# S C A N N E R S

# THE URBAN DX'ER

## SHORTWAVE

#### Vol.6 No.6 June, 2001 NYDXA@Hotmail.com

#### NJFFS

Over the past few weeks we've been seeing and hearing about all the fires in our area due to the lack of rain we've been experiencing. In the Pinelands region of Southern New Jersey naturally dry periods that occur in winter and spring transform the natural foliage into the equivalent of as much as 20 tons of fuel per acre. This is equivalent to having 1" of gasoline covering the same area. Documented incidents have shown fire to spread at a rate of up to 1.5 miles per hour. In the Norther part of the state the often mountainous and hilly terrain offers added challenge. And though much of New Jersey is a mixture of urban, industrial and commercially developed properties, the New Jersey Forest Fire Service is responsible for 3.1 million acres of adjoining land.

Created in 1905, the NJFFS is a subsidiary of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. The state is organized into three divisions, each divided into sections, with each section divided into districts of about 10,000 acres. The sections are known as "A-7, B-10, and C-12." Each section may have as many as 10 districts assigned to a District Warden. Each District Warden has an assigned fire crew. Prior to doing battle with a fire, each member receives training in wild-land fire fighting and the Federal Incident Command System.

The NJFFS is comprised of about 100 full-time employees and about 1000 trained volunteers, many residents of the adjoining communities they protect. Too often, while we are sleeping these men and women carrying 65 pound "Indian tanks" hike into wooded areas to do head on battle with the enemy, often the result of a careless camper.

Last month I briefly mentioned some of the frequencies used by NJFFS. With all the media

Established 1984

attention they have been receiving, several postings were noted in the various scanning news groups. I too had a few questions and was lucky to receive a response from Ed Seifert, a member of the NJFFS.

Monitoring NJFFS can be quite exciting since a lot of their work places them in secluded wooded areas doing hand to hand combat with the fires. Their communications can generally be broken down into three categories. Simplex communications amongst the fire fighters, air to ground communicating with the air tankers that drop water from above, and communications via the repeaters used to cover the state.

Occasionally, when fires cross state boundaries, inter-state communications may be required.

Ch6	Simplex	159.375
Ch7	North	151.415 <b>R</b>
Ch8	Central	151.475 <b>R</b>
Ch9	South	151.265 <b>R</b>
Ch10	Air Tankers	159.285

All of the above use 179.9 PL

In addition, I recently discovered that a lot of simplex communications is taking place on the input frequencies of each repeater above changing their **PL to 82.5** so as not to key up the repeater.

Ch7a 159.240 North Simplex Ch8a 159.270 Central Simplex

Ch9a 159.405 South Simplex

Some NJFFS radios also have New York Department of Environmental Control channels installed but the NY authorities frown on their use without prior approval from the office in New Paltz, NY. NYDEC Rangers use the following frequencies:

F1	151.220
F2	151.280
F4	151.265

The repeater output is **159.435**, transmitting from several different locations, all depending on the unit using it.

#### NEWS FLASH TO SUSPEND PUBLICATION

For the past several years I have used an E mail newsletter dedicated to AM Broadcast Band DX'ing to bring you breaking news on this part of the hobby. The newsletter, News Flash, was free of charge and published by Phil Byetheway. Recently, this notice preceded the normal newsletter.

"I will stop publishing the NewsFlash in a few months (by September). As the concept of an email newsletter for AM DXers has been proven, it is time for me to concentrate my time on other projects (SDXM, sticker collecting, WWI airplane modeling, etc).

IRCA publishes its email newsletter 35+ times/year (I edit this too!!). You may want to consider joining the IRCA and receive its email newsletter, the "soft" DX Monitor (SDXM). Price to the world is \$10.00/year.

Send to: IRCA HQ, PO Box 1831, Perris CA 92572-1831

I for one will miss Phil's newsletter. It now leaves the Urban DX'er with a void, especially during the colder Winter months when Broadcast Band listening is at its best. If any readers know of a source for current info about this part of the radio hobby please pass it on.

Bob, WA2SQQ

# ESSEX COUNTY, VERONA , WEST ORANGE PD EDACS SYSTEM

Justin, KC2GIK passes along this info for those of you with Trunk Tracker 780's. Though rather small in size, Verona NJ (Essex County) is using an EDACS system. The frequencies listed are in Logical Channel Order (LCN) which is the order they must be programed in.

Verona Edacs (Narrow) 4800 baud

- 1 470.3000
- 2 471.7000
- 3 471.1500
- 4 471.2000
- 5 471.7500

Talkgroups 02.022 Incident command 02-041 Police dispatch

- 02-042 Special event 1
- 02-050 School/crossing guards
- 02-060 Fire alert (tones/dispatch)
- 02-062 Fireground
- 02-063 Fireground 1
- 02-066 Fire command
- 02-067 Fire training
- 02-080 Rescue alert (tones/dispatch)
- 02-082 Rescue "dispatch" [ambulances call in here

when responding]

02-083 Rescue "EMS Ops"

02-085 Paramedics

- 02-087 ??
- 02-101 DPW dispatch
- 02-102 DPW Operations
- 02-104 Buildings & Grounds "B&G"
- 02-107 Seniors bus
- 02-110 Sewer dept

#### WEST ORANGE

West Orange EDACS (Wideband 9600): LCN1 867.0750 LCN2 867.7250 LCN3 868.3250 LCN4 868.6625

The Essex County Sheriff uses 800MHz. There is a county trunked system (see below), but I've only ever heard the jail on talkgroup 02-032, and once in a while a SPEN 1 patch on 02-052. A real waste of a sophisticated system if you ask me.

Essex County EDACS LCN1 868.8500 LCN2 867.4125 LCN3 867.6000 (dup conventional freq) LCN4 867.6875 LCN5 868.2375

"Barry"

#### FBI / GOVERNMENT MONITORING IN NY

Compiled by N2NOV from various messages on the Strong Signals web site.

The FBI went to 12.5 steps, i.e. 167.2625, in the 80's when there was a massive reorganization putting the outputs/directs on the 167, 170 and 173 freqs (for the most part). The 162.6125, .6375, .7375, .7625 and 163.8375-9875 and the 164's and 165's are inputs, or direct on the repeated channels. 167.5625 (FBI common) is used alot for body taps, and the 170.025, .825, .900, .950 and 173.025-.175 are being utilized more and more. 120.775 seems to be the most common air to air, with reports also on 120.425 (F2), 120.475, and 120.825. 164.550, the

National OCDETF (Organized Crime Drug Enforcement TF) is used alot all over.

167.5375 is the SWAT/HRT Nationwide (D1/D2) Special Ops teams 164.375, listed as DOE only, and other unusual freqs out of the pattern (169.050, 172.300) are used also, and Justice now has 172.2125-.3875 for voice radio OR body taps.

**F.B.I.-KEC270 N.Y.- KEC271** Manhattan Mode NFM, Step 25Khz 167.2500,167.3000,167.3600, 167.4650, 167.5000 167.5100,167.5350, 167.5625, 167.6375, 168.8500 169.9750

Aircraft-F.B.I. A.M. Mode, Step 12.5 120.3750, 120.6500, 120.7750

**A.T.F**. Mode NFM, Step 25Khz 165.0100, 165.2600, 165.2850, 165.2875, 165.3750 165.5000, 165.6150, 165.9500, 166.2850

Federal Shared Mode NFM, Step 25 Khz 168.0000, 169.5050, 170.7000, 170.7750, 171.0450

FEDERAL SMRS - Moblie Service Mode NFM, Step 25Khz 412.0000, 413.7000, 415.1500, 415.9500 418.3500

Bureau of Prisons - Brooklyn, N.Y. Mode NFM, Step 25Khz 406.1000, 408.6500, 409.4500, 410.0500

### A.T.F.

167.6875

Below you will find a list of frequencies that the F.B.I. commonly use. They are the Motorola Astro Senceca digital radios. They are type 1 encryption and very expensive. Could be on step 12.5 or 25 Khz.

164.5500-Repeater Out 164.5500-Simplex 166.4625-Treasury Common 167.5625-FBI Common (Nationwide) 167.5375-Special Ops simplex 167.5375-Special ops repeater out 163.1000-Joint Strike Force 163.9375-Repeater input 163.9625-Repeater input 165.2375-Coordination with Customs

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DEA Nationwide

418.6250-Repeater out 418.9000-Repeater out 418.7500-Simplex 418.6750-Simplex 418.8250-Repeater out 418.9500-Repeater out 418.9750-Repeater out 419.2500-Coordination w/FBI 418.0500-Interagency 419.3000-FBI/DEA 419.3750-FBI/DEA

#### **Common DEA Shortwave Frequencies**

(Mhz) 5.277-ALPHA 5.841-BRAVO 7.300-CHARLIE 9.497-DELTA 11.076-ECHO 7.657-FOXTROT 14.690-GOLF 18.666-HOTEL 14.686-PAPA

FBI frequency 172.4750 repeater located somewhere in Queens, N.Y.

#### SUFFOLK COUNTY FIRE FREQUENCIES

SUFFOLK COUNTY F.D. FREQUENCIES Submitted by: Dan, KC2DHF

46.46 Countywide Dispatch
46.34 First division (Town of Babylon)
46.42 Second Division (Town of Huntington)
46.44 Third division (Town of Islip & Town of Smithtown)
46.40 Fifth division (Town of Brookhaven), 46.36 (Northern Brookhaven)
46.48 Sixth & seventh division (Town of Brookhaven & Town of South Hampton)
46.34 Eight, Ninth, & Tenth divisions, (Town of Southold, Eashampton, & Shelter Island)

45.20 Amityville F.D. - Village dispatch (PL 162.2) 460.575 Bayport F.D. - Operations (DCS 031) 46.54 Bellport F.D.- Village dispatch 453.775 Bellport F.D. - Operations (PL 156.7) 45.46 Bellport F.D. 476.4375 Bohemia F.D. (DCS 023) 45.74 Brentwood F.D.- Dispatch/Operations 153.770 Bridgehampton F.D. 154.190 - Bridgehampton F.D. 465.5875 - Bridgehampton F.D. 46.52 - Brookhaven F.D. 164.250 - Brookhaven National Lab - Fire/Rescue 153.890 - Brookhaven Town - Fire Marshal (PL 114.8) 476.8625 - Centereach F.D. - Operations (DCS 132) 45.44 - Centereach F.D. (PL 114.8) 465.5875 - Centereach F.D. 465.6125 - Centereach F.D. 465.6375 - Centereach F.D.

#### June, 2001

154.145 - Coram F.D. - Operations (PL 103.5) 154.130 - Coram F.D. 154.445 - Coram F.D. 154.160 - Dix Hills F.D. - Operations (PL 127.3) 45.32 - East Farmingdale F.D. - Dispatch (PL 162.2) 470.8375 - East Islip F.D. (DCS 466) 453.3125 - East Quogue F.D. 458.3875 - Eastport F.D. 470.5625 - Farmingville F.D. (DCS 023) 154.995 - Fisher's Island F.D. 155.145 - Fisher's Island F.D. 460.5875 - Flanders F.D. 46.56 - Hagarman F. D. - F-4 458.0375 - Hauppauge F.D. - Pagers/Portables 478.5875- Hauppauge F.D. (DCS 031) 45.94 - Holbrook F.D. 453.8875 - Huntington F.D. 458.8875 - Huntington F.D. 470.5375 - Huntington Manor F.D. (PL 100.0) 471.0875 - Islip Terrace F.D. (DCS 023) 465.6125 - Islip Terrace F.D. 458.4375 - Kings Park F.D. - Vehicle repeaters 470.8875 - Lakeland F.D. (DCS 023) 453.5125 - Lakeland F.D. 458.5125 - Lakeland F.D. 477.2125 - MacArthur Airport Fire/Rescue 46.50 - Manorville F.D. 453.600 - Medford F.D. - Fireground 471.2875 - Melville F.D. - Operations/Fireground (PL 100.0) 453.125 - Middle Island F. D. - Operations (DCS 047) 453.575 - Nesconset F.D. - Operations (PL 136.5) 476.5125 - Nissequogue F.D. (PL 192.8) 46.58 - North Patchogue F.D. 453.175- North Patchogue F.D. 460.550- North Patchogue F.D. (DCS 031) 164.500 - Northport Veteran's Hospital - Fire/Operations 168.525 - Northport Veteran's Hospital - Fire 460.600 - Ocean Beach F.D. - Operations 453.7375 - Ocean Beach F.D. - Portables 460.750 - Ocean Beach F.D. 45.32 - Patchogue F.D. (PL 146.2) 463.450 - Patchogue F.D. - Ambulance 46.50 - Rocky Point F.D. 453.4750- Republic Airport Fire Rescue 460.625 - Ronkonkoma F.D. - Operations (DCS 071) 46.50 - Sag Harbor F.D. 451.325 - Sayville F.D. - Chiefs (PL 114.8) 45.82 - Selden F.D. - Dispatch/Operations 470.3375 - Setauket F.D. - Dispatch/Operations (DCS 371) 153.830 - Smithtown F.D. - Portables 154.070- Smithtown- "Channel C†(PL 156.7) 460.5125 - Smithtown F.D. 460.5875 - Smithtown F.D. 460.6375 - Smithtown F.D. 465.5125 - Smithtown F.D. 154.980 - Southampton F.D. - Dispatch (PL 127.3) 154.965 - Southampton F.D. - Fireground (PL 100.0) 453.250 - Southampton Fire Wardens 460.600 - Terryville F.D. - Operations/Fireground (DCS 031) 451.375- Terryville F.D. (DCS 031) 453.075- Terryville F.D. 458.1125 - West Islip F.D. - Portables/Fireground 458.2625 - West Islip F.D. - Portables/Fireground 453.300 - West Sayville-Oakdale F.D. - Repeater (DCS 047) 163.4875 - Westhampton Beach ANG Base - Fire

#### STARFLIGHT

Statflight (Med Helicopter) out of Valhalla, Westchester, NY uses 463.000 PL 179.9 Usually you only hear dispatch on that side of the pair. If you're close to the activity, you can sometimes pick up the chopper on 468.000. They use a mixer which is normally turned off, so you have to monitor either one of those freq's above. I myself just monitor 463.000. Anthony~MFR751 Metro Fire Radio

#### Hurricane Watchers Net

http://www.hwn.org/buoy.htm Submitted by "Rifle Slug"

#### JIM HAWKINS WKNR / WGAR PAGE

#### http://hawkins.pair.com/wknr.html

Over the past few years I've mentioned some really neat web pages created by Jim Hawkins. Jim lives in Southern NJ and has made a hobby of visiting AM broadcast stations, creating a photo tour of their transmitters. It sounds simple, but Jim's attention to detail is incredible. Jim recently visited WKNR in Ohio and added another station to his list. Their transmitters are over 50 years old. Back than efficiency was important. To power just the filaments in their finals we're looking at 11 volts @ 285 amps (ea) - that's 3,135 watts! You owe it to yourself to check this one out. When you do, be sure to drop Jim an E mail and tell him you learned of his site from The Urban DX'er. By the way, Jim has similar pages on most of the NY stations as well as some with historical significance.

#### ON THE SHORTWAVES

#### http://www.ontheshortwaves.com/

On The Shortwaves is devoted primarily to the history of short wave broadcasting. Last year I did a brief review on a book by the same name written by Mr. Jerry Berg. Jerry obviously decided to extend his book on the Internet and the site is well worth a visit. Jerry's site is also plays home for The Committee to Preserve Radio Verifications (QSL's). Visit the site, check it out and drop Jerry an E mail with some feedback.

http://www.lib.umd.edu/UMCP/LAB/opentrans.html

#### AND FINALLY.....

We've heard the name, we've purchased his books, and he contributed heavily into the design of the Uniden BC780XLT. Now we can put a face to the name! The Scanner Master himself. Rich Barnett @ The Dayton Hamvention 2001!



*The Urban DX'er would like to thank all those who contributed to this months issue!* Charlie - N2NOV, "R" from Bridgeport, CT, "Barry", Dan KC2DHF, and Anthony MFR301