

FLOYD - WILL WE EVER FORGET THIS NAME?

So Floyd has come and gone and for the most part we all sustained some sort of damage or experienced some level of inconvenience. A few issues back I wrote a brief article discussing the idea of compiling lists of frequencies that might be used in your area, related to specific types of disasters. If you followed my advice than you obviously had hours of some of the most action packed this area has had in many years. If you weren't prepared than start right now by preparing for the next one. I'm sure that over the next few weeks there will be much said as well as many accounts of which frequencies carried specific types of communications.

In my situation I was spared from any physical damage to my house. I was fortunate to have been situated right in the middle of all the action, just one mile from Lodi, NJ which was one of the hardest hit towns in Bergen County. A mile to the North, Bell Atlantic sustained major damage to one of their switching centers. That office's misfortune resulted in over one million customers losing telephone service (included all the police departments.) And about 4 miles to the West in Wayne, NJ, some of the highest rain totals in New Jersey were measured. Needless to say, there was plenty to listen to!

Jumping into action, Bergen County Police immediately designated Spen 1 (154.680) as the coordinating channel for the various town, county and state agencies. In addition, all dispatching of paramedic teams was coordinated by MICOM on SPEN1. In itself this one frequency was where the majority of the action could be heard. If an incident caught your attention you could follow the action by switching to that towns frequencies. Scanning could not have been any easier. And if that wasn't enough, virtually all of the recently assigned frequencies for Bergen County Police were active.

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 501.4375 | 501.8125 | 502.0375 |
| 477.5125 | 477.5375 | 477.5875 |
| 472.6375 | 478.5875 | |

With the lack of any reliable telephone service it quickly became apparent how much traffic is normally carried by telephone, now being passed on SPEN 1. This included non-stop requests from local hospitals attempting to locate doctors and nurses needed for emergency surgery, women in labor stranded on flooded roads, and numerous fire departments attempting to get word to their members who were attending the annual firemen's convention in Wild Wood, NJ. Adjunct to 154.680, the 800 mhz State Police system was repeating SPEN1 on the its system so that the various barracks all over the state could be heard as if they were next door. Within seconds a notification from Paramus Police was forwarded by the NJSP who forwarded it to the local police in Wild Wood, NJ. Cars were dispatched to summon partying fire fighters home to where they were needed. I found this especially interesting as I am able to hear Wildwood and Atlantic City Police here in Bergen County about 50% of the time - comments on this will follow. Being able to hear the speed and efficiency of the various agencies efforts working in harmony was quite a thrill! It should also be noted that the traffic handling was done in a very efficient manner with little to no incidents of one town stepping on another's transmissions. The occasional rowdiness heard on SPEN 1 was non-existent. It would be nice to publically acknowledge the efforts of these dispatchers and place a face to the voices we all listen to.

Closer to home in Lodi where as much as 15 feet of water filled Main Street, National Guard troops quickly moved in to assist the hundreds of residents displaced from their homes. Low power communications that appeared to be originating from the NJDOT were heard on 47.14 mhz, though I was unsuccessful in hearing any of the National Guard communications. News media communications too numerous to mention were heard from 450 - 451 & 455-456 mhz. In particular, 450.8125 was quite active as was the tower and traffic frequencies for nearby Teterboro Airport. It would be safe to say that just about any frequency licensed to Bergen County was active!

But despite all the preparedness, most of this action could not be shared with all of you. Sustained damage to the Bell Atlantic "switch" in Rochelle Park, NJ crippled telephone and cellular communications in Bergen County. Lack of telephone service meant lack of pagers and Internet connectivity. In the midst of the action I received a call from Rod, N2RVM, alerting me to two interesting frequencies that were being used by Bell Atlantic crews at the switch site. Conversations, some of which management would have stamped "confidential" had they been paper memos, were non-stop on **451.4375** and **451.450**. Whether these are existing repeaters or temporary communications set up for the occasion is not known, but they remain active now almost one week following Floyd's visit. These are worth listening to in the future, emergency situation or not.

One missing component to this story was a lack of photos I would have liked to include. Local traffic and road closures made traveling virtually impossible, not to mention that parking was nonexistent in those few areas that might have escaped damage. On the way to work on Friday (9/17) I was detoured through Lodi, NJ where I saw flooding and devastation I will not forget for some time. The one picture that remains etched in my mind was a recent model 4 wheel drive vehicle submerged with only inches of it's roof above water. As I sat in traffic neighbors used another vehicle to pull it from the muddy waters while its owner waded nearby in the muddy water with anger and disbelief in his eyes. Down the road, Rt 17 looked like the Burma Road with its North bound lanes hosting a lake where local teens made the best of it enjoying a short canoe ride. Someone once told me that you try to do the best you can - if you're given lemons than make lemonade!

So as you can imagine lots of action had all my scanners working double duty. Here's a few tips I can suggest for "next time."

1. First of all preparedness is what's its all about. Hard copy lists - forget the computers and on line databases. No power, no phones, means no computers and no Internet. Better yet, have that extra scanner preprogrammed and have a few 12V gel cells on trickle charge.

2. While my computer's UPS supply is designed to

provide 30 minutes of backup power for the computer and monitor, it was able to power two scanners for several hours. In a pinch this works, but I don't suggest this as your primary means of emergency power given the UPS's poor efficiency. Info I was able to obtain suggest that its internal inverter runs at best about 45% efficient so much of the battery's power is used running the DC to AC inverter. My suggestion is some of the larger 12V gel cells that are available from a variety of sources. It's important to test and use them regularly so as to keep them cycled. A charger can be floated across the battery and a diode can be used to isolate the charger as well as provide automatic switching for seamless switch over from AC to DC emergency power.

3. Scanners with tone receive cut down much of the noise that can build up very quickly when you have several radios in front of you. Whenever possible use tone receive.

4. If the action is several miles away don't assume it's too far and you won't hear it. I have a Motorola Maxtrac that I use primarily for 2M amateur radio use. Yes these commercial radios are bigger and bulkier, but the sensitivity and selectivity cannot be approached by any of the Asian radios. Case in point - several unused channels were programmed to Atlantic City and Wildwood Police after I returned from a summer vacation there. Programming in the PL's muted the Maxtrac so I knew that if the squelch opened reception was happening. Both of these cities use repeaters that are located atop tall buildings or towers. My Diamond 500 antenna fed with 60 ft of 9913 preserves most of what's heard. During most of the summer months I can reliably monitor these two cities that are about 140 miles south of my location in central Bergen County. I must stress that while my 2006 and my R7100 can "hear" them, the Maxtrac makes the difference between enjoyable copy and digging signals out of the noise. Such was also the case when I was able to listen to some of the action in Bound Brook, NJ

5. Based on the above, don't run out and buy a "mega antenna" and expect to double your listening area. Many of today's scanners were designed to work very well with the simple whip antenna they are shipped with. Adding a high gain antenna will do nothing more than to swamp the front end and you'll be listening to lots of intermod. This is especially true of Uniden receivers - very sensitive, but very

unselective. One simple work around is to install a simple antenna such as a 1/4 wave 2M ground plane. Mount it as high as possible and use a medium grade coax like RG-6. Having the antenna as high as possible increases your line of sight reception. Such a modest antenna won't have the gain and the 50+ feet of coax will actually attenuate some of the signal. In most cases the reception should improve with only a minimal increase in intermod or adjacent channel interference.

POLICE DEPARTMENTS BACK ON LINE

<http://www.bergen.com/region/copscope199909222.htm>

September 22, 1999

By PAULO LIMA, Staff Writer

Lost power and spotty telephone service are trouble enough for people who simply want to check up on friends and family members. Imagine being responsible for protecting the welfare of a community without the ability to communicate with most of its residents.

Dozens of North Jersey police departments faced that problem over the weekend after Tropical Storm Floyd crippled regional telephone service.

Several departments were unable to directly field 911 calls through the weekend. A few others also found themselves temporarily homeless, bounced from their headquarters by rising flood waters.

Thankfully, they said, there were no disasters, and by Tuesday things were back to normal for most departments --although one was expected to remain in temporary quarters for about six months and two others weren't sure when they'd be able to return to their respective headquarters.

The telephone problems, blamed on a flooded switching station in Rochelle Park, forced police in North Jersey to become resourceful.

In Moonachie, callers on the borough's west side got a busy signal whenever they dialed the police non-emergency number, Sgt. Mark Torsiello said. So officers hit the streets, distributing about 500 fliers instructing residents to call either Carlstadt or Wood-Ridge if they needed police service. Those departments then reached their Moonachie counterparts over the State Police Emergency Network, a radio frequency linking all state, county, and municipal agencies in the area.

"We have several senior citizens who live alone that we like to check on regularly," Little Ferry Police Chief Donald Fleming said. "Without the phones, we had to send out officers to physically do it."

Long-distance dialing was another problem. With many officers living outside the local area code, desk office again got creative.

"To dial out, we were using 10-10-321 and 10-10-220," Torsiello said, referring to discount dial-around numbers. "It was working for a while. Then I guess everyone else caught on."

Long-distance trouble emerged in Oradell on Friday morning, when officers got word that a man and three children were clinging to trees in the rain-swollen Hackensack River. Unsure whether a boat rescue was feasible in the swift waters, officers decided to summon a helicopter from New York City police or the Coast Guard, Oradell police Lt. Ron Emanuel said.

But calling out of the area was impossible, Emanuel said. Oradell firefighters ended up pulling off the rescue with their boat and ropes.

The SPEN radio system became a valuable tool in keeping departments in touch with one another.

Under normal circumstances, many of Bergen's larger towns field 911 calls for their smaller neighbors, then electronically route them to the proper town's police departments. For example, Hackensack redirects calls for Little Ferry, Fleming said.

Over the weekend, however, operators in some towns had to note the emergency and contact their police neighbors via SPEN radio to get the proper help on the way. It made for a slower response.

"We were fortunate that God was on our side and we didn't have any emergency we couldn't handle over the radio," Fleming said.

SPEN is not foolproof, however.

On Friday, the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management sent out a SPEN advisory that rising tides were expected to worsen flooding. Officials were unable to verify whether the message had

been received, however, so they asked Washington Township Police Chief William Cicchetti's officers to spread the word. Like a modern-day Paul Revere, an officer drove the borough's four-wheel-drive truck to alert departments along the Hackensack River.

"Most of the people [in those towns] said they had never heard the SPEN message," Cicchetti said.

Four departments had even bigger problems when floodwaters chased them from their headquarters. Flooding at Park Ridge police headquarters also was felt by two neighboring departments -- Montvale and Woodcliff Lake, which share a dispatch center in Park Ridge's headquarters.

Fast-rising waters prompted an evacuation order at 5:36 p.m., Park Ridge Lt. Joseph Madden said. Within an hour or two, the entire headquarters was under 5 feet of water, he said.

"We just thought the water was going to come up maybe a foot, so we put things on countertops and got out," Madden said. "It turned out that no point was high enough."

Officers spent most of their shifts Thursday night and Friday on rescues and evacuations while the department hastily shifted its headquarters to Westwood Elementary School, Madden said.

The new temporary headquarters is in a borough-owned building on Kinderkamack Road. The 19-officer force will spend at least six months there. Meanwhile, officials plan to work with a restoration company in hopes of salvaging important police files damaged by the floodwaters.

Bergen County police also had to handle the storm crisis on the run. A wall collapse sent about 8 feet of water pouring into the basement of the headquarters on Zabriskie Street in Hackensack, Sgt. Paul Einreinhofer said.

Water damaged vital telephone components and the officers' locker rooms, but did not affect the top two floors, where the offices are located, Einreinhofer said. Officers and dispatchers relocated to the county's Office of Emergency Management in Paramus, which became their new home for three days.

After Bell Atlantic technicians reestablished enough

phone lines, the county officers returned to their Hackensack quarters Monday afternoon, Einreinhofer said.

Two other departments remain in temporary quarters and could be there for months to come.

Ridgewood police moved their operations into the second floor of the public library on Maple Avenue.

Rochelle Park officers had moved in with their counterparts in Maywood, but are now working out of the borough's Ambulance Corps building on Central Avenue.

BOGOTA NJ

We've just been informed that Bogota Police will be moving to 500 Mhz. At this time we know that a license has been granted for a repeater operating on **506.3875**, with an input on **509.3875**. If anyone hears any activity please E mail us.

X BAND UPDATES

9/10/99

1620 KHZ

WPHG - AL, ATMORE - GOSPEL
KSMH - CA, AUBURN - CATH (REL)
WHLY - IN, SOUTH BEND - NOS
KOIL - NE, BELLEVUE -SPX TALK
KYIZ - WA, RENTON - R&B

1630 KHZ

KCJJ - IA, IOWA CITY - AC
KKWY - WY, CHEYENNE - C&W
XEUT - MEXICO, BCN, TIJUANA- JAZZ **

1640 KHZ

KDIA - CA, VALLEJO - CATH (REL)
KKJY - OR, LAKE OSWEGO - REL/GOS
WKSH - WI, SUSSEX - REL

1650 KHZ

KGXL - CA, TORRENCE - NOS
KDNZ - IA, CEDAR FALLS - NX/TK
WHKT - VA, PORTSMOUTH - REL

1660 KHZ

WMIB - FL, MARCO - NOS
WQSN - MI, KALAMAZOO - SPX TALK
WWRU - NJ, ELIZABETH - ETH/SS
KAXY - TX, WACO - SPX TALK *
KXOL - UT, BRIGHAM CITY - OL (55-65)

1670 KHZ

WRNC - GA, WARNER ROBINS - C&W
WTDY - WI, MADISON - TALK

1680 KHZ

WTIR - FL, WINTER GARDEN - TIS
WJNZ - MI, ADA - R&B/RAP
WTTM - NJ, PRINCETON - SPX TALK

1690 KHZ

KDDZ - CO, ARVADA - DISNEY
WMDM - MD, LEXINGTON PK - TK/SPX

1700 KHZ

WRNU - FL, MIAMI SPRINGS -SPX TLK
KBGG - IA, DES MOINES - TLK
KQXX - TX, BROWNSVILLE - SS
KTBK - TX, DALLAS/SHERMAN - SPX

**KAXY-1660 is only operating until Midnight CDT, prob. 1
KW for a few weeks.*

***XEUT - 1630 is only Daytime, on at 6:30 AM (PDT) and off
by LSS.*

BAD NEWS FOR BILL CHEEK

Subject: [Fwd: BILL CHEEK INDICTED 9/30/99]
Date: Sat, 02 Oct 1999 12:47:46 -0400
From: "Charles J. Hargrove" <N2NOV@LSA.NET>

On September 30, 1999, a federal grand jury in the eastern district of New York indicted William Cheek on one count of 18 usc 2512 (1) (a), (Sending through the mail or carrying in interstate or foreign commerce, any electronic, mechanical, or other device, knowing or having reason to know that the design of such device renders it primarily useful for the purpose of the surreptitious interception of wire, oral, or electronic Communications.).

This indictment reflects the efforts of the United States Attorneys Office, from the eastern district of New York, U.S. Secret Services New York electronic crimes task force and its participating members, in Particular the New York police department, and Nassau County Police Department.

The investigation, which led to this indictment, was initiated by the New York City Police Department after learning of advertisements for an (Mdt) mobile data terminal decoding device, and a pager decoding device on the world wide web. The governments case will be prosecuted by the Eastern district of New York. The lead investigators

in this case are from New York city police department, special investigations division, Special frauds squad.

Mobile data terminals are used by major law enforcement and public safety agencies in the United States. Among those agencies using mobile Data terminals in the New York metropolitan area are the New York City Police and fire departments and Nassau County Police.

Mobile data terminals are used to receive and transmit sensitive messages and information, which may contain law enforcement information, medical information, motor vehicle information, as well as other public safety information.

This indictment signifies the New York electronic crimes task forces. Commitment to investigating the criminal abuse of technology, especially as it relates to the safety of law enforcement and public safety Agencies throughout the country.

The Secret Service thanks its partners in law enforcement, computer, and telecommunications industries for their cooperation, support and Assistance.

But if that wasn't bad enough....

***Subject: BILL CHEEK ILLNESS
Date: Fri, 01 Oct 1999 16:50:07 -0700
From: "Robert W. Sanford"***

An appeal to Monitoring Times readers and friends of Bill Cheek:

Bill Cheek, editor of the "Experimenters Workshop" column in Monitoring Times and author of a series of books on scanner modifications was just diagnosed with incurable lung cancer at the end of September. If treatment is not begun aggressively and rapidly, doctors give him about 3-4 months.

Bill says, "research on lung cancers is ever on-going ... My doctor said that even a year ago, my case would not have been treatable at all. Now they can offer me a 4-6 months extension." The problem is, Bill does not have medical insurance. He is self-employed at Comtronics and has two daughters in college. Furthermore, charges brought against him in a New York federal court last spring -- related to his scanner business -- are currently

being heard before the Grand Jury.

Bill intends to fight the cancer, but he could use your help. Bill welcomes your prayers on behalf of him and his family. If you have knowledge or feedback on the latest cancer research and developments, Bill would appreciate hearing from you. Expressions of concern are welcome, but he'll have little energy for personal replies.

You can also help with your contributions. A trust fund has been set up by friends and family to which you may contribute toward medical expenses. Here are the details:

Contributions for Bill Cheek can be made through Union Bank of CA. Checks can be made out to either:

Bill or Cindy Cheek
Cynthia Cheek trustee for William D. Cheek, Sr.

Funds should be sent to:

Union Bank of California
Acct# 0771354719
8359 Mira Mesa Blvd
San Diego, CA 92126
Attn: Rhonda or Kevin Smith
(619) 230-3800
OR
Bill and Cindy Cheek
PO Box 262478
San Diego, CA 92196

Though always a controversial figure, there is no disputing the fact that Bill has devoted his life to the love of radio and technology. We at Monitoring Times ask that you give this appeal the widest circulation among your radio friends. As fellow hobbyists, let's show our appreciation by giving generously.

73
Larry Van Horn

MT Assistant Editor-Fed File/Milcom/Service Search
Columnist Monitoring Times Magazine - Grove
Enterprises Publisher

SHORTWAVE RADIO STATIONS OF THE WORLD

<http://www.users.uswest.net/~lgrswold/>

RADIO SOFTWARE SITE - BACK!!

Several months ago we reported that many of the

premier sites offering various radio decoding software had disappeared. Their disappearance was attributed to the legal action taken against Bill Cheek. Well it appears that they are back, bigger and better than ever. Check this out if you are into decoding the various digital formats being used.

<http://www.eavsdropper.dabsol.co.uk/SOFTWARE/software.html>

RADIO UPDATES FOR "R"

! Radio Luxembourg is scheduled to return to SW in Mid November, perhaps earlier. More to Follow.

! A smoking Volcano in the vicinity of Quito Ecuador, Locals are getting nervous. Listen to the **HCJB** updates at 1011 UTC and 0400 UTC on 9.745 and 12.015 Mhz

! **The Dominican Republic** has renamed an SW outlet on 4.960. Signals are good at 0200 UTC onward, improving 1-2 hours later. They are asking for reception reports to: **Radio Via**, Apartado de Correos 804, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, attn Senior Vargas.

Laos has been heard on 6.130 at 1300 with 30 minutes of English.

WTJC, a new Religious station has been testing from Newport, NC on 9.370 Mhz.

Radio Australia will begin special programming to its defense forces in Timor. Listen Monday to Friday at 1330 UTC on 11.660 Mhz. This is scheduled to begin on 10/01/1999

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

Charlie - N2NOV, "R", KC2AYC, Rod - N2RVM, Bob Sanford - WB6NYC,