

ScannerDigest Newsletter

ISSUE 69

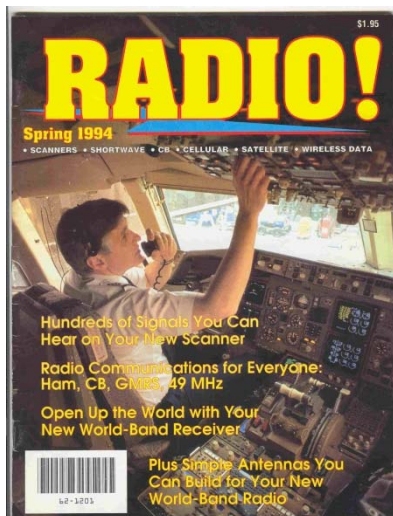
JUL-AUG-SEPT 2014

- ◆ Transformation in the Radio Scanning Hobby - Part 2
- ◆ Eastern PA - Manhunt for Cop Killer in Pocono Mountains
- ◆ Washington DC Update
- ◆ Western PA Update
- ◆ Akihabara Radio Center Japan – Part 3
- ◆ Memory Lane - Radio Shack's 1st Scanner Magazine

GENERAL EDITOR

Alan Cohen

ScannerDigest@gmail.com



While scouring through the magazine bin during a recent hamfest, I came across a magazine produced by Radio Shack dated Spring 1994. My cost only 25¢. Wow, twenty years ago, boy how things have changed.

Twenty years ago, Radio Shack jumped onto the magazine bandwagon and produced, Radio!

Scanners, Shortwave, CB, Cellular, Satellite and Wireless Data was some of the topics that would be covered by this publication.

Their first entry in to the ever-growing interest in the radio hobby, more specifically the niche of scanning. Thumbing through the pages, I recall many products that I have fond memories of.

The PRO-43 was the hot portable scanner. The PRO-2006 was king of the desktop models. They also took a stab at capturing the amateur radio interest by having a 2-meter FM transceiver the HTX-202. There was a UHF version, HTX-404. I was basically a re-wrap of Icom's portable IC-02AT and IC-04at radio respectively.

I don't remember if Radio Shack continued with the Radio! Magazine. The little search over the web yielded no hits.

Alan Cohen

PUBLISHER

Lou Campagna

ScannerDigest@gmail.com

Transformation in the Radio Scanning Hobby - Part 2 Crystal Controlled to Frequency Synthesized

By Lou Campagna

A **frequency synthesizer** is an electronic system for generating any of a range of frequencies as in a radio or receiver (scanner). This was probably the greatest improvement in the scanning hobby. No longer were you limited to the number of frequencies to monitor. Crystal-controlled scanners were limited by channel capacity.

Investing in crystals also became pretty expensive too! I remember I had inquired about the various police and fire frequency crystals that were available for me to monitor such radio communications in my area.

As a teenager, I was working odd jobs so that I can drop \$5 each for a crystal. The cost of crystals limited me to what I could listen to, so extreme care in purchasing each crystal. Mainly police and fire crystals were purchased to fill the needs of a limited capacity scanner radio. The thought of punching in a frequency for the specific service you wanted to monitor was leading-edge technology.

In the late 70s the advent of synthesized radios became popular. Tennelec, Bearcat, and Regency were some of the brands that produced scanners that you can easily program via direct keyboard entry. With one touch, you can simply program the exact frequency you want to monitor. This opened up a whole new world of monitoring. Not only was public safety at the top of the monitoring list but agencies such as local marine and coast guard, aircraft, trains, buses, and security details to name a few.

My big day in the scanning hobby is when I was able to acquire a new Bearcat 210 desktop scanner. This model was the answer to the limitations of the crystal-bound scanners. I could program frequencies to my heart's desire. Think about the possibilities. This radio the Model 210 had a frequency range covering all three major bands. VHF-Low Band 30-50 MHz, VHF-High Band 146-174 MHz and the UHF Band 416-512 MHz. Not only could this radio store your favorite frequencies but it even had a feature to search within certain parameters. The search feature

opened a new niche in the hobby as enthusiasts would search for hours under covering new frequencies. The real detective work came into play when you attempt to verify the catch. FCC files were viewable via microfilm and microfiche.

Radio Shack produced and sold Gene Hughes' Police Call book. This was the most innovative improvement to the scanning hobby. It opened new opportunities to monitor less popular radio communication traffic. Direct entry frequencies and the ability to see via digital display the frequency you were on. These newer models also featured a non-volatile memory.

As the years progressed into the mid-80s, the features offered by each manufacturer just grew. Sixteen to twenty channel scanners went to

300-400 channel types. Scan speeds increased too. Notable scanner buffs like [Bob Parnass](#) wrote many reviews on scanner receivers. Many talented hobbyists tinkered with these scanners and were able to greatly enhance the features. These folks pushed-the-envelope and were deeply involved in the experimental phase (hacking) of the hobby. There was a point where many folks weren't happy until their scanners were modified (hacked) under the direction of Bill Cheek, a true scanner radio pioneer.

From the introduction of the first synthesized scanner



receiver, this marked the golden-age of the scanning hobby. From this point forward, a strong production of various scanner models by

various manufacturers to fill the needs from the casual listener to the scanner monitor expert.

In the next issue, I'll discuss the migration toward complex scanner receivers that have greater frequency coverage and the ability to follow trunking protocols and the move toward digital technology.

Lou Campagna

Matthew Hurst provides valuable information on the scanning hobby. He has listings of various current scanner radios as well as those that are out-of-production. Please visit his site: <http://radio-scanner-guide.com/>

Here's a response to last issue's column. Transformation in the Radio Scanning Hobby

I have been an SWL since 1958, and a ham since 1994.

Back in the early 70's, when I was first married, a relative gave me a used Radio Shack PRO-2B "scanner". That's a misuse of the term, because it didn't scan, but it worked well. I worked in a shop with milling machines and lathes so at lunchtime I built a rugged ground plane antenna for 150 mhz. I mounted it on my roof using three Radio Shack 10 ft. TV masts (remember them?) and brought the RG58 coax down into the living room to the PRO-2B.

Of course our local PD on 155.640 came booming in, as did the local FD on 33.780. An unexpected bonus was the Boston Police Department, 60 miles away, with a good strong signal at night. That provided a lot of listening excitement on cold winter nights! Eventually, they changed their output power and antennas and could no longer be monitored.

In 1988 I bought the best scanner I have ever purchased, a Radio Shack PRO-2005. I still have it and it's as good as new, works every day. We have a local towboat repeater in our area that repeats certain marine band VHF frequencies, and provides interesting listening, using my 2 meter/UHF J-pole. Our local police department has scorned the State Police trunking system, and operate now on 855.4625. FD is still on 33.780! I also use a PSR-310 handheld by the bedside, along with a couple of amateur HT's for rail and other frequencies. The PSR-310 is a great trunktracker-the Radio Reference software makes it easy to use. With the '2005, I was able to monitor military aircraft activity offshore, which could be very exciting at times.

While the scanning hobby has changed, it's far from dead. If the PD went to digital, no big deal, but I think it's a mistake for public service agencies not to be visible to their public. They spend a lot of time and money on publicity, "touch-a-truck" events, citizen academies, etc., why not let the public hear what they do as well? I think it's a safety issue-if you know what's going on in your neighborhood, you can be better prepared to deal with it if necessary.

So that's my story-what's yours?

Henry Brown
Amateur Radio Station
K1WCC
Falmouth, MA

SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY *Michael P. Mollet, N2SRO*

Sorry, no column this issue

BearCom operates in several cities throughout the United States. They provide integral radio rental services for various events, parades, etc. Licensed to operate in the narrow-band FM analog and/or Mototrbo digital format.

IG WQUX358
BearCom
Boston MA
456.7250 457.7875 457.0250
451.0000 452.8875 451.9500
452.8875 456.7250 457.0250
457.7875

IG WQUX358
BearCom
New York NY
451.9500 452.8875 456.7250
457.0250 457.7875

IG WQUX358
BearCom
Philadelphia PA
451.9000 452.8875 456.7250
457.0250 457.7875

SOUTHWEST OHIO *Mark Meece N8ICW*
 480 N Twelfth St,
 Miamisburg, OH 45342
 monixtech@gmail.com

Sorry, no column this issue

MONTGOMERY CO. OHIO *Ken Williams*
 PO Box 24
 Arcanum, OH 45304-0024
 kennth.williams72@gmail.com

Sorry, no column this issue

SOUTHEASTERN NEW YORK *Phil Lichtenberger*
 c/o Monitor Long Island, Inc.
 PO Box 1642
 North Massapequa, NY 11758
 w2lie@w2lie.net

Sorry, no column this issue

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA *Steve Bower*
 Stevenscan60@yahoo.com

Manhunt for Cop Killer in Pocono Mountains

Welcome to this edition of Scanner Digest, the seasons are turning quickly. Good time of the year to check you external antenna connections for replacement if needed.

Working up in the Pocono region we have been very lucky that most agencies prefer to be in the clear, some private authorities use encryption. But for the most part you can still call the Poconos very active "Scanner Land". Taking few polls on social media it seems majority of households have some sort of scanner device or the smart phone application installed to keep ear out of what's going on. It's always amazing to see how far we come in technology, the old 8 channel crystal controlled scanners which are still used in some areas but most part will do no good in metro areas.

The last 50 days or so at the time of writing this article we have been buzzing with activity in Poconos for the man hunt on Eric Frein who killed a State Trooper in Blooming Grove, Pa. multiple agencies were involved in the first 30 days, since then different agencies come and go.

Having only in stock my pro164 could not monitor any digital activity although it was plenty on 453.0750 PA State SERT Teams and 167.9375 PL167.9 FBI was active once in a while units went Analog. The air support was PA Trooper 1 again using digital systems. Once in a while the pilot would switch to 155.4600 TAC 1 by mistake. 123.0250 Helicopter Air to Air was active along with the local Unicoms at Mt. Pocono Airport 122.7 The Local Monroe County frequencies would come and go with radio traffic.

Schuylkill Co which is mostly coal region has also gone digital for Ambulance and Police operations, the old VHF system has gone silent. Unknown what the plans are for future development.

Berks County is still working on migrating the 700 MHz system, some talk groups are coming up but slow working process.

Many business organizations are getting new FCC License modifications to the MotoTrbo Digital radios, Lehigh Valley Hospital Security has switched over and few other auxiliary departments they still simulcast onto VHF 155.2200 PL179.9 former MEDEVAC frequency. Cedar Fair (Dorney park) has also switched Security and Medical teams over to the digital technology, operations, rides and maintenance can still be monitored.

We still carry our scanners and hopefully those who have not upgraded to digital monitoring like me will soon take the plunge, the only holding back point is putting out a \$500 bill in order to listen and keep searching which why enjoy this hobby so much. You never know what you will find on the air waves.

Keep Monitoring and keep updating, safety and security does come first which is understandable but at what price will you pay to monitor or just say forget it. Be Safe and Take Care

MILITARY

Daniel Myers K3NXX
823 Horsham Rd.
Horsham, Pa 19044-1209
dan@domyers.com

Sorry, no column this issue

AMATEUR RADIO

Robert Gulley AK3Q
ak3q@ak3q.com

Sorry, no column this issue

ILLINOIS

Mike Dickerson
ScannerDigest@gmail.com

Sorry, no column this issue

CONNECTICUT

Keith Victor
alarmroom2000@yahoo.com

Sorry, no column this issue

NEW HAMPSHIRE

John Bolduc
JohnBolduc@YMail.com

Sorry, no column this issue

ALABAMA

Dave Marshall N8OAY
125 Royal Drive Apt 805
Madison AL 35758-1785
n8oayscan@knology.net

Sorry, no column this issue

WASHINGTON DC REGIONAL *David Schoenberger*
davidschoenberger@gmail.com

The Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park have set up a Project 25 trunked system. This system is currently operating alongside the legacy Project 16 system, but eventually all agencies will migrate to the P25 system and the P16 system will be shut down. This comes as Prince William continues to transition to their new P25 system.

On August 26, the Horseshoe Casino opened in Baltimore. This casino is one of only a few in the United States located in a downtown area. Horseshoe uses a MOTOTRBO Capacity Plus trunked system. This kind of system can only be monitored by properly programming a MOTOTRBO radio, or by using DSD/DSD+ on a computer. The system cannot be monitored with any of today's scanners. Details on the system are at RadioReference.

Several DC city agencies (Parking Enforcement, DC Protective Services, the Taxicab Commission) have migrated to DC's P25 system in recent months. However, many agencies continue to use the P16 legacy system, most notably DC Fire. DCFD should be switching to the new system either later this year or early next year. No confirmed word on whether they will use encryption for most talkgroups.

Washington Kastles World Team Tennis took place in July at George Washington University's Smith Center. Here are some simplex frequencies that were in use:

461.0375 [CSQ] On-Court Ops
461.5125 [d152] CSC Event Staff
461.8125 [d612] Food/Catering
464.5000 [d371] Operations

Finally, the Cirque du Soleil show Amaluna is performing now through September 21 at National Harbor. 464.5000 [d311] and 464.5500 [d432] (both simplex) have been confirmed in use, but there are likely other frequencies as well. See license WQEF456 for nationally-licensed frequencies.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA *Frank Speicher K3FS*
k3fs@verizon.net
<http://www.pghscannner.com>

I try to spend as much time in the summer outside as I can. Radio is not just an indoor activity. The first sign that the long and cold winter is over, is the opening of trout season. In western Pennsylvania that is usually in mid-April. In years past there had always been significant radio traffic from both the Pennsylvania Fish Commission and the Pennsylvania Game Commission on their low band frequencies. It has been years since I have heard

any traffic relating to first day of trout. In fact I cannot remember seeing any officers out there at all. I have seen officers throughout the years during the season. I have not seen them with any radios. I have seen some Pennsylvania Fish Commission biologist doing fish surveys, and have not seen any radios on them or their cars. In October fishing activity moves to Erie for steelhead season. In Erie I have seen Fish Commission vehicles with what looks like a high band antenna and 800 MHz. I have heard them on the Erie County sheriff frequency. In fact that is the only frequency I have heard them on. I have not heard the Pennsylvania Fish Commission on Washington Co or Allegheny Co radio systems. There is now a Fish Commission officer who lives nearby. His vehicle only has an 800 MHz antenna on it. Not sure what they are using, but looks like they use local systems or the 800 MHz Open Sky system. Please email me if you have better information for them in this area.

After fishing season, I try to hit the bike trails at least once a week. There are few Rails to Trails paths in this area. The Great Allegheny Passage is the longest of the rail trails, spanning 150 miles from Pittsburgh to Cumberland, Maryland. This is the trail I have been riding the most this year. They have recently finished sections that opened his up from downtown past the south side into Homestead. I get on the trail at South Side Park that is right under the Birmingham bridge. From there I usually ride into McKeesport. This area of the south side used to be steel mills. The mills are all gone now, and the area is now stores, apartments, and restaurants. Security is on 464.225 DPL 703, repeater. Earlier in the year there would be a few people watching the bald eagles, and their three hatchlings. There is a webcam up that stream video and audio 24/7. Last year I had spotted a US Wildlife truck across and up the river from that site. No antennas on their car. This year there was a uniformed officer and a marked vehicle at the viewing area a couple of times. I was not able to determine what band they were using, and did not get any close call hits as I rode by. From there you go past Sand Castle Water Park.

Sand Castle was heard on 462.4625 DPL 143, and 463.8625 DPL 143.

Whemco is also along the trail. They use 152.915 PL 67.0 repeater, with the input of 159.840 PL 67.0.

Next stop is the Water Front Town Center in Homestead. Security can be heard on 464.700 DPL 223 repeater.

There are numerous stores and restaurants in the complex, and there are several simplex frequencies being used by them. Kennywood Park is above the trail. The Phantoms Revenge does have a hill that goes down close to the trail. Kennywood can be heard on the following frequencies:

- Safety – 159.795 PL 141.3 Repeater
151.565 PL 141.3 input
- Food – 157-595 PL 118.8 Repeater
152.330 PL 118.8 input
- Maintenance – 152.465 PL 107.2 Repeater
157.725 PL 107.2 input
- Games – 159.750 PL 156.7 Repeater
152.960 PL 156.7 input
- Parking – 159.975 PL 192.8 Repeater
153.005 PL 192.8 input

Kennywood has made all of these repeaters and has changed several of the PL tones this year. Once past here, the trail just follows working Union Railroad lines and businesses. Union Railroad uses 160.260, 160.350, 160.395 and 160.500. There is plenty of railroad traffic to listen to as well as some good opportunities to see trains as they go by. On the last ride US Steel dispatched the fire department for a fire alarm on 464.675 DPL 043. This alarm was for the Edgar Thompson Works, and fire units were operating on 452.300 DPL 311. Once in McKeesport I will turn around and head back the same path until I get to the Hot Metal Bridge. I will take the Hot Metal Bridge across the river and take the trail into downtown Pittsburgh.

The Allegheny County Jail is right next to the trail. They had operated a very low power analog 800mhz TRS. They have recently changed this system over to a P25 system. The control channel is still the same, 857.2125. The ID for the system is now 06B9h. They used to have a few talk groups. So far all I have heard is TG 1 and TG 2. TG 1 is used over 90% of the time. Still too early to tell if the unit IDs are specific to job or to user. User ID 122 is Control. This is a very low powered system, and unless you are in eye shot of the facility you are unlikely to hear it. It is even rough copy across the river. In town there are a few skyscrapers and some having their own radio systems for security and maintenance. I am finding that some have changed over to DMR. From town I will go across the Smithfield Street Bridge across the river again to Station Square. Station Square security is on 462.325 PL 67.0 repeater, and maintenance is on 463.3375 DPL032. Both are repeaters. I am then back at my car.

I found a handle bar mount, which can be used for GPS, or cell phones. Works well, with my 396XT that I take along the trail. I have found it helpful to put a couple of rubber bands around the mount and over the scanner. There are bumps on the trail, and the rubber bands provide enough resistance to keep the radio from bouncing out of the mount. The radio is within easy reach, the display is easy to see, and the speaker is right in front of me, and easy to hear. This works pretty well.

Summer is also a time for camping. I have not been camping, but I know someone who has been and noticed something very interesting about the radio system being used at Laurel Hill State Park. He had received several close call hits on 160.610. The transmissions were analog, CSQ, and had a distinctive digital sound to them. This happened frequently when he was near a park rangers car. Their cars had a VHF antenna, and the 800mhz antenna for Open Sky. The only radio visible on the cars was the Open Sky radio. The rangers all had Open Sky portables on them as well. He happened to see a ranger talking on the portable, and was able to hear both sides of the conversation on 160.610 MHz. This was received on a few radios as well as an RTL dongle. Using SDR# the dongle showed a definite spike on 160.610 MHz, so the frequency is for real. Not sure what the purpose of the 160 freq. is. Anyone else notice this, and what do you think this is for? Anyone having more information on this, or have noticed something similar elsewhere, send me an email.

The Mon-Valley area police and fire departments have moved to UHF. They are now part of the Allegheny County East Zone. This is the system that the bike trail follows for most of my ride. Below is the Allegheny County East Zone:

East Zone - East				
East Police Ch. 1	460.400	114.8	465.400	114.8
Police Department	Unit #			
McKeesport Police	1100			
Versailles Police	1400			
White Oak Police	14200			
East Police Ch. 2	472.5875	167.9	475.5875	167.9
Police Department	Unit #			
Penn Hills Police	3300			
Plum Police	4300			
East Police Ch. 3	472.1625	162.2	475.1625	162.2
Police Department	Unit #			
Clairton Police	5200			
Elizabeth Boro Police	1600			
Elizabeth Twp. Police	1900			
Forward Twp Police	1800			
Glassport Police	5600			
Liberty Borough Police	1300			
Lincoln Borough Police	4500			
Port Vue Police	3500			
East Police - Ch. 4	470.3375	141.3	473.3375	141.3
Police Department	Unit #			
Braddock Police	2100			
East McKeesport Police	2500			
East Pittsburgh Police	2600			
North Braddock Police	2400			

Rankin Police	3600			
Turtle Creek Police	3800			
East Police - Ch. 5	470.3125	107.2	473.3125	107.2
Police Department	Unit #			
Braddock Hills Police	2200			
Churchill Police	2300			
Edgewood Police	2700			
Forest Hills Police	2800			
Swissvale Police	3700			
Wilkins Police	4100			
Wilkinsburg Police	4200			
East Police - Ch 6	470.3625	206.5	473.3625	206.5
Police Department	Unit #			
Duquesne Police	7500			
Homestead Police	5700			
Munhall Police	4700			
West Homestead Police	4800			
Whitaker Police	5300			
East Fire - Dispatch Ch. 1	470.3875	123.0	473.3875	123.0
Fire Department	Station #	Fire Ops Ch.	Tone A	Tone B
Braddock VFD	113	3	879.0	1285.8
Braddock Hills VFD	114	3	879.0	1433.4
Chalfont VFD	120	3	634.5	1153.4
Churchill VFD	122	3	634.5	1217.8
Clairton - EMS	550	EMS	746.8	1217.8
Clairton - Fire	123	2	569.1	1185.2
Dravosburg - Dravosburg #1 VFD	131	2	569.1	1285.8
Duquesne Fire Department	133	2	569.1	1321.2
East Pittsburgh VFD	136	3	617.4	1321.2
Edgewood VFD	137	3	707.3	1185.2
Elizabeth Boro VFD	139	2	569.1	1395.0
Elizabeth Twp - Blaine Hill VFD	142	2	600.9	1122.5
Elizabeth Twp VFD - Elizabeth Twp #1 Station	140-3	2	600.9	1153.4
Elizabeth Twp VFD - Greenock Station	140-4	2	600.9	1185.2
Elizabeth Twp VFD - Victory Station	140-6	2	600.9	1285.8
Elizabeth Twp VFD - Central Station	140-7	2	832.5	1153.4
Elizabeth Twp - Buena Vista VFD	145	2	600.9	1217.8
Forest Hills VFD	153	3	569.1	1153.4
Forward Township - Gallatin Sunnyside VFD	154	2	600.9	1395.0
Forward Twp - Forward VFD	155	2	600.9	1433.4
Forward Twp - Bunola VFD	156	2	634.5	1122.5
Glassport - Citizens Hose #1 VFD	161	2	634.5	1185.2
Homestead	171	3	634.5	1285.8
Liberty Boro VFD	183	2	634.5	1321.2

Lincoln Boro - EMS				
Lincoln Boro - Lincoln VFD	184	2	634.5	1357.6
McKeesport Fire	190	2	634.5	1433.4
Munhall Bureau Of Fire	775	3	553.9	1357.6
Munhall #1 VFD	200	3	832.5	1285.8
Munhall #2 VFD	201	3	832.5	1321.2
Munhall #4 VFD	203	3	832.5	1357.6
Munhall #5 VFD	204	3	832.5	1395.0
North Braddock VFD	207	3	788.5	1185.2
North Versailles -Fire Department Of North Versailles	210	3	617.4	1122.5
North Versailles - West Wilmerding VFD	211	3	617.4	1153.4
North Versailles - Crestas Terrace VFD	212	3	617.4	1185.2
North Versailles - Fire Department Of North Versailles	213	3	617.4	1122.5
North Versailles - Fire Department Of North Versailles	214	3	617.4	1122.5
North Versailles -Fire Department Of North Versailles EMS	390	EMS	614.7	1217.8
Penn Hills - Lincoln Park VFD #1	221	3	788.5	1321.2
Penn Hills - Rosedale VFD #2	222	3	788.5	1357.6
Penn Hills - North Bessemer VFD #3	223	3	788.5	1395.0
Penn Hills - Point Breeze VFD #4	224	3	788.5	1433.4
Penn Hills - Thad Stevens VFD #5	225	3	832.5	1122.5
Penn Hills - Universal VFD #6	226	3	832.5	1185.2
Penn Hills - Penn VFD #7	227	3	832.5	1217.8
Pitcairn #1 VFD	229	3	788.5	1217.8
Pitcairn #2 VFD	230	3	788.5	1285.8
Plum - Unity VFD	233	3	746.8	1321.2
Plum - Renton VFD	234	3	788.5	1153.4
Plum - Logans Ferry VFD	235	3	746.8	1395.0
Plum - Holiday Park VFD	236	3	788.5	1122.5
Plum - Fire Police	395	3		
Port Vue VFD	237	2	669.9	1153.4
Rankin VFD	238	3	707.3	1153.4
South Versailles - Coulter VFD	272	2	669.9	1185.2
Swissvale Fire Department	278	3	879.0	1185.2
Swissvale VFD	278-2	3	879.0	1217.8
Turtle Creek VFD	283	3	617.4	1642.0
United Fire And Rescue	135	3	669.9	1122.5
Verona VFD	285	3	879.0	1321.2
Versailles #1 VFD	286	2	669.9	1217.8
West Elizabeth VFD	291	2	669.9	1285.8
West Homestead VFD	292	3	928.1	1285.8

Whitaker VFD	298	3	669.9	1357.6
White Oak - White Oak #1 VFD	299	2	669.9	1395.0
White Oak - Rainbow VFD	300	2	669.9	1433.4
Wilkins - Wilkins #1 VFD	302	3	928.1	1153.4
Wilkins - Wilkins #3 VFD	303	3	928.1	1185.2
Wilkins - Wilkins #4 VFD	304	3	928.1	1217.8
East Fire - Operations Ch. 2	470.325	131.8	473.325	131.8
East Fire - Operations Ch. 3	460.350	179.9	465.350	179.9
East Fire - Fire Tac 3	453.3375	91.8	453.3375	91.5
East Fire - Fire Tac 4	453.6625	210.7	453.6625	210.7
East EMS	471.3125	146.2	474.3125	146.2
EMS Agency	Station #	Tone A	Tone B	
Eastern Area Prehospital Services	310	928.1	1395.0	
McKeesport EMS	620	707.3	1217.8	
Munhall Prehospital Services	630	617.4	1357.6	
North Versailles -Fire Department Of North Versailles EMS	390	617.4	1217.8	
Penn Hills EMS	380	879.0	1395.0	
Pitcairn EMS	370	617.4	1395.0	
Plum EMS	485	879.0	1357.6	
Priority One EMS	320	928.1	1122.5	
White Oak EMS	645	707.3	1285.8	
Woodland Hills EMS	340	928.1	1357.6	
East Public Safety	472.8375	203.5	475.8375	203.5

THINK BEFORE YOU ACT IRRATIONALLY

Be sure to check the "NEWS" page of the website
for the latest distribution of the newsletter.



**"I can't wait for the next issue of the
Scanner Digest Newsletter"**

MASSACHUSETTS

Peter Szerlag
zerg90@gmail.com

Let's try a different procedure for this issue of Scanner Digest. Let's start with some questions first.

1. Does anyone ever hear Weston on 472.20 R / 475.20 input or 460.4375R / 465.4375 input?
2. Is there any backup system to the NAWAS phones for mutual aid control point to mutual aid control point communications in Massachusetts?
3. The USS Constitution must have a few radio channels. Has anyone caught them in use recently? (Old Ironsides will be in drydock for thenext 3 years).
4. MassPort at Bedford - 856.0875 R and 855.2375 R - anyone hear them being used?
5. MassPort Fire Department at Logan Airport - 854.9625 R – anyone ever hear that channel being used?
6. The last time that I looked up the Cape Cod TRS in the FCC ULS it looked like a countywide system to me. Can anyone confirm that? Or does it still operate as 3 different systems?

On the listening front we have -

August 13, 2014 - TG LOCPS 7 - 9 AM on a Wednesday – Northborough Police did a rollcall of Central Mass PDs - Eastern Region

August 13, 2014 - 153.815 (R) - Littleton FD units are now loud and clear - perhaps they are patched from a new UHF channel

August 14, 2014 - someone is testing on the T subway lines today - sounds like analog and digital - Downtown Crossing, digital is 5.0 - DAQ mentioned - Central District (BAPERN) was also mentioned – testing all platforms - swapping out antennas in tunnels - will be doing at least 2 days of testing - 460.55 might have been 1 of the channels involved (BEMS Tac 5) - Cambridge FD just tested Ch14 and Ch16 at Alewife - it sounded digital. Mention of radio problem at Charles (Street) Station - "the nearest transmit site and receive site have not been installed yet" - probably talking about the 700 MHz TRS - Porter Square Station had no UHF coverage - mention of a (bad) coupler

Aug 15, 2014 - per the new MetroFire running cards - Boston doesn't go to Chelsea fires until the 4th alarm now - Logan Airport Box 8211 uses the Metro Central FG channel - Task Forces 1, 2, and 3 report to North Staging - each Task Force has 4 Engines, 2 Ladders, and 1 Rescue from suburban FDs - Lincoln FD is no longer

part of MetroFire

Aug 15, 2014 - Taunton FD does most of their action on their main channel - but they do have a 2ndary channel that the dispatcher can monitor - "Unit 1" is the officer on Engine 1 - "Unit 4" is the officer on Engine 4

Aug 16, 2014 - Holbrook FD now dispatches for Whitman FD, Abington FD, and Sharon FD

Webster now dispatches for Douglas - and Worcester will begin dispatching for Leicester - Revere might start dispatching for Winthrop

August 17, 2014 - Quincy FD now switches to Quincy FD Channel 2 when responding to transmitted full box alarms

August 17, 2014 - Ashby Ambulance operates on 453.475R

August 17, 2014 - New Bedford FD uses "Channel 7" for administrative type messages - Channel 2 is used by Fire Inspectors and 2ndary fire ops - Channel 1 is the main / home / primary channel

August 18, 2014 - Townsend PD is staffed by - 1 Chief, 1 Deputy Chief, 2 Clerks, 2 Sergeants, 2 Comms Supervisors, 9 fulltime cops, 3 fulltime dispatchers, 6 reserve cops, and 6 parttime dispatchers

August 19, 2014 - USCG Station Point Allerton is staffed by 35 active duty and 25 reservists - 164.90 P25 might be their main channel (encrypted)

August 2014 - Springfield PD and FD switched to P25 - they claimed in a newspaper article that dead spots caused by narrowbanding made them do it - they might be the only city in the world to run into that problem

August 22, 2014 - 471.2375 R - this is Chelsea PD "Channel 15" per Tango 4 - seems to be used by units working special details

Thanks for listening and have a good day. Peter Sz

PHILADELPHIA METRO*Column Editor Wanted*

*Listed are some recent license updates
courtesy of Glenn Mitchell*

PW WII480
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
3914 LOCUST WALK, PHILADELPHIA PA
3901 SPRUCE ST, PHILADELPHIA

506.9875 FB2
507.2625 FB2
508.9125 FB2

PW WPF901
BENSALEM RESCUE SQUAD INC
3800 HULMEVILLE ROAD, BENSALEM PA

460.4375 FB2
460.4375 MO
465.4375
453.9125 MO3
453.9125 MO
465.4375 FX1

YE WQRK409
BUCKS, COUNTY OF
911 FREEDOM WAY, IVYLAND PA 1 -
VEHICULAR REPEATERS, (BUCKS) PA Countywide

806.0750	807.1625
807.4625	807.4875
807.6250	808.4250
808.4750	808.4875
808.5000	808.7250
851.0750	852.1625
852.4625	852.4875
852.6250	853.4250
853.4750	853.4875
853.5000	853.7250

2 - (BUCKS) PA Countywide
851.0750 852.1625
852.4625 852.4875
852.6250 853.4250
853.0000 853.7250
853.4875 853.0000

YG WQUQ318
Sesame Place
100 Sesame Road, Langhorne PA

152.2775	FB2	157.5375	MO
152.3075	FB2	157.5675	MO
152.3975	FB2	157.6575	MO
152.9525	FB2	159.6525	MO

157.5375 FX1
157.5675 FX1
157.6575 FX1
159.6525 FX1

NORTHERN KENTUCKY

Randy True
11205 Mann Rd.
Covington, KY 41015-9094
w4rtt@fuse.net

Sorry, no column this issue

RAILROADS

Tom Swisher WA8PYR
5576 Patriot Ave.
Orient, OH 43146-9275
wa8pyr@yahoo.com

Sorry, no column this issue

VERMONT

Jim Lawrence
c/o Scanner Digest
ScannerDigest@gmail.com

Sorry, no column this issue

MAINE

Loren Fields
hornsmoke@gwi.net

Sorry, no column this issue

CANADA

John Leonardelli - VE3IPS
ve3ips@gmail.com

A Visit to the Akihabara Radio Center Part 3

Scanning Strategy

I brought my Icom R20 scanner with a length of 20 feet and a telescoping whip antenna. My Uniden with the Close Call function was forgotten and left behind and proved to be a critical error. This would have been extremely useful as it would have allowed me to find what frequency the local kaban (police department), traffic cop, or even taxi cab was using. I did get a copy of Radio Life which is the scanner publication but it was in Japanese with some English and it did have some frequency assignments for manual monitoring. I was able to receive many transmissions with no idea of what they were. The Taxi Cab dispatch made sense and of course the air band monitoring was in English. I also packed my ham radio license in case TSA or Japanese security had an issue with the scanner. The band assignments are different than ours. If I had more free time I would have also included some Optoelectronics equipment and band specific antennas.

I found out on the airplane ride home while reading Radio Life that there are two scanner frequency apps at bit.ly/frq2013_appstore for IOS and bit.ly/frq-online that could prove to be very useful.

Public Safety in Tokyo

Close call would have been useful to try to find out what frequencies were in use. The band layouts are different and the 300MHz range is popular so you will need a scanner to cover this range. It would be useful to have a search bank for that range as well. I really regret forgetting my Uniden scanner.

Band Plans decoded from Radio Life DX2 magazine

Helicopter Rescue

398.925, 382.925, 399.650, 383.650, 123.450, 129.750, 131.150, 131.875, 131.925, 131.975, 131.875, 131.925, 131.975, 135.950

Disaster

55.00-70.00 MHz band, 457.00 to 459.00 and 410-412 MHz are good search ranges

Media

70-75 MHz and 153.89 MHz

Marine

Regular marine band with CH16 156.800, 26.760 to 27.92 MHz, 39.144 MHz

Trains

414.550 and 414.4250 MHz, 148.09, 150.97, 151.61, 152.49, 153.39, 157.69, 157.97 and 158.07

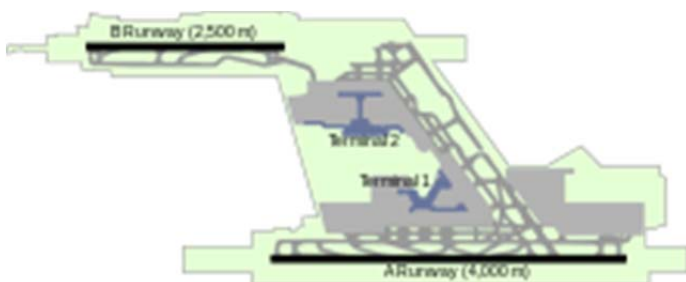
Taxi

451.4125 and 459.4125 note the 8 MHz split

Sports

154.45 – 154.61 20 kHz step, 465.0375 to 465.150, 468.55 to 468.850 and 348.5625 to 348.8 12.5 kHz step

Narita Airport



A and B Runway

ANA Pokemon Plane

APP: 124.4 MHz (TOKYO APP)
ATIS: 128.25 MHz
CLD: 121.9 MHz (CLNC DEL)
CLR: 121.65 MHz (CLNC DEL)
DEP: 124.2 MHz (TOKYO DEP)
GND: 121.85 MHz
GND: 121.95 MHz
RDR: 120.2 MHz (TOKYO RDR)
RMP: 121.6 MHz (RAMP)
RMP: 121.75 MHz (RAMP)
TCA: 119.45 MHz (TOKYO TCA)
TWR: 118.2 MHz
TWR: 118.35 MHz

Ham Radio Band Plan:

http://www.jarl.or.jp/English/6_Band_Plan/JapaneseAmateurBandplans20090330.pdf

144-146 MHz 2m
430-440 MHz 70cm
1260 -1300 1.2 GHz
TIARA

The Tokyo International Amateur Radio Association (TIARA) holds monthly meetings in English and has many expat members.

JR1YPM	1291.92- MHz (88.5Hz), Meguro-ku, Tokyo
IRLP 9202	Typically connected to Reflector Room 0522
WIRES	Room 0522
Echolink	Connect to 7J1YAA-L (811259) or 7J1AJH-L (979606)
JR1YPM	1291.92- MHz (88.5Hz), Meguro-ku, Tokyo
JR1VI	434.980in/439.980out and 1297.980in/1292.980out, 77Hz subaudible tone.

I actually chatted with a few hams on the IRLP link using my iPad ahead of time and was able to monitor some of their transmissions. Most activity is on weekends

CB Radio

They are limited to ½ watt

- 26.968/ Ch1
- 26.976/ Ch2
- 27.040/ Ch3
- 27.080/ Ch4
- 27.088/ Ch5
- 27.112/ Ch6
- 27.120/ Ch7
- 27.144/ Ch8

Personal Radio

There is a fair amount of personal radio use in the 903 to 904 MHz and 420-421 MHz bands with several manufacturers making radios.

Airport Layover Frequencies

Since I had some layover time I planned to monitor some local activity in between flights. Again a Close Call type scanner would have been super useful as well as having P25.

SFO Airport

BATFE

165.2875 MHz

TSA

162.2750, 131.8 PL

172.9000, 123.0 PL

172.9000, N001 - Wide area repeater serving San Francisco and Oakland airports

LAX Airport

128.5 MHz

Harbor sector. Covers everything north/northeast of Santa Monica Pier. All 24L/R arrivals are handled by this sector.

124.9 MHz

Downey sector. Covers everything east coming in on the arrival stream. All 25L/R frequencies are handled by this sector.



124.5: MHz

Covers arrivals from the west and this is a Feeder sector.

124.3 MHz

Handles those arrivals for smaller plans such as turboprops using 24L and 24R

119.800 LAX Heliport for Helicopters

DHS

169.550 MHz 100 PL Customs Inspectors

TSA

166.7875 MHz 131.8 PL Icom Low Power radios common

162.2750, N001 - Tom Bradley Int'l Terminal

166.2875, N001

166.7875, 123.0 PL - Terminal 3

166.7875, 131.8 PL - Terminal 2

168.0875, N001

168.8375, N003

168.9625, N001

168.9625, N002 - Scanner operators

169.1625, N001

169.2625, N001 - Terminal 7

169.3000, N001

172.1500, 131.8 PL – Terminal 7

172.1500, N001

172.9000, N001

FBI

163.8625, N167
163.9375, N167
167.2875, N167 - LA A-1
167.3125, N167 - LA B-7
167.3375, N167
167.3875, N358
167.4125, N167
167.4250, N167 - JOIP with CBP
167.4375, N167
167.4625, N167 - LA A-5
167.5125, N238
167.5375, N167 - LA D-5
167.5375, N293
167.5625, 167.9 - Yes, still heard being used in analog.
167.6375, N167
167.6625, N167 - LA F-7 Anaheim
167.7125, N356
167.7375, N167 - LA A-3
167.7625, N242
167.7875, N364
168.0000, N167
169.9500, N167
170.0250, N167
173.1250, N167
173.1750, N167
173.8125, N167
408.4000, N167 - Links to VHF channels
412.6500, N167 - Links to VHF channels

BATFE

165.2875 MHz

I was able to spot the Icom F50V radios that TSA now uses at LAX. They are 136-174MHz (5W output RF) with vibration alert functionality and paging alerts or what they call "whisper quiet". These are analog radios and also offer voice inversion capability.



Goodyear Blimp

I spotted the blimp overhead once in the rental car and ended up at Manhattan Beach near LAX. Not much comms except for some location information as it made turns off the beach into the city and back. Last time I saw the blimp was over 15 years ago in Toronto (and last year in Torrance, Ca) so this was a nice surprise. The Coast

Guard helo swept up and down the coast a few times and I didn't have that frequency on my list.

456.8 M 151.4 PL was heard on my trip
Ch. 1 - 451.800 All channels are @ PL 151.4
Ch. 2 - 451.8125
Ch. 3 - 456.800
Ch. 4 - 456.8125
Ch. 5 - 464.500
Ch. 6 - 464.550
Ch. 7 - 469.500
Ch. 8 - 469.550

It is noted that they use an Icom F40LT handheld

CHECK OUT the local Scanner Clubs

<http://socalscanner.com/> for listening ideas and their newsletter to read on your tablet
<http://www.scansf.com/>

[CLICK HERE](#) For a separate page featuring frequency information on CHP (California Highway Patrol) and Los Angeles Fire Department.

I had an incredible time in Tokyo and the Hakone area and great fun scanning. I also enjoyed doing the research ahead of time (which due to the language issue was really hard) but the principles are the same: choose a city, research and set up scanners in advance, and enjoy while on your trip.

Cheers



John

Photos:



Radio Department Store



Typical Alleyway



Rocket Radio



Rocket Radio



Rocket Radio



Rocket Radio



Looking from the Rocket Radio



Ueno Park Police Station



Cop



Rooftops Antennas for Digital TV

Tokyo Tower





Radio Department Store Stalls



Maid cafes



Fuji-Musen Bench



Fuji-Musen Candy Store



Local Cop

ScannerDigest Newsletter

Welcome to the Scanner Digest Newsletter! We're currently publishing quarterly e-magazine containing information for the scanner hobbyist. If it can be monitored on a scanner, we'll attempt to cover it from 30 to 1300 MHz and beyond!

Our purpose is to produce a newsletter to facilitate the exchange of information pertaining to the various services covered by a typical scanner radio. Dedicated regional column editors make up the heart of this publication.

The Scanner Digest Newsletter is not responsible for the accuracy or consequences incurred regarding the use of information listed in this publication. Since the purpose of this newsletter is to provide a platform for the submission and exchange of radio communication information, it thus becomes impossible to deem all contents as accurate. The very nature of radio licensing and usage makes it difficult to verify the accuracy of the information contained within. Generally information listed within the pages of the newsletter are derived from multiply sources including current FCC files, hobbyists and those directly involved with various public safety agencies.

Scanner Digest's policy has been not to limit or edit the individual columns submitted, unless we deem the information sensitive in nature which may jeopardize the safety of the parties involved.

*Only in this case will we edit out this type of input.
(Example: We will not publish the frequencies used by a law enforcement surveillance team.)*

Naturally the comments of the various column editors are not necessarily the views and opinions of the Scanner Digest Newsletter. All materials, maps, information, photographs submitted to a regional column editor or to Scanner Digest directly, become sole property of the Scanner Digest Newsletter. We encourage and will make every effort to give proper credit to all submissions. All contents within are copyrighted. ©2003-2014

Subscription Information

Subscriptions are acknowledged via email. Currently Scanner Digest Newsletter produces four (4) issues per year. Newsletters will be emailed to subscribers to via an attachment. The attached document will be in the popular Adobe Acrobat PDF file. By accepting these terms you are made aware of the consequences of opening such attachments. We will scan each outgoing email with an anti-virus tool to minimize any possibility of transmitting an infectious message.

Email inquiries to: ScannerDigest@gmail.com

Visit our website: www.ScannerDigest.com

CHECK OUT the local Scanner Clubs

<http://socalscanner.com/> for listening ideas and their newsletter to read on your tablet

<http://www.scansf.com/>

Los Angeles Fire Department



860.93750	85.4 PL	LAFD 1 Operations Division 1 (Central/East/West) FM
859.93750	88.5 PL	LAFD 2 Operations Division 2 (South/Harbor) FM
858.93750	91.5 PL	LAFD 3 Operations Division 3 (San Fernando Valley) FM
857.93750	94.8 PL	LAFD 4 Dispatch - EMS (South of Mulholland) FM
856.93750	97.4 PL	LAFD 5 Alternate Control - Brush / River Rescue Incidents FM
858.23750	131.8 PL	LAFD 6 EMERGENCY/TRIGGER FM
859.43750	192.8 PL	LAF7 Dispatch - Fire (South of Mulholland) FM
858.43750	103.5 PL	LAFD8 Dispatch - Fire/EMS (North of Mulholland) FM
857.23750	107.2 PL	LAFD9 Alternate Control - Structure Fire Incidents FM
856.23750	123.0 PL	LAFD10 Operations - EMS (Citywide) FM
860.76250	127.3 PL	LAFD11 Command FM
860.43750	186.2 PL	LAFD 12 Tactical
857.43750	141.3 PL	LAFD 13 Tactical
856.43750	146.2 PL	LAFD 14 Tactical
859.76250	162.2 PL	LAFD 15 Tactical
858.76250	162.2 PL	LAFD 16 Tactical
857.76250	167.9 PL	LAFD 17 Tactical
856.76250	173.8 PL	LAFD 18 Tactical
769.05625	156.7 PL	LAFD 19TA Tactical
769.06875	156.7 PL	LAFD 20TA Tactical
774.99375	156.7 PL	LAFD 21TA Tactical

CHP – California Highway Patrol



Los Angeles Communications Center CHP

You will need a P25 capable scanner for best monitoring. Note the different NAC addresses

44.94000	KRB411	RM	186.2 PL	BLK2 SOU	BLACK 2 - Central Los Angeles (15)	FM
769.44375		RM	DB3 NAC	BLK2 EXT P	Extender - BLACK 2 - Primary	P25
769.93125		RM	DBA NAC	BLK2 EXT A	Extender - BLACK 2 - Alternate	P25
44.74000	KJP457	RM	186.2 PL	BRN2 SOU	BROWN 2 - Altadena (98)	FM
769.43125		RM	DB2 NAC	BRN2 EXT P	Extender - BROWN 2 - Primary	P25
769.91875		RM	DB9 NAC	BRN2 EXT A	Extender - BROWN 2 - Alternate	P25
39.40000	KTN273	RM	186.2 PL	GLD2 SOU	GOLD 2 - Santa Fe Springs (83)	FM
769.68125		RM	DB6 NAC	GLD2 EXT P	Extender - GOLD 2 - Primary	P25
769.19375		RM	DAF NAC	GLD2 EXT A	Extender - GOLD 2 - Alternate	P25
45.02000	KCQ240	RM	192.8 PL	ORG2 SOU	ORANGE 2 - Baldwin Park (81)	FM
769.66875		RM	DB5 NAC	ORG2 EXT P	Extender - ORANGE 2 - Primary	P25
769.94375		RM	DBB NAC	ORG2 EXT A	Extender - ORANGE 2 - Alternate	P25
44.62000	KMB443	RM	186.2 PL	PNK2 SOU	PINK 2 - West Los Angeles (79)	FM
769.18125		RM	DAE NAC	PNK2 EXT P	Extender - PINK 2 - Primary	P25
769.69375		RM	DB7 NAC	PNK2 EXT A	Extender - PINK 2 - Alternate	P25
45.70000	KMH277	RM	136.5 PL	TAN2 SOU	TAN 2 - Newhall (78) / Antelope Valley (89)	FM
769.16875		RM	DAD NAC	TAN2 EXT P	Extender - TAN 2 - Primary	P25
769.71875		RM	DB8 NAC	TAN2 EXT A	Extender - TAN 2 - Alternate	P25
45.52000	WPAE678	RM	186.2 PL	TEA2 SOU	TEAL 2 - West Valley (56)	FM
769.19375		RM	DAF NAC	TEA2 EXT P	Extender - TEAL 2 - Primary	P25
769.68125		RM	DB6 NAC	TEA2 EXT A	Extender - TEAL 2 - Alternate	P25
39.22000	KMA801	RM	192.8 PL	WHT2 SOU	WHITE 2 - South Los Angeles (77)	FM
769.41875		RM	DB1 NAC	WHT2 EXT P	Extender - WHITE 2 - Primary	P25
769.71875		RM	DB8 NAC	WHT2 EXT A	Extender - WHITE 2 - Alternate	P25
45.50000	WQA721	RM	192.8 PL	YEL2 SOU	YELLOW 2 - East Los Angeles (82)	FM
769.46875		RM	DB4 NAC	YEL2 EXT P	Extender - YELLOW 2 - Primary	P25
769.96875		RM	DBC NAC	YEL2 EXT A	Extender - YELLOW 2 - Alternate	P25