SCANNERS

SHORTWAVE

The Urban DXer

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Established 1984

LOVEGETY - NEWEST WIRELESS GADGET FROM THE PEOPLE WHO BROUGHT US GODZILLA!

http://www.kishina.com/lovegety2/

Just about this time last year kids were in a freny to buy their virtual pets called Tamaguchi. This years rage is aimed at the older crowd, it's called a "Lovegety."

In the vernacular of a Japanese operating manual, Lovegety's manufacturer describes its operation as follows:

When a boy-type Lovegety and a girl-type Lovegety get close, both of them will beep and flash. And you know someone with Lovegety is around you.

Lovegety has three modes: 1.Talk ! when you like to talk with a new partner. 2. Karaoke when you like to go out with a new partner. 3. Get2 when you like to find a new girl/boy friend.
<Editors Note: The US version has redefined modes Talk, Socialize, and Sex>

Blue lovegety is for boys and the pink one is for girls.

The official press release went as follows...

TOKYO (June 1) - Lonely hearts are prowling the streets of Japan, armed not with romantic haiku poems or long sultry looks, but with the ultimate matchmaking tool of the electronic age.

The love beeper.

While the real name of the gadget - "Lovegety" - might not be so fetching, the toy's makers - and the 400,000 souls who have bought one already - are hoping it'll open the door to romance.

The Lovegety - a rather straightforward mix of "love" and "get" - is an oval disc that fits in your hand. It's carried on forays into crowded places and sends out different signals, depending on the setting.

When someone of the opposite sex carrying a Lovegety comes into range, the two machines beep or flash. Then it's up to the would-be lovers to seek each other out - or run the other way.

The device, which came out in February, has three settings for favorite activities: "karaoke" for romantic crooners, "chat" for those who want to talk, and "friends" for something, well, more intimate.

"This ... gives you a way to start a chat," said Takeya Takafuji, executive planning director for the manufacturer, Erfolg. "It's just one way to meet people."

Erfolg, a small company that makes modems, said there a backlog for more than 200,000 units, and the company is boosting production this month. Sales to Singapore and Hong Kong are planned, and the company expects the boom will increase annual revenues sevenfold to $15 million.

The beeper, which retails for $22, can pick up signals from about 15 feet away. A flashing green light means a match in interests, while red means there's a Lovegety next to you, but you've got the

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Contributions of information for future issues is always welcomed and greatly appreciated. Please send your E mail to 4runner@hili.com..

wrong setting. The settings can be changed any time, and the timid can keep the beeper off so only the lights will flash.

Encouraged by brisk sales, the company plans to introduce an upgraded version in August with more choices, such as "movie," "drink" and "dinner." The new version will also pick up signals from 100 yards away.

AIR NEWS

AIR FORCE ONE GOES STEALTHY -- AGAIN
It was deja vu all over again. On March 10, radar contact with the president's plane was lost as it cruised southeast of JFK. Friday, it happened again -- twice -- this time over New Jersey. In the first case, full information on the flight was not available for 24 seconds. Six minutes later, AF1 went stealthy for 36 seconds.

THAT'S NOT A BUG, IT'S A FEATURE!
Rounding out at least part of the FAA's interesting week was a computer failure at the New York TRACON facility on Long Island. The failure occurred as techs loaded a software update (how many times have computer users seen this before?) forcing IFR flights departing the New York area's airports (JFK, LGA and EWR) to take ground delays.

BARA COMMENTS
I just wanted to drop you a line, saying that it was really nice to meet you and the other members of the Net on Saturday. Hopefully, in the future I could provide you with some information for the newsletter.

I mentioned that I had a Icom R-10 for sale. I'm not really too keen on posting it on the internet. I would feel more comfortable selling it to a member of the Net or somebody in the area.

It was purchased in February at Lentini's and was only used for familiarization purposes. It is boxed and in great condition. I think $300 would be a fair price to ask. Any assistance in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Dan Swett
danzulu23@aol.com

Sorry I couldn't make the hamfest. I had to wait for a delivery for a new dryer in the morning.

Anyway, here is some more Bergen Cty info.:

Allendale PD is using 460.125 pl?.

Ramsey Fire/EMS/Rescue is now using 154.025 pl?.

Waldwick is using a cross band repeat with PAC-RT repeaters in the cars. They have 3 UHF repeaters when they are portable. I'm trying to get the freqs.

That's all for now.
Joe (N2OAD)

SCANNER LAW INFO
http://www.afn.org/~afn09444/scanlaws/
I found a very interesting site pertaining to scanners and the law
Bill / N2YQC

MORE NEW CORDLESS PHONES
http://www.sel.sony.com/SEL/wtc/products/index.html

Check out these new phones that Sony has come out with and better yet check out the frequencies that they are operating on.

Dual Band Model
Frequency Range:
Transmit: 1851.25-1908.75 Mhz
Receive: 1931.25-1988.75 Mhz

Single Band Model
Frequency Range:
Transmit: 824.04 - 848.97 Mhz
Receive: 869.04 - 893.97 MHz

73 Robert de WB6NYC

HURRICANE LINKS
http://www.pipeline.com/~rsanford/hurr.htm

Even though Hurricanes don't affect us here on the West Coast I decided to upload my Hurricane links page to my server today since Hurricane season starts today.

There are just about every link you could want pertaining to Hurricane information so take a look and bookmark it since I expect we are going to have an active season. - ***WB6NYC***

FCC TO TIGHTEN SCANNER RULES

The FCC plans to further tighten its rules on scanning receivers to prevent reception on cellular telephone frequencies. In a rule making notice released June 3, ET Docket 98-76, the FCC proposed to require receiver filtering adequate to prevent cell phone reception even when the receiver is tuned to frequencies outside the cellular telephone bands, such as an image frequency. To prevent modification of legal receivers to receive cellular frequencies, the FCC wants scanning receivers designed so that the tuning and control circuitry is "completely inaccessible," and that attempts to modify the receiver "will likely render the equipment inoperable." The proposed rules also would prohibit scanner kits.

The FCC said the proposals were in response to a petition (RM-9022) from Uniden American Corporation, which manufactures both cellular telephones and scanners.

The proposed rules would affect Amateur Radio equipment that includes scanning capability, as defined in the FCC rules. The FCC has invited comments on whether it should modify its definition of a scanning receiver to include units that can be manually tuned or which automatically switch among fewer than four frequencies.

The FCC wants to require that scanners provide at least 38 dB of rejection for cell band signals at any frequency the receiver can tune. The FCC also proposes that scanners be unable to receive a signal level of 5 mV/meter or less in the cell band at any tunable frequency.

The FCC suggested covering control and tuning circuits with epoxy or some other substance, or encasing them in a non-removable metal compartment, to make them impossible to access and modify. The Commission also plans to ban the import or manufacture of scanning receiver and converter kits capable of receiving cellular frequencies. Test equipment would be exempted from the definition of a scanning receiver, however.

The FCC also proposed modifying the rules to make it clear that modification of scanning receivers on a substantial scale to receive cellular frequencies would be the same as manufacturing, which already is illegal. The FCC took the opportunity to point out that it's still illegal to modify receivers imported or manufactured prior to the effective date of the current scanning receiver rules. Those rules became effective April 26, 1994.

The FCC has opened a 30-day comment window. The complete petition is available at the FCC Web site at
http://www.fcc.gov/oet/dockets/et98-76/

SUPER BOWL FREQUENCY COORDINATION
A story of Footballs, Blimps, Helmets, Police Choppers, Even a Stealth Bomber
By Mike Tosch, KA6ZZL

San Diego The NFL Super Bowl requires teamwork both on and off the field. As difficult as it is to move the pigskin down the grid iron to the end zone, the same is true for the accommodation and coordination of the multitude of domestic and international broadcasters vying for limited RF spectrum to transmit video and voice signals. The task of administering spectrum at the Super Bowl fell upon a select frequency coordination team that included San Diego local coordinators.

Two Teams

Frequency coordination at Super Bowl XXXII consisted of two teams working together: the Helmet Communications Team and the Frequency Coordination Team. The Helmet Team, led by Harvey Shuhart, was responsible for quarterback communications. A helmet-mounted receiver allowed the quarterback to hear commands over an encrypted audio link. Each NFL team maintains its own custom radio helmets and repeater. Three Helmet Team members, located on each sideline and in the press box, provided support for the radio helmets.

The Frequency Coordination team also consisted of three people. Karl Voss is an engineer from KPNX(TV) in Phoenix, a veteran of the three most recent Super Bowls. John Weigand is at KSWB-TV and is local San Diego County Frequency Coordinator. I served as the final member of the team; I'm the chief engineer for KPBSFM in San Diego.

On the scaffold

The coordination team technical equipment consisted of three "DF" direction-finding stations to monitor and locate any possible interference in the 450 through 800 MHz bands. We had three DF stations. One station was located in the press box area, on an

overhanging camera position at about the Denver 35-yard line; the other was located at the east end of the stadium, next to the big scoreboard, on a 30-foot raised scaffold.

During the game, Karl was inside the coordination trailer in the International Compound with a DF station and a spectrum analyzer. Inside the stadium, John was stationed at the press box location. I had the scaffold location.

Each DF station consisted of an Icom general-coverage communications receiver, a Doppler Systems DF unit and antenna system, a Communication Specialists PLIDPL / DTMF decoder and Motorola two-way radio for our own team coordination The DF antenna system consisted of four rubber-ducky-style antennas mounted in a square on a common ground plane "plate." The plate was affixed to a sturdy tripod.

The system was designed and put together by Control Dynamics of Philadelphia to locate interference to the helmet receivers, two-way radios and wireless microphone frequencies.

Quick resolution to interference issues was critical. RF systems were in use constantly during game week activities as well as the pre-game and half-time activities.

Well before the start of the big game, Karl Voss was at work sorting out spectrum requirements. Users submitted request for spectrum requirements months ahead of time. They were compiled into a database and frequencies were compiled as they were available.

Even with extensive advance planning, minor problems and last-minute requests were not unusual. Coordination conflicts and last-minute requests were handled by Karl in a cordial and professional manner. The frequency coordinators did not play the role of "frequency police" but, rather, facilitated cooperation between the parties involved.

Some interference problems were resolved, some remained unresolved and some simply went away without an understanding of what had occurred. One such instance involved a local radio station using its affiliated television station's 7 GHz STL subcarrier for its digital audio path. Interference to the STL had made the link unusable.

We later found out the interference was not related to the Super Bowl. The station resolved the complaint. In another instance, a small portable repeater brought into the stadium for concession personnel was being keyed up and not releasing after a two-way stopped transmitting. The two-way rental company assumed the stuck transmitter problem was related to interference from Super Bowl activities. Karl diagnosed the problem as excessive RF output power causing receiver de-sense. A reduction of output power solved the problem. Clearly, 40 W of power was not required to cover the stadium!

Another interference issue arose from the San Diego Police Department helicopter equipped with a video transmitter that fell almost directly on video ENG channel 9. FCC Part 90 and Part 74 users share common frequencies in the 2.4 GHz band. ENG channels 9 (-) and 9 (+) were assigned for use by two different blimps for NBC. The police were not coordinated or licensed for these channels! Karl contacted the police department, which promptly obtained a transmitter on the frequency they were licensed for. The police ended up on 8 (+), and the blimps stayed where they were originally assigned.

In the air

Airborne transmitters present a special problem. By careful coordination with a local user, the blimps shared several channels at different times. This was not without problems, however. The police receiver on 8 (+) was being interfered with by blimps on channel 9 (-) and 10 (+). One blimp moved to a channel used by a local television station to solve the interference. The 2.0 to 2.5 0Hz ENO band is very crowded, so cooperation is a must.

Another problem resulted in FCC involvement the Saturday night before the big game. The B-2 Stealth bomber was scheduled for a fly-by with a chase plane providing video to NBC via a mobile, military ground station. The link to the relay point was being interfered with by something the FCC DF'ed back to the area of the NBC compound.

The coordination team was never informed of how the interference was resolved. Despite all the effort by the military, the video from the chase plane was not broadcast as planned since NBC was in a commercial during the fly-by.

Game day

Finally, on game-day morning, one of the

concessionaires showed up with 160 two-way radios on a channel that was not coordinated for concessionaires. The channel used by the concessionaires was the same channel used by the Broncos staff to communicate with John Elway!

It took only 30 seconds to reprogram all 160 radios. A potential catastrophe was averted by the quick teamwork of both the frequency coordination team and the user.

During the game, everything was quiet on the interference front. Karl was stationed in the trailer and listened to the game on a spectrum analyzer audio out-put, alert to any potential problems. John and I manned our locations to wait for a call to action. Using specially configured headphones, I was able to hear the two-way in one ear and the communications receiver in the other, with independent volume controls for each receiver. The headphones also served to block out the audience noise present in the stadium.

Fan feed

While scanning around the band, I did identify what I thought was a motor-boating transmitter in the 450 to 451 MHz band. A call to Karl relieved the concern, as it tuned out to be a coordinated channel carrying data for a blimp camera.

Carefully selected FM broadcast channels provided audio feeds to fans inside the stadium during the game. Using personal portable FM radios provided free to each fan, listeners could hear play-by-play provided by CBS Radio Sports and NBC television on one of four frequencies. The fifth feed was directed at the rest rooms, where temporary FM receivers were mounted to allow fans to hear the game action during nature's call.

The restroom transmitter system consisted of a 0.5 W transmitter with a magnet-mount antenna located just outside the main audio booth on the press level. The other four signals were transmitted using Crown FM exciters set at 3 W that fed individual Scala single-element folded dipoles. Antennas were hung from the press box level over the fans below. Frequencies for the in-house transmissions were chosen so as not to interfere with local broadcasters. Most frequencies were second adjacent to the local allocations.

After the game, we packed our gear in the travel cases and a cart picked us up. The big game went off without a hitch because of the proper planning and coordination between the NFL and local, national and international broadcasters. Frequency coordination for an event this massive is an absolute must. Credit for a job well done should be extended to all of those involved in making the broadcast a great success. Next year's Super Bowl will undoubtedly present a myriad of unexpected frequency coordination issues. Lessons learned from San Diego will be applied to the unique situations presented at Super Bowl XXIV. My bags are packed!

Mike Tosch, KA6ZZL, is chief en gineer for public station KPBS-FM in San Diego and can be reached via e-mail at MIKTOSCH@KPBS.ORG

GIULIANI'S $15.1 MILLION 'EMERGENCY CONTROL CENTER

By Kit R. Roane

NEW YORK -- Having tamed squeegee men and cabbies, murderers and muggers, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani is now bracing for a whole other order of urban treachery and cataclysm by building a $15.1 million emergency control center for his administration -- bullet-proofed, hardened to withstand bombs and hurricanes, and equipped with food and beds for at least 30 members of his inner circle. The ambitious project, which will sprawl over 46,000 feet in one of the smaller buildings of the World Trade Center complex, will be large enough to accommodate at least 50 different city, state and federal agencies, and will allow them to coordinate responses to a myriad of disasters, from the smallest sewer explosion to the largest nerve gas attack. Among its amenities will be back-up generators in case of power failures, a storage tank with enough water to last at least a week, and whiz-bang technology that will include a secure "red" phone for the mayor and video-conferencing, so he can see and talk to the president of the United States, if necessary. Saying that the facility is "not a bunker" meant as a safety haven for the mayor, Jerome Hauer, head of the city's Office of Emergency Management, noted that New York City's emergency response system had become a model for other cities and said that the planned center was a natural next step in keeping that lead. "This is something the city has needed for a long time, a state-of-the-art center with a sophisticated communications system, that is survivable so the city can continue to function," he said. "If there is a citywide blackout, a hurricane, a blizzard, this is the facility that will allow us to keep working, to make sure that people are not in jeopardy." But the news of the center's construction troubled many in city government, especially City Council members, who were not notified of the project. Some noted that the existing command center on the eighth floor of police

headquarters has functioned admirably during a variety of storms, blackouts and terrorist attacks. Councilwoman Kathryn Freed, whose district will house the new center, also questioned whether the investment was fiscally prudent at a time when the mayor has threatened to cut funding for senior citizens centers, city hospitals and services for the poor. "At a time when the mayor is screaming and yelling about pork in city government and trying to cut city services that keep libraries and day care centers open, it seems bizarre to me that the city would be putting nearly $16 million into a rented space that the city doesn't even own," Ms. Freed said. "Making a $16 million improvement to another guy's building?" she said. "I sure hope this is a 99-year lease."
73 Robert de WB6NYC

BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING!
http://terraserver.microsoft.com
Ever want to see what your QTH looks like from above? Ever wonder what Big Brother is up to, looking down on us with those neat spy? Wonder no more. Here's my QTH where 1"=100 yds. This is a very interesting URL that WA2BAU forwarded to me - Thanks Gary!!

NAKED WOMEN, FREE SEX, AND OTHER ISSUES
http://web.mit.edu/twm/www/stupid/Naked.html
Due to the onslaught of anti-free-speech laws (the CDA was only the beginning) that our technologically illiterate congress insists on passing, I have been forced to restrict access to my archive of nude pictures. You must now certify that you are over the age of 18 under penalty of perjury.

I've written a java age detector to make sure that you actually are over 18. It takes the personal information you entered in your preferences and compares it against a government database.

METRO WEST CHARGERS
By Eddie Muro

The Metro-west Pro-Power 3 stand offers both drop-in convenience and proper charge rate control for either NiCad or NMH batteries.

The power supply is matched to each scanner model to provide optimal charge rates for the NiCads of NMH batteries. This is a significant improvement over the simple wall warts that come with to days scanners.

The Pro-Power 3 will prevent overcharging of batteries and also provides a trickle charge that will keep them at 100% charge for short or long periods. There is also a filter included that provides buzz free audio when using the stand as a power source while operating. In the catalog I have, the charger is running for $69. In addition to the BC-3000, they have chargers available for a wide variety of radios including the BC-235 TT and the AOR AR-8000.

Metro-west claims 50% more run time by using their NMH battery pack on the BC-3000 over the stock Uniden battery pack. With my radio I have seen a 300% increase in run time. I was getting 3 to 3.5 hours now I get 10-12 hrs. The battery pack runs $65 but if you send in your old battery pack they will credit you $25.

You can contact Metro West at: **1-800-657-1475**

INSIDE THE SECRET SERVICE
If you have not seen this show, check it out on Sunday night:
Discovery Sunday
Inside the Secret Service

U.S. Secret Service agents describe what it's like to risk their lives to save another's.

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73 Robert de WB6NYC
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