

seem to mimic the comments that have been populating USENET discussion groups. I thought I would share my experiences with our readers, hopefully to spare them some disappointment.

A brief review of the manual made it clear that it left out a lot of information that a beginner to the scanner hobby would not have. For example, in the section that explained how trunking systems could be monitored it referenced locations on the Internet for additional information. What do the people do who don't have Internet access?

Regular scanning and programming was similar in operation to most scanners, though the method for manually selecting an individual channel was cumbersome at best. Channels are arranged in banks of 50, with 10 banks for a total of 500 hundred channels. The PRO-92 requires you to input the bank number followed by the channel number. Features such as PL and DPL decoding are enabled and disabled at the bank level, not by individual frequencies. This means that if you wanted to temporarily disable tone receive on one frequency, you are forced to disable the entire bank of 50 channels. Strike 1 - not a great design!

And while it would have been much easier to say that you can enable and disable this feature, Radio Shack describes this as "open" and "closed" mode. While this is a minor issue, neophytes will be confused.

In open mode the PRO-92 is quick to decode and display the PL or DPL tone being transmitted, provided that either PL or DPL mode is programmed as part of that channel. In open mode, while the PRO-92 detected the tone, you will hear every transmission on a frequency, regardless of the tone being transmitted. Switching to "closed" mode will enable what we generally think of as tone receive, excluding any transmission not using the designated tone. My biggest complaint is that "tone receive" only operates in "SCAN" mode. Manually selecting a frequency disables tone receive. That's a big mistake - Strike 2!

After programming in about 50 frequencies and both the NJSP Type I and Type II systems I replaced the alkaline batteries (6) with a set of freshly charged Panasonic 1200 mah "AA" cells. The PRO-92 was left to scan both trunked and conventional channels, with the squelch set just beyond "open" and the

volume set a comfortable level at a distance of 4-6 feet - about midway on the knob settings. As it was late, so activity was not particularly busy. The batteries were dead after about 3.5 hours of use, quite poor considering 4 of the same cells power my AR-8000 for 6-8 hours.

Using my original Uniden trunk tracker for comparison I proceeded to the basement to see how well the PRO-92 stacked up for sensitivity. Here again, the PRO-92 was not able to provide "arm chair" copy, and the call group display would intermittently toggle between Type I and Type II ID's. Strike 3, I've had enough!

EDACS monitoring was a bit more difficult since the manual as well as feedback from users suggested that a strong signal is a must in EDACS mode. One other quirk is that scanning EDACS systems requires you to program those channels in a separate bank by themselves. Since most EDACS systems use 4-5 frequencies, it's a waste of about 45 channels! Like several other readers I decided that I had better ways to spend \$350 so I packed the PRO-92 up and sent it back to Radio Shack. The store manager asked if I was returning it because of a problems and I explained that I was disappointed with its operation. He commented that he had heard of similar complaints from another store. I explained that the PRO-92 was an "advanced" scanner and those who would be buying it were seasoned scanner hobbyist. They are going to be rather demanding given the selling price. He agreed and refunded my money with a smile.

In defense of the PRO-92, Receiver selectivity was typical GRE quality! Even when connected to my discone antenna intermod and front end overload was minimal, and at no time caused any problems. Using the PRO-92 in Garden State Plaza quickly allowed me to identify all the DPL tones their systems used - previously unknown. I will miss this feature and admit that I had some reservations returning the radio. Realizing the novelty of a new toy and the weaknesses I discovered I believe my decision was in my wallets best interest.

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PRO-92 CHEAT SHEET

For those who decided to keep the PRO-92, you've discovered that the manual lacks a condensed list of the key sequences used to switch the various modes on and off. These are organized by what mode the scanner is in when performing the key sequence.

MANUAL Mode

FUNC 2 Switch Open/Closed Mode
 FUNC DELAY Toggle delay mode
 FUNC UP/DN Jumps to next bank
 FUNC PRI Set priority channel
 FUNC 9 Adjust Contrast
 FUNC LIT Keypad lock
 FUNC L/OUT Review locked out channels - repeat for each channel
 FUNC TUNE Set current frequency to TUNE frequency
 FUNC SEARCH Search programming mode
 FUNC TRUNK Same as PGM TRUNK ?

SCAN mode (when stopped on a frequency)

FUNC 2 Switch Open/Closed Mode
 FUNC TUNE Set current frequency to TUNE frequency
 FUNC DELAY Toggle delay mode
 FUNC PRI Set priority channel
 FUNC LIT Keypad lock
 FUNC STEP Pause/unpause scanning
 FUNC SEARCH Search programming mode

SEARCH Mode

FUNC ENTER Store current freq to ch.9xx
 FUNC STEP Pause/Resume search
 FUNC SEARCH Access 10 current search ranges
 FUNC 5 Pick from all 60 search ranges
 FUNC TUNE set current freq. to TUNE freq.
 FUNC L/OUT View locked out freqs (up/dn to scroll)
 FUNC UP Jump to next bank in lockout review mode
 FUNC 4 Clears all locked out freqs in current bank
 FUNC DELAY Toggle delay mode

PROGRAM mode(s)

FUNC 6 Text tag for current bank
 FUNC UP/DN Jump to next bank
 FUNC 3 Clears all stored IDs in bank

FUNC TUNE Store TUNE freq in current ch.
 FUNC CL Clear stored freq in current ch.
 FUNC PRI Make current channel priority ch.
 FUNC STEP Scroll down through PL/DPL tones
 FUNC L/OUT Scroll through all locked out channels
 FUNC 2 Open/Closed bank mode
 FUNC DELAY Toggle delay mode
 TRUNK FUNC 8 Set block size mode (Motorola only)
 TRUNK FUNC CL Clear current ID

TUNE mode

FUNC UP/DN Jump in 1 MHz steps
 FUNC ENTER Store current freq. to ch. 9xx

WX mode

FUNC WX WX standby mode (for SAME or 1050 Hz tone)
 Thanks to Brett - N7OLQ for this list!

MORRIS COUNTY RADIO IDENTIFIERS

Montvale appears to be doing what is common practice in Morris County. Many Morris County departments also use the numbers from their radio call sign to designate their stations, or dispatch centers.

For those who monitor Morris County - For your listening enjoyment, here is a listing of some of the identifiers that I am familiar with:

- ID - Department/Frequency & PL
- 200 - Denville Police * (45.980/127.3)
- 282 - Randolph Police (45.100/110.9)
- 291 - Dover Police (46.020/173.8)
- 300 - Morris Co Sheriffs Comm Center * (46.020/173.8)
- 345 - Rockaway Boro Police Station (46.020/173.8)
- 368 - Mine Hill Police Station (46.020/173.8)
- 392 - Mt Olive Police (39.400/173.8)
- 403 - Denville FD/EMS (46.240/82.5)
- 420 - Morris Co Sheriffs Comm Ctr (45.600/CSQ)
- 435 - Roxbury Police (39.160/173.8)
- 452 - Rockaway Twp Fire ** (154.220/192.8)
- 468 - Mendham Boro Police Station (39.020/173.8)
- 480 - Parsippany Police *** (866.375/151.4)
- 484 - Morris Co Sheriffs Comm Ctr (39.360/173.8)
- 485 - Morris Co Sheriffs Comm Ctr (45.940/173.8)
- 621 - Rockaway Twp Police (154.785/114.8)
- 700 - Jefferson Twp Police * (45.800/173.8)
- 702 - Morris Co Sheriffs Comm Ctr (45.900/173.8)
- 778 - Parsippany Fire (46.480/173.8)

- 804 - Morris Co Sheriffs Comm Ctr (39.620/173.8)
- 849 - Roxbury Fire/EMS (45.600/CSQ)
- 851 - Randolph Fire/EMS (46.360/110.9)
- 877 - Morris Co Sheriffs Comm Ctr (39.020/173.8)
- 957 - Mt Olive Police (39.400/173.8)

NOTES:

* = Not derived from the current call sign.
 ** = Old call sign from old low band system. They now have a new VHF channel, but still use the old identifier for their dispatcher.
 *** = Old call sign from old low band system (which is still current EMS Channel). There is a new call sign for the police channel, but they still use the old identifier.
 Happy Holidays to all -
 Erik

NEW WEB PAGE FOR BERGEN COUNTY

<http://www.hili.com/~4runner/berg.html>

I am please to announce an addition to my web pages that provides a complete public service listing of all municipalities in Bergen County. Where available, links to each towns pages are provided. I wish to thank Warren Silverman who was kind enough to give me the Bergen County section of Scanner Master in electronic form. Several corrections are in the works to reflect the changes that have taken place over the past 6 months.

BERGEN COUNTY CHANGES CHANNEL ASSIGNMENTS

John, KB2SGJ passed this on to me following last weeks net. I have verified that BCPD is using 477.5125 for the majority of their dispatching.

F-1: 477.1625R Main dispatch channel. May change to 477.5125 in very near future

F-2: 477.1625S

F-3: 477.1875R BCPD "alert" intersystem between local PD's BC Sheriff uses this channel because their own channel 472.6375 does not have good countywide coverage.

F-4: 477.2125R Tactical

F-5: 477.1875S BCPD/Prosecutor units

F-6: 477.2125S Tactical BCPD / narcotics / detectives / Prosecutor

joint ops

F-7: 477.5125R Dispatch channel, independent of F-1 sometimes used to simulcast F-1

F-8: 477.5125S Joint ops BCPD/Prosecutor

F-9: 477.2875R Can be used as main disp channel if F-1 busy or out of service

F-10: 477.2875S SWAT / K-9 or other special units (esp training)

F-11: 477.5375R BCPD OEM units, seldom used. Low power portable repeater for SWAT (moving to F-15).

F-12: 477.5375S

F-13: 478.5875S Presently used as simplex for BCPD narcotics/surveillance/Prosecutor. Future use for DIGITAL repeater (Motorola Astro)

F-14: Will be simplex of F-13 when it is a repeater

F-15: 472.6375R Future DIGITAL repeater BCPD / SWAT/Prosecutor

F-16: 472.6375S

NASA REAL TIME DATA

<http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/realdata/index.html>

Looking to find the latest info on tracking the current space shuttle mission? Easy - just visit the link above and virtually anything you could ever want to know is a click away!

OUR READERS TOP 5 FREQUENCIES!

Following one of our weekly nets someone suggested putting together a list of the "top 5" frequencies people listen to. I received several replies and instead of trying to compile one list the choices were so good that I decided to list everyone's choice. Here goes!!

John, KB2SGJ

#1 (by far) 452.175 (PL 114.8) Metro Fire channel
 1. if you want quiet listening and only for the big stuff, this is it.

#2 154.68 (PL 131.8) SPEN1

#3 477.1625 and now or soon to be 477.5125 (PL 156.7) BCPD F-1. for anything big happening in Bergen Cty.

#4 155.13 (PL 71.9) local PD, Hillsdale etc. likely to be changed to **155.19 (PL 71.9) ** in future
#5 158.76 (PL 100.0) local FD dispatch.

155.685R Suffolk County PD Countywide
METRO 21 NYS 800 MHz Ericsson trunked radio system

"Ken" soyboy@inx.net

My top 5 frequencies would be..
470.8375 NYPD SOD
450.8125 Metrotraffic
476.5625 NYPD Div 1
470.8625 Street Crime Units
160.905 NYPD Transit Manhattan

Don - N2QAY

123.10 NYPD air freq (if anything's happening in New York there's probably action on this freq.
156.80 Coast Guard Distress freq.
118.3 Newark Airport (I guess I just like to hear the pilots)
119.5 Teterboro Airport (same as above)
155.19 Clifton PD freq #1

"Walter" deltasc@aol.com

here is my top five
1. 476.6125 div 32 108 & 114 pct
2. 470.8375 SOD
3. 154.400 QUEENS FIRE
4. 476.5875 DIV 4 17 MS MN PCTS
5. 154.250 MANTATTAN FIRE
These are my main frequencies because of where I work and live.

Rod Barton

Here are the top 5 for me, although as most would prob say, 5 is a hardnumber to narrow down to.

Mike W2MAC

Bronx Fire- 154.19MHZ
My Repeater 145.495MHZ
Westchester 60 Control Fire 46.26MHZ
Pelham Police 155.25MHZ
Local 440 Rpt 445.675 MHZ

1 The 4 metro fire radio channels. (keeps you from having to scan an entire bunch of police/fire freqs)...
2 Citywide radio NY (fire buff/photo group) They put out all "worthwhile" NY stuff.
3 Local Fire for my area (154.160)
4 Spen 1
5 Would have to be Northstar/Southstar and some "intresting" state police ID's (I use a 245 dedicated for this monitoring. And a Uniden SC200 for the other stuff.

Eddie - KC1AYC

477.2125 Nassau County PD CH 6- 4th & 5th Pct
46.100 Nassau County FireCom
166.325 US Park Police
470.8375 NYPD HWY-SOD
461.700 (PL 141.3) News 12 Helicopter
Favorite HF Freq: 11.175 (I think this is Giant Killer.
You hear a lot of overseas military flights as well as the hurricane hunters.

Merry Xmas!

Rod Barton

Hasbrouck Heights NJ (almost afraid to say that!)

WA2JC

ok the family radio service here they go
462.7125
462.5625
462.6875
462.6625
467.5625
happy holiday to all

Roland Stiner NK2U

I only listen to North Arlington specific frequencies:
155.250 Police F1
154.085 Police F2 and Fire F1
155.280 Police F3 (I have confirmed this.)
153.785 Police F4 (I have confirmed this too.)
154.680 SPEN 1

Joe Walc, KC2EEC

Here's my list. Of course I live and work in NYC.
Queens, FDNY: 154.4000, pl 186.2
City Wide, FDNY: 154.4300, pl 186.2
Manhattan, FDNY: 154.2500, pl 186.2

Warren N2RAH - Mr "ScannerMaster"

My Fab five are:
470.8375R NYPD SOD Citywide
478.0125R FDNY EMS Citywide
478.7125R Nassau County PD Detective

SOD, HW, PDNY, 470.8375, pl. 136.5
461.6500 City Wide Notification (Fire/Police/EMS etc.) , pl 167

Bill W2ZH

1. JFK tower 119.1 living close to the airport.
2. 75 Meters 3885

- 3.3898
- 4.3865
- 5. NPR Radio 93.9 FM

Dave, WI2Q

- 1: 162.40 wx for my area
- 2: (SEVERAL FREQS OF NJSP TRUNK SYSTEM)
- 3: 476.7375 NYPD CITY WIDE 1
- 4: 453.0 SHADOW TFC
- 5: 39.02 Mount Arlington PD

FREQUENCY UPDATE

Moonachie First Aid is now using 154.310
Joe N2OAD

FREE RADIO DATABASE FROM ILG RADIO

<http://www.ilgradio.com/ilgradio.htm>

The new software of ILGRadio database is now available and there are now 32 data fields available and the database structure is improved now. All complete frequency schedules of this current winter 1999/2000 season can be found in this ILGRadio database.

ILGRadio is the most up-to-date database and is available on a nearly weekly basis ! No other publisher in the world is able to make such a perfect server for money (ILGRadio is FREE) !!! The short wave data file for example covers all stations between 2300 - 30000 kHz with all details of the transmitter sites such as longitude, latitude, power, azimuth . . . The times are also given in a graphical field where you can identify the languages. These "times by lines" will display the exact occupation of each frequency at a glance.

A browser software is included to run index or filter functions. So you can filter out and display transmissions of 1 ... 6 hours at any time of the day. This option will make the handling of more than 13800 data sets as easy as possible. You can also import the database in a standard database software like MS Access, MS Excel and some others.

ILGRadio database is now available in the dBASE, TEXT and EXCEL format, so you can use other software than ILGRadio to display the data on your PC.

There are also separate language databases available with broadcasts of all Broadcasts in English, French, German, Arabic, Italian,

Portuguese, Spanish, Russian or Nordic.
For other languages you can set the filter function

AM and FM stations of the world are also included with all the details as given in the short wave database. A new AF / FM file will be available due in December 1999.

There are now more than 10000 regular users of this guide and the ILGRadio web server has more than 400 000 page hits in a months !

Free download after ordering your personal password: <http://www.ilgradio.com/ilgradio.htm>

Best regards,
Bernd Friedewald (DK9FI)

Y2K LISTENING

From the recent news regarding possible terrorist activity in the US during the New Years celebration in New York, all would be well advised to program you scanners with all NYPD frequencies associated with Manhattan. This includes the NY City Subway System, NYPD Paramedics, and all known federal agencies. Sources tell us that the FBI will have at least 350 agents in the Times Square area. Security is going to be very tight!

For up to date frequency listings visit...

<http://www.n2nov.net/>

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

Charlie - N2NOV, "R", N7OLQ, N2OAD, Justin Mattes, "Erik", and to all those mentioned that shared their "top 5" frequencies!

Charlie N2NOV and myself would like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers a happy holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year. Happy Y2K !!