Issue Price $3.50 U.S.
November/December 2010 • Vol. 21, No. 6

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A Booth at Your Local Fair

page 4

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Table of Contents

Features & Columns

COVER STORY

A Booth at Your Local Fair 4

Is VHF Low Still in Use? 9

75 Years of Amateur Radio ARES 11

Communications and The Radio 19

North Carolina's Pope Air Force Base & Fort Bragg 20

Broadcasting, The Ultimate Communication 24

Want to Know More About CB Radio? 26

Scanning Medical Emergencies 29

Radio Advertising Down Through the Years 31

Weather Radio DX 33

Closing Comments 36

Last Page Out 38

Advertisers

Cobra 2
Communication Electronics 13
Hobby Radio Stop 18
National Communications Frequencies 25
National Communications Subscription Form 17
Radio Shack 40
REACT 10
Scancat 32
St. Jude Children's Hospital 10
Uniden 39
Universal Radio 7

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National Communications is provided as one of the benefits of membership in various radio clubs. Membership benefits subject to modification or withdraw at any time without notice. For club information, contact club headquarters at P.O. Box 291918, Kettering, OH 45429 or call 937-299-7226. National Communications is a division of Norm Schrein, Inc. Editorial material should be sent to: P.O. Box 291918, Kettering, OH 45429.

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COVER STORY

A Booth at Your Local Fair



Outside satellite demos draw a crowd at the Fair.

By Gordon West, WB6NOA

Our hobby and service of WIRELESS RADIO can always use some good community exposure. If your neighbors know more about volunteer emergency communications, the less heat you will take, up on the roof, putting up that new scanner beam or tall ham vertical.

Almost every community in the United States has a yearly FAIR. Or maybe your city puts on a public safety display, encouraging Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members to show off their disaster preparedness gear and plans. With Homeland Security placing big emphasis on volunteer disaster preparedness, working in our wireless radio hobby of scanners, FRS, GMRS, and ham radio will usually lead to a free ten foot booth or display area.



The Heil headphones and boom mic keep background noise manageable.

Achieving a "spot" at your county fair or city open house will be a huge accomplishment for our wireless radio hobby and service. Let me share with you thirty years of annual month-long Fair duty to make your 10 foot booth a wireless hot spot!

Begin by working with your CERT coordinator to obtain booth space at the upcoming event. If this is going to be a ham radio Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) display, work with your local American Radio Relay League DEC (District Emergency Coordinator) and score a booth to celebrate 75 years of ARRL ARES service to the community.

If your wireless radio group is an informal scanner association or shortwave listeners association or a GMRS repeater group and REACT, you, too, could easily qualify for a display and/or demonstration booth at the local expo.

Your affiliation with CERT can usually satisfy the insurance requirements that each volunteer organization may need for booth display. County and state run fairgrounds may also have inexpensive single-event insurance policies available, yet another way to assist in getting involved in the upcoming event.



A 10 foot radio booth still has plenty of room for displays on both sides.



A TV in the front of the booth can run your video to attract radio interest .



If the event carries over for several days or weeks, assign local radio teams "A Day at the Fair", and schedule 1 or 2 persons for four hour shifts in a 10 foot booth. Make sure everyone knows where to park, how to get in to the event, where your display is located, what to wear, and to bring their favorite radio!

If you can score an end booth, this gives you an additional side to carry out your radio demonstrations. At the month-long county Fair that I participate in, I do a side demo of Morse code, with live keyers – a hit with kids!

"Kids send their names in code, and receive a colorful certificate with the dots and dashes on the back," comments Paul Hill, KG6WBO. "The live code key and oscillators are a hit, and learning CW is always a big draw at out radio booth," adds Diane Hill, KG6WBN.

I leave the booth front open, so guests can feel comfortable getting out of the aisle and walking IN to see the radio action. Whatever the kind of equipment, we usually place it against the backdrop table. This provides safety for the equipment, and a good environment to sit in front of the radios and show them off – as the guests look over your shoulder. This is a far better arrangement to present radio than placing radios on a front table where the passersby see only the tail end and wires from the equipment! Put your live radio gear where the guests can see the knobs and lights and meters!

On the other sides of the booth, we have demos of APRS and GPS mapping, a running DVD of our radio organization's activities, club brochures, and a log book for guest sign-ins to receive more information. Most important, your seasoned radio operators will sign in with their call signs to show support for the hobby and booth effort. This is also a great time to encourage them to join your local radio group!

Continued on page 6

continued

A Booth at Your Local Fair

continued

Your radio equipment needs to be LIVE, hooked up to antennas that can connect to the outside radio world. Be certain to avoid tripping hazards with the coax, and keep ground plane radials very well above anyone's eye hazard height! Think SAFETY at all times.

At our local county Fair, radio NOISE is a big problem on the worldwide ham bands and shortwave bands, but not a problem up on VHF and UHF scanner frequencies. Our greatest noise source was the carnival bumper cars. You could actually SEE the sparks fly off the upper brushes as it makes contact with the chicken wire on the ride's ceiling. Hundreds of volts power the bumper car motors, and the RFI (Radio Frequency Interference) is broadband from 1 MHz through 50 MHz! When the ride stops to change drivers, the noise nearly disappears; but once they start up again, you HF capability is zilch!

Not to worry – we have trunking scanners with plenty of public safety action, and this always draws a crowd to the booth. We also have UHF IRLP, internet radio linking project ham radio calls, coming over the WIN System. www.WINSystem.org Fairgoers are amazed that we can talk to Europe on a tiny ham radio handheld!

Your running scanner will get lots of attention when booth visitors want to know how to tune in the local Fire and Police Departments and ambulance companies. With so much of the country going digital or analog trunking, you can explain how manufacturers have a whole new breed of scanner that comes completely pre-programmed with all the hot channels for their particular area. The new Uniden HomePatrol-1 just needs a zip code to lock in to your booth visitors' local action. Radio Shack offers a pre programmed scanner. GRE scanners also come preloaded, so you now can do a great demo in the booth showing booth visitors how easy it is to tune into their local public safety agencies.



The HF radio is in the rear of the booth.

For nighttime security in the booth, get your equipment locked up out of sight, or task your booth "closer" with getting this gear into a locked storeroom, if provided, for overnight.

For power, we ran the Jet stream 30 amp switching power supply which literally saved a rig from smoke!

"We were doing a display of marine radio equipment at a local boat show, and one of our radio operators brought in a newly-acquired marine single sideband receiver to demonstrate US Coast Guard weather broadcast recep-

Continued on page 8

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The **Icom R6** covers 100 kHz to 1309.995 MHz (less cellular gaps) in: AM, FM Narrow and FM wide. Enjoy local VHF-UHF coverage plus international shortwave broadcast. 1300 memories store: frequency, mode, step size, duplex, CTCSS, tone squelch and skip settings. Other features include: attenuator, LCD lamp, AM ferrite bar antenna, auto power off, CTCSS decode, weather function and battery save. You can put the world in your pocket for under $200.00.

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continued

A Booth at Your Local Fair



tion. As soon as we plugged it in to 12 volts, every radio in the booth shut down! The switching Jet stream power supply instantly cycled off when it detected a short circuit up the line," comments Jason Gant, W6AUX, Commander of a local Coast Guard Flotilla.

"We found the short – the automatic tuner's 4 conductor wires all twisted together, shorted out 12 volts to ground. As soon as we spread the wires out and taped them, we were good to go," adds Gant.

An older power supply would have fried the radio, or, at best, blown the antenna tuner's internal circuit 3 amp fuse. It takes over an hour to get to that fuse, deep inside the marine SSB.

Watch your microphones in the booth. Kids seem to have a propensity to squeeze the mic button, and say something over the air. I have several radios with purposely disconnected push-to-talk wires on the inside of the mic.

Finally, watch your handheld and portable scanners. Turn your back on them in a crowded booth, and they could be history. I have fine stainless steel fishing leader keeping then around!

Your wireless radio exhibition booth, with live equipment, will help all of us to explain what we can do with wireless radio and volunteer operators. Stress the importance of 2-way radio when the "big one" hits!



Kids love the Keyers, and the Icom comic books, as a reward for sending their names in CW.



Kids love to mess with the Snap Kits display, and build their own electronic gadgets !

Is VHF Low Still in Use?

You might be surprised to find who remains in the 30-50 MHz band

By Chuck Gysi, N2DUP

With all the scanner signals migrating to the 800-MHz and even 700-MHz band in some states, you might find that with those changes that your state patrol and other VHF low band users are moving from the old long-haul band to the microwaves of higher frequencies.

Often times, a state patrol or state police unit will migrate from their vintage VHF low band radios in the 30-50 MHz band to the higher spectrum bands. When they move, they often leave behind a quiet VHF low band.

In decades past, it was fun every summer to listen to VHF low band signals come booming in from all across the country. While I now live in the Midwest, I often delighted in hearing the smooth 33- and 46-MHz signals of fire and EMS calls from my native east coast. It was so awesome to hear hometown signals half a nation away on my scanners – without the use of the Internet!

In other areas of the nation, VHF low band users may have abandoned their radios for UHF or UHF-T band systems. While VHF low band systems allow base stations to hear mobile signals farther, it sometimes is difficult for mobiles to communicate with each other without the assistance of repeaters.

So what happens to the frequencies on VHF low band when radio users migrate? Typically nothing!

Most VHF low band stations are dismantled once the new radio systems are deemed to be working. In some rare instances, they may remain on the air for point-to-point



This American National Red Cross emergency communications vehicle is equipped with many radios, especially the organization's 47.42 MHz exclusive U.S. radio channel. During an emergency, you may hear activity by the Red Cross on this channel.

communications, or even may just be left to decay … waiting to belch signals at some point in the future when the transmitters or receivers fail.

Who remains on VHF low? Quite a few users remain using the 30-50 MHz band, even while public safety users are abandoning the band in droves every year for interoperable 800-MHz systems.

Long-haul contractors such as cement-delivery trucks, intercity bus lines, car services in major metros such as New York City, the military, gas pipelines and some utilities still remain in the VHF low band and probably won't abandon their systems any time soon. The military probably is one of the bigger users of the VHF low band, with range radios and some in-flight use popping up in the 32-, 34-, 36-, 38-, 40- and 41-MHz segments. Man pack and helicopter-equipped radios can sometimes be heard showing up on any of these frequency ranges within the United States, as well as overseas. Many of the other remaining VHF low users probably won't switch from their old radios anytime soon.

It's true that public safety users are abandoning VHF low band for their new whiz-bang radio systems, and the band has become increasingly

Cont. on page 10

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Is VHF Low Still in Use? continued

quiet over the years. At one time, many paging transmitters operated in this band, as well as mobile telephones and many business users such as tow-truck operators and even cordless phones and baby monitors. In fact, you may encounter some of the latter in your very own neighborhood! Many old 46-/49-MHz cordless phones still are sitting around in older persons' homes and you can hear these as well as the cordless baby monitors that once used to dominate the 49.83-49.89 MHz band on five channels. I still have an older such baby monitor that I use to monitor a sump pump in my house during wet seasons, and don't be surprised to find others using these still-working old transmitters for similar odd uses.

VHF low-band channels to monitor

Here are some VHF low-band channels worth punching into your scanner to see if there are some remaining such stations – either in your neighborhood or even anywhere during skip season.

33.70 – East coast fire communications, especially Pennsylvania

33.90 – East coast fire communications, especially Pennsylvania

35.04 – Itinerant businesses

43.08 – Itinerant businesses

45.96 – East coast EMS services

46.00 – East coast EMS services

46.04 – East coast EMS services

47.42 – American National Red Cross – nationwide use

49.83, 49.845, 49.86. 49.875, 49.89 – Old baby monitors

Write in

Do you monitor VHF low band signals? If so, please write in and share the frequencies. You can write to me at nat-com@scanning1.com (be sure to put "Nat-Com" in the subject line or your e-mail may wind up in my spam bin). This e-mail address is only for the author of this column.

Be sure to check for the latest frequencies on the Nat-Com web page www.nat-com.org

75 YEARS OF AMATEUR RADIO ARES

By Ed Muro - K2EPM

As a Public Information Coordinator for the American Radio Relay League's Hudson Division, NLI section the folks at the home office up in Newington recently sent me some information to disseminate concerning ARES' 75th Anniversary. It couldn't have come at the more perfect time as I was planning out an article on a local event that I organized where I was able to bring in our local ARES group to help support the event.

This fall ARES celebrates its 75th anniversary but you might be asking yourself: What is ARES? ARES is the Amateur Radio Emergency Service. This program of the ARRL, which is a national association of Amateur Radio Operators, has provided ham radio emergency communications for agencies such as the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, countless local EOC's, and other responders in the worst of times. Their specially trained radio communications volunteers give thousands of hours of community services for free.

Time and time again we see that the fastest way to turn an emergency in to a disaster is to loose communications; I'll have more on that later. In events from ice storms to hurricanes, when normal communications systems were down or overloaded, Amateur Radio operators of the ARES programs filled the requests for communications assistance. Over the years the program name and equipment has changed but the vision remains. The modern communications nets that ARES quickly creates to blanket whole regions, without the need for other infrastructure, remain critical on emergency planning. In the first hours and days of a major event, Amateur Radio is often the source of initial information on the type, scope, and reactions needed to save lives. Recognition of this capability led to formal agreements with DHS, FEMA, NOAA, and other federal, state, and local agencies. When the Internet, cell phones, and electricity go out…they call on the hams.

Continued on page 12



75 YEARS OF AMATEUR RADIO ARES continued

The first mention of an organized Amateur Radio emergency response organization appears in the September 1935 issue of QST Magazine. Some of the major responses needing ARES Amateur Radio operators for emergency communications (also known as EMCOM) in recent years include these well known events:

Earthquake in Haiti – 2010
Hurricane Ike in Texas - 2008
Earthquake in Hawaii—2006
Flooding in Northeastern States—2006
Hurricanes Katrina, Wilma and Rita—2005
Wildfires in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico—2005
Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne—2004
Tsunami in Asia—2004
Earthquake in Central California—2003
Hurricane Isabel—2003
Northeast Blackout—2003
Shuttle Columbia Recovery Effort—2003
Wildfires in Colorado—2002
Flooding in Kentucky—2002
World Trade Center, Pentagon and Western Pennsylvania Terrorist Attacks—2001
Tropical Storm Allison—2001
Fires in Los Alamos, New Mexico—2000

Like other modern wireless technologies, Amateur Radio has come a long way from its beginnings. Today's amateurs are expanding their voice and digital networks, using satellites and TV, developing hybrid applications of radio-internet and GPS location systems, long-range Wi-fi

Continued on page 14







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The Bearcat BCT8 scanner, licensed by NASCAR, is a superb preprogrammed 800 MHz trunked highway patrol system scanner. Featuring TrunkTracker III, PC Programming, 250 Channels with unique BearTracker warning system to alert you to activity on highway patrol link frequencies. Preprogrammed service searches makes finding interesting active frequencies even easier and include preprogrammed police, fire and emergency medical, news agency, weather, CB band, air band, railroad, marine band and department of transportation service searches. The BCT8 also has preprogrammed highway patrol alert frequencies by state to help you quickly find frequencies likely to be active when you are driving. The BCT8 includes AC adapter, DC power cable, cigarette lighter adapter plug, telescopic antenna, window mount antenna, owner's manual, one year limited Uniden warranty, frequency guide and free mobile mounting bracket. For maximum scanning enjoyment, also order the following optional accessories: External speaker **ESP20** with mounting bracket & 10 feet of cable with plug attached $19.95. Magnetic Mount mobile antenna **ANTMMBNC** for $29.95.



Bearcat® BCD396T Trunk Tracker IV

Suggested list price $799.95/**CEI price $519.95**

APCO 25 9,600 baud compact digital ready handheld TrunkTracker IV scanner featuring Fire Tone Out Paging, Close Call and Dynamically Allocated Channel Memory (up to 6,000 channels), SAME Weather Alert, CTCSS/DCS, Alpha Tagging. Size: 2.40" Wide x 1.22" Deep x 5.35" High

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25.0000-512.0000 MHz., 764.0000-775.9875 MHz., 794.0000-823.9875 MHz., 849.0125-868.8765 MHz., 894.0125-956.000 MHz., 1240.0000 MHz.-1300.0000 MHz.

The handheld BCD396T scanner was designed for National Security/Emergency Preparedness (NS/EP) and homeland security use with new features such as **Fire Tone Out Decoder**. This feature lets you set the BCD396T to alert if your selected two-tone sequential paging tones are received. Ideal for on-call firefighters, emergency response staff and for activating individual scanners used for incident management and population attack warning.



Close Call Radio Frequency Capture – Bearcat exclusive technology locks onto nearby radio transmissions, even if you haven't programmed anything into your scanner. Useful for intelligence agencies for use at events where you don't have advance notice or knowledge of the radio communications systems and assets you need to intercept. The BCD396T scanner is designed to track Motorola Type I, Type II, Hybrid, SMARTNET, PRIVACY PLUS, LTR and EDACS® analog trunking systems on any band. Now, follow UHF High Band, UHF 800/900 MHz trunked public safety and public service systems just as if conventional two-way communications were used. **Dynamically Allocated Channel Memory** - The BCD396T scanner's memory is organized so that it more closely matches how radio systems actually work. Organize channels any way you want, using Uniden's exclusive dynamic memory management system. 3,000 channels are typical but **over 6,000 channels are possible** depending on the scanner features used. You can also easily determine how much memory you have used and how much memory you have left. **Preprogrammed Systems** - The BCD396T is preprogrammed with over 400 channels covering police, fire and ambulance operations in the 25 most populated counties in the United States, plus the most popular digital systems. **3 AA NiMH or Alkaline battery operation and Charger** – 3 AA battery operation - The BCD396T includes 3 premium 2,300 mAH Nickel Metal Hydride AA batteries to give you the most economical power option available. You may also operate the BCD396D using 3 AA alkaline batteries. Unique Data Skip - Allows your scanner to skip unwanted data transmissions and reduces unwanted birdies. Memory Backup - If the battery completely discharges or if power is disconnected, the frequencies programmed in the BCD396T scanner are retained in memory. Manual Channel Access - Go directly to any channel. LCD Back Light - A blue LCD light remains on when the back light key is pressed. Autolight - Automatically turns the blue LCD backlight on when your scanner stops on a transmission. Battery Save - In manual mode, the BCD396T automatically reduces its power requirements to extend the battery's charge. Attenuator - Reduces the signal strength to help prevent signal overload. The BCD396T also works as a conventional scanner to continuously monitor many radio conversations even though the message is switching frequencies. The BCD396T comes with AC adapter, 3 AA nickel metal hydride batteries, belt clip, flexible rubber antenna, wrist strap, SMA/BNC adapter, RS232C cable, Trunk Tracker frequency guide, owner's manual and one year limited Uniden warranty. Not compatible with AGEIS, ASTRO or ESAS systems. Order on-line at www.usascan.com or call 1-800-USA-SCAN.

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Scancat Gold For Windows Software	$99.95
Scancat Gold for Windows Surveillance Edition	$159.95

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Frequency Coverage:

25.0000-54.0000 MHz., 108.0000-174.0000 MHz., 216.0000-224.9800 MHz., 400.0000-512.0000 MHz., 806.0000-823.9875 MHz., 849.0125-868.9875 MHz., 894.0125-956.000 MHz., 1240.0000 MHz.-1300.0000 MHz.



The handheld BC246T TrunkTracker scanner has so many features, we recommend you visit our web site at www.usascan.com and download the free owner's manual. Popular features include **Close Call Radio Frequency Capture** – Bearcat exclusive technology locks onto nearby radio transmissions, even if you haven't programmed anything into your scanner. **Dynamically Allocated Channel Memory** - Organize channels any way you want, using Uniden's exclusive dynamic memory management system. 1,600 channels are typical but **over 2,500 channels are possible** depending on the scanner features used. You can also easily determine how much memory is used. **Preprogrammed Service Search (10)** - Makes it easy to find interesting frequencies used by public safety, news media TV broadcast audio, Amateur (ham) radio, CB radio, Family Radio Service, special low power, railroad, aircraft, marine, racing and weather frequencies. **Quick Keys** - allow you to select systems and groups by pressing a single key. **Text Tagging** - Name each system, group, channel, talk group ID, custom search range, and S.A.M.E. group using 16 characters per name. **Memory Backup** - When power is lost or disconnected, your BC246T retains the frequencies that were programmed in memory. **Unique Data Skip** - Allows the BC246T to skip over unwanted data transmissions and birdies. **Attenuator** - You can set the BC246T attenuator to reduce the input strength of strong signals by about 18 dB. **Duplicate Frequency Alert** - Alerts you if you try to enter a duplicate name or frequency already stored in the scanner. **22 Bands** - with aircraft and 800 MHz. The BC246T comes with AC adapter, 2 AA 1,800 mAH nickel metal hydride batteries, belt clip, flexible rubber antenna, wrist strap, RS232C cable, Trunk Tracker frequency guide, owner's manual and one year limited Uniden warranty. For more fun, order our optional deluxe racing headset part **#HF24RS** for $29.95. Order now at www.usascan.com or call 1-800-USA-SCAN.

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75 YEARS OF AMATEUR RADIO ARES continued

types of systems and more. Hams are the consummate "DO-ers" not just "USE-ers" of technology.

As I stated earlier, I recently organized an event locally where I requested the assistance of our local ARES group. Near the end of January (2010) our newly elected County Executive here in Nassau County, who is the highest elected official in our county's government, asked me to organize a car show for him. Now, this wasn't going to be some rinky-dink car show….he wanted a huge car show, something that people would be talking about for quite some time and something that people from outside of our local area would want to come to. The goal quite clearly was not to have just a car show but to have an "event." If things went well, this event would become an annual event and grow in size each year, drawing people for all over the east coast to attend either as participants or spectators. While there was possibility of the car show itself generating revenue, the focus was to bring in people from outside the county who would then come in to the county and possibly stay in hotels, eat in restaurants, and spend money at local convenience stores.





An event committee was put together that included me and three other gentlemen and in February we started the planning stages for the Nassau County Cruise to the Show which was held on August 15th, 2010. So, the name of the event pretty much gives it away but one way we were going to differentiate ourselves from any of the local car shows that are held every weekend of the summer was to incorporate a "cruise" in to our event. Simply put, a "cruise" is a parade of vehicles.

We used the model of the Woodward Dream Cruise, which is an annual event held in Michigan for the last 16 years. This year, even with bad weather, the Woodward event's attendance was 1.1 Million people.

At our event, the concept was that people would meet at a large parking lot some where near our County Seat and then cruise to the actual car show which was to be held at Eisenhower Park in East Meadow, N.Y. Eisenhower Park is the crown jewel of our county's park system.

It sounded simple, but when you start to think about all of the things that need to be done and how everything has to fall in to place to pull this off….the amount of work is monumental. For newcomers, the logistics seemed like a nightmare. None of us had run an event of this scope before. I had never run a car show before but I did rely on some of my past experiences as a hamfest coordinator for the Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club. The audience may have been different, but some of the organizational and marketing principles were the same.

There was a lot on the line, including our reputations with officials high up in the county government. Yet, we got the job done with a lot of help and advice from some really good people. Early on in the planning stages people

Continued on page 16



The HomePatrol-1 is a great scanner, but *Don't* be limited by its on-board database.



The HomePatrol-1 Receiving CB Channels

With HomePatrol-1's database you can't:

- **Add a frequency that is not already in the database**
- **Add talk group IDs**
- **Rename frequencies**
- **Rename talkgroup IDs**
- **Change or add PL tones**
- **Receive a trunking system that has no IDs**
- **Can't receive all frequencies in you area, even if they are in the database**

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75 YEARS OF AMATEUR RADIO ARES continued

told us that even with our aggressive marketing campaign we could expect about 150 cars. We wound up with 500 paid cars registered in the car show and probably another 75 that were complimentary. As for the cruise, 1,200 cars participated in the cruise.

Keeping the logistics in mind and the fact that this event was going to have an enormous turnout starting at one venue and ending at another I quickly realized that communications was going to be critical. While they were busy picking out trophies for cars, finding a band to entertain the crowd, and organizing a Hooters wing eating contest I wasn't quite sure my other three co-coordinators were grasping the reality of how big and how spread out this thing of ours was going to be or how we would maintain control over it.

This being my first experience in charge of anything of this scope led me to wonder who I could bring in to help with the event. Then I thought…well this cruise thingy isn't much different in concept from a marathon. You have people at Point A moving along a route trying to get to Point B. What if a car broke down along the way… someone would need to be notified to send help just like when a runner can't run anymore and needs a call put out for a sweep bus or an ambulance. True, there would be a police presence along the route but we knew all too well that the local police agencies were trying to minimize the amount of overtime incurred because of this event. Then it struck me….maybe I can throw a bone to my ham friends and bring in the local ARES group for communications support just like they do for the Long Island and New York City Marathons.

So, I sent out an e-mail to Jim Meezy –W2KFV, who is our Section's ARES Section Emergency Coordinator. I explained the event to Jim, coincidentally Jim is classic car buff and he entered his vintage Thunderbird in the show, I asked him if it was feasible to use the marathon as a model for our event. Jim thought ARES could help us and he put me in contact with Tim Cregan – N2RDB who heads up Nassau ARES.

Once in touch with Tim I explained the logistics. The first car out was going to be a 1909 ALCO 6 race car which participated in several Vanderbilt Cups and the first Indianapolis 500. Due to the design of this vehicle it needed to be out in front and moving fast in order to not overheat. The second car out would be our County Executive, Ed Mangano, in his 1969 Corvette. Ed would lead the rest of the cars to the park going between 5 and 10 MPH.

The people at the park, which is four miles away, would be busy dealing with folks who did not participate in the



75 YEARS OF AMATEUR RADIO ARES continued

cruise and went straight to the park. Yet, they would still need to be ready for the folks showing up in droves once the cruise arrived. My car show staff would need to know: when the first car left the staging area, when the second car left, when the first car arrived at the entrance to the park, when the second car arrived at the park and when the last car left the staging area and arrived at the park. Of course, we would also need to be informed of any problems along the route.

Tim devised a plan where one ARES member was stationed at the staging area for the cruise, one was stationed at the entrance to the park, one was stationed near the registration table at the field where the car show would take place, and then several would be stationed along the route.

As an ARES member, over the years I had volunteered for a number of marathons and Tim's plan seemed to be exactly what I thought we needed. I may take some heat for the next comment, but when it was getting down to the final days before the show, even me…Mr. Ham Radio, was wondering, "Is this really necessary?" I mean really, the cops are going to have police radios, we (the Car Show Staff) are going to have Park's Department loaner radios, and we all have cell phones… I wonder what the hams will do.

Two days before the event the Parks Department gave us eight HT's and chargers that work on the county general services 800 MHz EDACS system. We tested a couple, they worked well. So, we charged them all up the day before the car show. The night before I took my radio home and went to bed. The next morning I got on the road at 6:10 and turned my radio on. I arrived at the park, left my car there and got in the County van and drove over to the staging area at about 6:45 for an event that was to kick off at 9:00 AM. I was astonished at hour many cars had already arrived an hour before we told people the gates were opening.

Guess what happened at about 8:00 AM. Did you guess? Come on. OK, I will tell you…. The battery on my HT died! As for my cell phone…well to pass critical information I found that under pressure I couldn't dial quick enough and I could only call one person at a time…but if I had a working radio the whole staff would be privy to the critical information.

Let's see….what was it that the ARRL's media people had to say about this subject? Oh yeah, that the fastest way to turn an emergency in to a disaster is to loose communications. There I was with a dead brick that was destined to sit in the cup holder the rest of the day and the event hadn't even started yet. Yes, once again, it was time to rely on the hams.

Like any first time event we had several bumps along the way but over all it was a very successful event and the hams were right there beside us, doing what they (or we) do. We will use this as a learning experience and hopefully will be able to stand together and make the 2011 Nassau County Cruise to the Show an even bigger and more efficient experience.

For more information on the Nassau County Cruise to the Show please visit: www.cruisetotheshow.com or call (516) 573-3488. For more information on the Amateur Radio ARES program please visit: www.emergencyradio.org. ●

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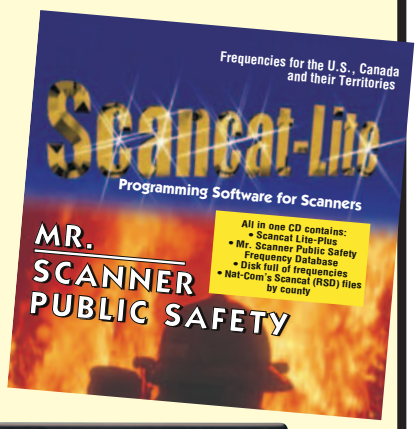


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DISCOVER

Communications and The Radio

By Dorothy Rieke

Communication, everywhere in our world today, is the sharing of information or providing entertainment through speaking or writing. Communication can be divided into two general types, personal communication and mass communication. Personal communication is making our thoughts and wishes known to others. Mass communication is sending messages to large groups of people by way of books, television, newspapers and radio.

Years ago, communication undoubtedly began with the sounds and gestures made by people of prehistoric times. Word of mouth, smoke signals and drums were early means of communication.^ Later, pictographic writing evolved. Because this means of communication could not depict unusual or new words, people used symbols to represent sounds. This way, they could write any word that they were able to speak.

For years, writing was the chief means of long distance communication. Messengers and homing pigeons were both used to carry messages. Homing pigeons were very useful in carrying messages across enemy territory during several wars. They were above suspicion and reliable.^ During the Middle Ages, monk scribes painstakingly copied manuscripts letter by letter. After the printing press was invented, communication was more widely spread. This invention was a great step forward in educating the masses through communication.

By the 1600s, corantos appeared which are printed news sheets, the forerunners of our current newspapers. These sheets generally carried business news such as news about ships in port and the merchandise they carried. The 1700s saw books, magazines, and newspapers in print. The 1800s brought communication by telegraph, the pony express and the transcontinental telegraph. These were all helpful in spreading the news.

In 1864, James Clark Maxwell believed electric magnetic waves traveled through space at the speed of light. Nearly twenty years later Heinrick Hertz confirmed that the waves were there. However, he could not determine a use for those mysterious waves.

In 1865, an Italian, Guglielmo Marconi succeeded in combining the ideas of some earlier scientists to send signals through space. Marconi called his invention the wireless telegraph. Today, we call it radio.^ Lee De Forest in the early 1900s, with the help of others, developed vacuum tubes, which detected and amplified radio signals. These tubes were the final knowledge that made the invention of a radio possible.

Soon experimental radio stations were established in United States by engineering schools or universities in the early twentieth century. By 1920, two early radio stations were broadcasting from Detroit and Pittsburgh.

In 1922, paid advertising began in New York City with station WEAF. That was the first commercial. Today, most programs are paid for by advertisers.

Mass communication has many advantages. It has brought knowledge and entertainment to large numbers of people. However, the 'down side of mass communication' is propaganda which was used during World War II. Certain governments used radio communication to promote untruths and exaggerations to influence public opinion. This worked very well in some cases.

Propaganda influences in three ways. It calls for action or opinion that seems wise or prudent, it suggests that the opinion is not only moral but acceptable to others, and it provides a sense of importance or belonging. It is always misleading with misleading statements. In other words, it differs greatly from information in a democratic society.

Mass communication has met the needs of the people down through the years. It has brought wonders to modern day United States and other countries. The radio is one of the most important means of mass communication with broadcasts taking many forms such as wireless networks, mobile communications, and regular radio broadcasting.

Current commercial radio broadcasts include news, music, dramas, comedies, variety shows, and informational programming. This multiple offerings meet the needs and desires of each listener. Indeed, radio is a primary force in communication in today's world.

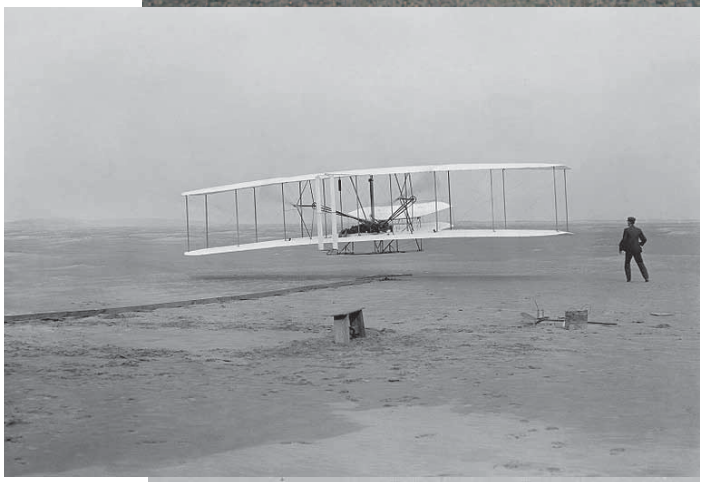
North Carolina's Pope Air Force Base & Fort Bragg

By Mark Meece

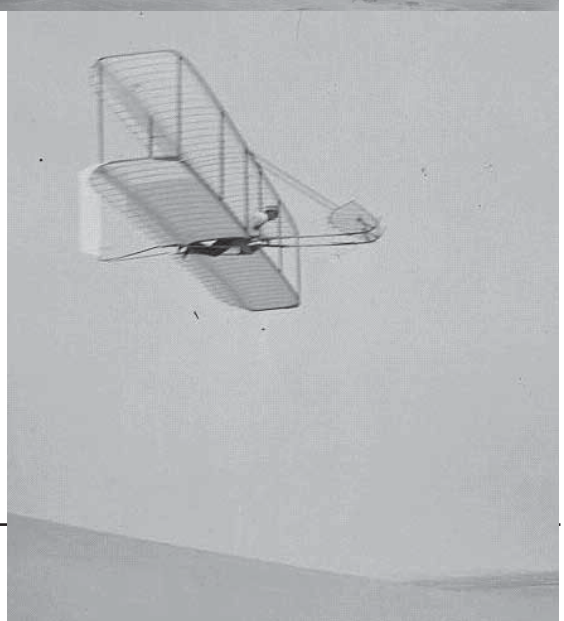


The Atlantic Hurricane Season is a period of time set each year by meteorological experts as running from June 1st to November 30th. Years of record keeping and forecast analysis have appointed this period as the peak time for hurricane formation in the western Atlantic Ocean. In 2010 one of the major hurricanes to threaten the East Coast of the United States was the fifth named storm of the season, Earl. When storms such as Earl threaten the coastal areas, military bases under threat evacuated their aircraft to "safe havens", bases that more situated to the interior of the country and out of harms way.

One particular state where the military bases are susceptible to hurricane threats is North Carolina. North Carolina was home to the first English Colony in the Americas. Roanoke Island in Dare County was the site of Sir Walter Raleigh's Roanoke Colony in the late 16th century. They became more famously known as "The Lost Colony" as their disappearance has never been explained, even some 400 years later. Around one hundred years later North Carolina became one of the original Thirteen Colonies. On May 20, 1861 it became the last confederate state to secede from the Union and was readmitted seven years later on July 4, 1868.



Five miles south of Kitty Hawk along a stretch of sand dunes known as Kill Devil Hills, for the first time in history a successful controlled powered flight for a heavier-than-air craft occurred. Brothers Wilbur and Orville Wright flew the Wright Flyer I in the perfect winds of Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina on December 17, 1903.



FORT BRAGG AND POPE AIR FORCE BASE

In Cumberland County, on the northern edge of Fayetteville, we find Pope Air Force Base and the adjacent Fort Bragg Military Reservation which together make up one of the world's largest military installations. Pope Air Force Base itself covers some 2194 acres; Pope's jurisdiction includes 1,893 acres for the main base, Laketree Site and Railroad Yards (112 acres), New Munitions Storage Area (173 acres), Localizer Site (less than 1 acre), Middle Marker (2 acres), Outer Marker (2 acres), the MARS Station (less than 1 acre) and the Old Munitions Storage (10 acres). In all there are 460 buildings on the base that supports a population of 4,700 military

TABLE 1

SYSTEM: Fort Bragg/Pope AFB
TYPE: Motorola Type II SmartZone
SYSID: 7705
DIGITAL TYPE: APCO-25 Common Air Interface

BASE: 407.000 MHZ
SPACING: 12.5 kHz
OFFSET: 380

FREQUENCIES:

SITE 001 Honeycutt

407.0750c	407.4750a	407.5500a	407.5625a	407.8125
407.8625	407.8875	408.0875	408.1250	408.5750
409.0250	409.1250	409.5625	409.8750	410.1500
410.5500	410.7000	410.9000		

SITE 002 Sandstone

407.2500	407.5000	408.0500c	408.4250a	408.62500a
409.5125	409.7000a	410.1625	410.3625	410.7625

003 3 Base
407.22500c
c - denotes primary control channels
a - denotes alternate control channels

TALKGROUPS

32	911	
80	Air Show 2005 - Air Boss	Pope AFB
592	Parachute Drop Zones	Pope AFB
752	Game Warden/Wildlife	
976	Headquarters	Pope AFB
992	EMS Rescue	Fort Bragg
1008	EMS Dispatch	Fort Bragg
1024	EMS Talk-Around/Tactical	Fort Bragg
1312	Live Fire Control 1	Fort Bragg
1360	Live Fire Control 2	Fort Bragg
1472	Drop Zone Safety Officer (DZSO) 1	Fort Bragg
3248	Military Police Panther Base	Fort Bragg
3552	Drop Zone Safety Officer (DZSO) 2	Fort Bragg
3968	Drop Zone Command	Fort Bragg
5600	Natural Resources	
7312	Live Fire Control 3	Fort Bragg
7328	Building Maint. Electricians	Fort Bragg
7360	EMS Dispatch	Fort Bragg
7376	Ambulance to Hospital	Fort Bragg
7408	Military Police Simmons Army Airfield	Fort Bragg
8192	Military Police Tactical 1	Fort Bragg
8208	Military Police Tactical 2/CID	Fort Bragg
8400	Military Police 503	Fort Bragg
12032	Military Police	Pope AFB
17600	Field Training	Fort Bragg
22512	Field Maneuvers	Fort Bragg
27216	Camp Mackall Tower	Fort Bragg
27232	Camp Mackall Air Traffic Control	Fort Bragg
30400	Range Control	Fort Bragg
48144	Range Control 3	Fort Bragg
48176	Range Control 1	Fort Bragg
48192	Fire 2	Pope AFB
51200	EMS Medical Tent Special Events	Pope AFB
51296	Fire Tac 1	Pope AFB
51312	Fire Tac 2	Pope AFB
51328	Range Control 2	Fort Bragg
51360	Maintenance 2	Pope AFB
51392	Fire 1	Pope AFB
51824	Aircraft Maintenance	Pope AFB
51888	Maintenance 1	Pope AFB
51904	Fuel 1	Pope AFB
51936	Fuel 2	Pope AFB
51968	Ground 2	Pope AFB
52064	Ground 3	Pope AFB
52128	Ground 1	Pope AFB
52800	Security/Checkpoints	Fort Bragg

POPE AIR FORCE BASE (KPOB)
AERONAUTICAL OPERATIONS

124.550	POPE GROUND
125.175	FAYETTEVILLE APPROACH/DEPARTURE NORTH
132.300	ATIS
133.000	FAYETTEVILLE APPROACH/DEPARTURE SOUTH
134.100	COMMAND POST
135.025	POPE TOWER
138.450	AIR TO AIR
140.000	GROUND CONTROLLED APPROACH (GCA)
140.200	AIR TACTICAL
141.800	AIR TO AIR
236.600	POPE TOWER
257.100	COMMAND POST
275.800	CLEARANCE DELIVERY/GROUND
291.100	POPE TOWER
295.000	FAYETTEVILLE APPROACH/DEPARTURE
297.000	AIR TACTICAL
297.200	GCA
303.000	AIR TACTICAL
319.400	43rd AW OPS
340.800	COMMAND POST
343.000	SUPERVISOR OF FLYING
344.600	METRO (WX)
353.725	ATIS
359.300	GCA
372.200	DISPATCHER
381.300	COMMAND POST

SIMMONS ARMY AIRFIELD (KFBG)
AERONAUTICAL OPERATIONS

120.800	GCA
121.900	CLEARANCE/GROUND
125.900	SIMMONS TOWER
133.000	FAYETTEVILLE APPROACH/DEPARTURE
139.250	ATIS
141.250	METRO (WX)
142.350	BASE OPERATIONS
229.400	CLEARANCE/GROUND
240.625	SIMMONS TOWER
245.500	BASE OPERATIONS
265.600	METRO (WX)

MACKALL ARMY AIRFIELD (KHFF)

38.900	RANGE CONTROL
41.750	GROUND
127.800	MACKALL TOWER
128.350	GROUND
139.350	RANGE CONTROL
141.400	BASE OPERATIONS
249.900	RANGE CONTROL
251.050	GROUND
254.400	RANGE CONTROL
343.725	MACKALL TOWER

personnel and 1,150 dependents. Pope falls under the Air Mobility Command (AMC) and specializes as Rapid Global Mobility. This is in addition to their support duties for Fort Bragg's Airborne and Special Operations Paratroopers. Their C-130 aircraft are ready to go at a moments notice to provide support of people, equipment and supplies anywhere in the world. The aircraft and personnel assigned to Pope not only provide support for combat operations, but time and again provide humanitarian relief during disasters.

Camp Bragg was created by congressional act in 1918 as an Army field artillery site which was named for Confederate General Braxton Bragg, a former artillery officer from North Carolina. An aviation landing field was constructed a year later. "Pope Field" was officially established by the War Department in 1919 making it one of the oldest facilities in the United States Air Force. It was named in honor of First Lieutenant Harley Halbert Pope who died when the JN-4 Jenny he was flying crashed into the Cape Fear River on January 7, 1919. Camp Bragg became a permanent Army post a few years later and was renamed to Fort Bragg. It was here in 1934 when the first successful military parachute jump took place, several years afterward the first airborne units began preparing here in 1942 prior to World War II.

Over the years Pope has seen periods of major expansion starting back in the 1930s. The open dirt fields did not become paved runways until 1940; after

Continued on page 22

North Carolina's Pope Air Force Base & Fort Bragg *continued*





the outbreak of hostilities of World War II. The base was a major troop carrier training site, and as Bragg's paratrooper training program began, it is said that Pope put the "Air" in "Airborne". Pope Field officially became Pope Air Force Base with the creation of the U.S. Air Force on September 18, 1947.

Nearly fifty years later on April 1, 1997 the 43rd Airwing activated at Pope becoming the host unit for the base. The 43rd Wing's subordinate units the 2nd and 41st Airlift Squadrons fly the C-130 Hercules for the Air Mobility Command. Today, Pope has one rather short runway at 7501 feet, runway 5/23.

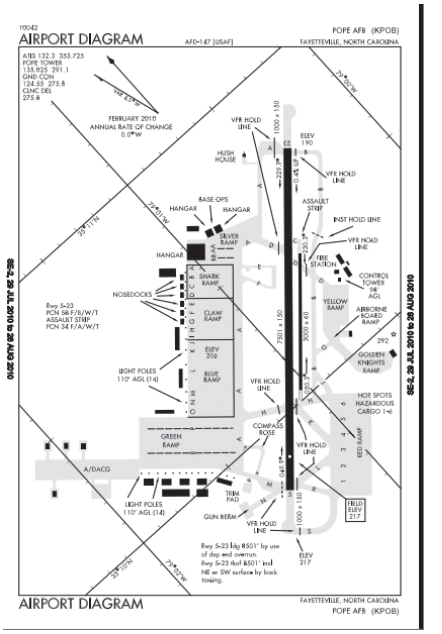
Today Fort Bragg is the home of the United States' only airborne corps and airborne division, the "Green Berets" of the Special Operations Command, also the Army's largest support command. In terms of population Fort Bragg is the largest Army installation in the world, there are 43,000 military and 8,000 civilians that work at Fort Bragg everyday.

The modern Fort Bragg / Pope Air Force Base of today share a three site trunked radio system using a mix of analog and digital voice information of this system and other operational frequencies can be found in TABLE 1 (see page 23).

The 43rd Air Wing has been the host wing at Pope since 1997, it is under the command of the 21st Air Force. The 2nd Airlift Squadron flies the C-130 "Hercules" identified by its blue green Pope tail stripe; it has been deployed for such operations as "Operation Joint Endeavor" in Bosnia and "Operation Southern Watch" in Southwest Asia.

More recently Pope Air Force base has been included on the Department of Defense's (DoD) 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Plan. The plan calls for Pope to be realigned by moving the 43rd Airlift Wing's twenty five C-130E's to Little Rock Air Force Base in Arkansas and the 23rd Fighter Group's thirty six A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft to Moody Air Force Base in Georgia. The 43rd Airlift Wing completed the transfer of their C-130 fleet in June 2008, the wing is expected to inactivate in September of 2010 after which the 43rd Air Group will be established. The 23rd Wing completed their move in December 2007. The base will eventually be absorbed by Fort Bragg expansion and then become Pope Army Airfield.





The Air Force will retain a presence at Pope in the form of several squadrons, most notably the 43rd Aero medical Evacuation Squadron. Other units will be 3rd Aerial Port Squadron, 18th Air Support Operations Group, 14th Air Support Operations Squadron, and Detachment 1 of the 373rd Training Squadron. Also as part of the 2005 BRAC, the 440th Airlift Wing formerly based at General Mitchell IAP in Milwaukee, Wisconsin will relocate to Pope to provide the primary airlift mission. They will become the first Air Force Reserve Wing to host an active duty associate squadron as the 2nd Airlift Squadron will share airlift operations along with the 440th Airlift Wing's 95th Airlift Squadron. This new arrangement will provide sixteen C-130s.

In addition to the flying units, several Army command headquarters units will be transferring to Pope, including the United States Army Forces Command and the United States Army Reserve Command. Currently these units are based at Fort McPherson, Georgia which is slated to close in accordance to the 2005 BRAC. TABLE 2 shows current units and aircraft flying from Pope AFB.

Getting back to hurricane evacuation, ever facet of a base launches into preparedness mode. Time is of the essence and logistics must be maintained. Aircraft are readied and safe haven bases are put on alert. Some of the bases considered safe havens are Scott Air Force Base in Illinois and Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, well way from the dangers of hurricane force winds. Pilots then take to the skies with the aircraft to their designated destinations.

Despite all of the unit movements and shake ups you can still grab your scanner and fill it with the provided frequencies and catch some good action. With all these unit movements we will need your input to keep up with the changes.

TABLE 2

440th AIRLIFT WING (AFRC)		
2nd AIRLIFT SQUADRON C-130H	LANCERS	Yellow
95th AIRLIFT SQUADRON C-130E	FLYING BADGERS	Blue/White
AFSOC		
427th SOS C-41A,UV-20A, Ce208B, CN235, PC-6		



Broadcasting, The Ultimate Communication

By Dorothy Rieke

Because of the multiple uses of radio, it has become our most important form of communication. Of course, foremost in radio communication is broadcasting; the distribution of audio signals that transmit programs to audiences. Each station has a schedule which sequence the content of the broadcast.

The term 'broadcast' originally referred to the sowing of seeds by scattering them across fields. Radio engineers from the Midwest, knowing this term, used it to refer to the analogous dissemination of radio signals. In other words, broadcasting is simply sending the messages to audiences.

It is true that broadcasting forms a large proportion of the mass media. Today's broadcasts feature music, news, interviews, discussions, descriptions of sporting events, and advertising.

Telephone broadcasting from 1881 to 1932 was the earliest form of electronic broadcasting without counting the telegraph. This form of broadcasting initially began with the European Theatrophone system, a telephone-based distribution system that transmitted live opera and theater performances over phone lines. This type of broadcasting eventually grew to include newspaper services for programming. This was one of the first examples of electrical/electronic broadcasting.

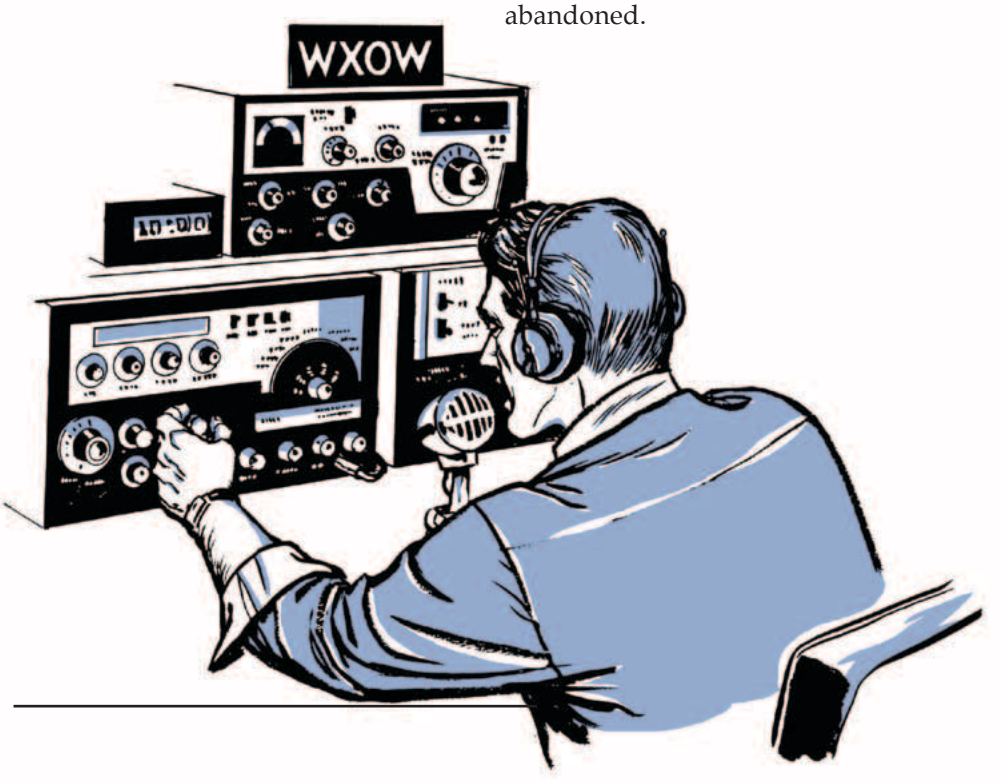
As early as 1910, experimental radio broadcasts began with the recording of Enrico Caruso's voice from the New York City Metropolitan Opera House. A few years later in 1916, additional experimental broadcasts took place in Madison, Wisconsin, and in Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania.

Station WWJ in Detroit, Michigan, began broadcasting in August of 1920. Another Station KDKA originating with the Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania, station, began broadcasting about the same time. This station's broadcasts of the November Presidential election results in 1920 brought broadcasting to a professional status because of the importance of that occasion.

The first license to broadcast, issued by the Federal government, was to a station in 1921.

A new development, first identified by the term 'chain' broadcasting, took place in 1922. Two stations, connected by telephone lines, formed a single network to broadcast the 1922 World Series. This was the initial step in 'network' broadcasting. Later, in 1926, the Radio Corporation of America formed NBC, a national network.

In the 30s and 40s, a controversy arose concerning prerecorded broadcasts. At first, these broadcasts were forbidden because certain listeners in eastern and central time zones received programs before those living in western United States. Later this restriction was abandoned.



continued

Pre-recording also posed a problem. Listeners often learned the outcomes of an event before it was broadcast. Of course, there were advantages to pre-recording. With this method, there was no deviation of the original script because content was known before the broadcast. At this time, live broadcasting dominates radio broadcasts. For example, musical performers may present the programs 'in studio.'Nationwide networks in the United States include ABC, CBS, and Westwood One Incorporated which owns NBC Radio Network and the Mutual Broadcasting System. Over 80 regional networks, serving radio stations within certain areas, operate in the United States. Actually, much that is broadcast originates with networks.

Networks transmit signals from broadcasting studios by way of satellite signals to local stations. These networks either create content or acquire rights to prerecorded programs. Anyone within a specific area is able to receive that programming.

Over 9,000 commercial radio stations and 1300 educational radio stations broadcast daily in the United States. In fact, statistics reveal that eighty percent of all American teenagers and adults turn on the radio at least once during a day.

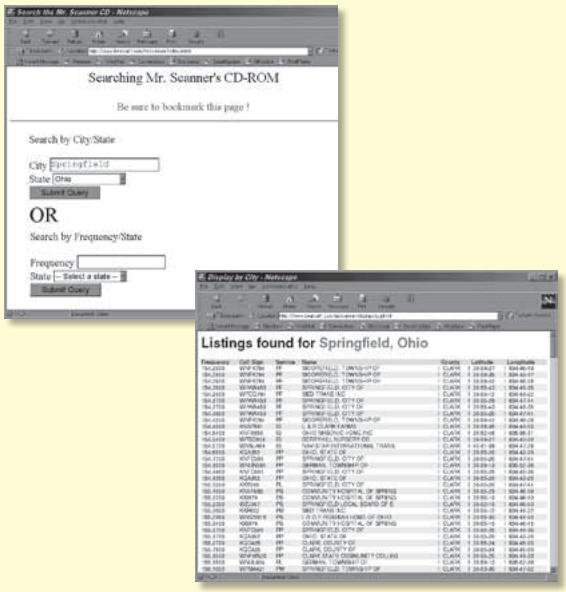
Broadcasting is the most familiar use of the radio because each day millions listen to radio broadcasts especially designed for their information and enjoyment. About ninety percent of the programs broadcast on a regular basis are created as entertainment. The other ten percent provide information. Some stations such as Fox News produce programs such as news reviews.

In order to broadcast continually, stations must have a source of revenue and/or volunteers from the community, operate on indirect or direct government payments, or operate on grants. The most common form of support comes from selling advertising or public subscription or membership.

Radio has advanced from dreams and ideas to an important means of communication. Broadcasting, the major form of radio entertainment, has drawn listeners down through the years with a variety of programming designed to entice listeners. Music, dramas, talk shows, newscasts, and sports have brought popularity and acceptance.

The popularity of broadcasting is evident through an increased number of car radios, personal radios, and the advent of AM stereophonic broadcasting in 1982 and the later FM broadcasts. The radio, indeed, is a lasting and desirable addition to our lives. ●

Nat-Com Subscribers Have Access To Over 4 Million Frequencies



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- Log on to www.bearcat1.com/free.htm
- Scroll down to the picture of either the Mr.Scanner Public Safety or Mr. Scanner CD Roms
- Click on the "Search the CD Rom" link next to the photo
- On the next screen (first time) pick register for CD, (subsequent times) pick search
- When the form comes up fill it out with the exception of the credit card information. Be sure to include an e-mail address so we can send your user name and password back to you
- Pick Option #4 and insert your member number (which can be found on your mailing label) e.g. OH 8 AAA

Generally within the next 24 hours your user name and password will be e-mailed back to you and you will be ready to search for frequencies.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT CB RADIO?

Citizens band remains a viable communications medium.

By Chuck Gysi, N2DUP



Bulldog is seen with his vintage 28-year-old Cobra 2000 GTL CB radio.

If you're a radio hobbyist, there's a good chance you've had a CB radio at one time or another, or perhaps several times over the years. Maybe you are new to the radio hobby and you're considering going into CB radio.

The advantage of becoming a CBer typically is the cost. If you want to get a basic start on the air on citizens band, it can be done pretty cheaply. The lowest end mobile CB radios typically run about $40, but if you look carefully, you might even see radios selling for as low as $30 in discount stores and on clearance racks.

Antennas don't have to be expensive for mobile use either. An inexpensive mobile magnetic-mount CB antenna can be had for as low as $15 if you look around. So if you spend $40 on a radio and $15 on an antenna, you can be on the air from your car for as low as $55. Try and compare that to the cost of scanners, ham radio or even a pair of FRS/GMRS handheld radios. Even a low-end shortwave receiver is going to clock in about the same price range, if not more.

You can put a cigarette lighter plug on the end of the power cable for your CB radio and with the mag-mount antenna, you have portability, too, to move your CB rig and antenna from car to car.

There still are plenty of people on CB, too. Truckers, of course, still have CB rigs as must-have cabin apparatus for the road. You'll find a host of others still on CB, including young people, commuters, police patrol cruisers, retirees, RV owners and more. You'd be surprised to find how many people in your community or neighborhood still have CB base stations on the air, too. Those strong signals you hear on the air may be your neighbors and not stations from far away on skip.

Sideband CB

You may have heard something about sideband or single-sideband radios on CB and you're curious about it. What is it and what would you do with it?

Technically speaking, sideband expands your normal 40-channel rig into a 120-channel rig, but that's not totally the case. While normal CB radio is AM, much like AM broadcast radio or aviation radios, sideband splits the channel space further, allowing the sideband radio owner to use either the upper or lower bandwidth of a CB channel for a different mode of transmission. AM mode includes both sidebands as well as the middle carrier signal.

Sideband radio channels usually are referred to as "upper" or "lower." For instance, while there is the normal Channel 16 on CB radios that is in the AM mode, there also is a "Channel 16 upper" and "Channel 16 lower." You might hear CBers referring to simply "16 lower."

There are certain CB channels set aside for sideband use, mainly because those on AM mode hear the sideband signals as Donald Duck-like. AM operators really can't co-exist on CB with sideband operators because of the splatter-like sounds. Thus, by gentlemen's agreements, Channel 16 usually is reserved for lower sideband signals, while Channels 36 through 40 are used for upper sideband signals. Before the FCC added 17 channels to the original 23 channels back in the 1970s, Channel 16 was the only sideband channel. With the addition



Here's Bulldog's Custom Predator Freedom Antenna on his truck.



The antenna farm is seen at Bulldog's base in Maine.

of the new channels back then, sideband operators called out for new channels for their use and claimed the upper five channels.

If you want to be considered a courteous CB operator and you operate in AM mode only, you'll stay off Channels 16 and 36-40. Likewise, if you are a sideband operator, you'll stick to Channels 16 and 36-40 so you don't interfere with AM operators.

There are some additional benefits of sideband CB radio. Signals have a tendency to travel further because the signal is more efficient and because AM operators can't decipher what you are saying when listening on their normal AM mode rigs, it offers a sense of privacy.

Sideband CB rigs can start out in the low $100 price range and you can easily spend up to several hundred dollars for one of these rigs, especially a base station SSB CB rig. Also, sideband radios operate in the AM mode, so if you want to switch over to Channel 19 and listen to road travelers on your radio, no problem!

How much power?

So how much power can you legally use on CB? If you look at the FCC rules for CB, you'll learn that citizens band rigs are limited to four watts of carrier power. There's a trick one manufacturer carries out to confuse the issue, though. Midland likes to stipulate on CB radio boxes that the radio has "7 watts of power," but if you look at the radio's stats, that's not transmit power, but audio power to the speaker! No CB radio is allowed more than four watts of transmit power, regardless of what the radio manufacturer is citing. Any power greater than four watts is illegal and subject to a fine or other penalties, including imprisonment. You'll see that with the exception of handheld CB radios, perhaps, all CB mobile and base station radios most likely will transmit with a maximum transmit power of four watts.

So what are you waiting for to get active back on CB?

Reader comments

This month we hear from Reno, whose handle is Bulldog, up in Maine:

"I usually go by Unit 777 when DX conditions are rolling into Maine. I am responding to the July-August



The RadioShack scanner-ham discone antenna and Solarcon Imax 2000 with a ground plane kit are seen at Bulldog's Maine base station.

Continued on page 28

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT CB RADIOS?

continued



Bulldog's Cobra 29 Army Strong Edition, his second base station, is seen here.

2010 issue, 'Why Are CB Antennas So Big.' Nice article, Chuck, without getting too technical. I have been a CBer since the late 1980s and I enjoy it very much. I am the proud owner of a 28-year-old Cobra 2000 GTL.

"I have had many antennas through the years. The Avanti antennas sure were popular in their time! I owned a Sigma 5/8, Sigma IV, Astro Beam and PDL II. Now on the fiberglass side, I've had the Shakespeare Big Stick, Solarcon Antron 99 and Solarcon Imax 2000 with the ground-plane kit. They all have their own neat experiences while assembling, performance and survivability in rough weather. So the myth is aluminum antennas receive less static than fiberglass antennas.

"Most operators love to experiment with their mobile antennas because it is easier than base ones. It is interesting to experience the results. I do not have an MFJ antenna analyzer. Sometimes adjusting the whip for the best SWR may not cause better performance. I have owned several RadioShack magnetic-mount antennas, Wilson 1000 magnetic mount, K40 magnetic and truck mount, Predator 10-K 22-inch shaft aluminum coil antenna on a heavy-duty stud mount, Tram aluminum coil antenna (copy of Predator antenna) on a heavy-duty stud mount, Cobra High Gear fiberglass whip on a heavy-duty stud mount, K40 truck antenna on a heavy-duty stud mount and RadioShack 102-inch stainless steel whip. Some of the antennas I have mentioned also were used with a Tram tri-mag mount. One custom antenna is a Predator Freedom Antenna with a 36-inch shaft.

"Kale Cavel of Cowtown Antennas in Texas made me a custom 36-inch aluminum shaft and machined to accept a cut-down 102-inch whip. It's been cut and tuned for the best SWR with 24 feet of Belden RG-8; the overall length is about 115 inches. It offers a flat match for 100 channels. I would say the Predator 10-K is the best for my purposes; I seem to hit those long-distance stations better.

"The most mobile antennas around my town are the Lil Wilson magnetic-mount versions, followed by K40, Wilson and fiberglass whips."

– Reno, also known as "Bulldog"



Bulldog's Predator 10-K on a 12-inch shaft and Tram Tri-Mag Mount are shown here.

Write in

Do you operate on CB sideband channels? Feel free to drop me a line via e-mail to this address: cb-natcom@scanning1.com. Make sure you put Nat-Com in the subject line so if your message gets spiked to my spam bucket, I can easily spot the "Nat-Com" in the subject line and move your message right to the "in" basket. Tell me your handle, too. The e-mail address is used to reach the author of this column only.

In the meantime, keep the sunny side up and the dirty side down. 3s

Scanning Medical Emergencies



By Jon Van Allen, KF7YN

Greetings from Honolulu Hawaii, home port of the ship I work on. I am enjoying the warm weather and listening to the scanner. There is something about the excitement of monitoring medical emergencies whether it is an ambulance, medic squad or Life Flight that gets the adrenaline pumping. A life and death drama could very well be unfolding and listening in on the scanner is a great way to find out what is happening.

If you live in an area where there are no trunked systems, medical comms will be on conventional VHF and UHF frequencies. In many metro areas, medical comms are probably on trunked systems. EMS crews, ambulances and med flight companies will have dispatch and working talkgroups in addition to conventional medical frequencies. When ambulances come to a metro area from outlying areas, chances are good they will communicate with hospitals on conventional VHF frequencies so programming a mix of both trunked and conventional in your scanner is a good idea in this situation.

Depending on the nature of the call, they may also use regional, countywide and statewide talkgroups and frequencies along with individual police and fire agency talkgroups and frequencies. When responding to State and National Parks, medical crews will usually contact park dispatch. Some parks have their own medical facilities which may have their own frequencies. Yellowstone Park has a small hospital at Lake Village and a clinic at Mammoth HQ on 462.450 MHz, for example. Don't forget to use the fire or medical search button on your scanner.



You will hear med crews talking about patient condition, details of the accident or incident, traffic conditions, etc. One frequency every scanner should have programmed is 155.475, National Law Enforcement Mutual Aid. This frequency is used extensively nationwide.

Many ambulances use various emergency medical frequencies for ambulance to hospital comms.

150.7750 EMS (simplex)
150.7900 EMS (simplex)
152.0075 EMS (paging)
155.1600 EMS
(also a common SAR frequency)
155.1750 EMS
155.2050 EMS
155.2200 EMS
155.2350 EMS
155.2650 EMS
155.2800 EMS
155.2950 EMS
155.3250 EMS
155.3400 EMS to Hospital (HEAR)
155.3550 EMS
155.3850 EMS
155.4000 EMS

These frequencies should also be programmed into every scanner; you WILL hear activity on these VHF frequencies.

Continued on page 30

Scanning Medical Emergencies

continued





Med 1-10 UHF frequencies:

Med-1	463.000	468.000
Med-2	463.025	468.025
Med-3	463.050	468.050
Med-4	463.075	468.075
Med-5	463.100	468.100
Med-6	463.125	468.125
Med-7	463.150	468.150
Med-8	463.175	468.175
Med-9	462.950	467.950

Med-9 and Med-10 may be used for dispatch.

Med-10	462.975	467.975

Military bases: Medevac, Medical Net, etc. 148-150.7 MHz; 163-174 MHz.

Med flights will be using the VHF air band to communicate with airport control towers and other aircraft. Check 123.025, 123.050 and 123.075 helo frequencies as well as the regular tower frequency for your local airport.

Once in the air, the onboard medical crew can be heard talking to the hospital about the patient's condition and relevant vitals including a brief description of the incident. The hospital will advise the medical crew what to do next or what precautions to take until the patient arrives at the hospital. You might be surprised at the actual missions these aircraft are called to respond to.

Not only will you see air med flights for accident victims, moving patients to other medical facilities and any other number of situations where time is of the essence. Many times I have heard medical choppers called to help in search and rescue (SAR) operations to help find lost or missing persons as well as for transporting them to safety once they are located.

Med 1 thru 10 is where you will most likely hear med flights talking to the emergency room. If you live in an area where trunking is used, you'll need to find the talkgroups for fire, rescue and med flights. Our area uses trunked talkgroups for all ambulance, rescue and air med to hospital comms.



Don't forget about fixed wing medical aircraft. When a helicopter isn't practical or longer range is needed, fixed wing medical aircraft can be called into action. For example, a helo might make a rescue in a remote area where a fixed wing aircraft couldn't possibly go. But the distance to the nearest medical facility is beyond the range of the helo, so the helo makes the rescue and takes the patient to a waiting fixed wing aircraft at a regional airport. This airplane makes the several hundred-mile run to a larger city where the required medical facility is located. Another medical chopper is waiting which transports the patient the last few miles from the airport to the hospital.

In the event of a disaster, medical, police and fire communications may go down along with cell phones and land lines. In this scenario, amateur radio may be the only working radio systems until power is restored so you will want to find out what frequencies your local hams use. Most likely they will be in the 146 MHz and 440 MHz ham bands.

If you have questions or comments, my email is kf7yn@yahoo.com. Be sure to put Nat-Com in the subject line so you don't end up in the spam folder. Until next time, happy scanning!

Radio Advertising Down Through the Years

By Dorothy Rieke

Advertising, messages designed to promote a product, service, or idea, influence our lives daily because they promote all kinds of labor-devices and inform us on how to use our leisure time. It invades our thoughts and influences our actions. Each day, millions of people come in contact with advertising as the media enables advertisers to reach people everywhere.

The purpose of advertising is to sell products or services. Manufacturers and others want people not only to be aware of their products, but they want customers. Advertising is also used by individuals to promote political parties and candidates, social organizations, special interest groups, and the government.

Advertising exerts great influence over our lives. It encourages us to eat certain foods, drive certain vehicles, wear certain clothing, and use certain products. In truth, advertising shapes our tastes, habits, and attitudes.

Most advertising reaches us through mass communication including radio. Local advertisers are placing about seventy percent of their advertising on radio because it grabs and retains attention by using humor, a variety of sounds, compelling music, and unusual voices. In addition, radio advertising often tells stories that listeners can relate to. The remaining thirty percent of advertising is from national advertisers who buy time from individual radio stations or from networks.

Today's radio stations depend on revenue by selling "airtime" to advertisers. A business or service provides valuable consideration, usually cash, in exchange for the station airing their spot which is mentioning their products on the air.

The many advantages for radio advertising include the fact that radio listening is widespread and that radio is mobile. Radio, in one week, reaches 225 million adults. Ninety-four percent are twelve and older. Eighty percent listen while in cars, and twenty-five percent listen while at work.

Then, too, listeners can work at other tasks while listening to broadcasts. Another advantage of radio advertising is that radio audiences are more highly selected by types of programming than are television audiences. The radio stations featuring "easy listening" music have different kinds of audiences than those playing "Rock and Roll" music. An advertiser for acne cream might be successful on the "Rock and Roll" music station but would be useless on the other station. In other words, advertisers seek to reach the people most likely to buy their products.

In order to reach the right listeners, audiences are pinpointed by age, gender, and geographical location, and income.

Three kinds of radio commercials now in use are direct sales, songs, announcements, and dramatized stories. Unlike those on television, radio commercials last from thirty to sixty seconds. However, some radio stations have more commercial lines per hour than television stations. This creates a disadvantage as, at times, listeners do not recall all commercials.

Even though the first radio broadcasts were aired in the early twentieth century, it wasn't until 1919 that stations began broadcasting continuously. KDKA on November 2, 1920 aired the first commercial broadcast. Several years later, AT&T began selling "toll broadcasting" to their advertisers. This meant that certain businesses underwrote or financed a broadcast in exchange for being mentioned during broadcasting.

In a few individual cases, advertising was sold as early as spring of that same year. One farsighted car dealer bought time on WGI of Medford Hillside, Massachusetts, for mention of his business. One amateur radio broadcaster "leased" out his station twice a week in exchange for a weekly charge of $35. In Seattle, Washington, the owner of a music store purchased an advertisement in the newspaper advertising radio station KFC in exchange for sponsoring a weekly program in early spring of 1922. Even though,

Continued on page 32

Radio Advertising Down Through the Years continued

a few stations experimented with advertising earlier, WEAF in 1922 is credited with being the first to advertise.

The Golden Age of Radio brought a different kind of advertising when the radio was the dominant home entertainment medium. At that time, certain sponsors sponsored entire programs. In fact, soap operas were called soap operas because soap and detergent companies sponsored those types of programs.

The advertising of this time was effective perhaps because the visual portion of the broadcast was supplied by each listener's imagination. In one instance, a comedian with sound effects described a " the towing of a 10-ton maraschino cherry by the Royal Canadian Air Force, who dropped it onto a 700 ft. mountain of whipped cream floating in hot chocolate filled Lake Michigan."

Today's radio commercial messages represent a wide range of options. Two types of radio ads are "live reads" and "produced spots." The "live reads" simply are scripts read by the announcers. The announcer may even add his own testimony to the ad which amounts to an endorsement. However, the "live read" may include an endorsement which bears more weight than simply reading what is written.

"Produced spots," more common, are produced for the client by the radio station or an advertising agency. These may be a straight read with sound effects, music as background, two or more participants in the commercial, monologue, and jingles. Of course, the quality of the commercials bears greatly on effectiveness with audiences.

Advertising may be played in clusters or sets. Research results show that the first one or two commercials are recalled better than later ones. Another practice commonly employed is a paid service that is based on "target demographic." If a sponsor wants to target a certain age group, the ratings enable advertisers to select a specific segment of the listening audience and purchase airtime to reach that group. Because research shows how many people are listening at each hour of the day, ads can be placed when that group listens.

Other data is available to advertisers. such as type of listeners; employment type, income levels, and kinds of cars they drive and what sports they like. This information is invaluable for directing advertisements that yield results.

Live endorsements are a recent development in the ad business. They are popular with audiences because they think, "If that person uses the product successfully, why shouldn't I?"

Today's radio advertising advantages include: market reach, flexibility, selectivity, awareness, and the ability to reach specific audiences in certain areas. Because of the effectiveness of radio commercials, ninety-eight percent of those ages 18 to 34 are reached in an average day in radio advertising.

Radio is big business today. Businesses exchange cash for stations airing their "spot." This exchange produces more information for listeners and more choices.

Radio has successfully met the challenges of our modern society with radio stations that feature programming appealing to different types of listeners who are most likely to buy the advertised products.

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Bonus Disk Of Frequencies.....15.00
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PLUS FREE Scanning Magazine(s)
(With Any Order Over $40.00)
Now includes FREE access to Radio Reference frequency databases and supports Uniden HomePatrol!
ScanCat-Lite-PLUS
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Now It's Easier Than Ever To Use Your ScanCat Software.
FREE walk-you-through set up video to get you going fast.
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Info/Tech Support: (318) 687-2555
(9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Central M-F)
WWW.SCANCAT.COM

WEATHER RADIO DX

By Jim Sutton, N2OPS

Scanner listeners listen to weather radio every day to make outdoor plans, to be on top of severe weather and to just be in the know about what may be happening that will result in action to listen to on their scanners.

Weather radio can serve another purpose for the scanner listener, long range reception or DX. DX is short for distance. Atmospheric and ionospheric conditions can find weather radio signals coming in from hundreds or even over a thousand miles away.

VHF SIGNAL CHARACTERISTICS

Weather radio in the US and Canada transmits on seven VHF or very high frequency channels in the VHF high band that runs from 148-174 MHz. The high band is sandwiched between 2 meter amateur radio 144-148 MHz and VHF TV channel 7 174-180 MHz.

Channels are listed two ways. Earlier weather radios had only three channels, 162.550 which was the original weather frequency and 162.400. Then came 162.475 to make the original three.

As the number of weather radio stations grew it became necessary to add more frequencies which led to later alignment by frequency.

Frequencies in this range travel straight line of sight which is why reception improves with increased antenna height.

EXTENDED RANGE

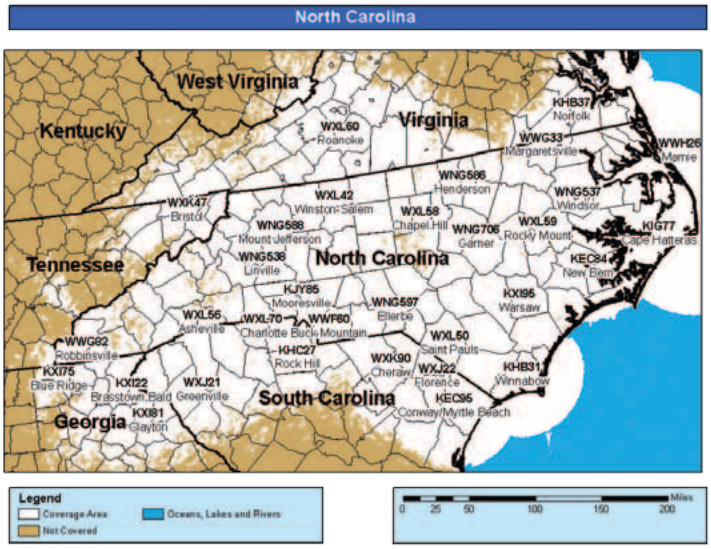
The primary method of weather radio DX is tropospheric ducting. Ducting takes place when warm air overrides cool air in the troposphere which is the lowest layer in the atmosphere.

Tropospheric ducting usually brings in weather radio stations up to a few hundred miles away, but has been known to bring in stations from over 1000 miles away. While the summer months are the best, tropospheric ducting can take place any time of the year. Some of the most spectacular openings take place in the fall of the year.

Ducting can bring in distant stations overriding closer stations in-between. Always be prepared to be surprised and delighted.

William Hepburn's Worldwide Tropospheric Ducting Forecast site contains detailed maps that do a very accurate job of predicting tropo openings.

Hepburn's Radio and TV DX Information Center is a treasure chest of information for all types of DX including VHF DX.



Weather Radio DX NOAA Map

Weather Radio Channel (original)	Frequency in MHz
1	162.550
2	162.400
3	162.475
4	162.425
5	162.450
6	162.500
7	162.525

Weather Radio Channel (on later radios)	Frequency in MHz
1	162.400
2	162.425
3	162.450
4	162.475
5	162.500
6	162.525
7	162.550

A rare, yet spectacular form of weather radio DX is sporadic E. While a common mode of long range reception for low band land mobile (30-50 MHz) and TV channels 2-6 (54-88 MHz) on rare occasions it will bring in weather radio DX. Sporadic E can bring in stations from 600-1600 miles away.

Continued on page 34

WEATHER RADIO DX

continued

RECEIVERS

Police scanners are the primary receivers for weather radio DX. Vacant weather radio frequencies can be entered into the scan sequence to stop only when DX is beginning.

Amateur radio operators will find that nearly all 2 meter (144-148 MHz) transceivers will receive weather radio frequencies. Some will even have a feature that allows instant access of weather radio stations. Often ham radio receiver sensitivity will be spectacular.

Another way to catch the weakest DX is program weather radio frequencies into unused channels of VHF high band transceivers. Here again radio receiver sensitivity will be spectacular.

A few weather alert radios have sensitive receivers that will receive those weak stations. An external antenna jack is essential for DX.

ANTENNAS

Reecom Electronics offers a compact indoor base antenna specifically designed for weather radio reception. This antenna will do a nice job in apartment situations where outdoor antennas are not allowed.

Antenna Craft manufactures two good antennas that will enhance weather radio reception. The standard for scanner listeners is the Scantenna ST-2. It does a good job on all scanner bands including 162 MHz weather radio.

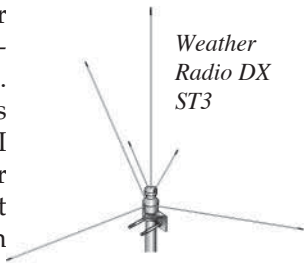
Weather Radio DX Scantenna



Also from Antenna Craft is the ST-3 which covers the VHF high band (148-174 MHz) and UHF (450-515 MHz) scanner bands.

In rural areas away from signal overload a TV signal amplifier may transform a barely intelligible signal into a clear signal. Be sure the amplifier covers 162 MHz. At my rural home I run 13 scanners and a weather alert receiver with the right sequence of TV amplifiers with my outside scanner antenna.

Weather Radio DX ST3



My favorite source of both Antenna Craft antennas and signal amplifiers in Solid Signal.



Weather Radio DX Recon

For the serious weather radio DX'er a directional, or yagi, antenna will allow zeroing in on a specific direction when multiple stations are coming in. These are available from two way radio dealers. Be prepared to shell out some big bucks if you go this way.

The National Weather Service Forecast Office in Portland, Maine has a great summary of weather radio antennas on their web site. They cover homemade, commercial and directional (yagi) antennas.

Weather radio DX can be had on even a good handheld receiver. While in college I would walk around the college buildings during ducting. At my Lancaster PA college I was able to receive New York City on 162.550 at a distance of 150 miles with a local station in Harrisburg only 30 miles away by walking between the college buildings. A good handheld antenna is a must for the best reception.

STATION IDENTIFICATION

Most weather radio stations are easy to identify. ID is usually given in each or alternating cycles or each half hour. The NWSFO in State College PA does an excellent job with basic ID each cycle and in-depth information each half hour.

Stations originating at the Boston MA NWSFO (National Weather Service Forecast Office) never identified their stations when I traveled to the Boston area. This is very frustrating for the DX'er. ID'ing stations from this area will require extra effort with weather radio station maps and information gleaned from the transmissions.

With over 1000 US weather radio stations prime DX conditions can find a major fight between multiple stations. Patience will reward the DX'er with increased loggings.

Those near the Canadian border should put the Canadian Continuous Marine frequencies of 161.650, 161.750 and 161.775 in their scanner. They make great catches and will indicate when there are openings to the north.

MY DX CATCHES

From my Western New York location I have received weather radio DX from 12 states and 2 provinces. This is with only one totally clear weather radio frequency at my location.

When my local weather radio station is off the air I'm able to log a number of stations from different directions. You may be surprised to hear what comes in when your local is off the air.

WEATHER RADIO DX

continued

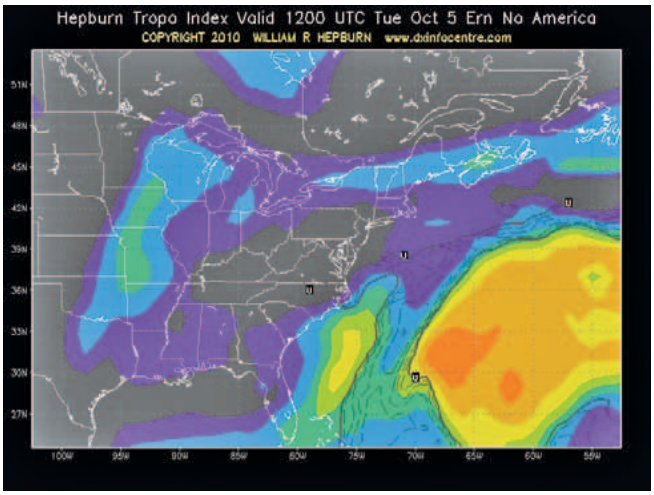
GET STARTED

With a log book and map in hand you'll begin logging stations you never thought possible. Bookmark the links at the end of this story to be ready to ID your reception.

Until next time may your signals be strong, your static be few.

LINKS

Antenna Craft Antennas
http://www.antennacraft.net/Antennas/AntennasScanner.html
Canadian Weather Radio Stations
http://ec.gc.ca/meteo-weather/default.asp?lang=En&n=8830FA44-1
NOAA Weather Radio Coverage Maps
http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/Maps/
Solid Signal
http://www.solidsignal.com/
Weather Radio Antennas
http://www.erh.noaa.gov/gyx/nwrhist.html
By the Portland ME NWSFO
Weather Radio Info
http://weatherradio.info/



Weather Radio DX William Hepburn

In-depth station information
William Hepburn Tropospheric DX Forecast
http://www.dxinfocentre.com/tropo.html
William Hepburn Continuous Canadian Marine Broadcasts
http://www.dxinfocentre.com/cmb.htm

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CLOSING COMMENTS



Note: I usually keep my closing comments to radio issues. This time my comments would be a bit of a stretch to get to the radio phase, but it does involve our legal system, so maybe there is a tie in there. Occasionally I need to get on my soap box and vent. That is what I am doing here. Not everyone will agree with me, and maybe others will. I would like to hear your comments both positive and negative and hopefully include them in an upcoming issue of Nat-Com.



By: Norm Schrein, KA8PGJ

It seems like routinely we hear about one celebrity or another that gets in trouble with the law. And, with some of the more recent cases, I find myself wondering why we are spending the time and money to treat their underlying social issues, whether it is alcohol, drugs, or an unhappy childhood. This is especially puzzling when other offenders who simply are greedy and commit a theft crimes end up in the "regular" probation system. When did our courts get into the business of curing social ills rather than working with the legal case at hand? I don't care if the person who stole $1,000.00 from the till also has a drug addiction or not. So, why do the courts? What we should want to see when the person is a first time non-violent offender is for him to pay back the money. I do not expect them to attend drug awareness classes or AA meetings or any other social service to correct their underlying problems on our dime. If they feel that they need help and contact the appropriate agency, then good for them, but we should not be funding the treatment through our tax dollars or higher insurance premiums. I am not saying that if a person has no source of income and wants to be in a treatment program and qualifies for it that he should not be denied. I am willing to pay for that. But statistics will show that the vast amount of people in the many treatment programs is sent there by our courts. These clients are not voluntarily entering the treatment programs. Many of these treatment programs might not be able to justify their existence if they did not have the constant inflow of offenders from our courts.

This type of treatment of the "disease" instead of taking care of the crime is not necessarily confined to celebrities. I found that in my own county, Montgomery County, Ohio we have what is referred to as a "Drug Court". This most unusual type of court which is presided over by a common please court judge; in a county courtroom and run by the local probation office runs countless numbers of offenders through the court every Thursday afternoon at 4 PM. It is a court where legal representation is prohibited as well as not being open to the public; something, which I felt our courts are supposed to be.

So, every Thursday in the courts building in Dayton, Ohio, you will find countless numbers of offenders going through the motions of attending "Drug Court". The only thing is, form what I have been able to determine, the offenders are just playing the game with the court and probation officers. First of all they have to be drug tested, by their PO, which at a minimum is not in any type of scientifically controlled environment. Once they either pass or fail the test, their next trip is to appear in front of the judge.

Judges routinely (every two years) rotate through presiding over "Drug Court". The current Judge hears what the offender has or has not been doing, what kind of programs they are or are not in and generally runs a small pep rally for those

CLOSING COMMENTS

who seem to be complying and "graduate" from "Drug Court". She routinely goes from the report of the probation officers rather than ask questions directly of the offender. It almost sounds like the 5th grade soccer coach telling the team how good they are doing if they are complying or the teacher with the switch if they are not in compliance.

On the other hand, however, offenders have been found sitting on the courthouse steps forging (for the lack of a better term) their paperwork showing that they have attended all the necessary AA or NA meetings for the week. Since the key word in these organizations is anonymous, it is virtually impossible for the courts to be able to check up on whether or not the person actually attended the meetings.

Pete Geraci is the chief probation officer and oversees the probation officers involved in "Drug Court". He told me that the court routine sends between 5-6 offenders to jail each week at a cost of $61.08 per day. County Jail sources on the other hand place the numbers of offenders going to jail at double that number. The court also issues a half dozen or so bench warrants every week for those who just got tired of going to court every week and decided to no show. Again some independent sources I checked with double that number. Also, the probation officers do not go out and look for the missing probationer, even though they are supposed to know where they reside. They leave that up to local law enforcement, who must take time away from routine patrols to find the missing "Drug Court" attendee. Consequently they have less time to pay attention to some of the more pressing safety and security issues in their local communities.

Now, on the other hand, regular probationers who do not have some sort of underlying social issues, simply end up on probation and deal with the consequences of their crime, normally amounting to paying back whatever amount they stole. However, in Montgomery County and many other jurisdictions as outlined in "Analysis of 26 Drug Courts: Lessons Learned", which was a study done for the National Institute of Justice by Michael Finigan PhD and Shannon M Carey PhD and paid for by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice; indicates that anyone with some sort of social issue is offered an opportunity to have the conviction removed from their records if they complete the program. They do the crime, don't do the time, play games with the courts and walk away with no conviction all the while we are paying the bill.

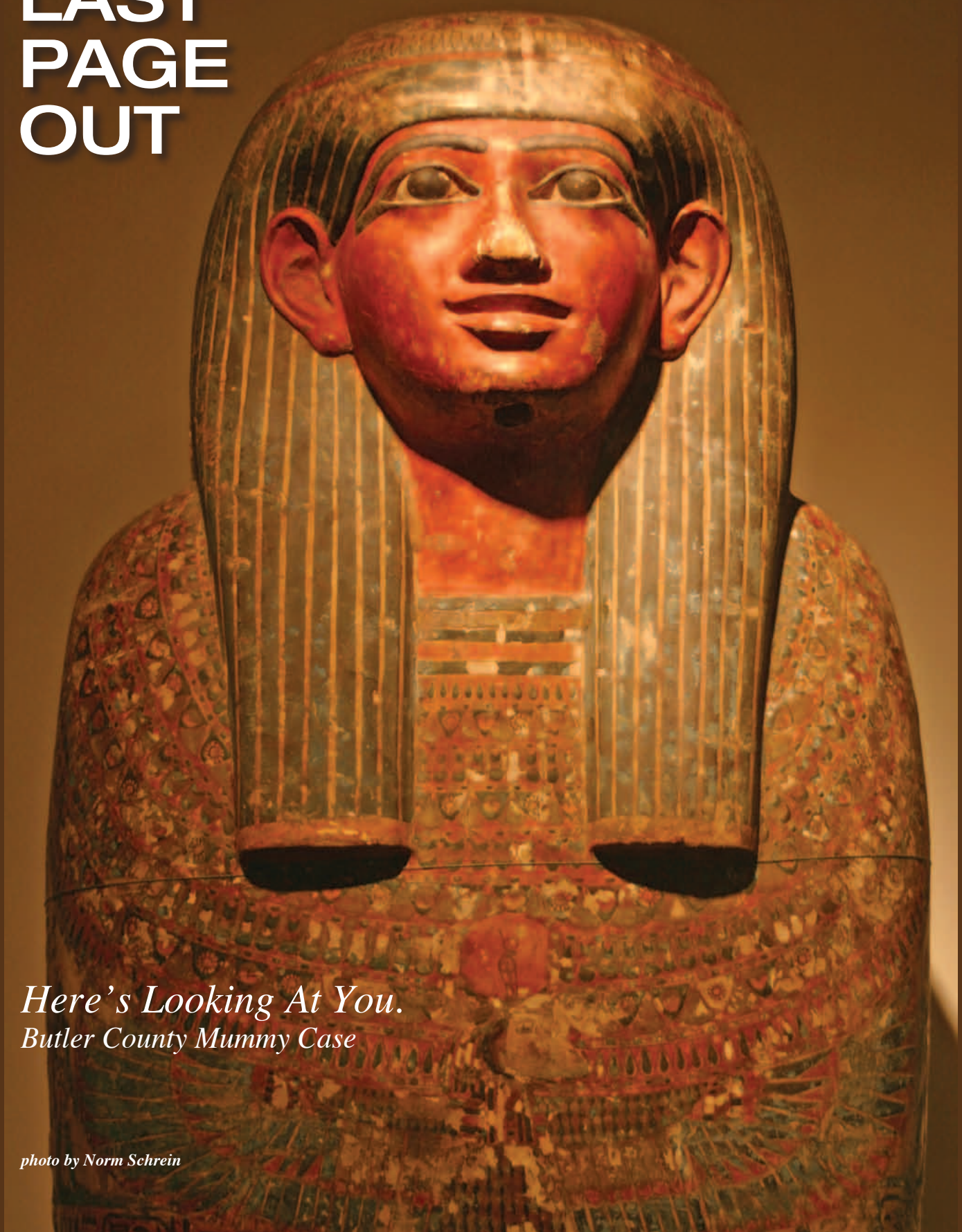
In my example from Montgomery County on the numbers of people going to jail each week from Drug Court, and we will take a figure of 10, since we can not get an exact number, the costs start to add up. For 10 people going to jail in one week at $61.08 per day, even though they are only there for one day; that amounts to 610.80 dollars for the week. Take that times 4 weeks in a month and it amounts to $2443.20 and then take that times 52 weeks in a year and it amounts to $127,046.40 for the year and that is for only one county. There are some of the offenders who spend more than 24 hours in jail as well; the second offense is 48 hours, then a week and so on. Add to that figure the cost coming from tax dollars to pay for the designated treatment for those offenders who are deemed in need of services but have no money. For those who have insurance, one treatment program alone can amount to over $5,000.00 which the insurance company must pay, and results in higher premiums for us.

So, what is the solution? Some estimates place the cost at $45,000.00 to keep a person locked up in prison for a year. Probation certainly is a less expensive way. But by probation I mean regular probation without all the meddling by the courts into a person's social problems. Place offenders on probation, then if they fail on that, then have in-place the sanctions for non-compliance. Why are we making someone come to court every Thursday afternoon for an undetermined period of time, attend any amount of treatment classes (most of which we are paying for), and report to their Probation officers on another day of the week. When exactly are these people supposed to work a job, which they are required to do, or deal with family and other personal matters?

The courts need to deal with the crime at hand, period. Sending a person into a treatment program that he did not volunteer to go to does not guarantee success. In fact they probably are going through the motions to get another box checked in order to get out of "Drug Court". Only the person who actively seeks treatment through any number of excellent treatment programs, some of which are free, will have a chance of succeeding.

In my humble opinion, our "Drug Courts" and similar operations are only spinning all of our wheels and throwing our valuable monetary assets into the wind. They are, however managing to keep alive some treatment programs that probably could not survive on their own.

LAST PAGE OUT



Here's Looking At You.
Butler County Mummy Case

photo by Norm Schrein

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