

# The Urban DX'er

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March 25, 1997

Established 1984

## **OMAHA ACTIVITY**

As previously announced, significant surveillance activity has been observed on "SPEN 2" (155.475) whereby local NY & NJ law enforcement agencies are availing the use of a high tech helicopter called "Omaha." Omaha was featured a few weeks ago on WWOR-TV news as a participator in a large drug raid and car jacking incident that took place in Newark, NJ. While reasons for their participation aren't known, their presence makes for some very interesting listening. We suggest programming 155.475 in your radio and monitor the channel. Common sense dictates that this information isn't for discussion on your local repeater - remember, the bad guys could also be listening and we don't want to be guilty of obstruction of justice!

*Stop The Press: Rod, N2RVM just called me to say that Omaha has been heard several times on 166.4625*

## **METRO BASE - An Eye in the Sky!**

Though not new, I've just discovered a new frequency that all NY - NJ scanner listeners will be interested in - **450.8125** "Metro Base" is the operations channel for Metro Traffic, an independent company that provides news feeds for many of the NY / NJ radio and TV stations. While most of the stations checking in are mobile stations, several of the media helicopters frequent this frequency. "Air North", "Air

West" & "Air Nassau" are primarily traffic helicopters, while "News Copter 7" & "News Four" are owned and operated by WABC-TV and WNBC-TV respectively. Throughout the morning and afternoon commute hours, several traffic reports are recorded and forwarded to radio stations that include WPLJ-FM. You can hear the report on 450.8125 live, and follow it to the media stations in two or three minutes. My monitoring reveals lots of breaking news stories and reports of some large fires. With airborne units, check out the systems input frequency at 455.8125. In

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

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*Contributions of information for future issues is always welcomed and greatly appreciated. Please send your E mail to wa2sqq@hili.com..*

most cases you'll be able to hear them loud and clear!

## **Warren, N2RAH Comments!**

FBI Activity: Try monitoring 169.975 167.9, appears to be Newark FBI active in the clear, 1300's series units.

**Clinton Chatter**: Also, when the president was in today the Marine Nighthawk copters were based at Floyd Bennet Field in Brooklyn (home of the NYPD Aviation Unit) until "OPERATION CONCORD" went off and the Presidential aircraft "AIR FORCE 1" arrived in the vicinity of JFK. "EAGLE" was flown into Manhattan (59th Street? Heliport) where he transferred to the Limo and continued on his way. NYPD Intelligence was using their new frequency of **470.6375R - 136.5 PL**

And finally, Rich Barnett was down here a few weeks ago. He brought one of the prototypes of the new Uniden Trunk Tracker radios with him for me to play with and on Motorola 800 MHz systems (which is all it is designed for, to do Erickson did not appear economically or copyright / patent infringement free) it worked fantastic, you can discover and follow any talk group you want and monitor only those groups you want, etc. You can program in up to ten separate systems and all you need to know is the frequencies for the system, the unit scans to the data channel and starts to "learn" and you can monitor, what ever you want. He also demonstrated the GE/Wiz for me that eliminates the tones on Erickson systems and it also worked great. The Trunk Tracker is a product that Richie and his partner are directly responsible for the development of and I have been fielding questions for the last 2 years on features, etc. The portable should be out in April, but the base unit (based on the BC-760) will have even more features in it if Richie can get Uniden to go along with it, ie. built in PL/DPL decoding/reading, GE/Wiz, etc. and the price should be under \$400. Really a great product!!!! Unfortunately Uniden frequently does not listen to Rich's ideas and goes for cost reduction only. A model based on the BC-9000 maybe planned in the future if sales go well, which would be a premium top of the line scanner, with all the bells and whistles. That's about it.  
73's WARREN

## **LIVE LAPD ON THE WEB**

Rod, N2RVM passed along a very interesting Web site that allows you to listen to the LAPD and other cities police departments live on the WEB. You'll need "Real Audio" which can be downloaded from the same page. They also

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discuss an upcoming weekly scanner program that will be broadcast via Real Audio on the WEB. Turn on, Tune in, and check out

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

**N2YQC Comments!**

Thanks for the great newsletter! Here's two interesting Web sites to check out. The first features an interactive map for upstate New York frequencies -

<http://www.ggw.org/nf2g/> It looks pretty good from the scanning point. Even though the second site takes us to the other side of the world, its very interesting and about scanning.

<http://www.termcon.demon.co.uk/>

Have fun - 73's de N2YQC / Bill

**WORLDWIDE UTE NEWS CLUB**

Charlie, N2NOV passed along some extensive utility monitoring logs that are available as an e mail newsletter. Those wishing to subscribe may do so by following the instructions below. Be forewarned that the newsletter represents a dozen or more e mail messages that total up to well over 600K of information. That translates to over 100 pages!

This newsletter is from the first dedicated electronic utility club in the world; the Worldwide UTE News (WUN). To become a WUN member, send e-mail to the WUN listserver at:

***majordomo@grove.net*** and in the BODY of the message type:  
subscribe wun your@own.address

**SHORTWAVE ON THE INTERNET !**

Have a look at the great SHORTWAVE information at:

<http://www.mnsinc.com/bry/swllynx.htm>

Enjoy!

**TRANS-ATLANTIC FEEDBACK**

Following the net last week I decided to post excerpts from the previous newsletter on the AR-8000 mail list and several associated new groups. Among the many responses I received I thought I'd share this one with our readers....

Well done, your antenna experiment was brilliant, easy to read and very practical. I have made the counterpoise mod as I usually wear my scanner belt side and it has made a significant improvement.

Living in Ireland and in the countryside means very little radio activity, fortunately I live 25 miles from Shannon

Airport so there is plenty of radio traffic there. I use the Radio Shack Collapsible center loaded and a rubber duck when scanning in the cities, Limerick, Dublin etc. Thanks again for that very useful article, send it other web sites I'm sure it will be appreciated.

-Niko.

<http://www.geocities.com/capecanaveral/1486/>  
E-mail [Niko@geocities.com](mailto:Niko@geocities.com)  
[ng@shannon.tellabs.com](mailto:ng@shannon.tellabs.com)

**JOE COMMENTS.....**

Hey Bob,

I found a site that has a Pager logger for the pd204 program. It's at [http://www.devan.demon.co.uk/p\\_base.htm](http://www.devan.demon.co.uk/p_base.htm).

I also found a neat site run by the Office of Spectrum Management. On it you can download a full color version of the wall chart that Grove sells, illustrating the radio spectrum from DC through light. (File is in Acrobat "PDF" format) The Web site for them is at

<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/osmhome/osmhome.html>

TTL,  
Joe

*Note: The wall chart mentioned above is the same one that Grove sells for \$10-15. Instructions for ordering it directly from the government are on this page, and you can have it for a fraction of the price. MT readers may remember this as a topic of debate several years ago when it went public that Grove buys them and marks up the price a few hundred percent! Joe tried sending me the file and had problems. After attempting to download it myself I discovered that you must manually specify, within the Netscape pop up screen, that the file extension must be manually typed in as .pdf . If this isn't done the file is saved as .txt and all you'll have is a mass of characters that won't amount to much.*

**CANADIAN AM DX NEWS FLASH!!**

The CRTC has received applications from two Ontario AMs to move to FM. Say "so good-bye" to the 530 kHz powerhouse and 740 kHz CBL, Toronto. Better get your QSL cards now.

**UPCOMING AM DX TESTS**

3/24/97	Mon	0030-0100	770	WWCN - Estero FL (IRCA)
3/24/97	Mon	0300-0315	630	KJSL - St Louis MO (IRCA)
3/29/97	Sat	0300-0330	1390	WEGP - Presque Isle ME (IRCA)
4/ 1/97	Tue	0030-0100	770	WWCN - Estero FL

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(IRCA)  
OH (IRCA) 0300-0330 1420 WHK - Cleveland

**Monday, March 24, 1997** - KJSL-630, St. Louis, MO will conduct a rescheduled DX test from 3:00 to 3:15 am EST at 5,000 watts daytime directional pattern. The test will include Morse code IDs, test tones, and voice IDs. Reception reports may be sent to:

Mr. Rich Czarnecki (K9AAO)-Chief Engineer, KJSL-AM,  
1215 Fern Ridge Parkway, Suite 220,  
St. Louis, MO 63141 E-MAIL: richczar@inlink.com

**Monday, March 24, 1997** - KSTL-690, St. Louis, MO will conduct a rescheduled DX test from 3:15 to 3:30 am EST at 17 watts nondirectional. The test will include Morse code IDs, test tones, and voice IDs. Reception reports may be sent to:

Mr. Rich Czarnecki (K9AAO) - Chief Engineer, KSTL-AM,  
1215 Fern Ridge Parkway, Suite 220  
St. Louis, MO 63141 E-MAIL:  
richczar@inlink.com

**Saturday, March 29, 1997** - WEGP-1390, Presque Isle, ME will conduct a DX test from 3:00 to 3:30 am EST with 5,000 watts nondirectional pattern. The test will include march music and Morse code IDs. Reception reports may be sent to:

\*\* Mr. Allan H. Weiner, WEGP-AM, 3 State Street Place,  
Presque Isle, ME 04769

**Sunday, April 7, 1997** - WHK-1420, Cleveland, OH will conduct a DX test from 3:00 to 3:30 am EDT with 5,000 watts nondirectional pattern. The test will include Morse code IDs, test tones, and "special music". *THE STATION ASKS THAT THERE BE NO PHONE CALLS DURING THIS TEST.* Cassette tape reception reports are welcome. Reception reports may be sent to:

Mr. Dave Johnson - Chief Engineer, WHLO-AM, 27 80  
South Arlington Road, Akron, OH 44312-4742  
E-MAIL: DaveyJohn@aol.com

**Information on more tests such as these can be found in "DX Monitor", the official publication of the International Radio Club of America (IRCA). IRCA is a club devoted to the hobby of hearing distant stations on the standard AM broadcast band. "DX Monitor" is published 30 times a year and contains members' loggings, articles on radio stations, receiver reviews, technical articles, DX tips, and other material of interest to the Broadcast Band DXer. For more information, and a sample copy of DX Monitor, send 0.32 US or 2 IRCs to: IRCA, PO Box 1831, Perris CA 92572-1831, USA.**

*Editors Note: WWCN in Estero, FL has scheduled dozens of nightly DX tests from 0030-0100. As this station operates on 770 kHz, it's highly unlikely that we would hear these tests due to the presence of WABC. To conserve space, this was intentionally omitted. Bob, WA2SQQ*

*\*\* Readers may remember Allan H Weiner as the identity behind Radio New York International, the pirate radio station that operated from the vessel Sara of the Long Island Coast several years ago.*

### **NRC RADIO LOG**

The National Radio Club would like to announce the new NRC AM Radio Log for the 1996-1997 DX Season edition. This is the Seventeenth edition and has been updated through September 1996.

This annual edition contains 312 pages, 8 ½" x 11" size, 3-hole punched, loose leaf format with over 5,500 A.M. Radio station listings from the United States and Canada. Each station listing consists of its location, frequency, call, format, network affiliation, station address, station slogan, day and night transmitter powers. There are cross references by city and by call letter.

The nonmember prices of the AM Radio Log are as follows: NRC & IRCA Members see your magazines for the member prices! U.S. & Canada US \$22.95 , Latin America US \$23.50

Orders may be placed now. The 1997 Seventeenth edition of the NRC AM RADIO LOG ready and being shipped at this time.

NATIONAL RADIO CLUB  
Publications Center  
P.O. Box 164  
Mannsville, NY 13661-0164

### **FUNKENHAUSER'S AM RADIO DATABASE**

Several years ago land line BBS's provided access to the Fido Network, a predecessor to today's USENET groups. Among the hundreds of "conferences" that were available, "Shortwave Echos" was my favorite. One of the more avid AM BCB DX'ers was gentlemen from Canada named Werner Funkenhauser. I'd read his logging and could only dream of hearing some of the rare and exotic stations he seemed to log nightly. Last week I came upon Werner's home page and discovered a gem of a program. He downloaded the FCC's database for AM broadcast stations in the US and Canada, trimmed it down and wrote a simple search program for it. I downloaded it and found it to be a close second to the NRC log. Check out Werner's home page and the download the program at

<http://Home.InfoRamp.Net/~funk/>

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One comment worth mentioning that might spare some of you some frustration if you download the program. As offered, the program called whamlog.exe *must* be installed on your "C:" drive in a directory called WHAMLOG. Also, Werner offers the choice of two databases, one of which has been trimmed down to include on the US and Canada. If the US / Canadian database is used in lieu of the full unabridged version, you must rename it as per the instructions. Failure to do so will result in some cryptic message about "missing data in line 206...." The free version is not time restricted, though it has the print option disabled. If you're an AM BCB DX'er, this is a great program to check out!

**CLOSING COMMENTS.....**

Last issue I asked if anyone wanted to show off a picture of your shack - no photos arrived! Last night I repeated the request on the net - will any photos arrive? OK, I get it - you're shy or you don't look like Tom Selick so you don't want a face connected with your voice. I understand. Here's a few options....Show off your better half and praise her / him for allowing you to participate in the net each week. How about your family pet - show us how your gerbil adopted the tape backup drive in your PC as his hideaway! No pets, how about a picture sans people - just the shack! All photos will be returned - promptly and intact. I would have started the ball rolling, but I'm preparing to go out to the NAB show in LasVegas and my work schedule is unbelievable. Anybody have any hot frequencies for Las Vegas??

Bob, WA2SQQ  
Charlie. N2NOV