



### *SPACE SHUTTLE INFO*

While we were asleep NASA launched another shuttle mission this morning. The primary purpose of the mission is to "enhance" the operation of the Hubble telescope. Here's some late breaking news regarding the shuttle mission.

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#### SPACE SHUTTLE MISSION VIDEO AVAILABLE OVER INTERNET

NASA's Shuttle Web will provide continuous audio and video coverage of the STS-82 Hubble Space Telescope servicing mission in a test of the latest technology for streaming video over the Internet.

Working with Technology Interface Inc. and other commercial Internet service and content providers, NASA will use a Dutch-manufactured product called "WebCam" to stream NASA Television programming over the World Wide Web. In addition to "cybercasting" the launch and landing, NASA will transmit live video of the four space walks, all mission briefings and the daily "Mission Update" program.

Links to the video stream through American and European reflectors are available on the NASA Shuttle Web, which maintains a constant address of:

<http://shuttle.nasa.gov>

WebCam requires no plug-ins or special software for video streaming, and is capable of providing synchronized audio through audio-streaming software.

This experiment will help NASA evaluate the use of video technology for future missions. If the cybercast functions as expected and network bandwidth considerations can be successfully addressed, the agency may provide similar coverage on future missions.

#### *INTERNET COMMENTS ON BOB GROVE'S TESTIMONY*

Just minutes ago Bob Grove, President and founder of Grove Enterprises presented his opening statement in hearings before a House of Representatives subcommittee investigating cellular telephone industry privacy and scanner listeners titled "Is Anybody Listening? You Betcha!" Grove was invited to testify before the subcommittee by Mr. Billy Tauzin (R-LA) chairman of the House

Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Trade, and Consumer Protection. For those of you who missed Grove's opening remarks to the committee on behalf of the hobby on C-SPAN2, here are those remarks. I understand that C-SPAN2 had to cut away from coverage but will replay the entire hearing later today. Important legislation could be generated from the committee that could have serious impact on the scanning hobby. Watch for potentially damaging legislation to scanner listeners originating in the House soon and stay in touch with your government legislative representatives.

I hope that the message of this potentially damaging legislation by our elected officials in Washington DC to our scanner hobby gets the widest possible dissemination.

#### *CELL PHONES AND THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY: A COMMENTARY*

By Bob Grove, President, Grove Enterprises;  
Publisher, Monitoring Times

Technically unsophisticated Americans are astounded, and often outraged upon learning that their cellular telephone conversations are broadcast openly, and that anyone with a variety of receiving devices can listen in. They don't blame the listeners as much as the vendors who sold them the phone with no warning from the salesperson or in the instruction manual. To the contrary, irate customers report being reassured that privacy is not a problem because it is illegal to listen in, modern scanners don't have cellular frequencies, and that frequencies keep switching among over 800 channels, making following a conversation nearly impossible.

Scanner owners and other citizens agree that Americans deserve a reasonable expectation of privacy, but broadcasting a clear voice into the airwaves and expecting it not to be overheard is not reasonable. They see the analogy of walking down a crowded street naked and expecting no one to look, or talking openly in a crowded room and expecting no one to hear.

They feel that the responsibility of security should not be placed on the shoulders of the scanner hobbyist, but on the service provider, just as it has always been on wired telephone services, and all other radio communications services, including law enforcement and even cordless telephone manufacturers.

With the Cellular Telecommunications Industry

Association (CTIA) an ever-present specter behind the drafting of repressive listening legislation, the cognizant public perceives the Electronic Communications

Privacy Act (ECPA) as a fiscal expedient of the CTIA, lobbied into law to provide a no-cost alternative to offering their customers real privacy, and endlessly blaming the harmless hobbyist for listening to his scanner. Public suspicion is heightened when they learn that these restrictive regulations are added on as eleventh-hour amendments with little or no time for legislative reflection or a public comment, or when hearings such as this one invite their representation at the last minute with virtually no time for preparation.

Americans resent government repression of their rights, and freedom of the airwaves has been traditional for decades. But over the last decade, this freedom appears to have been eroded by the multi-billion-dollar cellular telephone lobby for their profit advantage. The ECPA and the subsequent Cellular Amendment to the TDDRA have singularly imposed, for the first time, listening restrictions in the United States which are more severe than in Canada and some other developed countries.

Among the estimated 10-20 million scanner owners in the United States, flagrant violations are extremely rare, certainly far fewer than among gun owners, and scanners don't kill, yet a hefty fine and lengthy jail sentence await the hapless scanner listener who merely tunes in on an anonymous telephone conversation. The general impression by the wary public is that even this hearing may be a facade orchestrated by the cellular industry to impose further restrictions on the general public, thus perpetuating the illusion of privacy, rather than adopting existing technology to provide real privacy to their trusting customers.

If cellular telephone conversations were digitized as long promised by the cellular industry, all of these hearings, charges and countercharges, legislation and regulations, indictments and fines, and costly policing of the cellular frequencies--all at the taxpayers' expense--would be unnecessary. All restrictive laws pertaining to scanner frequency coverage and cellular eavesdropping could be rescinded. No one could hear the conversations. The traditional American freedom of the airwaves could be returned.

The public perception of Congress as a shopping mall for big business can be largely corrected by this group of legislators. Instead of indicting citizens for

listening to their radios, or blaming small American entrepreneurs as straw men, face the industry that is refusing to cooperate.

Tell them that Americans deserve privacy, and the only way to insure it is to implement the inexpensive, effective technology they promised many years ago, the same level of privacy offered by other, more responsible communications services.

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Additional materials that were presented to the committee can be found on the Grove web site at:

<http://www.grove.net>

### *Closing Comments*

We end this first issue with a photo of the helicopter during a recent visit to the Bergen County Police Academy.

Bob , WA2SQQ

