

COMMENTS ON RS AMPLIFIED ANTENNA

After seeing this posting on the AR8000 mail list I decided to go out a buy this miracle antenna... My comments follow.

<This posting taken from AR8000 Mail list>

I've seen various postings on good indoor antennas and I would like to throw my \$.02 worth. I have used a radio shack amplified portable antenna that covers 30- 950 MHz. Although the antenna was designed for portable T/V's, it is rated at 8-10 db gain and works REMARKABLY well for scanner listening with the 8000. C-Crane sells them for about \$50 with a A/C adapter. But I got mine from Radio shack for \$20 also with the adapter. It can be powered by two AA batteries as well for portable use. Since it has a BOOST/NORMAL switch, it will still work without any power as a unity gain antenna. With two telescoping ends, it can also be adjusted to any frequency for proper tuning. The only thing you need is a adapter to fit into a BNC type connector. This is also available at Radio Shack. When turned to BOOST, I have noticed a 2-3 increase of s-points. This antenna easily out performed my Grove ANT-8 which I had previously used.

Comments de WA2SQQ

As luck would have it the first one I bought had an intermittent connection on the output cable. The local Radio Shack was happy to replace it, though I was shocked to see the sales person put my defective unit back on the shelf! Radio's packed, I set out early Saturday morning for an extended weekend down at the Jersey Shore @ Long

Beach Island. In retrospect, Memorial Day weekend was rainy and quite cool so my "sun" time would have been minimal anyway! This is the same location that I caught several Europeans last year on the AM broadcast band. In order to hook this antenna to your radio you'll have to use at least two adapters; the first from a 1/8" to RCA, than RCA to BNC. To begin, everything that has been said thus far is true - this is one of the best kept secrets for any scanner listener. I used it in conjunction with my R7100 and my AR8000. On the FM broadcast band very few of the New York broadcast stations were

readable, and noisy at best. Putting the switch to "boost" brought them up to half scale and virtually full quieting! Equal results were obtained in virtually all bands with especially good results in the 46, 118-136, and 800 MHz bands. There were dozens of cases where no signals were audible without the amplifier, switching to "boost" and the signals came up to S3-S4 ! The antenna has two telescoping antennas, similar to the rabbit ear antennas on a TV. If they are positioned at 45 degree angles to each other, there is some definite directivity to be had. For aero monitoring I found that having one antenna vertical and the other horizontal will increase your reception and decrease on the directivity. Here's the best part - even at home in Elmwood Park, I haven't found any evidence that the amplifier introduces any intermod or receiver overload. I attribute this to the minimal 10-12 DB of gain. Just enough to help, not enough to cause any real problems. My suggestion, RUN to your local Radio Shack and pick one up!

COMMENTS DE KB2SGJ

Ran into a fellow at the Elmwood Park Public Safety Expo who was wearing a METRO FIRE jacket and struck up a conversation. He told me that the group is no longer using 463.9 mHz as their primary freq. Now it's 462.65 (GMRS eh?). Very quiet on both frequencies but when they keyed up I read the PL as 85.4. I'm going to monitor both channels for a while and speak to a friend of mine who is also a member.

Just one day later John commented, "Apparently the info I had sent about changing frequencies is in error. Last evening I monitored both channels and found activity on both. Working fires occurred simultaneously in Rutherford and Hawthorne. Are there 2 separate groups? I'll keep listening and try to get some more info.

BYE

John Griffin, KB2SGJ
JPGRIF@worldnet.att.net

FDNY BUREAU OF EMS FREQUENCIES

This is a new list of FDNY*EMS frequencies. Some of them are up at this time.

478.0125 Citywide
486.3625 Manhattan South *

The Urban DX'er

The Urban DX'er is published monthly through the cooperative efforts of Bob Kozlarek, WA2SQQ and Charlie Hargrove, N2NOV

Any information contained is considered public and can be copied, distributed or otherwise electronically distributed provided that proper credit is given..

Contributions of information for future issues is always welcomed and greatly appreciated. Please send your E mail to wa2sqq@hili.com..

Pl June, 1997

The Urban DX'er

486.1125 Manhattan Central *
486.2375 Manhattan North *
477.8375 Bronx South
478.2125 Bronx North
484.2375 Brooklyn South *
477.8625 Brooklyn Central
478.2625 Brooklyn North
477.9125 Queens
487.2375 Richmond *

* = new frequency
Robert W. Sanford
Emergency Coordinator ARES Manhattan
Radio Officer RACES New York County
<and the countless others who sent this info>

COMMENTS DE N2OAD
Sorry I haven't sent you anything lately. I found an interesting site to share with everyone.

FDNY
<http://members.aol.com/emshighway/index.htm>

Bureau of EMS
<http://members.aol.com/emshighway/index.htm>.

It's an unofficial web site. They have posted the old/new frequencies and unit call signs.

Editors Note: Both Joe & Robert Sanford passed along the list mentioned above. Though not listed twice, I'd like to thank both of you for taking the time to pass this timely info along!

I'm also working on an article for the newsletter on MICOM at HUMC. I have a friend who is a dispatcher there. As soon as he gets the approval, I will try and interview him and get pictures of the radio systems/antennas/etc.

Also, what ever happened with the Record article?? Is it being published?? Just curious.

Editors Note: The article that I was interviewed for is still in the word processor. I just got some additional information and passed it along to the newspaper. Stay tuned...

That's it for now.
TTL,
Joe (N2OAD)

COMMENTS DE N2QAY
Hi to all net participants..

FYI...the Met Life blimp, Snoopy One, is covering the golf tournament in Clifton today and Sunday the last day of the tournament.

I heard the blimp communicating with Teterboro tower on 119.5. The tower was also warning other aviators

concerning the position of the blimp along the Rt 3 corridor. I heard ESPN director's feed in the 450 MHz range. Unfortunately, it's very low power and I lost it as soon as I entered my house..and I'm only about 3/4 of a mile from the site !!

I'm not sure where the blimp is docked , but I'm going to assume its at Teterboro. If not, my next guess would be Republic on the island.

Best Regards,
Don N2QAY

COMMENTS DE N2NOV

(Do we know this guy?)
Was in a new McDonald's last night and notice they were using a new high tech design headset. The entire unit was self contained on the headset. On each side of a wide, , grey, very padded headband, the transmitter / recvr. was on the right, and the mic and ear piece was on the left ear.

If they're using "3M" or "GM" headsets then you need to search from 920-922 Mhz Wide FM for the speaker frequency and from 903-905 Mhz Wide FM for the headset frequency.

An article on Fast Food monitoring appeared in the August 96 issue of Monitoring Times. It can be view online at the following URL

<http://www.grove.net/fastfreq.txt>

Please note that his list covers the 900 Mhz drive-thru only!

FAST FOOD FREQUENCY PAIRING (900 Mhz only)

RESTAURANT	CUSTOMER (R)	CLERK (I)
Arbys	920.7250 WFM	903.7250 WFM
Burger King	920.2625 WFM	903.2625 WFM
Coffee Time	920.7375 WFM	903.7375 WFM
Dairy Queen	920.2625 WFM	903.2625 WFM
Dunkin Donuts	920.2625 WFM	903.2625 WFM
Kenny Rogers	920.2875 WFM	903.2875 WFM
McDonalds	920.2000 WFM 920.2625 WFM	903.2000 WFM 903.2625 WFM
McDonalds	920.5000 WFM 920.9625 WFM	903.5000 WFM 903.9625 WFM

FAST FOOD FREQUENCY PAIRING

CUSTOMER	CLERK	RESTAURANT CHAINS
920.2000 WFM	903.2000	McDonalds
920.2625 WFM	903.2625	Dairy Queen, Dunkin Donuts, McDonalds

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920.2875 WFM 903.2875 Kenny Rogers
920.5000 WFM 903.5000 McDonalds
920.7250 WFM 903.7250 Arbys
920.7375 WFM 903.7375 Coffee Time
920.9625 WFM 903.9625 McDonalds

RECENT MIL LOGGING'S FROM THE EAST COAST USA

138.0 Jaws 2 & 3 setting up for Tactical exercises
228.7 ? wkg Huntress w/number of kills for the exercise
236.6 Vegas 11 wkg Hanscom Tower w/clear to land runway 11
238.9 Team 26 wkg Hunt 77 w/3 pilots for refueling tonight
238.9 Rocco 61 wkg Hunt 77 w/8 minutes to IP
238.9 Team 15 wkg Hunt 77 w/ETA to IP
238.9 Team 15 wkg Rocco 62 w/on time to IP
257.5 Spar 99 wkg Brunswick Ops w/en route to Gander
261.8 Jaws 2 & 3 engaged in Tactical exercises
261.8 Jaws 2 wkg Huntress w/Kill information
279.6 Vegas 11 & 13 wkg Boston Ctr w/clearance to Hanscom Fld.
282.7 Team 15 wkg Hunt 77 w/setup for emergency separation
338.2 Vegas 11 & 13 wkg Boston Ctr w/descending to 6000
349.7 Corvette 1 w/Fox 1
349.7 Corvette 1 & 3 engaged in Tactical exercises
362.5 ? wkg Chief Base w/on time & Code 1 Radar
385.25 German Navy 4733 wkg Trident Base w/ETA & fuel request
397.1 Pat 739 Calling Hanscom CP

73's - Charlie N2NOV

MYSTERY HELOS REPORTED!

Several people forwarded this posting to me. Are we to believe this, or is just paranoia and the desire to believe in what may not be? You know, I've heard some many stories about these mysterious black helicopters, but none ever has a picture! Hugh Hefner had a black jet, but that didn't make it a spy plane - yet we do know that there was probably a lot of "under cover" activity! Anyway, I had to pass it along this month since so many of you took the time to forward it - I actually got seven (7) copies! See additional comments in Bits & Pieces - Bob, WA2SQQ

<Message Text>

I found this on AOL. What do you make of it.

Subj: Military

Date: 24 May 1997 00:21:24 EDT

From: JayWas

Message-ID:

19970524042100.AAA27642@ladder01.news.aol.com>

I'm on Staten Island (South shore) and I have been seeing A LOT of those secret "Black Helicopters"-now I know that they aren't real (cause the govt. says they don't) but when

you see them fly in a diamond formation and they look FULLY armed and everyone else at work sees them-they are real. I was just wondering if there has been an increase in military radio activity-maybe that could help explain something. I also know that this week is Fleet Week-but this has been going on for bout 2-3 weeks.

Hurricane Season Begins - June 1

Yes, it's that time of the year when these insane people get into a plane and fly into the center of a hurricane to see what makes it tick! For those of you who haven't taken the time to listen, this is "action" at its best. There lots to read on the WEB and many of you have already forwarded me lots of info. I've included a list of the popular frequencies you can listen to as well as some great WEB sites that you can use throughout the season to track storms and keep informed of the latest weather conditions. I'd like to share an interesting observation I've made in past years. If we have a coastal storm that travels north along the East coast, you will see some outrageous enhancement in VHF frequencies. Here's a few examples. Two years ago I was copying Coast Guard communications from Nags Head, NC to Virginia Beach on my PRO2006 with the built in whip antenna! Later that night I worked stations from Florida to Virginia on 2M SSB. The signals were all S9+20 and I was running about 25 watts! The frequent marine advisory bulletins that go along with the bad weather make for some great listening in the 156-157 MHZ region. A list of HF frequencies will follow at the end of this newsletter.

Web-ready home computer can keep provide a wealth of tropical weather information during hurricane season. Among the best Web sites:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/index.html> -- National Hurricane Center page. Includes all the color graphics you see on television, including the watch, warning and strike probability charts, all the forecasts heard and seen on broadcast media, as well as historical data. For the more technically minded, there are links to such articles as "The Effect of Initial Data Uncertainties on the Performance of Statistical Tropical Cyclone Models."

<http://www.redcross.org> -- American Red Cross. Updates on natural disasters all over the country, along with information on how to contribute to those who need help.

<http://www.state.fl.us/comaff/html/emerge.html> -- Florida Department of Emergency Management. Latest evacuation orders for areas under hurricane warnings and news releases on the state's response to disasters.

<http://www.arrl.org> -- American Amateur Radio Relay League. The national organization of "ham" radio operators. When communications lines are down, ham radio is sometimes the only means of communications into a storm-stricken area. This page includes message forms that can be used to get information to loved ones.

<http://goeshp.wwb.noaa.gov> -- National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's Geostationary Satellite Browse Server. This site provides continually updated photos of the Western Atlantic and Caribbean taken from weather satellites 22,300 miles above the equator.

<http://www.hurricanehunters.com> -- Hurricane Hunters Home Page. Learn about the airplanes and crews that fly through tropical cyclones to gather data for forecasts.

<http://cirrus.sprl.umich.edu/wxnet/tropical.html> -- WeatherNet: Tropical Weather Products. This University of Michigan-based page is for the true hurricane aficionado. Provides plotted tracks of storms as well as historical > data of past storms, with different color tracks denoting different storm strengths. Archive satellite photos are also available, as is Colorado State University professor William Gray's prediction for the 1997 season. And for those with way too much time on their hands, there is hurricane-tracking computer software, so you can input your own data and derive your own forecasts.

<http://www.fema.gov/fema/trop.html> -- The Federal Emergency Management Agency tropical storm page. Available is a "Surviving the Storm" guide to hurricane preparedness than can be downloaded, as well as instructions on how to file a flood insurance claim.

<http://www.nws.fsu.edu/buoy> -- Interactive Marine Observations page by the National Weather Service office in Tallahassee. Click on an offshore buoy and find out what the wind speed and wave height is at that location. Useful for armchair mariners wanting to scare themselves by reading about the 30 and 40-foot-tall waves generated by tropical storms and hurricanes.

<http://www.nws.fsu.edu/tropical/tropical.html> -- The National Weather Service Tallahassee office's 1997 Atlantic Tropical Season Page. A quick look at the current forecast, as well as a list of all the names for storms this year and a "hall of fame" of storms whose names have been retired.

David R. Alpert, KB2LUM
 ABC News
 dra@pipeline.com - home
 alpertd@abc.com - work
 <Relayed by Charlie, N2NOV>

AR8000 TIPS

<This info originally posted on the AR8000 mail list...>
 All along, for years, I have been using the smallest plug I could find for power. The same jack is used on Standard ham hand helds, AOR and Yupiteru scanners, etc. Although the plug fits the center pin, it was always a little wobbly. I just assumed that because the connector is so tiny, there wasn't going to be much strength.

Well, the other day I was in Radio Shack and noticed a new

product: a set of regular Adapt-a-plugs for their cords which were for the "new EIA-J" standard. This caught my eye because they had a plug which fits my Icom X-2A handheld, with a tiny pin down inside the barrel power plug. But lo, and also behold, the smallest plug fits the AR8000 firmly. Neat-o. I suppose it's a metric thing, or whatever, but instead of kinda loose it's a perfect fit.

Pres Waterman
 ex WA2ORS, now N2PW

BITS & PIECES

De Bob Sanford: I came across one of the best pages I have seen on the Net for radio information at:
<http://itre.ncsu.edu/radio/>

De Art Harris N2AH: Regarding these "black helos", these are Army Guard helos. I've seen and heard them (usually on Saturday mornings). They often fly out of LI MacArthur airport in Islip and head up to West Point or CT or RI. They use **242.400** and sometimes **282.800** (Search & Rescue freq). I've even heard them switch down to **45.000** FM. There are always four of them and they use the ID "Liberty."

De Don, N2QAY:

FYI...the freq that Rob mentioned awhile ago has become very active. The freq is **172.475**. Definitely some type of surveillance work. Sounds like Manhattan, and perhaps Queens or Brooklyn and the Bronx.

SCANNER RELATED MAIL LISTS

Many scanner listeners aren't aware of the numerous mail lists that we can subscribe to. Depending on the activity, they can yield a packet of info once a week to daily delivery. Be forewarned that subscribing to these can result in massive information burnout, not to mention hours of on line reading! Here's the official Brent Chapman "Majordomo" mailing list manager, version 1.93.

In the description below items contained in []'s are optional. When providing the item, do not include the []'s around it.

It understands the following commands:

subscribe [<list>] [<address>]
 Subscribe yourself (or <address> if specified) to the named <list>.

unsubscribe [<list>] [<address>]
 Unsubscribe yourself (or <address> if specified) from the named <list>.

If you have any questions or problems, please contact "owner-majordomo@grove.net".

<i>acars</i>	<i>ACARS mailing list</i>
<i>amfmtvdx</i>	<i>AM/FM/TV DX mailing list</i>
<i>amfmtvdx-digest</i>	<i>AM/FM/TV DX mailing list digest</i>
<i>code30users</i>	<i>For users of the Hoka Code 30 demodulator</i>
<i>code30users-digest</i>	<i>code30users List Digest</i>
<i>code3list</i>	<i>For users of Hoka Code 3 and Code 3 Gold decoder units</i>
<i>code3list-digest</i>	
<i>events</i>	<i>Local events for Cherokee and Clay County</i>
<i>fedcom</i>	<i>Federal communications (testing - don't subscribe)</i>
<i>fedcom-digest</i>	<i>FEDCOM List Digest</i>
<i>glug</i>	<i>GroveLink Users' Group mailing list</i>
<i>hearsat-</i>	<i>HearSat-I Mailing List</i>
<i>hearsat-I-digest</i>	<i>HearSat-I Mailing List Digest</i>
<i>milcom</i>	<i>Military HF/VHF/UHF communications monitoring</i>
<i>milcom-digest</i>	<i>MILCOM List Digest</i>
<i>mtst-staf</i>	<i>MT and ST Staff -- Private</i>
<i>mtst-staff-digest</i>	<i>MT and ST Staff Digest -- Private</i>
<i>scan-dc</i>	<i>for scanner radio topics in Washington, DC - Baltimore</i>
<i>scan-dc-digest</i>	<i>SCAN-DC List Digest</i>
<i>wun</i>	<i>Worldwide UTE News Club List (Nonbroadcast SW Radio)</i>

FREQUENCIES OF INTEREST DURING HURRICANE SEASON

http://www.isla.net/skywarn/~nf/freq_hurr.html#top

03557.0 FAX Pictures from NAM Norfolk (continuous)
 03407.0 USB National Hurricane Center air-gnd "ALPHA"
 04271.0 FAX Pictures from CFH Halifax (continuous)
 04426.0 USB USCG wx NMN Portsmouth (0400 0530 1000)
 04724.0 USB Hurricane hunter acft - GHFS
 05211.0 USB SHARES - FEMA National Emergency Coordination Net (night pri)
 05562.0 USB National Hurricane Center air-gnd "BRAVO"
 05610.0 USB National Hurricane Center air-gnd "CHARLIE"
 06496.4 FAX Pictures from CFH Halifax (continuous)
 06501.0 USB USCG wx NMN Portsmouth (0400 0530 1000 1130 1600 2200 2330)
 06673.0 USB National Hurricane Center air-gnd "DELTA"
 06739.0 USB Hurricane hunter acft - GHFS guarded by MacDill & Ascension
 07507.0 USB USN/USCG hurricane net (pri)
 08764.0 USB USCG wx NMN Portsmouth (0400 0530 1000 1130 1600 1730 2200 2300)
 08876.0 USB National Hurricane Center air-gnd "ECHO"
 08968.0 USB Hurricane hunter acft - GHFS
 08992.0 USB Hurricane hunter acft - GHFS guarded by MacDill & Ascension
 09380.0 USB USN/USCG hurricane net (sec)
 10015.0 USB National Hurricane Center air-gnd "FOXTROT"
 10493.0 USB SHARES - FEMA National Emergency Coordination Net (day pri)
 10536.0 FAX Pictures from CFH Halifax (continuous)
 10865.0 FAX Pictures from NAM Norfolk (continuous)
 11175.0 USB Hurricane hunter acft - GHFS guarded by MacDill & Ascension
 13089.0 USB USCG wx NMN Portsmouth (1130 1600 1730 2200 2330)
 13200.0 USB Hurricane hunter acft - GHFS
 13267.0 USB National Hurricane Center air-gnd "GOLF"
 13510.0 USB Pictures from CFH Halifax (1000-2200)
 15016.0 USB Hurricane hunter acft - GHFS guarded by MacDill & Ascension
 17314.0 USB USCG wx from NMN Portsmouth (1730)
 17901.0 USB National Hurricane Center air-gnd "HOTEL"
 17976.0 USB Hurricane hunter acft - GHFS
 21937.0 USB National Hurricane Center air-gnd "INDIA"

NET MASCOT

Since we are now an established group, it's only right that we should adopt a mascot. After some diligent searching I'd like to introduce all of you to "Dino". I'm told he's naturally resonant within the 800 MHZ band!



Our Mascot - "Dino"

That it till next issue! We're looking for pictures of you and / or your shack. All pictures will be returned! Our mailing address is:

Bob Kozlarek, WA2SQQ
69 Memorial Place
Elmwood Park, NJ 07407

E mail: wa2sqq@hili.com

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