

to the finer details, you discovered that there were advertising gotcha's, paltry disk quotas (like 5 and 10 megabytes) or simply horrendous performance and/or uptime. Truth be told, I really could not find a better vendor than we are currently with now.

After careful consideration of all the options, keeping in mind both current needs and my long term goals, my final battle plan will consist of a three-pronged attack:

1. Sponsorship by radio-related companies to pay our web costs and continue to supply us with the latest equipment for review
2. A members-only section for those willing to support Strong Signals (while gaining a few perks as a result)
3. A donation system

For item #1, I drafted a proposal which was sent out to about 20 radio-related companies from radio dealers to software vendors. In that proposal, I suggested a sponsorship program whereby monetary funds would be paid in return for advertising on our main pages. The result was that I heard back from 4 such companies who agreed to fund our launch of this program and the "new and improved" Strong Signals site. To be honest, it was less than the overall response I was expecting but it's a start and I'm hoping the momentum will build.

One thing I think we all need to keep in mind is our interdependence. In the "normal world," there are buyers and there are sellers. But, like any good buyer, before we plunk down our hard-earned cash, we'd like to get an idea of what it is we're dealing with. And that's where a third party comes into play. That third party is the intermediary between buyer and seller, the reviewer, and that's my role at Strong Signals.

Normally, one would pay money to purchase a magazine, book or subscription so that they could read about an interested item and get all the details from an expert about that product. That small purchase can make the difference between buying a product or not.

Now, jump ahead to the Internet age and we have some twists on what is considered business as usual. Here we have content which is largely free and useful. And while it seems free, it's really not. Companies are putting vast sums of cash into their sites in the hopes of attracting visitors and therefore business. Others are paying boatloads to have their advertisements run in the hopes of buying customers

of their product. As we've all seen recently with the vast amount of dot-com failures that this business model is not the best nor most reliable (not at this time at least).

My hope is that our interdependence and sense of community will help us to keep moving forward in a direction positive to Strong Signals, the hobby, our visitors and the companies in business to do business. Such companies will sponsor the Strong Signals site and support us with equipment to review. Strong Signals will do its part to deliver content second to none. The rest will be up to you.

As you can probably see, your buying dollars will determine whether this site lives or dies. If you don't support the companies that support us, we're outta here. It really is that simple. If the companies don't see a return on their investment in Strong Signals, they'll stop advertising. If they stop advertising then the money to support this site is gone. If the money goes then Strong Signals has two choices: make visitors pay for the content or close up shop.

And while we've all seen people are more than willing to pay for magazine subscriptions, almost no one is willing to pay for Internet content which offers much more than any two-dimensional magazine ever will. But those times, while I think they are changing, are still awfully slow in coming. So, if no one is willing to pay, that leads to the conclusion that Strong Signals will cease to exist. In other words, we all need to do our part to the best of our ability.

Moving on to item #2, I think this has some great possibilities for those of you who are generous and willing to help us continue to provide a quality site second to none. While a subscriber fee is largely a ticket for admission, it will basically be your pledge for support of this site and our hobby in return for perks and features you'll find nowhere else. The cheapskates who pay nothing will continue to get more than their money's worth while those who are generous will get much more (and all for about half the price of a radio magazine subscription).

Editors Note: In a follow up E mail Rich proposes the following rates:

1 month - \$ 4 (basically a trial membership)

6 month - \$ 8

1 year - \$12

He also asks the following... *What I don't need is a zillion e-mails from visitors asking why they can't find the members-only section (when it doesn't even exist yet.)*

Item #3 will address those of you who expressed

interest in making donations when you feel the need and can afford to do so. We will set up a system which accepts such funds from Paypal, Amazon.com and the usual check and money order system.

Considering other ideas, I think the idea of Strong Signals merchandise is pretty nifty (but, of course, I would think that)! I've only tentatively looked into this and will have to give it more attention once more important matters are out of the way. Considering the startup costs I've seen, the paltry numbers of goods we're talking about will not make this a real money-maker. Even more will be lost when you consider all of the packing and shipping we'll have to be doing above and beyond our current responsibilities. But we'll definitely look into this at a later date and get your feedback on it then.

Along with all of these ideas, I've also been working on a new and improved site design to help make things easier to use (for you) and manage (for me). There will be some new features and some improved features as well as putting into place the advertisement system needed to support our sponsors and a few things to plan for what we hope will be future growth and expansion.

With all of this that's been going on "behind the curtain," I hope you can understand why I put the brakes on normal work items such as radio testing, reviews and to some extent, e-mail and message board interaction from yours truly. But I assure you that as soon as all of these things are resolved and we have the "new and improved" site up and running smoothly, I'll be back in the saddle to pick up where I left off!

I think most of us understand the nature of the Internet and the community environment it fosters. I think most of us have seen the writing on the wall. Strong Signals is not a typical business with a brick-n-mortar storefront whose profits can be skimmed off to run a professional quality web site. Strong Signals has been the leading site for radio-related content for a number of years while doing its best to foster a sense of community for both novices and professionals.

Not to be boastful, but I think I've done a pretty good job and have had help from some great people and companies along the way. And I'm sure not ready to throw in the towel and close up shop now. We have all been challenged and I personally look forward to meeting that challenge. It isn't easy at times but I think we all understand the personal and hobby benefits for us all. I need all the help you can give

and I know there are plenty of us that can see beyond our own individual needs.

My efforts, combined with the sponsorship of gracious companies who understand the important role that Strong Signals plays along with your support in any way possible is what it will take. The future looks bright but we all need to keep our focus on the horizon to continue marching toward a common goal of personal and hobby growth and satisfaction.

Thanks for a bit of your time and, as always, your continued support!

Rich Wells
N2MCA
n2mca@strongsignals.net

Editors Note: I hate to sound like an ad for "Save The Children", but for that \$1 a month Strong Signals is a great site, and in some aspects it provides more daily info than any magazine or web site devoted to this hobby. Please consider supporting Rich and his endeavor to keep Strong Signals on line.... Bob, WA2SQQ

AIRSNORT

AirSnort pokes holes in AirPort network security

by Peter Cohen, pcohen@maccentral.com

August 21, 2001 9:10 am ET

<http://airsnort.sourceforge.net/>

Some of the flaws of wireless networking have been known for a while now -- even the IEEE 802.11b standard used by Apple's AirPort products have some significant shortcomings. There's a new tool making the rounds that may demonstrate just how susceptible some networks are to eavesdropping, however. Writing for Wired News, Michelle Delio talks about this new public beta software in an article called Wireless Networks in Big Trouble.

The new software is called AirSnort, and it operates by monitoring transmissions over the wireless network. After it grabs enough data -- sometimes only after a few hours, sometimes over a couple of days, depending on the relative traffic on the wireless network -- AirSnort then computes the encryption key.

"Once enough packets have been gathered, AirSnort can guess the encryption password in under a second," claim the developers. The software is designed to work on a Linux computer equipped with a wireless networking card that supports the 802.11b protocol.

The developers told Delio that they've released AirSnort to prove once and for all how crackable the Wired Equivalent Privacy (WEP) system really is. WEP is the security protocol defined in the 802.11b specification.

AirSnort Co-developer Jeremy Bruestle told Delio that he's received thanks from system administrators who can now prove just how insecure WEP is, and he's also received comments from those who say that he's just giving crackers an opportunity to break into systems where they don't belong. "I understand the viewpoint of those who believe dangerous information should be hidden, but I disagree," said Bruestle.

ISRAEL

As the Mideast crisis heats up -or, more accurately, continues to boil - here's a list of Kol Israel's English language shortwave frequencies for North America: (times are UTC)

0400 on 9435 and 15640

1030 on 15640 and 17545

1600 on 15615, 17545 and 21665

1900 on 11605, 15615 and 17545 kHz

DIGITAL RADIO USERS HAVE MORE ISSUES WITH MOTOROLA

<http://washtimes.com/metro/20010829-76554418.htm>

Seems like FDNY may not be the only organization that's having problems with Motorola's digital radios. From the Strong Signals we page comes this about Washington DC's fire system and the 48 dead zones they have identified. Several areas in and around public landmarks are so bad that fire fighters are using cell phones to call in incidents. Read the full story at the link above.

But the problems don't end there.

<http://www.thehawaiiichannel.com/hon/news/stories/news-93765320010828-210846.html>

The Honolulu Police Department are also having similar problems and have decided to spend nearly 1 million dollars for a backup system that uses voice over Internet as opposed to radio technology.

(Editors Note: I researched this article and found a typo in the story link above. It suggests that the HPD is using the Internet Technology and will use the radio system as the new backup. In reality it's the exact opposite. Let's hope they aren't using AOL as an ISP!)

ILLEGAL CORDLESS PHONES - FOLLOW UP

Last month we mentioned a request from the ARRL regarding the use of illegal cordless telephones. It

seems that some are operating within amateur bands. Peter Szerlag posted the following on Scan-I. It Looks like an alert sent out by the F.A.A. or one of its ARTCSS

Subject: Interference impacting aeronautical air traffic frequencies cause by illegal high power cordless telephones.

"Attention international operators: the Miami air route traffic control center (zma artcc) has experienced radio frequency interference (rfi) on frequencies 134.2, 134.6 MHz resulting from the unauthorized use of high power cordless telephones in the Bahamas and on frequency 133.85 mhz from the use of high power cordless telephones in Miami. The Cleveland air traffic control center artcc (zob) operations were also impacted due to rfi on frequency 134.65 mhz, from the unauthorized use of high power cordless telephone located in harrison, Michigan.

High power cordless telephones are being used illegally in the U.S. and the Bahamas. These phones can interfere with the frequencies used for air traffic control worldwide and can pose problems to atc navigation and communications. The F.A.A. is working with other government agencies within the United States and other countries to curtail illegal use of these phones and is approaching vendors to cease distribution and production of units that operate in or cause interference to critical aeronautical radio spectrum.

Users operating on these frequencies should be aware that navigation and communication could be severely impacted due to RFI of these high power cordless telephones. Users of aeronautical radio navigation and communication services who experience this type of interference should report any event immediately to the air traffic facility providing air traffic services. If this immediate report is unachievable, the users should make a report to the nearest air traffic facility at the earliest time possible after the RFI event."

Readers of this newsletter may want to monitor the frequencies mentioned. If you hear any transmissions that resemble that which might be conducted via a cordless telephone, please notify the F.A.A. field office in your area. F.A.A. field offices are located at most airports.

USCG MARITIME ADVISORY BROADCASTS

Bob, N1MLZ a frequent check in to the net compiled a schedule of daily Marine advisory broadcasts he's

heard on 157.100 Bob has the advantage of living on the CT coast. Any time there's even the slightest bit of coastal ducting he's able to hear these stations. If scanning or VHF DX'ing is a factor in your relocation process, consider CT!

All times listed below are Eastern local time. **Add +4 hours for UTC.**

18:05 Group Woods Hole, Mass
 18:35 Group Boston, Mass
 18:50 Activities New York
 19:03 Group Atlantic City
 19:05 Group Portland, Maine
 19:20 Group Long Island Sound
 19:35 Group Southwest Harbor, Maine
 20:10 Group Moriches, NY
 20:45 Group Philadelphia, Pa
 21:00 Group Cape Hatteras, NC
 21:03 Group Fort Macon, NC
 21:30 Group Baltimore
 22:00 Group Eastern Shore, Va
 22:30 Group Hampton Roads, Va

FBI / DEA / FEDERAL / MARS / USCG

Some FBI Freqs in NYC, all use (PL 167.9)

167.3625, 168.825, 170.375, 170.425, 170.625,
 170.825, 170.900, 172.425, 172.475

DEA

PL Tone 156.7000 :Mode NFM: Step(25kHz)

Input	Output
416.0500	418.6250
416.3250	418.9000
415.6000	418.8250
416.2000	418.9500
417.0125	418.9750

Surveillance--Nationwide (PL 156.7)

418.1750, 418.7500, 418.6750

New York City DEA Operations

419.0000, 417.0750, 417.5000, 417.5500, 417.5750,
 418.1000--Surveillance
 418.0750--Interagency
 165.1500, 165.2850

DEA UNIFORM DIVISION

Input/Output
407.6750--WHITE
414.6750/418.1500--YELLOW
414.8000--BLUE
414.8500/418.8000--BROWN
415.1000/418.3250--BLACK
415.6500/419.1000--SILVER
415.6750/419.0750--GOLD
415.7500/407.8750--GREEN

415.8000--VIOLET
 415.9750/419.7250--RED
 418.1250--LAVENDER
 418.3500--GRAY
 418.7750--ORANGE
 414.9500/419.0750--Radio Comms. Branch

DEA Trunking System - Nationwide

Input	Output
406.4500	418.3750
407.1250	418.2750
408.8500	418.4000
408.8750	418.5000
408.9250	418.5250

US Secret Service (WHCA) Mode NFM, Step(25kHz)

Frequency/ID

32.2300--ALPHA
 165.7875--BAKER
 165.3750--CHARLIE
 169.9250--DELTA
 407.8500--ECHO
 415.7000--FOXTROT
 166.4000--GOLF
 167.9000--HOTEL
 407.9250--INDIA
 170.0000--JULIET
 165.2125--MIKE
 166.7000--NOVEMBER
 164.8875--OSCAR
 164.4000--PAPA
 166.5125--SIERRA
 164.6500--TANGO
 167.0250--WHISKEY
 162.6875--YANKEE
 171.2875--ZULU
 166.4625--TREASURY COMMON

Federal Agencies Net (not SHARES)

FHWA Region 7 Coord.
 Net every Wednesday morning
 10:00 F14 - 4.821
 10:10 F23 - 5.755.5
 10:20 F28 - 7.743
 10:30 F31 - 9.185
 10:40 F35 - 11.045
 10:50 F42 - 13.434

National MARS (All Branches)

Common Channels for Emergencies USB 14.385,
 7.382.5 (Pri.), 4.042.5

National Digital Network

(AMTOR/PACTOR) 8.148.76, 7.991.25

Region 1 (Maine to Pennsylvania)

USB Voice/RTTY Nets - 7.385, 7.365, 4.012.5,
3.357, 3.319, 2.656

Data Nets (AMTOR/FACTOR) - 4.045, 3.270.5

SNY Part of Region 1

(in addition to above) 148.375 FM Repeater, 2.048
USB/RTTY

USCG Calling Channels on HF Marine USB

Coast	Ship
4.426	4.134
6.501	6.200
8.764	8.240
13.089	12.242
17.314	16.432

GMDSS HF Distress & Safety Channels

USB 2.182, 4.125, 6.215, 8.291, 12.290, 16.420

USCG in NYC Area:

USCG Auxiliary	143.280 out/148.725 in
Radio Comms Net	171.3375 out/165.3375 in
Naval Security Net	143.650 out/149.075 in
Liaison Net	40.390
Local Liaison Net	27.575 AM mode
Maintenance Net	164.825 out/165.4125 in
Fire/Medical	407.925, 407.975
Law Enforcement	409.000, 419.975
Law Enf./Medical	407.625
Paging/Maintenance	165.2625
Air to Ground	381.7, 381.8, 383.9 AM mode

USCG on HF (in khz):

Intra-Coast Guard	2103.5
Calling & Distress	2182
Public Liaison	2670
Intership Liaison	2738
Search & Rescue (on-scene)	- 3023
USCG Aux Net #1	5422.5
Search & Rescue Contro	5680
Air/Surface (Small Air Sta.)	5694
Air/Surface (Large Air Sta.)	5696
USCG Aux Net #3	7528.6
Air/Surface Primary	8984

EDACS AND YOUR UNIDEN 780

<http://www.kahala.net/~davidc/html/edacs2.html>

For those of us who purchased the Uniden 780, you now know that it's a very reliable radio when it comes to receiving EDACS systems. Here's a link to an interesting story about how Uniden worked with a few dedicated people to add EDACS. Check it out!

A CALL FOR PHOTOS

Over the past year our weekly net has had the pleasure of having many new people check in. The distribution of this newsletter has also increased and now includes many of the major electronic magazines devoted to the SWL and radio scanner hobby. It's been the custom to occasionally feature photos of our listeners, readers or their equipment. If you're "photo shy" than how about a picture of your "shack?" Electronic photos can be E mailed to me, or I'll gladly scan a photo and return it to you as soon as it's received. If you're in the witness protection program we can use your first initial (like "R" or "B") - just kidding! Our E mail address is NYDXA@HOTMAIL.COM

MEMORIES OF SCANNING GONE BY

The other day at lunch a few of my co-workers asked me what was the most interesting or unforgettable incident I ever herd on my scanner. I had several, and after discussing them it occurred to me that this might make for some interesting reading in the newsletter. I presented all of you with that very question and here's the responses I received.

Eddie, K2EPM wrote, "I started scanning at 13 years old, currently at 36 there are quite a few "incidents" that would fall in to the category of most interesting. Their was the Avianca Plane Crash on Long Island in January of 1990, TWA-800, the Thanksgiving Parade where the lamp post fell on the lady, one Day I was on the Long Beach Boardwalk and right in front of me I watched and listened to a search for a drowning victim, I saw them pull him out in front of me. I never knew if he dies or not, until last year when there was an article in Newsday. The subject of the article amounted to the fact that for years this fellow lay in a coma and the parents wanted to pull the life support plug.

As I say there are many incidents that were exciting; some heart-wrenching, some made you feel good when the good guys won and locked up some scum, and others ended happy.

But by far, in light of events that have taken place this past year, the one sentence I have heard over the scanner that I will never forget took place in August of 1997 at a NASCAR practice session at Watkins Glen, New York. I was monitoring the chitter-chatter going back and forth from one of the race teams when I saw the black # 3 pull on to the track and then I heard the late 7-time Winston Cup champion, Dale Earnhardt tell his crew "Hush up now, I'm goin on to the track." It sends chills down

my spine.”

Bob, N1MLZ wrote, “My most interesting or in this case SHOCKING transmission I ever heard was a Suffolk County Air National Guard Helo reporting that he just saw a large explosion in the sky and was heading over in the approximate area where he witnessed it. It was Jolly 11, a Sikorsky Pave Hawk Rescue Helo. It was on the ANG Rescue Ops freq. of 287.5 MHz. AM. There is a little more to the story that makes it even more ironic, and I am sure many of the guys out there can relate to it. My wonderful YL at the time (now my XYL) was talking to me about something which I can't remember now, but as I often seem to do I have one ear on her and the other ear on the scanner. Well, this time I really got her upset because I had BOTH ears on the scanner after I heard that transmission. I quickly told her that this was serious and she had to forgive me this time for real, and then she proceeded to listen for herself. Well, it would turn out to be a long sleepless night for both of us. I had 3 scanners going and a shortwave receiver on 5696khz. going continuous. It was a real great monitoring night, but I would rather it never happened again.”

Rifle Slug wrote. “one incident I will always remember is when the space shuttle exploded. NASA gave permission to the Ham radio operators to rebroadcast its Mission Control on 2 meters. It was on 147.00. I remember about the rebroadcast that day and turn on my scanner. Everything was going fine and I show it to one of my coworkers. Then it happen, and mission control reported a problem. After a few minutes the feed from NASA was shut down and I heard two hams saying its over and they were shutting down the rebroadcast from their end. I will always remember that day.”

Mike, W2MAC wrote, “Back in the 70's I was the technician for Westchester Mobil Phone and part of my responsibilities was to monitor the 2 RCC Channels that the owned. Around Christmas one year a well to do Realtor had a Mobil phone installed in his wife's car for her present. He obviously wasn't aware the since they used operators that all one had to do was take the receiver off the hook and could hear anyone on. (PRE CELLULAR), well needless to say I was heading home and had the scanner on the phone in my car on and he called his wife to tell her he had to work late. He hung up and started talking bedroom type talk to his Girl friend to with that his wife went a bit nuts and cursed the 2 of them out. At that point I used the other channel to have the operator disconnect the duplex until they calmed

down. I think that was one of the most costly Mobil phone calls in history.”

Bob, WA2SQQ wrote: “It's hard to qualify one incident when you look back at all the things I've heard. I started listening to the public service frequencies using an Ameco receiving converter; a single frequency device that down converted a single frequency to your AM radio. That was about 1966. For Christmas my uncle bought me a Sonar FR-102DX tunable receiver which was limited to the VHF band. UHF was unheard of and most activity was on the 30-50 mhz band.

Disasters like the world trade center provided us a peek into what really goes on with the men and women of law enforcement. My “incident” took place late one night, probably about 25 years ago. I was living in North Arlington, NJ lying in bed listening to the PD on 155.250. Ironically, they're still on the same frequency! North Arlington was a small quiet town in Southern Bergen County and everyone knew all the cops. My friend Scott's dad was on the desk that night when car “six-five” called in that they were going to investigate a suspicious car in the land fill area off Schuyler Ave. Moments later the squelch broke, I heard shots being fired and the officer was calling for help. “I've been shot, send some backups.” I recognized the voice, the husband of a lady who worked in the local bank. Within a few minutes everyone in my house was up and huddled around my radio. It took several days but the assailant was found and turned out to be a local who I knew of. The officer recovered and everyone got on with their lives. Knowing the people made this incident too real, and certainly one I won't forget.”

MEDICAL DISPATCH JARGON

We all use various names of agencies we listen to and sometimes forget that new-comers to the hobby might be a bit frustrated by all these buzz words. Recently I came across such a situation on the NNJ scan list. A listener asks, who or what is Cencom?

Cencom is a regional 911 PSAP/PSDP, ALS dispatch center operated by Overlook Hospital in Summit NJ, serving at least parts of 5 or 6 counties in Central NJ. They also provide BLS (here's another... Basic Life Support) and fire dispatch services for several communities in their service area on a contract basis. In addition to their 911 and dispatch services, they operate a fieldcom trailer which they offer to communities in their service area as needed for disasters and special emergencies. Other agencies in Northern and Central NJ that

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The Urban DX'er

similar to Cencom: CENCOM - Parts of Essex,
Union, Western Morris, Middlesex, Warren, Sussex
MICCOM - Bergen, Passaic, Eastern Morris County
HUDCEN - Hudson County REMCS - City of Newark
and nearby parts of Hudson & Essex Counties
MedCentral - Most of Middlesex County Lifecom -
Mercer County and parts of Middlesex & Monmouth
Counties.
Ed O'Connell - N2QBZ MICCOM Dispatcher #13
(Thanks Ed!)

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

Charlie - N2NOV, "R" from Bridgeport, CT, Rich
Wells "Strong Signals.Net, N1MLZ, N2QBZ, Rifle
Slug, W2MAC, K2EPM,
