

I presented these facts and more on an editorial page and presented my readers with several options and asked them to write me on their opinion of whether I should charge for access or try to get companies to sponsor my site or if anyone had any other bright ideas.

While many said they would be glad to help with minimum contributions to help offset my costs, most seemed to want to pass the buck to the dealers and manufacturers and have them pay for my readers to continue to read and make use of my free material.

At this time I am busily working on a proposal to try and get sponsors to support my site and keep me going. If that doesn't work then you won't have to worry about being able to get into my site...because there won't be a site to get into ;-)

*Thanks for writing and happiest of monitoring!
Strong Signals, Rich Wells - N2MCA"*
So that's the real story!.. WA2SQQ

STEPS BEGIN TO DISCONTINUE THE USE OF 121.5 AND 243 MHz.

The International Cospas-Sarsat Program announced, it will terminate satellite processing of distress signals from 121.5 and 243 MHz emergency beacons. Although the use of emergency beacons activating on these frequencies is not under the purview of the Cospas-Sarsat Program, mariners, aviators and other persons will have to switch to emergency beacons operating at 406 MHz in order to be detected by satellites.

The Cospas-Sarsat Program is currently working on the details, including the time frame, of the termination of 121.5 and 243 MHz satellite alerting services. While no effective date has been set yet for this action, it is expected to occur far enough into the future to avoid a crisis situation for persons now using these beacons.

Read the full story at
<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-o/g-opr/SARSAT%20121.5%20MHZ.html>

RETROCOM.COM

Do the names Browning Eagle, Tram Titan, or Demco Satellite mean anything to you? How about HE-15B, HB-115A, or Constat25? If they bring back memories of the early days of CB than you're probably amongst the many who got their start in radio in the early 1960's. Someone E mailed me this

page and insisted I sit down and explore it from start to finish. I decided to check it out one evening and eventually turned the computer off at 1 a.m.! Aside from the photos you'll find dozens of ads along with the photos that many of us read in "S9" Magazine. Am I dating myself? After you think you've seen it all, be sure to visit the "links" section where you'll discover, as I did, that Browning Labs is still doing business. You'll also see some photos of vintage Browning equipment. By this point you've either gone to the site and can't believe your eyes or you're wondering what I've been drinking. Go see!
<http://www.retrocom.com/>

NEW APPLICATION FOR GPS

<http://www.cnn.com/2001/TECH/ptech/06/22/gps.airiq/index.html>

(CNN) -- An ordinary trip turned into an Orwellian ordeal for one Connecticut driver, forced to pay multiple fines after a car rental company tracked his every move via satellite.

James Turner of New Haven took Acme car rental company to court, calling the technology too intrusive. Acme countered that Turner knew the risks.

Regardless, the litigation has such an unexpected high-tech spin that the state attorney general joined the legal fray. When Turner needed a van to drive from New Haven to Virginia some months ago for business, he turned to a merchant near his home that he had relied on many times in the past. But the theater box office manager overlooked a clause in the contract stating that its vehicles were equipped with a Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) system and that going over the speed limit would cost \$150 per infraction.

When he returned home and tried to use his ATM card, he discovered that the rental company had taken out \$450 from his account. Acme Rent-A-Car had determined that he had gone over the speed limit three times and dipped into his account for each one. "They took the money out before I returned the car," Turner told CNN this week. "I was very, very surprised. I was not aware of what GPS could do. I thought it was an onboard navigation system, to use when you get lost."

High-tech Tracking

The van was outfitted with more than standard GPS technology. It had a much more sophisticated monitoring system, AirlQ, which allowed Acme to check Turner's speed and location. Turner hired a lawyer and went to small claims court, but Acme said Turner was well aware of the contract provisions. "I

don't think it was too intrusive. The warning is printed in big bold letters on top of the contract, saying any sustained speeds over 79 mph would be subject to fines," said Max Brunswick, Acme's attorney.

"It's not something that's in the fine print. It's explained to the customer and the customer has to initial it," he said. Bernadette Keyes, Turner's counsel, countered that while some Acme customer contracts did include a specific speed limit, the one her client signed did not.

Making Money or Tracking Cars?

Turner protested that the company had no system of due process by which he could challenge the charges. Brunswick said that for each infraction, the satellite system notified Acme only after Turner had gone over 80 mph for at least two minutes. "The real purpose is not to make money from people speeding. The real reason is to track cars," Brunswick said. The monitoring system allows Acme to find cars that are not returned, a persistent problem that can drive small car rental companies out of business, he said. Moreover, drivers knowing their speed is being checked tend to drive slower, leading to less liability for the company and fewer accidents for the drivers, according to Brunswick. "It's safe to say this policy saves lives," he said. The state has stepped in to help settle the legal morass, leaving the small claims case in limbo. "The court is waiting for the consumer protection board and attorney general to make their ruling," which could come within weeks, Turner said.

GEOCACHING WITH GPS

<http://www.cnn.com/2001/TECH/computing/02/01/geocaching/index.html>

By Daniel Sieberg, CNN.com Technology Editor and Ann Kellan, CNN Science Correspondent

ATLANTA, Georgia (CNN) -- There's an axiom that states, "Wherever you go, there you are." But where is here? How far away is there? And can you get there from here?

Answers to these questions were made clearer last May when former President Bill Clinton removed the encryption from Global Position System (GPS) units. The GPS technique was previously the domain of the military and dedicated outdoorspeople.

When the Department of Defense started launching GPS satellites in the 1980s, it provided two classes of service: signals with an accuracy of 10 to 20 meters for military users and a degraded signal available to civil users with an accuracy of 100

meters.

That policy was meant to prevent potential adversaries from using the GPS technology to launch attacks against U.S. forces or targets. However, the degradation of the civil GPS signal was recently removed because officials determined it would have a "minimal impact on national security."

Now that personal GPS units are more accurate, an intrepid group of people is using them for a new hobby. It's a game called "geocaching," but it's likened more to a high-tech treasure hunt. Players obtain the coordinates of a particular stash, or cache. They type the data into their GPS devices, then trek across the terrain to find their reward. Web site unites users Jeremy Irish, who lives near Seattle, Washington, enjoyed the experience so much that he helped start a Web site to unite geocachers around the globe. By visiting the site, participants can find cache coordinates close to their location. Once they've visited the cache, the Web site is also used as a forum for people to discuss their experiences. "A lot of people get hooked when they find their first cache. (It's) an interesting adventure like 'Indiana Jones,' but you don't have the boulders, the restless natives or the spikes," Irish said.

Just like in "Raiders of the Lost Ark," it's recommended you have a good pair of walking shoes, bug spray, water and a compass to help you find your way back to the car after the adventure. Geocaching can be done alone, or with a group of people. And anyone can place a new cache.

But the spirit of geocaching rests on the honor system and allows people to connect with others they may never see in person.

Cache offers trinkets, connection A self-described "nerd" at heart, Jason Thomas says that while the game requires technology to participate, it's really all about getting outdoors. Thomas, an animator for a local TV station, said he believes that many of those getting involved with geocaching are hikers before they're techies.

His most recent trek took him to a cache in Stone Mountain park near Atlanta. Thomas first plugged the longitude and latitude coordinates from the geocaching Web site into his GPS unit.

Periodically confirming his direction, he then walked through the trees and even needed to leap across a

small stream.

But when Thomas finally arrived at the coordinates he was initially stumped --nothing was in plain view.

Undaunted, Thomas remembered that some coordinates are chosen as a place to stand, look around and try to spot the cache.

Sure enough, he spotted an ammunition case (used for weatherproofing) leaning against a nearby tree. Thomas opted to take a plastic canteen and leave a DVD copy of "Deep Impact" because he says, "somebody's got to like this movie."

As part of the geocache code of ethics, participants can take any item from the cache, but they must replace it with a new one.

Among the most common items left in caches are batteries for the power-hungry GPS units, Thomas says. He has also come across such trinkets as computer games, laser pointers and compasses.

He carefully signed the logbook, which had about a dozen entries since the cache was placed in June.

"It's not really so much the box itself as it is a connection with another human being. They sat here, they saw this scene, they felt strong it was a good place for other people to go to. You feel connected to the person," said Thomas, pausing to admire the landscape before he packed up the cache box.

Brushing the dirt off his pants, Thomas then stood up and headed back to his car, leaving the site intact for the next adventurer.

STATFLIGHT UPDATE

Recently received this E mail...

Bob,

On page three of the July (dated June), 2001 Urban DX'er reference is made to a frequency and PL that STaTFlight uses in "Upstate NY". There seems to be a considerable amount of confusion and incomplete information out there about STaTFlight and its operations. Please allow me the opportunity to update your readers.

STaTFlight, short for Stabilization, Transportation, and Treatment Flight, is a joint effort between the County of Westchester's Westchester Medical Center (who provides the medical staffing for the

helicopters), Rocky Mountain Helicopters (who provides the ships) and WestComm Regional MedEvac Dispatch (who provides dispatch services). Back-up dispatch capability exists at Westchester County's 60-Control (who originally dispatched STaTFlight before WestComm took over).

Frequencies used are:

F1: MED Channel 1 463.000 (PL 179.9 Hz) for Bases-to-units. This is the east tower, which is located at Westchester Medical Center.

F16: MED Channel 4 463.075 (PL 179.9 Hz) for Bases-to-units. This is the west tower, located in Highland Mills, Orange County. The east and west towers are simulcast full time.

F1 & F16: MED Channel 1 468.000 (PL 179.9 Hz) for Units-to-bases. Note frequency is same regardless of what tower is being replied to.

F2: 463.000 (PL 179.9 Hz) [tx/rx] point-to-point

F3: WMC Security 463.625R (PL 94.8 Hz).

F6: Orange County Airport 453.7625R (PL 107.2 Hz). Freq. is link to Orange County's 36-Control.

F15: 463.075 (PL 179.9 Hz) [tx/rx] point-to-point

Readers are advised that the field units primarily use 16 channel (mostly blank and duplicate channels)portable radios for communications.

Air One (and its ALS bus, 90-A-1, for use to local area jobs when the ship is grounded due to weather) is quartered at WMC and is primary for Westchester, Putnam, and Rockland counties. Air Two (and its ALS bus, 90-A-2) is quartered at Orange County Airport and is primary for Orange, Dutchess, Ulster, and Sullivan counties.

Terms you might hear used are:

Code 000 Call cancellation

Code 150 Standby for possible launch

Code 100 Launch for emergency call

Code 200 Launch for interfacility transfer

Code 600 Launch for MCI.

Lastly, readers will hear MetroCare's ambulance assigned to Westchester's Grasslands Reservation (87-A-1) dispatched by WestComm on the above MED freqs.

Hopefully this will fill out and complete the information that is out there.

SCANdal"

Editors Note: Thanks, much appreciated!

NJ STATE PARKS

The New Jersey State Park Service (which operates under the Department of Environmental Protection) owns many acres of land in the Northwest Corner of NJ, including: High Point State Park, Hopatcong State Park, Jenny Jump State Forest, Kittatinny Valley State Park, Ringwood State Park, Stokes State Forest, Swartwood State Park, Waywayanda State Park, and Worthington State Forest.

NJ STATE PARKS

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Communications occur between the Park Offices to Superintendents, Rangers, Maintenance, and Other Personnel. Rangers also have capabilities to communicate with NJDEP Dispatch (Trenton), and in some cases local agencies.

Frequencies to Monitor:

"Parks 5" ON 159.465 (pl 179.9) used by all NJ parks for Park Operations

DEP Ch 1 151.190 pl179.9 Law Enforcement Rangers and Trenton

DEP Ch 3 151.325 pl179.9 Law Enforcement - Rangers and Trenton (fish and game)

"1606" - is a repeater site in Walpack Twp. where there are repeaters on Ch 1 and Ch 3

Parks units (in this area of the state) use the call signs designated below. In some cases, you may hear "M" series (Maintenance units). For example, 3M42 would be a maintenance unit at Swartwood. "F" series units may be Superintendents, Rangers, or other non-maintenance personnel.

Series	Park
3F1 - 3F19	High Point SP
3F20 - 3F29	Stokes SF
3F30 - 3F39	Waywayanda SP
3F40 - 3F49	Swartwood SP
3F50 - 3F59	Worthington SF
3F60 - 3F69	Jenny Jump SF
3F90 - 3F99	Kittatinny Valley SP
3F800 series	Ringwood SP
2F70 - 2F79	Hopatcong SP

Thanks to "Sparta 35" for this info. Check out his North Jersey web site at <http://www.geocities.com/sparta35/index.html>

NYPD PRECINCT LIST

Over the past few months we've been discussing the ongoing changes being made by NYPD. Charlie, N2NOV has been busy compiling, sorting, and verifying the numerous frequency assignments used by NYPD. Beginning this month we will be offering several spread sheets sorted in different ways to assist you in listening to the NYPD. This month we'll feature our new precinct list. Eventually, this will be on line at Charlie's web site mentioned below. For now, it's included in this months newsletter. Here's ome simplified instructions that will assist you in understanding how it's laid out.

First, you need a copy of the http://www.n2nov.net/nypd_ems.html page in front of you so you can refer to it as we go along (copy included).

PBMN - Patrol Boro Manhattan North is made up of five radio zones (5, 6, 7, 8 & 9).

- Z5 - 476.3875/PL 151.4 - 19th & 23rd Pct.
- Z6 - 476.3125/PL 167.9 - 20th, Central Park & 24th Pct.
- Z7 - 476.6375/PL 186.2 - 25th, 28th & 32nd Pct.
- Z8 - 476.3625/PL 100.0 - 26th & 30th Pct.
- Z9 - 476.8875/PL 110.9 - 33rd & 34th Pct.

All of the Pct. HTs for PBMN are programmed with the same frequencies in channels 1-6 (the five zones plus PBMN) and channels 10-12 (MNIO on 482.7125 and CW1 & CW2). The channels 7-9 are different for each of the five radio zones.

5	476.5875 (Zone 4)	476.6125 (Zone 32)	485.4625 (TAC E)
6	476.3375 (Zone 3)	476.5874 (Zone 4)	485.6125 (TAC A)
7	476.5375 (Zone 10)	476.6125 (Zone 32)	485.5875 (TAC B)
8	476.5375 (Zone 10)	476.8375 (Zone 11)	485.5625 (TAC C)
9 (33)	476.8375 (Zone 11)	476.4875 (Zone 13)	485.4875 (TAC D)
9 (34)	476.4875 (Zone 13)	476.6625 (Zone 15)	485.4875 (TAC D)

In the above example, we see that channels 7 & 8 are for the zones that border each of our five PBMN radio zones. Zone 9 is further broken out by its' individual precincts because they each border different zones in the Bronx. This allows the precinct units to talk directly to the next bordering zone in case a perp travels in that direction and crosses the zone border. TAC channels are the same for each precinct in the same zone. The MNIO channel is the Inter-Op channel for use between NYPD, FDNY & EMS while involved in the same incident.

ILLEGAL CORDLESS PHONES

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2001/05/30/3/>

Just as I was finishing this issue Charlie, N2NOV sent me an interesting E mail. The ARRL is asking all amateurs to monitor 136 - 148.00 mhz for any unusual activity. It's been discovered that several Asian companies are marketing "long range" cordless phone which are operating in the 2M amateur band, some near 147.000 mhz. I suggest checking out the link above and notifying the ARRL if you hear any such activity.

TILL NEXT MONTH...

So this brings us to the end of another issue. I'm off to spend a week in Wildwood, spend some quality time on the beach with my metal detector and do some scanning while soaking up some sun. An extra set of batteries, a few cold ones and it doesn't get much better! Thanks to all who contributed, especially "R" in CT. Perhaps, someday, he'll get a license and join us ! I'm going to close on a rather sad note that "R" passed on to me. Many of you may participate in the various nets held weekly on the Larkfield repeater in L.I., NY (147.210). Specifically, the Tech Net that was run by Ed, K2YAW. I'm saddened to report that Ed recently passed away, though I don't have any details. R.I.P.

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

Charlie - N2NOV, "R" from Bridgeport, CT, "Strong Signals.Net, N2OAD, K2EPM, SCANDal, Rifle Slug, Sparta35 - Erik

PRECINCT HT

CH#	MNS		MNN		BX		BKS		BKN		QNS S		QNS N		SI		CW	
F1	Z1	476.5625	Z5	476.3875	Z10	476.5375	Z16	476.4625	Z22	476.9875	Z27	477.1375	Z31	476.7125	Z35N	482.8875	PBMS	471.0875
F2	Z2	476.4375	Z6	476.3125	Z11	476.8375	Z17	476.5125	Z23	476.7375	Z28	477.0875	Z32	476.6125	Z35S	482.5875	PBMN	471.0625
F3	Z3	476.3375	Z7	476.6375	Z12	476.9125	Z18	476.9375	Z24	476.7875	Z29	477.0375	Z33W	477.0625	PBSI-N	482.8625	PBBX	471.0375
F4	Z4	476.5875	Z8	476.3625	Z13	476.4875	Z19	476.8625	Z25	476.7625	Z30	477.1125	Z33E	482.6125	PBSI-S	482.5625	PBBS	470.9875
F5	PBMS	471.0875	Z9	476.8875	Z14	476.9625	Z20	477.0125	Z26	476.6875	PBQS	470.9375	Z34	476.8125	Z17	476.5125	PBBN	470.9625
F6	*		PBMN	471.0625	Z15	476.6625	Z21	476.4125	PBBN	470.9625	*		PBQN	470.9125	TAC-E	485.4625	PBQS	470.9375
F7	*		*		PBBX	471.0375	PBBS	470.9875	*		*		*		SIIO-N	482.8375	PBQN	470.9125
F8	*		*		*		*		*		*		*		SIIO-S	482.5375	PBSI-N	482.8625
F9	*TAC		*TAC		*TAC		*TAC		*TAC		*TAC		*TAC		CW1	470.6875	PBSI-S	482.5625
F10	MNIO	482.7125	MNIO	482.7125	BXIO	482.7375	BKIO	482.7875	BKIO	482.7875	QNIO	482.8125	QNIO	482.8125	SI-CW1	482.6625	CWIO	482.6875
F11	CW1	470.6875	CW1	470.6875	CW1	470.6875	CW1	470.6875	CW1	470.6875	CW1	470.6875	CW1	470.6875	CW2	470.7125	CW1	470.6875
F12	CW2	470.7125	CW2	470.7125	CW2	470.7125	CW2	470.7125	CW2	470.7125	CW2	470.7125	CW2	470.7125	SI-CW2	482.6375	CW2	470.7125

*CHs	Z1	Z2	Z3	Z4	Z5	Z6	Z7	Z8	Z9 (33)	Z9 (34)	Z10	Z11	Z12	Z13	Z14	Z15	Z16	Z17	Z18 (63)	Z18 (69)	Z19	Z20 (67)	Z20 (71)	Z21 (72)	Z21 (76)	Z21 (78)	Z22 (73)	Z22 (75)	Z23	Z24	Z25	Z26 (90)	Z26 (94)	Z27	Z28	Z29	Z30	Z31 (104)	Z31 (112)	Z32	Z33 (109)	Z33 (111)	Z34		
	21, 25, 26, A	5, 6, 26, B	5, 6, 32, C	5, 6, 32, D	4, 32, E	3, 4, A	10, 32, B	10, 11, C	11, 13, D	13, 15, D	7, E	7, A	33W, B	9, C	33W, D	9, E	27, A	35N, B	27, C	22, C	23, D	22, E	23, E	23, A	25, A	23, A	18, 20, B	18, 28, B	20, 21, C	20, 31, D	1, 21, E	1, 31, A	31, 32, A	16, 18, 22, B	22, 31, 34, C	31, 33W, 33E, D	31, 33W, 33E, E	24, 26, A	28, 29, A	5, 7, B	12, 29, C	29, 30, C	28, 29, D		