

BALLOON FREQUENCIES

Although none of the attempts to go around the world in a balloon were successful, it might be worth keeping these frequencies in your database for the future attempts.

According to the Feb PopComm page 14, try 3443, 5451, 6550, 8822, 10045, 11288, 11306, 13312, 17964 and 21931 KHz USB.

ICE STORMS REEK HAV OC IN CANADA

Whether we blame it on El Nino or poor planning, mother nature taught broadcasters a few lessons in emergency planning. "R" sent along several pages of news clippings detailing some of the chaos. January 8 was the beginning of the woes with towers collapsing from the massive amounts of ice that formed. Aside from the obvious problems and power outages, most transmitters automatically shut down when the ice increased the SWR beyond manageable limits. They were many hard lessons to be learned! Ironically, it was many of the abandoned transmitter towers that survived. While lighter and cheaper, modern alloys couldn't stand up to the fierce Canadian winters combined with several inches of unanticipated ice loading.

Among the stories,

CBC Flagship station CBM (940) in Montreal was forced off the air and provided emergency information on 93.5

FM. AM DX'ers should note that their medium wave operation will be shut down in mid 1998. Hence forth, all programming will be broadcast on 88.5 FM. Their new assignment which has been testing was not operational during the ice storms due to lack of emergency power!

CBF 690 was off the air for one day on January 8, using their new FM assignment on 95.1

Montréal's major news / talk station CJAD (800) was hardest hit. CJAD normally runs 50KW daytime and 10Kw at night using a directional pattern.

All four towers collapsed due to 4-6 inches of ice that accumulated. Their programming briefly went to 95.9 FM until an abandoned transmitter site formerly used by CFMB (1410) could be put into service.. They are presently running 8 KW with a directional pattern.

Montreal's French station, CKAC (730) remained active running 50 kw. Assisting with emergency traffic, CKVL also survived with their dual 50kw (daytime / 10 kw (nighttime) programming.

Canadian news agencies have recognized the important role that talk radio played during the emergency. Along with providing advisories and emergency info, they also provided a means for people to interact and release their emotions.

MONITORING THE CRIMINAL BAND!

The following is a prime example on why CB is useless for the average hobbyist here in NYC. That is why I think it is absurd when certain magazines are making statements that CB is alive & well and making a comeback. A come back for who? I'll be letting my subscription to National Scanning Report (Oh, I mean National Communications) expire.

I have heard that there is a certain electronics distributor on Parson's Blvd in Flushing catering to the gypsi cab operators.

NEW YORK CITY TAXIS ON 10 METERS

My estimate is between 1500-2000 of the 11,800 taxis in New York City have modified CB radios. Modified, meaning the seller of the radios "adds taxi channels." This is done using an existing switch (usually the Dim/Bright) switch which changes the VCO to operate at a different frequency.

The reason, of course, that cabs like the modified radios is that the FCC allocated 40 CB channels are crowded. Also, the taxis like to group ethnically. The result is that many of the modified "taxi channels" fall in the 10 meter band.

We are doing what we can regarding enforcement.

Some progress is being made. I cannot tell you we will be completely successful in having the government(s) fix the problem.

There are other CBers using modified radios, as well. If we are able to deal with the New York City taxi problem, we can concentrate on the other Cbers. We need drive

The Urban DX'er

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

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Contributions of information for future issues is always welcomed and greatly appreciated. Please send your E mail to 4runner@hili.com..

the NYC taxis off 10 meters. If they cannot communicate, they will move to channels (frequencies) where they can communicate. They will not move easily. They have been on 10 meters (their channel) for some time and feel they own the channel and have a right to be there. It takes a sustained effort to move these taxis off, not just 10 minutes.

The taxis are channelized, you will find them on 28.015, 28.045, 28.075 and so on, up the band. They are easy to spot, they will be speaking in foreign languages and 99% will be on AM.

N2OW I NOW IN 6 LAND!

As most of you know, Bob Sanford N2OWI recently relocated to the San Francisco area. Although he won't be checking in on the net, he's agreed to be our West Coast correspondent. He hasn't got all his bags unpacked, and the radios are all in place! Here's a glimpse of the new N2OWI listening post!



New N2OWI Shack

MOTOROLA SETTLES OKLAHOMA TRADEMARK SUIT

SCHAUMBURG, Ill., Jan 16 (Reuters) - Motorola Inc's Land Mobile Products Sector said Friday it settled a civil lawsuit for copyright and trademark infringement filed in the U.S. District Court in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Financial terms of the settlement were not disclosed. Motorola said the defendants, Tulsa Security Patrol, Action Helicopters of Oklahoma and the individual Larry Gass, were banned from unauthorized reproduction, use, sale or distribution of Motorola's materials, including copyrighted computer programs. The Court also prohibited the defendants from aiding others' use of the materials, the company said.

Motorola said it charged the defendants with infringing Motorola's copyrights and trademarks by using unauthorized copies of Motorola's Radio Service Software, which reprograms Motorola's microprocessor-controlled two-way radios.

Motorola's complaint also alleged that software was used illegally to duplicate the identifications of Motorola's legitimate customers in order to use radio frequencies restricted to law enforcement, fire departments and related public service uses for the city of Tulsa. It also claimed the defendants used Motorola's registered trademarks to create the false impression that the radios were authorized by Motorola.

De N2OWI

THE LONGWAVE HOME PAGE

<http://users.aol.com/lwcanews/index.html>

This page is brought to you by members of the Longwave Club of America. In the Longwave spectrum, you may encounter everything from utility beacons to micro-power license-free (Part 15) stations testing advanced modulation modes. Natural radio signals, such as whistlers and other fascinating phenomena, open windows into geophysics and solar physics as well. There's no limit of challenges.

SEIKO MESSAGE WATCH

<http://www.messagewatch.com>

There was some discussion last week of automatic time setting watches, among them the SEIKO MessageWatch. As a result of the recent holiday season, I now own one, so let me share some information that will help clear up some confusion. Some of the info below comes from their web listed above.

--Mike from Roslyn Heights.

HSDS modulation and encoding provide a high data rate, a narrow bandwidth with high spectral efficiency and negligible impact on the main channel. HSDS modulation is AM-PSK with duo-binary encoding. The HSDS data rate is 19,000 bits per second in a bandwidth of 19khz, centered at 66.5khz. The HSDS signal is modulated as a subcarrier ranging from 5% to 20% injection but typically at 10% on a commercial FM radio station's carriers in the frequency range of 87.5 to 108Mhz. Sharp transmission filter skirts cause extremely little impact on the main channel in no multi path situations; and generation of a pseudo-randomized data stream reduces impact on the audio even in multi path situations. The narrow bandwidth of HSDS allows for compatibility with RDS operation world wide. HSDS allows for use of subcarriers above 76khz in the USA and compatibility with European spectrum allocation.

STATEN ISLAND FERRY

Several people have asked what frequencies are used by the S.I. ferry. "R" passed along these two frequencies. Maritime operations can be found on marine channel 19, 156.950. Terminal operations can be monitored on 158.730. As always, our thanks to "R" in CT!

CANADIAN RELAY STATIONS

Want to listen to some local Canadian programming on HF? Unbeknown to many shortwave listeners, several

Canadian medium wave stations are relayed on HF. Though these stations run relatively low power, listeners on the East coast can copy most of them very easily. We discussed these stations on a recent net and were under the belief that they were running several KW. Give a listen!

6005	CFCX Montreal relays CFCF	10W
6030	CFVP Calgary relays CFCN	1KW
6070	CFRX Toronto relays CFRB	50W
6080	CKFX Vancouver relays CKWX	1W
6130	CHNX Halifax relays CHNS	50W

SW L LISTINGS

ESTONIA

* **RADIO ESTONIA**, Tallin; has transmissions on 5925 kHz at 1615-1630(Mon-Fri) and 2000-2030(Mon) in English

NEW ZEALAND

* **RADIO NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL**, Wellington; schedule valid as from 3rd January:

1650-1850(Mon-Fri) on 9810 kHz,
 1851-1950(Sun-Fri) and 1859-1958(Sat) on 11735 kHz,
 1951-2050(Sun-Fri) and 1859-2155(Sat) on 15115 kHz,
 2156-0458(Sun-Thu) and 2205-0458(Fri-Sat) on 17675 kHz,
 0459-0815(Mon-Fri) and 0459-0758(Sat/Sun) on 11905 kHz,
 0816-1206(Mon-Fri) and 0758-1206(Sat/Sun) on 9700 kHz.
 1206-1500 on 6105 kHz (Occasional use for sports),
 1500-1650 on 6070 kHz (Occasional use for sports).

RUSSIA

* **VOICE OF RUSSIA**, Moscow; World Service transmissions in English are no longer broadcast at 1000-1400 and 2200-0200.

TAIWAN

* **RADIO TAIPEI INTERNATIONAL**, Taipei; schedule valid as from 1st January 1998:

In English:

0200-0300 to N.America on 7130, 11745 and 15345 kHz,
 0300-0400 to N.America on 11745 and 15345 kHz,
 1200-1300 to N.America on 7130 kHz,
 0200-0400 to N.America on 5950(*) and 9680(*) kHz,
 0300-0400 to N.America on 5950(*) kHz,
 0200-0300 to C.America on 11740(*) kHz,
 0200-0300(2200-2300? ed.) to EUROPE on 15600(*) and 17750(*) kHz,
 0200-0400 to SE.Asia on 118252 and 15345 kHz,
 1200-1300 to Pacific on 9610 kHz.
 (*) = Relay via WYFR, Florida - U.S.A.

The Urban DX'er would like to thank the following individuals for their contributions this month!
 "R", Don Hayes, Bob Sanford, Charlie Hargrove, Ryan Holly and Werner Funkenhauser.

GOOD NAV TEX PRIMER

<http://www.navcen.uscg.mil/marcomms/GMDSS/NAVTEX.HTM>

The International Maritime Organization has designated NAVTEX as the primary means for transmitting coastal urgent marine safety information to ships worldwide. In the United States, NAVTEX is broadcast from Coast Guard facilities in Boston, Portsmouth VA, Miami FL, New Orleans LA, San Juan PR, Cambria CA, San Francisco CA, Astoria OR, Kodiak AK, Honolulu HI, and Guam. The Coast Guard began operating NAVTEX from Boston in 1983, and completed its last installation in Adak Alaska, on the Aleutian Islands, just in time to meet IMO's August 1993 requirement that ships carry NAVTEX receivers.

NAVTEX coverage is reasonably continuous in the east, west and Gulf coasts of the United States, as well the area around Kodiak Alaska, Guam and Puerto Rico. The U.S. has no coverage in the Great Lakes, though coverage of much of the Lakes is provided by the Canadian Coast Guard. Since the U.S. Coast Guard has only installed NAVTEX at sites where Morse telegraphy transmissions were made previously, propagation analyses show some coverage gaps, particularly in the southeast

United States, Alaska, and Guam. NAVTEX broadcasts from Adak were permanently terminated in December 1996 due to closure of the Naval facility there.

COMMENTS de KC2AYC

IS SUFFOLK COUNTY TO GO DIGITAL?

There has been some discussion as to when the Suffolk County Police Trunk Tracking System would go digital. An acquaintance who works for Motorola, told me that the system, as installed, is capable of digital operation. He said that detectives and narcotics are using the digital mode now. If I hear anything more, I will let you know.

When CUSTOMS(Omaha) or DEA (Flint) work in the city they have to stay in contact with LaGuardia Tower on 126.050 or if in JFK area 119.1 or 125.25. Newark is 127.850. I tried searching on the 406 to 420 range and one time picked up a nearby surveillance on 417.4 but faded as they moved away from me.

I got this info off of AOL's Scanner Board:

Subject: Re: activity in NYC

Date: Sun, Feb 8, 1998 11:11 EST

From: Micbloo

Yeah lots of activity for sure and not only DEA! I listen to the air frequencies mucho and Customs have been working plenty. They use call sign Omaha and last Friday were up from 11AM to 4PM with one refueling break into LGA. The other day the DEA had one of their helos operating at 5500ft over Queens. And Idaho helos also

working but not sure which agency they work for, though I have an idea. Ever see the DEA TwinStar! Nice twin-engined helo equipped with Wescam camera! Perps BEWARE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

MOBILE SCANNERS IN NY??

Does anyone know of the status of the New York State bill regarding the mobile use of scanners? A few months ago there was some talk of the repeal and introduction of a new bill that would make it legal to operate a scanner in a mobile vehicle, unless the scanner was used for criminal activities. The Bill was sponsored by Eric Vitaliano of Staten Island; I think it just fell of the table when he decided to run for congress when Susan Molinari stepped down.

FCC TO REALLOCATE 746-806 Mhz !

The FCC recently proposed reallocating the 746-806 MHz band, currently comprising television (TV) channels 60-69.

As mandated by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (Budget Act), they are allocating 24 megahertz, at 764-776 MHz and 794-806 MHz, on a primary basis to the fixed and mobile services, and designating this spectrum for public safety use. This allocation will help meet the need of public safety to ensure interoperable communications among various public safety organizations, provide for growth of existing systems, and accommodate new types of services that will strengthen and enhance public safety. As further mandated by the Budget Act, we are allocating the remaining 36 megahertz at 746-764 MHz and 776-794 MHz on a primary basis to the fixed, mobile, and new broadcasting services for commercial use. Licenses in this 36 megahertz of spectrum will be assigned through competitive bidding in accordance with procedures that will be determined in a later proceeding. This 36 megahertz of spectrum can be used to make new technologies and services available to the American public. These proposals are an outgrowth of our digital television (DTV) transition plan. During the DTV transition, channels 60-69 will continue to be used for analog and digital TV broadcasting. We are establishing policies for the protection of such stations during the DTV transition. We are also providing for continued use of TV channels 60-69 on a secondary basis for low power TV and translator stations until the end of the DTV transition period.

SOMETIMES THE BAD GUYS FORGET THAT WE ARE LISTENING!

As responsible scanner listeners we often take it for granted that we're listening to the good guys. Over the past few months several e-mails have been received from members of our listening audience, reporting some interesting communications. One individual from Hoboken who requested anonymity recently related communications which is taking place in the wee hours of the morning on several marine channels and the FRS channels. It didn't take long to figure out that the traffic being passed was drug related, laced with several codes

that directed stations to other marine channels. But even closer to home the FRS channels seemed to be coordinating an elaborate dispatch service for some ladies of the evening!

If / when such communications are desired, the bad guys usually aren't as technically knowledgeable knowing where to best communicate. The local Radio Shack or marine supply house is where they often turn to for communications. We're often looking to unpublished frequencies hoping to hear Uncle Sam. But the fact is there may be plenty of action happening in your area, on frequencies we seldom associate with this type of activity. I suggest that you devote a bank or two to the FRS / GMRS channels. Marine channels are often used as quasi CB channels in areas removed from coastal activity. I often monitor these channels with a small antenna so as to intentionally hear the stronger stations.

Bob, WA2SQQ

NYPD HOME PAGE

<http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/nypd/>

<http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/nypd/html/wanted.html>

The mission of the New York City Police Department is to enhance the quality of life in our City by working in partnership with the community and in accordance with constitutional rights to enforce the laws, preserve the peace, reduce fear, and provide for a safe environment. This is really a neat page - check this out!!



NYPD Police Boat

JUSTINS PAGE

<http://members.tripod.com/~JMattes/scanner.html>

One of our newest listeners from Northern Bergen County just passed along the URL for his new Web page. It concentrates on Bergen County in New Jersey. Simple but lots of good information! Check it out.

TRUNK TRACKER TRICK

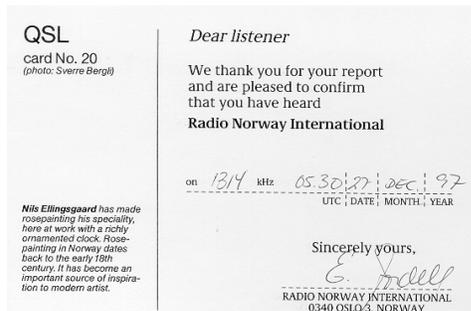
Here's a trick that was passed on the net that allows you to directly access any memory position in trunking scan mode. Uniden and Rich Barnett just confirmed that this was accidentally left out of the manual. On the 895 base trunk tracker we are given 5 banks with 10 channels

each. These are designated as banks A through E. Lets say you have a certain talk group stored in bank "A", channel 5. While in Trunk Scan mode press the manual button to stop the scanning. Press "A" and "5" ; the radio will immediately go to that channel. Once in this mode you can sequentially access other channels by repeating the procedure - enter bank letter, followed by channel number.

For the portable trunk tracker the bank letter is substituted with the bank number. BC-235 designates the 5 trunk scan banks as 1 through 5.

MEDIUM WAVE NEWS

Several weeks ago I reported some great propagation between the East coast and Europe on the AM broadcast band. In today's mail (2/18) I got a surprise from one of the stations I logged on 1314 khz! Along with a detailed report I did include \$1 in US currency to cover return postage. Many stations run on a limited budget, so don't expect any response if some form of postage isn't included.



Closer to home, here's a few DX tests that you can listen for.

Sat, February 21, 1998 - **WAMS-1380, Wilmington, DE** 12:00-2:00 am EST.

Sat, February 21, 1998 - **WILM-1450, Wilmington, DE** 1:00-3:00 am EST.

Monday, March 2, 1998 - **KICY-850, Nome, AK** will conduct a DX test from 4:30 - 5:30 am EST. The test will consist of Morse Code IDs and will be run at 10 kW nondirectional. Reception reports may be sent to:

Mr. Tom Gulliam, Chief Engineer, KICY-AM, P.O. Box 820, Nome, AK 99762 or E-mail: kicy@dwarf.nome.net (Editors Note: This is a rare opportunity to try and log a medium wave station from Alaska. Even though this is a long shot, DX tests from Alaska only occur once every few years. Those of you with DSP filters can gain a slight edge by listening in a very narrow bandwidth mode optimized for CW reception.

TIS (Travelers Advisory Station) "T" operating at 1700 khz from JFK Airport in New York. This station has been logged in Quebec, Canada! Details had a male voice talking with parking info. Hard to copy under WCMQ in Florida. Caught "New York" a couple of times and

"International Airport". I am going to try a tape them and send as report. - WA2SQQ

KRIZ-1620 (Renton WA) now on the air with R&B. Very strong here, a bit stronger than KDIA-1640, 10DB o S9 or better. Don't know if they are running 1KW or 10 KW.

The National Radio Club is proud to announce the release of the Station Location Map Book 4th edition. This handy BCB DXing reference shows the location of all US and Canadian Stations (except TIS and Canadian LPRTs) on indexed maps. The 4th edition edited by Bill Hale also includes the Latitude and Longitude coordinates of the stations transmitter location and a section of instructions authored by Dave Sundius enabling users to calculate distance and bearing to any station. This edition is 230 pages 8 x 11 in a three hole punch format shipped shrink wrapped. Prices to the USA and Canada are:

\$12.00 Postpaid to NRC/IRCA Members
 \$17.95 Postpaid to non-members
 Order by specifying SLM to:

National Radio Club
 Publications Center
 P.O. Box 164
 Mannsville, NY 13661-0164

The National Radio Club now has the 18th edition of their NRC AM Radio Log for the 1997-1998 DX Season edition.

This annual edition contains 310 pages, 8 1/2" x 11" size, 3-hole punched, loose leaf format with over 5,400 A.M. Radio station listings from the United States and Canada. Each station listing consists of its location, frequency, call, format, network affiliation, station address, station slogan, day and night transmitter powers. There are cross references by city and by call letter. U.S. & Canada US\$22.95



SO HOW FAR CAN WE HEAR?
 There are several practical ways to calculate line of sight (LOS) ranges between transmitter and receivers, based largely on curvature of the earth limitations. (Transmitter

power is NOT a big factor. Avionics radios (VHF & UHF) that I have seen or used tend to transmit in the neighborhood of 10 to 15 watts.) Your rubber duck antenna is responsible for shortening the effective range somewhat, firstly because most VHF RD antennas are usually a severe compromise, and secondly because my guess is that your scanner RD, sight unseen, is best around 152 to 158 MHz where most people traditionally listened, a fair bit above the aviation band. If however you favor an antenna cut to around 120 MHz, or better yet a discone of the type RatShack peddled for years, you should do close to the numbers. Finally as for whether a table top radio or a hand held does any better, they both should have roughly identical receiver sensitivity...perhaps one to two micro volts for AM signals.

Anyway some hard numbers at last. They are stolen from a pilot's guide published by [Rockwell] Collins Defense Communications Division. Figures are for Optimum range, clear winter night, low humidity, flat terrain. Even if you were to divide these ranges in half they aren't too shabby.

Their table predicted :

Thousand Feet	Nautical Miles
1	39
2	55
4	78
6	95
8	110
10	123
15	151
20	174
25	195
30	213
35	230
40	246
50	275
60	300

COMMENTS WELL TAKEN

de KC2AYC

I have just finished reading the March issue of Popular Mechanics and in the back I found an advertisement that has my gut all twisted. In a time when the scanning hobby is trying to recover from all the bad PR we have gotten in the last year over the cellular phone flap, this is the last thing we need people advertising.... I will quote word for word..."Listen to Cordless phones, cellular and more. Modified hand-held scanner receives all, frequency list included \$179.00, 20 day trial, 6 month warranty. MC/VISA/COD. (314) 569-1860. Confidential or trunk-tracker \$259.00"....

I got curious so I called the phone number and got a guy named Mike on the phone. I said I had read the add in Popular Mechanics and I wanted more information. I was told for \$179.00 I could get a modified Uniden Sportcat that would receive cellular phones. I then played "stupid"

and said " Oh, I thought that listening to cellular phone conversations was against the E.C.P.A."... This Mike tells me "no, it's not illegal to listen, it's only illegal to divulge what you hear or use it for personal financial gain."

Now, we all know that listening to cell phones and selling scanners that don't meet FCC certification is illegal. I bet Tom Wheeler of the Cellular Telephone Industry Association or Congressman Billy Tauzin would have a field day with this advertisement if the ever saw it.

For the sake of all the hobbyists who enjoy their hobby in a legitimate fashion I would hope something is done to stop these renegades who look to make the quick buck. The last thing we need if for Congress to once again label radio hobbyists as electronic stalkers. I certainly would like to see these people reported to the FCC, however it is against my own personal convictions to be a "rat", therefore I encourage any of you reading this to make the call if you feel so inclined.

I would also hope the people at Popular Mechanics would not accept advertisements for the sale of illegal merchandise.... Hmm, maybe in the next issue of Vogue we'll see an ad for "Coke, Pot, Mesk.....down in the dumps? Wanna feel great, come party with us...1-800-GET-HIGH."

COMMENTS FROM LISTENERS

Following each net I usually receive e mail from scanner listeners who have discovered the net. Where possible I like to print their comments.

Anthony G. Catalano wrote:

Does or will the scanner net have a website or mailing list? <http://www.hili.com/~4runner> for web page link for the net.

>Send email to 4runner@hili.com and subscribe to e-newsletter.

>73 - Charles Hargrove N2NOV

Thanks for the page. Hey, you should have given it to me the first time you wrote! (nice) I also printed the adobe newsletter out. I have to get adobe 3.01: it's real cool with the interactive forms they now have incorporated into their package. I am writing you to tell you about my little spectrum shack. It consists mainly of two pieces: an ICOM R7000 and my little 20ch \$99 Radio Shack hand scanner. I happened to have it with me the day that subway bomb plot nearly came to be about 2 years ago. Boy, did I get a behind-the-scenes look at the keystone activities. That morning, which soon became afternoon, it also helped me finally get from Bay Ridge Brooklyn to my workplace at the time in Queens Village... through Manhattan. The "great unwashed" were breathing down my neck and rubbernecking on the R-train replacement bus to listen in. Some would ask. "What are they doing?" My accurate answer was, "They are all scrambling to cover their butts of course." Now my handheld scanner always takes me along with it everywhere it goes. Ciao - Tony

I hope to someday visit those restaurants: It is 2:28am and my stomach is grumbling...ouch. Please attach, via E-mail, one slice of raspberry pie. VY 73 TO U w/that upon receipt. No slice: No 73... :-((Only qrp 72s instead. (Editors Note: Now that's a mouth full!!))

AN EASY PROJECT - A GREAT IDEA
de Anthony from Pompton Plains, NJ.

Just finished converting my sons Fisher Price baby monitor into a mini repeater. It works great and am using it to monitor the Scanner net right now. It involves removing the microphone from the baby monitor and replacing it with a plug. I take the audio out of my scanner (which is dedicated to my outdoor antenna) and feed it to the jack that I installed on the baby monitor. It gives me the freedom to roam away from my desk while monitoring with the small handheld (or another receiver).

This works well with scanners and short wave receivers. If anyone wants to try this remember to install a .1 micro Farad capacitor in line with the plug to block any DC that the baby monitor uses to bias the microphone which was removed.....Anthony

STUPID SCANNER TRICKS

<http://exo.com/~rbarron/>

Tired of all the boring old things you've already done with your scanner? You're in the right place. Welcome to Stupid Scanner Tricks!

NEW VERSION OF TRUNK TRACKER

<http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Lab/1060/trnk3x.htm>

Thanks to Mr. Christian, the new Trunker/mdt/edacs beta site is ready. it can be accessed from the top of the regular Trunker home page please note that the documentation has been totally rewritten and critical variables must be placed in autoexec.bat, even though you may over-ride them in other .bat files. Otherwise some settings may fail and you'll end up complaining that a feature didn't work. Also, please see comments about performance demands on the beta page. even with a 200 MHz Pentium-pro, some degradation of performance occurs on the EDACS program because of interrupt latency. Enjoy and prosper!

UNIDEN / RADIO SHACK TRUNKER INFO

<http://support.tandy.com/>

One of the fellows who showed up to our scanner net's monthly meeting turned me on to a web page at Tandy that has about 15 documents related to the new Trunk Tracking radios. These are written in plain English and much more informative than the Uniden Owners manual. From what everyone on the Internet is saying, the Pro-90 & the BC-235 are identical, so I don't see why Uniden owners wouldn't benefit from this info. Then they will give you an opportunity to search, type in the word Trunk Tracker and you will be presented with the results.
de KC2AYC

(Editors Note: Check this search engine out - really lots of good stuff here, free for the taking!)

COMMENTS FROM EL NINO LAND
de N2OWI

Man I have never seen this puppy pop up on the screen in New York other than in a test but out here I have seen it about 5 times. They were sending information about a major landslide what was about to occur that was putting some town in danger.



11TH ANNUAL WINTER SWL FESTIVAL

http://www.trsc.com/swl_fest.html

The 11th Annual Winter SWL Festival will be held March 12-14, 1998, at the Holiday Inn, Sumneytown Pike, Kulpville, Pennsylvania (just to the NW of Philadelphia, Exit 31 of the PA Turnpike Northeast Extension). This popular event attracted more than 225 attendees in past years, coverage by Spectrum on WWCR. It's a lot of fun, and highly recommended.

AT WHAT PRICE

By "R"

Having been sidelined a bit and enjoying the yuletide flu, I've been catching up on my reading of various trade and industry and I'm a little amused with all that's been going on concerning the domestic auction of frequency spectrum. This was meant to raise millions if not billions of dollars depending on whom you were listening to and a tremendous deposit in the National Treasury.

Auctions have come and gone. Bidders have pledged millions and it's added up. To the chagrin of the FCC, many of the bidders it turns out don't have the cash to make good and the value of their companies or group of investors are only worth a pale fraction of the total bid. There's controversy that many players in these bids were not checked out as to whether they were legitimate to be involved in the auction. Some individual investors imagined a quick profit and when they saw delays in the implementation of frequencies and spectrum they quickly bailed out into faster and more lucrative areas. Some bidders and groups got involved only to take a portion of their purchase and sell off the less choice areas to others. This is frowned upon by the FCC

However, the major controversy comes in from abroad. The Europeans are upset that levels of ether are

being sold here in the States and they ask what right do American companies, the FCC and the U.S. Government to place a price upon, sell off chunks of spectrum when this is all an intangible area. Who can claim ownership of the airwaves? Who can place a monetary value on it and set-up a bidding war? Where does it end?

The Europeans point out that the spectrum/ether knows no boundaries. Signals travel far and wide and when atmospheric conditions allow, they even "echo back" and are audible as such. A frequency or spectrum auction would not be allowed abroad. So, there's a lot of debate as to why it's been allowed here in the United States. Answer: money and greed.. .of course!

It should also be pointed out that while future use of certain frequency space has looked good on paper and sounded good in business discussions.. when tests were conducted for intended applied use the results and benefits have fallen short of the goal. You'll recall a portion of 220 MHz. was taken away from amateur radio use some years ago and was sold off for tracking shipments and trucks running nationwide. Tests didn't quite measure up in the field

So, various commercial interests we've become accustomed to hearing on certain frequency search areas are no longer there or the future says they will shortly move off. This includes businesses, public service and safety services, VHF television broadcasting, amateur radio, short-wave utilities and other common modes of communications using low/high VHF, AM--some even say broadcast FM in time-- UHF and HF.

The past and recent frequency and spectrum auctions have become a disappointment. They've fallen short of revenues. Original bidders couldn't come up with the promised cash and other more affluent groups who balked at the high bids have come to the front and walked away with the prize for mere pennies on the dollar. And, there are areas where portions of bands purchased remain in limbo because of setbacks in technology or application in a new service. There seems to be enough losers all around and at what price and sacrifices in the long run for the rest of us?

All the information -- including the program agenda and the registration form -- is the URL listed above.
http://www.trsc.com/swl_fest.html.

JAM THE SPAM

To some, the title of this article might be thought of as something a youngster might say to their parents at lunch. "Spam" is a nickname for junk mail we receive via e mail. The majority of it advertises get rich quick schemes and X rated sites on the Internet. But where does it come from and how did they get your e mail address? And most important, how do I stop it??

Unbeknown to many, your "identity" can be requested

from each URL you visit. The URL you visit can query your point of origin which usually returns your internet providers identity, and sometimes your logon name. The site you visit can also send you a "cookie" which is a small file that contains information about you. It may log where you've been previous to visiting this site, it may see if you are using a particular piece of software, or it may simply implant your password to that site to provide a faster logon next time you visit. All this goes on behind the scenes without your knowledge! This information creates lists that are sold to companies and individuals who want to try and sell / scam you something. It's the same thing that occurs when you use your credit card or "frequent shopper" card at the supermarket. The scenario sounds scary, but it's only the tip of the iceberg.

Many of us frequent the USENET news groups. We read and some of us post messages in these groups. Each and every message you post contains YOUR E MAIL ADDRESS!! Programs called SPAMBOTS scan each of the 34,000+ groups each day and harvest e mail addresses. These lists are then used to generate SPAM - E mail junk mail. Suffice to say, once your address gets on one of these lists you are destined to receive lots of unwanted e mail.

So far, I've been quite successful in eliminating my SPAM problem; here's how. First, you'll need to change your e mail address with your local provider. Don't make the mistake I did by using your call letters or last name. If you ever wanted to be anonymous, this will kill your chances! Next, you need to set up an account on one of the many "free E mail" providers. I prefer Hotmail.com since they allow file attachments, unlike junio .com which only allows text to be passed. That should take you about 10 minutes or less. Next, go into the setup portion of the program you use for connecting to the USENET news groups. For most of you that would be either Microsoft's Explorer or Netscape. More sophisticated programs like "Agent" or "Eudora" may also be used. In any case, these programs require you to enter your e mail address so that others can reply to your messages. The E mail address you enter is what the SPAMBOTS harvest and create SPAM lists from. In place of your e mail address that your local Internet provider gives you, enter the "free e mail" account you set up. This won't totally do away with SPAM, but it won't be coming to your primary e mail address any more. SPAMBOTS are now fooled into sending SPAM to the "free" account. That account can be easily changed monthly or as often as you like. And each time you change it, the SPAMBOTS have to start all over again! And finally, go into your Internet browser and disable the "accept Cookie" option. This prohibits your computer from accepting the request to accept or divulge any info about you. Also, avoid using your "primary" e mail address for surveys or tech support sites. They've been known to sell lists to Internet telemarketers who send you SPAM. The "free e mail" accounts can be used like a PO Box and maintain a distinct level of privacy.

So far it's been 4 months and I haven't received one piece of unwanted e mail.

A LOOK BACK

And finally, just as I was finishing the newsletter a package arrived from our loyal friend and listener "R" in Bridgeport, CT. Publically I need to acknowledge his numerous contributions to this newsletter. I'm averaging at least 2 envelopes a week of some real good info. I for one really appreciate his efforts!

"R" sent me a copy of an advertisement that was published in 1939, presumably in a Hartford newspaper. The advertisement was for radio station WDRC which is still on the air. It announces the simulcasting of WDRC-FM with their AM station on 1310 khz. What made this so unique was the fact that they were operating on 43.4 Mhz using the experimental call letters W1XPW. The scene, barely visible in the background, shows the actual transmitter site that still exists today. I've included a copy of the advertisement as the last page in this months newsletter. Use the "zoom" feature of Acrobat's reader to magnify the text. Your laser printer should produce a reasonable reproduction of the advertisement.

That's it till next month.....

-- ... --

WA2SQQ, Bob

Thanks to all those who contributed to this months issue:
"R", Ed-KC2AYC, Bill-N2YQC, Charlie- N2NOV, and
Anthony from Pompton Plains.

Frequency Modulation

**WORLD OF TOMORROW IN RADIO! A REALITY
IN CONNECTICUT TODAY!**

WDRC is making radio history! It is the first independent commercial station in the U. S. to add to its regular service, and also transmit its programs by the Armstrong frequency-modulated system. The transmitter for this static-free radio service is located high on Meriden Mountain, and the call letters are W1XPW.

With a radio equipped for frequency modulation, you can now tune in your favorite programs with no static, no fading, no distortions, no electrical disturbances—and a *fidelity of tone you never dreamed possible.*

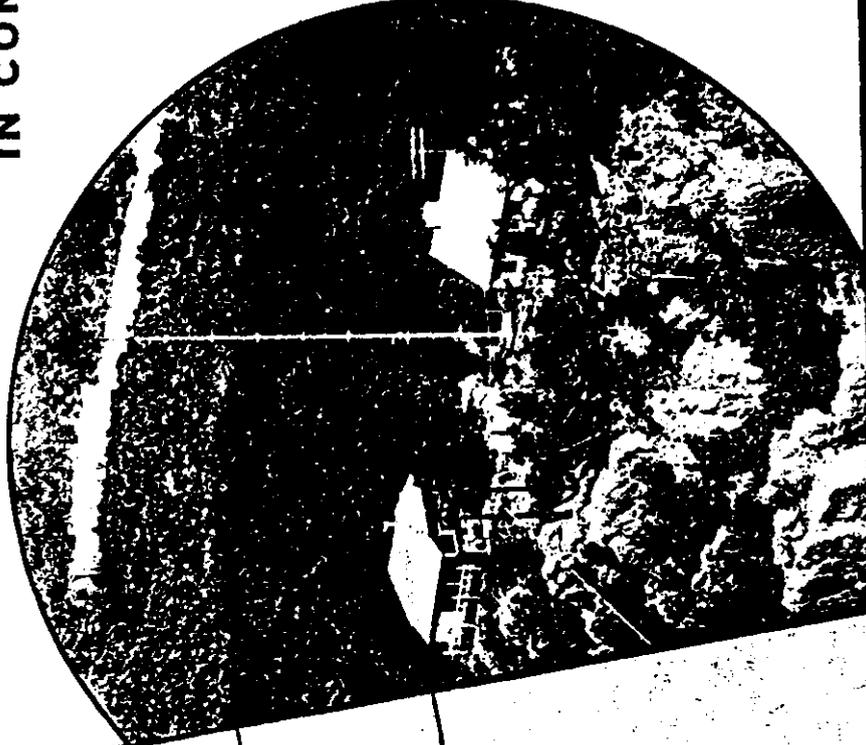
W1XPW is operating daily on 43.4 megacycles from 2 p. m. to 10 p. m., carrying WDRC's regular programs, which are broadcast simultaneously over WDRC's transmitter in Bloomfield.

It's another **FIRST** for WDRC, Connecticut's pioneer broadcaster, and the start of a thrilling new day in radio enjoyment for you.

WDRC

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Columbia Basic Station, 1330 Kilocycles
Serving Connecticut, Day In, Day Out



OPERATING SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH W1XPW 43.4 MEGACYCLES