

S.O.S. SIGNAL TOSSED OVERBOARD

90-Year-Old Morse Code Signal Discarded
Satellite Technology To Replace Distress Call
NEW YORK Sunday, January 31, 1999 - 07:47 PM
ET (CBS) In the taps and clicks of Samuel Morse's code, no sounds were better known than the three dots, three dashes, and three dots of the letters S.O.S., reports CBS News Correspondent Charles Osgood.

Contrary to popular belief, S.O.S. does not stand for Save Our Ship or Save our Souls. It does not stand for anything. In fact, it was chosen only because it's easy to send and pick up.

Ninety years after a ship first sent out an 'S.O.S.', the end has come for what was once the universal code for ships at sea to announce their distress.

It took the 1912 Titanic disaster later depicted on stage and in the movies to make S.O.S. a part of all of our lives.

The S.O.S. has sometimes gone out too late, as with the Morro Castle in 1934, when over 100 people died. But for Achille Lauro passengers and thousands of others, it was a lifesaver. As of Monday, cruise and cargo ships are required to ditch S.O.S. and rely only on satellites to tell the world they are in trouble.

For ship enthusiast and maritime author Bill Miller, it's a nostalgic moment.

"It's the end of an era with the going of S.O.S.," says Miller. "It's sad to see it go really, because its part of the overall picture -- like wooden deck chairs and steam whistles and that kind of magic that went with ships and shipping."

Morse Code has been called the world's first Internet. Now, S.O.S. is logging off for good.

*Reported by Charles Osgood
&
Robert W. Sanford
WB6NYC*

MONITORING SOUTH BRUNSWICK'S EDACS SYSTEM

<http://mars.superlink.net/~jcr1434/scanner/sb800mhz.html>

With the recent announcement that Uniden's new Trunk Tracker will be able to monitor the GE EDACS's system, now is the time to learn about it.

In the NY / NJ metro area South Brunswick is probably one of the easiest to hear, especially if you are in Brooklyn and Staten Island.

South Brunswick has been using a GE-Ericsson EDACS Trunked Radio System since about 1993. All municipal services, from the Police Detectives to the Bookmobile, use this system. The primary tower and site controller are located by the blue water tower, on Route 1 at Major Road. (Some of the hardware and antennas there belong to NJ Transit and cell providers, however.)

There is too much information to fit on just one page. A second page has been created to try to alleviate this problem. The second page contains mostly details, and is referenced in appropriate places from this, the main page. Also of interest may be a page describing South Brunswick's Emergency Services.

Readers already familiar with the basic operation of trunked radio systems may want to skip ahead a few sections to the Behind the Scenes of EDACS section, or further.

The page above provides a goos overview of the EDACS system, South Brunswick's Trunking system, and many goos scanning tips. It's worth a look!

NY's 911 SYSTEM CRASHES

By BETH GARDINER Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) Feb1, 1999 -- The city's 911 emergency call system crashed for about an hour when a generator test cut off power at the call center and a backup system failed to kick in. Technicians shut off electricity at the main

emergency call center in the city's Brooklyn borough at around 10:35 a.m. Sunday as part of a routine test of emergency generators, officials said.

The generators didn't work, and employees could not restart the call-taking system, according to Matt Higgins, a spokesman for Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

A backup system which is supposed to transfer emergency calls to police headquarters in Manhattan as soon as the 911 center is off line took an hour to work, said Deputy Chief Patrick Devlin

"It did not work as planned," he told reporters. "It's supposed to take less than a minute for that to occur. Instead it took about an hour."

Radio and television stations broadcast alternate emergency numbers, and by 11:35 a.m., the call-transferring system kicked in and 911 calls were being answered "at least on a sporadic basis," Giuliani said. The system was running normally by 4:45 p.m.

"At this point we are unaware of any emergencies that were not responded to, but I can't tell you absolutely that there were none that were missed," said Police Commissioner Howard Safir.

It was later learned that a man in the Queens borough died from a heart attack Sunday after his girlfriend had to run to a local police station house to get help. There were no other immediate reports of people unable to get help in emergencies.

On an average Sunday morning, about 500 calls come in to 911, "a very low volume," Devlin said. On a busy day, as many as 30,000 calls can come in over 24 hours, he added.

The 500 calls usually include about 100 reports of medical emergencies, Giuliani said, adding that workers responded to 75 medical emergencies in the hour the system was down.

Safir said it was not yet clear why the backup did not work. "It took an hour, and we'll have to find out from Bell Atlantic why," he said.

John Bonomo, a Bell Atlantic spokesman, said the call-transferring system worked well, but that officials at the 911 center tried to fix the problems there

before deciding to forward calls to police headquarters. Calls cannot be forwarded automatically, he said, explaining that it takes a few minutes for workers to reprogram lines.

"It is not a flip of a light switch, so to speak, it does take some time," he said. "It's something that we have to wait for the go-ahead to get done."

AP-NY-02-01-99 0438EST
Robert W. Sanford
WB6NYC

NY HOT EL FREQUENCIES !

http://www.li.net/~j4dice/frequencies/NewYork/nyc_hotel.html

- Berkshire Hotel (paging) - 158.460
- Berkshire Hotel - 154.570
- Beverly Hotel - 151.865
- Carllyle Hotel - 154.570
- Carllyle Hotel - 461.0625
- Carllyle Hotel - 461.0875
- Clinton Hotel - 461.6625
- Colonial Inn at Kennedy - 464.925
- Comfort Inn at Murray Hill - 464.8125
- Comfort Inn at Murray Hill - 468.8125
- Concourse House - 466.150
- Courtyard by Marriott - 464.9375
- Days Inn at LaGuardia - 151.865
- Days Inn New York City - 464.375
- Doral Inn - 154.570
- Doral Inn - 464.4875
- Doral Park Avenue Hotel - 464.5625
- Doral Towers Hotel (paging) - 158.460
- Doral Tuscany Hotel - 466.0375
- Dorset Hotel - 463.9625
- Drake Swiss Hotel - 151.745
- Easthill Hotel Corp - 464.475
- Edison Hotel - 467.800
- Embassy Suites Hotel - 461.200
- Embassy Suites Hotel - 461.675
- Embassy Suites Hotel - 463.575
- Empire Hotel - 154.515
- Essex House (paging) - 158.460
- Essex House (paging) - 462.800
- Essex House - 462.000
- Essex House - 464.400
- Fitzpatrick Manhattan Hotel - 466.1625
- Fitzpatrick Manhattan Hotel - 466.2375
- Golden Gate Inn - 154.600
- Golden Tulip Barbizon Hotel (paging) - 158.460
- Golden Tulip Barbizon Hotel - 154.570

Golden Tulip Barbizon Hotel - 154.600
 Grand Bay Hotel - 463.500
 Grand Hyatt Hotel (paging) - 462.850
 Grand Hyatt Hotel - 462.0875
 Hampshire House - 466.2375
 Herald Square Hotel - 461.6625
 Herald Square Hotel - 464.325
 Hilton Hotels - 464.475
 Holiday Inn Inc. (paging) - 465.000
 Holiday Inn Inc. - 463.250
 Holiday Inn JFK Airport - 461.6375
 Holiday Inn JFK Airport - 461.9375
 Holiday Inn LaGuardia - 151.865
 Holiday Inn LaGuardia - 461.6375
 Holiday Inn LaGuardia - 461.9375
 Hotel Carlyle Management Corp. - 154.515
 Hotel Clinton - 464.325
 Hotel Intercontinental N.Y. (paging) - 462.875
 Hotel Intercontinental N.Y. - 469.325
 Hotel Lexington (paging) - 158.460
 Hotel Macklowe - 461.200
 Hotel Macklowe - 461.700
 Hotel Maria - 466.8625
 Hotel Maria - 468.2125
 Hotel Millenium - 461.5625
 Hotel Millenium - 461.8875
 Hotel Millenium - 461.9125
 Hotel Millenium - 464.6375
 Hotel Millenium - 464.7625
 Hotel Nikko USA inc. - 463.2125
 Hotel Parker Meridien - 464.6625
 Hotel Saint Moritz (paging) - 462.750
 Hotel Saint Moritz - 461.250
 Hotel Saint Moritz - 462.8875
 Hotel Salisbury - 469.775
 Hotel Tudor Corp. - 464.975
 Hotel Wellington - 464.975
 Hotel Wolcott - 463.4125
 ITT Sheraton Hotel - 461.6125
 JFK Airport Marriott - 461.8375
 JFK Airport Marriott - 464.4375
 JFK Plaza Hotel - 464.575
 JFK Travelodge - 464.8875
 Knott Hotels Corp. - 464.8875
 KUO Hotel Corp. - 464.875
 LaGuardia Marriott - 461.0375
 LaGuardia Marriott - 461.0625
 LaGuardia Marriott - 461.1125
 LaGuardia Marriott - 464.3375
 LaGuardia Marriott - 464.475
 LaGuardia Marriott - 464.975
 Lincoln Square Hotel - 464.3125
 Loews Howard Johnson Hotel - 464.8875
 Loews New York Hotel - 154.515
 Loews Regency Hotel - 464.325
 Loews Summit Hotel - 154.515
 Loews Summit Hotel - 464.8875
 Lombardy Hotel (paging) - 157.740
 Marriott Corp. N.Y. Marriott (paging) - 462.800
 Marriott Corp. N.Y. Marriott - 461.025
 Marriott LaGuardia Hotel - 464.475
 Marriott LaGuardia Hotel - 464.975
 Martinique Hotel Affiliates - 469.775
 Mayfair Hotel - 464.375
 Mayfair Hotel - 464.825
 Mayflower Hotel (paging) - 465.000
 Midway Hotel - 853.4875
 Milford Plaza Motel - 462.075
 New Crown Hotel Corp. - 464.775
 New York Helmsley Hotel - 464.325
 New York Helmsley Hotel - 464.925
 New York Hilton Hotel - 151.685
 New York Hilton Hotel - 461.1375
 New York Hilton Hotel - 464.8875
 New York Hilton Hotel - 466.5875
 New York Hotel Trades Council - 463.8375
 New York Marriott (paging) - 462.800
 New York Marriott - 461.025
 New York Palace Hotel - 464.325
 New York Palace Hotel - 464.475
 Novatel Hotel New York (paging) - 158.460
 Novatel Hotel New York - 464.675
 Omni Park Central Hotel - 154.515
 Park Lane Hotel Inc. - 461.250
 Parker Meridian Hotel - 462.8375
 Parker Meridian Hotel - 464.325
 Pickwick Arms Hotel - 154.570
 Pickwick Arms Hotel - 464.475
 Pierre Hotel - 461.275
 Pierre Hotel - 466.1125
 Plaza Hotel (paging) - 158.460
 Plaza Hotel - 461.0875
 Prince George Hotel - 463.325
 Quality Hotel at LaGuardia Airport - 461.175
 Ramada Renaissance Times Sq. (pag.) - 462.900
 Regent New York - 461.175
 Regent New York - 462.175
 Regent New York - 463.825
 Regent New York - 464.000
 Residence Inn - 461.1125
 Ritz Carlton Hotel - 464.325
 Ritz Tower Hotel - 463.7125
 River Hotel - 466.8125
 Roger Smith Hotels Corp. - 464.925
 Royal Concordia Hotel - 466.3375
 Royal Concordia Hotel - 466.4125

Royal Concordia Hotel - 466.6625
 Saint Moritz on the Park - 464.1125
 Saint Regis Sheraton (paging) - 154.625
 Saint Regis Sheraton - 151.745
 Saint Regis Sheraton - 154.515
 Saint Regis Sheraton - 464.525
 Sheraton at Woodbridge Place - 461.075
 Sheraton at Woodbridge Place - 469.3375
 Sheraton Manhattan Hotel - 464.100
 Sheraton New York - 464.375
 Sheraton New York - 464.425
 Skyway Kennedy Hotel Corp - 154.540
 The Barbizon - 461.0375
 Travelers Hotel at LaGuardia - 472.8125
 Travelodge International Inc. - 461.050
 United Nations Plaza Hotel (paging) - 157.740
 Viscount Hotel JFK - 461.050
 Vista International Hotel (paging) - 462.800
 Vista International Hotel - 464.875
 Waldorf Astoria Hotel - 151.955
 Waldorf Astoria Hotel - 461.075
 Waldorf Astoria Hotel - 461.225
 Waldorf Astoria Hotel - 461.275
 Waldorf Astoria Hotel - 461.4625
 Waldorf Astoria Hotel - 464.525
 Warwick Hotel - 154.600
 Warwick Hotel - 464.525
 Wellington Hotel - 464.325
 Windsor Hotel (paging) - 462.750

Whew! That was a lot of typing!

BAD NEWS IN BERGEN COUNTY

Just in case you didn't see this, I'm passing it along. I know that it's been a long time desire of BCPD Communications to go to a digital and/or encrypted system. Hopefully, the patrol division stays in the clear though.
 John, KB2SGJ

From: jaymatt1978@excite.com
 <jaymatt1978@excite.com>
 To: ScanCom@onelist.com
 <ScanCom@onelist.com>
 Date: Thursday, January 28, 1999 11:08 PM
 Subject: [ScanCom] copied from e-mail

Bad news in Bergen County! 'Someone just sent me an e-mail with the following message about the County going digital! I'm really bummed! The county is going to digitize all of their channels (now the Sheriff wont hear us) in fact no body will be able to decode itnot many people

listen to us - except in major events ..well by summer they cant...some channels may be in the clear cause we all wont have the newer radio modifications done right away....first is Detectives like Homicide, narcotics etc. then maybe k-9, and marked patrol units, they (GOD) wants the narcotics done ASAP.

HOW BIG BROTHER COMMUNICATES

Emergency Communications Systems of the U.S. Government

<Note: This information appears to answer many of the questions on those mysterious signals that appear every time the President comes to town!>

This system is also used to provide full duplex telephone grade voice circuits for the VIP aircraft such as Air Force One. The airborne radio equipment (made by ECI), transmits a 1kw (or two selectable lower powers) signal to blade antennas on the aircraft which are more or less omnidirectional. The ground sites use a phased array of four UHF broadband traveling wave antennas arranged in a square to give some gain and jamming rejection. The signals are vertically polarized.

The modulation is FM-FDM-SSB with up to 14 voice channels and a baseband order wire. Unlike most FDM systems, the channels are paired with a lower sideband 4 khz voice channel sharing a carrier frequency with an upper sideband voice channel immediately above it. The carrier frequencies used are 8, 16, 24, 32, 40, 48 and 56 khz. A 0 TLP tone on a channel is supposed to deviate the transmitter about 30 some odd khz (although the actual level on real signals appears to be less than this).

The aircraft and ground multiplex equipment use the old fashioned 2600 hz sf signalling for supervision, this means that idle channels carry a -17 db TLP 2600 hz tone which drops when the channel is seized. Dialing is DTMF using the Autovon standard phone tones. Since the circuits terminate in Autovon switches, they are fully four wire.

The aircraft transmits a 120 khz pilot tone, ground sites use a lower frequency pilot. There is considerable provision for air to air relay of communications and use of relay aircraft is an organic part of the system design. Many of the

command post aircraft are equipped to relay several links at once and relay operation is quite often tested both to communicate with other command post aircraft and with VIP aircraft such as Air Force One. The relay aircraft (particularly the command post aircraft) have manual switchboards that allow selected channels from an incoming signal to be cross connected to different channels on one or more outgoing signals. VIP communications circuits are thus often routed on certain channels of command post links that carry military traffic on other channels.

The frequency from 0-4 khz on the signals is used for a orderwire. The radio equipment has appropriate provisions for conference bridging on this circuit so the order wire at any point has most all of the stations on it. [The order wire on this system has been code named ADVENT for at least twenty years.] The order wire is used to coordinate circuit switch over between ground stations and/or relay aircraft and to coordinate circuit test and maintenance.

There are a number of Ground Entry Point sites scattered throughout the US used with this system, most seem to be at hardened blast resistant AT&T microwave sites with deep underground bunkers on springs. These sites are probably used because they represent points where hardened underground cables connect to each other and radio systems. The ground entry sites can be recognized by the distinctive square pattern formed by 4 vertical pole antennas (quite long and thick, unlike most UHF antennas) on top of an AT&T microwave tower (above the microwave horns) spaced about 8-12 feet apart. A random sample of sites I am aware of includes Green Hill Rhode Island, Waldorf Md, Hillsboro Mo, and Pensuco Florida. There are several more. Maximum range from an aircraft to a ground site is typically 210-230 miles depending on altitude, air to air range is closer to 400 miles. With powers of 1 kw or more EIRP, the signals are very strong on the ground when the aircraft is closer. The high power is supposed to be intended to ensure that communications can penetrate nuclear fireballs and other propagation disruptions during a nuclear attack.

The system is used to carry clear voice traffic (including traffic from Air Force One), and also various forms of digital transmission of a sort that fits in a 4 khz voice channel. This includes slow speed

75 baud clear and encrypted tty, 1200/2400 baud data, and full duplex 9600 baud data, fax and secure voice. The VIP aircraft using the system use only 4 Autovon circuits per signal and only use 16 and 24 khz channels from the aircraft (but the ground sites transmit a signal with sf tones or traffic on all the upper 12 channels). The command post aircraft usually use all 14 channels.

The system has been in use since about 1965, and as such it is very old technology. Much of the information in this article is based on material published 20 years ago that I dug up as a college age hacker in that era. The signals still seem to be on the air however. I understand that Milstar and other sophisticated, secure systems will substantially replace these aging links in the near future, both for Air Force One telephone traffic and nuclear post attack communications, so there can be little about this subject that is truly inappropriate to discuss.

For those curious to look at the signals, the current VIP frequencies are :

	Ground	Air
Channel 1	382.35 Mhz	326.00 mhz
Channel 2	305.55 Mhz	246.95 mhz
Channel 3	336.80 Mhz	344.00 mhz
Channel 4	322.75 Mhz	366.00 mhz
Channel 5	397.05 Mhz	390.00 Mhz

Note: Monitoring suggests that Air Force One is often heard on Ch 4

BC245 INFO

<http://www.webtel.net.au/~magnum/trunk.htm>
Want more info on the new Trunk Tracker - take a peek at this page.

LISTENING POST

<http://www.lpc.com>
Yet another radio control program compatible with most popular scanners. Take a peek and see what you think!

QUEENS EMS FREQUENCIES

Queens West: 477.9125; covers dispatch zones Q3, Q4, Q6 (Queens west of the Van Wyck).

Queens East: 483.6125; covers dispatch zones Q1, Q2, Q5, Q7 (east of the Van Wyck).

Both us a PL of PL 85.4 hz

844 - 2784

Joe Walc, KC2EEC
 Engine270@aol.com
KC2EEC@arrl.net

Charlie set it up as an alternate dial-up network selection. Use your browser and the same "gulfoss" URL once you connect...no password is needed.

KEL FREQUENCIES

A few weeks ago during one of the nets someone asked what frequencies were used by the "KEL" body mics used in police undercover work. While our net has never been squeamish about so called sensitive frequencies, there's always an exception. KEL body mics use 159.075 & 159.445. These are generally low power so if you are lucky enough to hear one you can bet you are close to some real action. Lock the doors and the windows and stay out of harms way.

AGENT "R" UPDATE!

I understand that WNJR (1430) will switch to a "pop standards" format on April 1. They're a 5 kw daytimer and a s/ on 6:00 a.m. - s/off 7 p.m.. Next year the station will change call letters and be transmitting from the present site of WPAT-AM (Clifton, NJ) which has a far superior signal then 1430. They will also switch to 24/day operation. WPAT and WNJR have the same owners. The new format will begin on 3/25 with officials start on 4/01. This seems to be another one of those answers to the void left by WQEW going to Radio Disney format.

NORTH HUDSON FD UPDATE

North Hudson Regional Fire & Rescue Department
 Creation of this department as of Jan 11, 1999,
 Covers Guttenberg, North Bergen, Union City,
 Weehaken and West New York 21 engines, 8
 trucks, Quint, etc.

NJSP INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS

Over the past few weeks I've noticed something very strange. Listening to SPEN 1 (154.680) I've heard several of the NJ State Police barracks coming in loud and clear. Not that theu can't be heard, but when I hear Hunterdon County full quieting on my AR8000 in the basement, there something strange going on.

Currently using County radio designations until a new department wide system is put in place. Note that Guttenberg will retain a volunteer engine and truck operating out of Town Hall.

FD Jersey City Central Office relocated to 715 Summit Ave, adj new quarters of Eng 7, Truck 3 and 3rd Batt Also, Freeport, NYPD 460.2875R CTCSS 179.9 confirmed.

A few days ago I was working on the newsletter and heard what appeared to be SPEN 1 in stereo! I glanced over at my Maxtrac and saw it was listening to Ch#17 which was SPEN 1. Then I noticed that my Trunk Tracker was also locked on trunk group 000-9, playing SPEN 1!!

WARREN, N2RAH - A.K.A. Mr Scanner Master!

MONITORING DIGITAL SIGNALS WITH YOUR SCANNER

<http://web2.airmail.net/lblant1/dfw/digital.htm>
 Ever thought about monitoring all those digital signals you hear? Check this page out. A great place for the beginner that includes:

- ! Background Summary
- ! Interface Info
- ! WAV files of Digital Signals
- ! Applications with Screen Shots

I've verified (don't ask me how) that at certain times of the day SPEN 1 is repeated over to the 800 trunked system . In addition, the State's system seems to have SPEN 1 transmitters all over the state with a whopping signal. This afternoon on the way home I was listening to a chase in East Orange (Essex County). Within seconds, NJSP came on SPEN1 and offered assistance. The scene was being simulcast over 000-9. When and why this system is activated is not known, but it's real and it can be heard!

FCC DATABASE VIA TELEPHONE

Several issues back I mentioned an Internet address for the FCC's data base. Charlie, N2NOV informs me that you can dial into the FCC direct and bypass any Internet slowdowns. Call them at 1 (800)

A NEW WAY TO SEARCH!

Most of us have explored the various search engines available on the net. They're all about the same, though some seem to find links to certain

topics better than others. Much of the info included here each month is the result of some surfing and searching. Here's two tips to make your searching easier.

Visit <http://www.dogpile.com>

This search engine actually searches at least 10 search engines at one time and takes out all the dupes. It also allows you to selectively search the Web, Usenet, FTP and several choices. This is my default search engine.

Another interesting search engine is

<http://www.infoseek.com>

We've all used this one, but we're all not aware of the new features they recently added! Lets say you're looking for some new sights that have AOR ar8000 information. Try this... In the search window type URL:ar8000 Infoseek will return a list of URL's with "ar8000 in the actual address. This is a great way to search for URL's where you may only have part of the actual address. I tried a cross search using Infoseek to search for "ar8000" in the traditional way whereby "ar8000" appears within the text of the page. Using URL:ar8000 I actually found three additional sites that the normal search overlooked. Try this you'll like it!

WODI DX TEST RESULTS

Several months ago we all listened for the DX test run by WODI, Dave Marthouse's AM station in Brookneal, VA Despite my efforts, I was not able to hear anything from them. As the newsletter was nearing completion I received this E mail from Dave Marthouse, N2AAM.

Hi Bob, The dx test went well. We got reports from NY, PA, WV, FL, GA, and TN. The cw was able to punch through when the other audio didn't. The guy in GA

sent me a tape that will be in my prized collection.

Give my best to the net.

Dave, N2AAM

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NUCLEAR EMERGENCY SEARCH TEAMS

Hopefully you'll never be close enough to hear these guys, but just in case here they are!

149.2200	150.4500	163.0000
163.1000	164.0250	164.1000
164.1750	164.2250	164.2750
164.3750	164.4000	164.4750
164.5250	164.6750	164.7000
	164.7750	

AM DX TESTS

Saturday, March 6, 1999 - CHUC-1450, P.O. Box 520, Cobourg, ON K9A 2L3, Canada will conduct a rescheduled DX test from 12:00-6:00 AM Eastern Time. The test will include march music & Morse code ID's. Reception reports may be sent to: Mr. John Ton - Engineer.

(Arranged by J.D. Stephens for the NRC CPC.)

E-mail:jton@eagle.ca

or: chuc@eagle.ca

Monday, March 8, 1999 - KIML-1270, Gillette, WY

will conduct a DX test from 2:00-5:00 am ET. The test will consist of tones for proof measurements, code IDs with frequency and location, and possibly some "high power" rock and C&W. KIML will be operating with 5000 and 1000 watts, both non-directional and directional. The night pattern has two major lobes at 032 and 200 degrees, as well as a minor lobe at 295 degrees. Major nulls are at 195, 225, and 335 degrees. Reception reports may be sent to:

Mr. Glenn Swiderski

Chief Engineer

KIML-AM

400 East 3rd Avenue

Gillette, WY 82716

(Arranged by Bill Hale for the NRC CPC.)

Monday, March 8, 1999 - KTSA-550, San Antonio, TX

will conduct a DX test using tones and Morse code IDs from 1:00-3:00 am ET. KTSA will be operating with 5000 watts, non-directional during this period.

Reception reports may be sent to:

Mr. Leroy Dietrich

Chief Engineer

KTSA-AM

4050 Eisenhower Rd.

San Antonio, TX 78218-3400

(Arranged by Bill Hale for the NRC CPC.)

Wednesday, March 10, 1999 - KSDR-1480,

Watertown, SD will conduct a DX test consisting of Morse code IDs at :59:50 after each hour from 1:00-6:00 am ET. KTSA will be operating with 250 watts(their pre-sunrise authorization), non-directional during this period.

Reception reports may be sent to:

Mr. John Wiik
Music Director
KSDR-AM
P.O. Box 1480

Watertown, SD 57201-1480

(Arranged by Bill Hale for the NRC CPC.)

Monday, March 15, 1999 - WHMA-1390, Anniston, AL will conduct a DX test from 1:01-1:45 am ET. The test will consist of the phrase "This is a DX test" along with Morse code IDs. WHMA will be operating with 1000 watts, then 5000 watts, switching from non-directional to their directional pattern. Their directional pattern is directed due south from Anniston (east-central AL). Reception reports may be sent to:

Mr. Jay Freeland
Chief Engineer
WHMA-AM

P.O. Box 278

Anniston, AL 36202-0278

E-mail: the chfengr@aol.com

(Arranged by Bill Hale for the NRC CPC.)

Monday, March 15, 1999 - KNEU-1250, Roosevelt, UT will conduct a DX test from 2:00-7:00 am ET. The test will consist of country and western music plus Morse code IDs. KNEU will be operating with 129 watts, non-directional. Reception reports may be sent to:

Mr. Jim Leonard
Chief Engineer
KNEU-AM

Route 2, Box 2384

Roosevelt, UT 84066

(Arranged by Bill Hale for the NRC CPC.)

Wednesday, March 10, 1999 - KSDR-1480, Watertown, SD will conduct a DX test consisting of Morse code IDs at :59:50 after each hour from 1:00-6:00 am ET. KTSA will be operating with 250 watts(their pre-sunrise authorization), non-directional during this period.

Reception reports may be sent to:

Mr. John Wiik
Music Director
KSDR-AM

P.O. Box 1480

Watertown, SD 57201-1480

(Arranged by Bill Hale for the NRC CPC.)

Monday, March 15, 1999 - KJJK-1020, Fergus Falls, MN will conduct a DX test from 5:00-6:00 am ET. The test will consist of Morse code IDs. KJJK will be operating with 2000 watts non-directional, and 370 watts directional. The night pattern has two major lobes: 020 and 222 degrees(both at 881 watts ERP). Reception reports may be sent to:

Mr. Jeff Swedberg
Program Director

KJJK-AM

P.O. BOx 724

Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0724

(Arranged by Bill Hale for the NRC CPC.)

HACK FURBY PROJECT

<http://www.homestead.com/hackfurby/>

Although this isn't radio related, many of you (especially if you have younger children) are probably familiar with "Furby", one of the hottest toys this past Christmas. Furby appears to be a "rip off" of Gizmo, the star of Stephen Spielbergs "Gremlins." This innocent toy actually learns from your daily actions and matures with age. The designers incorporated an elaborate network of IR emitters and detectors, motion and tactile sensors and artificial intelligence. Hackers figured out that two or more Furby's actually communicate with each other via IR commands that are similar to those used by TV's and VTR's. Using Palm Pilots they intercepted the codes and found several hidden features. This is a very interesting into the intricacy of what initially appears to be a simple toy!

GPS OUTAGE

By Associated Press, 02/20/99 01:02

WASHINGTON (AP) - Civilian and military ships and planes could feel the effect of a Pentagon plan to disrupt its satellite navigation over North Carolina next week.

The Defense Department will hold tests to prepare for potential loss of the Global Positioning System - a military-run network which provides longitudinal and latitudinal coordinates for ships and planes with appropriate receivers.

The tests and accompanying disruptions could affect the civilian ships and aircraft that use the 24-hour network to help guide them.

The Federal Aviation Administration and the Coast Guard issued notices Friday, cautioning pilots and ship operators against relying on GPS signals during certain four-hour periods from Monday through Saturday next week.

However, a spokesman for the U.S. Atlantic Command, which is running the test, told The Washington Post he expected "only minimal impact" on civilian users.

Affected areas will vary greatly according to altitude. For ships, it will involve a circular region within a radius of 40 miles centered about 120 miles east of Wilmington, N.C.

For planes cruising at 40,000 feet, the affected area expands to a radius of 350 miles and reaches as far south as Vero Beach, Fl, and as far north as Sea Isle, N.J.

Officials said there were no reports of civilian safety problems during previous tests held over North Carolina and Nevada.

During the tests, military crews will be evaluated on their ability to identify that GPS systems are not working and on finding other means of navigation.

THE FCC DOES LISTEN!

On page A8 of the Feb 27th issue of the Bergen Record, there is an article titled "Ramsey man jailed on charges of jamming police radio calls."

This is the same person who was caught cheating at a recent VE session and was thus failed. A well informed source who talked with Ramsey police said it took two days for the FCC to come and act on the complaint. His location was very close to Mc Arthur Blvd. and Rt17 intersection. Since he is been arrested the repeater is very quiet. No more jammers. Who is the mystery ham?...Andy Birmingham - WB2RQX

THAT IT!!

I think that will do it for this issue..the newsletter is already about three days overdue! Next month we'll have some pictures I took during a recent visit to the USCG station in Sandy Hook and a brief review of the new GPS receiver I just picked up!

The Urban DX'er would like to thank all those who contributed to this months issue!

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