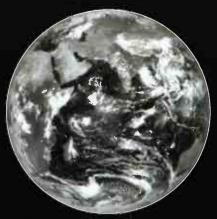


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> > November 2002



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**World Radio History** 

#### 65th year of publication

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### **Features**

#### The Other Man's Shack 29

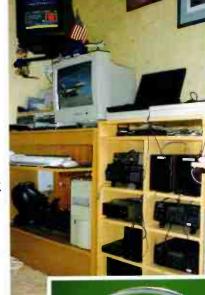
The bank of the River Clyde provides the location for this month's remote radio room, that of Dougie Coull.

#### The AOR LA-350 Loop 30 **Antenna**

More loops from John Wilson. This month it's the turn of AOR's mini LA-350, which can be happily located and rotated in the shack.

#### Roberts Radio 70th **Anniversary**

Kevin Nice G7TZC/M3SWM looks back at Britain's oldest domestic radio company's history over the past 70 years.





#### Amateur Bands

Attention 123! Enigma, 17-21 Chapel Street, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD1 5DT. E-mail: enigma@pwpublishing.ltd.uk

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# LM&S and Maritime Beacons Brian Oddy G3FEX, Three Corners, Merryfield Way, Storrington, West Sussex RH20 4NS.

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#### 2B Romney Avenue, Folkstone, Kent CT20 3QJ

Propagation Jacques d'Avignon VE3VIA E-mail: jacques@pwpublishing.ltd.uk

E-mail: off.the record@pwpublishing.ltd uk

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# M Author Info

# Info in O

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A trip around David Taylor's website next, where Lawrence reports on the many programs freely available for the WXSAT enthusiast.



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- Trunked Radio in Depth.
- and much more...

\* contents subject to change

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Components For SWM Projects

In general all components used in constructing SWM projects are available from a variety of component suppliers. Where special, or difficult to obtain, components are specified, a supplier will be quoted in the article. The printed circuit boards for SWM projects are available from the SWM PCB Service,

KANGA PRODUCTS, Sandford Works, Cobden Street, Long Eaton, Nottingham NG10 1BL Tel: 0115 - 967 0918, Fax: 0870 -056 8608.

#### Photocopies & Back Issues

We have a selection of back issues. covering the past three years of SWM. If you are looking for an article or review that you missed first time around, we can help. If we don't have the whole issue we can always supply a photocopy of the article. Back issues for SWM are £3.25 each and photocopies are £3.25 per article Binders are also available (each binder takes one volume) for £6.50 plus £1 P&P for one binder, £2 P&P for two or more, UK or overseas. Prices include VAT where appropriate A complete review listing for SWM/PW is also available from the Editorial Offices for £1 inc P&P.

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We regret that due to Editorial time scales, replies to technical queries cannot be given over the telephone. Any technical queries by E-mail are very unlikely to receive immediate attention either. So, if you require help with problems relating to topics covered by SWM, then please write to the Editorial Offices, we will do our best to help and reply by mail.

bookstore@pwpublishing.ltd.uk



arlier this year I was exclaiming the virtues of the recently introduced Radio Amateur Foundation Licence. I also mentioned that SSL were struggling to keep up with issuing new licences to those who had successfully completed the course. Well, now I have some more positive news. The 5000th Foundation Licence has been issued! Not bad going in less than a year. I think it's fair to say that the Foundation Licence has proved to be a success. It has certainly boosted both the number of amateur callsigns issued and certainly the number actually active. Well done all those involved.

#### Clubs

In the October issue of SWM, I mentioned that we were planning this month to feature a listing of UK radio clubs. I thought this worthwhile due to the lack of a regular guide of this type featuring anywhere else and the resultant level of reader enquiries as to details of the nearest club to the home. Our design chaps have managed the impossible and fitted the entire compliment of UK clubs (those we are aware of) into three pages. You can find the directory on page 60 of this issue. If your club hasn't been included, or there are missing or out-of-date details listed, then please let me know so that we can ensure this valuable resource is kept as current as possible.

#### **Decode Frequency List**

I had a letter from a reader whose sight is not quite 20:20 - I know what he means! - wondering if I could supply him with a copy of the 'Day Watson - Complex Frequency List' that was featured in the September **Decode Special** issue of *SWM*. After a little consideration, I decided that we should include this listing on the *SWM* website so that everyone can benefit. If you would like to read the Decode list on line, you can find it at

www.pwpublishing.ltd.uk/swm/decode/ I hope that this extra service is of use - please let me know what you think.

#### Readers Queries

We're a little strapped for pages this month and therefore the letters page is missing. Instead I'll answer some queries here. Firstly an answer. RC Fleet who last month asked if anyone could furnish him with information regarding a Jaybeam Antenna type 7035. Mr Fleet had been incorrectly informed that Jaybeam had ceased manufacturing in the 1980s. Setting the story straight, was a letter from MJ Wilkins, Managing Director of Jaybeam of

Wellingborough. It was a sell-off of the domestic television antenna business to Blake Aerials in Sheffield that occurred in the 1980s. Jaybeam Ltd. continue to trade, concentrating on their core business of professional communications antennas. Together with their French sister company MAT Equipment, they form the communications branch of the FHB Group. Their website is located at www.jaybeam.co.uk and can be contacted by 'phone on: (01933) 408408. Jaybeam tell me that the type 7035 antenna is a 3-element end-fed Yagi which was supplied to the MOD, Home Office and other OEMs in the UK and Europe.

I received this query in an E-mail from Frank Collins MORPM who comments that he's enjoyed SWM for many years long before he became licensed. Frank says that whilst waiting to make sked with a friend in France working on 14.220MHz he was surprised by strong c.w. traffic, especially as the callsigns were not those of radio amateurs. The transmissions were heard on 9 and 10 September at around 1100. On both occasions RIW requested QSA reports from the following stations RJF94 - RJF97 - RJCC - RJC62 - RJS - RJE - RJU62 - the signal from RIW was '15 over 9' with me in North Bucks.

Well Frank, the station you heard is a Russian Naval HQ. Consulting Ferrell's CFL I see they operate on other amateur frequencies too. They certainly shouldn't be there and perhaps you should contact the RSGB Intruder watch. Though in reality it can be very difficult to have such intruders moved on.

#### Art

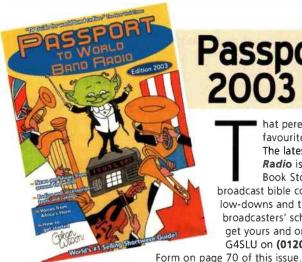
Lastly, I've just had an enthusiastic telephone call from reader Michael Cook, who reports having prior to calling, toured *Americans*: an exhibition of Paintings and Photographs From The National Portrait Gallery, Washington. Which is currently being held at the National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place London. The reason for Michael's excitement was a self portrait of Samuel Morse.

If you'd like to see this too, then here are the details you'll need. Opening hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday: 1000 - 1800 (Gallery closure commences at 1750). Late Opening: Thursday, Friday: 1000 - 2100, (Gallery closure commences at 2050). Recorded information: 020 7312 2463. General information: 020 7306 0055. Website: www.npg.org.uk

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# communiqué MONTHLY REVIEW OF NEWS AND PRODUCTS



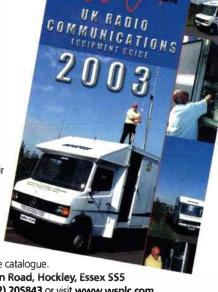
# Passport 2003

hat perennial broadcast listeners' favourite is back in its 2003 colours. The latest Passport To World Band Radio is now available from the SWM Book Store. Still priced at £15.50, this broadcast bible contains listening tips, receiver low-downs and the essential international broadcasters' schedule details. Make sure you get yours and order a copy today. Call Clive G4SLU on (01202) 659930 or use the Order

# 2003 Equipment Guide

aters & Stanton PLC are pleased to announce that their 2003 Product Guide & Catalogue is now available for £2.95 plus £1.25 postage direct from them. The 2003 catalogue has more products that ever before, plus many changes and updates to existing entries, not to mention money saving delivery vouchers at the back of the catalogue.

W&S PLC can be reached at Spa House, 22 Main Road, Hockiey, Essex 555 4Q5, Tel: (01702) 206835/204965, FAX: (01702) 205843 or visit www.wsplc.com



# Club Corner

he Radio Society of Harrow meet every Friday at The Harrow Arts Centre, Hatch End, Near Harrow, from 2000. All visitors are most welcome to attend. Friday 25th October is video evening, Sunday 3rd November is GB2DHH Operating Day. Further information about club activities from Jim Ballard G0AOT on (01895) 476933 or E-mail: g0aot@thersgb.net

The Maltby & District Amateur Radio Society meet on Friday evenings, 1930 to 2130, at the Centenary Hall, Clifford Road, Hellaby, Rotherham (just off the M18, J1). The club's first foundation course has just been completed and further courses will be run as required. The club can also offer Morse assessment facilities for existing 'B' licencees wishing to take out an M3 callsign. Both these facilities are open to non-members. The Society also have antennas installed for h.f., 2m & 6m and 70cm, so the club station G4SKM/G7SKM is able to get on air most weeks. Visitors and prospective members are always welcome to attend any of the meetings. More information from Keith G1PQW on (01709) 798098, E-mail: g7skm@qsl.net or visit www.qsl.net/g7skm

# Dundee's New Site

he Dundee Amateur Radio Club now have a web site www.dundee-amateur-radio.co.uk - which is continually updated by Martin Higgins MM3AWM. The club are also proud to announce the success of their first Foundation Licence Class where seven members were successful in completing their exam. Club meetings take place every Tuesday evening during college term time at the Graham Street College Campus in Dundee at 1900 and outwith these times at the North Carr Lightship, moored in Dundee Docks. All amateurs and s.w.l.s are welcome, as is anyone interested in the fascinating hobby of radio. More information from Martin Higgins MM3AWM, Secretary, at Dundee ARC, c/o Duns Crescent, Dundee DD4 0RZ.

(from back left) - Peter MM3PMH, Instructor Tom Harrison GM3HNQ, Colin (no callsign yet), Jim MM3KKT, Martin MM3AWM, Stuart MM3AXE and Kevin MM3GDO. All new MM3's would like to thank all members who assisted with their tuition.



# communiqué

### R&S FSH3 Budget Analyser

ven though the Rohde & Schwarz FSH3 Spectrum
Analyser is the first of their 'low-cost' hand-held test
instruments, you'll need deep pockets to afford the
c£4500 price tag. R&S say the FSH3 offers a spectacular
price/performance ratio, features the tried and tested r.f.
characteristics of Rohde & Schwarz analysers, an upper
frequency limit of 3GHz and numerous measurement functions.

The analyser has been specifically designed for wide-base customer applications where the focus is on portability and mobility, This includes areas of mobile communication, such as installation, maintenance, servicing and field-strength measurements, as well as use in labs and universities or by electronics hobbyists.

A hand-held spectrum analyser needs to feature low weight, small dimensions and as large a display as possible. With this new product, Rohde & Schwarz now believe they've done it.

The R&S FSH3 is available in two basic versions: as a pure spectrum analyser from 100kHz to 3GHz and as a spectrum analyser with a tracking generator for scalar network analysis. When equipped with a v.s.w.r. bridge, the R&S FSH3 can be used for scalar network analysis or for distance-to-fault measurements on cables. The addition of an external power sensor enables the R&S FSH3 to carry out high-precision r.f. power measurements up to 8GHz.

The R&S FSH3 with all its accessories can be stowed in a carrying bag. An operating time of four hours from a fully charged battery makes it ideal for mobile applications. The conveniently arranged keys and direct access to all basic functions at a keystroke make the instrument easy to use. Even if you hold the spectrum analyser with both hands, you can easily operate it by means of the 'rollkey'. The menu structure is so simple and straightforward that operating the analyser quickly becomes second nature. The internal memory can store up to 100 measurement traces or instrument set-ups for easy retrieval later on.

As the functions of the R&S FSH3 are integrated in customer-specific ASICs, the analyser features large-scale integration and low power consumption. A total of six different ASICs perform all the functions required of a high-end spectrum analyser with a built-in tracking generator. These functions and features include resolution bandwidths from 1kHz to 1MHz and video bandwidths from 10Hz to 1MHz in 13 steps, precise detection and logarithmic conversion of the filtered i.f. signal as well as various detectors for signal weighting (autopeak, peak, sample and RMS). Signal processing from the last intermediate frequency is purely digital and takes place in real time.

The RMS detector is of great advantage, especially for power measurements on modulated signals that occur in mobile radio. The R&S FSH3 measures the channel power of WCDMA signals accurately and reproducibly in a single sweep, for example. Digital signal processing also makes for high measurement speed, despite low power consumption. The minimum time for a sweep over the entire frequency range is as low as 100ms. The third-order intercept of typically 15dB at a noise figure of 32dB typical approaches that of high-end desktop analysers.

The FSH3 features integrated *Windows*<sup>TM</sup> software which provides relevant documentation allowing the user to track changes in the case of recurring measurements. The measurements can be stored in common graphics formats, as text files or in *Excel*<sup>TM</sup> format, complete with date and time and all analyser settings. For more information visit the Rohde and Schwarz website: www.rohde-schwarz.com

### **Annual Surplus Sale**

he Bangor and District Amateur Radio Society meet on the 1st Wednesday of every month in 'The Stables', Groomsport, at 2000. At 2000 on Wednesday November 6th 2002 they are holding their annual Surplus Sale. This excellent event is always a popular way to make some space in your shack. There will be a small admission charge, but there is no charge for tables. The sale will be held at the 'Crawfordsburn Country Club' - not their usual venue. Visitors and new members are (as always) most welcome. More information from Mike GI4XSF on 0284-277 2383 or visit http://welcome.to/bdars



# Two Awards

eter Chadwick G3RZP, past president of the RSGB, recently presented the first two Chelmsford Awards to club members Jim 2E1GUA and Martyn M3VAM. The Chelmsford Award is open to all amateurs and s.w.l.s and for every Award issued a donation will be made to the 'Essex Air Ambulance' which is an emergency helicopter completely funded by sponsorship and fund raising events.

Further details about the award may be found on the club website

http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/ or for information about the club contact the secretary David Bradley M0BQC on (01245) 602838 or E-mail: cars@g0mwt.org.uk



Peter Chadwick G3RZP presents Jim 2E1GUA with award.



Peter Chadwick G3RZP presents Martyn M3VAM with award.

# Times & Frequencies

nternational short wave broadcasters start their winter scheduled on October 27th. The World DX Club publishes a 12 page pamphlet listing the times and frequencies of English broadcasts in country order. Over 100 broadcasters are listed and the pamphlet is constantly updated so that information is as fresh as possible. The guide is available for just 50p or two IRCs from Arthur Ward, 17 Motspur Drive, Northampton NN2 6LY.

### New Catalogue

aplin Electronics has just launched its new 2002/2003 catalogue, introducing over 2,300 new products, over £100 worth of money-off vouchers and 1,400 price reductions, plus exciting new product ranges for the radio enthusiast.

New to the 2002/2003 edition, which is in its 30th year, is the Information Centre, packed

with over 50 pages of hints and tips, including how to connect your communications equipment. The casual browser will appreciate the easy-to-use colour coded sections whilst experienced electronics enthusiasts will benefit from the detailed

product information.

Maplin say that internal changes mean it is now even easier to order, with their call centre now open seven days a week. This means customers have the freedom to purchase 24 hours a day, 365 days a year via mail order and the website (www.maplin.co.uk) as well as by visiting one of the 65 stores nationwide. Orders placed before 1930 will be despatched the same day.

Maplin's specialist staff are available both instore and through a technical helpline to offer help with technical and product enquiries. To receive a copy of the catalogue, which costs £3.99, call the mail order line on (0870) 2646000, visit the website at www.maplin.co.uk or visit your local Maplin Electronics store.

# London Show

he London Communication & Computer Show is to be held at Wodson Park, Wadesmill Road, Ware, Herts, on Saturday 26 and Sunday 27th April 2003. Doors open 1000-1700 (Saturday) and 1000-1600 (Sunday) - 0945 for disabled visitors. This is a Trade Show that features a Bring & Buy, Talk-in (2m and 70cm), Specialist Interest Groups, Morse Tests, Morse Assessments, licensed bar, catering, disabled facilities and free parking. More information from Steve G3ZVW at spwhite@radiosport.co.uk

November 2/3: The Sixteenth North Wales Radio & Electronics Show will be held at the North Wales Conference Centre, Llandudno. The show opens at 1,000 both days and the entrance fee is £2 for adults, under 14s go free when accompanied an adult. There will be a club room and an extensive Bring & Buy. More information about the

show from M. Mee GW7NFY

on (01745) 591704 (combined

telephone and FAX number).

November 10: The 12th Great Northern Hamfest will take place at the Metrodome Leisure Complex, Queens Road, Barnsley, South Yorkshire. Doors open at 1000. The Leisure Complex is in the town centre and is less than two miles from junction 37 on the M1 motorway, five minutes walk from the train and bus station (follow the brown Metrodome signs from all directions). The venue is on one level with excellent disabled facilities. Features include all the usual trade stands, component and specialist interest groups and a large Bring & Buy. This year, tables will be allocated to radio amateurs to sell their own equipment at a nominal charge. Talk-in will be via GB3NA on 145.675MHz and admission is £2.50. More details from Ernie Bailey G4LUE, 8 Hild Avenue, Cudworth, Barnsley, S. Yorkshire \$72 8RN or telephone (01226) 716339, mobile (017787) 546515 -

November 17: The Midland Amateur Radio Society are holding their 14th Radio and Computer Rally at King Edwards Grammar Camp Hill School, Vicarage Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham, junction A4040/B4122. There will be

between 1800 and 2000 please.

trade stands, local clubs, special interest groups, large free car park, refreshments and a Bring & Buy stall. Doors open 1000 and admission is just £1. Trader details from Norman G8BHE on 0121-422 9787/(07730) 132726, E-mail: nlgutteridge@aol.com or from Peter G6DRN on 0121-443

December 1: The Bishop Auckland Radio Amateurs Club (BARAC) Rally will take place at Spennymoor Leisure Centre. Please note that this is a venue suited for both trader and disabled as it boasts good parking and access to a large ground floor hall. There will be the usual radio, computer, electronics, as well as a Bring & Buy, catering and bar facilities. Morse tests will be available on demand. As you can imagine, there is a lot to do for all the family within the confines of the Leisure Centre. Doors open 1100 (1030 for disabled visitors) and admission is £1, under 14s free of charge if accompanied by an adult. Talk-in on S22. Mark GOGFG on (01388) 745353 or Brian G7OCK on (01388) 762678.

December 8: The Red Rose Radio Rally will be held at Lowton Civic Hall, Lowton, near Leigh. Doors open 1100, (1045 for disabled visitors). There will be car parking for approx. 200 cars and it is easy to find from junction 23 of the M6 motorway. There will be catering, disabled access, computer stalls, licensed bar, car parking and also a visit by Santa Claus. More information from Stephen Daniels on (01942) 888900 or write to Stephen Daniels, Astley House, Johnson Street, Tyldesley, Manchester M29 8AB.

December 8: The Worcester Radio Rally is being held at the Worcester Rugby Club, M5 Junction 6, Worcester. Doors open 1000, admission is £2, car parking free. There will be trade stands, Special Interest Groups, a licensed bar, catering and free raffle. For more details contact John G8MGK on (01527) 545823/(07762) 203355 or visit www.qsl.net/gb2tcr

rallies

#### 2003

February 2: The 18th South Essex Amateur Radio Society are holding their Rally and Computer Rally at The Paddocks, Long Road, Canvey Island, Essex - The Paddocks are situated at the end of the A130. Admission is £1.50 and doors open at 1030 - features include amateur radio, computer and electronic component exhibitors, there will also be home-made refreshments, free car parking with disabled access, RSGB Morse tests (two passport photos and fee required). More information from www.southessex.ars.btintern et.co.uk or from Brian G7IIO/M3IIO on (01268)

February 14: The Cambridge & District Amateur Radio Club are holding their rally at Britten Arena, Wood Green Animal Shelter, King's Bush Farm, London Road, Godmanchetser at 1000. Entrance fee is £2, concessions £1.50. There is enough free parking for 2000 cars, there will also be two bars, a restaurant, animal shelter, water garden and lake. A great day out for all the family. More information at

www.cdarc.org.uk

756331, E-mail:

briang7iio@yahoo.com

### Step Into Spring



Spring Radio Fair, (Amateur Radio, Electronics, Computing & Tools), is to be held on **Saturday 8th March 2003** from 1030 'till 1300 at St. John's Hall, Sylvan Road, London SE19. Admission (includes one free drink) is just £1 - children under 16 free. Refreshments will be available. Contact **Bob** on **(01737) 552170** if you would like more information.

#### AR8200 Mark3 RECEIVER

#### **EVOLUTION PRODUCES THE VERY BEST - NATURALLY**

On release of the AR8200, it was apparent that a new bench mark had been set encompassing features and performance. Evolution led to the AR8200 Series-2 and now to the **NEW AR8200 Mk3**.

The AR8200 has continuously providing exactly what customers have been yearning for... excellent full coverage all mode receive, computer control, reaction tune, tape

record facilities, optional cards (CTCSS, external memory, on-chip recording, analogue voice inversion and tone

eliminator). Add to this free PC control software, discriminator output with optional OS8200 AUX connecting lead, data clone and you will see what a COMPLETE package is provided.

Some of the components used for the RF signal path have been made obsolete (still available for service but not for volume production) so the opportunity was taken to introduce some changes as recently applied to the AR8600-2. The changes are in the following areas:

- 1. As the RF components have been changed, there is a positive performance advantage with sensitivity and strong signal handling increasing on some frequencies.
- 2. The frequency coverage has been extended to 3GHz.
- **3.** The AR8200 Mk3 is supplied with 1500mAhr NiHi batteries (in place of NiCads) for extended operation.

4. The LCD illumination may be switched to AUTO so that the illumination switched for just a few seconds) when the

will automatically switch-on (for just a few seconds) when the squelch opens, ideal for noting the active frequencies at night time.

## FIRST STOCK EXPECTED IN OCTOBER'02

Still looking for the small print, there isn't any, price remains unchanged from that of the earlier model at £439.00 inc VAT.

Summary: A Temperature Compensated Crystal Oscillator (TCXO) forms the heart of the AR8200 Mk3 resulting in high stability with minimal internal spurii. RF preselection in the mid-VHF bands

ensures **best sensitivity and strong signal handling** with a wide coverage up to 3GHz (all mode receive without gaps).

AR 8200

Flexible tuning steps including 8.33kHz, programmable in all modes down to 50Hz. LCD illumination is nice and bright with sharp display of LCD characters and adjustable contrast, the beep is also configurable.

Flexible power, a set of 4 x 1500mAhr AA rechargeable high capacity NiHi are provided, a DC lead with cigar plug is also provided along with AC charger which doubles up as a power supply. The receiver may also be powered from standard dry batteries such as alkaline

Computer control, nearly all functions





can be controlled via computer (optional 8200PC interface required), free PC control software is available from the AOR web site.



AOR

8200PC

#### **AR8600** Mark2 RECEIVER

wider coverage all mode receiver 100 kHz - 3000 MHz with RS232 port



The AR8600 Mark2 is an amazingly versatile receiver which can be used mobile, base or trans-portable... powered from an external 12V d.c. power supply, 12V vehicle or from an optional internally fitted NiCad battery pack. Due to continuous development of our products, the AR8600 Mark2 has been enhanced in several areas. The upper frequency range has been extended to 3000MHz (3.0GHz), lower band sensitivity has been increased (now officially covering to 100kHz) with an enhancement to short wave performance by the addition of further bandpass filters and revision to I.F. filters. Mini-Circuits RMS1 / RMS2 mixers have been employed with active SPM aerial switching devices (not diode-switching) abundantly employed throughout the signal path. [Technical boffins will recognise the significance of such devices in minimising signal loss & maximum spurious free range, and will be versed with the quality of Mini-Circuits parts]. The AR8600 Mark2 provides remarkable short wave performance, making other similar wide band competitors mediocre by comparison. When the AR8600 Mark2 arrived in the UK, short wave listeners were amazed at how the AR8600 Mark2 sounds so much like a dedicated short wave receiver with pleasant audio on SSB and good CW tone with Radio Japan rolling in on a simple telescopic whip, much less like the usual expectations of a scanning receiver! A strong twin metal case with die cast front panel characterises the multi-purpose role. All mode receive capability is provided including Single Side Band with programmable tuning steps down to a resolution of 50Hz with the frequency established by a highly accurate Temperature Compensated Crystal Oscillator (TCXO).

Computer control is available via a standard 9-pin RS232 D-type connector on the rear chassis, just a standard RS232 cable is required for connection to a PC, the extensive RS232 command list is printed in the operating manual. A FREE software package is available as a download from the AOR web sites.

An RS232 port further extends the capabilities with free supporting control software available from the AOR web sites. The all important 8.33 kHz airband channel step is correctly

In addition, 'optional internal SLOT CARDS' (which fit into the rear chassis of the AR8600 Mark2) extend the capabilities even further, five cards may be fitted with two operational simultaneously •Mémory slot card (increase storage to 4,000 memories, 160 search banks). •CTCSS slot card squetch & search. •Record chip slot card (records up to 20 seconds of

audio) with 'continuous loop' capability. •Tone eliminator slot card. •Voice inverter card. The slot cards are common to the AR8600, AR8600 Mark2, AR8200 and AR8200 Series-2.

implemented.

Portable operation is a reality, when the optional BP8600 battery is fitted, several hours operation is provided away from the base or vehicle power supplies. £719.00 inc VAT.



AOR (UK) LTD 4E East Mill, Bridgefoot, Belper, Derbyshire, DE56 2UA England

Tel: 01773 880788 Fax: 01773 880780 info@aoruk.com www.aoruk.com e806

FERTURE

# LM&S

REGULAR

NEWS

o doubt many listeners will be surprised and disappointed to learn that Radio Finland (YLE) will be closing down their international short wave service in English, German and French on October 27 - a few days after this edition of SWM is on sale in the UK. The YLE broadcasts in Russian will continue, but in future they intend to concentrate on providing a s.w service for Finnish nationals abroad.

Unfortunately, there is no governmental funding for an external radio service in Finland. The s.w. service provided by YLE has been financed mainly by television usage fees paid by viewers in Finland. The closure of the English, German and French services will result in substantial cost savings.

Visitors to the greater Helsinki area of Finland will be still able to receive news in English and relays of broadcasts in other languages via the Capital FM radio service parts of this service can also be heard via YLE stations in Turku, Tampere, Lahti and Kuopio.

#### **Long Wave Reports**

Note: l.w. & m.w. frequencies in kHz; s.w. in MHz; Time in UTC (=GMT). Unless otherwise stated, all logs were compiled during August.

Favourable conditions were noted during the night of the 7th by **Simon Hockenhull** in E.Bristol. At 0105 the Rikisutvarpid (RUV) outlets at Gufuskalar, W.Iceland (300kW) on **189kHz** and Eidar, E.Iceland (100kW) on **207kHz** were both

audible, which rated SINPO 25342 and 12442 respectively. At 2352 on the 14th Simon heard a weak transmission on **279kHz**, which his checks suggest came from Asgabat, Turkmenistan (150kW). At best it rated 14432.

PROJECT

A broadcast on **279kHz** was also heard on the 21st by **David Stevenson** (Swansea) at 0501 - it lasted for about an hour, but reception was extremely poor and no ident could be obtained. A male with a soft voice was heard speaking in an unknown language; also music. This station has been entered in the chart provisionally as Asgabat, Turkemenistan.

Broadcasts in Russian were picked up at night on 279 and 270kHz by Jim Edwards in Wigan. Both transmissions were very weak, consequently he logged them tentatively as Yekaterinburg, Russia on 279, heard at 0020; also Orenburg, Russia on 270 at 0410. Earlier, he heard Taldom, Russia on 261 at 0015. A number of other stations were mentioned in his interesting report - see chart.

Owing to the absence of Team Talk on 252kHz, Eddie McKeown (Newry, Co.Down) found he could receive Tipaza, Algeria on 252 with a rating of 44344 at 2015; also Burg on 261, which he noted as 34233 at 2052. On several occasions he tuned to Sasnovy on 279 and enjoyed listening to their long (four minute) National Anthem, which is played before close down.

During a holiday in Austria, Peter Pollard (Rugby) searched this band after dark

(1900-2100) with his Sony portable. He stayed in Saalbach, which is in a valley running east-west, closed in at the western end. Reception there was extremely noisy and only four stations were heard - see chart. Surprisingly, BBC R-4 on 198kHz, which is shared by Droitwich (500kW), Westerglen (50kW) and Burghead (50kW), was just audible at strength one!

COMPETITION

SPECIAL

#### **Medium Wave Reports**

The sky waves from some of the many m.w. stations in the Middle East, N.Africa, Europe and Scandinavia were picked up by the listeners who searched this band after dark and their logs make interesting reading - see chart.

An extensive log was compiled by David Stevenson, but quite a few of the entries proved to be difficult or impossible to identify because the signals were weak a problem well known to all dedicated DXersl Reference to guide books, such as the World Radio TV Handbook (WRTH), may indicate parallel broadcasts on other frequencies so that cross checks can be made with aid of a second receiver. Details of transmission times and the language(s) involved may also be indicated, all of which can help.

Reception in the m.w. band proved to be much less noisy than l.w. for Peter Pollard in Saalbach and he logged a number of stations after dark - see chart. He searched the band from 1900 until 2100 and was very pleased to hear the BBC World Service via Orfordness on 1296, which rated SIO 242.

A late night news programme broadcast by the American Forces Network (AFN) via Frankfurt on **873kHz** (150kW) attracted the attention of **Harry Richards**  (Barton-on-Humber) on August 19. It was followed at 0100 by live coverage of a baseball game. The same game was being televised by Channel 5, so Harry switched on his TV. He noticed that the radio commentary was about two seconds behind the action on TV!

The Voice of Russia was heard on 558kHz with near perfect reception at 0820 by Sheila Hughes in Morden. This was followed by R.Canada Int and R.Prague. Apparently the World Radio Network (WRN) had hired air time on R.Spectrum, London. Sheila 'phoned WRN at their SW.London office (0207-896 9000) for more information and was advised that these early morning programmes were temporary - for two weeks. However, there are also broadcasts on Spectrum from 0100 to 0400. Also mentioned was China R.Int (CRI), which may be heard via Spectrum from 2200-2300. The Spectrum transmission carrying CRI was logged by Fred Wilmshurst (Northampton) as 44544 and reported by several other listeners.

#### **Short Wave Reports**

During some days in August, the effects of solar flares disturbed the ionosphere and disrupted reception in the higher frequency short wave bands. Although we are now on the downward slope of the present sunspot cycle such events are likely to continue, so some disturbances can be expected in the weeks ahead.

In the 25MHz (11m) band the daily broadcasts from Radio France International (RFI) to E/C.Africa on 25.820 (Fr, Eng 0830-1300) continued during August, but there were no reports to indicate how well they were received in that area.

Reception of the RFI transmissions in

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189 Gu 189 Ca 198 Dr 2007 Mi 2007 Eid 2017 Mi 2016 Ro 2225 Po 2234 Be 243 Ka 2252 Tip 261 Bu 261 Ta 270 Or 279 Sa 279 Ye Note: Entr	fuskalar Itanissetta oitwich BBC unich DLF Iar Ital umoules RMC Iskie R-1 idweiler Iundborg aza ag(R. Ropa) dom Moscow oolna	W.Iceland Italy UK Germany E.Iceland Morocco S.France Poland Luxembourg Denmark Algeria Germany Russia	150 10 500 500 100 800 1400 ? 2000 300 1500 85	A*_B A*_H C_E_G B*_E* A*_B H*_I* A*_B A*_B A*_B A*_B	,E*,I* ,H,I,K ,F*,H*,I,J ,C,E*,F*,H ,C,E*,F*,H,I, ,C*,D,E*,F*,I ,C*,E*,F*,I	"K"*  *, ,J <sub>.</sub> K"*  *  *  *  *	
189 Ca 198 Dr 207 Mi 207 Eic 207 Az 216 Ro 225 Po 224 Be 2243 Ka 2252 Tip 261 Ta 2270 Or 2270 To 2270 To 2279 As 2279 Ye	Itanissetta oitwich BBC mich DLF lar ibal umoules RMC iskie R-1 idweiler lundborg aza org(R. Ropa) dom Moscow oolna	Italy UK Germany E.Iceland Morocco S.France Poland Luxembourg Denmark Algeria Algeria Russia	10 500 500 100 800 1400 ? 2000 300 1500 85	A*,H C,E,G B*,E* A*,B H*,I* A*,B A*,B A*,B,	,H,I,K ,F*,H*,I,J ,E*,F*,H ,C,E*,F*,H,I, ,C*,D,E*,F*,I	*,I,J,K* H* I* I* k	
198 Dr. 207 M. 207 M. 207 Elic 207 Elic 207 As 2256 Be 2243 Ka 2252 Tip 261 Bu 261 Ta 2270 To 270 Dr. 270 Gr. 279 Sa 279 Sa Note: Entr	oitwich BBC unich DLF lar ilal umoules RMC iskie R-1 idweiler lundborg aza org(R.Ropa) dom Moscow polna	UK Germany E.Iceland Morocco S.France Poland Luxembourg Denmark Algeria Germany Russia	500 500 100 800 1400 ? 2000 300 1500 85	C, E, G B*, E* A*, B H*, I* A*, B A*, B A*, B A*, B,	*,H,I,K ,F*,H*,I,J ,D,E*,F*,H ,C,E*,F*,H,I, ,C*,D,E*,F*,I ,C*,E*,F*,I	*,I,J,K* H* I* I* k	
207 M; 207 Eice 207 Az 207 Az 2016 Ro 2225 Po 2234 Be 2243 Ka 252 Tip 261 Ta 270 To 07270 Or 279 As 279 Sa 279 Ye	inich DLF lar ilal umoules RMC iskie R-1 idweiler lundborg aza rg(R. Ropa) dom Moscow polna	Germany E.Iceland Morocco S.France Poland Luxembourg Denmark Algeria Germany Russia	500 100 800 1400 ? 2000 300 1500 85	B*,E* A*,B H*,I* A*,B A*,B A*,B A*,B A*,B	, F*, H*, I, J , E*, F*, H , C, E*, F*, H , E*, F*, H, I, , C*, E*, F*, I	*,I,J,K* H* I* I* k	
207 Eic207 Az 207 Az 216 Ro 225 Po 2234 Be 2234 Ka 2252 Tip 261 Bu 261 Ta 270 To 270 Or 270 Or 279 As 279 Ye Note: Entr	lar ilal umoules RMC iskie R-1 idweiler lundborg iaza rg(R.Ropa) dom Moscow polna	E.Iceland Morocco S.France Poland Luxembourg Denmark Algeria Germany Russia	100 800 1400 ? 2000 300 1500 85	A B A B A B A B A B	,D,E*,F*,H ,C,E*,F*,H,I, ,E*,F*,H,I, ,C*,D,E*,F ,C*,E*,F*,I	*,I,J,K* H* I* I* k	
207 Az 216 Rq 225 Po 234 Be 2243 Ka 2252 Tip 261 Bu 261 Ta 270 To 270 Or 279 As 279 Sa 279 Ye Note: Entr	ilal umoules RMC iskie R-1 idweiler lundborg aza ag(R. Ropa) dom Moscow polna	Morocco S.France Poland Luxembourg Denmark Algeria Germany Russia	800 1400 ? 2000 300 1500 85	A B A B A B A B A B	,D,E*,F*,H ,C,E*,F*,H,I, ,E*,F*,H,I, ,C*,D,E*,F ,C*,E*,F*,I	*,I,J,K* H* I* I* k	
216 Acc 225 Po 234 Be 243 Ka 252 Tip 261 Ta 270 Or 2270 Or 2279 As 2279 Ye Note: Entr	umoules RMC iskie R-1 idweiler lundborg aza rg(R.Ropa) dom Moscow polna	S.France Poland Luxembourg Denmark Algeria Germany Russia	1400 ? 2000 300 1500 85	A* B A* D A* B A* B	D,E*,F*,H ,C,E*,F*,H,I, ,C*,D,E*,F ,C*,E*,F*,I	He Is Is k	
225 Po 234 Be 243 Ka 252 Tip 261 Bu 261 Ta 270 To 270 Or 279 As 279 Sa 279 Ye	skie R-1 idweiler lundborg aza rg(R.Ropa) dom Moscow polna	Poland Luxembourg Denmark Algeria Germany Russia	2000 300 1500 85	A*,B A*,D A*,B A*,B	, C, E , F , I , E , F , H, I, , C , D, E , F , C , E , F , I	He Is Is k	
234 Be 243 Ka 252 Tip 261 Bu 261 Ta 270 To 270 Or 279 As 279 Sa 279 Ye Note: Entr	idweiler lundborg aza rg(R.Ropa) dom Moscow polna	Luxembourg Denmark Algeria Germany Russia	300 1500 85	A*,B, A*,B,	,E*,F*,H,I, ,C*,D,E*,F ,C*,E*,F*,I	J*,K *,H*,I	
243 Ka 252 Tip 261 Bu 261 Ta 270 To 270 Or 279 As 279 Sa 279 Ye Note: Entr	lundborg aza rg(R.Ropa) dom Moscow polna	Denmark Algeria Germany Russia	300 1500 85	A*,B, A*,B	C*,D,E*,F ,C*,E*,F*,I	*,H*,I	
252 Tip 261 Bu 261 Ta 270 To 270 Or 279 As 279 Sa 279 Ye Note: Entr	aza rg(R.Ropa) dom Moscow polna	Algeria Germany Russia	1500 85	A*,B	C*,E*,F*,I	le Ke	
261 Ta 270 To 270 Or 270 Or 279 As 279 Sa 279 Ye Note: Entr	dom Moscow colna	Russia		A*.B			
270 To 270 Or 279 As 279 Sa 279 Ye Note: Entr	oolna				",E",F",H"	K*	
270 Or 279 As 279 Sa 279 Ye Note: Entr			2500	A*,B	•		
279 As 279 Sa 279 Ye Note: Entr		Czech Rep	1500	A*,B	.E. F. G.	H,I.K*	
279 Sa 279 Ye Note: Entr	enburg	Russia	40	A*			
279 Ye Note: Entr	hgebat	Turkmenista		B*,H	•		
Note: Entr	snovy	Belarus	500	A*,B	C,E*,F* H	*,I*,K*	
	katerinburg	Siberia	150	_ A*			
	Note: Entries marked * were logged during darkness. All other entries were logged during daylight or at dawn/dusk.						
Listeners:-							
(A) Jii	n Edwards, W						
	non Hockenhu						
	eila Hughes, N						
	Rhoderick Illman, Oxted.						
	die McKeown,						
	ed Pallant, Sto						
	ter Pollard, wh		cn, Aust	rıa.			
	vid Stevenson						
		nsey, Cambs. S. Truro.					

Two	nical Danda	Chart			MHz	Station	Country	UTC 0015	DXer B
IFO	pical Bands	Cnart				R.IPB AM C'po Grande AIR Kurseong	Brazil India	1647	G
MHz	Station	Country	UTC	DXer	4.905	CPBS 1, Beiling	China	2340	В
3.205	R.Ribeirao	Brazil	0110	В		AIR Jaipur	India	0110	В
3.215	AWR	Madagascar	0345	В	4.910		Zambia	0155	Ē
3.240	TWR Manzini	Swaziland	0415	В		R.Zambia, Lusaka		2305	В
3.255	BBC via Meyerton	S.Africa	2008	B,E,G,J			Brazil		
3.270	Namibian BC, Windhoek	Namibia	2008	B,E,G		R Difusora, Macapa	Brazil	0200	B,E
3.279	La Voz del Napo	Ecuador	0615	B		GBC-1, Accra	Ghana	2030	BJ
				В		R.Quito, Quito	Ecuador	0445	В
3.300	R.Cultural	Guatemala	0405	В		AIR Chennai	India	1648	G
3.315	AIR Bhopal	India	0140		4.925	R.S.Miguel, Riberalta	Bolivia	0210	В
3.320	SABC (RSG) Meyerton	S.Africa	0222	B,E		RRI Jambi	Indonesia	2325	B
3.365	GBC R-2	Ghana	2006	B <sub>s</sub> G	4.930	AIR Shimla	India	2155	J
3.915	BBC via Kranji	Singapore	2145	B,F,J	4.935	R.Capixaba, Vitoria	Brazil	0015	В
3.955	R.Korea via Skelton	England	2100	C,F,H	4 940	AIR Guwahati	India	0215	В
3.955	R.Taipei via Skelton	England	1855	A,C,H		R.Emiss.Rural	Brazil	0125	В
3.975	R Budapest	Hungary	0000	C,F,J		R Nacional, Mulvenos	Angola	2315	В
3.985	China R.Int via SRI	Switzerland	2320	В	4.950	AIR Srinagar	India	1650	B.G
3.995	DW via Julich?	Germany	2133	F,i	4.950	VOA via Sao Tome	Sao Tome	2145	J
4.005	Vatican R.	Italy	2045	F.I.J		R.Cultura, Campos	Brazil	0010	B
4.716	R. Yura, Yura	Bolivia	0005	В	4.960	R.Cima	Dominion Rep.		В
4.750	Xizang BS, Lhasa	China	2145	В		AIR Ranchi	India	0035	В
4.755	R.Educ CP Grande	Brazil	0145	В					В
4.760	AIR Port Blair	India	0135	В	4.960	VOA via Sao Tome	Sao Tome	0515	
4.760	ELWA Monrovia	Liberia	2140	В	4.965	Christian Voice	Zambia	2125	В
4.765	R.Rural, Santarem	Brazil	2335	В		R.Uganda, Kampala	Uganda	2016	B,G
				B,G,J	4.980	Ecos del Torbes	Venezuela	0310	В
4.770	FRCN Kaduna	Nigeria	2100		4.985	R.Brazil Central	Brazil	0200	B,E
4.775	R.Liberal, Belem	Brazil	0055	В	4.990	Hunan 1, Changsha	China	2230	В
4.790	AIR Itanagar	India	0010	В	4.995	R.Andina, Huancayo	Peru	0240	В
4.790	Azad Kashmir R.	Pakistan	0010	В	5.005	R.Nepal, Kathmandu	Nepal	0010	В
4.800	CPBS 2 Beijing	China	2130	B,D,J	5.010	R.Misones Int.	Honduras	0310	В
4.800	R.Buenas Nuevas	Guatemala	0305	В		AIR Thiru'puram	India	0130	В
4.800	AIR Hyderabad	India	0145	В		R.Parakou	Benin	2135	J
4.805	R.Nac.Amazonas	Brazil	2355	В	5.025	R.Rebelde, Bauta	Cuba	0305	В
4.815	R.Difusora, Londrina	Brazil	2345	В	5.025	R.Uganda, Kampala	Uganda	1922	B,G
4.815	R.diff TV Burkina		1935	G		AWR Latin America	Costa Rica	0300	B,D
4.820	R.Botswana, Gaberone	Botswana	2015	B,E	5.030	RTM Kuching	Sarawak	2200	
4.820	Xizang, Lhasa	China	2110	B,D,J	5.030		C.Africa	2017	J G
4.820	La Voz Evangelica	Honduras	0435	В		R.Bangui		0030	В
4.825	R.Cancao Nova	Brazil	2340	В	5.035	R.Aparecida	Brazil		
4.828	ZBC R-4	Zimbabwe	0435	E	5.040	Jeypore	India	0135	В
4.830	R. Tachira	Venezuela	0220	B,E	5.050	R.Tanzania	Tanzania	2030	В
					5.100	R.Liberia, Totota	Liberia	2140	В
4.832	R.Litoral, La Ceiba	Honduras	0210 1956	B,E	D.,				
4.835	RTM Barnako	Mali		G,J	DXers:-				
4.840	AIR Bombay	India	1645	B <sub>G</sub>	(A)	Bernard Curtis, Stalbridg	ge.		
4.845	R.Cultura Ondas, Trop	Brazil	0130	В	(B)	Jim Edwards, Wigan.			
4.845	ORTM Nouakchott	Mauritania	G201	B,E,G,J	(C)	Stan Evans, Herstmonce	eux.		
4.850	CNR 1	China	2220	В	(D)	Bill Griffith, W.London.			
4.860	AIR Delhi	India	1645	B,G	(E)	David Hall, Morpeth.			
4.865	R.Alvorada, Londrina	Brazil	0235	В	(F)	Simon Hockenhull, E.Bri	stol.		
4.875	R.Roraima, Boa Vista	Brazil	0305	В	(G)	Fred Pallant, Storrington			
4.880	AIR Lucknow	India	1646	G	(H)	Clare Pinder, Appleby.			
4 885	R.Clube do Para	Brazil	0135	B.E	(1)	Peter Pollard, while in S	aalhach Austria		
	RFI Paris	via Gabon	0400	E	(J)	Vic Prier, Seaton.	aaisatii, Austiid		
4.890									

the UK varied from day to day - often they were weak, but sometimes they were almost buried in noise or completely inaudible. Unexpectedly potent signals were received on some days when sporadic E openings occurred. For example, their transmission on the 9th rated 45534 at 1046 in E.Bristol, but by 1105, it was only 15522. The SINPO ratings quoted in other reports were 23322 at 0900 by Vic Prier in Seaton, 24222 at 1010 by Thomas Williams in Truro; 33333 at 1020 by Bill Griffith in W.London; 45434 at 1040 by Bernard Curtis in Stalbridge; 44343 at 1040 by Robert Hughes in Liverpool; 25332 at 1215 in Northampton; 25132 at 1228 in Newry.

During some days the 21MHz (13m) band provided good reception over long

Note: Entries marked \* were logged during darkness. All other entries were logged during daylight or at dawn/dusk.

#### Listeners

- Simon Hockenhull, E.Bristol
- Sheila Hughes, Morden. Rhoderick Illman, Oxted. Eddie McKeown, Newry.
- Clare Pinder, Appleby.
  Peter Pollard, while in Saalbach, Austria.
  Harry Richards, Barton-on-Humber.
  David Stevenson, Swansea.
  Ernie Strong, Ramsey, Cambs.
  Fred Wilmshurst, Northampton.

distances. R. Australia reached the UK on two frequencies from Shepparton: 21.725 (Eng to Pacific areas 0200-0900), rated 45434 at 0720 in Stalbridge; also 21.820 (Eng to Asia 0900-1400) noted as 33222 at 1100 in Morden.

Also mentioned in the reports were R.Thailand 21.795 (Eng to ?), rated 33333 at 0555 by David Hall in Morpeth; R Finland via Pori 21.670 (Eng to Eur, Asia, Australia 0630-0658) 55555 at 0645 by Stan Evans in Herstmonceux; R.Pakistan, Islamabad 21.465 (Ur, Eng to Eur 0700-1010) was 34433 at 0730 in Seaton, 55545 at 0845 in Stalbridge & 44343 at 1000 in Newry; Deutsche Welle (DW) via Sri Lanka 21.640 (Ger to Asia, Oceania 0600?-1000?) 24322 at 0754 by Rhoderick Illman in Oxted; Swiss R.Int via Sottens 21.770 (Eng, It, Ger, Fr to Near East, Africa 0830 1030) 32222 at 0853 in Truro; BSKSA Riyadh, Saudi Arabia 21.705 (Ar to W.Eur 0600-1500) 54554 at 1000 in W.London R. Japan via Yamata, Japan 21.755 (Eng to Australia 1000-1100) 32333 at 1045 in Liverpool; RFI via Moyabi, Gabon 21.755 (Fr to Africa 1100-1200) 34433 at 1100 by Gerald Guest in Dudley; R.Austria Int via Julich? 21.780 (Eng to ? 1130-1200?) 35544 at 1130 in Northampton; VOIRI Tehran 21.470 (Eng to Asia 1100-1228) 44433 at 1140 in Herstmonceux; Channel

to W.Africa 1300-1455, Sat/Sun) 44434 at 1305 by Vera Brindley in Woodhall Spa; BBC via Cyprus 21.660 (Eng to S. Africa 1400-1700) 24222 at 1441 in Newry; R.Nederlands via Bonaire, Ned Antilles 21.590 (Eng to Africa 1830-2025) 34222 at 1835 by lan Evans in Ebbw Vale R.Ext. Espana via Noblejas 21.700 (Sp to C/S.America 1800-2000 Sat/Sun) 45544 at 1920 in E.Bristol

Noted in the 18MHz (15m) band were R.Denmark via Sveio, Norway 18.950 (Da to Australia, N. America 1230-1255), rated 44444 at 1225 in Truro & 55545 at 1250 in Stalbridge; R.Sweden 18.960 (Eng to N.America 1230-1300, 1330-1400, 1430-1500) 44433 at 1340 in Herstmonceux; Family R, WYFR via Okeechobee FL, USA 18.930 (Fr, Eng, Sp to Eur 1800-2200?) 33333 at 1857 in Ebbw Vale; Christian Science Herald via WSHB Cypress Creek 18.910 (Fr, Eng to E/S.Africa 1600-2200?) 44 at 2050 in Northampton.

During favourable conditions R.Australia also reached the UK in the 17MHz (16m) band. Their transmission to SE.Asia from Shepparton on 17.750 (Eng 0030-0400, 0530-0800, 0830-0900, 0930-1100) was rated 44433 at 0550 in Herstmonceux & 55445 at 0725 in Stalbridge.

Other broadcasters heard in this much

17.640 (Eng to E.Africa 0500-0700 & via UK 0700-1500 [also to CIS via Woofferton, UK 0700-1500]), rated 43332 at 0500 in Saalbach, Austria; R.Sweden 17.505 (Sw to Eur, M.East, Africa 0700-0800 Sat) 24332 at 0737 in Oxted; Adventist World Radio (AWR) via Moosbrunn, Austria 17.780 (Eng to W.Africa 0830-0930), rated 34433 at 0830 in Dudley; Israel R, Jerusalem 17.545 (Eng) 54554 at 1030 in W.London; R.Finland via Pori 17.670 (Eng to N.America 1230-1300) 54544 at 1240 in Herstmonceux; Voice of Turkey 17.830 (Eng to Eur, Asia, Australia 1230-1300) 44444 at 1249 in Woodhall Spa; BSKSA Riyadh 17.895 (Ar to N.Africa 1200-1500) 42444 at 1410 in Liverpool; Israel R, Jerusalem 17.545 (Eng to Eur, N.America 1630-1645) 44444 at 1630 in Morden; Israel R, Jerusalem 17.535 (Heb [Home svce relay] to W.Eur, N.America) 34433 at 1640 in Seaton; R.Romania Int 17.805 (Eng to Eur 1700-1800) 54333 at 1712 in E.Bristol; Channel Africa via Meyerton, S.Africa 17.870 (Eng to W.Africa 1800-1830) 34443 at 1800 in Newry & 44434 at 1809 in Woodhall Spa: BBC via Ascension Is 17.830 (Eng to W.Africa 0700-2100) 31332 at 1911 in Ebbw Vale & 24333 at 1948 by Fred Pallant in Storrington; R.Nederlands via Bonaire, Ned.Antilles 17.605 (Eng to C/W.Africa 1830-2025) 34222 at 2005 in Newry; World Harvest R. (WHRI) via Maine, USA 17.650

)	Fred Wilmshurst, North	ampton.		Africa via Me	erton, S.	Africa <b>21.725</b> (Eng	g	used band i	nclude the BBC vi	ia Cyprus	Har	vest R. (WHR	II) via Maine	, USA <b>17.650</b>
BA.	diam Mary	Cha	and.		kHz	Station	Country	Power (kW)	Listener	kHz	Station	Country	Power (kW)	Listener
IVIE	edium Wave	e Cna			783	Barcelona (COPE)	Spain	50	H*,I*	1134	Zadar(Croatian R)	Croatia		A*,D*,H*,J*
kHz	Station	Country	Power	Listener	792	Limoges	France	300	A°,D°,H°	1134	COPE via ?	Spain	2	H*,I*
			(kW)		792		Spain	_ 20	H*	1143	AFN via ?	Germany	1	D. L.
526		Italy	600/300	H*	801		Germany	300	D°.I*	1143	COPE via ?	Spain	10	о•, н•, i•
531 531		Algeria Faeroe Is.	100	H*	801	RNE1 via ?	Spain	20	H.1.	1152 1179	RNE5 via ? SER via ?	Spain Spain		H*
531		Germany	20	Н	810	Madrid(SER)	Spain	100	A*,D,H,I,J*	1179	Solvesborg	Sweden		A,D°,G,H°,J*
531		Spain	?	D.'H.'I.	810 819	Westerglen(BBCScot) Batra	UK Egypt	450	A°,D°,1°	1188	Kuume	Belgium	5	D*,H*
531		Switzerland	500	V'C'D,'L,'H,'I,'' D,'L,'H,'I,'',	819	S.Sebastian(EI)	Spain	5	H*.I*	1188	Marcali(VOA/RFE)	Hungary	500	D°.G.J°
540		Belgium	150/50	A,C,D°,F°,H°,1°,J	828		Holland	20	B.D°.H°	1197	Munich(VOA)	Germany	300	D°,F°,G,H°,J
549	Les Trembles	Algeria	600	D.'I.	837	Nancy	France	200	A*,D*,H*	1197	Virgin via ?	UK	?	0°,H,I,J
549		Belarus	1000	H,I*	837	COPE via ?	Spain	?	F°,I°	1206	Bordeaux	France	100	A°.D°,G°,H°,J°
549		Germany	200	H°,I°,J°	846		Italy	1200	D. H.	1215	Virgin via ?	UK	?	D,G,H,I,J
558 558		Finland Spain	30	H.	855 855	Berlin	Germany	100	D. D.	1224	Vidin	Bulgaria	500 50	J
558		Switzerland	300	F*		RNE1 via?	Spain	300	D°,F°,H°,I°,J°	1224 1224	Lelystad(Othe beat) COPE via ?	Holland Spain	20	D. E. H. I.
567		Eire	500	A,B,C,D,H,I°,J*	864 864	Paris Socuellamos(RNE1)	France Spain	300	א'ח 'נו ויי	1233	Nitra	Slovakia	40	D.'E. H.'I.
567	RNE5 via ?	Spain	?	H*	873	Frankfurt(AFN)	Germany	150	A*,D*,F*,G	1233	Virgin via ?	UK	?	H,I,J
576		Germany	500	A*,D*,F*,H*,I*,J*	873	Zaragoza(SER)	Spain	20	D*,G*,H*	1242	Marseille	France	150	A*,D*,F*
576		Spain	50	D*,H*,I*	873	Enniskillen(R.UI)	UK	1	D*,H	1242	Virgin via ?	UK	?	A*,D*,F* D*,H*,I O*,H*
585 585		France	8		882	Washford(BBCWales)	UK	100	B.D°,H,I°,J	1251	Huisberg	Netherlands	10	0°,H°
585	Madrid(RNE1)	Spain	200	V.'D.'H.'l.'1.	891	Algiers	Algeria	600/300	A°,H°	1260	SER via ?	Spain		D*,H*
585		UK	20	H. D.	891	Hulsberg	Netherlands	20 25 600	D. I.	1269	Neumunster(DLF)	Germany	600	D. I. D. H. I. '1.
594	Zagreb	Croatia	20 1000/400		900	Brno(CRo2)	Czech Rep	25		1269	COPE via ?	Spain		D*,H,I,J*
594 594		Germany Morocco	1000/400	Helle In 'L' 'B'I'n	900	Milan	Italy	600	A°,D°,H°	1278 1278	Dublin/Cork(RTE2) Strasbourg	France	300	A*
603		France	300	A*,D*,H*,I*	900	CDPE via ?	Spain UK	140	F*,H*	1287	RFE via ?	Czech Rep.	300	Ď*
603	Sevilla(RNE5)	Spain	50	H*.I*	909 918	B'mans Pk(BBC5) Domzale	Slovenia	600/100	V · B · D · H · I ·	1287	Lerida(SER)	Spain		H*.J*
603	Newcastle(BBC)	UK	2	A*.D*.I*	918	Madrid(R.Int)	Spain	20	A*,B*,D*,H*,J* B*,F*,I*	1296	Valencia(COPE)	Spain		
612	Athlone(RTE2)	Eire	100	A,0,H,I,J*	927	Wolvertem	Belgium	300	D.'H. D.'t.'H.'1'1	1296	Orfordness(BBC)	UK	500	H*,J* D*,F*,H,i
612	Sebaa Aioun	Morocco	300	A*	936	Bremen	Germany	100	D.H.	1305	RNE5 via ?	Spain	?	D*,H*
612	RNE1 via ?	Spain	10	l°	936	Venezia	Italy	20	H*	1314	Kvitsoy	Norway		A,D°,H°,I,J°
621	Wavre (RTBFI)	Belgium	. 80	A,C,D°,F°,H°,I°,J°	936	RNE5 via ?	Spain	?	Н*	1323	W brunn (VOR)	Germany		D°,F°,J
621	RNE1 via ?	Spain	10	H*	945	Riga	Latvia	50	H°	1332	Rome	Italy	300	An Dallie
621	Barcelona(OCR)	Spain	50 100	D.'H.'I.	945	Toulouse	France	300	A*,D*,F*,H*,J*	1341	Lisnagarvey(BBC)	N.Ireland		A* B*,HJ,J
630	Vigra Tunia Diadaida	Norway Tunisia	600	A*,D*,F*,H*	954	Brno (CRo2)	Czech Rep.	200	D*	1341	Tarrasa(SER)	Spain	2 600	F°,H°,I°,J°
630 639	Tunis-Djedeida Praha(Liblice)	Czech	1500	D.'H.'1.	954	Madrid(CI)	Spain	20 600	H*,J* D*,H*	1359 1368	Madrid(RNE-FS) Foxdale(Manx R)	Spain Is of Man		D,İ,J*
639	RNE1 via?	Spain	7	D*,H*,I*,J*	963 963	Pori Tunis-Djedeida	Finland Tunisia	200	H*	1377	Lille	France	300	D. H. I.
648	RNE1 via ?	Spain	10	F*.H*	972	Hamburg(NDR)	Germany	100	A*,D*,H*	1386	Bolshakovo	Russia	1200	A,D°,G°,H°,J
648	Orfordness(BBC)	UK	500	A,C,D°,G,H°,I,J	972	RNE1 via ?	Spain	?	H*	1395	Fllake	Albania	500	D*,H
657	Madrid(RNE5)	Spain	20	A*,D*,H*,I*,J*	981	Alger	Algeria	600/300	A*.H*	1395	Lopic (Biz Nieuws)	Netherlands	120/40	B.0°.1
657	Wrexham(BBCWales)	UK	2	A,B,D,H,I,J	990	Berlin	Germany	100	A*,D*,H*	1404	Brest	France	20	A*,D*,H*,I*,J*
666	MesskirchRohrd(SWF)		150	D°,F*,H°,I*,J*	990	R.Bilbao(SER)	Spain	10	D*,H*	1413	RNE5 via ?	Spain	?	D. t. H. '. '. '. '. '. '. '. '. '. '. '. '. '.
666	Sitkunai(R.Vilnius)	Lithuania	500	D,H°	999	Schwerin (RIAS)	Germany	20	D*	1422	Heusweiler(DLF)	Germany	1200/600	A*,D*,F*,H*,I*,J
666	Lisboa	Portugal	135 120	D*,I* A,B,C,D*,G,H*,I,J	999	Madrid(COPE)	Spain	50	D*,H*,I*,J* A,B,D*,F*,H*,J,J	1440	Marnach(RTL)	Luxembourg	1200	D*,F*,H*,I,J
675	R10 FM	Holland		V.P. L. H. 1.	1008	Flevo(NOS-5)	Holland	400	A,B,D",F",H",I,J	1449	Squinzano (RAI)	Italy	50	
684 684	Sevilla(RNE1) Avala(Beograd-1)	Spain Yugoslavia	500 2000	D*	1017	Rheinsender(SWF)	Germany	600	A*,D*,H*,J*	1449 1458	Redmoss(BBC) Fllake	UK Albania	500	A*,D*
693	Moscow (DW relay)	Russia	10	H*	1017 1026	RNE5 via ? SER via ?	Spain Spain	2	Р. п	1458	Monte Carlo(TWR)	Monaco		B*,D*,H*,J
693	Tortosa(RNE1)	Spain	2	H*	1026	Milan	Italy	50	H* -	1476	Wien-Bisamberg	Austria	600	A.B.D. H. J.
693	Droitwich(BBC)	UK	150	H,I,J	1035	Lisbon	Portugal	120	D*	1485	SER via ?	Spain	?	A*
702	Flensburg(NDR)	Germany	5	A°,D°	1044	Dresden(MDR)	Germany	20	D*,H*,I*	1494	Clermont-Ferrand	France	20	A*,D*,H*,J*
702	TWR via Monte Carlo	Monaco	300	1*	1044	Sebaa-Aioun	Morocco	300	Δ.	1494	Krasnyy Bor	Russia	1200	D*
711	Rennes (R.Bleu)	France	300	A,C,D*,H*,I,J	1053	Talk Sport via ?	UK	?	D*,G,H,I,J A*,D*,H*,I,J* A*,D*,H*,J*	1503	RNE5 via ?	Spain	?	H.
720	Lisnagarvey(BBC4)	N.Ireland	10	A*,H	1062	Kalundborg	Denmark	250	A.D.H.II.	1512	Wolvertem	Belgium	300	D°,E°,F°,G°,H°,I,J A°,D°,F°,J°
720_	Crystal Palace BBC4	UK	0.75	A,I,J D°,I	1071	Bilbao(El)	Spain	5	A*,D*,H*,J*	1521	Kosice(Cizatice)	Slovakia	600	D°.F°.H°.J
729	Cork(RTE1)	Eire	10	D,'H,'I,''],	1071	Talk Sport via ?	UK	?	0°,IJ A°,D°,H°,I° D°,G,H,IJ	1530	Vatican R	Italy		
729 738	RNE1 via ? Paris	Spain France	4	D.'I.	1080	SER via ?	Spain	7	A D H I	1539 1539	Mainflingen(ERF) SER via ?	Germany Spain	350(700)	D°,F°,H°,J
738	Barcelona(RNE1)	Spain	500	A.'D.'E.'H.'I.'1.	1089	Talk Sport via ? NitralJarok)	UK Slovakia	1500	A,0,1,1	1557	Nice Nice	France	300	Н
738 747	Flevo(NOS-1)	Holland	400	A,B,D°,F°,H°,J,J°	1098	RNE5 via ?	Spain	7	H.l.	1575	Genova	Italy	50	A,D°,H°
747	Cadiz(RNE5)	Spain	10	H*	1107	AFN via ?	Germany	10	D.H.	1575	SER via ?	Spain	5	D*,F*,H*,J*
756	Braunschweig(DLF)	Germany	800/200	A",D",F",H",I",J"	1107	RNE5 via ?	Spain	?	D.H.	1584	SER via ?	Spain	2	H*
756	Bilbao(EI)	Spain	5		1107	Talk Sport via ?	UK	7	D*,H,I,J	1593	Marrakech	Morocco	1	H*
756	Redruth(BBC)	UK	2	A*,D*	1116	Pontevedra(SER)	Spain	5	1*	1602	SER via ?	Spain	?	D°,F°,H°
765	Sottens	Switzerland	d 500	A*,D*,F*,H*	1125	La Louviere	Belgium	20	D.'H.'I.	1602	Vitoria(EI)	Spain	10	D.'1.
774	Enniskillen(BBC)	N.Ireland	1	D* 11* 1* 1*	1125	Deanovec	Croatia	100	J.	1611	Vatican R	ttaly	15	н:
774 783	RNE1 via ?	Spain	100	D.'H.'I.	1125	RNE5 via ?	Spain	?	D. H. I.					
103	Leipzig(MDR)	demidily	100	ון וון ע	1125	Llandrindod Wells	UK	-1	A,H,I*					
										_				

Local Padio Chart

(Eng to Eur, M.East, Africa 1600-2300?) 32222 at 2015 in Truro & 44444 at 2215 in Morpeth; R.Canada Int (RCI) via Sackville 17.870 (Eng to Eur 2000-2130) 45444 at 2110 in Northampton; VOA via Greenville 17.895 (Eng to Africa 2000-2200) 45335 at 2115 in Stalbridge; HCJB Quito, Ecuador 17.660 (Eng to Eur 2000-2200 [DX prog 2000 Sat]) 54444 at 2155 in Truro

Sometimes R.New Zealand's broadcasts to Pacific areas in the 15MHz (19m) band could be received in the UK. Their 100kW transmission on 15.160 (Eng 1851-2215) was rated 33323 at 1851 in Dudley. R. Australia's broadcasts reached the UK on three frequencies from Shepparton: 15.415 (Eng to E/SE.Asia 0600-0900), rated 22222 at 0825 in Seaton; 15.515 (Eng to Pacific, N.America 0200-0700) 44433 at 0655 in Herstmonceux; 15.240 (Eng to Asia 0000-0800 [via Darwin 0800-1200]) 43333 at 0505 in Morpeth.

Also mentioned in the reports were R.Finland via Pori 15.135 (Eng to Eur, Asia, Australia 0630-0700) 55544 at 0640 in Herstmonceux: Voice of Turkey, Ankara 15.350 (Tur to Eur 0700?-1600?), rated 34332 at 0733 in Oxted; Voice of Greece, Athens 15.630 (Gr, Eng to Eur? 0900-1000) 45344 at 0930 in Newry; WEWN Vandiver, USA 15.745 (Eng to Eur, Africa 1000-2100?) 34444 at 1130 in Northampton & 44444 at 1256 in Woodhall Spa; R.Finland via Pori 15.400 (Eng to N.America 1230 1300) 34333 at 1235 in Storrington; WWCR Nashville, USA 15.825 (Eng to N.America, Eur 1000?-2200) 34333 at 1317 in Woodhall Spa; UAE R.Dubai 15.395 (Eng to Eur 1600-1615) 44444 at 1600 in Morden: Voice of Indonesia, Jakarta 15,150 (Sp. Ger to Eur 1700-1900, Eng 2000-2100) 54444 at 1800 in Liverpool & 23222 at 2010 in Truro; Israel R. Jerusalem 15.640 (Eng to Africa? 1900-1930) 44444 at 1900 by Clare Pinder in Appleby; VOA via Morocco? 15.410 (Eng to Africa 1800?-?) 55445 at 1910 in Stalbridge: BBC via Ascension Is 15.400 (Eng to Africa 1700?-2300) 34343 at 1951 in Storrington; RCI via Sackville 15.325 (Eng, Fr to Eur, M.East, Africa 2000-2200) 45434 at 2018 in E.Bristol; R.Ext.Espana via Noblejas, Spain 15.290 (Eng to Eur, Africa 2000-2100) 54444 at 2030 in Austria; R.Kuwait **15.505** (Ar to Eur, N.America 1745-2300) 44434 at 2046 in Ebbw Vale R.Taipei Int via WYFR 15.600 (Eng to Eur 2200-2300) 45243 at 2212 in Newry.

Good reception of R.Australia's late night broadcast to SE. Asia in the 13MHz (22m) band was reported by listeners in the UK. Their transmission from Darwin on 13.620 (Eng 2200-0000) was rated 44444 at 2210 in Morden, 45434 at 2211 in E.Bristol & 44333 at 2216 in Ebbw Vale

Other occupants of this band include DW via Wertachtal, Germany 13.780 (Ger to Eur 0600-2000?), rated 34433 at 0758 in Oxted: BBC via Rampisham, UK 13.660 (Ar to N.Africa) 55555 at 1230 in Stalbridge; R.Prague, Czech Rep. 13.580 (Eng to Eur, Asia 1300-1329) 55544 at 1310 in Herstmonceux; R.Austria Int via Moosbrunn 13.730 (Eng to Eur, M.East, Africa 1330-1400) 34333 at 1330 in Truro; AIR via Bangalore? 13.710 (Eng to Asia 1330-1500) 23222 at 1342 in Newry; UAER, Dubai 13.675 (Eng to Eur 1600-1640) 43333 at 1615 in Seaton; R.Nederlands via Flevo 13.700 (Eng to Africa 1830-2025) 44334 at 1830 in Dudley; China R.Int via Bamako, Mali 13.685 (Ar to N.Africa 1830-1930) 43333 at 1905 in Liverpool; Swiss R.Int via Sottens 13.645 (lt. Ar. Eng. Ger. Fr to M.East, Africa 1830-2130) 44444 at 1930 in Appleby; Voice of Vietnam, Hanoi 13.740 (Fr, Eng to Eur 1900-2100) 45544 at 2030 in Northampton & 34243 at 2037 in Austria; RCI via Sackville? 13.670 (Eng to N/C.America) 33232 at 2211 in Ebbw Vale

In the 11MHz (25m) hand R New Zealand's early morning broadcast to

Pacific areas on 11.820 (Eng 0459-0658) reached the UK during favourable conditions. It was rated 33333 at 0500 in Morpeth. Much later, Radio Australia's broadcasts were received in the UK on two frequencies from Shepparton: 11.660 (Eng to Asia 1430-1700), rated 24232 at 1440 in Newry; 11.880 (Eng to Pacific, N.America 1700?-2200?), noted as 34222 at 2153 in E.Bristol.

Many other broadcasters are active in this band during the day. They include HCJB Quito via ? 11.680 (Eng to Eur 0600-0800), rated 55544 at 0600 in Appleby; DW via Wertachtal? 11.795 (Ger to Oceania 0600-1000) 44433 at 0757 in Oxted; World Harvest R. (WHRI) via Maine, USA 11.730 (Eng to Africa) 55445 at 0835 in Stalbridge; Polish R [R.Polonia], Warsaw 11.820 (Eng to Eur 1200-1300) 44444 at 1215 in Morden; R.Jordan via Al Karanah 11.690 (Eng to W.Eur, E.USA 1300-1730) 34333 at 1312 in Woodhall Spa; AWR via Agat, Guam 11.980 (Eng to Far East 1330-1400) 22122 at 1400 in Liverpool; All India R.

(AIR) via Bangalore 11.620 (Eng to Africa 1745-1945) 32232 at 1755 in Seaton; R.Kuwait via Kabd 11.990 (Eng to Eur, N.America 1800-2100) 54533 at 1850 in Herstmonceux; Israel R. Jerusalem 11.605 (Eng to Eur. N.America 1900-1930) 43333 at 1915 in Truro; Voice of Mediterranean Malta via Russia? 12.060 (Eng to Eur, N.Africa 1900-2000) 45444 at 1950 in Northampton; China R.Int via ? 11.790 (Eng to Eur 2000-2200) 54455 at 2131 in Austria; Voz Cristiana, Chile 11.745 (Sp to S.America 2100-1100) 33333 at 2319 in Ebbw Vale

There is much to interest the listener in the 9MHz (31m) band throughout the day. During the morning R.New Zealand's 100kW transmission to Pacific areas from Rangitaiki, N.Island on 9.885 (Eng 0659-1105) may be received in the UK. It was rated 25343 at 0855 in Northampton. Later, R. Australia's broadcasts to Asia may reach the UK on two frequencies from Shepparton: 9.475 (Eng 1330-1858), rated 45434 1550 in E.Bristol; 9.500 (Eng 1900-2130) 22222 at 1930 in Truro

Also mentioned in the reports were WTJC Newport NC, USA 9.370 (Eng to N. America 24hrs), rated 54444 at 0550 in Morpeth & 43333 at 0725 in Oxted; Voice of Turkey 9.460 (Tur to Eur 0730?-2100?) 44333 at 0731 in Oxted; R.Slovakia Int 9.440 (Eng to Australia 0700-0730) 44444 at 0700 in Morden; TWR Monaco 9.870 (Eng to Eur 0700-0900) 55545 at 0750 in Stalbridge: R.Vilnius, Lithuania 9.710 (Eng to Eur 0930-1000) 43333 at 0940 in Seaton; R.Mediterranee Int, Morocco 9.575 (Ar, Fr to N.Africa, S.Eur 0500-0100) 32222 at 1335 in Liverpool; Voice of Russia 9.480 (Eng [News]] 43444 at 1700 in Appleby; R.Cairo Egypt 9.990 (Ger to Eur 1900-2000, Eng 2115-2245) 44454 at 1920 in Liverpool & 45544 at 2115 in Newry; Voice of Armenia, Yerevan 9.960 (Eng to Eur 1940-2000) 44444 at 1940 in Newry; TWR via Meyerton, S.Africa 9.510 (Fulani to W.Africa 1830-2045) 33443 at 1948 in Storrington: R.Bulgaria, Sofia 9.400 (Eng. to Eur 2100-2200) 55555 at 2100 in Austria;

LO	cai Kadio Ci	nart			4440	D.O	BBC	(kW)	4.0
kHz	Station	ILR	e.m.r.p	Listener	1116	R.Guemsey	В	0.50	A.D
KIIZ	Station	BBC	(kW)	Listellei	1116	Valley R, Ebbw Vale	-	0.50	A
558	Spectrum, London	DOC	0.80	A,B*,D*,E,F	1152	CI.G Amber, Norwich	-	0.83	E
603	C.G.Litt'brne	-	0.10		1152	LBC 1152 AM		23.50	D,E,F
630				C,E,F	1152	CI.G, Birmingham	1	3.00	A E.F
	R.Bedfordshire(3CR)	В	0.20	A,B,C,D,E,F	1161	R.Bedfordshire(3CR)	В	0.10	E,F
630	R.Comwall	В	2.00	D	1170	CI.G Amber, Ipswich	1	0.28	E
657	R Clwyd	В	2.00	D*,E,F	1170	Magic 1170, Stockton	1	0.32	E
657	R.Cornwall	В	0.50	D	1170	Swansea Snd, Swansea	1	0.58	A,D
666	Cl.Gold 666, Exeter		0.34	A,D,E,F	1170	1170AM, High Wycombe	1	0.25	F
666	R. York	В	0.80	E	1251	C.G Amber, Bury StEd	1	0.76	E
729	BBC Essex	В	0.20	E,F	1260	Brunel CG, Bristol	1	1.60	D E,F E D,E,F
738	Hereford/Worcester	В	0.037	A,D*,E,F	1260	SabrasSnd, Leicester	1	0.29	FF
756	The Magic 756, Powys	- 1	0.63	A,D,E,F	1278	Cl.Gold 1278 W.York	1	0.43	F
765	BBC Essex	В	0.50	A,E,F	1296	Radio XL, Birmingham	i -	5.00	DEF
774	R.Kent	В	0.70	E,F	1305	Premier via ?	i i	0.50	FF
774	Cl.Gold 774, Glos	ĺ	0.14	Ā	1305	Touch AM, Newport	1	0.20	E,F D
792	Cl.Gold 792, Bedford	İ	0.27	B,E,F	1323	SomersetSnd.Bristol	В	0.63	
801	R.Devon	В	2.00	A,D,E	1332	Cl.Gold 1332,Pt'bo	D	0.60	E,F
828	Cl.Gold 828, Luton	- i	0.20	A,E,F	1359		+	0.00	, C, F
828	Asian Net Sedgley	В	0.20	A		Breeze, Chelmsford			E C
828	Cl.G 828 Bournem'th	- 1	0.27	A,B	1359	Cl.Gold 1359, C'try	- [	0.27	
837	Asian Net Leicester	В	0.45	A,E,F	1368	R.Lincolnshire	В	2.00	E,F
855	R.Devon	В	1.00	D	1368	Southern Counties R	В	0.50	D .
855	R Norfolk, Postwick	В	1.50	E	1413	R.Gloucester via ?	В	?	E F E,F D E,F E
855		В	0.15		1413	Fresh AM, Skipton		0.10	E
	Sunshine 855, Ludlow	В		A,D,F	1431	Breeze, Southend		0.35	B,E
873	R.Norfolk, W.Lynn	В	0.30	E.F	1431	Cl.Gold, Reading	1	0.14	A,F
936	Brunel CG, W.Wilts		0.18	E,F	1449	Asian Net Peterbro	В	0.15	E,F
945	CI.Gold GEM, Derby		0.20	E.F	1458	R.Cumbria	В	0.50	A*
945	Capital G, Bexhill		0.75	D*,E	1458	R.Devon	В	2.00	A,D
954	Cl.Gold 954 via ?		?	E	1458	Sunrise, London	1	50.00	E,F
954	Cl.Gold 954, Torquay		0.32	D	1458	Asian Net Langley	В	5.00	A,E,F
954	Cl.Gold 954, H'ford	. 1	0.16.	A,F	1485	Cl.Gold, Newbury	Ī	1.00	A,B,E,F
963	Liberty R, Hackney	_ 1	1.00	E,F	1485	R.Humberside (Hull)	В	1.00	A* E
972	Liberty R, Southall	-	1.00	A,E,F	1485	Southern Counties R	B	1.00	В
990	R.Devon, E.Devon	В	1.00	A,D	1503	R.Stoke-on-Trent	В	1.00	A*,E
990	Magic AM, Doncaster	1	0.25	E	1521	Cl.Gold, Reigate	Ĭ	0.64	B,É,F
990	Cl.G, Wolverhampton	1	0.09	E,F	1530	R.Essex, Southend	В	0.15	E
999	C.Gold GEM Nott'ham	1	0.25	F	1530	Cl.Gold Worcester	-0	0.52	A,F
999	R.Solent	В	1.00	В	1548	R.Bristol	В	5 00	D
999	Valley R. Aberdare	ĭ	0.300	D	1548		D		D* F
1017	CI.G, WABC, Shr'shire	i	0.70	A.D.E.F		Capital G, London		97.50	D*,E
1026	R.Cambridgeshire	В	0.50	E,F	1557	Cl.Gold 1557, N.hant	-	0.76	E,F
1026	R.Jersey	В	1.00	A	1566	CountySnd,Guildford		0.50	A* B.D.E
1035	RTL C'try(Ritz)1035	D	1.00	B,D,E,F	1584	London Turkish R	1	0.20	A*,E E,F
1035		0			1584	R.Nottingham	B	1.00	E,F
1116	R.Sheffield	B	1.00	E E,F	1602	R.Kent	В	0.25	A
1116	R.Derby	В	1.20	t,t					
							_		

kHz

Station

Listener

R.Tirana, Albania 9.540 (Eng to Eur 2130-2200) SIO 222 at 2138 by Francis Hearne in N.Bristol; China R.Int via Russia? 9.880 (Eng 2200-2300) 53543 at 2215 in Herstmonceux

Searching the 7MHz (41m) band during the evening and late at night can be rewarding. When the conditions permit it is possible to hear R.Nederlands via Madagascar 7.120 (Eng to Africa 1730-2025), rated 43423 at 1837 in E.Bristol; China Nat.R, Lingshi, China 7.550 (Chin 2000-2400) 33333 at 2100 in W.London: World Harvest Radio (WHRI) via Maine. USA 7.580 (Eng to N.America) 44444 at 2300 in Morpeth; WBCQ Monticello, USA 7.415 (Eng to N.America 2100-1100) 44444 at 0300 in Morpeth.

During the day there are a number of broadcasts in this band for European listeners. Some originate from R.Japan via Woofferton, UK 7.230 (Eng 0500-0700), rated 44433 at 0620 in Herstmonceux; Family R. (WYFR) via ? 7.355 (Eng) 55445 at 0740 in Stalbridge; Sudwestfunk via Rohrdorf 7.265 (Ger 24hrs) 44444 at 0745 in Seaton; Vatican R, Italy 7.250 (Vespers) 33333 at 1508 in Austria: R.Slovakia Int. 7.345 (Eng 1630-1700) 54444 at 1635 in Morden; R.Budapest, Hungary 7.130 (Eng. 1900-1930) 55455 at 1900 in Appleby & SIO 333 at 1917 in N.Bristol; R.Thailand, Udon Thani 7.155 (Eng 1900-2000) 33333 at 1932 in Truro; AWR via Slovakia 7.130 (Eng 1930-2000) 43443 at 1936 in Newry: R.Polonia (Polish R), Warsaw 7.165 (Eng 1930-2030) 43334 at 2020 in Stalbridge; RCI via Skelton, UK 7.235 (Eng 2100-2130) 55533 at 2105 in Herstmonceux; AIR via Bangalore 7.410 (Eng, Hind 1745-2230) 55544 at 2132 in Northampton.

Many more broadcasts for listeners in Europe are carried by the 6MHz (49m) band. Some come from Vatican R, Italy 5.890 (Fr), rated 43444 at 0442 in Austria; R.Japan via Skelton, UK 5.975 (Eng 0500 0600) 44444 at 0500 in Appleby, R.Vlaanderen Int, Belgium via Julich Germany 5.985 (Eng 0700-0730) 55444 at 0700 in Newry; TWR Monaco via

Note: Entries marked \* were logged during darkness. All other entries were logged during daylight or at dawn/dusk.

rs:-Simon Hockenhull, E.Bristol (A) (B)

Sheila Hughes, Morden. Rhoderick Illman, Oxted. David Stevenson, Swansea. Ernie Strong, Ramsey, Cambs Fred Wilmshurst, Northampton,

Germany? 6.045 (Eng 0655-0800) 55545 at 0750 in Stalbridge; R.Nederlands via Julich, Germany **6.045** (Eng 1030-1225) 55555 at 1045 in Herstmonceux; R.Prague, Czech.Rep 5.930 (Eng 1600-1630) 54444 at 1600 in Morden; Bayerischer Rundfunk, Germany 6.085 (Ger 24hrs) 43343 at 1630 in Seaton; R.Slovakia Int. 6.055 (Eng 1830-1900) 45333 at 1832 in E.Bristol; R.Budapest, Hungary 6.025 (Eng 1900-1930) 42432 at 1900 in E.Bristol; RAI Rome 5.970 (Eng 1935-1955) 44444 at 1937 in Newry; R.Sweden 6.065 (Eng 1930-2000) 55555 at 1950 in Northampton; R.Canada Int via Horby, Sweden 5.850 (Eng 2000-2130, Fr 2130-2200) SIO 444 at 2114 in N.Bristol; R.Austria Int, Moosbrunn 5.945 (Eng) SIO 333 at 2132 in N.Bristol; R. Austria Int, Moosbrunn 6.155 (Various) SIO 444 at 2132 in N.Bristol; Deutschland R, Berlin 6.005 (Ger 24hrs) 45444 at 2135 in Seaton; BBC via Rampisham, UK 6.195 (Eng 1700-0000) 54444 at 2145 in Northampton; R.Sweden **6.065** (Eng 2130-2200?) SIO 333 at 2147 in N.Bristol.

Some intended for other areas may also be received here. Among those noted in the reports were the BBC via Antigua, W.Indies 5.975 (Eng to Caribbean, C/S.America 2200-0600?) 34422 at 2335 in E.Bristol; KAIJ Frisco, Texas USA 5.755 (Eng to N.America) 43343 at 0344 in Morpeth; R.Havana, Cuba 6.000 (Eng to N.America 0100-0500) 43333 at 0442 in Morpeth; WEWN Birmingham, USA 5.825 (Eng to N.America 0000?-1300?) 23322 at 0720 in Seaton; WWCR Nashville, USA 5.930 (Eng to N.America 0000?-?) 21221 at 0730 in Seaton.



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SET OF FOUR 2"	

#### CONNECTORS

PL259/9	£0.75 each
PL259/6	£0.75 each
PL259/7 for mini 8	£1.00 each
BNC (Screw Type)	£1.00 each
BNC (Solder Type)	£1.00 each
N TYPE for RG58	£2.50 each
N TYPE for RG213	£2.50 each
SO239 to BNC	£1.50 each
PL259 to BNC	£2.00 each
N TVPF to S0230	£3 00 each

#### Hi-Spec coax cable

RG58	6mm standard£0.35 per mtr		9mm mil spec£0.85 per mtr
RG58	6mm mil spec£0.60 per mtr	RH200	9mm mil spec£1.10 per mtr
RF mini 8	7mm mil spec£0.85 per mtr	(Phone for 1	100 mtr discount price)

#### X1 HF Vertical

1.0-50MHz \* Freq.: Loaded \* Type: ★ Height: 2.05mtrs ★ Conn: S0239

£49.95

MTS42

**MICRO** 

MAG

Freq. Range

25-2.1 GHZ

£24.95

**SWP 2000** 

MHz. Length 515mm. Multiband good sentivity

for its small size. Fitted with two suction cups for

ease of fitting to any smooth surface (i.e. inside

coax and BNC connector. (Good for the car user

of car window) comes with 5 metres of mini

FREE 25 - 2000 ...

Length

225 mm

MORILE

# SCHANING

Wideband 25-1800MHz MRW-210 37cm long SMA SuperGainer Rubber **Duck Antennas** 

MRW-100 40cm long BNC ..... ...£19.95 MRW-250 14-41cm long telescopic BNC .. .£19.95

.£24.95 (ideal for Icom IC-R2)

Increase the performance of tyour hand-held, without an external antenna.

#### **EXWM-1 Window** clip mount

coax with BNC plug \* Black finnish Suitable for any BNC hand-held antennas!

(ADAPTERS FOR OTHER FITTINGS AVAILABLE

# 8th edition

## ★ BNC socket ★ 2.5mtrs mini

£13.95

TRI

SCAN II

plane. Complete with

£39.95

## £19.50

#### MRP-2000

(Preamplifier) Freq Range 25-2000 Mhz 9-15v input (Battery not included) 14 db Gain. Complete with lead and BNC £49.95 connectors.

#### WEATHER SATELLARE ANTENNA

Freq. Range 25-2000MHz Length 720mm Desk Top Antenna for

indpor use with triple vertical loaded coils. The tri-pod legs are helically wound so as to give it its Complete with own unique ground

5mts of low loss coax and BNC plug. (Ideal for Desk Top Use).

easy to install a must for the

#### TURNSTILE 137 Simple and

Freq. 137.5 MHz Length 1000mm

This Antenna is designed for external use to receive as it all.) weather satellite signals.

mounting hardware.

£39.95

#### SWP HF30

#### Freq. Range 0.05-30MHz Length 770mm

Although small, surprisingly sensitive for the H.F. user. Fitted with two suction cups for ease of fitting to any smooth surface (i.e. inside of car window) comes with 5 metres of mini coax and BNC connector. (Good for the cardiser who doesn't want an external

£39.95

#### SUPER DISCONE Freq. Range 25-2000MHz Length 1380mm

Internal or External use (A Tri-Plane Antenna). The angle of the ground planes are specially designed to give maximum receiving performance within the discone design. The Super Discone gives up to 3Db Gain over a standard conventional discone. Comes complete with mounting hardware andbrackets. (Ideal for the Experienced £39.95 Enthusiast).

#### HF DISCONE

Freq. Range 0.05-2000MHz Length 1840mm

Internal or External use (A Tri-Plane Antenna). Same as the Super Discone but with enhanced HF capabilities, comes complete with mounting hardware and brackets.

(Ideal for the Short Wave H.F. Listener).

£49.95

#### **ROYAL DISCONE 2000** (Stainless Steel) Freq. Range Receive 25-2000MHz Transmit 50-52MHz 144-146MHz 430-440MHz 900-

986MHz 1240-1325MHz Length 1540mm Connector-N TYPE The Ultimate Discone Design. 4.5DB GAIN OVER STANDARD DISCONE! Highly sensitive, with an amazing range of

transmitting frequences, comes complete with mounting hardware &£49.95 brackets (The Best There is).

#### G. SCAN II

Freq. Range 25-2000 MHz.Length 620 mm.

Magnetic mount Mobile Scanner Antenna. 2 vertical loaded coils for good sensitivity complete with magnetic mount and 4mts of coax, terminated with BNC plug. (Good for when you are driving £24.95

ADD £6 P&P PER ORDER











SPECIAL

COMPETITION

REGULAR

## Bandscan America

FEATURE BEDROCKS PROJECT

■he much-troubled Colombia has seen a new short wave station open on the 49m band. La Voz de tu Conciencia (voice of your conscience) is now active on 6.060, although it is proving to be a difficult catch for most. This religious

NEWS

broadcaster is owned by the Pan American Mission based in Portland, Oregon, and is located in the small town of Lomalinda, some 240km southeast of Bogotá. Early on they were relaying their medium wave station, which uses the name Radio Alcaravan. So far, most of the North American receptions have been after 0600. Reception reports can be sent to Apartado Aereo 95300, Bogotá, Colombia.

Another fairly new South American station is Radio Parinacota in Putre, Chile, operating on 6.010 where Mexico's Radio Mil makes reception in North America extremely difficult. By the way, Radio Mil has installed a new antenna and seeks reports to Radio Mil Onda Corta, Apartado Postal 21-1000, 04021 Mexico D.F., Mexico.

Radio Transcontinental/XERTA, which has had a somewhat shaky existence since its inauguration two or three years ago, has changed its broadcast format to all religious programming. It also seems to have finally settled on a frequency, having bounced around the 60m band quite a bit (when it was active, that is). You'll find them now on 4.810.

Florida's Family Radio (WYFR) is a new customer for Merlin Communications and is now being relayed by Abu Dhabi, Wooferton, Ascension and Meyerton. The time exchange between WYFR and Radio Taipei International continues.

The new Paraguay station, Radio America, continues to try to 'jell' and US listeners continue to try to log it. Various tests continue to be run, but unfortunately, so far the power levels being used are extremely low. Frequencies to check are 7.300, 7.737 and 15.185 (all currently running 24 hours-a-day). Eventually the station expects to be using at least a couple of kilowatts. It will be a welcome addition to the sparse ranks of short wave broadcasters in that country.

Honduras may get another short wave station next year. Medium wave religious broadcaster Radio Bethel/HRHZ (on 1.160) plans a five-kilowatt station, which will operate on the 60m band. The station will be at the town of Taujica.

#### **Station Reactivated**

Radio Vila (also using the slogan Radio Cima) has been reactivated in the Dominican Republic and is being heard on its old 4.960 frequency. It signs on at 1000 and is noted as late as 0400.

Also back is the anti-Castro programme produced by the Cuban American National Foundation - La Voz de la Fundacion - and carried over Radio Miami International (WRMI). It airs in Spanish on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays on 9.955. Remarkably, with Radio Havana noted at less than their usual strength, poor modulation and so on, the Cuban jamming effort appears quite effective.

The frequency 9.955 is made virtually inaudible in the Midwest part of the USA during the evenings. Except for the Radio Marti broadcasts (which are also jammed, though not as effectively) virtually all of the anti-Castro short wave broadcasts are aired over WRMI.

#### Joined Forces

Two US religious broadcasters have joined forces as the World Prayer Broadcasting Network, which looks to become a major player in that field. WJIE in Upton,

Kentucky, with its two short wave transmitters, an f.m. outlet in Louisville, KY, and a medium wave station in Indiana, are partnering with High Adventure Ministries' KVOH in California and KHBN-Palau.

Also included in the group will be the Voice of

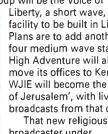
Liberty, a short wave, FM-TV facility to be built in Liberia. Plans are to add another four medium wave stations. High Adventure will also move its offices to Kentucky. WJIE will become the 'Voice of Jerusalem', with live broadcasts from that city.

REVIEW

broadcaster under construction in the state of

Alaska is running into some flak from locals concerned about the r.f. levels and related health questions. Additionally, there are claims that the station has violated various government regulations regarding 'wetlands' usage. Aurora Communications, which is building the station, says it is 'addressing' the issues. Whatever happens it seems sure that the on-air date for this new one will be delayed.

We don't know if it was inactive for a time or simply not making it, but Radio Miskut in Nicaragua has been observed again on its 5.770 frequency, running to sign off sometime after 0100.



This Icelandic National **Broadcasting Service** QSL has an aerial view of the capital, Reykjavik.

This VOA QSL pictures

with the cherry

blossoms in bloom.

the Jefferson Memorial

#### **Reality Status**

HCJB's move of its transmitters from the historic Pifo site move has changed from 'what if?' to reality status.

It's going to cost them more than \$4.5 million and require about four years to get the job completed. The new site at Santa Elena, near the coast, will have 11 transmitters and 17 antennas. They hope to have the first broadcasts on the air from Santa Elena by the middle of next year.

United Nations Radio doesn't seem to get much attention in the hobby press so let's give them some. You'll find their broadcasts in French from 1700-1715 on 7.150 (via Meyerton), 17.705 (Skelton) and 21.490 (Meyerton). 1715 to 1720 is just music on 21.490 and 1725-1730 is music on 7.150 (Meyerton). At 1730 to 1745 they're in English on 7.150, 17.570 (Ascension) and 17.710 (Skelton). Then they're off the air until 1830-1845 with Arabic on 15.585 (Rampisham) and 17.565 (Skelton).

Although reception conditions over the past summer were not worthy of any praise, reception from Brazil remained pretty

	curry status.
4.755 4.805 4.815 4.875 4.885 4.915 4.985 5.035 5.970 6.010 6.020 6.040	Radio Difusora Rural, Campo Grande Radio Difusora de Amazonas, Manaus Radio Difusora Londrina, Londrina Radio Difusora, Roraima Radio Clube do Para, Belem Radio IPB, Campo Grande Radio Anhanguera, Anhanguera Radio Brazil, Central Goiania Radio Aparecida, Aparecida Radio Itatiaia, Belo Horizonte Radio Senado, Brasilia Radio Inconfidencia, Belo Horizonte Radio Gaucha, Porto Alegre Radio Clube Paranaense, Curitba
6.020	Radio Gaucha, Porto Alegre
9.675 9.685 11.725 11.780 11.805 17.815	Radio Cancao Ñova, Paulista Radio Gazeta, Sao Paulo Radio Novas de Paz, Curitiba Radio Nacional, Brasilia Radio Globo, Rio de Janeiro Radio Cultura, Sao Paulo

The above have been noted over the past month or so. Compared to the rest of Latin America, Brazilian stations are fairly reliable when it comes to QSLing. Well, that covers things for this time. We're back again in three months with another update. Until then, good listening!

# Weather Satellites-

# An Introduction to the 'WXSAT Special'

Here's Lawrence
Harris with some
good reasons why
you should take
up weather
satellite
monitoring.

he challenge that faces me each year as I write the opening words for this 'WXSAT Special' is to come up with a new way of starting! How about 'Monitoring WXSATs is a brilliant hobby', or 'Monitoring WXSATs need not be expensive'? The truth - monitoring

WXSATs has been one of **my** hobbies for a decade and a half, and I believe that you might also find it fascinating if you give me the chance to explain what it is all about and how you can join in.

#### Weather Satellites?

A summary first to
put weather satellites (WXSATs)
in perspective. If you have a
scanner - and these have
become cheaper in recent years
- using even the simplest of
antennas, you can hear a large

number of satellite signals amongst the sounds. A simple 'rubber duck' could bring in more than 20 to 30 satellites, and if you do this in a methodical manner, you should hear several in the 137MHz band that originate from up top. If you have not already done so, check that the frequencies 137.30, 137.50 and 137.62MHz (the main WXSAT v.h.f. frequencies) are included in the programming.

At certain times during the day - and later I explain how to check this out more carefully - you can hear the characteristic 'tick-tick' or 'tick-tock' of a WXSAT. The cycle represents a small part of the WXSAT picture. This repetitive sound lasts half-asecond, so we hear two cycles per second. If you have suitable hardware and software to decode this sound, you find that it represents one or two complete picture lines.

The two sound components become two image components

it transmits just one channel instead of two. By agreement between the two superpowers during the early 1960s, Russian and American WXSAT transmissions are compatible and therefore both types of WXSATs can be decoded using the same equipment.

What you are hearing with the scanner is the passage of satellites in near-polar orbits - we call them the polar orbiting WXSATs - going over your location, see Table 1. This distinguishes them from the other type of WXSATs - those in geo-stationary orbit, see Table 3. The good news is that the hardware required to receive the basic low resolution images is relatively inexpensive. These passes last for approximately 12

#### Table 1 - Polar WXSATs - v.h.f. band frequencies.

Satellite	MHz
NOAA-12	137.500
NOAA-15	137.500
NOAA-17 t	137.620
METEOR 3-5	137.300

#### Table 1 - Supplementary.

Satellite	MHz
SICH*	137.40
OKEAN*	137.40
(*oceanograph	ic resources satellites)

#### Table 2 - Polar WXSATs - s.h.f. band frequencies.

Satellite	MHz
NOAA-12	1698.0
NOAA-16t	1698.0
NOAA-14	1707.0
NOAA17	1707.0
NOAA-15	1702.5
FengYun-1C	1700.4 CHRPT
FengYun-1D	1700.4 CHRPT

#### Table 3 - Geostationary WXSATs.

Satellite	MHz	Position	Notes
GOES-W	1691.0	135°W	WEFAX
GOES-E	1691.0	75°W	WEFAX
METEOSAT-7	1691.0 & 1694.5	0°W	WEFAX
METEOSAT-5	1691.0	63°E	WEFAX
FENGYUN-2B	1687.5	105°E	(China) - for high-res data, no WEFAX
GMS	1691.0	140°E	WEFAX (Japan/Australia)
INSAT	2599.225	74°E	(India) - not standard

MSG-1 is now in orbit - 28 August 2002 - undergoing commissioning tests.

(after successful signal processing on your computer) - they are two different channels. The Russian WXSAT (the 'tick-tick') is one picture having twice the potential resolution because

minutes, depending on which satellite (and therefore how high above the earth) it is. You are hearing real-time transmissions and this is what adds to the fascination. The professionals

cannot get the pictures before you do!

Your scanner is unlikely to casually pick up transmissions from the geostationary satellites because these require a suitable higher frequency antenna and pre-amp. This hardware is not too expensive - but please read the whole of this feature before making decisions!

#### **Satellite Names**

America operates the NOAA (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration) satellites in polar orbits and GOES (Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites) in geostationary orbit. GOES-8 and GOES-10 are positioned over the east and west coasts of America respectively. The Japanese GMS (Geostationary Meteorological Satellite) is located at 140°E longitude.

METEOR (the polar orbiters) and GOMS (Geostationary Operational Meteorological Satellite) are operated by the Commonwealth of Independent States (formerly Russia), though GOMS has failed. METEOSAT-5 and METEOSAT-7 are operated by EUMETSAT (European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites). MSG-1 (METEOSAT Second Generation) is EUMETSAT's new digital WXSAT and heralds a new era - see separate article.

The FFNG-YUN series (translates as 'wind and cloud') are China's geostationary and polar WXSATs. India operates INSAT, a communications satellite carrying an imaging scanner. This cannot be described as a WXSAT, but it does transmit weather images.

#### **Orbits & Software**

The laws of physics tell us that the further from earth a satellite orbits, the lower its orbital velocity. Satellites in low earth orbits (LEOs) have periods of about 90 minutes; the Moon - at 404,000km - takes 27 days. In between, as pointed out by Arthur C. Clarke in his legendary paper on geostationary orbits, at a distance of 35,787km above earth, a satellite orbits once every 23 hours 56 minutes, and therefore remains 'stationary' in the sky, as seen from earth. For maximum coverage on earth, satellites are placed in this orbit above the equator. This orbit has become known as the Clarke belt. There are a number of satellites carrying imaging equipment in the Clarke belt and many of these are WXSATs - see Table 3.

To calculate the times when specific polar WXSATs will pass over your location you require software. I have dealt with

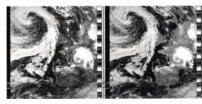


Fig. 1: The 'tick-tock' sound becomes a WXSAT picture - NOAA-171104 5 September



Fig. 2: A closer look at the right-hand channel in Fig. 1.



Fig. 3: METEOR 3-5 1249 5 September 2002.

software in a separate feature in this 'WXSAT Special'.

#### Low Resolution (APT & WEFAX) Coding

All WXSATs - polar orbiters and geostationary - provide high resolution images. Some also provide a subset - a.p.t. (automatic picture transmission from polar WXSATs) or WEFAX (from geostationary) - the low resolution equivalents. Low resolution WXSAT image data uses essentially the same method of encoding originally developed in the early 1960s.

A radiometer (a telescope with detectors) scans the earth below. The groups of detectors are separately sensitive to visible light and to specific portions of the infra-red spectrum, and produce output voltages representing the instantaneous brightness of the scene below. This signal amplitude modulates a 2.4kHz sub-carrier. The resulting modulated sub-carrier then frequency modulates the 137MHz band main carrier (137.50MHz in the case of NOAA-15), and is transmitted continuously in real-time.

The sub-carrier used by METEOR WXSATs is not a fixed 2.4kHz - it drifts. Unlike any other form of utility modulation, a WXSAT signal requires a minimum of about 30kHz of bandwidth to accommodate the spectrum spread. Add to that about 15kHz of Doppler shift due to the relative movement of the satellite towards and then away from the observer, and we need up to 45 or 50kHz bandwidth capability.

The signal encoding method is therefore unique, and is why purpose designed and built

Fig. 4: WEFAX METEOSAT-7 CO2 format 1300 5 September 2002.

receivers are essential to reconstruct good quality images from the original data received from the satellite. Although the modulation method is similar, a.p.t. and WEFAX images have different content.

Polar a.p.t. is a stream of data - from acquisition of signal to its loss; the total picture can last from a few minutes on a low elevation pass, to about 18 minutes for a high elevation METEOR pass, WEFAX frames are usually of fixed length about three minutes and 40 seconds - starting with one synchronising tone and ending with another. These days it is the software that does the work of recognising the tones of a.p.t. and WEFAX.

h.r.p.t. NOAA-17

2002

These low resolution polar WXSAT images, transmitted in the 137MHz v.h.f. band back in the 1960s, have the same format now in 2002! Equipment built to receive and display these images back in 1963 could probably be used now, but the hardware/software now available for anyone to buy, is two generations ahead. Not surprisingly, a new all-digital WXSAT MSG-1 is being commissioned in orbit at this very moment - see the feature on MSG - with others planned.

NOAA WXSATs transmit continuous a.p.t. image data in the form of a single line every half-second. This line contains various components: the edge has a short white-line minute marker, preceded and followed by black within the column. This section is followed by the image from the visible-light channel, occupying about half the total line length. The middle of the image line contains a calibration scale for enabling measurements of temperature and channel identification. There is a second minute marker, followed by an infra-red channel,

> and the final calibration section. Each half-second line of NOAA data carries a large amount of useful information with the two spectral images.

NOAA orbits are nominally sunsynchronous - that



Fig. 6: HRPT tracker.

is - each satellite passes over the same location, at about the same time each day. NOAA-17 passes south-bound during late morning and north-bound about 12 hours later. NOAA-16 passes north-bound around 1300 and south-bound about 12 hours later.

METEOR 3-5, the current, though old, Russian WXSAT



Mail order: 01708 862524 See over for address





#### O-TEK D.C. 2000 DISCONE



A high performance wideband discone offering superh performance 0.2-2000MHz. Transmit range:- 6m, 2m, 70cm, 32cm & 23cm (power handling 200W). Fitted with low loss 'N' type connector. Supplied with mounting brackets.

OUR PRICE £54.95 P&P £10.00 Comments from John Griffiths

Putting the DC-2000 up gave me a tremendous boost to all signals with the ancient AR-2000 coming alive! Signals were well received and I found that I wandered out of airband.

#### NEXT DAY DELIVERY TO MOST AREAS, £10.00.

#### **ROYAL DISCONE**



(Stainless steel) Frequency range: receives 0.2-2000MHz, transmit 6/2/70/23cm, connector N type. High sensitivity with an amazing range of transmitting frequencies. Comes complete with mounting hardware & brackets.

OUR PRICE £44.95

#### **NEW O-TEK INTREPID 2000**

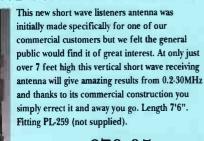


An amazing vertical (glass fibre) colinear antenna. Quality construction with incredible performance. For the serious scanner enthusiast.

Freq range: 0.5-2GHz. PL-259 fitting (not supplied). Length 3m. Mast clamps supplied. (Gain up to 9dB is easily obtained). SO-239 fitting. Requires PL-259 plug (not supplied).

ONLY £89.95 P&P £10.00

#### THE VERTICAL CYCLOPSE



£79.95 P&P £10.00

#### DX-10 IR.F. SYSTEMS

A superb quality active antenna with a very high intercept point ideal for weak signal reception without increases in radiated noise. A truly amazing antenna! Freq: 100kHz-30MHz. Bomb-proof over loading figures, 90cm long, mains PSU + controller supplied (coax optional). Atmospheric-noise compensated sensitivity.

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This is a professional wide band Ints is a professional wide band receiving antenna with a very high intercept point that ensures a low noise level allowing even the weakest signals to be heard. Constructed of high-impact plastic and aluminium alloy the amplifier is protected inside a

waterproof stainless steel vessel. The unit is supplied complete with mounting hardware and an indoor controller with PSU (coax not supplied). Freq. 20kHz-54MHz. Gain: +6dB (ref dipole). Intercept points: ≥+75dBm (2nd ord), ≥ +50dBm (3rd ord). (Static protection included). For the true professional.

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#### AIR-44

(Airband base)

Prof quality base antenna for AIRBAND. (Civil & military). With SO-239 fitting (1.7m long). Gain 4.5/7dB.

AIR-44N

PROFESSIONAL £79.95 P&P £10.00 As above "N-type" fit

Gain 3 6dB. vel Im lon £49.95 P&P €8.50

#### PRODUCT O-TEK SS-2000

Compact - indoor/outdoor scanning antenna. (50MHz-2.6GHz). Superb glass fibre constuction. Ideal in areas affected by "nosey neighbour syndrome". This antenna can be put in the loft or outside on the building. Initial tests show this to far outperform a discone at "VHF". SO-239 socket (PL-259 plug needed) 1.3m long (mast clamps supplied).

50MHz-2,6GHz and under 1.3m long £49.95 DEL £10.00

#### MLBA (R.F. SYSTEMS)



Ready assembled wire antenna offering low noise reception on long, medium, short wave (100kHz-40MHz) adjustable from 6mts to 20mts long. Magnetically

coupled transfer system ensures reduced static noise levels and allows unwanted build-up to leak harmlessly to earth without damaging the receiver. (Subject to recvr. being earthed).

£64.95 POST £5.00

PL-259 to PL-259 4mtr patch lead.....£8.99

#### GLOBAL AT-2000



Deluxe SW ATU 0-30MHz. SO239 fittings

ONLY £89.00

(Probably the best ATU around) PATCH LEADS AVAILABLE IF REQUIRED. PL-259 to PL-259 patch lead ..... BNC to PL-259 patch lead .....

#### **O-TEK SKY-WIRE MKII**

Ideal for any receiver. Receives all short wave bands (all mode). No ATU required. Built-in balun, PL-259 connection (0-52MHz). ). ONLY £32.95 P&P £3.00

50230 BALLIN

#### E.M.F. ANTENNA

A low cost, superb passive broadband (500kHz-30MHz) antenna useable down to 150kHz. Ideal for indoor or outdoor use and at only 4mtrs long you most

certainly will find the space! Using magnetic transfer technology, interference & noise is minimised. Ready assembled + PL-259/coax.

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**Broadband** amplifier for short wave, medium & long

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Optional AC adapter..... 05-300

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The MLB contains a special impedance matching transformer which converts any piece of wire between 6 and 20 metres long into a wide band receiving antenna. 100kHz-40MHz. Low noise probably the best there is!

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Can be used in reverse

Ant A (0-30MHz) Ant B (30-2000MHz) } insertion loss

To receiver low

Allows two antennas to be connected to one receiver without interaction.

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A fully adjustable desk top stand for use with all hand-helds. Fitted coaxial lead with BNC + SO239

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Two way combiner. one antenna feeds two scanners (without mismatch). 10-2500MHz. High isolation (BNC sockets).

Can be used in reverse

£59.95 P&P £3.50

#### SP-1 TWO WAY COMBINER IPROFESSIONAL



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FAIRHAVEN RADIO DATABASE

FAIRHAVEN RADIO DATABASE

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Its massive memory can store information equivalent to several scanning directory books. Any word such as "Fire', "Air", "Voice Of America", or even your local town can be searched for. It can hold 54,682 entries, each with 20 characters of text, mode, and frequency.

A 45 key TV style remote is provided for text entry and control, and a PC keyboard can be plugged into the receiver.

...No more thumbing through scanning directories, and no PC needed!

RD500VX+

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£699.99

OUR IN-HOUSE TESTS SHOWED THIS OUTPERFORMED THE COMPETITION - EVEN WHEN COMPAIRED TO £1500 RECEIVERS memory, skip list, priority channel, pause/hold, AFC, world time clock, and S.meter, and its HF performance is complemented with pass band shift, notch and peak filter, noise blanker, and smooth 5Hz tuning steps.

Modes include USB/LSB, AM, sync AM, stereo CW, NBFM/WBFM and stereo FM, with TV sound and video output as standard.

We include Windows software to make it easy to gather information from document scanners, the Internet and other sources. Whe Elizabeth Can be linked to your PC to backup or download information,

and a database is loaded into the receiver before shipping.

It also has a built in digital sound recorder and editor so a news flash or rare DX can be recorded. Up to 4 minutes of sound can be permanently stored!

Specifications:

Sensitivity (10dB S/N) HF SSB 0.2uV. IP3 +10dBm. VHF/UHF NBFM 0.3uV. Scan speed 50/second.

Frequency range 0 - 1750MHz

Collins filters available.

N.B. Picture of radio above is not the latest model.

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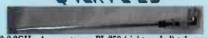
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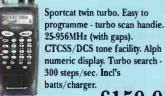


scanner (25-1300MHz) Alpha Tag, PC clonning control. Smart scanner + trunk track facility

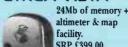
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Now with "voice prompts" as well as direction indication. Incl's: Map CD, 128 meg cart & data

talking GPS's.

Includes 128 meg card

**OUR PRICE** £1099.00

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#### **World Radio History**

transmits during the sunlit part of its orbit. Its image content see Fig. 3 - is different from the NOAAs. Each line lasts a halfsecond, as with the NOAA WXSATs, but only one spectral image is present, so METEOR ground resolution is higher. The scanner operates with wavelengths from 0.5 to 0.8µm

(microns) - a little different from the channel 2 visible-light band from the NOAA scanner.

The image line starts with a group of black-and-white bars (columns). At one time, these could identify a particular

satellite. Image data follows; the penultimate section contains white and black columns that can individually be 'on' or 'off', ending with a grey scale. Careful monitoring of the columns shows them to be a binary representation of the numbers 0 to 63; the current number indicates the opening of the aperture of the image scanner and this changes as METEOR crosses varyingly illuminated ground.

Fig. 7: Crossed-dipoles

(turnstile) for a.p.t.

This piece of satellite sleuthing was discovered by the Kettering Group, British experts on Russian satellites based in Kettering during earlier decades. The METEORs originally transmitted infra-red images during the night. Such transmissions were received during the early operational phase of these WXSATs, but invariably ended within a few weeks or more - apparently due to instrument failure.

METEOR 3-5 has an orbital plane that precesses slowly with respect to the sun. It therefore occasionally coincides with the earth's zone of twilight. At such times, although the satellite (and its solar panels) are in continuous illumination, the ground below is in darkness, so transmissions from the spacecraft may be terminated for a period of weeks.

The SICH and OKEAN series are oceanographic resources satellites that, on rare occasions, have transmitted for short spells lasting a few minutes. Although

they transmitted a.p.t. (and have therefore been monitored by many people), image content varied, sometimes including visible-light, radar, or even microwave image sections. SICH-1, OKEAN-4 and OKEAN-O are no longer operational, but replacements are planned.

#### **High Resolution** PDUS & HRPT

Geostationary WXSATs transmit high resolution images, referred to as Primary Data (PD), on 1691.0MHz. The polar orbiters transmit high resolution images on frequencies, see Table 2, in the 1700MHz band, Both



**Helix Antenna for** a.p.t. reception.

of these transmission formats require special equipment that is at the top end of the price scales. This is the stuff that professionals

use. For your money you get a large, fixed dish, cabling and PDUS receiver and decoder, or you buy a 1m dish and tracking system - see Fig. 6 - for the polar satellites. The reward is top quality images.

#### **WEFAX & APT Systems**

Although a general purpose scanner fed by a 137MHz antenna will suffice for monitoring polar satellites - it cannot decode the signals to produce pictures without significant modification. If you want to do this properly, you need a purpose-designed system.

Buying a complete 'plug-inand-go' set-up is the quickest, and you are quaranteed compatibility. Most hobbyists use WEFAX and/or a.p.t. because this is cheaper. For a.p.t. reception, a crossed-dipole, see Fig. 7, phased for right-circular polarisation, can be used for the NOAAs, Quadrifilar helix antennas, see Fig. 8, have gained popularity - I use one myself. The antenna can be mounted on a roof-top after first testing near ground level to ensure that it works properly. Cabling should be low-loss  $50\Omega$ ; pre-amps are optional - they may amplify unwanted terrestrial signals.

For WEFAX (dual-band) reception, the antenna must be either a 1m dish (fitted with horn or dipole) or a Yaqi - the dish probably being the most common. A dish diameter of 1.8m is officially recommended for WEFAX (also known as SDUS - Secondary Data User Station), in order to quarantee uninterrupted reception during test periods.

For most of the time, reception is satisfactory when

using smaller dishes, but a high quality preamp and short lowloss cable run are essential for WEFAX. An alternative option for a METEOSAT system is the possibility of using a down-converter to move the 1691MHz signal down to 137.50MHz, for feeding into a standard v.h.f. WXSAT receiver. For both WEFAX options, the

above hardware should produce a good quality signal in the 137 or 1691.0/1694.5MHz band.

The receiver is defined by your system requirements - a.p.t. only, WEFAX only, or both. One receiver can do both, an economical option with compromises. A good option would be an a.p.t. receiver with a down-converter for WEFAX.

#### **Decoding The Signal**

The use of a computer to decode a.p.t./WEFAX signals from a proper receiver is the normal way to complete your WXSAT station. Both types of receiver (direct 1691MHz or standard

137MHz band) provide an output for subsequent decoding, and PC computers currently permit the largest choice of decoding hardware/software. The system receives the audio signal, software decodes it and displays the resultant image line-by-line, in real-time. Automatic data capture is common.

An alternative, and very popular method of telemetry decoding relies on the availability of a suitable sound chip or card in the computer. The audio signal can be recorded as a 'wav' file and can be decoded either in real-time, or later - see separate article on software. Whatever method is chosen (or experimented upon), the final result depends largely on the quality of the hardware used to obtain the signal.

#### **Image Flow**

A properly set-up ground station can receive several images from each of the operational polar orbiters, every day. Active NOAA WXSATs should be received on all passes above your horizon. They provide side-by-side (visible-light and thermal infrared) images during daylight, and near-infra-red and infra-red during the night.

METEOR satellites provide a visible-light image that emphasises clouds and snow optimised for northern Russian latitudes. Except for deserts, land is not well seen. There are various faults in METEOR images: jitter causes ill-defined edges to details within the image, and the aperture sometimes appears to 'stick', causing bands.

Autumn scenes darken as the sun's elevation reduces; land temperature falls, and this is clearly seen on NOAA infra-red images. METEORs switch off earlier because they reach twilight (unlit ground) while still above the horizon; their visiblelight pictures become difficult to interpret. The waters of the Gulf of Bothnia freeze and snow coverage on the Swiss Alps increases, From March, an improvement is seen as the sun's elevation increases. The arrival of spring sees melting ice and lighter images. By summer, hot land is clearly seen on all infra-red images.

Every image received from a polar orbiter can be improved by REGULAR NEWS (FEATURE (BADAGCAST) PROJECT SPECIAL (COMPETITION OSL) REVIEW BODHS (SUBS PROMO

using basic software image enhancement techniques. The darker areas of images - land in METEOR images, or winter scenes in NOAA images - can be significantly improved.

WEFAX images are transmitted according to a schedule and include sections of the visible hemisphere. The infra-red (D2) and visible-light (C02) formats from METEOSAT-7 include Britain, and are transmitted every 30 minutes. Animation sequences can be produced. Whole disc images from all sensors are transmitted regularly, as are images originating from GMS-5, (Japanese) and GOES-8 (USA). As a regular supplier of up-todate images of this hemisphere, it is hard to beat METEOSAT WEFAX.

#### **System Costs**

The cost of a system depends on your choice of hardware. A complete METEOSAT receiving system, excluding computer, has cost around £500 - with variations. Cheaper

combinations such as using a down-converter, lowers this considerably. An 'active feed' allows the use of low cost offset dishes for receiving WEFAX.

Receiving equipment for low resolution transmissions from the polar orbiters can cost up to £500, but discounts may be obtained. These prices are guidelines; special offers and kit options may reduce the cost. Proven systems can be bought in kit form from reputable organisations, such as the Remote Imaging Group. Do be aware that some electronics experience and test equipment is essential for success.

#### High Resolution - PDUS & HRPT - Changes

Primary Data is scheduled to end in late 2005, superseded by the new HRIT (High Rate Information Transmission) service from *MSG-1*. I am not aware of definitive costings for the new receiving systems yet.

Additionally, like Primary Data, HRIT will be encrypted, and the cost of this may not be

completely defined, though a
Key Unit may cost about 400
Euros. Meanwhile, HRPT will
continue to be available from
NOAA WXSATs, being
supplemented in due course by
MHRPT - (METOP HRPT) from
EUMETSAT's new METOP
series. Full information will be
published in 'Info In Orbit' as it is
released.

#### WEFAX - 2005 Marks The End Of The Line

Major changes are underway. MSG-1 (METEOSAT Second Generation) is now in orbit and will replace METEOSAT-7 when the new digital system -Low Rate Image Transmission (LRIT) is introduced. The **EUMETSAT User Service** confirm that the METEOSAT Transitional Programme (the current HRI and WEFAX service) will be continued until the end of 2005. This will allow for a significant amount of overlap with METEOSAT Second Generation (MSG) operations. The latest information will always be

included in my SWM column.

#### **Suppliers**

#### RIG (Remote Imaging Group)

- An international group of enthusiasts based in Britain. Can supply a number of products with discounts. Membership secretary John Din, 59 Woodend Road, Coalpit Heath, Bristol, BS36 2LH or E-mail: jdin2197@aol.com

Timestep, PO Box 2001, Dartmouth TQ6 9QN, Tel: (01803) 833366. Currently the only supplier in Britain offering a large range of hardware for the hobbyist.

I welcome information from any manufacturer of WXSAT equipment who wishes to be listed in future articles.

#### So What Next?

Two things. Firstly join RIG. You can then see the latest prices and availability. Secondly, decide whether your interest has been kindled or killed after reading this 'WXSAT Special'. I hope you will come and join us!

# **METEOSAT**

# Second Generation WXSAT in Orbit

#### Lawrence takes a brief look at Europe's brand new WXSAT.

eather satellites (WXSATs) must be amongst the last of technology's wonders to be brought into the 21st century. Most television sets sold in the 1960s would simply not work now because the 405-line service of the 1950s and early 1960s was upgraded before the end of that decade to 625-lines. In Britain, colour television transmissions only started shortly before the

moon landings. Although the 625-line service is still available, the trend to digital television is inexorable.

As discussed in the main feature on WXSATs, the METEOSAT series, together with almost every currently operational WXSAT, has stuck to the transmission formats originally agreed between the superpowers back in the early 1960s. This has been excellent for amateur hobbyists because technological progress

elsewhere has increasingly enabled us to 'eavesdrop' on the professional weather forecaster and scientist's field, but it is finally time to be overtaken once more - perhaps for a year or so.

The METEOSAT series of European geostationary WXSATs started operations almost 25 years ago, producing its first image on 9 December 1977 - see Fig. 1. The picture was shown on television, and because I was deeply involved in the UK space programme, I

remember seeing it and feeling pleased that METEOSAT was a European success. The series continues to provide us with low cost, low resolution WEFAX, and high resolution Primary Data today, but its end is scheduled for late 2005.

Instead of mourning the passing, let us look at the second generation of hardware systems and anticipate what they should deliver. Essentially, we can expect more and better - but at a cost.

#### MSG-1 Payload

MSG-1 carries more equipment than earlier METEOSATs. The new all-digital WXSAT carries four main payloads: the meteorological package - the radiometer and telescope system SEVIRI (Spinning Enhanced Visible and Infra-red Imager), the climate research package - GERB (geostationary earth radiation budget), the Meteorological Communications Payload (MCP) communication system providing data and control transmission and finally there is a Search and Rescue transponder.

METEOSAT-7 and its predecessors have delivered a fresh image every 30 minutes. That image has shown details, in Primary Data, to 2.5km resolution in visible-light and 5km in infra-red, in a total of three channels. The new sensing system, SEVIRI, carried by MSG-1, is a multi-wavelength camera and this will produce images of

and this will produce images of Early Orb

METEOSAT-1

Fig. 1: *M-1* first image 9
December 1977. *Copyright*FUMETSAT.

the Earth's surface and cloud cover in 12 different wavelength bands, every 15 minutes. The images will have a higher resolution the smallest detail at 1km in the visible and 3km in the infrared, at 10 bits per pixel. Note that this 1km resolution is virtually equivalent to current h.r.p.t. the high resolution images from the much lower polar orbiting WXSATs - but of course this only applies to the satellite's nadir - the Gulf of Guinea in equatorial Africa.

By doubling the rate of image taking to four per hour instead of two, MSG-1 will provide improved coverage of cloud development, and with greater sensitivity. Three of the 12 imaging channels record visible light reflected from Earth's surface and clouds. Five channels will discriminate clouds, and measure cloud temperature, land and sea surfaces in infrared; the remaining will detect wavelengths emitted by water vapour, carbon dioxide and ozone in the atmosphere. This will be a significant improvement that should lead to better climate modelling and provide a 3D view of the atmosphere.

#### Commissioning

METEOSAT-7 currently remains operational at 0° longitude. Launch activities, and the period immediately following this (the Early Orbit Phase - LEOP), were

performed by the European Space Operations Centre (ESOC), a European Space Agency (ESA) facility in Darmstadt (Germany). This takes one week. Thereafter ESOC will also be responsible for a short period of inorbit storage (IOS).

EUMETSAT takes over the

initial imaging tests. Non-SEVIRI data should become available to High Rate and Low Rate User Station (HRUS and LRUS) users prior to that time. I hope to publish the first image in my monthly column.

Coordination of image data transmission to HRUS and LRUS users will be via the EUMETSAT User Service. During in-orbit commissioning, the MSG-1 spacecraft will be located near 10°W. Following the successful completion of in-orbit commissioning, the spacecraft will be re-located to METEOSAT-7's current position at 0° longitude. Parallel operations will start with MSG-1 at 0°, and METEOSAT-7 at about 10°W, and are currently planned for autumn 2003.

After more than eight years of operation (late 2005), METEOSAT-7 will finally be shifted into the 'graveyard' orbit

(a belt above the geostationary distance) and then remain there as a non-functional satellite. MSG's operational orbit remains at 0° for its designed lifetime - at least seven years.



A schedule has been published for LRIT - the

size. Accordingly, the Council has published a 'wish' list that prioritises a selection of channels from MSG and from GOES and comparable WXSATs, but their main aim is to use the available LRIT bandwidth to its maximum capacity. LRIT will also carry several meteorological products in addition to those seen from METEOSAT-7 - Atmospheric Motion Winds, Global Instability Index, Cloud Mask and Cloud Top Heights.

Other data is still under consideration for inclusion and may be added to the schedule. Only live experience can determine the optimum compression circumstances. In my humble opinion, I would suggest that the potential collection of imagery is likely to make MSG-1 LRIT an extremely attractive proposition. The opportunity for better quality and more coverage from one WXSAT must surely be appetising?

Sadly, the cost of encryption will be a factor. LRIT is being almost fully encrypted - the exception being the synoptic images. Users will require an LRIT license fee and an MSG station key unit - costing about 400 Euros. This may be the 'killer' of the system for hobbyists - only time will tell. I do hope to have the opportunity to test manufacturer's systems on, at least, the unencrypted

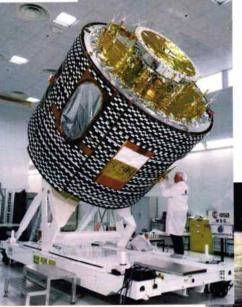


Fig. 2: The MSG-1 satellite - Structural and Thermal Model (STM) during the integration and transport to the LSS for thermal vacuum testing at ESA/ESTEC. Image copyright ESA.

satellite from ESOC on
September 25th and is
responsible for the
commissioning thereafter - and
its successors MSG-2 and MSG-3. The first activation of the
Spinning Enhanced Visible and
Infrared Imager (SEVIRI)
instrument takes place around
the end of October, followed by
the initial phase of imaging tests.
The first dissemination of SEVIRI
(imaging) data to users is
planned towards the end of



low rate information transmission format that will be the most popular because of its relatively simple receiving requirements. However, there are important factors to consider first.

Only with actual data from MSG can EUMETSAT really judge the quality of the compressed images and their images. Watch my monthly 'Info In Orbit' for continuing news!

#### The High Rate Information Transmission Service

The entire image data set from MSG-1, together with data from foreign satellites and service messages exceeds the



Fig. 4: MSG-1 simulated channel 12 HRV image copyright EUMETSAT.

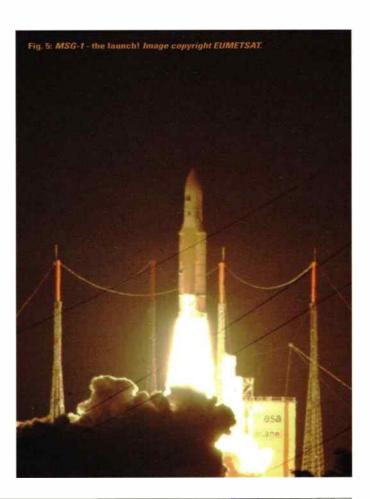
transmission capacity of the satellite - 1Mb/s - so compromises are inevitable. The only native image to be subjected to potentially lossy compression is the HRV (visible-light) channel, but otherwise channels are transmitted lossless every 15 minutes (twice the rate of the LRIT data).

Note that, unlike Primary Data, no foreign satellite image data will be included. I personally suspect that this data set will remain the province of the professionals, because although it will offer a marginal increase in resolution and image frequency, it will exclude our favourite pictures! The required dish size may well exclude domestic use.

#### If All Goes Wrong?

With such meticulous care and planning going into this essential and prestigious project, I suspect that there is probably little scope for many unforeseen failures. The next two satellites in the series are already under construction and can be launched before the lifetime of the current METEOSAT is reached, so it is anticipated that no interruption to the data flow is likely.

Credits: All the data, information and images, for which I am grateful, were provided by ESA and EUMETSAT. Thanks are also due to Richard Francis for identifying (a few!) errors in my original draft.



# Weather Satellite

# Software Guide

Lawrence takes a trip around David Taylor's website, where he reports on the many programs freely available for the WXSAT enthusiast.

n this edition, I am taking the unusual step of featuring the work of one person - David Taylor of Edinburgh. For almost five years, David has been writing and developing sophisticated software for the WXSAT enthusiast, and making this freely available to users, via his web site:

http://www.satsignal.net

In the main feature about WXSATs, I mentioned the need to understand all aspects of monitoring before buying a system. One important part of this process will not cost you any significant expenditure - other than that of Internet access - and this can be free!

On David's site, you find access to a variety of programs:

- satellite tracking (Wxtrack)
- a superbly designed 3-D representation of earth with selected satellites (WxtrackGL)
- conversion of recorded a.p.t. and WEFAX to images (Satsignal)
- combining a series of images (Geosatsignal)
- convert recorded raw h.r.p.t.

- data (from various sources including NOAA's huge archive) into images (*HRPT*-reader)
- and a selection of non-WXSAT software that could be of interest to many people.

This feature deals only with David's WXSAT programs. Please note that a few of the features available on some of David's programs require a low-cost registration to access - the large majority are free to use.

#### Wxtrack

This, in common with some others in the suite, is not simply one quick download. It requires a number of associated library files, some of which are optional, but all are referred to and linked from the site, so you won't find yourself unable to run the program.

When you have completed the various downloads, there is one more essential file - the latest Kepler elements. For accurate predictions, ensure the elements are within 14 days, and that your system clock is set

# ATERS & STANTON

 22 MAIN RD, HOCKLEY • ESSEX • 5S5 4QS ENQUIRIES: 01702 206835/204965 FAX: 01702 205843

■ BENTLEY BRIDGE ■ CHESTERFIELD RD

MATLOCK ● DERBYSHIRE ● DE43 5LE

ENOUIRIES: 01629 582380 FAX: 01629 580020

 20 WOODSIDE WAY • GLENROTHES FIFE KY7 5DF ENQUIRIES: 01592 756962 FAX: 01592 610451-

OSED MONDAYS

carriage charges: A=£2.75, B=£6, C=£9

WATSON W-HP200 COMMS HEADPHONES

#### NESTO-2 DSP SPEAKER

# **HEAR THE**

- · Mono 8 Ohm
- · 200 10,000Hz
- · Tailored for Comms
- · Padded ear pieces
- · Good sound proofing
- · Single cable
- · 3.5mm stereo plug
- 1/4" stereo adaptor

#### DSP BUILT



Speaker with built-in DSP noise filters

- Dip switch settings for 8 filter settings
  Plugs directly into 3.5m speaker socket
- ndles up to 5 Watts input · Max 2.5 Watts output
- Requires 12V at 0.4 Amps max
- · Use mobile with cigar adaptor

This is a combined speaker and OSP unit that can be used with any receiver or transceiver. It offers 8 filter settings selected via a dip switch on the back and a top mounted on/off switch to select the DSP in and out of circuit. The unit offers dramatic noise reduction enabling weak signals to be cleaned up by removing most of the noise. DX and weak signals can sound just like locals. It is equally great for mobile use by reducing car noise and making speech clearer

2003 RADIO RA 0 10

carr. £1.25

ATIONS TIONS

#### Uniden-Bearcat UBC-220XLT

# MA

Ideal for general listening, this scanner covers all the ma bands from 66MHz - 956MHz AM and FM. 200 memories and a very fast scanning speed make this a very attractive buy. You also get the flexible short antenne, AC charger and batteries. Very popular with Airband listeners

#### MVT-3300EU SCANNER SPECIAL OFFER



The MVT-3300EU from Yupiteru covers most of the useful bands in the VHF and UHF spectrum. It has 200 memories as standard with a range of band and security channels as well. It has functions normally associated with more expensive sets such as pre-setting the receiving mode and frequency step. Duplex reception with "One Touch' function, Auto-Write and Search-Pass memory functions. There is also a Decipherment scrambled communications

#### VA-1200 RECEIVER

#### NEW MODEL

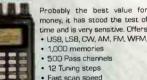
- 100kHz 1300MHz · AM FM WFM
- 12 Channel steps
- 640 Memory Channels
- 64 frequency skip channe21 Smart Search
- · 8 Search bands
- 1 Priority channe
- 8-Character Alpha-tags Preprogrammed broadca
- VFO search feature PC program
- mable with optional ADMS-3 kit Antenna: BNC • Supply 9.0-13.8V
- DC 2 x AA cells Battery voltage:



#### YUPITERU MVT-7100EX 100kHz - 1.65GHz

**ENHANCES SPEECH** 

MOBILE OR BASE



- · Rechargeable batteries, AC charger and telescopic antenna

#### UBC-3000XLT

- · 25MHz to 1.3GHz
- 400 Ch/20 Banks
- 10 Priority Channels · Automatic store
- Twin Turbo Scan & Search
- . Scan rate: 100 ch per sec
- · Data skip feature · Selectable Attenuator
- · Modes: AM, WFM, NFM · LCD with back light
- · Ext spkr jack 3.5mm
- Ext earphone jack 2.5mm
- Rechargeable battery (5hrs)
  Power requirements 6.5V DC
- Size 68 x a88 x 38mm
- · Weight 368a











1000 Memories · 37ch sec scan

RS232 PC interface fitted 10.7MHz IF for SDU5500. Accepts up to 5 slot-in cards

530kHz - 2040MHz

AOR AR-8600 II

· 2000 pass frequence £649

Detachable MW bar aeria

· 8.33kHz airband steps

FM AM SSB CW

#### 2.2-3.5V DC (nominal 3V) FAIRHAVEN ROSOOVX RADIO DATABASE RECEIVER



The Fairhaven RD500VX is an advanced all mode, all band radio database receiver. It covers from 0 to 1750MHz with all mode capability. As well as the nonmal USB, LSB, CW, FM and AM modes it also includes synchronous AM, stereo FM, wideband FM, Data, TV

#### YUPITERU MVT-7300



- . NEM WEM NAM, WAM, USB. LS8, CW
- 521kHz 1320MHz
- 1,000 memory channels High sensitivity
- · Signal strength meter
- High speed scanning & searching MONitor button
- Descrambler function
- Telescopic rod antenna · Clock timer function
- Variable colour display
- Key illumination
- · Clone function 8,33kHz airband spacing

NOW WITH NICADS & CHARGER

#### ADA-7030 RECEIVER YAESU VA-5000 OKHZ - 32MHZ



The 9000XLT features Twin Turbo scan & search modes with 10 user definable priority channels. User selectable modes covering AM, FM and Wide FM modes. Selectable receiver attenuator, delay, Alpha tagging and data options are available direct from keyboard. For unattended operation the 9000XLT has an automatic tape recorder ON/OFF and tape output feature!



classic of design. Features USB, LSB, CW, AM, FM, 100 Memories • Dual VFOs • Resolution to 10Hz
Clock and Timer • Variable Bandwidth • Wide Dynamic Range • Seamless Tuning using Single Loop DDS . Clear LCD Readout . Infrared Remote Controller • AC Power Supply.



Yaesu's exciting new scann

- 100kHz 2599MHz FM AM SS8 CW
- · Real-time band scope
- DSP Noise and notch filters(with optional DSP-1)
- 2000 Memories Optional digital voice recorder
   Large digital display Super HF performance
- Ultra sensitive Fully programmable Size 58 x 95 x 24mm
- This lovely little scanne 100kHz - 1300MHz alphanumeric display · Band scope Priority
- PC programmable · Smart search feature Alpha numeric recall

YAESU VA-500

from Yaesu offers superb performance

1000 Memories 100 Skip channels 10 Search bands · 8 Character

monitoring

AR-7030+ £879 C

**World Radio History** 

# 73 88





The GPS V is one ver

satile navigator that automatic

GARMIN GPS-V DELUXE

#### WDP-30 SHORT WAVE DIPOLE



8.5m long! allib-

allib 'Coax Feeder Included'

£49.95

- True Dipole Performance
- 1MHz 30MHz
- 10m Long approx
- Low noise design.
   Matching Module
- 50 Ohm Input
- SO-239 socket 10m Coax
- This new design from Watson gives you dipole mance across the entire short-wave bands. Unlike random wires, it reduces the background noise and pulls in the signals. And its small size means it will fit most gar dens. Absolutely no adjustment required

#### 300ft." These are in stock now. GL08AL AT-2000 ANTENNA TUNER

#### routing, detailed mapping and WAAS capability - all in a compact handheld GPS. It comes with

£499

MapSource City Select CD, which gives you access to detailed street-level maps with locations of restaurants, hotels and other services. Use the GPS V to look up a location and it will automatically calculate a route and guide you to your destination with turn-byturn directions and audible beens that alert you to upcoming turns. All regions unlocked

#### IC-R75 RECEIVER 30kHz - 60MHz



The IC-R75 has received rave reviews in the Amateur Radio Press, It's a very serious short wave receiver with coverage right up to the exciting 6m Ham Band, Features include USB, LSB, CW, AM, FM 101 Memories • Super High Dynamic Range

- Synchronous AM detection Twin Pass band Tuning
   Digital Signal Processing (with optional UT-106)
   Automatic Notch Filter 101 Alphanumeric
- Memories RF Gain/Squelch Clock Numeric keypad Altenuator 2-level Pre-Amp Scanning.

PCR-1000 10kHz - 1300MHz

COMPUTER CONTROLLED RECEIVER

#### BAR-888U RADIO CONTROLLED WEATHER CENTRE



Desk-top display wit radio-locked clock to Rugby attomic standard, inside and out side temperature recorder (with wire less remote sensor), barometer

cast trend and day/date information Order: BAR-888U

It talks to you and is supplied with street level map-

ping. 32Mb storage card and card reader for guick

PC programming. Examples of voice info are: "turn left 2 miles," "take 2nd left at next roundabout", "house number 17 is on your left," "turn right in

STREET PILOT III



The classic wire antenna tuner for short wave liste ing. Covering 1.8 - 30MHz, it includes our exclusive Qswitch, which improves front-end selectivity. Just connect a random length of wire and connect a coax cable from ATU back to receiver.

#### ICOM IC-R8500 "EDITORS CHOICE"



The IC-R8500 has a wide frequency range continu ously from 0.1 to 2000MHz. It's ideal for the radio amateur or shortwave listener

The IC-R8500's all mode capability allows reception riety of different modes, from the world over. SSB (USB, LSB), CW AM, FM and WFM are included, along with several 'speciality' modes, CW narrow<sup>1</sup>, AM wide, AM narrow and FM narrow are available (Requires optional FL-52A).

AOR-8200 SERIES 2

This wide range scanner is fitted

with a data port for computer

· USB. LSB. CW. FM. WFM

· 1000 memories in 20 banks

· B.33kHz steps for air band

charger and helical antenna

Rechargeable ni-cads, AC

£149

Plus £6.00 Carr.

· Programmable steps

Alphanumeric display

· Built-in AM antenna

SANYO WS-1000 WORLD

SPACE DIGITAL RECEIVER

Comes complete with detachable mini flip-up dish and

with 5m of cable. Receives digital broadcasts from the WorldSpace Satellite. Runs from supplied AC mains

adaptor or optional batteries Audio output via internal

mono speaker, external optional stereo headphones or stereoline out via phono connectors as well as a

S/PDIF digital audio output. It also has 32 memories

complete with remote control and a port for multime

500KHZ - 2040MHZ

#### ICOM IC-R10E

#### 500KHZ - 1300MHZ

- USB, LSB, CW, AM, FM, WFM
- 1.000 Memories
- Bandscope Noise Blanker · Wide range of tuning steps
- alphanumeric Display
- Real Time Band Scope
- Voice scan feature
- Data output port
- Programmable scanning
   Nicad pack, AC charger and

Mode:USB, LSB, CW, AM, FM, WFM.

500kHz - 1309MHz

ICOM IC-R2

#### CAPTURE THAT FREDUENCYI Hunts down Frequencies

#### HUNTER 10MHz - 36Hz



Supplied with telescopic antenna and AC battery charger. If you are within 200 ft so of the handheld, you should be able to read off the frequency. Note it down and enter it in your scanner. It's that simple and it's

#### £499 SPY CATCHERS

#### tion with an amaz-**NEARFIELD MONITORS** ng station data log. Can be used Requires PC (not

Zoom into any FM transmis sion between 30MHz and 900MHz and monitor the audio. It takes a fraction of a second. The WR-5001 comprises a complete receiver with auto tuning, skip button, squelch adjustment and built in speaker. The WR-5002 is similar, but adds an auto-hold control and a bargraph signa meter. It also adds a CI-V port

for reaction tuning Icom and AOR receivers fitted with this feature. These monitor receivers are designed for nearfiled use and the range is from a few hundred metres to around 1km, depending on frequency and power of the transmitt

WR-5001 £99.95 WR-5002 £159.95

#### OPTOELECTRONICS DS-1000 DIGITAL COUNTER

**PROMOTION SAVE £100** Frequency rang Resolution 100Hz 10MHz - 2.6GHz



- Signal strength -45d8m to -5d8m 1,000 memories 65,000 hits per memory
- Captures Digital & Analogue signals Minimum 500uS RF pulse required
- Reaction tunes (requires lead)
- Display: 2x16 alphanumeric LCD (with backlight)
- Signal strength displayed in dBm and bargrapi
- Built-in RS-232, direct connection to PC
- Supply: Battery (5-6 hours), ext 9V DC. 150mA

#### A-861 PORTABLE





- RDS (Radio Data System) Station name.
- 110/230V auto-switching AC adaptor

#### MFJ-461 MORSE CODE READER

#### SW WITH ROS





£84.95

Plus £9:00 Carr.

- 153kHz-29.999MHz, B7.5 108MHz · AM, SSB [USB/LSB], FM [FM Stereo]
- · AM wide/narrow filter · Tone control AM RF Gain control . Stereo through earphones
- 307 memories 261 SW, 18 MW, 18 FM 9 LW plus priority station
- Auto time set. . 3 individual alarm timers

#### dia services. Amazing performance; amazing price. HITACHI KH-WS1 WORLD SPACE DIGITAL RECEIVER

This radio has its ow mini satellite dish and receives digital WorldSpace broadcast signals via the AfriStar satellite. As well as all the normal VHF FM programmes, you can switch to satellite broadcast signals from CNN, BBC, Bloomberg (multi language), World

£149

us £6.00 Carr

Radio networks 1 & 2, and lots more. High quality mono via the internal speaker and stereo via the headphone socket. Runs from AC, 4 x D cells (not supplied), or external 6V.

#### YUPITERU MVT - 9000 WATSON WMM-3 MKII -9000EU MK2 100kHz - 1.99GHz

Connect this up to

your PC and enjoy

high quality recep-

base and memory

remotely from PC

included)

This palm size handy offers great

Duplex monitoring feature • PC

Programmable • Built-in attenua

AA cells (extra). Antenna included

• Priority watch • Needs 2 x

ormance. Offer

FM WFM and AM

Auto squelch

400 Memories

CTCSS decode

11 Tuning steps



Transmit & Receive: SSTV. PSK32, PACTOR, FAX. CW, RTTY, 1200 Baud Packet (using a variety of programs from CD-ROM)

New layout - for easier hook-up to computer and rig New modern chip - FX614 replaces old TM3105 New modes - CD with latest programs

Covering the complete radio spectrum from long wave to UHF, you have a complete station in your pocket. Features include NFM. WFM, NAM, WAM, LSB, USB, CW, • 7 Frequency steps • 1,000 Memories in 20 banks • 500 Pass memories • 10 Priority channels,

· Band Scope display · Duplex receive function lets you hear both sides of the conversation . Fast tune function, • Built-in AM antenna • Dual frequency display • Fast keypad entry. • Rechargeable batteries, AC charger and helical

antenna

£369

IT'S RRILL ON

The MFJ-461 is a stand-alone pocket sized Morse code reader. Similar in size to the MFJ

It has automatic speed tracking, a serial port - if you wish to connect to a computer to display the text on a bigger screen. It can also be connected to your vers audio if required. Truly pocket sized at 57 x \$2.5 x 25.5mm and 156g.

Morse tutors, all you do is hold it close to your receiver and it instantly displays CW on the 32 character high contrast LCD.

Plus £9 00 Carr

correctly. You may need to change the filename terminator to \*.tle for the software to acknowledge it. Visit:

#### http://www.celestrak.com/NO RAD/elements/

Download weather.txt, rename and place this in the same directory. The program should run when all files are present - so you can then adjust the basic parameters. Use the setup tab first and move (drag)



Fig. 1: Wxtrack main screen.

your selected satellites from the available window into the active one. Note that there are potentially three banks of satellites for this selection - I use the remaining banks for non-WXSAT groups.

You can change the directories for Kepler data and satellite picture files so that the software knows where to look. The setup tab provides access to the predictions section. On the right section you will find a list of all passes of the selected satellites for the current day. Check the location and set it to your own home town. My town is Southampton, but my computer's system location is set to Casablanca where GMT reigns 365 days per year - so that no summer-time changes affect the predictions!

With satellites chosen, the World Map should display a Mercator projection showing the satellites as moving circles overlaying the map of the world. The latter is available in various forms - detailed on David's site. There is a 91KB 'good quality' world map, and a 135KB 'higher quality' map. The 3MB download is described as 'super quality', and, amongst others, there is the 11MB Etopo 5 database. I am still trying some of these.

The program has many features. You can 'get next pass' to identify the next satellite scheduled to rise above your horizon, and the 'picture from pass' will produce a simulated picture on the 'ground path' screen that you could expect to receive direct from the satellite. This means that if you actually receive this satellite pass, you can compare theory with practice! David originally wrote the program to allow him to identify the scene below the clouds.

Amongst a large number of other facilities, the display offers

a summary of the data for the main satellite, and this can be changed merely by clicking on a satellite.

It is essential to set up a satellite tracking program in

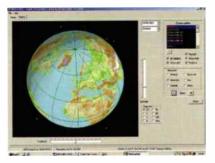


Fig. 2: WxtrackGL.

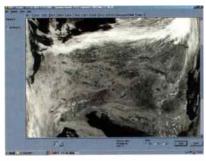


Fig. 3: HRPT reader showing first UK pass of FENGYUN-1D at 0830 on 17 May 2002 received at Southamoton.

order to get a full appreciation of the significance of geostationary and polar WXSATs. Many such programs have been written, and we can be impressed by the efforts of all the programmers. David's provides an excellent selection of information and options within the program. There are other features, but let us move on.

#### Wxtrack GL

This is a variation on satellite displays: the view seen by an astronaut high above the earth,

showing the orbits of chosen satellites in a 3-D simulated view. As anticipated, the satellites shown are selectable, and you can even add solar and lunar perspectives. Really David, this is all too much for a freebie!

#### SatSignal

This program is designed to process the audio files obtained by recording WXSAT signals by software. SatSignal does not itself record these files - there are already a number of programs that do this. If a receiver is left to scan the WXSAT band frequencies, it should lock every time a 2.4kHz sub-carrier is detected. The resultant output signal can be fed to a sound card or even the onboard sound processor usually built-in to a computer.

Using a suitable program, after several hours, a set of audio files will have accumulated on the computer and these are ready for SatSignal to process. For optimum efficiency, the recording software must recognise the start and end of a signal.

Like Wxtrack, SatSignal requires a number of additional library files and these are referred to on tDavid's web site. When running, the program analyses the middle part of the file (where interference is likely to be lower) and obtains reference data. From this information, the software identifies the satellite type. After completing the analysis, a memory-only picture is created, followed by considerable

optimisation. The result is rather more than the original data provided - theoretically impossible - but performed anyway by David's clever algorithms.

SatSignal is able to process in batch mode, so that the multiple files created by your overnight or overday absence are easily dealt with. The display options are many, yet even the most sophisticated routines seem to require minimal processor power, so the program can run on older machines.

#### Geosatsignal

This relatively new program can combine WEFAX segments to produce larger views, and even combine separate images from different WXSATs to produce a 'world view'. Your own WEFAX images can be used, or you can collect some from various web sites. The process uses built-in combinations (joins) and requires little more than ensuring you use the correct name convention for your images. Processing options include the type of stretch required (for example histogram equalise), and even the addition of a sea background. Animation is available, as are some intriguing map projections.

#### **HRPT Reader**

When you buy an h.r.p.t. (high resolution polar images) system, you naturally get software that will process and enhance the data. David's version was written without him actually having such a system he obtained raw data from various people and sources. The result is an excellent product that I use regularly for browsing and processing (before deleting) my ever increasing archive of raw data. The program will process not only Timestep's raw h.r.p.t. data, but also that from the Satellite Active Archive web site operated by NOAA.

The software makes an effective false colour image using selectable combinations of the various channels. Various enhancements are available 'on the fly' so that the best result can be obtained by inspection. The image can be saved in JPG format with a preferred compression factor. The only caveat to consider is that h.r.p.t. files are large - typically tens of megabytes, and the program is memory intensive: if you have a slow, 32MB RAM computer, forget it! I use 256MB+ RAM and there are but a few seconds' delay loading images.

Finally, as intimated, there is more software on David's site, but this feature merely looks at his WXSAT offerings. I am sure that I speak for everyone who has used one of David Taylor's programs when I say "Thank you David"!

ocated on the southern bank of the River Clyde, Dougie's shack has a truly amazing view, both visually and from an r.f. point of view. Not surprisingly Dougie is a keen v.h.f./u.h.f. listener and his radio collection reflects this bias. There is an h.f. presence in Dougie's listening enclave too, as regular attention is paid to RTTY, Navtex and FAX decoding.

Dougle is fortunate to have created a rather opulent monitoring hide-away where I suspect many an hour is passed in total comfort monitoring the airwaves. Hiding away in this comfortable radio paradise is the following radio kit. For v.h.f. and u.h.f. Dougle uses a mixture of Realistic, AOR, Icom and Yupiteru radios, specifically a Realistic PRO-2006 base station, a pair of Realistic PRO-2042s fitted with Opto 535 computer control boards which allows both memory management and computer supervised scanning. AOR's AR2000 and AR8000 and a Yupiteru MVT-7100 make up the hand-held contingent and the versatile Icom PCR1000 computer controlled receiver finishes of the high spectrum capability.

To enable frequency logging with ease, the OptoElectronics Scout is pressed into service. Dougle uses OTTO software to download and manage the frequency data captured with his Scout or the Xplorer test receiver.

I'm told that a highly valued shack accessory is the OptoElectronics Optolinx. This unit has the distinguishing feature of having the unique ability to connect both half and full duplex devices and alternate them under software control.

The h.f. side of things include, the previously mentioned PCR1000 with additional support from the very capable Lowe HF-150 and a Realistic DX-394. Dougie recently had the loan of an Icom R75 as was rather smitten by it - my guess is that'll be the next addition to the already impressive set-up.

Due to location adjacent to the Clyde, as you might expect Dougie indulges in a fair bit of marine monitoring, other interests include membership of the Scottish Scanning Users Group, WXSATs and MilAir.

Thanks for inviting us into your shack Dougle - happy listening.



Here are Dougie's two external antennas: a turnstile for satellite work and a Wellbrook ALA1530 active antenna for h.f. There is also a long wire and a host of internal antennas mounted in the loft.



The pictures on the wall belie one of Dougie's interests.

(right): The business side of the shack. The networked PCs helping to look after the radio tower.

(below): Damn fine outlook from the shack window!





# The Other Man's Shack

Back on the road again and this month Kevin heads north of the border to visit the well equipped monitoring post of *SWM* subscriber Dougie Coull.

More loops from John
Wilson. Now it's the turn of
AOR's mini LA-350 which can
happily be located and
rotated in the shack allowing
full use of it's nulling
capabilities.

# The AOR LA-350 Loop Antenna



y recent reviews of loop antennas have dealt with ever increasing size. Trust AOR to reverse the process and produce a loop antenna system for those enthusiasts who want the advantages that a loop antenna can bring, but don't have the space for even a one metre loop outside the house. I had seen the advertising for the LA-350 and was delighted when one was submitted to Short Wave Magazine for review, since as a confirmed follower of the loop antenna! wanted to discover how this attractive small package performed against other

The LA-350 consists of a base unit measuring 140 x 80 x 50mm which houses a high performance loop preamplifier and the necessary switching and power regulation, a separate mains power supply giving 12V d.c., and two small loop antennas which plug into the top of the base unit using a

Fig. 1: Radio Algeria at a level of about -85dBm in the early afternoon.

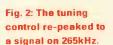
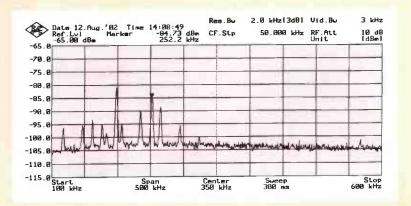
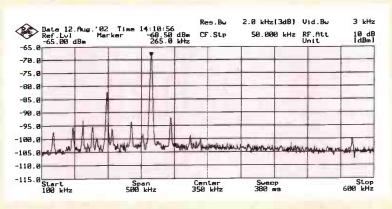
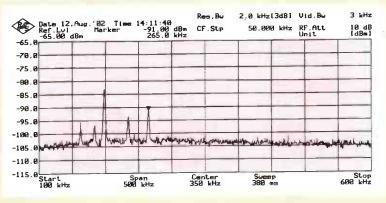


Fig. 3: The antenna rotated to its null position. The 265kHz signal dropped by no less than 23dB.







standard 6.3mm jack plug.
Using a jack plug is a really neat way to provide an easy way to change the loop elements and at the same time allow the user to rotate the loop to peak and/or null incoming signals. Setting up the unit means connecting the d.c. power to a socket on the rear panel, connecting a BNC coaxial lead (supplied) between the loop output connector and your receiver, plugging in the required loop, and away you go.

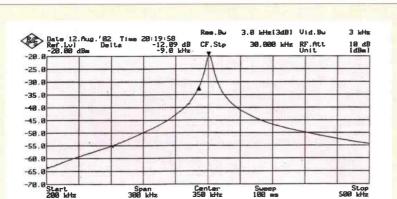
#### **Tuned Loop**

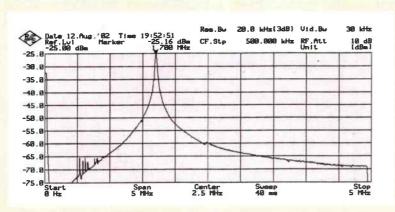
The standard kit comes with two loops, one covering 3 to 9MHz and the other 9 to 30MHz. There are two additional elements available covering the lower frequencies 200 to 500kHz and 500kHz to 1.6MHz, a combination which apparently leaves a gap between the high end of the medium wave and the start of the h.f. bands. However, this is not as startling as at first seems, and I will cover the point later. The two h.f. loops are true H-field devices with an outer aluminium tube which is the E-field screen. You all know by now that a proper E-field screen will help the loop's inherent rejection of localised interference sources and this proved to be true in practice, with good rejection of my favourite!! electric fence and my computer noises. The major difference between the AOR loop system and the antennas tested so far is that the AOR loops are tuned, rather than being broad band devices, so in use you have to peak the incoming signals using the

control on the front of each loop base.

The photographs will show you what the set-up looks like, but the most important information is how the LA-350 performed in real life, and as I have said so many times, this is where I stand in for the end user and report back to you on my findings. The rest of this review will consist mainly of spectrum analyser screen prints which I urge you to study carefully, as they tell an interesting story. Loop antenna theory relates signal output to loop area, and since the LA-350 loops are only 300mm in diameter the laws of physics say that the output level from the LA-350 will be lower than for a one or two metre loop with the same number of turns. However, the loop element is followed by a preamplifier

which has the dual functions of matching the low loop impedance to drive a coaxial cable and providing gain at the same time. In the LA-350 leaflet we are told that the amplifier gain is 13.5dB, with a +30dBm third order intercept point. This proves in practice to be quite satisfactory, and like all AOR products, it is clear that the design has been carried out with a great deal of real user experience, judging by the results. I assessed the loop performance by connecting it to an AR7030 receiver and also to my trusty Rohde & Schwarz spectrum analyser. As I have also often said, measurements are all very well, but you need a pair of ears to seek out audible effects which instruments don't necessarily disclose





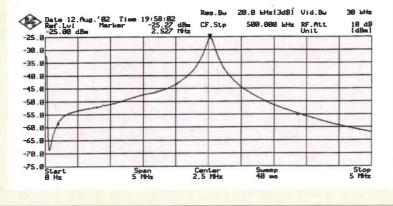


Fig. 4: The output from the LA-350 with the 350L antenna peaked at 350kHz.

Fig. 5: The response at 1.7MHz using the 350M element.

Fig. 6: The response of the 350S at 2.5MHz.

#### Selectivity

Since the Irish station has been off the air, I started out listening to Radio Algeria on 252kHz, using the 350L ferrite bar antenna. Spectrum plot Fig. 1 shows Radio Algeria at a level of about -85dBm in the early afternoon. This is an equivalent level to \$7 on a traditionally calibrated signal strength meter. The apparent absence of signals above 300kHz is not due to poor loop performance, rather a tribute to the in-built selectivity of the antenna. To illustrate just how selective the antenna is, take a look at Fig. 2 where I repeaked the tuning control to a signal on 265kHz. Comparing the two graphs you can see that the 265kHz came up from -90dBm by more than 20dB, whilst the 252kHz signal dropped almost into the noise. Now these signals are only 13kHz apart and that dear friends is selectivity with a capital 'S'. Now some more performance - with the loop still peaked at 265kHz I rotated the antenna to its null position as shown in Fig. 3. The 265kHz signal dropped by no less than 23dB, so in real life one could use the directional properties of this loop to really knock out big interfering signals.

To further illustrate the selectivity bestowed by the LA-350 I later generated a local field using a standard single turn calibration loop and plotted the output from the LA-350 with the 350L antenna peaked at 350kHz. The results



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#### The AOR LA-350 Loop Antenna

are shown in Fig. 4, you will note that the second marker placed one channel (9kHz) away from 350kHz is already 12dB down on the peak at 350kHz. A signal at 252kHz would be rejected by some 35dB, and the reason for my testing at 350kHz is that I was listening to those very weak beacon transmissions in this frequency range and found that the additional selectivity from the LA-350 really helped to drop the background noise floor.

Since I was set up to do this measurement, I carried on. The response at 1.7MHz using the 350M element and be seen in Fig. 5, whilst Fig. 6 shows the response of the 350S at 2.5MHz and finally Fig. 7 the response of the 350H element peaked on my standard test frequency of 13.5MHz. Now to the point of all this.

**Another Spin** It's all very well banging a full spectrum of high level signals into a receiver which can handle them, such as an RA1792 or a Collins HF-2050, but those of us using more moderate receivers with no front-end selectivity can suffer guite badly from second order intermodulation products. Just to remind you, these are sum and difference products between signals which are a long way from the frequency to which the receiver is tuned. You will have noticed that I carry out my review measurements of this parameter using big signals at 6.5 and 7MHz, resolving the sum product at 13.5MHz, so take another look at Fig. 7 and you will see that signals at 7.5MHz (second vertical line from the left hand side) would be reduced in amplitude by some 25dB by the selectivity of the LA-350. This makes a very worthwhile difference in the performance of the 'moderate' receiver, indeed it would effectively banish the usual second order intermodulation problems to the outer darkness. In a similar fashion. Fig. 6 shows that if you were trying to listen to a tropical band station at 2.5MHz, second order products caused by big signals in the medium wave band would be reduced by more than 20dB and thus give



The element simply plugs into the base unit. Pictured is the medium wave bar.

where you were listening. On top of all this you also have the ability to reach out a lazy paw and spin the LA-350 loop around to use its directional nulling properties, and further than this, you get the good interference rejection properties of a screened loop.

OK, if you are comparing the signals on 80 metres coming from a full size wire dipole cut for 3.7MHz to those from the LA-350 you will notice that the loop signals are lower than those from the dipole but they will usually be against a quieter background, and you won't have the effort of trying to persuade your immediate neighbours that 40 metres of hard drawn copper passing over their heads at 20 metres off the ground is indeed a joy to the eyes of the beholder,

Fig. 7: The response of the 350H element peaked on my standard test frequency of 13.5MHz.

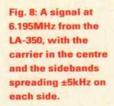
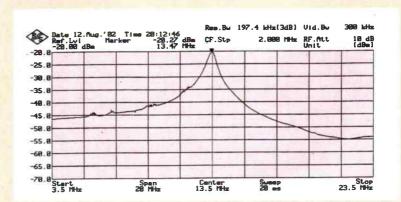
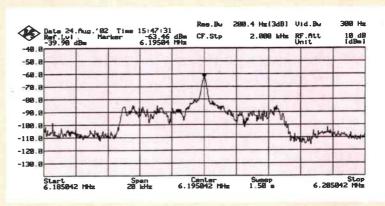
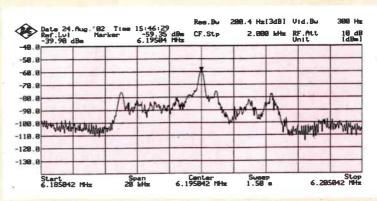


Fig. 9 The same 6.195MHz signal from the 15 metre wire antenna.







you a cleaner background

nor will you have to persuade your neighbour to 'lend' you his chimney stack to hold up one end of the wire. Having said that, let's just compare the LA-350 with my 15 metre endfed, balun matched wire and see if there is any difference. I tried out the two standard h.f. loops which come as part of the LA-350 package and looked at signals within the two frequency ranges, then directly compared them with the same signals coming from the 15 metre wire. Spectrum plot Fig. 8 shows a signal at 6.195MHz from the LA-350, with the carrier in the centre and the sidebands spreading ±5kHz on each side. The same signal from the 15 metre wire can be seen in Fig. 9 and it is obvious that the level is virtually identical. Using the

higher frequency loop element I tuned to 9.895MHz and Fig. 10 shows the signal level from the LA-350 with Fig. 11 showing the same signal from the 15 metre wire. Once again you can see that the levels are identical, so the conclusion is that despite its apparent small size, the LA-350 performs at least as well as a traditional well matched wire antenna, with the all-important advantage of additional selectivity from the loop antenna.

#### **Pros & Cons**

And that's about it, apart from general conclusions and a look at the pros and cons of the LA-350 as an antenna system. In its favour are the small size, the Efield rejection which comes

200.4 Hz (3dB) Uid.Bu

with a loop, the additional selectivity which a tuned loop provides, the directional properties, and the fact that the entire system is sitting conveniently inside the house and not out at the end of the garden. Against it is the cost, somewhat offset by the performance and quality that you get from AOR, and the fact that if you have a firmware controlled receiver scanning a number of

widely spaced frequencies the antenna can only be peaked on one section of the spectrum. My own view is that the LA-350 is an impressive performer and will prove to be popular with enthusiasts who need a high performance antenna that will sit right on top of the receiver and still be as good or better than a traditional wire antenna strung down the



2.000 kHz RF.Att 49.6 -50.0 -60 . E -79.6 -80.6 -98.8 -110.6 -120 6 -130.6 9.905021 HH-Center 9.895821 MHz Span 20 kHz Sueep 1.58 s Start 9.885021 MHz

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Fig. 10: The 9.895MHz signal level from the LA-350 with the higher frequency loop element.

Fig. 11: The same 9.895MHz signal from the 15 metre wire.

The LA-350 loop antenna is available from: AOR (UK) Ltd., 4E East Mill, Bridgefoot, Belper, Derbyshire **DE56 2UA.** Tel: (01773) 880788. Web: www.aoruk.com Price for the 3-30MHz unit is £199 + P&P. The optional long and medium wave elements are £49 each.

garden – and of course the LA-350 will reject local noise interference which would drown l.f. signals from the wire antenna.

#### **Receiver Parameters**

I have now done some more investigation on this noise rejection issue but will save that for some future article. In the meantime, I have been talking to Colin Horrabin about the current series of articles in RadCom which he is co-authoring with two other receiver gurus. One major conclusion that the team came to was the fact that the phase noise performance of an h.f. receiver was probably more important than the third order intermodulation performance, a view which I share as you will know from my review articles on various h.f. receivers. The subject of phase noise from receiver local oscillators and the effects of reciprocal mixing may well be worth re-visiting in the near future – unless of course I am boring you all to death. If that is so, please tell me and I will shut up!!

Happy listening.

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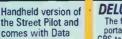
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Coverage: 0.1-1999.8Mhz with all modes. Featuring a spectrum scope, 1000 memory channels and many advanced scanning facilities.

**IL&S** £6,995.00

£995,00 DEPOSIT!

#### **AOR 8600 Mk II**



With many of the features of the AR8200 Mk2 this is an exceptional desktop communications receiver.
Only £699.00 with FREE PSU

PC Programmable **ML&S £699** ZERO DEPOSIT!

#### ICOM PCR 1000

This black box gives all mode receive 100kHz to 1300MHz via your PC. Supplied with software for Windows 3.1/95 and 98. Featuring DTMF

decoder, CTCSS decoder, Spectrum scope and much more. We can supply you with alternative demo software that will work with XP (Registration is under £30.00). Complete with Whip antenna, PSU, UT-106 DSP module and software.

PC Controllable

ML&S £385

ZERO DEPOSIT! 24 \* £19.30

#### **GRUNDIG**

#### YACHT BOY 400



This popular portable shortwave Receiver is back in stock at only £119.95

ML&S £119.95

#### ICOM IC-R10



PC Programmable Requires PC-R10 at £39.95

ML&S £319.99

ZERO DEPOSIT! 24 \* £16.04

#### **AOR 5000**



communications receiver AOR have produced and has all the features needed for Commercial users and Scanning enthusiasts. There is also The plus version with extra enhancements. Offering good short wave recep-tion as well as excellent VHF/UHF performance. With FREE PSU

**PC** Controllable ML&S £1599

ZERO DEPOSIT!

48 \* £47.31

#### YAESU FRG-100



This is still one of our best selling Short wave receivers with FREE PSU at only £499.00 Options include

AM filter, CW filter,FM unit and Keypad - call for a price on all four.

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**ML&S £429** 

ZERO DEPOSIT 36 \* £15.60

#### **AOR 3000A**



All mode, all band desktop receiver

PC Programmable ML&S £799 ZERO DEPOSIT!

#### ICOM IC-R3E



The Scanner with TV built-in that picks up a bit more than Coronation Street! Complete with Lithium Ion battery and charger, all ready to go! Only £449

PC Programmable Requires PC-R3 at £39.95

**ML&S £449** 

ZERO REPOSIT!

#### SDU 5500



See what is happening on the air with this add on spectrum scope. Not only will it work with the AR5000 and AOR3000a it will also work with Icom ICR8500, ICR9000, ICR7100 and TS-870 (A good alternative to the SM-230)

PC Controllable **ML&S £899** 

ZERO DEPOSIT!

#### **AOR AR-7030**



This strange looking radio has stunning audio and a very lively receiver. It is one of the best broadcast band receivers available and an ideal radio for Broadcast DX chasers but is equally at home on SSB and CW. ven old Lynchy uses one of these! The Plus version is an enhanced version of 7030.

> **ML&S £799** ZERO DEPOSITI

#### KENWOOD

#### TS-570 DGERX



Our best selling HF Transceiver modified for Receive only makes this an excellent DSP Receiver

PC Programmable **ML&S £949** ZERO DEPOSIT!

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## **Kevin Nice takes** us for a whistlestop tour of Roberts Radio's 70 year history.

t was seventy years ago this month, that Harry Roberts founded the Roberts Radio Company as a partnership with Leslie Bidmead. The pair were to quickly establish an outstanding reputation for their high quality portable wireless sets.

Never subject to cash injection, Roberts Radio has enjoyed a steady and organic growth throughout

Today, Roberts portables are available in nigh on two thousand stores.

#### The Beginning

May 20th 1910, Mile End Road, London saw the birth of Harry Roberts. At the age of fourteen Harry went to work for the Rees Mace Manufacturing Company on Cannon Street, one of the many supplying the buoyant market for wireless sets generated since the commencement of broadcasting in November 1922. In the spring of 1925 Harry moved to his second employer, Cahill &

Company Ltd. of Newham Street W1. Here his work included adjustment and repair of sets. Cahill went into liquidation just over two and a half years later and Harry's next post was that of demonstrating sets for Richard R. Bennet, who had been Cahill's Service Manager.

As time progressed, Harry became dissatisfied by the arrangement and was introduced to Leslie Bidmead by Major Barnett (Bidmead's Landlord). Initially the two worked on a commission basis for Major Barnet, but 1932 saw that change. The pair adopted the business philosophy, make a topquality product and sell it to top quality customers. Barely in his twenties but full of confidence, Harry took a sample radio to Harrods and talked his way into seeing the buyer - he left with an



Never one to favour conventional advertising, Harry Roberts took the news worthy approach. Here the mink-coated RTI and solid gold cased R200 which sold for 2000 guineas in 1961. The gold alone would cost £26,000 today.

> order for half a dozen sets. The beginning of a most fruitful association. Orders from other leading departments stores followed and Roberts Radio was on its way.

#### The War Years

Business boomed up to the outbreak of war. Harry Roberts was 29 at the time and was soon required to register to military service. He requested some time to close down his factory only to be told "we don't closed down radio factories". December 1940 saw notification that Harrods had sold a model M4D to Her Majesty The Queen for her own personal use.

It later transpired that this was the second Roberts model she had purchased, the first being acquired in 1939 for Princess Elizabeth. During the war years Roberts was used to produce radar electronic assemblies for the Ministry of Aircraft Production.

#### **Brand Leader**

The company returned to civilian production in 1946, consolidating the pre-eminence in its field that had been established before the war. With the introduction of the 'Junior' model the company



The King turns on the wireless

had a quality portable that was realistic to actually carry around. This activity was encouraged by the sets



The R66, launched in 1956. A set who's styling wouldn't look out of place in stores today.

to produce the first British radio to use an integrated circuit. The result was the RIC1, which featured the TAD100 i.c. The venture proved to be a success due to performance and pricing. A total of 77,967 sets were produced. Sadly, this was the last venture Harry was to enjoy. He died on 14 June 1969.

#### **Forward With Vision**

Richard Roberts succeeded his father as Chairman and MD. He drove the company forward and broadened the range of products. He realised that although the mass market for the recently launched colour television service was being met, the upper end of the market wasn't being provided for. Richard launched Roberts Video Ltd. in May 1975 to service this market using Philips G8 and G9 chassis as a basis. The early 1990s saw the recognition that the market for the traditional Roberts product, although strong was not huge. This resulted in lower priced radios manufactured in the Far East to be introduced. Included in this range was the world band receivers - well known to

## By Royal Appointment.











being sold with a waterproof carry bag. Soon the Junior became noticed amongst the hand luggage of affluent travellers.

#### **Transistors**

The 1950s saw a huge advance in portable radios due to both the introduction of transistor with their modest power requirements and also the use of ferrite rod antennas. These factors allowed the reduction in bulk without compromise of performance.

#### **British First**

It was 1967 that saw a collaboration between Roberts Radio and Mullard



The R861 world band radio

readers of SWM.

Today this move has proved to be highly successful with Roberts Radio having a very significant share of this market. The company is still heavily involved in innovation, currently they are involved in DAB collaborations with the BBC after producing the world's first DAB portable. Happy Birthday Roberts Radio!

FEATURE

BADAOCAST

PROJECT

NEWS

## Sky High

#### 9-11

As I write this, it is the day after the first anniversary of the events of September 11th and I am pleased to say that it has passed without incident. I know of at least two people who elected to fly on this day on the basis that the increased security would make it the safest time to travel. I am not sure if that would have been my way of looking at it?

A year on and much of the industry is still in varying states of turmoil and hundreds, possibly thousands, of aircraft are in storage. Large companies such as US Airways have filed for *Chapter 11* protection, but it is not all bad news, it is good to see that the so-called budget airlines are reporting increased profits.

#### **LJAO**

Having made various comments in recent months regarding the move of the London Military LJAO element to Swanwick and the subsequent callsign change to Swanwick Mil. I have just noticed that I also missed a more obvious change to the LJAO frequency titles. In recent documents it seems that the use of sector titles for the various LJAO areas such as Clacton and Seaford/Hurn has been dropped.

The frequencies are now listed under more generalised areas as follows: Northwest 127.45/254.275, Central 275.35, Southeast 233.8/299.8/251.225/291.075. The frequency 254.275 which is the London Mil Initial Contact frequency north of the Lichfield Corridor now appears to be operated under the control of Swanwick Mil. (Sorry to partially repeat information from previous months).

#### tk8500

I am grateful to one of our US readers, **Tom L.** from Arizona who notes my various comments regarding the Icom IC-R8500 receiver in the past. He asks if I am aware of a piece of radio control software which is available for this and other radios, that is available to download from the Internet. The answer was no, I was not aware of this program and so I ventured off to

www.parnass.org to have a look at the software.

Written by Robert Parnass, who has had a distinguished research and development career spanning over 25 years, tk8500 is open source software designed to control and program the Icom IC-R8500 and other receivers. Open source means that you can download the source code and for those of you who have programming skills, you can alter the software to suit your own requirements.

tk8500 is written in the Tcl/Tk scripting language which enables it to run on a

variety of operating systems, including *Linux* and *Microsoft Windows. tk8500* is distributed free of charge, but it is neither shareware nor in the public domain, *tk8500* is a copyrighted work.

SPECIAL

COMPETITION

OSL

If you are a Windows user, the free TcI/Tk interpreter must be loaded onto your system before you can run the tk8500 program, it can be downloaded from Bob's site. Comprehensive instructions for downloading and installing the tk8500 program are also available. As long as you follow the instructions and make sure you download into the correct folders, installation is quite straightforward. So with the software installed, a serial lead in place and COM 1: selected, (you can use any COM Port), I fired up the software.

tk8500 starts with three windows, Main Controls, Secondary Controls and Adjustments, by using the 'View' Menu, the way in which you present these windows can be changed to suit your personal setup, including docking the Adjustments window onto the Main Controls. I am not going to go into extensive detail, but most of the R8500's various controls are available from within these three windows. The layout is straightforward and easy to use. Another nice feature is that four of the six items listed on the menu bar can be 'torn off' to form a new window.

Anyone who has read my past comments on the IC-R8500 will know that although it is a great radio and has many features, I was always a bit disappointed that the scanning facilities were not more comprehensive, in particular the ability to link scanning banks together. So the first thing that immediately struck me with the *tk8500* was the 20 little boxes in the middle of the Secondary Controls window - all of which could be selected.

To me it was like finding the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, it allows you to scan any permutation of the memory banks, whether it was one, three, seven or all twenty. To my mind the *tk8500* would be worth having for just this one feature. The flexibility it gives to airband scanning is quite dramatic when you can add a bank of AWACS or Air to Air frequencies into the current scan with just a couple of clicks on the mouse.

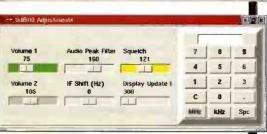
You can upload and download memory data from the radio, this data is stored as a .csv file (comma-separated variables) format, so users can create or edit them using spreadsheet, *Excel* or text editor programs. There is no facility to edit these data files within the *tk8500* software. You must adhere to the correct



BOOKS

No photograph this month, but some screen shots from the tk8500 software.





comma delimited format, otherwise data will not be sent to the radio. The correct format is clearly illustrated on the website. I downloaded my 900 plus memories edited some of them and reloaded them into my IC-R8500 without problem.

One important thing to note is that whatever your Bank/Memory configuration is, (especially if you have altered the bank sizes using cut and paste), you must upload the same configuration back into the radio. You can edit data or fill in empty memories, but the number of memories in each bank **must** stay the same.

I suggest that you download two complete memory files, call one the masterfile.csv and hide it away as a backup, name the second one Mem-1.csv, (or whatever), and work on this file. If it all goes horribly wrong you still have the master file to return your R8500 to its original memory configuration.

tk8500 also gives you the facility to log your current scanning activity, this is once again stored as a .csv file. The file stores all the information you need to see which frequencies have been active in your absence, including date, time and signal strength. The spreadsheet format is as follows, the last two columns being signal strength and the name you allocated to a memory channel on the IC-R8500.

 13/09/02
 09:38:40
 378.675
 AM
 0.7
 NEAT

 13/09/02
 09:51:15
 279.25
 AM
 3.83
 OTA F

 13/09/02
 09:53:52
 284.975
 AM
 2.97
 NEAT

### Sky High

Another feature that this software offers is that you can designate a secondary volume setting to be used when receiving specific frequencies, (no sound card is required). The louder audio can alert you to signals on important frequencies whilst scanning. This higher volume is determined by the presence or absence of the keyword vol2' in the 9th field of the line for that memory channel in the .csv file. Up to now I have not tried this feature.

The only drawback I found is that the Scan Delay does not work very well. When using the IC-R8500 with the Scan delay off the radio will start scanning again three seconds after the signal disappears. When using the software the scan often re-starts immediately. This is a known problem that Bob is aware off, but as yet he has not found a solution.

Finally, remember that this is a programme that is still under beta testing and is therefore still under development. No warrantee of any form is offered, but for something that is free, you wouldn't expect that. As I write this, I have only been using it for six days, but as yet I have not encountered any bugs.

Bob Parnass asks users to report any problems and I am sure he would welcome any suggestions that could improve this already excellent programme. The program is currently

also available for the following radios: Icom IC-R75, Yaesu VR-120, Standard VR-150, Yaesu VR-500 and the JRC NRD-545, at present there are no plans to add to this list.

OK, I realise that you do have to own one of the radios listed to utilise this programme, but to my mind this is the best download I have ever made from the Internet, and it's free! Well done Bob - an excellent piece of radio control software.

#### **SSR Codes**

My thanks go to Mike K who sends me the following SSR Squawk code changes, shown below, that he has

found in a UK NOTAM. It's always handy to know these as a change of squawk code is a good guideline to which ATC unit a specific aircraft is to be transferred shortly.

#### 8.33 Spacing

Lastly this month, some news of 8.33kHz spacing. By the time that you read this, the implementation of 8.33kHz spacing in the UK will be about a week away on the 31st October, A NOTAM is due to be issued on the 3rd October detailing the introduction.

DELETE:	6201-6210	SHANNON EASTBOUND LANDING UK
	6211-6247	UK TO SCANDINAVIA AND RUSSIA
	6330-6337	HAWARDEN
	7350-7373	MANCHESTER APPROACH, RAF BENSON
INSERT:	6201-6227	SHANNON EASTBOUND LANDING UK
	6230-6247	UK TO SCANDINAVIA AND RUSSIA
	6301-6307	UK DOMESTIC
	6330-6336	HAWARDEN
	6337	HAWARDEN
	7350-7373	MANCHESTER APPROACH
	7 <b>3</b> 50	RAF BENSON
	7351-7373	RAF BENSON

## Practical Wireless

THE UK'S BEST AND ONLY INDEPENDENT AMATEUR RADIO MAGAZINE

Next Month in Practical Wireless, the magazine that brings you Amateur Radio & So Much More ....

#### REVIEWED

\* Track those Beacons! Rob Mannion G3XFD puts the MFJ-890 h.f. Beacon Monitor to the test. supply unit.

#### IN THE SPOTLIGHT

\* Did your club enter the PW Club Spotlight Competition? We reveal the winners this month!

#### PROJECT

\* Phil Cadman G4JCP shows you how to build a battery valve power

#### FEATURE

\* The PW team, with the help of readers provide some helpful hints and tips on Silent Key Sales



Plus all your regular favourites including:

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CAN YOU AFFORD TO MISS IT? DECEMBER ISSUE ON SALE 14 NOVEMBER...PLACE YOUR ORDER TODAY!

■ E-MAIL: scanning@pwpublishing.ltd.uk

## scanning scene

oes your wife, girlfriend, boyfriend, partner or mum complain about the amount of space that your monitoring post occupies in the happy family home? One chap seems to have the answer.

In 1985 a Radio Surveillance and Countermeasures system was ordered by a South African country. The whole kit and caboodle amounted to four Pinzgauer six wheel drive military vehicles. The trucks were sent to Racal in Bracknell, Berkshire, in 1986 to be fitted out with equipment, Three were equipped as electronic surveillance vehicles and fitted with what amounts to a complete spectrum monitoring outfit.

The Racal receivers in those Pinzgauers are able to receive any mode, in much of the radio spectrum. The fourth truck was specified as a high power jamming unit. During the time that Raçal were working on the motors, international sanctions were applied to the client country. Racal put them into storage and scratched their heads for the next fourteen years when they were knocked out to a vehicle dealer in

The current owner of this unit acquired it in July 2001 with only delivery mileage on the odometer. The truck is still running in! Apart from being fully specified to deal with the African climate, including air conditioning and special air filtering to keep sand out of the engine and cab, the vehicle was (and is) still chock full of the Racal radio equipment.

The idea of the system was to deploy the three vehicles in different locations around the country. They would then triangulate the position of the offending transmissions and the jamming vehicle would come into play. Presumably so would some air assets as well

The equipment fitted appears to include a brace of Racal RA1794

receivers that receive any mode between 2 and 512MHz and possibly a Racal RA1796 as well. The 1796 deals with frequencies up to 1GHz. Special computer control equipment is

hooked up and this gear also plots the target signal's direction. The truck is complete with generators and a 6m pneumatic mast mounted at the rear. Other Racal equipment allows the vehicle to maintain communications in the field.

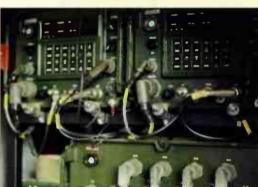
Vehicles of this type occasionally find themselves up for sale although most are not offered with radio equipment fitted. Currently Pinzgauers are available in Britain from a company in Whitby and there are a number of Land Rover 101s fitted with radio bodies, on sale elsewhere



If you feel that domestic pressures are driving you to invest in 'out of the home' mobile monitoring, the first place to start looking would be any military vehicle rallies that you can locate. There are usually a number of radio trucks for sale at the bigger events. This advice could save your relationship...there is no need to thank me.

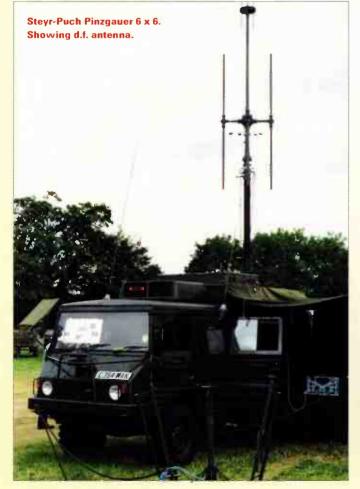
operating area.

RA1794 radios fitted in the



Conflict in the Middle East seems to be a never ending story. The 30MHz band seems to be quite a favourite for players in that area. Listeners in Europe have been hearing f.m. transmissions that have been tentatively identified as Israeli military transmissions on 30.350, 30.800, 32.300, 32.3500, 32.400, 33.500 and 34.050MHz, These communications are mostly in Hebrew (Israel's official language since 1948), but some English words will be used and I believe that some contacts have been entirely in Fnalish

On the other side of the divide, 30.450 and 30.680 are thought to be in use by some Iragi military units. again the signals are f.m., but with coded signals. If another major conflict breaks out in this region, there is no doubt that low band v.h.f. signals between 30 and 50MHz will be used by a large number of the opposing forces. Listeners that monitor this area of the spectrum will be able to overhear a fair bit of traffic should conditions allow.





## Scanning Scene



The control equipment.

#### **Old Frequencies**

Several folks have mentioned to me that they have been hearing data transmissions on the old Customs and Excise frequencies in the 440MHz band. I've also been told that some of the antennas on C & E premises have not been changed. This in itself doesn't mean much. Next time you wander in, out or by your local police station look at the roof. If the nick is more than a few years old you may see masses of old antennas that have not been removed.

I recently noticed some old lowband hardware on the roof of a police station in Southern England. It must have been there since the mid eighties. Having said that, I think that there may be a delay in the Customs APC025 rollout and it is conceivable that they are using the new equipment on old frequencies for the time being.

#### **AOR Decoder**

Following on from this it seems that AOR (Authority On Radio) may pip Uniden to the post with an APC025 decoder. It seems as though the very clever people there have put together an add on radio adapter for use with the AR5000 or AR5000+3

Called the ARD5000, it plugs into the AR5000 and will decode unencrypted APC025 signals. To quote the AOR release, "The software can be easily changed or upgraded using an optional plug-in memory card. This will allow the user to monitor other new analog

and digital modes". At the moment there is no mention of how much this equipment will cost the punter. Will it trunk track MPT1327 signals?

At the moment, if you want to monitor MPT1327 trunked systems the preferred option seems to be FTrunk. FTrunk (and the more expensive PTrunk - for engineers) decodes MPT1327 and 1343 systems. The whole kit amounts to some windows software and a decoder box plus cables and a power supply.

First tune the scanner to a control channel. The PC will display the channel to which you should tune a

second scanner. Also data messages are displayed on the v.d.u. If you possess a scanner that has RS-232 interface such as the AOR AR3000, AR3000A, AR5000, AR8200 or AR8600 or an Icom PCR100, PCR1000, R10, R7000 or R7100, R8500 or R9000, an Optocom, Uniden BC780XLT or WinRadio, these radios can be reaction tuned by the software and will automatically recover the audio of any selected Prefix Group or individual ID.

If one of the above scanners is in use and your computer has a soundcard, then the recovered audio can be recorded on the hard drive as a .wav file. There are many control options with this software and some very serious listeners are utilising it. You'll need to have a PC running Windows 95, 98, ME, 2000 or XP and have a Com Port available. You'll also need \$400 Australian Dollars available as well, (plus, of course, our usual pernicious tax). Yes





Victoria, Australia is where the package is marketed, by a company called Talkback Systems Australia.

Now I don't do the lottery. My lack of luck in matters gambling is the stuff of legend in pubs everywhere from England, west to Alaska. Therefore I don't even buy a lottery ticket. If I did and had that big win...

#### Sexy Little Number

Rohde and Schwarz have just brought out the sexiest little number since Madonna. It's a hand-held spectrum analyser covering from 100kHz to 3GHz. To be sold as the R&S FSH3 it can, when equipped with a v.s.w.r. bridge, be used for scalar network analysis or for distance to fault measurement on cables. It has an external power sensor that enables it to carry out high precision r.f. power measurement up to 8GHz.

R&S don't seem to have the exact price listed anywhere, but they say that it costs 'under 7000 euros'. Now that's around £4500 (UK customers add VAT, etc.) All of the above and it looks really neat as well, with a colour l.c.d. screen. The advertising blurb says that using it

soon becomes second nature for more info. see 'Communique' - Ed.

Fellers I
believe you!! But
I only get a fiver a
week pocket
money and I have
a serious Fanta
Lemonade habit.
SWM



You can even hide the 'Mobile Monitoring Post' in the garden.

Short Wave Magazine, November 2002

#### **■** MIKE RICHARDS G4WNC, 49 CLOUGHS ROAD, RINGWOOD, HANTS BH24 1UU

**E-MAIL:** decode@pwpublishing.ltd.uk ■ **Web:** http://www.mikespage.btinternet.co.uk

## Decode

irst of all an apology regarding my E-mail and web site. Many of you will have noticed that not only did my web site disappear during August, but all E-mails to me were also bouncing back to the sender. The reason for this was BTOpenworld's decision to suspend my account because of lack of use! I still haven't had a satisfactory explanation for this, but everything should be working by the time you read this. The only point I'm not too sure on is the web address, if there's a change, I'll let you all know in the next column.

Well, the 'Decode Special' seems to have gone down very well and, despite the E-mail problems, I've had lots of enquiries from new 'Decode' listeners. So in this column I'm going to tackle some of the questions along with a new and particularly friendly propagation program.

#### SYNOP

Lots of people asking about SYNOP weather data that's the 5-digit RTTY number groups sent by stations like Hamburg Meteo. In its raw form, the data is singularly uninteresting and is little more than a set of numbers. However, each of these number messages contains detailed weather reports from ground, sea or airborne observation stations. The data is really easy to receive and the most commonly monitored station in the UK is Hamburg Meteo. on 7.646MHz. This station is a reliably strong signal and transmits data 24 hours a day.

If you take a careful look at the number groups transmitted by these stations, you will soon realise that the messages follow a standard format. The first point to note is that messages always start with the sequence ZCZC and end with NNNN. These codes are universally used to signal the start and end of a wide range of other RTTY messages as well as.

If you're a real glutton for punishment you could always try your hand at manually decoding the number groups. If you want to try this, you will need a suitable reference text that contains all the look-up codes you need for a manual analysis. Both the Klingenfuss Radio Data Codes Manual and Ferrell's CFL 13th Edition cover this subject, but there is also lots of info available on the Internet - just search for SYNOP Codes and you should get plenty of useful hits.

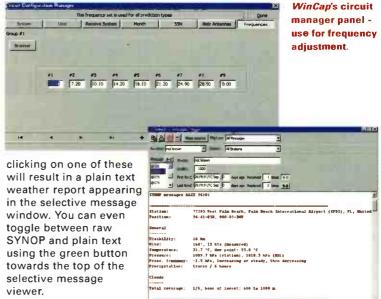
If you don't want to expose yourself to the labour of manual decoding, the next best route is to download the latest version of JVComm32 from www.pervisell.com I've covered this program on a number of occasions and it featured as the core software in my recent QuickStart series.

One of the real jewels in this program is the inclusion of a neat SYNOP decoding module. This takes all the hard work out of the decoding process and presents the listener with a plain text decoded version of the message. To try this, just download and install the latest version of *JVComm32* - select RTTY as the receive mode and tune to 7.646MHz and make sure you're seeing the five digit number groups.

Next you need to look out for AAXX or BBXX

near the start of the message, this indicates that the station is sending Ground or Sea reports respectively. With all this complete, you just have to select the Selective Message Viewer. You will find this just under where it says RTTY in the mode box. You will probably need to leave it running for a while until the software has detected a few complete messages.

If all is well, you should see a selection of message numbers listed in the message box and



If you want to take the decoding a step further, it is possible to

plot the station reports on a map and even produce your own real time weather maps. To do this you need more software and the package to go for is the excellent *Digital Atmosphere* from Weather Graphics. This is a really comprehensive

JVComm's excellent SYNOP decoder in action.

Weather Graphics. This is a really comprehensive weather program that will really blow your socks off!

What's more, the demo version is fully functional for 30 days so you can give it a good test before you buy. To get a copy of the (10MB) installation file you need to visit

www.weathergraphics.com and go to the Download section. I'll save a fuller description of this program for another day, but it's a great way to bring your weather data to life.

#### **Propagation**

Anyone who's spent any time dealing with the h.f. bands will tell you that you really have to have some idea about the effects of propagation conditions to stand a chance of receiving the more interesting and distant stations. There's a host of variables at work making the whole subject an ideal candidate for some computer processing.

Not surprisingly, there are many propagation programs around, but the more accurate packages tend to assume fairly extensive knowledge on the part of the user. This is not really what we're looking for, so I was really pleased to come across

## RadioSport NEWS

## A New "Picketts Lock"

#### **London Show finds new home**

With the closure of Lee Valley Leisure Centre, the traditional home of the London Communication & Computer Show, the organisers were presented with the challenge of finding a new venue that would suit all parties. After a long and exhaustive search, they came across a place which not only met all the criteria but is conveniently located off junction 25 of the M25, the motorway junction that many visitors to London Shows have been using for years.

Their efforts have already been rewarded, with exhibitor bookings practically filling the venue several months before the event.

#### THE NEW VENUE

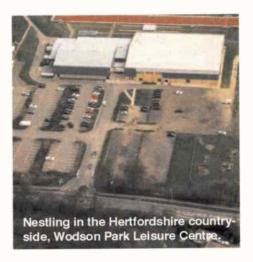
Wodson Park is a leisure centre that is similar in many ways to 'Picketts Lock', except that it is located a few miles outside the M25. Getting there is every bit as easy, indeed the journey time from the M25 is practically the same as it is to Picketts Lock. Talk-in stations will be operational on 2m & 70cm, and when you arrive you will find plenty of free parking. Full travel details can be seen on <a href="https://www.radiosport.co.uk">www.radiosport.co.uk</a>

Wodson Park is quite new, so it has all the facilities you would expect - brightly-lit halls, a good sized catering outlet, two bars, a passenger lift and facilities for the disabled.

#### **REASONS TO GO**

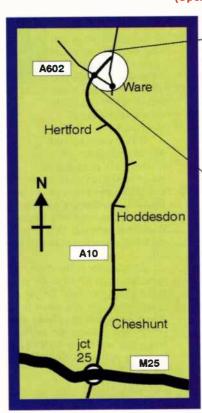
Apart from meeting friends new and old, there will be major retailers,

COMPUTER SHOW



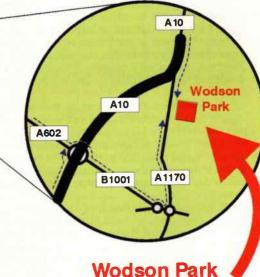
#### Saturday 23 November & Sunday 24 November

(Opens 10,00am each day)



computer systems, software and upgrades, on-demand Morse Tests and Assessments, and Special Interest Groups. Southgate ARC's Bring & Buy completes the list.

All-in-all it should be well worth visiting.



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One of Wodson Park's halls.

## Decode (continued)



#### WinCap Location Manager - use to find target cities or enter new locations.

WinCap Wizard from Kangaroo Tabor Software in the US. This is an adaptation of the VOCAP prediction engine that's been designed for amateur use. Although the initial front-end is a

bit daunting, you can still get some really useful results quite quickly. The download site for the program is:

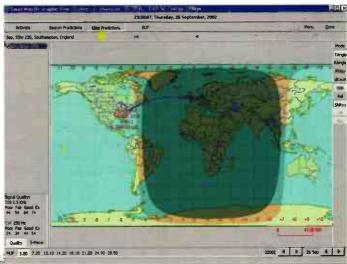
#### http://www.taborsoft.com/wwizard3/

Once you've downloaded and installed the program, you need to run it and set-up your basic station data so that all the predictions are based around your home location. To do this, select the Circuits button on the main menu, then choose User. You will be presented with a box showing town, country and lat/lon - this needs to be updated to show your home location.

ready to start making a few predictions. To take a look at a specific location and find the best frequency to use at various times of day you should choose Analyse then Point-to-Point. If all is well, you will be presented with the Location Manager screen and you can use this to searchout the city and country you want.

Once you've found the desired location, highlight it and choose analyse on the Location Manager menu bar. The program will then work out the best usable frequency for contact between the chosen site and your home location. Another useful

plot is to check the likely signal strength of the link by hitting the dB/µV button - this will show the expected 'S' meter readings and signal strength. I've shown an example of a plot I did



Power 1 500kW, Min Angle: 3, Required Reliability 30'
Best trability Frequency
Geormen's Standard Time
00 01 02 03 04 05 08 07 08 00 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 18 30 21 22 23 20
00 01 02 03 04 05 08 07 08 00 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 16 18 20 21 22 23 24
Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)

#### Example prediction chart for Southhampton to Australia.

The easiest way to do this is to click the Locations button and search through the list to find the nearest city to your location. Its not important for this to be really close, anywhere within 80-160km will do. If you really want to be accurate, you can enter your home address details manually. Whilst in this menu, you have the option to alter the prediction frequencies. This is not really important at this stage because the amateur bands listed provide a good distribution of frequencies.

With this basic data complete, you're now

#### Sample world propagation map from WinCap.

for Southampton to Townsville Australia. This clearly shows the best usable frequencies and signal strengths - you can see that the best time and frequency is 1900 using 21.2MHz.

Once you've familiarised yourself with the interface and learnt how to do basic predictions, you can move on to the next level of customisation. If you want to use the program to help you find the best time and frequency for a specific station, you

can enter the details into the Station Manager. Its really easy, you just open the Location Manager, press the + sign and enter the details you want.

You can also customise the frequencies used for the predictions by opening the Circuit configuration manager - you can set up to nine different frequencies what should be more than enough. Whilst WinCap has smoothed sunspot numbers built-in you can add the correct number for the day by visiting:

http://www.sunspotcycle.com/

JACQUES D'AVIGNON VE3VIA 

E-MAIL: jacques@pwpublishing.ltd.uk

## **Propagation Forecasts**

## How to use the Propagation Charts

BROADCAST PROJECT

The charts contain three plots. The lower dashed line represents the lowest usable frequency (LUF), or ALF (Absorption Limiting Frequency). The chances of success below this frequency are very slim.

The middle line indicates the optimum working frequency (OWF) with a 90% probability of success for the particular path and time.

Lastly, the upper dashed line represents the maximum usable frequency (MUF), a 50%

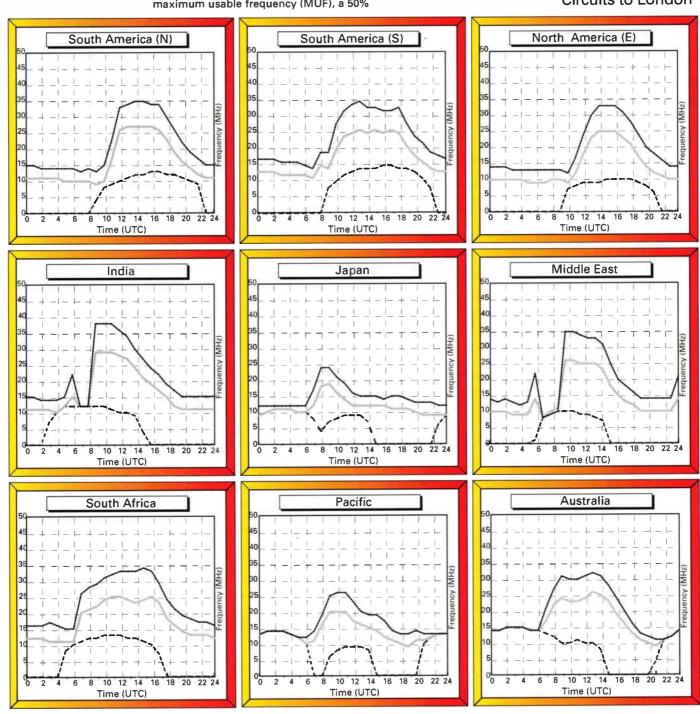
probability of success for the path and time.

To make use of the charts you must select the

To make use of the charts you must select the chart most closely located to the region containing the station that you wish to hear. By selecting the time chosen for listening on the horizontal axis, the best frequencies for listening can be determined by the values of the intersections of the plots against frequency.

Good luck and happy listening.

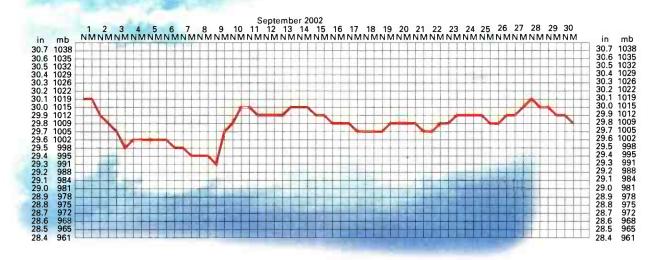
November 2002 Circuits to London

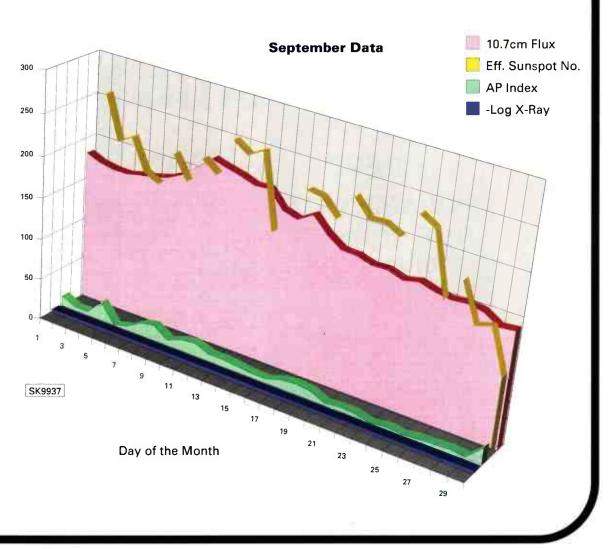


SK9936

## Propagation Extra

Ron Ham's barometric pressure chart, taken at Storrington, W. Sussex, September 2002.





## guide chart

The 10.7cm solar radio flux is used as an indicator of the general level of solar activity.

The K and AP indices are measures of geomagnetic activity.

The K index ranges from zero (very quiet) to nine (severely disturbed).

K values of five or greater correspond to geomagnetic storm conditions that can relate to poor propagation conditions.

The AP index ranges from 0 to 400. An AP of 30 is the threshold for geomagnetic storm conditions.





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## Amateur Bands

#### **Five Meg Experiment**

Since 1st August some UK amateurs have been able to obtain a *Notice of Variation* to their licences which allows them to operate on five specific frequencies around 5MHz. The purpose of allowing amateurs to use these frequencies is for propagation experiments, specifically regarding Near Vertical Incident Skywave or NVIS for short. The frequencies assigned are **5.260**, **5.280**, **5.290**, **5,400** and **5.405MHz**.

#### **Near Vertical Incidence Skywave**

Very impressive. But for what purpose? It's best described as the reverse of long distance working. With long distance or DX working the idea is to try and send the radio signal out at as few degrees as possible above the horizontal. The plan being that the signal will travel as far as possible before hitting the ionosphere and bouncing back to earth an equally long distance further from the transmitting station.

The result of most of the signal going to the nether reaches of the globe is that not much of it reaches local stations. What is hoped to achieve using NVIS propagation is not to get the signal a long way around the globe, but for it to reach those local stations. This is achieved by designing the antenna system so that most of the signal will be sent out more or less straight up. The signal then bounces off of the ionosphere as usual, but because of the steep angle

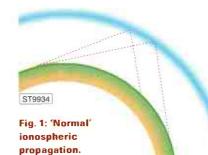
that it went up, it returns to earth very much closer the antenna.

Rather like a firework rocket sent up almost vertically and so landing very close to its launch site. A typically NVIS antenna is simply a horizontal dipole put up only a few metres

ST9935

Fig. 2: NVIS

propagation.



above ground. Ideally NVIS, combined with the inevitable little bit of ground

would provide complete coverage over the area local to the transmitter, when local means anything within hundreds, or more kilometres.

There is some purpose to this experiment. The frequencies are allocated to the military who would like to know a bit more about using NVIS propagation. Using NVIS is a useful way to get good radio coverage of an area where no communications infrastructure exists, such as those parts of the world where widespread aid operations are likely to be conducted.

There's quite a few UK amateurs using 5MHz,

although all of the activity that I've heard has been around 5.4035 on upper side band and from all over the country.

#### How's My Signal?

You'll notice something a bit different about 5MHz contacts from those on other amateur bands. Unlike other amateur contacts, the signal reports are given using the SINPO system more commonly used to give reports of broadcast station reception, rather than the usual RST system.

Under the SINPO reporting system there are five criteria regarding the received signal to report, with each criterion having five levels. The components of the SINPO report are:-

Signal Strength	Max '5'	Min '1'
Interference	None '5'	Lots '1'
Noise	None '5'	Lots '1'
Propagation disturbance	None '5'	Lots '1'
Overall Quality	Good '5'	Bad '1'

A perfect report under the SINPO system would be 55555.

#### **5MHz Equipment**

A small hurdle for the NOV holders to overcome in order to operate on 5MHz is to find suitable

transmitting equipment. This may seem strange when most modern amateur transceivers can very easily be modified to transmit on frequencies other than the usual amateur bands.

However, it seems possible that taking into use a CE marked transceiver that has been modified to general coverage transmit may contravene the 1992 Electromagnetic Compatibility Regulations. If so, then the only amateur radio gear that can be used on 5MHz is either stuff that isn't available

commercially, or commercial gear manufactured before the regulations came into force. If you want to check, visit http://www.hmso.gov.uk for the full regulations.

#### **DXpeditions**

Seven German amateurs will operate as 3XY7C from Guinea for a fortnight from 30th October. As well as voice, they plan to use c.w., RTTY, PSK31 and possibly SSTV, and all bands from 50MHz to Top Band.

Two Brits, three Germans and an American will be using KH8 calls from Tutuila and Ofu islands, American Samoa, in the southern Pacific between the 29th October and 8th November. They will be giving special attention to 1.8MHz and openings to Europe.

Over the last ten days of October the Mongolian Radio Sport Federation's DXpedition to Khentii province will use the call JU840C. The special event station is being held at the birthplace of Gengis Khan, founder of the Mongolian empire, to celebrate his 840th anniversary.



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MVT-7100 EU ALL MODE	
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FERTURE

## Satellite TV News

BADADCAST PROJECT

he intense public interest both in the UK and Europe - particularly France - produced a flurry of SNG trucks in and around Soham the following day uplinking over both Intelsat 801 and Eutelsat 2F3. Though the content of the reports carried was predictable, the SISLink 19 truck 'UKI-189' downlinking at 11.649GHz-H (SR5632 + FEC3/4) was positioned elsewhere - at a police road block using a 'cherry picker' and a long range camera lens to view distant 'scenes of crime' technicians at the bodies' location.

NEWS

Central Europe has suffered during August with heavy rainfall and the resultant flooding that devastated parts of Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic and then into Hungary, both the Elbe and Danube have experienced record highs and much of the city of Prague was totally saturated in water and mud. SNG coverage of the flooding was intense and **Edmund Spicer** (Littlehampton) monitored numerous RTL news feeds over the 11.520-11.560GHz-V spectrum running their usual SR6666+3/4 parameters on the 8°W *Telecom* bird.

'BBC UKI-613-P1 Magdeburg' over on 2F3, 21.5°E were pro-active with news reports - 12.539GHz-H (5632+3/4) - though interestingly when the Iraqi dissidents took over the Iraqi Embassy in Berlin on August 24th UKI-613 also popped up again - this must be a permanently Germany based BBC unit. Roy Carman (Dorking) noted Eurobird 28.5°E with an SNG truck identing - 'Aut-6-Speedy TV' @ 12.648GHz-V (SR6111+3/4) with a 'multi-user feed' during the German flood period. This involved the SNG camera and mic., but a series of flood updates were filed over the satellite link by reporters, each sliding onto the single mic. his own network or station logo sleeve - at this time the Elbe as 8.5m above normal! 'RTL OFF ROAD D220' motored - or swam - into Prague and showed scenes of flooded palaces and historic buildings, the downlink via Eutelsat W2, 16°E 12.517GHz-H, 56532+3/4.

Sports and the football season is again active, the low-end of *Intelsat 801* vertical has local matches usually for Sky Sports. German motor rallying was featured August 25 with their 'ADAC' rally through the backwood villages of the Dorfs - interesting to note that uplinking was over the UK truck 'ntl.UKI 457 2' running 12.580GHz-H (5632+3/4) over *Atlantic Bird 2/Telecom 2D* @ 5°W.

The very active NSS-K Atlantic - 21.5°W - was replaced by the new bird on the block by NSS-7 on August 21st. NSS-7 is an upmarket satellite carrying both C- and Ku-band. Unfortunately, the transfer of the NSS-K clientele to NSS-7 was far from seamless. Around this period the Globecast 11.590GHz-V bouquet disappeared, as did the familiar Reuters 11.462GHz-V carrier, instead a quick scan of the spectrum showed a few new customers operating on other frequencies, but horizontal.

A couple of days later, news filtered in that hence forth the European spot ex *NSS-7* would be horizontal, further South into Africa and vertical would be used and South Africa would be vertical. At the time of writing, a few of the regulars have established themselves, check for Reuters WNS 11.609GHz-H SR4000 + 3/4); Brightstar London/APTN New York 11.684/11.677GHz-H 5632+3/4; Reuters Washington 11.571GHz-H 5632+3/4 - an unusual 'BT-15' appeared early during the transfer at 11.610GHz-H SR 2666+3/4.

Globecast sometimes appears, though tending to lease now at random and have to be searched out, no longer their convenient 11.590GHz-V bouquet with the PGA Golf, Indy 500, etc. They've been sighted at 12.683GHz-H 6116+3/4 on the 29th for example with PGA golf sponsored by 'Air Canada'. An unusual small bouquet has been carried over *NSS-7* and at the time of writing they've moved for the third time to 11.858GHz-H SR6515+3/4. At this spot will be found

RTS-1 - 'Radiodiffusion Television Senegalaise' from Dakar - with good technical quality programming in company with RTNC - 'Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise' from Kinshasa.

SPECIAL

COMPETITION

BODHS

The service ident appears as 'Nations 1' RTNC and 'Nations 2' RTS. The PIDS aired APID 256; VPID 256; PCRPID 8190.

A 'phone call from Edmund evening of August 27th gave the alert for *Atlantic Bird 1* launch (Ariane flight 155) ex Kourou, French Guinea, which was carried live over *Hot Bird*, 12.673GHz-V SR27500+3/4 within the Telespazio bouquet, unfortunately a problem postponed the launch until the following night which successfully put the bird into flight. Jordan TV is also found in this package.

I have received two queries this past month asking 'where is NASA TV?'. NASA-TV usually appears **only** when there is a mission to the *International Space Station* and/or a shuttle launch to same.

An observation that in recent months there is a decided increase in satellite news feeds opting into the MEPG-4:2:2 mode rather than the norm of MPEG-2. MPEG-4:2:2 is a 'professional' standard and as such receivers are not commonly available, other than at lottery level, typically well over £2000 UK. One satzapping colleague has adapted his computer to display 4:2:2 pictures successfully at nominal cost.

As I type these words, September 10th news reports are now filtering out of New York, marking one year after the fateful September 11, 2001. On 11.684GHz-H (5632+3/4) for example is carrying 'APTN New York Path 1' with a series of reports - in several languages.

In my satellite column in the December 2001 issue of What Satellite TV I wrote that the 4th aircraft (Sept 11th, United Airlines flight 93) that was heading towards Washington in which the passengers and crew reportedly fought with the terrorists before the 'plane crashed may have another scenario. During the actual September 11th attacks, I received an E-mail telling that USAF jets had been scrambled to shoot down the fourth aircraft, this was backed up a couple of days later from another source that had monitored transmissions relating to the shooting down.

A report published in the USA, recently reprinted in *The Independent* and *Daily Mail* - August 16th 2002 - now suggests that Flight 93 was shot down by an F-16 - under orders...the mystery remains unless the authorities speak - and they won't!

I've received an interesting letter from **Alan Richards**, Ilkeston, who bought an old SIS 1.5m dish 'hanging' on the back of an ex-bookies, now an Indian restaurant. He modified the previously fixed mount dish and now using boot laces and a bungee can move the dish across the satellite arc! Alan receives excellent pictures from 48°E across to (enviously) 58°W - the latter including Cuban TV programming and BT feeds in Ku-band.

Europe\*Star-1 @ 45°E was very active during the recent World Summit on poverty with Globecast a main runner for news feeds backhauling into Europe - September 1st and 'Globecast LF 7-Path 1' was feeding reports into BBC London - 11.504GHz/ (6116+3/4) - and evenings into the BBC-2 Newsnight programme. Globecast were also seen with African continent feeds on 11.657; 11.663 and 11.66GHz with an unusual SR4425 + FEC 5/6.

The EBU also had a three channel package feed ex Johannesburg feeds carried over *Eutelsat W1*, 10°E running 11.461GHz-V with unusual parameters SR 13333+FEC 7/8. The value of an auto search digital receiver can be seen with the almost impossible task of decoding digital parameters with such wide ranging possibilities! Next month the annual 'Satellite TV Special' where hopefully operating techniques can be discussed informally.



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## DX Television

he August Sporadic-E activity was more productive than of late. It started off well with further evidence of exotic transatlantic reception, albeit at scanner level. Also, signals from various E2 outlets in the Middle East were evident on several occasions.

#### **Reception Reports**

On August 1st, at around 2000, USA/Canadian TV vision signals were detected again on Channels A2 with two carriers present, and on A4 with three carriers audible. A 6m transatlantic path was established at the time.

The opening on the 4th commenced with NRK-1 Norway occupying Channels E2, E3 and E4 displaying programme schedules with a characteristic white disc in the lower left of the screen. This is actually a digital clock. Towards 1700, Belarus R1, RTL KLUB R2, MTV-1 R1 and STV-1 (Slovakia) R2 made an appearance with impressive signal strengths.

Stephen Michie (Bristol) submitted an excellent log for the 5th, commencing with RUV Iceland E4 with trivia text pages at 0918. Sweden, Norway and Finland were present throughout the morning with reception from central Europe by early afternoon, later extending through the Balkans. Albania (TVSH) on Channel C appeared twice - first at 1422 then again at 1905. Albania was also received by Peter Barber (Coventry).

John Lees (Cheltenham) comments that the 5th was the 'best day this year - just like old times' with a strong sustained Sporadic-E opening between 1000 and 1800. Starting with Norway on E2, E3 and E4, reception later included Spain E2 and E4 in addition to Portugal E3. All stations supported perfect pictures in colour with sound at times. Syria E2 was identified with Arabic subtitles at around 1745.

By mid-afternoon on the 8th, at least two pictures with Arabic script were battling on E2. One station, possibly IRIB-1 (Iran), seemed to include a logo in the top-left. Stephen Michie noticed a Polish serial at 1650 on R2, originally transmitted by Televizia Polska, but being broadcast via Lithuanian TV. Last June, **Tom Crane** (Hawkwell) heard what sounded like Polish TV sound on R1. Maybe other countries are offering Polish programmes.

Iran E2 was also around on the 10th during the evening according to **Tim Bucknall** (Congleton).

Veteran DXer **Ian Beckett** (Buckingham) reports strong Spanish signals on E2, E3 and E4 on the 11th with reception lasting well into the evening. On the 13th RTBF-1 (Belgium) from the Liège outlet appeared on E3, presumably by tropospheric enhancement as it is too close for Sporadic-E reception.

On the 20th **Paul Farley** (Newhaven) identified signals from the Middle East on E2 consisting of a studio discussion with Arabic text along the bottom at 0911. The offset (48.239602MHz) indicates it was Iran, but the logo in the top-left looked different, resembling two half spheres on top of each other to form a circle with a gap across the middle with writing in the gap. There may have been another small white logo in the lower right.

On the 24th at 0755, Iran appeared again on E2 with views of Mecca, later fighting with a Syrian soap opera on E2. Amazingly, a path to Iceland (RUV E4) was established at the time with scrolling pictures and non-stop adverts for

laptop computers.

Peter Barber (Coventry) saw the Estonian PM5544 test card on R2 at 1032 on the 28th. Over on E3, Danish schedules followed by their new analogue clock were present from the Fyn transmitter. Good Italian signals w

Fyn transmitter. Good Italian signals were present on the 30th from 0745 with a telesales channel (just below E2) and RAI UNO on A and B. Spain E3 and Portugal E3 were also evident towards mid-morning.

QSL REVIEW BOOHS

Philip Smith reads the column every month and finds it very informative (thanks Philip!). Towards the end of the month, strong Italian RAI UNO signals have been identified. Philip wonders if F2 propagation can be received on a simple set-up. It is possible, as the signals can be as strong as Sporadic-E. By the time this column is in print, we should know whether F2 has returned for another spectacular session!



Fig. 2: Swedish

PM5534

Stephen

received by

Michie on E3

via Sporadic-E.

#### **FM Reports**

The f.m. band became choc-a-bloc at times, notably on August 5th, 11th and 14th, writes **Simon Hockenhull** (Bristol). By midmorning on the 11th the band was well populated with Spanish signals with signal strengths approaching S4. Services identified using RDS include CAD-CIEN on 89.70MHz with pop music, RNE CLAS on 88.60 with classical music, RNE-3 on 103.35, CAD ENA on 97.90, SER on 104.30 and ON DACERO on 95.0MHz.

The 2m band at 144MHz became active for a while too. An early evening opening on the 14th produced Czech stations on 89.70 (CR1), 88.80 (CR USTI) and 104.4MHz (CR CB).



#### Weaker Signals

Roger Bunney (Romsey) recently commented about the relative weakness of many of the old-favourite transmitters. For example, three decades ago TVE Spain would blast anything else off the screen. To a lesser degree, Italian signals on Channel A would roar in - any private station would be considerably weaker, perhaps just detectable.

These days RAI UNO signals seem much weaker and often appear at similar levels to the private stations. One theory is that e.r.p. levels have reduced on many of the ageing Band I transmitters and this

has been more noticeable within recent years. However, the RTL KLUB outlet at Pecs in Hungary seems to regularly provide high signal levels - possibly this transmitter is operating at its full 50kW e.r.p. specification.

#### **Keep On Writing!**

Please send your DXTV, slow-scan TV and f.m. reception reports, news, off-screen photographs and information to arrive by the first of the month to:- Garry Smith, 17 Collingham Gardens, Derby DE22 4FS. We can also use off-air pictures stored as JPG files on PC disks and good-quality video recordings. Our DXTV and Archive TV website can be found at: www.test-cards.fsnet.co.uk

Fig. 3:
Accidental
showing of
the ColourBar test
signal via
BBC-2. Does
anyone know
what the
inscription
means?



channels) to

infra-red - expecting this

to happen

the official

'operational' date. It did

not happen.

Then, to my

surprise, the

channel was switched - to

second

3A!

before 9 September,

## Info in Orbit

ome of the weather satellite (WXSAT) pictures sent by readers are quite remarkable, reflecting various news events such as the European floods and widespread fires in Russia. High above us, MSG-1, the new all-digital European WXSAT, continues the in-orbit checkout, while down here we wonder about the economics of setting up an LRIT system - or at least I am wondering! Then there is the newly-launched Indian METSAT.

#### **Current WXSATs**

Many WXSAT monitors spent early September anticipating the second channel on NOAA-17 to be switched from channel 1 (one of two visible-light

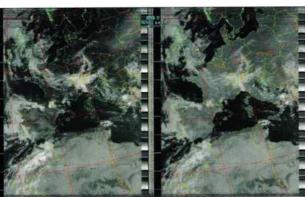


Fig 1: NOAA-17 a.p.t. 3
September 1010 from
Jean-Louis Querton using wxtoimg.

Fig 2: Launch of MSG-1. Copyright 2002 ESA -CNES -Arienespece/Photo Service Optique CSG.

All times quoted in

SWM are UTC

unless stated.

Wayne
Winston (the NOAA contact on the mailing lists)
explained: "NOAA has started doing some a.p.t.
channel switching with 2 and 3A (near visible) during
the day, and the more standard 3B (IR) and 4 at
night. This is temporary. The date for NOAA-17

being declared operational has been set back at least until around 23 September.

Nevertheless, we are processing the AVHRR data to level 1B already, which is why it is showing up in the SAA. We expect to change the a.p.t. switching configuration on 24 September to a more normal 2, 4 day, 3B, 4 night".

For those who are new to this intriguing hobby, NOAA-17 was launched on 24 June into polar orbit, and followed

normal operational procedures by commencing a.p.t. (low resolution transmissions) that included two visible channels - 1 and 2. Activation of the infrared sensors has to be delayed for a couple of weeks to allow system stabilisation (specifically outgassing).

Unusually, and for reasons not yet obvious, the inclusion of an infra-red channel within the a.p.t. transmission was delayed as described above, resulting in the daytime inclusion of channel 3A instead of infra-red. High resolution transmissions continued as normal - with five channels of data.

#### **Indian METSAT Launched**

The World Meteorological Organisation publishes tables of expected launches and an entry for METSAT indicated a launch in '2002'. In its seventh flight, conducted on 12 September from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR, Sriharikota, the Indian

Space Research Organisation's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle successfully launched India's first exclusively meteorological satellite, METSAT, into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).

Until now, India's meteorological services have been combined with telecommunication and television services in the INSAT system. METSAT is a precursor to the future INSAT system that will have separate satellites for meteorology, telecommunication and broadcasting services.

METSAT carries a Very High Resolution
Radiometer (VHRR) capable of imaging the Earth in
the visible, thermal infrared and water vapour bands.
METSAT will relay data sent by platforms to the
Meteorological Data Utilisation Centre at New Delhi.
Such platforms have been installed all over the
country.

METSAT was developed by ISRO Satellite Centre, Bangalore. The Meteorological payloads were developed by Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad. The Master Control Facility at Hassan is responsible for all post launch operations on the satellite.

#### MSG-1 - Update

Europe's new all-digital, geostationary WXSAT MSG-1 (METEOSAT Second Generation) continues through in-orbit checks. Launch was televised and broadcast on the Internet. Thirty-three minutes into the flight, live telemetry was received via the ESOC (European Space Operations Centre) ground system, confirming that MSG was functioning normally.

As a test activity, telemetry was also acquired independently via the EUMETSAT Primary Ground Station (PGS) at Usingen at 0608 on 29 August. As a further test, the Central Facility of the MSG Control Room at EUMETSAT was connected to the PGS and

the first MSG-1 telemetry was acquired by wholly EUMETSAT devices at 0703.

In addition at 1205 on 29 August, the Backup and Ranging Ground Station (BRGS) at Maspalomas acquired satellite telemetry from the MSG-1 satellite, and continued to track it until 1304, at which point the satellite moved out of the field of view of the antenna. If commissioning goes according to plan, then full MSG routine operations are expected to commence in the third quarter of 2003.



Fig 3: River Vistula from NOAA-15 on 11 August from Robert Moore.

#### Latest Idea On MSG-1 Data For Amateurs

The possibility of another satellite carrying unencrypted, very easy to decode, MSG-1 data has been mentioned to me by **Dave Cawley** of Timestep. I will publish any further news in this column!

#### **WXSAT Software - An Update**

The 'WXSAT Special' includes a short feature on David Taylor's WXSAT software suite, and I had been wondering about writing an article mentioning other software writers when I received a perfectly timed

contribution from **Jean-Louis Querton**. Jean-Louis lives in Calpe, between Valencia and Alicante in Spain, and wrote an enthusiastic note about the a.p.t. decoding software *wxtoimg*, developed by Abstract Technologies, New Zealand Ltd., see <a href="http://www.weather.net.nz/wxtoimg/">http://www.weather.net.nz/wxtoimg/</a>

He commented "The software records the signal from the receiver (or scanner) and when reception is over, it starts decoding. The actual 2.3.5 beta version is really fantastic and presents a lot of features: Map Overlay: it can display land, lakes, rivers, country borders, ground station and cities, even on LEO satellites, thanks to the ability to decode the data channels in the a.p.t. bit stream to orientate the map with the picture received; Autodetect Pass: this gives the correct scanning North to South, or vice versa, based on the Kepler elements; Update Kepler Elements Automatically From The Web: Autodetect a.p.t. from NOAA, METEOR, SICH, OKEAN or WEFAX from METEOSAT or GOES.

A wide range of picture enhancements are available. Recording options give you the choice to start recording on WEFAX start/stop signal, or on the presence of the 2400Hz carrier, or when the sound level rises a certain amount, or when selected active a.p.t. satellites are overhead".

Jean-Louis described his station. He has a Nueva Elettronica LX 1375 - Ricevitore Meteo/Polari receiver (which I presume is an Italian dual-satellite model), and feeds this from a home-made QFH antenna, with 12mm copper pipes, following instructions from Paul Hayes.

Jean-Louis has also done some tests on the software, as I did after it was released. Firstly, using an old Pentium I 133MHz running under *Windows 98* with 32MB RAM, he found that it was 'too slow'; using an Acer laptop with a Celeron 650MHz processor running under *Windows 98* with 320MB RAM produced 'very good results'. **Figure 1** was supplied by Jean-Louis.

**Professor Robert Moore** retired

last year from his position at the Department of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work Studies of John Moores University in Liverpool. He E-mailed: "I thought you might like to see this stunning image of the River Vistula which I picked up from the NOAA-15 pass at 0732 on 11 August. The river is illuminated by sun-glint for 350km, but is visible for a further 150km to near

Lublin. You can also see the Hel peninsula around the Gulf of Gdansk. Warsaw is just south the confluence of the Vistula and the Bug, the latter is clearly visible to the right of centre".

Robert has a Timestep HRPT system which he operates from his house in North Wales. His main interest is the weather and also he operates a small weather station. A Lowe HF-150 receiver and *M-Scan Meteofax* software gives him a continuous supply of North Atlantic weather charts.

Although Robert's location is high up, he comments that he has virtually no southern horizonit varies from 20° to nearly 30° depending on the height of the trees on the hill that slopes above him to the south. With a clear northern horizon, however, he has received good pictures of far north latitudes, but nothing south of Majorca. Although Robert supplied a colour image, I could not convert it properly for publication without reducing the original format to black and white.

Ferdinand Valk receives h.r.p.t. data using a 850mm dish and his system is controlled by a dedicated computer. The raw h.r.p.t. file is processed

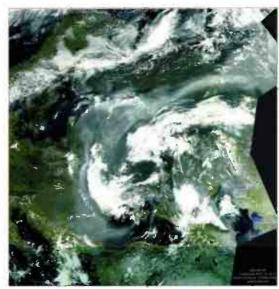


Fig 4: Composite NOAA image of 8 September from Ferdinand Valk.



Fig 5: Infra-red image received in Southampton from NOAA-15 1845 on 2 September showing trails.

by **David Taylor**'s software. Ferdinand writes: "Using *GroundMap*, another of David Taylor's programs, I have remapped several passes of different satellites to a common projection. The resulting image files are then brought into

Photoshop 7 for further processing. Basically, all images have been merged into a single one and selective enhancements have been applied to bring out the details I was after in the first place. Both merging and enhancement techniques I have developed myself".

The result is shown in **Fig. 4**, a composite image from *NOAA-12*, *NOAA-15*, *NOAA-16* and *NOAA-17* passes. The objective was to show the large extent of the smoke originating from the moor fields that are burning East of Moscow. The image is centred on 25°E and 45°N, with enhancement applied to bring out the finer and more transparent smoke as well.

Fig. 6: Here is the first image of the launch of India's METSAT, courtesy of ISRO.

#### **Frequencies**

#### a.p.t.

NOAA-12 and NOAA-15 transmit a.p.t. on 137.50MHz. (during overlap periods, NOAA-12 (the secondary WXSAT) a.p.t. may be switched off). NOAA-17 transmits a.p.t. on 137.62MHz.

METEOR 3-5 usually transmits on 137.30MHz when in sunlight.

METEOR 2-21 may transmit on 137.40MHz when METEOR 3-5 is switched off.

#### h.r.p.t.

NOAA-12 and NOAA-16 transmit h.r.p.t. on 1698.0MHz.

NOAA-14 transmits on 1707MHz.

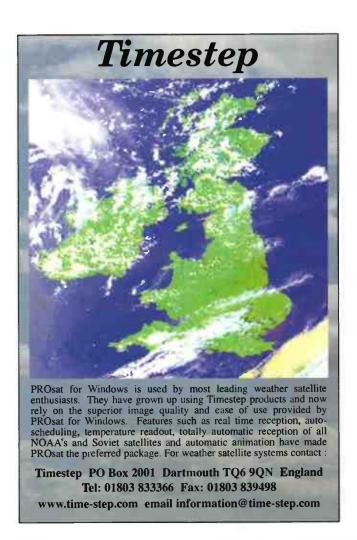
NOAA-15 transmits on 1702.5MHz.

NOAA-17 transmits on 1707MHz.

FENGYUN-1C and FENGYUN-1D transmit on 1700.4MHz.

#### WEFAX:

METEOSAT-7 (geostationary) transmits WEFAX on 1691 and 1694.5MHz and Primary Data on 1691.0MHz.







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## SSB Utilities

am still receiving letters and E-mails with advice about antennas in answer to Mr Baker's enquiry a few months back. This month I have a letter from lan McDowell in Cambridgeshire who sent a letter containing a recording of some amateur stations which he heard using an antenna of his own design, and attached to the letter was a small sample of the wire used.

lan McDowell's antenna is a loop with a slight difference - it is around the inside of a bedroom window. Ian says that he has tried all sorts of kinds of antennas over the past few years, much to the amusement of his family and neighbours. He has tried 'inverted Ls', 'inverted Vs', end-fed and outdoor loops, but he insists that he has had superb results with his simple loop wound around a window near his operating position.

lan's letter included a diagram of the antenna which simply shows a window approximately 1200 by 900mm, and the wire is lightly taped to the surrounding brickwork inside the window recess. A length of  $50\Omega$  coaxial cable feeds the signal directly to his receiver - a Lowe SRX-30. One end of the loop wire is simply attached to the coaxial cable 'inner' and the other end of the loop is attached to the braid 'outer' - what could be simpler?

From the small sample of antenna wire enclosed by lan, I can report that the wire used is plastic coated multi stranded cable, and lan even says that in a previous life his antenna was a clothes-line! If you wish to make something similar yourself, you do not need to use such thick wire, as thin wire will give almost identical results and will be easier to handle. Personally, I would add an a.t.u. between the receiver and the antenna so as to provide a better impedance match between the antenna and receiver.

One aspect of lan's antenna needs to be mentioned the antenna will be directional, as are all loop antennas. It will receive signals strongly from two directions, and will have strong 'nulls' in two other directions. If you can imagine that this loop antenna was installed in a window facing due north, then it would receive signals very well from due north and south, but signals from due east and west would be attenuated or reduced.

The antenna is in a fixed position and cannot be rotated, so once it is fixed in place, you will be restricted to good signals from some directions and poorer (or none at all) from other directions. This kind of antenna does fulfil many of the usual requirements for a cheap portable antenna - it is cheap (simple thin wire will be more than adequate), simple to install (maybe 10 to 20 minutes maximum), portable (can be installed an removed easily and quickly), and as lan's comments have indicated, it does work quite well on some frequencies.

#### **New Frequencies**

The following may interest those who like to monitor the North Pacific (NP) and North Atlantic track 'D' (NAT-D) aeronautical network frequencies. According to the September issue of *Monitoring Times* (Hugh Stegman's 'Utility World' column) a new h.f. voice transmitter in Barrow, Alaska, was due to come on line in June. This is well above the Arctic Circle and is remotely controlled by ARINC's facility near San Francisco.

According to the article, ARINC and airlines wanted better h.f. voice coverage than they were getting, even though HFDL already works well in the region. No frequencies are mentioned in the article. However, a

logical assumption would be that this transmitter will show up on the NP frequencies identifying as 'San Francisco'. It is said to be 'high powered' with an operational range of 3000nm.

However, I have done some research and found a listing of the h.f. frequencies monitored by 'Barrow' - they have the following available 3.013, 6.640, 11.342, 13.348, 17.925 and 21.964MHz. These are all well-known ARINC h.f. frequencies covering various areas of the northern Pacific airspace. Personally, I have not heard anything yet, and I would be interested to hear from anyone who has heard

'Barrow' on these

frequencies.

On this side of the world, and much closer to home, the Royal Navy has been changing some of its frequencies. The Royal Navy has two major air stations in the south-west of England - Culdrose in Cornwall, on the Lizard peninsula, and Yeovilton in Somerset. At Culrdrose there are a large number of Sea King helicopters, twin turbo-prop Jetstream aircraft, and some on the new Merlin helicopters. 'Culdrose Ops' has been using 5.696MHz for many years, but the NOTAM indicates that they have changed to 6.748MHz from 9th September onwards.

For many years the callsigns on 'Culdrose Ops' have been quite easy to decode - the flights either used standard 'Navy' callsigns or a single letter prefix indicating the type of aircraft or helicopter calling - 'J' prefix was a Jetstream

and 'K' was a Sea King. RNAS Yeovilton also houses Sea King helicopters, and also the VTOL Sea Harrier and Lynx helicopter. For the past few years they have been using **8.977MHz** since the closure of the air station at Portland in Dorset, however they have now changed to **6.736MHz** (primary) and **5.420MHz** (secondary).

I have only ever heard Sea Kings and Lynx' working 'Yeovilton Ops', and the callsigns tend to be either a tactical tri-graph callsign, a standard 'Navy' number callsign or a 'Navy' two-letter callsign. Although I have heard these callsigns many times, I have never understood which helicopter is using which callsign; does anyone know how to interpret these Navy callsigns, and how can you tell which callsign belongs to which helicopter?

The NOTAM which mentions these frequency changes seems to indicate that they will only be effective from 9th September until 23rd September, but it also mentions that the changes will be incorporated into future publications, which tends to support the idea that these changes will be more permanent. As I write these words, we are in the middle of the above test period, and I cannot tell whether the test will continue. Only patient monitoring will provide the answer.

#### Web Watch

Monitoring Times - http://www.monitoringtimes.com/

ARINC news release about Barrow http://www.arinc.com/news/2002/ 08-12-02.html



■ JERRY GLENWRIGHT, 56 DENBIGH ROAD, NORWICH NR2 3HH

■ E-MAIL: shackware@pwpublishing.ltd.uk

## ShackWare

ello and welcome once again to 'ShackWare'. This time, a look back (and forward) at two stalwarts of computing and radio, prompted by a letter from correspondent Matt Chadwick of Kilsyth, Glasgow. Matt writes: "As you often mention boot sale finds in your 'ShackWare' article, I thought I'd write and tell you about mine which I found while looking for CB items at a table sale at a local school. I'd just spotted a nice little antenna matcher device in a box beneath the table at one stall when I also saw a weird black computer under a pile of dusty cables in the same box. It turned out to be a ZX81 and I bought it for £3.50 together with a 9V power pack - the antenna matcher the lady threw in for free, she said it was her husband's stuff and as he'd gone off for a cup of tea, she just wanted to get rid of it! Since then, I've had the machine working with an old portable black and white TV (it wouldn't work with the Panasonic wide-screen in the living room). Can you tell me a bit more about the ZX81? I wasn't really interested in computers when the ZX81 was popular, but now I've warmed to the machine and I'm keen to learn a bit more"

What an invitation! Now you've gone and done it, Matt...

#### **Power Without The Price**

The ZX81 wasn't the first of Sinclair's computers for the masses - that particular accolade goes to the ZX80 - but it was certainly the most successful of the two and paved the way for all home computers that came after it in the UK. Indeed it's fair to say that many computer and electronics professionals of today got their start on a ZX81 before progressing to university DEC 10s, PDP11s, VAXs and the like.

Always the butt of jokes (is it any wonder? Sinclair advertised it quite seriously - as being capable of running a nuclear power station!) the ZX81 was, in fact, a sophisticated machine which took the basic design of the ZX80 and improved it beyond all measure. Under the lid, the 16 integrated circuits of the ZX80 were reduced to just four: a Zilog Z80 central processor, a ULA - a kind of custom-built IC designed to do many of the tasks of those 16 ICs in the ZX80 - a minor logic support chip and 1K RAM. Simple, elegant, and perfectly suited to its purpose.

The outer skin was the now famous and familiar sleek black case with red ZX81 lettering. The keyboard was a 'touch sensitive' affair (actually a membrane that energised the simple circuit beneath) which was in fact about as sensitive as a set of dentures! However, the ZX81's remarkable keyword entry system (you pressed a key and the context-sensitive BASIC interpreter flashed up the right word) reduced typing to a minimum. That black case looked fantastic in advertisements for the machine and wooed many a novice to the high street computer stores - Dixons, Laskys and the like. Face to face however, it looked little bigger than a calculator and rather less interesting because there was no built-in display.

At the outset, the ZX81 was available in kit form or as a complete machine - the kit was the cheapest option. Many hobbyists built them and many more bought them. In the States, the machine was known as the Timex TX1000 where it fared rather less well. Who would want this peculiarly British confection with its massive 1K RAM or wobbly 16K add-on RAM pack? One wrong jiggle and all your hard-graft programming was gone. US competitors such as the Apple II, Atari 800, and even the earliest incarnations of IBM's PC proved far more popular among dollar-rich Americans.

One interesting fact is that at the beginning of 1983, high street newsagent and book seller WHSmith was growing wise to the potential for a home computer boom and decided to stock the computer and offer it using in-store custom display units which provided the opportunity to try before you buy. The ZX81, they reasoned, was the most affordable and (believe it or not) the most high-profile computer and therefore likely to generate big sales.

Well, they certainly guessed right as far as a home computer boom was concerned. That kicked off about the middle of 1983 and, apart from the odd moment, hasn't really stopped since. What they got wrong was the ZX81. By 1983, serious contenders for the crown were taking away sales from the humble Sinclair, including Sinclair's own ZX Spectrum, a Z80-based, upgraded computer featuring a 'real' keyboard (well, little rubber buttons anyway), colour graphics and sound. Available in 48K and 16K guises, the latter was priced at £99 - an entry point that effectively wiped out sales of ZX81s. It wasn't long before WH Smith moved away from sales of computers, concentrating instead on software.

Personal communication you should have.

From the very beginning, the ZX81 attracted the more serious user (though that's not to say game-play wasn't big too - 3D Monster Maze is still one of the foremost examples of expert programming for any machine) and many third-party expansion boards were made available, commercially and via user groups. RS-232, A-D converters, programmable I/O lines and circuits for sampling, sound, high-res graphics, add-on RAM and more were all available to the home constructor. Of course, RS-232 meant access to RTTY, Morse and other simple data modes via a terminal unit and software available on EPROM.

Today, the good old ZX81 is thin on the ground. It was the world's first disposable computer and disposed of it was - countless thousands must be sitting in land-fill sites even as I write this. At boot sales they're few and far between (though there are still a few older patrons who have emptied their attics and have no idea of the worth of what they're selling). And look out for a ZX80 (white case, blue keyboard, fake heat vents in a bulge at the rear), which are bringing big money on Ebay - prices well above a hundred pounds are not unknown!

If you find a ZX81, or decide to rummage at the back of the cupboard under the stairs and relive those first heady days of the early '80s computer boom, be sure to point your browser at edge.edge.net/~krbaker/zx81.html and www.honneamise.u-net.com/zx81/ Almost every bit of software ever written for the Sinclair machine is available for free download and there are countless sites devoted to keeping the ZX81 alive and in good health (albeit with tongues firmly planted in cheeks).

The ZX81 is British through and through. It is quirky and slightly ridiculous but it got the job done. My first computer was a ZX81. Forty two quid from Dixons on Oxford Street. I loved it and I still do.

#### People's Computer, People's Radio

That mention of CB got me thinking too, Matt. About this time two years ago, I first discovered the relatively new PMR446 'people's radio' band. Eight channels of u.h.f. frequencies with CTCSS tones to give the illusion (it works well) of many more channels. I bought a pair of cheap handsets and gave the new band a go - well, when you write for the world's best-loved radio mag, you've got to explore every new avenue (that's the excuse I gave to Angela!). It's fair to say that I raved about the new medium. Excellent reception up to a couple of kilometres (with many DX enthusiasts achieving far greater distances), easy to use, no licence and, best of all, no foul-mouthed kids...

It was that last sentiment, in conjunction with (I now realise) disparaging remarks about some users of CB that got one or two correspondents hot under the collar. No need now to repeat what I said but something along the lines outlined above. I was ticked off good and proper.

All of which was rather a shame because I adore CB. Today there are relaxed rules over antennas, truly excellent, beautifully-engineered transceivers (the Cobra CB built entirely into a handset the size of a mic?), CEPT and the 1981-approved band (together giving 80 true channels) and all the people who used to ruin what was otherwise an excellent band are now on mobile 'phones.

Recently I've been tuning up and down the 40 UK channels in Norwich and by gum, the people here know how best to get the most from CB. Sensible, interesting, amusing, informative breakers who care about the band and other users, are always to be heard chatting, and while I listen rather than broadcast (because I am a listener first and foremost) I've been sorely tempted to join in I can tell you!

Anyone without an amateur licence who has a niggling little yen to get on the air, should give CB a whirl. A second-hand set-up will cost you well under £50. My set, a mobile Pama GX-25, cost £11 at a boot sale and came complete with an extension speaker and a power mic.

Under-21s don't need a licence and nor do pensioners. The rest of us must pay a reasonable £15 a year, though there's some debate over whether even that should go in order that the band can attract more

And PMR446? Still going strong, still largely free of those who would spoil it for others and now with some truly amazing hand-held transceivers. The Alan 441 for example. Around £70 for a pair of radios no bigger than the palm of your hand, and with a range of several kilometres on three AAA cells - fantastic. For more details, check out www.thunderpole.co.uk Until next time, good listening (you might just hear me!).

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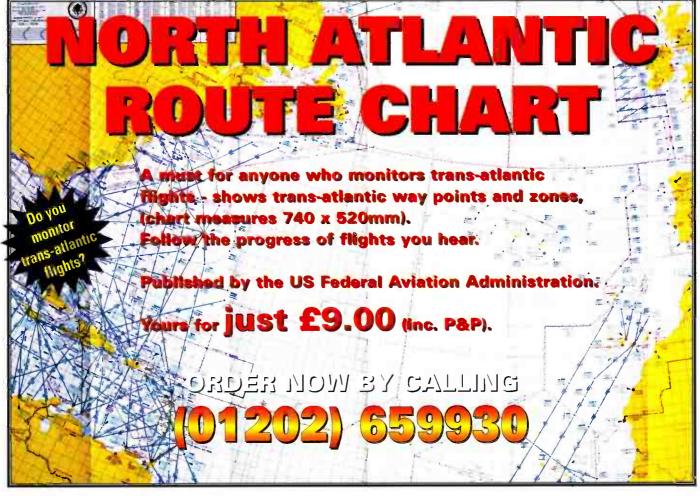
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HALTON RADIO CLUB, MODIZ. Meets at the Play Centre, Norton Hill, Windmill Hill, Runcorn. Details from Alan Parker 2E1DSF. Tel: (01928) 790228. MACCLESTIFLD WIRELESS SOCIETY GAMWS, Meets at

ck Horse Bowling Club, Abbey Road, esfield. Details from Mrs Hazel Parrott.

MID CHESHIRE ARS, G3ZTT. Meets at the Cotebrook Village Hall, Cotebrook Nr Tarporley, Cheshire. Details from Niall Reilly GOVOK. NORTH CHESHIRE RC. GOBAA. Meets at the Morley

Green Club, Mobberley Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire. Details from Jill Gourley GOOZJ, Tel: 0161-485 5036. RADIO OFFICERS ARS, MOROA, Details from Mr J. Bell

UKFM GROUP WESTERN, GB3MP Meets at the Morley

Green Club, Mobberley Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire. Details from Gordon Adams G3LEQ. Tel: (01565) 652652, FAX: (01565) 634560. WARRINGTON & DARS, GOWRS. Meets at the Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane, Grappenhall, Warrington, Cheshire. Details from John Riley GORPG, Tel: (01925) 762722.

WIDNES & RUNCORN ARC, GOFWR. Meets at the Scout Hut, Castle Road, Halton Castle, Runcorn, Cheshire. Details from Martin Tust G4LUQ. Tel: (01928) 714843.

CAMBRIA
CARLISLE & DARS, GAARS. Meets at the Morton
Community Centre, Wigton Road, Carlisle. Details from
Mr.J.A. Ennis G3XWA. Tel: (01228) 27463.

EDEN VALLEY RS, GOANT. Meets at the BBC Club, Penitth. Details from John Roze GOVMP. Tel: (01931) 716421.

FURNESS ARS, G4ARF. Meets at the Farmers Arms Hotel, Newton-in-Furness. Details from Mr K. Moore M1BWA. Tel: (01229) 465691.

WHITEHAVEN ARC, MOBEE. Details from Mr N. Williams MOCRM.

#### **GREATER MANCHESTER**

RS, G3BRS. Meets at the Mosses Centre, Cecil t, Bury, Lancs BL9 OSB. Details from Steve Gilber G. Tel: 0161-881 1850.

DOUGLAS VALLEY ARS, G3BPK. Meets at the Wigan See Cadet HQ, Training Ship Sceptre, Brookhouse Terrace, off Warrington Lane, Wigan. Details from Mr D. Snape G4GWG. Tel: (0.1942) 211397.

ECCLES & DARS, G3GXI. Meets at the Eccles Liberal Club, Wellington Road, Eccles, Manchester. Details from Chris Harrison G8KRG. Tel: 0161-773 7899.

MANCHESTER & DARS, G5MS, Meets at the Simpson Memorial Community Hall, Moston Lane, Moston, Manchester. Details from Mr T. Lever, Snr.

OLDHAM ARC, G4ORC, G1ORC. Meets at the Royston Air Training Corps, Park Lane, Royston, Oldham. Details from Michael Crossley M1CVL Tel: (01706) 367454.

OULDER HILLS ARS, GOUQA. Meets at the Oulder Community School, Hudsons Walk, Oulder Hill, Rochdale. Details from Carolyn Hope G7WFF. Tel: (01706) 522687.

ROCHDALE & DARS (RADARS), COROC. Meets at the Bamfield & Fieldhouse, Cricket Club, Bamfield Village. Details from John Cannell G70Al. Tel: (01706) 376204.

SOUTH MANCHESTER RAD & COMP CL, G3FVA. Meets at the Sale Cricket Club, Dawe Road, Sale, Cheshire. Details from Chris Ward G4HON. Tel: 0161-483 5174.

STOCKPORT RS, G6UQ, G8SRS. Meets at the T.S. Hawkins, Stockport See Cadets HQ, Pearmill Ind. Est., Stockport Road, West Howe, Lower Bredbury, Stockport Details from David Simcook M1ANT. Tel: 0161-456

TRAFFORD ARC, GOTRC, G1TRC. Meets at the Watch House, Cruising Club, Canal Bank, Stretford, Manchester M32 8WE. Details from Roger May G4YLQ. Tel: (01457) 8666575.

TRAFFORD RADIO GROUP, GOTRG. Meets at 17th Stretford Scouts HQ, Barton Road, Stretford, Manchester. Details from Jon Mossman G7JKK. Tel: 0161-865 5609.

WEST MANCHESTER RC, G4MWC. Meets at the Astley & Tydesley Miners Welfare Club, Meanly Road, Astley, Tydesley, Manchester, Details from Jeffrey Moran M08GU. Tel: (01204) 497694.

WIGAN & DARC, GOHRW. Details from Mr D.H. Barkley GODPI, Tel: (01942) 237162.

#### ISLE OF MAN

ISLE OF MAN ARS, GD3FLH. Meets in the Sea Cadets Hall, Tromode Road, Tromode, Douglas, Details from

#### LANCASHIRE

BURNLEY & DARS, RS87674. Meets at Barden High School, Barden Lane, Burnley, Lancashire. Details from Bill Scrivener GOBQC.

CENTRAL LANCS ARC, GOFDX. Meets at the Priory Club, Broadfield Drive, Leyland, Lancs. Details from Steve Shearing M1ACJ.

DARWEN ARC, G4JS. Meets at the Darwen Catholic Club, Wellington Fold, Darwen, Lancashire. Details from Len Jackson G0NPJ.

FISTS CW CLUB, GOIPX. Details from Mr E. Longden G3ZQS. Tel: (01254) 703948.

FYLDE ARS, RS53939. Meets at the Comed Aviation Club Room, Blackpool Airport, Blackpool, Details from Mike Erber G7HJQ.

MORECAMBE BAY ARS, G4YBS. Meets at the Timpell Sports & Social Club, Outmoss Lane, Morecambe, Lancs, Details from Bnan Watson G0RDH. Tel: (01524) 424522.

PRESTON ARS, G3KUE. Meets at the Lonsdale Club, Fulwood Hall Lane, Fullwood, Preston. Details from Mark Procter G1PIE.

ROLLS-ROYCE ARC, G3RR. Meets at the Club Room, Rolls-Royce Sports Ground, Barnoldswick. Details from Mr J.A. York G3KYJ.

ROSSENDALE ARS, G1RRS. Meets at the Old Fire Station, Burnley Road, Rawtenstall, Rossendale, Lancs BB4 8EW. Details from Ken Slaughter. Tel: (01706)

THORNTON CLEVELEYS ARS, G4ATH. Meets at the Frank Townsend Centre, Beach Road, Thornton Cleveleys, Lancs. Details from Mr J.E. Duddington G4BFH. Tel: (01253) 853554.

#### MERSEYSIDE

LIVERPOOL & DARS, G3AHD. Meets at the Churchill Conservative Club, Church Road, Wavertree, Liverpool L15. Details from David G. Parr G8DEY.

SOUTH WIRRAL CONTEST GROUP, G3CSA. Details from Mr T.B. Saggerson G4WSE. Tel: 0151-339 0842.

SOUTHPORT & DARC, G2OA. Meets at St. Marks Church Hall, Scarisbrick, Lancs. Details from Don Atlans M1BUL.

WIRRAL & DARC, G4MGR. Meets at the Irby Cricket Club, Mill Hill Road, Wirral. Details from Brian Black WIRRAL ARS, G3NWR, MX1ARC. Meets at the Club Room, by Farm, Arrowe Park Road, Wirral L49 5U.V. Details from Alan Upton G3UZU. Tel: 0151-677 3266.

#### NORTH EAST

#### CLEVELAND

EAST CLEVELAND ARC, GACRD. Meets at the Committee Room of The New, New Marske Institute Club, Gurney Street, Cleveland TS11 BEG. Details from Malcolm Brass G4YMB. Tel: (01287) 638119.

STOCKTON & DARG, GAXXG. Meets at the Billingham Community Centre, Billingham, Cleveland. Details from David J. London GOVGB. Tel: (01642) 896395.

BISHOP AUCKLAND RC, G4TTF. Meets at the Stanley Village Hall, Rear High Road, Stanley, Crook, Co. Durham, Details from Mark Hill GOGFG, Tel: (01388) 745353. P ALICKI AND RC. G4TTF. Meets at the Stanley

DARLINGTON & DARS, G4ZVH, Meets at the Hulworth Community Centre, Hurworth, Darlington, Co. Durham. Details from Mike Wood G8MTV. Tel: (01325) 721545.

DERWENTSIDE ARC, G4PFQ. Meets at the Steel Club, 36 Medomsley Road, Consett, Co. Durham. Details from Mr G. Darby G7GJU. Tel: 0191-370 2032.

GREAT LIMILEY AR & ES, GAEL/Z. Meets at the Community Centre, Great Lumley, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham. Details from Mr DJ. Barclay MOBPM. Tel: 0191-388 8113.

PETERLEE RADIO CLUB, GOKVJ. Details from Andrew

HUMBERSIDE

EAST YORKSHIRE ARS, GOECR. Meets at the Northern Foods Sports & Social Club, Millhouse Woods Lane, Cottingham, E. Yorks. Details from David Taylor G4EBT. Tel: (01482) 876702.

GRIMSBY ARS, G3CNX. Meets at Cromwell Social Club, Cromwell Road, Grimsby, South Humberside. Details from Mr G.J. Smith G4EBK. Tel: (01472) 887720.

HORNSEA ARS, G4EKT, Meets at The Mill, Alwick Road, Hornsea, North Humberside. Details from Jeff Southwell G4IGY, Tel: (01964) 533331.

HULL & DARS, G3AMW. Meets at the SWL Centre, Club Room, Goathland Close, Walton Street, Hull. Details from Mr R. Hatton.

RAYWELL PARK SCOUTS ARS, G4CMT. Details from Mr A.D. Russell MOAXU.

SCUNTHORPE STEEL ARC, G4FUH. Details from Alistair Butter M1ECF.

#### NORTH YORKSHIRE

HAMBLETON ARS, GOJOA. Meets at the Mencap Centre, Northallerton, N. Yorks. Details from Brickwood GOJQA. Tel: (01609) 775598.

QUEEN MARY ARCS, G6QM. Meets at Blazefield, Pateley Bridge, Harrogate, North Yorks HG3 5DR. Details from Frank Hams G4IEY. Tel: (01242) 236715.

RIPON & DARS, G4SJM. Meets at The Bunker, rear of Ripon Town Hall, North Yorkshire. Details from Nigel Drumm M1BDZ. Tel: (01423) 884733.

SCARBOROUGH ARS, G4BP. Meets at the Scarborough Cricket Club, Pavillion, North Marine Road, Scarborough, North Yorks V012 ZTJ. Details from Mr D.P. Tipper G3JBR. Tel: (01723) 377296.

SCARBOROUGH SE GRP, GX0000. Details from Roy Clayton G4SSH. Tel: (01723) 862924.

THE VINTAGE & MILITARY ARS, RS183536. Details from H.A. Asninali

YORK ARS, G3HWW. Meets at the Guppy's Enterprise Club, 17 Nunnery Lane, York. Details from Kerth Cass G3WVO. Tel: (01904) 422084.

YORK RADIO CLUB (AMATEUR) G4YRC, Meets at the Bishopthorpe Social Club, Bishopthorpe Main Street, York, Details from Gareth Foster G1DRG, Tel: (01904)

#### NORTHUMBERLAND

NORTHUMBRIA ARC, G4AAX. Meets at the Old Telephone Exchange, Cresswell Road, Ellington, Morpeth, Northumberland. Details from Mr D. Stansfield G0E/V. Tel: (01670) 513026.

#### SOUTH YORKSHIRE

FINNINGLEY ARS, G7HAH. Details from John Fennell G4HOY. Tel: (01427) B72522.

MALTBY & DARS, G4SKM. Meets at the Centenary Hall, Clifford Road, Hellaby, Rotherham. Details from Keith Johnson G1PQW. Tel: (01709) 798098.

MECBOROUGH & DARS, G4BTS. Meets at the Harrop Hall, Meethorough, South Yorks. Details from Mr R.T. Sheppard GOKSK. Tel: (01709) 586329.

SHEFFIELD ARC, GOINF. NRAE/RAE tuition provided.
Meets at the Sheffield University Staff Club, 197 Brook
Hill, Sheffield. Details from Mrs Irene Glossop GOSFH.

#### TYNE & WEAR

HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING ARC, G3NMD. Meets at the Dubmire Royal British Legion, Dubmire, Fencehouse Tyne & Wear DH4 6U. Details from Foster Aungles G0ABF. Tel: 0191-584 4673.

SOUTH TYNESIDE ARS, GXOWNQ, Meets at the Boldon Soout Hut, Grey Horse Car Park, Front Street, Boldon, Details from William Wilson MOBWI. Tel: 0191-421 9921.

TYNEMOUTH ARC GONWM. Meets at the Linskill Centre, Linskill Terrace, North Shields, Tyne & Wear. Details from Mr G.N. Thompson GOSBN.

TYNESIDE ARS, G3ZQM. Meets at the St Teresa's Club, 200b Heaton Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE6 5HP. Details from Mr J. Pickersgill GODZG. Tel: 0191-265

#### WEST YORKSHIRE

DENEY DALE & DARS, G4CDD, G8KMK. Meets at the Pie Hall, Denby Dale, West Yorkshire. Details from Mr J.P. Morley G4FSQ.

HALIFAX & DARS, G2UG. Details from Mr S.P. Ortmayer G4RAW. Tel: (01422) 203062.

KEIGHLEY ARS, GOKRS. Meets at the Cncket Club, Ingrow, Keighley, West Yorkshire. Details 1 Townson M1BGY. Tel: (01274) 723951.

LEEDS & DARS, G4LAD. Meets at The Radio Shack, Yambury (Horsforth), RUFC Grounds, Brownberrie Lane, Horsforth, Leeds LS18 5HB. Details from Mr E. Howden

NORTH WAKEFIELD RC, G4NOK. Meets at the East Ardsley Cricket Club, Nr Wakefield. Details from Mrs Olga Parker 2E1ASV. Tel: 0113-253 9087.

OTLEY ARS, G30NO. Meets at The RAOB Club, Westgate, Otley, West Yorkshire. Details from Jack Worsnop GOSNV, Tel: (01274) 636197.

PONTEFRACT & DARC, G3FYQ. Meets at the Carleton Community Centre, Pontefract, West Yorkshire. Details from Colin Wilkinson GONQE. Tel: (01977) 677006.

SPEN VALLEY ARS, G3SVC. Meets at the Old Bank WMC, Mirfield, West Yorkshire. Details from Mr J.R. Wilde G0F0I. Tel: (01274) 875038.

WAKEFIELD & DARS, G3WRS. Meets at the Ossett Community Centre, Prospect Road, Ossett, W. York Details from Ian Roberts. Tel: (01924) 216502.

WAKEFIELD RPTR GP, GOKNR. Details from Mr Mike Charlton G60XZ.

WHITE ROSE ARS, G3XEP Meets at the Moortown RUFC, Moss Valley, Kings Lane, Leeds LS17 7NT. Details from Mr M. Wilson G7SDW. Tel: 0113-273 6039.

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NSTABLE DOWNS RC, G4DDC. Meets at the Chews use, 77 High Street South, Dunstable, Beds LU6 F. Details from Phil Seaford GBXTW. Tel: (01.525)

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CAMBRIDGE & DARC, G2XV, Meets at the Coleridge

Community College, Radegund Road, Cambridge.

Details from Ron Huntsman G3KBR. Tel: (01223)

DUXFORD ARS, GB2IWM. Meets at Building 177,
Duxford Airfield, Cambs, Details Imperial War Museum, Duxford Airfield, Ca from Mrs B.I. Pope. Tel: (01279) 656149.

GTR PETERBOROUGH ARC, G4EHW. Meets at the 6th Form Building, Stanground College, Farcet Road,

Fletton, Peterborough. Details from Alan D. Ralph GBXLH.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE ARS, GOHSR, Meets at the Medway Centre, Medway Road, Huntingdon. Details from David Leech G7DIU. Tel: (01480) 431333.

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BUXTON RA, G4SPA. Meets at the Leewood Hotel, Buxton. Details from Derek Carson G4IHO. Tel: (01298) 25506.

DERBY & DARS, G2DJ. Meets at 119 Green Lane, Derby. Details from Martin Shardlow G3SZJ. Tel: (01332) 556875.

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MOUNT ST MARY'S ARC, G4MSM. Meets at the College, Spinkhill, Sheffield. Details from Rev. P. GODAG. Tel: (01246) B12230.

NOTTS & DERBY BORDER ARC, GANID. Meets at Marlpool United Reform Church, Chapel Street, Marlpool, likeston, Details from Graham Bromley G4UTN. Tel: (01773) 834308.

NUNSFIELD HOUSE ARG, G3FEO. Meets at the Nunsfield House, Boulton Lane, Alvaston, Derby. Details from William F. Smith G7PJJ.

STH DERBYS & ASHBY W ARG, GOSRC. Meets at the Moira Replan Centre, 17 Ashby Road, Moira, Swadlincote, Derbyshire DE12 6DJ, Details from Mrs B. Walley, Tei: (01283) 760822.

STH NORMANTON, ALFRETON & DARC, GOCPO. Meets at the New St Community Centre, New Street, South Normanton, Derbyshire. Details from Peter Gething MOCLQ. Tel: 01.15-955 5766.

#### GLOUCESTERSHIRE

CHELTENHAM AR ASSN, G5BK. Meets at the Prestbury Library, Prestbury, Cheltenham. Details from Ivan Wilson G4BGW. Tel: (01452) 731956.

CHELTENHAM CLUSTER SUPP GP, GB7DXC. Details from Mr A.M. Davies GOHDB. Tel: (01684) 72178.

GLOUCESTER AR & ES, G4AYM. Meets at the Churchdown School, Churchdown. Details from Mr A.J. Martin. Tel: (01452) 618930.

SMITHS INDUSTRIES RS, G4MEN. Meets at the Sports & Social Club, Evesham Road, Bishops Cleeve, Chettenham GL52 4SF. Details from A.J. Hooper G1JMF.

STROUD RS, G4SRS. Meets at the Minchampton Youth Centre, nr Stroud. Details from Mr S.G. Spencer G3ILO. WHITE NOISE LISTENING GOWNL. Details from Adrian Deane G7KOG.

#### HEREFORD & WORCESTER

BROMSGROVE & DARC, G3VGG. Meets at the Avoncroft Arts Centre, Bromsgrove, Worcs. Details from Mr J.F. Burford G4OAZ.

BROMSGROVE ARS, G4TUI. Meets at the Likey End WMC, Bromsgrove, Words. Details from Barry Taylor G0TPG. Tel: (01527) 542266.

DROTTWICH ARC, G4PVO. Meets in the Community Hall, Doitwich Spa, Worcs. Details from Hector Wragg M1BUV. Tel: (01905) 794399. HEREFORD ARS, G3YDD. Meets at the Civil Defence HQ, Magistrates Court, Gaol Street, Hereford. Details from Tim Bridgland-Taylor GOJWJ. Tel: (01432) 270445

279435. KIDDERMINSTER & DARS, GOKRC, Meets at the Sutton Arms, Sutton Park Road, Kidderminster, Worcs. Details from Mr A.W. Saunders GOOZB, Tel: (01299) 400172.

MALVERN HILLS ARC, G4MHC. Meets at the Red Lion Inn, St Anne's Road, Malvern, Worcs. Details from Dave Hobro G4IDF. Tel: (01905) 351568.

REDDITCH RC, G4ACZ. Meets at the WRVS Centre, Ludlow Road, Redditch, Worcs. Details from Mr R.J. Mutton G3EVT. Tet: (01789) 762041.

VALE OF EVESHAM RAC, GOERA. Meets at the BBC Club, High Street, Evesham, Worcs. Details from Mr A.C. Lindsay G4NRO. Tel: (01386) 41508.

**LEICESTERSHIRE 1F ATC, G7MCD.** Details from Sqn Cmdr Adrian Utting G1WZQ.

BEAUMANOR ARC, G3BMR

DEMONTFORT UNIVERSITY, G3SDC. Open to pest and present students. Details from Mr R.G. Tritenington. Tel

HINCKLEY AR & ES, G3VLG. Meets at the United Services Club, St. May's Road, Hinckley. Details from Mr R.A. Bennett G8BFF. Tel: (01455) 846493.

LEICESTER RS, G3LRS. Meets at Gilroes Cottage, Groby Road, Leicester LE3 9QJ. Details from Mr S.P. Hay G3HYH, Tel: 0116-224 2598.

LOUGHBOROUGH & DARC, G3RAL Meets at Hind Leys College, Shepshed, Loughborough, Leics. Details from Chris Walker G1ETZ. Tel: (01509) 504319. MELTON MOWBRAY ARS, G4FOX. Meets at the St. John Ambulance Hall, Asfordby Hill, Melton Mowbray, Leics. Details from Mr R. Winters G3NVK. Tel: (01664) 63369. NATIONAL SPACE CENTRE ARS, M1NSC. Details from Mr J. Heath G7HIA.

TAMWORTH ARS, G8TRS. Details from Mr A.I. Dyson G0HUW. Tel: (01827) 830437.

WELLAND VALLEY ARS, G4WVR. Meets at the Village Hall, The Green, Great Bowden, Leics. Details from The

#### LINCOLNSHIRE

FIVE BELLS GROUP, G4SN. Details from Mr B.K. Tatnall G40DA.

GRANTHAM RC. GOGRC. Meets at the Kontak Social Club, Barrowby Road, Grantham, Lincs. Details from the secretary. Tel: (01476) 657436.

LINCOLN SHORT WAVE CLUB, G5FZ, Meets At The Railway Club, Triton Road, Lincoln. Details from Mrs Pam Rose G4STO. Tel: (01427) 788356.

RAF CONINGSBY ARC, G3LQS. Meets at Essex Block, RAF Coningsby, Details from Peter Hanson G0NVY.

RAF WADDINGTON ARC, GORAF. Meets at Pyewipe Inn, Fossebank, Saxilby Road, Lincoln, Details from Robert Pickles G3VCA. Tel: (01522) 528708.

SPALDING & DARS, G4BSP. Meets at The Old Fire Station, Spalding, Lincs. Details from Raymond Pearso G8ELV. Tel: (01775) 711953, Web: www.sdars.org.uk

SPILSBY ARS, RS91468, Details from Clive Ironmonger G6HyF, Tel: (01790) 752712.

NORTHANTS
KETTERING & DARS, GSKN. Meets at The Lilacs Public House, 39 Chuch Street, Isham, Kettering, Northants Nn14 1HD. Details from Fay Barwell G6AKS. Tel: (01536) 390954.

MID NORTHANTS AR EXP. GOING. Details from Lionel Parker G5LP.

NORTHAMPTON RC, G3GWB. Meets at the British Timken, Social & Athletic Club, Cotswold Avenue, Duston, Northampton. Details from Norman Miller GOGBZ, Tel: (01327) 349188.

NORTHAMPTON SCOUT ARG, GGNDS. Meets at Overstone Scout Activity Centre, Northampton. Details from Ian Rivett GBWPU.

PARALLEL LINES CG. G4LIP Details from Mr P.S. Lidsey

#### NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

ARC OF NOTTINGHAM, G3EW. Meets at the Haywood Road Community Association, Haywood Road, Mapperley Road, Nottingham NG3 6AD, Details from Ron Hague G4XOU, Tel: 0115-919 91.77.

DUKERIES ARS, G4XTL Meets at Ambleside Community Centre, Ambleside, New Ollerton, Notts. Details from Colin Foster G7DEX.

HUCKNALL ROLLS ROYCE ARC, G5RR. Meets at the Hucknall Rolls Royce Sports & Social Club, Watnall Road, Hucknall, Nottingham. Details from Mr P. Hart G4JSM.

MANSFIELD ARS, G3GQC. Meets at the Debdale Park Sports & Recreation Club, Debdale Lane, Mansfield Woodhouse, Notts. Details from David Peat GORDP Tel: (01623) 631931.

NORTH NOTTS DATA GROUP, GOWNN, Details from Tony Jenkins G8TBF.

SIEMENS ARC, G8ZK, G8IGQ. Meets at the GPT Sports Ground, Beeston, Nottinghamshire. Details from Chris Archer G4VFK. Tel: 0115-943 3387.

SOUTH NOTTS ARC, GOOAU. Meets at the Fairham Community College, Famborough Road, Clifton, Nottingham NG11 9AE. Details from Gary Bishop GOWUG, Tel: (01509) 672846,

WORKSOP ARS, G3RCW. Meets at the Club House, 59-61 West Street, Worksop, Nottinghan S80 1JP. Details from Terry Calvert G4GBS. Tel: (01302) 743130.

#### SHROPSHIRE

OSWESTRY & DARC, G4TTO, G10RA. Meets at the Sweeney Hall Hotel, Sweeney, Oswestry. Details from Ant Astley GW0AJA. Tel: (01691) 860545.

SALOP ARS, G3SRT, M1AXW. Meets at the Telepost Club, Railway Lane, Abbey Forgate, Shrewsbury. Details from John Burnford GOGTN.

TELFORD & DARS, G3ZME. Meets at the Dawley Bank Community Centre, Dawley, Telford, Shropshire. Detail from Mr M. Vincent G3UKV. Tel: (01952) 255416.

#### STAFFORDSHIRE

BURTON ON TRENT & DARS, G3NFC. Meets at the Stapehill Institute, Main Street, Stapehill, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs. Details from Mr M.W. Cotton G4HBY.

CANNOCK CHASE ARS, G6SW, Meets at the Four Crosses Inn, Watting Street, Hatherton, Cannock. Details from Arnold Matthews G3FZW, Tel: (01543) Details for 262495.

CHAD RC, G4CAR, Meets at the Swinfen Officer's Club. Swinfen, Lichfield, Staffs. Details from Bernard Jayne G8BFL. Tel: (01543) 268569.

LICHFIELD ARS, G3WAS. Meets at the Queens Head, Sandford Street, Lichfield. Details from Roger Smethers G3NLY. Tel: (01543) 672762.

MOORLANDS & DARS, GANHT, G1MAD. Meets at the Creda Works, Blythe Bridge, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs ST11 9L. Details from Mr B.J. Butcher G4HKG. Tel: (01782) 395793.

#### NEWCASTLE-U-LYME SCOUT AR COM GR, G7UQG

NORTH STAFFS ARS, G4BEM, Meets at the Blacklake Lodge, Hilderstone Road, Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 7 NS, Details from Menyn Bennett G4HUO, Tel: (01782) 394887.

STOKE-ON-TRENT ARS, G3GBU. Meets at the '45' Club, 92 Lancaster Road, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs. Details from Albert Allen G4DHO. Tel: (01782) 638801.

SUTTON COLDFIELD RS, G3RSC. Meets at the Rugby Club, Walmiley Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, Details from Paul G, Turner G7MWD, Tel: 0121-350 4263.

#### WARWICKSHIRE

AVON VALLEY ARA, MORAD. Details from Mr Peter Bradham GOWXJ. Tel: (01905) 724531.

MID WARWICKSHIRE ARS, G3UDN. Meets at the St. John Ambulance HQ, 61 Emscote Road, Warwick. Details from Bernard Pittaway. Tel: (01926) 420913.

RUGBY ATS, G4APD. Details from Tony Humphnes GOOLS. Tel: (01455) 552683.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON & DRS, GOSOA. Meets at the Home Guard Club, Tiddingham, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warks. Details from Ron Horsley GOMRH. Tel: (07970)

#### WEST MIDLANDS

ALDRIDGE & BARR BEACON ARC, GONEQ. Meets at the Aldridge Central Hall Community Centre, Middlemore Lane, Aldridge WS9 8AN. Details from Mr C.J. Baker GONOL. Tel: (01922) 636162.

COVENTRY ARS, G2ASF. Meets at the Binley Church Hall, Brinklow Road, Coventry. Details from John B G8SEQ. Tel: (01203) 673999.

DUDLEY ARC, G4DAR. Meets at the Community Centre, Sedgley, Central Library, St James Road, Dudley, Details from Tony Lucas G4LVA. Tel: (01384) 277925.

HILLCREST ARS, GOSPM. Meets at The College, Simms Lane, Netheron, Dudley, West Midlands. Details from Mrs Megan Fleetwood GOTMF. Tel: (01384) 294804.

KYNOCH R & TVS, G3HPP. Meets at the Club Workshop, IMI Ltd., Sportsfield, Perry Bar, Birmingham, Details from Mr G, Nicholls. Tel: (01922) 635376.

MIDLAND ARS, G3MAR. Meets at Unit 22, 60 Regent Place, Hockley, Birmingham (jewelry quarter). Details from John A. Crane GOLAI. Tel: 0121-628 7632.

SANDWELL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, GOCWC. Meets at Sandwell ARC, Broadway, Oldbury, Warley, West Midlands 868 90P Details from Stuart Collins MOBTO. Tel: 0121-561 4663.

SIERRA HOTEL ARCG, GOOBS. Details from Warwick M. Hall G4WMH.

SOLIHUL ARS, G3GEI. Meets at The Shirley Centre, 274 Stratford Road, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands. Details from Paul Gaskin G8AYY. Tel: 0121-783 2996

SOUTH BIRMINGHAM RS, G30HM, Meets at Hampstead House, Fairfax Road, West Heath, Birmingham. Details from The SBRS Secretary

STOURBRIDGE & DRS, G6OI, G6SRS. Meets at the Old Swinford Hospital/School, Stourbridge, West Midlands. Details from Tom Edwards

WEST BROMWICH CENTRAL RC, G4WBC. Meets at The Sandwell Public House, High Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands. Details from Ian Leitch G0PAI. Tel: 0121-561, 2884.

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE ARC, GOCOP, G1WMP. Details from Steven Jones G6LRL.

WILLENHALL & DARS, G4ETW. Meets at The Liberal Club, Villiers Street, Willenhall, West Midlands. Details from Dave Bradbury. Tel: (01902) 411252.

WOLVERHAMPTON ARS, GSTA. Meets at the Electricity Board Sports Club, St. Marks Road, Chapel Ash, Wolverhampton. Details from Mrs J. Smith. Tel: (01902) 751936.

WORDSLEY RC, GAWRA. Meets at the Brick Maker's Arms, Mount Pleasant, Briefley Hill, West Midlands, Details from Andy Evans G1PKZ.

#### LONDON & CENTRAL

BERKSHIRE
ARBORFIELD ARC, G3HH. Details from Mrs E.W. Harding 2E1AUQ.

BRACKNELL AEC, G4BRA. Meets at the Coopers Community Centre, Bagshot Road, Bracknell, Ber Details from John Ellerton G3NCN.

BURNHAM BEECHES RC, G3WR. Meets at the Famham Common Village Hall, Victoria Road, Famham Common, Bucks. Details from Mrs Eileen Chislett G6Ell. Tel: (01628) 625720.

MAIDENHEAD & DARC, G3MOL Meets at the Red Cross Hall, The Crescent, Maidenhead, Berkshire, Details from Neil Savin GOSVN. Tel: (01628) 626210.

NEWBURY & DARS, G5XV. Meets at the Royal British Legion, Pelican Lane, Newbury. Details from Mark Slade MOCUK. Tel: (01488) 638985.

READING ARC, G3ULT. Meets at the Woodley Pavillion, Woodford Park, Haddon Drive, Woodley, Reading, Details from Marnoch Standen G0JMS, Tel: 0118-972

#### BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

AYLESBURY VALE RS, G4VRS. Meets at the Harwick Village Hall, Aylesbury, Bucks, Details from Mr LI. Cropley G0DFC.

CHESHAM & DARS, G3MDG, G1MDG. Meets at the White Hill Centre, Chesham, Bucks, Details from Mr T.J. Thirlwell GOVFW. Tel: (01442) 832169.

CHILTERN ARC, G3CAR, Details from Roy Page G4YAN Tel: (01494) 534216.

MILTON KEYNES ARS, 63HIU. Meets at Room 202, Faulkner House, Bletchely Park Museum, Wilton Avenue, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, Details from Matt Preston. Tel: (01908) 379739,

MILTON KEYNES SCOUT ARS, GOSMIK. Meets at The Quarries, M.K. Scout Campsite, Cosgrove. Details from Mr P.A. Orchard GORYZ. Tel: (01908) 648186.

#### GREATER LONDON

ADDISCOMBE ARC, GAALE. Meets at the Lion Inn, Pawsons Road, Croydon. Details from Mr Q.G. Collier G3WRR. Tel: 0208-653 6948.

BARKING R & ES, G3/BF. Meets at the Parksi Community Centre. Details from Bill Chewter Tel: (01708) 474443,

BROMLEY & DARS, RS89030. Meets at the Victory Social Club, Kechill Gardens, Hayes, Bromley, Details from Alan G. Messenger GOTLK.

CLIFTON ARS, G3GHN. Meets at the Kidbrooke House Community Centre, 90 Mycenae Road, London SE3 7SE. Details from Mr J, Veaney G7 BKH.

CRYSTAL PALACE & DRC, G3VCP. Meets at the All Saints Church, Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill, London. Details from Bob Burns G300U. Tel: (01737) 552170.

DARENTH VALLEY RADIO, GOKOV. Meets at the Crockenhill Village Hall, Swanley, Kent. Details from Mr K.W. Halls G8VJG. Tel: (01322) 663022.

ECHELFORD ARS, GOUES. Meets at The Community Centre, St. Martin's Court, Kingston Crescent, Ashfo Middlesex, Details from Robin Hewes GOTDR. Tel: (01784) 456513.

EDGWARE & DRS, G3ASR. Meets at the Watting Community Centre, 145 Orange Hill Road, Burnt Oak, Edgware, Middlesex. Details from Stephen Slater Edgware, Middlesex. Details fro GOPQB. Tel: 0208-953 2164.

HAVERING & DARS, G4HRC. Meets at the Fairkytes Arts Centre, 51 Billet Lane, Hornchurch, Essex.

RS OF HARROW, G3EFX. Meets at the Harrow Arts Centre, Uxbridge Road, Hatch End, Middlesex. Details from Mr C. Fnel G4AUF. Tel: (01895) 621310.

SILVERTHORNE RC, G3SRA, G2HR, G9CSA. Meets at the Chingford Adult Education and Community Centre, Friday Hill House, Simmons Lane, Chingford, London Ed 6JH. Details from Dave Christy G0KHC, Tel: 0208-504

SOUTH LONDON COLLEGE ARS, G3HFY. Meets at the Lambeth College, Norwood Centre, Knights Hill, West Norwood, London. Details from Mr M. Knott GOWCR.

SOUTHGATE RC, G3SRG. Meets at the Winchmore Hill Cricket Club, Firs Lane, London N21 3ER. Details from Mr D.F. Berry G4DFB.

ST DUNSTANS COLLEGE ARS, G4SDC. Details from Sam Kennard G40HX. Tel: 0181-690 1274.

SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB, G3SRC. Meets at the T.S. Terra Nova, 34 The Waldrons, Croydon, Surrey, Details from Maurice Fagg G4DDY. Tel: 0208-669

WEST LONDON ARS, RS95599. Details from Robin Clay

WHITTON ARG, GOMIN. Meets at the Whitton Community Centre, Percy Road, Whitton. Details from Ian Clabon GOOFN. Tel: 0208-894 9131.

#### HERTFORDSHIRE

BISHOPS STORTFORD ANS, 652G. Meets at the Royal British Legion Club, Windhill, Bishop's Stortford, Herts. Details from Tony Judge GOPQF. Tel: (01279) 506933.

DACORUM ARTS, G7RIH, GOWIH, Meets at the Guide Meeting Rooms (next to the Royal British Le Queensway, Hemel Hempstead. Details Hamilton GOTCD. Tel: (01442) 211925.

HODDESDON RADIO CLUB, GOTSN. Meets at the Rye Park Conservative Club, Rye Road, Hoddesdon, Hert Details from Don Platt G3JNJ. Tel: 0208-292 3678.

MIMRAM CONTEST GP, MOABC, Details from Alan Holdsworth G800. Tel: (01707) 392950.

RADIO SCOUTING TEAM, GB2RST. Meets at Tolmers Scout Camp, Tolmers Road, Cuffley, Herts EN6 4JS. Details from Mill Livens G2CKB. Tel: (01992) 558493.

STEVENAGE & DARS, G3SAD. Meets at the Stevenage Day Centre, Chells Way, Stevenage, Herts SG2 0LT. Details from Peter Bell 2E1CRK. Tel: (01462) 674505.

VERULAM ARC, G3VER, G8VER. Meets at the RAF Association HQ, New Kent Road, St Albans, Herts. Details from Walter Craine G3PMF. Tel: (01923) Details fro 262180.

WELWYN & HATFIELD ARC, G3WGC. Meets at the Royal Naval Association, Black Fan Road, Welvyn Garden City, Herts. Details from Dean Jackson G7PKF. Tel: (07973) 560649.

BENTLEY ARC, GOVZS. Details from Derek Gilbert GONFA.

CATERHAM RG, GOSCR, Details from Mr P.N. Lei G4APL.

COULSDON AMATEUR TRANS. SOC., GAFUR. Meets at St Swithuns Church Hall, Grovelands Road, Purley, Surrey. Details from Andy Briers GOKZT. Tel: (01737) Surrey. D 552139

DORKING & DRS, G3CZU, G7DOR. Details from John Greenwell G3AEZ. Tel: (01306) 631236.

FARNBOROUGH & DRS, G4FRS. Meets at The Community Centre, Meudon Avenue, Famborough, Hants. Details from Mr M. Hearsey G8ATK. Tel: (01252) 715765.

GUILDFORD & DRS, GGGS. Meets at the Guildford Model Engineers HQ, Stoke Park, Guildford, Surrey, Details from Stella Whitbourn GOSWE.

KINGSTON & DARS, G3KIN, Details from Mrs Mary Ashdown GOBOV.

REIGATE ATS, G5LK, G7RAT. Details from Mr A.C. Embling G1LNT. Tel: (01883) 344723.

SUTTON & CHEAM RS, 620P; G7SAC. Meets at the Sutton United Football Club, Borough Sports Ground, Gender Green Lane, Sutton, Surrey, Details from John Puttock G0BW/. Tel: 0208-644 9945.

THAMES VALLEY ARTS, G3TVS. Meets at the Thames Ditton Library, Watts Roed, Giggs Hill, Thames Ditton, Surrey, Details from Cdr. J. Pegler G3ENI. Tel: (01483) 284279.

WIMBLEDON & DARS, G3WIM. Meets at St. Andrews Church Hall, Herbert Road, Wimbledon, London. Details from Mr Reg Blackwell M1EEK. Tel: 0208-696 9857.

#### TRAS HILLOR & HILLOR

#### EAST SUSSEX

BRIGHTON & DRS, G4GOR. Meets at the Roast Beef Bar, Brighton Racecourse, Elm Grove, Brighton. Details from Mr PJ. Fellingham.

CROWBOROUGH DARS, GOCRW. Meets at the Pk Horses, Walshes Road, Javis Brook. Details from M, Clark. Tel: (01892) 663666.

EAST SUSSEX AMATEUR TV GROUP, RS178475 was GB3VX. Details from Keith Ellis G8HGM. TEL: (01323) 720220

SOUTHDOWN ARS, G3WQK. Details from Jim Harris G4DRV. Tel: (01323) 728479.

THE ORZ ARG OF SUSSEX, GB3VX, Meets at the Coach Station, Wartling Road, Eastbourne, Details Constable MOCHW. Tel: (01435) 863020.

#### HAMPSHIRE

ANDOVER RAC, GOARC. Meets at the Village Hall, Wildhern, Andover, Hants. Details from Mr R.S. Coleman GOWYD

BASINGSTOKE ARC, G3TCR, G8J/N. Meets at the GEMS Social Club, Lister Road, Basingstoke, Hants. Details from Bob Brown MOCJJ.

FAREHAM & DARC, G3VEF. Meets at the Portchest Community Centre, Westlands Grove, Portchester, Hants. Details from Andrew Sinclair G0AMS. Tel: (01329) 235397.

HIGHFIELD PARK RC, G4WD. Meets at Highfield Park RC, National Air Traffic Service, Highfield Park, Heckfield, Hants RG27 OLD. Tel: (01734) 225019.

HORNDEAN & DARC, GAFBS. Meets at Lovedean Village Hall, Lovedean Lane, Lovedean, Hants. Details from Stuart Swain GOPYX. Tel: (01705) 472846.

ITCHEN VALLEY ARC, GOIVR. Meets at the Scout Hut, Brickfield Lane, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh, Hants. Details from Sheila Williams GOVNI. Tel: (01703) 813827.

SONY BROADCAST ARC, G4SZC. Accredited C8 centre. Meets at Sony Sports & Social Club, Pric Road, Basingstoke. Details from Stephen Harding G4JGS. Tel: (01256) 55011.

SOUTH HAMPSHIRE INT. TELE SOC., G3DIT. Meets at G3JZV's QTH, Space is limited. Details from Rev. T.R. Mortimer G3JZV. Tel: 02392 649254.

SUBMARINE ARC, G3BZU. Meets at HMS Collingwood, Newgate Lane, Fareham, Hants P014 1AS. Details from Mr W.S. Blyth GOPPH. Tel: (01329) 232386.

THREE COUNTIES ARC, G4WWR. Meets at the Brarrishott Parish Inst. & Club, Headley Road, Liphook, Hants. Details from Damian Kamm G7RFV. Tel: (01428) Hants. Do 724456.

WATERSIDE ARS, G4JYN. Meets at the Applemore Scout HQ, Applemore, Hythe, Southampton. Detai from Tony Horton G0LKG. Tel: (01703) 841794.

#### ISLE OF WIGHT

BRICKFIELDS ARS, GOBAR. Meets at Brickfields Horse Country Cent, Newnham Road, Binstead, Isle of Wight. Details from Mr Pebody.

ISLE OF WIGHT RS, G3SKY. Meets at The Old Cafe, Whiteciff Bay, Holiday Park, Bernbridge. Details from Alan Reeves G4ZFQ. Tel: (01983) 294309.

#### OXFORDSHIRE

BANBURY ARS, COBRA. Meets at St. John's Church Social Club, South Bar, Banbury, Oxon. Details from R.S. Marsden G1YSY. TeVFAX: (01295) 253509.

HARWELL ARS, G3PA. Meets at the Social Club, Harwell Laboratory, Didcot, Oxon. Tel: (01235) 223250.

OCCORD & DARS, G5LO. Meets at the Grove House Club, George Street, Summertown, Oxford. Details from Mr D. Walker G3BLS. Tel: (01865) 247311.

VALE OF WHITE HORSE ARS, GSRP, G4VWH, G6VWH. Meets at The Fox, Steventon. Details from Ian White G3SEK. Tel: (01235) 531559.

#### WEST SUSSEX

CHICHESTER ARC, G2NM. Meets at the St. Pancras Hall, Chichester. Details from Graham Swann GOWSD.

CRAWLEY ARC, G3WSC. Meets at the Tilgate Fores Rec. Centre, Hut 18, Tilgate Forest, Crawley, West Sussex. Details from Mr J.S. Spence GOFPI.

HORSHAM ARC, GAHRS. Meets at the Guide Hall, Denne Road, Horsham, West Sussex. Details from Alister Watt G3ZBU. Tel: (01403) 253432.

MID SUSSEX ARS, G3ZMS. Meets at Marle Place Leylands Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex. Details from Mr C. Childs 2E1DCP. Tel: (01444) 244689.

T.S. VINDICATRIX ASN, GOWVB. Details from Don Still GOOOC.

WORTHING & DARC, G3WOR. Meets at the Lancing Parish Hall, South Street, Lancing, West Sussex. WORTHING & DISTRICT VIDEO RG, GB3VR. Details from the Treasurer. Tel: (01903) 211919 (w).

CHIPPENIAM & DARS, GSVRE. Meets at the Sea Cadet HQ, Chippenham. Details from Jon Ainge G4LGZ. Tel: (01249) 462610.

SMINDON & DARC, G3FEC. Meets at the Eastcott Community Centre, Savenake St., Swindon, Details from Den Forrest MOACM.

TROWBRIDGE & DARC, G2BQY. Meets at the Southwick Village Hall, Southwick, Trowbridge, Wilts. Details from Ian Carter GOGRI, Tel: (01225) 864698.

#### SOUTH WEST & CHANNEL ISLANDS

#### AVON

BRISTOL ARC, G3TAD. Meets at the Lodgeside Club, Lodge Road, Kingswood, Bristol. Details from Dave Bendrey G7BYN.

GORDANO ARG, GEGRG. Meets at The Ship, Redcliffe Bey, Portishead, Avon. Details from Mr R.T. White G8SPC. Tel: (01275) 874001.

NORTH BRISTOL ARC, G4GCT. Meets at the Self Help Enterprise, 7 Braemar Close, Northville, Bristol. Detail from David Coxon G0GHM. Tel: (01275) 790448.

SEVERNSIDE TV GROUP, GB3ZZ. Meets at NBARC, Filton, Bristol, Details from Paul Stevenson G8YMM, Tel: 0117-965 5386. SHIREHAMPTON ARC, GAAHG. Meets at the Twyford House, Lower High Street, Shirehampton, Bristol. Details from Mr R.G. Ford G4GTD. Tel: 0117-985

Details 6253. SOUTH BRISTOL ARC, G4WAW. Meets at the Whitchurch Folk House, East Dundry Road, Bristol. Details from Mr LF. Baker. Tel: (01275) 834282.

THORNBURY & SOUTH GLOS ARC, G4ABC, Meets at the United Reform Church Hall, Rock Street, Thombury, Bristol. Details from Stan Greenhill GORYM. Tel: (01454) 413177.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE RS, G4WSM. Meets at the Woodspring Hotel, High Street, Worle, Weston-Super-



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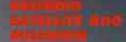




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CORNWALL & SCILLY IS
CORNISH RAC, GACRC. Meets at the Perran-ar-Worthal
Village Hall, Perranwell, Nr Truro, Comwall. Details from
Mrs Cheryll Hammett 2EJADQ. Tel: (01726) 882758.

NEWQUAY & DARS, G4ADV. Meets at the Treviglas School, Newquay. Details from Mrs Maggle Reed GOKEM. Tel: (01726) 882752.

POLDHU ARC, GB2GM. Meets at the Club House, Poldhu Cove, Mullion, Comwall TR12 7JB. Details from Mrs Carolyn Rule MOADA. Tel: (01326) 240144.

SALTASH & DARC, GAGXK, GBSAL. Meets at the Toc H Hall, Warraton Road, Saltash, Comwall. Details from Brian Giles. Tel: (01752) 844321.

ST AUSTELL ARC, GOECC. Meets at Poltair School. Details from Reg Pears G4TRV. Tel: (01726) 72951.

#### DEVON

APPLEDORE & DARC, G2FKO. Meets at the Appledore Football Club. Details from Mr B. Jewell MOBRB.

AXE VALE ARC, GBCA, G7AXE. Meets at the George Hotel, Axminster, Devon, Details from Pat Cross GOGHH. Tel: (01297) 33756.

DARTIMOOR RADIO CLUB, G1RCD, GODRC, Meets at the Yelverton War Memonal Village Hall, Meavy Lane, Yelverton, Devon, Details from Ron Middleton G7LLG. Tel: (01822) 852586.

DETER ARS, GAARE. Meets at the Moose Centre, Spinning Path Lane, Blackboy Road, Exeter. Details from Ray Donno G3YBK.

EXMOUTH ARC, GOXRC. Meets at The Scout Hut, Marloool Hill, Exmouth.

NORMAN LOCKYER OBSERVATORY ARG, GOAXC. Meets at the Norman Lockyer Observatory, Salcombe Hill, Sidmouth. Details from Ron Harnson GONOC. Tel: (01395) 515349.

NTE (PAIGNTON) ARS, GOOSH. Meets at Paignto Community College, Upper School, Waterleat Rc Paignton. Details from Rod Maude GOSWM. Tel: (01803) 521066.

SOUTH DEVON ARC, G4SSD. Meets at the Hillhead, Kingswear, Devon. Details from John May GOCDB. Tet: (01803) 522995.

TORBAY ARS, G3NJA. Meets at the Highweek Family & Social Club, Highweek, Newton Abbot, Devon. Details from John Olway G3RMA. Tel: (01803) 556425.

UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH ARS, GOUOP. Details from Alan Santillo GOXAW.

#### DORSET

ELACONORE VALE ARS, GARRIV. Meets at Shaftesbury Club for Young People, Coppice Street, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 BPF. Details from Mr A. Marnott GOGFL. Tel: (0258) 860741.

BOURNEMOUTH RS, G2BRS. Meets at the Kinson Community Centre, Kinson, Bournemouth, Dorset. Details from Len Rayner MOAXI. Tel: (01202) 895134.

CHRISTCHURCH ARS, GOMUD. Meets at the Siemens Plessey Sports & Social Club, Grange Road, Somerford, Christchurch, Dorset. Details from Mr K.P. Harris GTWSN. Tet: (01202) 484892.

FLIGHT REFUELLING ARS, G4RFR. Meets at the Flight Refuelling Social Club, Merley, Wimborne, Dorset Details from Martin Axon 2E1DFZ. Tel: (01202)

POOLE RS, G4PRS, Meets at the Bournemouth & Poole CFE, Constitution Hill Site, Poole, Dorset. Details from Phil Mayer GOKKL. Tel: (01202) 700903.

PORTLAND ARC, GOVOP/GTVQP. Meets at Clifton Hotel, Grove Road, Portland. Details from Kerry Morris G1WIK. Tel: (01305) 788591.

SOUTH DORSET RS, G3SDS. Meets at the Church Hall, Chickerell, Weymouth, Dorset. Details from John Rose MOBQO. Tel: (01305) 832057.

WESSEX AMATEUR WIRELESS CLUB, G1WAW. I from Ken Powell G1NCG. Tel: (01202) 549376

DERSEY ARS, GJ3DVC. Meets at the German Signal Station, Rue Baai, La Moye, St Brelade. Details from Mrs Anne Mourant MJ0BJU. Tel: (01534) 734948.

#### SOMERSET

PRESTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL ARC, GOPCS. Details from Craig Douglas GOHDJ. Tel: (01935) 71131.

TAUNTON & DARS, G3XZW. Meets at The Memorial Hall, Trull, Taunton. Details from David Rosewam MOCIF.

WEST SOMERSET ARC, GOOWX. Meets at the West Somerset Community College, Minehead, Somerset. Details from Alan Elliott G7RSU. Tel: (01643) 707207.

WINCANTON ARC, GOWRA. Meets at King Arthur's Community School, West Hill, Wincanton, Details from Mr G.A. Fingerhut GOENW. Tel: (01963) 370506.

YEOVIL & DARC, G3CMH, G8YEO. Meets at the British Red Cross HQ, 72 Grove Avenue, Yeovil, Somerset. Details from George Davis G3ICO. Tel: (01935) 425669.

#### ESSEX

BRANTREE AR & CCC, GALXG. Meets at the Braintree Hockey Club, Church Street, Bocking, Braintree. Details from Keith Farthing 2EOARS. Tet: (01376) 347736.

CHELMSFORD ARS, GOMWT. Meets at the Marconi Social Club, Beehive Lane, Chelmsford, Essex. Details from John Bowen G8DET. Tel: (01245) 226591.

CLACTON RADIO CLUB, G3CRC. Details from Mr D. Fitzpatrick MOCHL.

COLCHESTER ARS, G3VCO. Meets at the Colchester Institute. Sheenen Road, Colchester, Details from Frank Institute, Sheepen Road, Colchester. Di R. Howe G3FU. Tel: (01206) 851189.

DENGIE HUNDRED ARS, GOUTT, G7\$DH. Meets at the Henry Samuel Hall, Maryland, Essex. Details from Mrs Christine Wade. Tel: (01621) 772986.

HARLOW & DARS, GGUT, Meets at the Mark Hall Barn, First Avenue, Harlow, Essex. Details from Len Brackstone G7UFF. Tel: (01279) 832700. FAX: (01279) 864973.

HARWICH ARIG, GOGRH. Meets at the Park Pavillion, Barrack Lane, Harwich. Details from Eugene Kraft G4FTP.

LOUGHTON & EPPING FOREST ARS, G40NP. Details from Marc Lrtchman G0TOC. Tel: 0208-502 1645/(07803) 023501.

SOUTH ESSEX ARS, GARSE. Meets at the Paddoct Long Road, Carvey Island, Essex. Details from Mrs Betty Maynard G6LUO. Tel: (01268) 695474.

SOUTHEND & DRC, G5QK. Meets at the Alexandra Yacht Club, Cliftown Parade, Southend-on-Sea, Essex. Details from Alan Radley GOTTM. Tel; (01268) 741229.

STANFORD-LE-HOPE & DARC, G4SLH, Meets at the St Joseph Parish Rooms, Scratton Road, Stanford-Essex, Details from Ken Thompson G4PAD. Tel: (01375) 671238.

VANGE ARS, G3YCW. Meets at the Barnstable Community Centre, Basildon, Essex. Details from Mrs D. Thompson. Tel: (01268) 552606.

BREDHURST RX & TX SOC., GOBRC. Meets at Rock Avenue Working Mans Club, Rock Avenue, Gillingham, Kent, Details from Mr T.M. Wheeler G7MIM.

CRAY VALLEY RS. G3RCV. G1RCV. Meets at the Progress Hall, Admiral Seymour Road, Eltham, London SE9. Details from Richard Perzyna G8fTB. Tel: (01689)

DOVER RADIO CLUB, G3YMD. Meets at the Dove Grammer School for Boys, Astor Avenue, Dover. Details from Brian Hancock G4NPM. Tel: (01304) 821007.

EAST KENT RADIO SOCIETY, GOEVR. Meets at St. Bartholomew's Church Hall, Herne Bay, Details from Paul Nicholson G3VJF. Tel: (01227) 743070, FAX: (01227) 742288.

HASTINGS ELEC. & RC, G6HH, G1HHH, G6LL. Meets at West Hill Community Centre, Croft Road, Hastings, East Sussex. Details from Mr J. Boothroyd G0N/TJ, Tel: (01233) 732656.

HILDERSTONE ARS, GOHRS. Meets at Hilderstone A.E.C., Broadstairs, Kent. Details from Mr G. Shaw MOAQA.

HOME COUNTIES ATV GRP, G6HCT. Meets at the Binfield Club, Binfield (near M4/J10). Details from Mr A. Brooker G4WGZ. MAIDSTONE YMCA ARS, G3TRF. Meets at YMCA Sports Centre, Melrose Close, Maidstone, Kent. Details from Colin Wilson G0VAR. Tel: (01622) 736636.

MEDWAY ARTS. G5MW, G8MWA. Meets at Tunbury Catkin Close, Tunbury Avenue, Walde tham. Details from Mr J. Hale G3FTH

NORTH KENT RS, G4CW. Meets at The Pop-in-Parlour, Graham Road, Bexleyheath, Kent. Details from Mr A.V. Fribbens G8MLQ. Tel: (01474) 365694.

SWALE ARX, GASRC, G6SRC. Meets at the My Leaf Club, Dover Street, Sittingbourne, Kent. Details from Gordon Powell MOAKA. Tel: (01795) 665559.

THE MORSE CLUB, GXOOXE. Details from Mr K. Churchill M1CZA, Tel: 0208-301 5067.

WEST KENT ARS, G3WKS. Meets at the St. Marks School Hall, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Details from Malcolm Sheppard G4FWG. Tel: (01892) 652272.

ANGLIA TELEVISION ARS, GOTXV. Meets at Anglia TV, Norwich NR1 3JG. Details from Jim Bacon G3YLA. Tel: (01603) 615151.

GREAT YARMOUTH RS, G3YRC. Meets at the Bradwell Community Centre, Bradwell, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk. Details from Mr A.D. Besford G3NHU.

GRESHAM'S SCHOOL ARC, GX3PXO. Details from Rev. R.N. Myerscough G3PXO.

KINGS LYNN ARC, G3XYZ. Details From Derek Franklin GOMQL.

NORFOLK ARS, G4ARN. Meets at Norwich Aviation Centre, Norwich Airport. Details from John Wadmar G0VZD. Tel: (01953) 604769.

NORTH NORFOLK ARG, GB2MC. Details from Keith J. Martin GOGFQ. Tel: (01263) 588506.

SUPPOLIX
BURY ST EDMUNDS ARS, G2TO. Meets at the Culford
School Culford, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. Details from
George Woods G3LPT.

FELIXSTOWE & DARS, G4ZFR. Meets at the Orwell Park School, Nacton, Near Ipswich. Details from Paul Whiting G4YQC. Tel: (01473) 642595.

FRAMLINGHAM COLLEGE ARC, MOCBB. Tel: (0172B)

IPSWCH RADIO CLUB, G4IRC. Meets at the Golden Hind, Nacton Road (3rd Wednesdays at The Hollies, Bucklesham Straight Road), Ipswich. Details from Keith Gaunt G7CN Tet: (01394) 420226.

LEISTON ARC, GOTUQ. Meets at Leiston Town Athletic Assn., Victory Road, Leiston, Suffolk, Details from Sam Lydlate G4IFD. Tel: (01728) 832999.

LOWESTOFT DRS, G3JRM. Meets at The George Barrow Hotel, Oulton Road, Lowestoft, Details from Phil Holden GOJSG. Tel: (01502) 585448.

MARTLESHAM RS, G4MRS. Meets at the BT Laboratories, Martlesham Heath, Ipswich, Suffolk. Details from Damen Hatcher, Tel: (01473) 644475.

SUDBURY & DRA, GOSMI, G7SRA. Meets at the Old School, Wells Hall Road, Great Cornard, Sudbury, Suffolk. Details from Bryan Panton G1TWY.

SUFFOLK DATA GROUP, GB7M0M. Details from Peter Prike GBHUE, Tel: (01473) 631313.

#### NORTH WALLS

CONWAY VALLEY ARC, GW6TM. Meets at the Studio, Penthos Road, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd. Details from Mr R.W. Evans GW6PMC. Tel: (01745) 855068.

HALKYN & DARS, GW3HRG. Details from Mr D. Austin GW1XHG.

NORTH WALES RS, GWONWR. Meets at the Old YMCA, Queen's Drive, Colwyn Bay, Clywd. Details from Ted

Shipton GW0DSJ. Tel: (01745) 336939.

WRECHAM ARS, GW4WXM. Meets at the Community Centre, Massgwyn Road, Wrexham. Details from Mr R Moran GW0WER.

#### GWYNEDD

MERION ARS, GW4LZP. Meets at the Royal Ship Hotel, Dolgellau, Gwynedd. Details from Gervase Chavasse GW4URJ. Tel: (01341) 421028.

PORTHMADOG & DARS, GWOMVI. Meets at The Yacht Club, The Harbour, Porthmadog, Gwynedd. Details from Mr.G. Cadwaladr MW1DFN.

THE DRAGON ARC, GW4TTA, Meets at the Ebenezer Church Hall, Lon Foel Graig, Llanfaipwll, Isle of Anglesey. Details from Stewart Rolfe GWOETF. Tel: (01248) 362229.

POWYS
POWYS ARC, GW4HVN. Meets at the ATC HQ, Park
Lane, Newtown, Powys. Details from Mrs Jean Brown
2W10EZ. Tel: (01686) 640814.

#### SOUTH WALES

ABERPORTH YMCA, GW4SZV. Meets at the Hut B17, The Airfield, Aberporth. Details from Mr G. Carruther GW4HGJ. Tel: (01239) B11205.

ABERSYSTWYTH & DARS, GWOARA. Meets at the Scout Hut, Plascrug Avenue, Aberystwyth. Details from John Woodward GW6IDK, Tel: (01970) 890657.

CARMARTHEN ARS, GWAYCT. Meets at The Aehyd Care Home, Carmarthenshire County Council, Tregynwr Road, Llangunnor, Carmarthen SA31 3BS. Details from Mr W.D. Hughes GW4ZN. Tet: (01267) 231359.

CLEDDAU ARS, GWOSYG. Details from Trevor Perry GW4XQK. Tel: (01646) 600725.

LIANELI ARS, GWOEZQ. Meets in the Furnace Community Hall, Furnace Square, Llanelli. Details from Roy Jones GWOKUZK. Tel: (01554) 820207.

PEMBROKESHORE RS, GWOEJE. Meets at Furzy Park Community Centre, Furzy Park, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire. Details from Ian M. Jones MWOCAB. Tel: (01437) 763028.

#### GWENT

ABERGAVENNY RS, GW4GFL. Meets at the Hill Residential College, Pen-y-Pound, Abergavenny, Gwent. Details from Glyn Hughes GW0DQY. Tel: (01633) 483186

BLACKWOOD & DARS, GW6GW. Meets at the Oakdale Comprehensive School, Oakdale, Blackwood, Gwent. Details from John Evans GW8ITI. Tel: (01495) 225178.

EBBW VALE COLLEGE RS, GWOIW. Meets at the Gwent Tertiary College, Ebbw Vale Campus, College Road, Ebbw Vale, Gwent. Details from Mr T. Hayden GWOHCN. Tel: (01495) 305192.

NEWPORT ARS, GW4EZW. Meets at the Brynglas Community Centre, Brynglas Road, Newport, Gwent. Details from Paul Nicholis.

PONTYPOOL ARS, GW3RNH. Meets at the Settlement, Rockhill Road, Pontypool, Gwent. Details from Graham Smith GW00LZ.

#### MID-GLAMORGAN

BRIDGEND & DARC, GW4LNP Meets at the Club Brynmenyn, Brynmenyn, Bridgend, Details from Alun Hulmes. Tel: (01656) 721574.

HOOVER (MERTHYR) ARC, GW3RDB. Meets at the Hoover Sports Pavillion, Hoover Ltd., Pentrebach, Merthyr Mydfil, Mid Glamorgan. Details Robert Cummings GW0RVG.

MID GLAMORGAN ARG, MWOCNA. Meets at Aberkenfig Sports & Social Club. Details from Mervyn Carey GW4VSE. Tel: (01656) 734668.

#### SOUTH GLAMORGAN

BARRY ARS, GW3VIL. Meets at Sully Sports & Leisure Club, South Road, Sully, S. Glamorgan. Details from Richard Mortimore GW4BVJ. Tel: (01446) 738756.

HIGHFIELDS ARC, GW4LFO. Meets at the Highfields Physically Handicapped Centre, Allensbank Road, Cardiff. Tel: (01222) 561542.

#### WEST GLAMORGAN

PORT TALBOT (BS PLC) ARS, GW3EOR Meets at the British Steel PLC Sports & Social Club, Margam, Port Talbot, West Glamorgan, Details from Mr J. Chinnock MWOAGE.

SWANSEA ARS, GW4CC. Meets at the Applied Sciences Building, Swansea University. Details from David Williams GW4BNJ. Tel: (01792) 519046.

#### SCOTLAND WEST & WESTERN

#### CENTRAL REGION

& DARS, GMOFRC, Details from Scott Waterall FALKIRK & GMOKBU.

STIRLING & DARS, GM6NX. Meets at Bandeath Industrial Estate, Throsk, Nr Stirling, Details from John Sherry GM0AZC. Tel: (01324) 824709.

#### **DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY**

WIGTOWNSHIRE ARC, GM4RIV. Meets at the Aird Unit, Stranraer Academy, Stranraer, (entrance from Caimport Road). Details from Neil Macdonald GM4LQS.

#### STRATHCLYDE

World Radio History

AYR ARG, GMOAYR. Meets at the Citidal Leisure Centre, Ayr. Details from Peter Sturgeon MMOBQP.

CENTRAL SCOTLAND FM GROUP, RS38728. Details from Thomas Stalker GM71ZU. Tel: (01698) B16793.

DALRY ARG, MMOARG, Meets at The Turf, In Dalry Court, Hill Street, Dalry, Details from Alex McKeeman MMOABM. Tel: (01294) 823295.

DUNOON & DARS, GMOCOD. Meets at the Edward Street Community Centre, Edward Street, Dunoon, Details from A.B. Horton GMOBUL. Tel: (01369) 840217.

HELENSBURGH ARC, GM4HEL. Details from G. Capstick GM7OAF. Tel: (01436) 675922.

INVERCLYDE ARG, GMOGNK. Meets at the Cardwell Bar, Cardwell Road, Gourock, Stratholyde. Details from

Andrew Givens GM3YOR, Tel: (01475) 638226

KILMARNOCK & LOUDOUN ARC, GMOADX. Meets at the Huriford Community Centre, Cessnock Road, Huriford. Details from Steve Campbell GM4OSS. Tel: (01560) 483800.

#### LARGS & DARS, GMOVKG.

LORN ARS, GMOLRA. Details from T. Olsen GMOEQW. Tel: (01866) 2580.

MID LANARK ARS, GM3PXK. Meets at the Newarthill Community Ed. Cent., High Street, Newarthill, Motherwell, Lanarkshire ML1 5GU. Details from John Neary GMOXFK. Tel: (01698) 822860.

MILTON OF CAMPSIE ARS, GMOMOC. Meets at The Red Cross Hall, Kirkintilloch. Details from John MacKenzie GMOHJU. Tel: (01360) 312954.

PAISLEY ARC, GMOPYM. Meets at the Paisley YMCA Hall, 5 New Street, Paisley PA1 1XU. De Quigley GMOTQA. Tel: 0141-889 6860.

SCOTTISH DIGITAL COMMS. GRP, GMTVSR. Detail from Stuart Clink GM1VBE. Tel: (01698) 884803

WEST OF SCOTLAND ARS, GS4AGG. Meets at the Multi Cultural Centre, 21 Rose Street, Glasgow. Details from

#### SCOTLAND BAST & HIGHLANDS

GALASHIELS & DARS, GM4YEQ. Meets at the Focus Centre, Galashiels. Details from Jim Keddie GM7LUN.

KELSO ARS, GM4KHS. Meets at the Abbey Row Community Centre, Kelso. Details from Margaret Chalmers GM0ALX. Tel: (01573) 226372.

GLENROTHES & DARC, GM4GRC. Meets at the Football Pavillion, Station Road, Thornton, Fife. Details from Alexander Adam GM0FVD. Tel: (01592) 874374.

ABERDEEN ARS, GM3BSQ. Meets at the Red Cross HQ, 22 Queens Road, Aberdeen. Details from Robert Duncan. Tel: (01224) 896142.

BANFF & DARC, GMOPYC. Meets at the Princess Royal Park Football Ground, Conference Room (Deveronvale F.C.), Banff, Details from Steve Roberts GM4HWS. Tel: F.C.), Banff. Details (01888) 551377.

MORAY FIRTH ARS, GM3TKV. Meets at the Grant Arms Hotel, Rochabers. Details from Geoff Crowley GM7SJC. Tel: (01542) 882818.

INVERNESS ARC, GMATPF. Meets at The Emergency Operations Centre, Inverness (except July and August). Details from R.F. Goodell GMOOGZ. Tel: (01463) 811701.

#### LOTHIAN

COCKENZIE & PORT SETON ARC, RS177035. Meets at the Thomtree Inn, Lounge Bar, Old Cockenzie High Street, Cockenzie, E. Lothian. Details from Mr Bob Glasgow GM4UVZ. Tel: (01875) B11723.

LOTHIANS RS, GM3HAM. Meets at the Orwell Lodge Hotel, Polwarth Terrace, Edinburgh EH11 1NH. Details from Thomas G. Main, Sec.

#### COKNEY

ORKNEY ARC, RS181749. Details from Mrs Terry Penna. Tel: (01856) 741233.

#### SHITTLAND ISLANDS

ERWICK RC, GM3ZET. Meets at the Islesburgh ornmunity Centre, King Herald Street, Lerwick, hetland. Details from Ian C. Millar GM7RKD. Tel: Community Centre Shetland, Details ( (01950) 460306.

#### TAYSIDE

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#### WANTED

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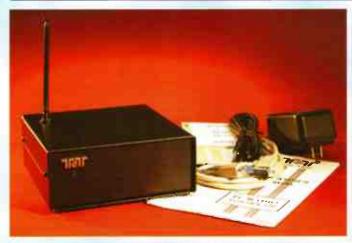
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John Wilson, SWM April 2002

... Third order intercept point measured at a nominal 14MHz was +15dBm with a 50kHz signal spacing as used by TenTec themselves (handbook specification +10dBm). Dynamic range was 98dB against the specification of 90dB, so all better than manufacturer's figures. The RX-320 has a wide band front-end, so I expected the second order intercept point to be quite modest, but it measured at +53dBm with a dynamic range of 92dB... it is remarkably good when compared with any receiver in the middleprice class, and considerably better then the Lowe HF150 which also had a wide-band front end... In conclusion, the TenTec RX-320 is an amazingly satisfying receiver to use, and despite its simple appearance when you look inside, it really does perform and has perhaps come the closest yet to marrying the power of a PC with a high performance short wave receiver. The tuning action is smooth, the a.g.c. system works properly, the d.s.p. is excellent...

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John Wilson, SWM September 2002

... The main display unit on the RX-350 is very impressive because it is so easy to read and yet contains full information on what the receiver is doing. The frequency readout is huge, and can be read at extreme distances... Memory storage is substantial with eight banks of 128 channels being provided... I checked out the effect of the noise reduction facility and noted that in a.m. I obtained a 10dB increase in signal to noise ratio at low input levels, whilst in s.s.b. the improvement was between 5 and 6dB. To have this kind of enhancement available at the touch of a button is a great help when digging out weak signals, and it worked equally well on all types of signal from c.w. to s.s.b. to a.m... One other feature which impressed me was the automatic notch filter... I liked the fact that it is a real receiver with a recognisable front panel and a knob for every function...

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