARRL Lab staffer Mike Gruber, W1MG, became W1MGY's trustee in 2003, and he and others operated *Titanic* special events in April from the *Titanic* Museum in Indian Orchard, Massachusetts.

W1MGY will set up two stations staffed by about two dozen volunteers and operate on CW, SSB, and possibly PSK31. All operating will be done in the General class band segments. As starting points, Hutchinson suggested 3.950 MHz, 7.270 MHz, and 14.285 MHz, adding that band conditions would dictate whether they try 15 and 10 meters. W1MGY will be on the air for a public demonstration on April 15, from 9:30 AM until about 2 PM EDT, when the Cape Cod National Seashore will show the movie *Titanic*

to close out the event. Hutchinson said park visitor center staffers have been enthusiastic and very supportive of the event, and he hopes the park will be willing to host future *Titanic* events. Read [more](#).

DARES vergaderingen GR15

Di. 10 mei - Gooimerlaan 25 Leiden
Di. 12 juli - Gooimerlaan 25 Leiden
Di. 13 september - Gooimerlaan 25 Leiden
Di. 15 november - Gooimerlaan 25 Leiden

Woe. 11 april - Catharinaland 189 Den Haag
Woe. 13 juni - Catharinaland 189 Den Haag
Woe. 15 augustus - Catharinaland 189 Den Haag
Woe. 10 oktober - Catharinaland 189 Den Haag
Woe. 12 december - Catharinaland 189 Den Haag

Hams Provide Communications Support to the Miami Marathon for the 15th Consecutive Year

On Sunday, January 29, 2017, more than 40 South Florida hams provided medical and other event/emergency communications to the 15th running of the [Miami Marathon](#) and Half Marathon. Amateur Radio has been a critical part of this major international race from the very beginning in 2003, and clearly one of the elements contributing to its success. Depending on post location, hams report as early as 4:30 AM for race start, and stay on location as long as 8-9 hours.

Operating from the command trailer at the finish area, two net control stations (NCS) manage traffic from all of the hams on the course. In the command trailer, the NCS's have immediate access to police, fire, public safety, medical, and race officials as needed. Hams at each of the 23 aid stations along the 26 mile course coordinate communications with aid station captains and public service officials to ensure a rapid and accurate flow of critical information to command, including information on injured runners, medical supply requests, traffic, weather, and other critical situations.

There are also hams stationed at the course start, finish, course split, medical tent, sag wagon, and in the lead vehicles. For redundancy and backup, there are both primary and secondary UHF and VHF repeaters covering the entire course. Many of the hams have volunteered for many or all of the 15 years of the Miami Marathon, and all have a great day while helping the community. With hundreds of thousands of spectators in addition to runners, ham radio has proven consistently to be the most reliable form of emergency communications in the race environment.

Starting in 2003, the Miami Marathon has grown from just over 3000 runners to more than 25,000 and has become one of the top marathons in the United States. Runners in the Miami Marathon raise millions of dollars for a multitude of charities benefiting childhood cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and many others. Participants in the race include a large number of AWD (athletes with disabilities), runners from all over the world, and more than 4000 middle school kids. The Kids Run (Run for Something Better) is a year round program in which kids run a total of 25 miles during the school year, and then complete the last 1.2 miles at the Marathon. It is a major contributor to health and fitness programs in South Florida schools and makes a big positive impact on long term health. -- Benjamin Nemser, WA4DZS, Communications Director, Miami Marathon, Miami-Dade County ARES

Colofon:

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