SCANNERS

THE URBAN DX'ER

SHORTWAVE

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NYDXA UNVEILS NEW WEB SITE!

http://nydxa.4t.com

Now in it's 5th year "The Urban DX'er" adds another resource to compliment our weekly net. **NYDXA**ONLINE features a complete archive of our monthly newsletter as well as links to your favorite scanner resources. Over the next few weeks I'll also be adding selected pieces of software we mention on the net and here in The Urban DX'er.

Links to my web page and Charlie N2NOV's page will also be included. These pages will "mirror" much of the information contained on NYDXA *ONLINE*.

I also thought it might be a nice touch if we could include photos of the people who check into the net each week. It's always nice to attach a face to a voice.

If you have an idea to improve the site please E mail us share you ideas!

Bob, WA2SQQ - Charlie, N2NOV

TANDY SELLS OF INTERESTS IN UK

Tandy is dead. Long live Tandy

By: Kieren McCarthy

Posted: 03/01/2001 at 16:29 GMT

http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/7/15785.html
We ran a story yesterday querying whether Tandy's online strategy had been pulled but the situation is far, far worse. At first, we couldn't, wouldn't believe it when reports came in that not only had Tandy's Web site been dead for several months but also huge numbers of Tandy shops have been shut down.

Delving in the bowels of Tandy's Web site, we found a list of Tandy stores - 269 of them in the UK (and, frankly, a landmark in many a town: "Take a left at the Tandy").

But so loved was the store of odds and ends that Reg director Drew immediately assured us that the Sittingbourne branch had shut down. And the one in Kilburn too. News ed Rob, decried the fact that Rochdale's store has closed too ("I bought my first Established 1984

radio-controlled car there", he exclaimed through welling eyes).

That's not all, either. This has broken hearts all over the UK. York? Dead and buried - it even had an "everything must go" sale. Loughborough? Gone. And we've another two reports of their local shops been shut down and taken over by mobile phone shops. And just now Reg MD Linus tells us that the Liverpool store has gone as well - also a mobile phone store.

And that is the answer, sad as it is. Carphone Warehouse bought the Tandy stores two years ago. And we can confirm that most, if not all of the stores have been replaced by - you've guessed it - Carphone Warehouses.

We contacted Carphone Warehouse to register our despair. It confirmed that over the last year it has been shutting down stores and turning them into mobile phone stores. The Tandy name won't be disappearing, but it already has in 220 of the 269 stores. And more are to follow.

The spokeswoman said that "some" of the remaining stores will be shut down, but some will continue trading. No, they haven't decided which yet. No, the Tandy name hasn't been strangled. No, the new stores will not feature the Tandy name. No, the new stores will not sell any of the traditional Tandy goods.

This has been a slow, calculated meltdown of a much-loved British brand. Carphone Warehouse certainly wouldn't have wanted the public to know that its purchase of the company was not a chance to wield the sword of Great Britain's electrical and component sub-culture, but rather a cynical attempt to get High Street presence.

This is truly a sad day for our nation. Where, O Lord, shall we buy our capacitors, our resistors, our police scanners, our little bits of cable and our childhood toys? Who shall we turn to for disjointed conversations with odd men that know only

acronyms? Radio Spares, you say? Oh, okay.

MICOM - REMCS UPDATE

Last issue I wrote about the recent appearance of MICU and REMCS on the NJ State Police system. I had a conversation with W2PKJ who is a paramedic working out of Hackensack Medical Center and he provided this further explanation.

MICCOM and REMCS both have disaster coordination functions on the trunked system. These are used in the event of major statewide or regional disasters to coordinate between the state OEM, the various MICU dispatch centers (I believe CENCOM at Overlook Hospital and MEDCOM in Somerset Co. are also on board, perhaps MONOC, too), the State Police, etc. I don't think right now that it gets used much, but the provisions are all in place now.

As for the 155.175 situation, so far as I know, nothing has changed yet. Last I knew, they were waiting for license and coordination approvals for all of the various transmitter sites. Dealing with the issues of getting the coordinators of the MICU projects at nine different hospitals to agree on how / when / who's gonna pay for changing all of the radios in all of the trucks over to the new frequency is very difficult.

In the meantime, we continue to battle with Carlstadt, Garfield, South Hackensack and a few other towns that share the frequency.

FUGITIVES ROB RADIO SHACK

HOUSTON, Texas -- Police on Friday charged two members of a gang of escaped convicts with the robbery of a Radio Shack store near Houston.

During the robbery, which took place just two days after the gang escape, the two men stole police radio scanners that were later used during a Christmas Eve holdup in which a police officer was killed.

The seven-member gang was already wanted in connection with their prison break, the robbery of a sporting goods store in Irving, Texas, and the murder of police officer Aubrey Hawkins, 29. Hawkins was killed when he responded to a robbery call from the store.

On Friday, police charged George Rivas, 30, and

Donald Keith Newbury, 38, with the aggravated robbery of the Radio Shack store in the Houston suburb of Pearland on December 15.

Authorities have offered a \$100,000 reward for information that leads to the gang's capture.

Stole Police Scanners

Police allege that Rivas and Newbury tied up Radio Shack store employees at gunpoint, grabbed items including police radio scanners, and then fled in the store manager's truck, which was found later at a nearby apartment complex.

Those scanners may have played a role in the Oshman's sporting goods store robbery that led to Hawkins' death.

Irving police said the gang, posing as security guards and carrying scanners, corralled two dozen store employees and then stole guns, about \$70,000 in cash, and clothes.

Hawkins was gunned down when he came upon the gang as it fled the store, police said. The fugitives also stole his gun and ran him over with the stolen truck, police said.

Hawkins, who had been an officer since last October, was buried Thursday in Irving. He was the 14th police officer killed this year in Texas, which leads the nation in such deaths.

Why the gang needed more weapons seems unclear. At the time of their escape, they stole 14 .357 Magnum pistols with 238 rounds of ammunition, a loaded automatic rifle, and a loaded shotgun.

Police fear the fugitives do not intend to be stopped, considering that they would face the death penalty if convicted of Hawkins' murder.

"Given the history of the kind of people we're dealing with, the likelihood of having another serious injury or death is a real good possibility," Irving Police Chief Lowell Cannaday told CNN.

<Editors Note: This story generated much talk about possible future legislation against the use of radio scanners. One creative ham seized the moment and offered the Texas Department of Justice the assistance of the radio community! I

realize that since I originally included this story the fugitives have been captured but it makes interesting reading none the less. Read on...>

"I am KD5OM, Jerry Karlovich and I live in Plano, Texas. Unless you have been living in a cave the past couple of weeks you have heard of the seven prison escapees' that killed an Irving police officer Christmas Eve. The TV news reported that they also robbed a Radio Shack store in Houston earlier and made off with several types of hand held walkie talkie radios. That gave me an idea that I shared with the TDCJ (Texas Department of Criminal Justice) via their web site email http://people.txucom.net/tdcj-iad/

I just got off the telephone with Joe Nesmith of the TDCJ and they like my idea and want me to pass this information along to radio amateurs in the area. Many of us including myself own scanners that will do limit searches. I thought if we, the amateur radio community, did some extra listening to our scanners, just maybe we could hear the convicts and assist in their capture. The radios stolen from the Radio Shack store were FRS (Family Radio Service) radios, business band radios, and amateur two meter talkies. The FRS Band channel frequencies are:

1 462.5625	8 467.5625
2 462.5875	9 467.5875
3 462.6125	10 467.6125
4 462.6375	11 467.6375
5 462.6625	12 467.6625
6 462.6875	13 467.6875
7 462.7125	14 467.7125

The business band radios that were stolen come pre program from the factory with the freq. of 156.400 [154.600?] mhz. although can be programmed to operate from 150 to 160 mhz. And we all know the amateur two meter band. If you hear what you might suspect to be the escapees', contact 911, officer Ricky Bort of the Pearland Police Department at 281-485-4361 office or 281-321-2156 pager. The Huntsville command center is operated 24/7 and can be reached at 936-437-6735 Officer Nesmith's pager is 1-800-299-4099 enter the pin number at the prompt of 6156 then enter your telephone number. You can find names and photos of the escapees' at

http://people.txucom.net/tdcj-iad/

Wouldn't it be a good thing for us if we were directly involved in assisting to capture these guys. And of course, common sense tells us DON'T PLAY

WALKER RANGER AND TRY TO CAPTURE THESE GUYS YOURSELF!!!!!

73, Jerry Karlovich, KD5OM Additional info on this story can be found at

http://news.excite.com/news/ap/010104/01/prison-escape

MEDIA FEEDBACK ...

Each month this newsletter is sent to selected individuals at all of the major scanning magazines. I recently received these comments from Rachel Baughn at Monitoring Times and James Blaha, Editor of Scanning USA Magazine . Ever think about writing an article?

"Any time you get an idea for another scanning feature, please think of us. I'm looking for features to fill the summer and early fall months. Got any pitches or an author you can recommend? Best regards, Rachel" @ MT

Dear Bob:

Thank you for your adding us to your mailing list. you should be commended for your hard work and labor into this project and keeping a local club running. I can understand the challenges in keeping a publication running; but when you think of the many who benefit, the reward is great.

So, continue on with the work with the newsletter and the meetings on the "air". While we don't have a club schedule, I can certainly pass on to the editorial to make a note to share with our readers about your club and that they might be interesting in either listening or participating.

Perhaps in the future, since you mention you have writing experience, might want to do a sort of "Spotlight On Metro NJ 'NY" for Scanning USA. Just a thought for the future. Keep up the good work and thanks again!

Sincerely

James Blaha

Editor, Scanning USA Magazine

NEW 780 CONTROL SOFTWARE ON THE HORIZON

Since the 780XLT hit the street I've been searching for an affordable piece of software that would allow you to program the radio, modify the existing programing, and easily save - store the contents to your computer. I've been playing with Radio

Manager for quite some time so I decided to drop Ben Saladino an E mail and see what he's been up to. Here's his response,

"Hi Bob,

Thanks for your interest in Radio Manager for Windows. Yes, I plan on adding support, but I do not have an ETA yet on Radio Manager.

I'm currently looking at / working on adding TrunkTracker uploading support to Trunk Manager, starting with the BC780XLT, at least for trunking information. Please stay tuned to my website below for the latest, or feel free to email and check the status."

Update...

Since the beginning of the month when Ben replied, a beta version of the new 780 program is available. The now third version supports uploading and downloading of **BOTH** conventional and trunk channels. Since it is a beta version you may find some glitches that were missed. Drop Ben a line and be patient.

Given Ben's excellent track record with Radio Manager, his latest offering is definitely something to watch. In comparison to Pozilla's Win Scan 780 which sells for \$69, Ben is asking \$25 for the registered version. The version which is down loadable is fully functional and is not limited in any way - certainly worth the \$25! Check it out at http://www.interplaza.com/bensware/tm.htm

NJ TRANSIT "LIGHT RAIL" INFO

By "Charlie" of Rail Scan

I believe that I have the new NJT Light Rail system pinned down, I found one talk group for the LRV operation "601-10", but not much talk. The "dispatcher" id's as "20 Office" and comms are usually limited to things like "Train 2 departed West Side (or other station) on time". Some of the more interesting comms happened after 2300 hrs when they were doing maintenance and training new LRV operators. There are also NJT bus op's on the trunk which can be interesting to listen to for road condition and other bus related follies. Here are the NJT freqs I monitored in **Motorola Type 1** mode:

866-868.0125

866-868.4625

866-868.4875

866-868.5125

866-868.9625 866-868.9875

Regards,

-Charlie- CG Communications North Jersey RailScan http://railscan.cjb.net

<Editors Note> I also have monitored these frequencies which appear to be limited to bus operations. I did however get some very detailed info from someone I know who had a hand in programming their system about 18 months ago. Perhaps this will give some of the more knowledgeable readers the ability to construct the fleet maps so that we can put this on going issue to rest.

His comments to me were...

"They (NJ Transit) are reconfiguring to a 10 channel simulcast system in the north as follows:

System 4431

ch1 868.4875

ch2 868.4625

ch3 867.9875

ch4 867.9625

ch5 867.4875

ch6 867.4625

ch7 866.9875

ch8 866.9625

ch9 866.4875

ch10 866.4625

This is a Type I and Type II hybrid system. Right now Transit non-revenue vehicles are using Fleet 200 subfleets 1-15 and size code D. I don't have any info on the programming of the private bus companies, but may in the future.

The second system in the North is Metrocom (Conventional Sumulcast system used by the busses, but channel steering is accomplished via 2 dedicated data channels, 854.4875 (statewide data) and 854.2375 (north data, but only 2 locations active. Eagle Rock and Warrenville). The bus normally listens to the data channel and is instructed to switch to a metrocom voice channel to talk to a console. Currently only Met chans 2, 6, 7, 8 are active with the other 6 coming online soon (Currently chs 1, 3, 4, 5 are used for Trunking system AA31 which is going away)

Metrocom North

ch1 860.4875 ch2 860.2375 ch3 859.4875 ch4 859.2375 ch5 858.4875 ch6 858.2375 ch7 857.4875 ch8 857.2375 ch9 856.4875

ch10 856.2375

Metrocomm South

3 channel Trunk system BB31 as follows for non-Revenue Transit vehicles and private bus companies. Transit vehicles are Fleet 200 subfleets 1-15

SizeCode D.

ch1 860.3875

ch3 858.3875

ch5 856.3875

2 channel Met system using the statewide data channel for steering

Met1 859.3875

Met2 857.3875

Control channel for Trunking can be ch's 1-4 in north or ch 1 or 3 in south."

TRUNKEDRADIO.NET

http://www.trunkedradio.net/trunked/trsscan.htm http://www.trunkedradio.net/

Here's an informative page for the Trunk Tracking beginner. While the systems featured on this site appear to be in the Southeastern US, the general info is quite good.

These include

! Tips for determining Type 1 Fleetmaps

! BC895 Computer Interface Plans

! Scanning Software

TIPS FOR THE TRUNK TRACKER NEWBIE

If you are are among the many who just purchased the BC780XLT than you've probably wondered what to do with the unused channels in a bank you've designated for a trunked system. On one of the E-Groups scanner list I came across this well written explanation.

Programming Trunked & Conventional In The Same Bank

II did these step-by-step instructions for a friend who wanted to know how to program trunked and conventional freqs into the same bank. The following instructions assume a Motorola Type-II 800 MHz system, do not

cover entering Talkgroup ID's and do not cover other "TRUNK TYPE" features (like status bit, I-Call, etc.)

This may help those who are entirely new to trunking and scanning get the idea of how to program the radio...

We'll pretend your local police dept has a mix of trunked and conventional frequencies and you want to put them, all in one bank, bank 1.

Say you have the following TRUNKED freqs you want to program in to bank 1, channels 1 through 5. 856.2375, 857.2375, 858.2375, 859.2325, 860.2125 and, you have the following CONVENTIONAL or non-trunked frequencies you want to put in channels 6-10 of bank one.

450.250, 450.350, 450.450, 450.475, 450.500 First, before we enter the trunked frequencies, we need to tell the scanner that we are putting trunked frequencies into channels in bank 1.

- 1. Press MAN to put the scanner in MANUAL (or nonscanning) mode so you can program it (only if it is scanning and not stopped on a channel)
- 2. Press MENU once, then use the LIMIT button to scroll down to 3: TRUNK DATA
- 3. Once you are on TRUNK DATA, press SELECT.
- 4. You see BANK and a number if it is not bank 1, just press the number on the keypad for the bank you want in this case, 1.
- 5. The display changes to read "1:TRUNK TYPE" we have to tell the scanner what type of trunked radio system want to program more on this later.

For now we'll say it is the most common type, TYPE2 800. 6. Press SELECT to select TYPE2 800, and then press SELECT again to enter

It.

- 7. The display should now read "2: DELAY" and below that "3:RECORD" these are more options for the trunked system we are going to enter let's skip those for now.
- 8. Press MAN to come out of TRUNKED DATA and back to the main screen.

Now we have told the radio we are going to program trunked freqs of a Type II 800 megahertz system into bank one, so it now knows to use that 'language' to track the system.

So you can start programming the trunked freqs now -

- 9. Go to channel 1 now (press MAN, 1, MAN)
- 10. Enter the first trunked freq 856.2375.
- 11. Now, we need to designate this is as a trunked freq and channel one more

time.. press and hold TRUNK until you see a small letter 'M' appear above the number 8 in the frequency.

12. The "M" stands for Motorola - the Motorola Type II system we told it to use earlier in steps 1-8. BE SURE to remember to press and hold TRUNK on EVERY trunked

freq you enter, or the scanner thinks it is a conventional frequency and will not 'trunk-track' it as part of the system.

13. Keep programming the rest of the trunked freqs, pressing and holding trunk after each one until you see

So now you have successfully programmed the trunked fregs in channels 1-5. All of them should have the M above them.

Now you can program the conventional freqs in. 14. go to channel 6 (6, MAN, 6) and enter the first freq, 450.200 Allendale board of ed. Justin tells me that 461.0125 15. DO NOT press TRUNK at all on the conventional freqs - just go on to the next freq/channel until you are done.

That's it! Now you have a trunked and conventional system in one bank.

To start 'scanning' this bank:

16. Press TRUNK one time (even though you are probably on the last conventional freq - it's okay) 17. Press SCAN once.

The scanner will now go into "ID SCAN MODE" on the trunked freqs and drop back into conventional mode on the conventional. Since you don't have any "ID"s or 'talkgroups' programmed in yet for the trunked fregs, the scanner won't stop on any active trunked fregs (it's looking for active 'talkgroups' - which we have not programmed in yet).

SO - finally, to tell the scanner to stop on and hear all active trunked ID's:

18. Press SRCH once.

Now you will hear all active trunked conversations and conventional - the scanner will search' the trunked systems/freqs for any active ID's and then 'scan' the conventional freqs normally.

John Porter oceans1@olg.com

JUSTIN'S BERGEN COUNTY SCANNER **UPDATES**

Several things have taken place over the past few weeks that justify a major review of the frequency assignments for Bergen County. These include a request from Warren Silverman to proof read the Bergen County section of the new Scanner Master (shhh) My own web page is showing signs of getting tired so a major face lift is in the works. And, my new BC780XLT makes finding all those missing PL / DPL's very easy. Justin and I have been very busy cross checking, and quite honestly I couldn't do this

myself as it's very time consuming. This section in the newsletter will continue until Bergen County is complete. Compliments, comments, and suggestions go to Justin, KC2GIK!

Allendale

Together with Saddle River 453.750 (WPMM312) is being used for DPW operations. I suspect that this was to be their FD frequency but somewhere along the way DPW uses it.

461.0125 and 451.175 are being used by the is being used in the grammar schools while 451.175 is used in Northern Highland HS.

Camp Gaw Ski Patrol in Mahwah is using 461.0250 and 460.8625

SUFFOLK COUNTY NEW YORK 800 Mhz TRUNKING SYSTEM INFORMATION

Frequency 867.2875 866.6875 866.4125 866.3625 867.4000 866.0625 866.1625 867.4250 867.6750 867.7375 867.8500 867.9250 868.1250 868.2250	Data Ch X X X X	X X X X X X X	Digital X X X X
868.2500		X	
868.3750		X	
868.5250		Χ	
868.6750		Χ	
868.8000			Χ
868.8250			Χ

868.9875 Simplex (CAR to CAR) 156.7 PL

866.0875 - Conventional -as of 11/16/97 the 6th Precinct is Simulcasted here.

866.2375 - Conventional future use -Mutual Aid Nationwide *Note* These freqs are normal repeaters, used throught the USA - 156.7 PL

866.0125 - Conventional Mutual Aid Nationwide (Dispac-1)(ICOR)(Calling Channel)

866.5125 - Conventional Mutual Aid Nationwide (Dispac-2)(Itac-1)

867.0125 - Conventional Mutual Aid Nationwide

(Dispac-3)(Itac-2)*** 896.75125 - Conventional Mutual Aid Nationwide (Dispac-4)(Itac-3)** 888.0125 - Conventional Mutual Aid Nationwide (Itac-4) *This frequency was in use for interagency / intercounty coordination during the Westimarpton brush fire in August, 1996 and the Flight 800 Crash in August, 1996 and 1996 a				
Dispac-4 (Itac-3)* 1008	(Dispac-3)(Ita	nc-2)***	944	Ocean Beach Police
Dispac-4 (Itac-3)* 1008	867.5125 - C	onventional Mutual Aid Nationwide	976	Suffolk County Park Police
### ABBO 125 - Conventional Mutual Aid Nationwide (Itac-4)				•
(Itac-4) 1072 Northport Police "1" *This frequency was in use for interagency / intercounty coordination during the Westhampton brush fire in 1168 August, 1995 and the Flight 800 Crash in August, 1996. 1104 Lloyd Harbor Police Smithtown Town Code (County 1) Infeat Islip Town Code 4 August, 1995 and the Flight 800 Crash in August, 1996. 1200 Suffolk Water Authority ****This channel was in use by the SCPD vice squad in the Bayshore area, 996 1296 South Shore Medics (ch.1) APB'S BROADCAST 7 DIGITS ABOVE THE PCT & COMMAND GROUPS. EX. 1ST PCT = 49783 1360 South Shore Medics (ch.1) UNIDEN 22016 South Shore Medics (ch.2) 16 County Wide 1 & Parole 22016 Digital - RADIO TECH 17 22016 Digital - RADIO TECH Digital - RADIO TECH 18 2208 Digital - RADIO TECH Digital - RADIO TECH 18 2208 Digital - RADIO TECH Digital - RADIO TECH 19 2208 Digital - RADIO TECH Digital - RADIO TECH 10 2209 Digital - RADIO TECH Digital - RADIO TECH 11 22160 Digital - RADIO TECH Digital - RADIO TECH 12 <				
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62512	Detectives
62544	
62576	Surveillance Squad
62608	
62640	
62672	
62704	
62736	
62768	
62800	
62832	
62864	
62896	Training Classes
62928	Training Classes
62960	Surveillance Squad
62992	Training Classes
63024	
63056	Training Classes
63088	Surveillance
64016	Delta Crime Control Units
64048	Delta Crime Control Units
65456	Radio Tech Services ch.2
65488	Radio Tech Services ch.1

THE DIGITAL LABORATORY

http://www.digital-laboratory.de/

This is a very "interesting" site that offers a wide variety of software for decoding various modes as well as radio specific software for dozens of radios. One person I sent this link to described it as a software "Home Depot" for the radio hobbyist!

ESSEX COUNTY EDACS SYSTEM

Frequencies in LCN 1-866.2125, 2-866.8125, 3-867.3750, 4-868.6000 5-867.8750, 6-868.5500, 7-868.9125

WEST ORANGE, NJ (Essex County) EDACS SYSTEM

Frequencies (in LCN): 1-867.0750, 2-867.7250, 3-868.3250, 4-868.6625

SOUTH BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP EDACS SYSTEM

Frequencies (in LCN) 1-866.0750, 2-866.4000, 3-866.7000, 4-868.4125, 5-868.7375

Closing Comments.....

This month we would like to welcome the many members of Metro Fire Radio, one of the leading Notification groups in the NY metro area. Next month we will feature a story about their group. On Friday, February 2nd I'll also be visiting the Totawa Dispatch Center (Troop B) of the New Jersey State Police to do some research for an article I'm writing for Monitoring Times. Thanks to all those who contributed to this issue. Be sure to check out our new web site, NYDXA *ONLINE*, at http://nydxa.4t.com

The Urban DX'er would like to thank all those who contributed to this months issue!
Charlie - N2NOV, "R", Jerry - KD5OM, Eric - W2PKJ, Dan - KC2DHF