Bearcat RADIO CLUB

Membership Newsletter PO Box 291918, Kettering OH 45429 September/October 1990

Responsible Scanning

Scanners and Cordless Phones: Wrong Number?

By Bill Kile

The phone rang only once before it was answered.

"Hello?" said the suspicious sounding voice, "This is Bill." Loud music blared in the background.

"Bill, this is Chris. A friend of mine told me that you had some crack for sale."



Within minutes, the two men had agreed to meet in the parking lot of a local fast food restaurant.

Sadly, the call that you just heard was not unusual. And it did not come from some drug-devastated inner-city neighborhood. Bill and Chris are neighbors of yours; both probably live within a mile or two of your house. The reason why you were able to hear their conversation is because you own a scanner and they own (and use) a cordless telephone. It was not a re-enactment. It is real, happening as you hear it.

What people like Bill and Chris don't realize is that in exchange for the convenience of "going cordless" they are actually sacrificing something much greater: their privacy. You see, unlike regular telephones, instead of using a wire to send the conversation between the handset and the base unit, a cordless phone uses two-way radios -- two of them.

The handset of your telephone -- the part of the phone that you talk into -- contains all of the components of a two-way radio. It even has its own frequency on which it transmits.

Likewise, the base unit is also little more than a two-way radio. It operates on an entirely different frequency from the handset and is the one that is most often monitored.

How far do the signals from these two-way radios in your cordless telephone go?

According to manufacturers, cordless phones are good for only 1500 feet or so. The truth is that because your scanner is so sensitive -- able to pick up weak signals -- you'll be able to hear cordless phone conversations from a mile or more away. To get a grasp on what that means, get a map and draw a circle with a three-mile radius around your



home. Depending on the population density of your area, that can mean that you live within listening range of anywhere from a couple of dozen to literally hundreds of cordless phones, each carelessly flinging its signal into the atmosphere.

In order to study the the allocation of cordless phone frequencies in your area, program your scanner to "search" all the frequencies between 46.60 and 47.00 MHz. If you find one that is active, enter it into the scanner's memory.

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Responsible Scanning

To some, monitoring cordless phones is a harmeless hobby, one that provides hours of interesting and often titilating information about the people of the community. Others, however, may find the exercise disturbing. One reader of *Monitoring Times*, a magazine for scanner enthusiasts (P.O. Box 98, Brasstown, NC 28902), wrote to say that "since I started listening to cordless phone conversations, I have heard a prominent professional invite acquaintances to his home to buy marijuana, a divorcee convince her boyfriend to commit perjury in her litigation, and a bank appraiser calling from a client's pool where he was being plied with pot by topless women to influence his appraisal. Is this," he pleads, "the real face of America?"

Larry Miller, editor of Monitoring Times, warns that listening to your neighbor's cordless phone conversations can yield some unwelcome side effects. "Try facing your next door neighbor after you just heard him telling someone else that you're a jerk." Adds *MT* publisher Bob Grove, "Can you still have the neighbors over for tea when you clandestinely know that one of them is having an affair with the plumber? It get's pretty sticky."

Cordless Phone Frequencies*

Base	Handset
46.610	49.670
46.630	49.845
46.670	49.860
46.721	49.770
46.730	49.875
46.770	49.830
46.830	49.890
46.870	49.930
46.930	49.990
46.970	49.970

*All cordless phones that have been manufactured in the United States use one of the following frequencies. Do not confuse "cordless" phones with "cellular" phones, which are illegal to monitor and most often found in automobiles.



To others, the idea of monitoring cordless phone conversations is a rank invasion of privacy. The Iowa Civil Liberties Union agrees saying that consumers who purchase cordless phones "do so at the expense of their constitutional rights." Interestingly, the U.S. Supreme Court has rejected that notion. In fact, in a recent ruling the high court said that owners of cordless phones *have "no justifiable expectation* of pri*vacy*" [emphasis ours]. Nonetheless, despite this seemingly official blessing from Washington, many scanner listeners prefer other pleasures. Says Les Mattson, *editor and publisher of Northeast Scanning News*, "We're interested in fires and things like that. Who cares about gossip?"

Amateur Electronic Supply
Scanner Radio Listings

By Norm Schrein

Tampa-St. Petersburg Area including Arcadia, Bartow, Bradenton, Clearwater, Cypress Gardens, Dade City, Dunedin, Frostproof, Gulfport, Haines City, Lakeland, Largo, New Port Richey, Sarasota, Seminole, Winter Haven, Zolfo Springs and others

Services covered: Police, Fire, Ambulances & Rescue Squads, Private Police, Agencies, Hospitials, Emergency Medical Channels, News Media, Forestry Radio, Railroads, Weather Stations, Radio Common Carriers, AT&T Mobile, Telephone, Utilitiy Co., Marine Radio, Taxis, Trucking, Business Repeaters, Federal Gov't., Funeral Directors, Buses, Aircraft, Amateur Radio & Broadcasters.

Please send $12.95 plus shipping to: AES, 1898 Drew St., Clearwater FL 33575 or call 813-461-4267

Frequency Exchange

By Sue Kennedy
Program Coordinator

Hi and welcome to another edition of the Bearcat Radio Club's Frequency Exchange. Frequency Exchange is the place where members can request and find frequency information for their area, bring other readers up to date on the latest scanning happenings in their town, and even tell us a little about themselves!

Remember that just because your town may not be mentioned in this edition of Frequency Exchange, don't dispair. There's a way that you can use the information to search out exciting new frequencies in your area.

For example, if you're interested in hearing your local TV station dispatch its news crews, try using your scanner to search around the frequencies that member Pete Green supplied for San Diego, California (see below). Often times, you'll find the same organizations/agencies using the same frequencies in your area.

So why not join in on the fun? Drop us a line and let us know what you've been hearing. Send it to me, Sue Kennedy, Headquarters, Bearcat Radio Club, P.O. Box 291918, Kettering, Ohio 45429.

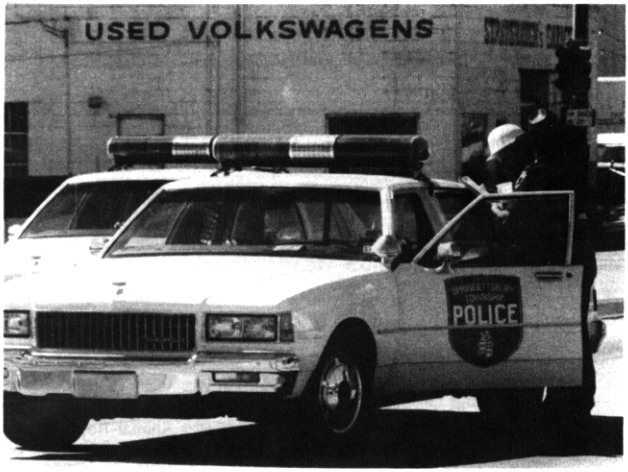
So, without further ado, let's see what our members have been monitoring this month!

Peter Kline was the first member to write to the Bearcat Radio Club this month. He asks for State Police frequencies for Arkansas.

Peter, we have received word at club headquarters that the Arkansas State Police have recently changed frequencies, moving up to the 800 MHz band. Here are the latest places to listen, according to members in your area:

856.9375	856.7625	856.8125
857.9375	857.7625	857.8125
858.9375	858.7625	858.8125
859.9375	859.7625	859.8125
860.9375	860.7625	860.8125

Although it's hardly cold enough to be thinking about snow, Ken Osbourne of Albany, New York, is already thinking of ways to get through the winter! He checks in with three frequencies for Albany County's snowplows. They are 39.580, 155.100 and 155.895. Ken also points out that the sheriff there has quit using 39.620 because signals from other police departments on the same frequency have been interfering.



Les Mattson, who is the editor the excellent *Northeast Scanning News* (212 West Broad Street, Paulsboro, New Jersey 08066) passes along some frequencies for businesses located along the New Jersey side of the Delaware River. These include

151.775	DuPont Co., Gibbstown
153.320	DuPont Co., Deepwater
153.080	Herculese Co., Gibbstown
158.430	DuPont Co., Gibbstown
153.230	Coastal Refinery, W. Deptford
152.900	Mobile Oil Co., Paulsboro
153.050	Mobile Oil Co., Paulsboro
462.425	Mobile Oil Co., Paulsboro
48.800	Mobile Oil Co., Paulsboro

We're always so glad to hear from you, Lester! Perhaps we'll be able to get together again the next time I go through Philadelphia. Les reports to the Bearcat Radio Club from his home in Paulsboro, New Jersey.

We received an anonymous letter from a member in Spokane, Washington. And in that letter were a number of frequencies for the Washington State Patrol: 154.680, 154.770, 154.845, 155.520, 155.580, 155.970, 158.790, 159.075

"Mr. Anonymous" points out that the last frequency -- 159.075 -- is used by the State Police air units. Good job -- but there's no reason to be so shy.

Down in San Antonio, Texas, Ted McCarthy has been taking in all the action around Fort Sam Houston. "I really enjoy tuning in on the helicopters there," Ted writes. "I've been hearing them on 30.510, 36.710, and 41.50."

Also from Texas comes this note from Bob Perry. "Sue, I'm new to the area and was wondering if you could help me out with some frequencies for the Corpus Christi police."

No problem, Bob. Try these: 460.100, 460.1500, 460.225, 460.275, 460.350.

Bob also wants to know if I'll be at the big *Monitoring Times* radio convention in Knoxville, Tennessee,

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Frequency Exchange

this year. Bob! You'd come all the way from Texas to Knoxville just to see me? That's real nice of you to say. Unfortunately, I'll be in Omaha, Nebraska, on club business on the weekend of October 5, 6 and 7. But Norm "Mr. Scanner" Schrein will be there to meet you and answer your questions about the Bearcat Radio Club. For more information on the Monitoring Times convention, call 1-704-837-9200. Next year, though, I promise I'll be there.

154.310 Fire Dispatch
153.785 Fire Rescue Paramedics
154.235 Rancho Fire Dispatch
154.025 Escondido Police
154.325 Escondido Fire Dispatch
151.190 CA Dept. of Forestry
168.750 Cleveland National Forest
462.975 Lifeflight Air Rescue
453.200 Wild Animal Park Security
453.800 Wild Animal Park Monorail
151.895 Zoo Security
151.460 Zoo Maintenance
464.425 Zoo Security-Primary

Don't Forget to Let Sue Know What You're Hearing! Write to Her at Club Headquarters.

Out on the west coast, Pete Green checks in with an extensive list of frequencies for his hometown of San Diego and environs. Included is the world famous San Diego Zoo and even some of the TV stations.

"Perhaps some of our members didn't know that you can monitor the TV news teams on their scanners," says Pete. "They use radios to dispatch the crews to the scene of accidents and other news stories. Using your scanner can give you a jump on the 6:00 o'clock news!"

By the way, unless otherwise noted, all of the frequencies in Pete's list are for San Diego itself.

453.925 Sheriff-North
453.500 Sheriff-East
453.950 Sheriff-South
453.750 Sheriff-Coast
461.725 Checkmate Protective
461.725 NCI Protective
461.825 Pinkerton Security
151.715 Vista Patrol
45.700 Animal Regulations Office
45.900 Animal Regulations Office
155.820 Dept. of General Services
155.940 Dept. of General Services
450.437 KNSD-TV Ch. 39 Dispatch
450.337 KFMB-TV Ch. 8 Dispatch
161.700 KGTV-TV Ch. 10 Dispatch

Al Templeton of Miami, Florida, writes to ask a question about rock 'n roll, specifically The Rolling Stones. The Rolling Stones? What could that possibly have to do with your scanner? Well, it does have to do with scanning.

It seems that Al remembers reading about someone who was able to monitor the entire performance of the band on their scanner.

You have a good memory, Al. When the Stones visited Baldwinsville, New York, a few months ago, a gentleman named Sam Fenney reportedly was able to hear the concert on his scanner. According to *Monitoring Times* magazine, Al said that "while the audio quality was marginal, it was better than missing the performance." As our colleague Bob Kay adds, "Better yet, it was free!" The frequency was 161.670.

Try punching that frequency into your scanner next time a cultural or sporting event comes to town. Radio and TV stations use it to transmit the event from it's venue back to the main studios.

Jim Krenshaw of Arcadia, California, has had a thing for Mickey Mouse ever since he was a little kid. Today, Jim's idea of a good time is to use his scanner to monitor Mickey. "Sue, I've got some good frequencies for Disneyland," says Jim. "But I need more. Do you think that any of the other members of the Bearcat Radio Club could help me out?"

Coincidentally, Bearcat Radio Club member Oswald Kelley sent us his list. It includes 154.570 (Security), 154.600 (Submarine Attraction), 154.625 (Paging), 464.5375 (Maintenance), 464.6425 (Security), 464.325 (Security), 469.325 (Security), 464.4125 (Maintenance), 464.7625/469.7625 (Monorail), 464.5125/469.5125 (Special Events).

That's all for this issue. See you next time. Don't forget to write!

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Publisher of Monitoring Times

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Ask The Experts

Q: "A friend told me that I can actually listen to the FBI on my scanner. Is this true and if so, what are the frequencies?"
-- Bob Bogdowski
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

A: Your friend is correct. In fact, a lot of scanner owners find the FBI to be among the most exciting monitoring on the radio. And with a job description that includes capturing bank robbers, chasing terrorists, and investigating kidnapings, it's no wonder!

For the most part, it seems as though the bulk of the FBI's communications occur between 163.00-164.00 and 167.20-167.90 MHz so set your scanner to "search" between those frequencies.

Before you punch those frequencies into your scanner, however, I want to make a couple of important points. First, remember that the FBI is not "on the air" all the time like your local radio station. So monitoring them requires patience. Turn on your radio. set your scanner to "search" one of the frequency ranges, and leave it on in the background as you go about your everyday business. When you hear something, make a note of the frequency and perhaps a few words on what was said.

Keeping records is always important when you're scanning but nowhere more so than when tuning in the FBI. Well aware that people like you and me are listening, the Bureau seems to intentionally vary its frequency usage from town to town. This is one of those rare instances where specific frequencies that you find in Sue Kennedy's "Frequency Exchange" column for the Boston FBI may not be all that helpful to you if you live in Los Angeles.

Finally, the FBI, like many law enforcement agencies, have a jargon that's all their own. Like your local police, they even have their own "10" code. I think you'll find the table, which came from the All Ohio Scanner Club (50 Villa Road, Springfield, OH 45503) to be a help.

FBI Ten Codes

(A) Leg = Following on foot
Big One = A Major street
Big Ribbon = Freeway/highway
Bird Dog = Surveillance (air)
Boat = Car
Box = Surveillance (van)
Break Off = End Surveillance
Diaper Change = Battery for Mobile Tailing Transmitter
Eyeball = Suspect in Sight
Eyes = Night vision scope
Flicks = Surveillance films
Flyer = Surveillance air pilot
Half-signal = Agent's spouse
Home Front = Agent's office
Kennel = Agent's office
Nest = Subject's residence
Noisemaker = Mobile tailing transmitter
Out of Pocket = Not in area
Our Boy = Subject under surveillance
Our Friend = Subject under surveillance
Our Main Interest = Subject under surveillance
Outside Agency = The news media
Package Subject under surveillance
Papa = Voice scrambler
Pigeon = Subject under surveillance
Plank = A bridge
Port = Motel/hotel
Rabbit = Subject under surveillance
Rabbit Tracks = Subject on move
Redballed = Stopped at red light
Redboarded = Stopped at red light
Signals = Field agent
Soap Bubles = Voice scrambler
Solo = Agent alone in field
Tango Juliet = Highway exit #
Ten Check = Message check
That Thing = Voice scrambler
The I = Freeway/highway
The O = Office
The R = Subject's residence
Truck = Surveillance aircraft
Truck garage = airport
U-ie = A U-turn
Uniform = Straight ahead
Victor = Right lane
Walking the Dog = Subject on foot
Wire = Body transmitter
In the Pocket = Subject in surveillance net
RDO = Agent's regular day off
10-7 = Out of service
10-8 In service
10-77 Bank robberey
10-85 Meet w/ agent_____

(Continued next page)

Ask The Experts

Q: "Where can I get a replacement manual for my Bearcat Scanner?
– Ed Clark
Cincinnati, Ohio

A: You can get the owner's manual for any Bearcat scanner by sending a check or money order to Uniden Parts Department, 9900 Westpoint Drive, Indianapolis, Indiana 46250. They're $6.05 postpaid. Be sure to specify the model number of the scanner.

Q: My local police sometimes scramble their transmissions so that I can't make out what they're saying. I have a feeling I'm missing out on the good stuff. Where can I buy a descrambler?
– Marsha Middleton
Salt Lake City, Utah

A: Up until a few years ago, you could buy a descrambler from any number of companies. In 1986, however, the U.S. Congress passed the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA 1986) which specifically forbids monitoring scrambled communications and outlaws the unauthorized sale or possession of descrambling devices.

Q: My scanner has a prominent "birdie" which interferes with one of the most important frequencies in my area. Can anything be done about this?
– Ed Bruckman
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

A: Every receiver generates some "birdies." In short, in the process of receiving signals, it also transmits and it is these little transmissions that your scanner is picking up.

You can often hear these "birdies" on your scanner when it repeatedly stops on a frequency that has nothing on it – ever.

There is help, however. In most cases, manufacturers will realign the circuitry so that the birdie falls on a nearby, less important, frequency. Contact their customer service department for details.

Q: I am planning to take my scanner with me on a trip to see my brother in Miami this fall. If I leave it in my luggage, will it get ruined when the airline x-rays my baggage?
– Larry Grotman
New York City

A: According to Eastern Airlines' security office, neither x-ray machines nor metal detectors cause any adverse effect to scanners, computer disks, wristwatches, photographic film, calculators, tape recordings, or any other sensitive consumer items.

Eastern has over 200 walk-through metal detectors manufactured by Infinetics Corporation and over 100 x-ray machines built by Astrophysics Corporation. In addition to passenger screening at security gates, baggage is also x-rayed before international flights.

It would take over 1000 exposures to these airline x-ray devices to equal the amount of radiation you receive with just one dental x-ray!

Nonetheless, here's an idea. Instead of packing that scanner away, why not carry it on board with you. No, we're not worried about the x-rays. You can actually monitor the pilot and control tower with your scanner as you wait for your flight to board.

Whatever you decide to do, have a nice trip!

Send your questions to "Ask The Experts," Club Headquarters, Box 291918, Kettering, Ohio 45429.

Norm Strein, Club President, and Paul Davis, Executive President of Uniden America, discuss customer feedback on the Bearcat 147XLT

THE BEARCAT RADIO CLUB IS COMING TO A RADIO SHOW NEAR YOU!

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Oct. 5 - 7	Monitoring Times Conv., Knoxville TN
Oct. 13 & 14	New England ARRL Conv., Boxboro MA
Nov. 10 & 11	South Texas Section ARRL, Houston TX
Nov. 17 & 18	Fla. Gulf Coast Amateur Conv., Tampa FL

Bearcat Radio Club
PO Box 291918
Kettering, OH 45429

May 29, 1790
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- ✔ TIPS ON SCANNING
- ✔ CONTESTS FOR MEMBERS
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- ✔ ABILITY TO PROVIDE INPUT BACK TO MANUFACTURERS ON RADIO PRODUCTS

Bearcat RADIO CLUB

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐ Regional Directory for my area

☐ Local frequency list for:

County: _____ State: _____

Your Signature: _____

Your Phone: _____
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P.O. BOX 291918
KETTERING, OH 45429