

What's NEW

Tell them you saw it in Monitoring Times

International Call-sign Handbook

2nd Edition

By Gayle and Larry Van Horn

After more than a decade without it, radio monitors once again have a single, exhaustive publication to help them identify radio signals on the various radio bands. The new *International Callsign Handbook* on CD-ROM from Teak Publications has been expanded from the first edition printed by Grove Enterprises to cover even more types of callsigns and radio transmission IDs used throughout the HF, VHF and UHF radio bands. This giant, more than 1,100 page callsign reference uses the Adobe Acrobat platform. All text is fully searchable and can be printed by the user.



The ten chapters in this book cover various identification types, including internationally assigned callsigns (including ships), airline calls, ship and coastal maritime mobile service identification (MMSI) numbers, ALE addresses, selected aircraft selcalls, selected ICAO24 aircraft codes, and introductory material. The single largest chapter of this book has an extensive listing of tactical call words and IDs used by civilian, military, and government agencies.

This is a self-loading (Windows XP/Vista platforms only), easy-to-use CD-ROM ebook and it is available from Grove Enterprises (1-800-438-8155) or Teak Publishing (P.O. 295, Brasstown, NC 28902). The cost is \$19.95 plus shipping (NC residents must add state sales tax).

Keep an eye out on the Shortwave Central (<http://mt-shortwave.blogspot.com/>) or the Milcom Monitoring Post (<http://mt-milcom.blogspot.com/>) blogs for availability and additional dealers worldwide, and watch this column for a full, independent review.

Coming Soon: New Uniden Scanners

We have recently learned that Uniden will be releasing two new handheld scanners later this year. Two new Uniden support Yahoo-groups (below) were recently discovered by this columnist while roaming around the net.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BCD396XT>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BC346XT>

The BC346XT will probably be a follow-on product to the original Uniden BC-246 handheld, the first to have dynamic memory. Both units will probably have updated features, with the 346 maintaining its analog pedigree and the BCD396XT continuing its digital lineage.

ARRL Repeater Directory

The ARRL has recently released the 2008/2009 edition of their annual repeater directory in three different formats.

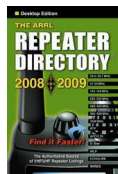
The printed, pocket-sized edition, perfect for mobile operations, is now one-half-inch bigger: 3.75 x 5.25 inches. The desktop-sized edition measures 6 x 9 inches. Both editions have over 20,000 listings for VHF/UHF repeaters across the US and Canada.

Both print editions have some new and improved features that include:

- Handy indexing tabs on the cover to aid in quickly finding the listings you're looking for.
- Easier-to-read listings.
- Repeater notes located right up front.
- Icons to make it easy to distinguish "open" systems from limited access repeater systems.

Along with these new features, the *ARRL Repeater Directory* includes:

- Repeater operating practices, repeater lingo and hints for newly licensed hams.
- Frequency Coordinator contact information.
- D-Star and APCO 25 repeaters
- Using CTCSS tones and Digital Coded Squelch (DCS)
- VHF/UHF Band Plans



and 2-meter channel-spacing map Tips for handling interference IRLP, WIRES-II, and EchoLink® (Internet linked) nodes Emergency Message Handling procedures Transceiver Memory Log

The third format for this annual publication is available on CD-ROM. The *TravelPlus* CD-ROM with BONUS *Repeater Directory*, Version 12.0, is a power packed CD for hams who use electronic publications.

With *TravelPlus for Repeaters™*, you have the power of *The ARRL Repeater Directory®* on your computer. With *TravelPlus for Repeaters™* as your traveling companion, you'll never be alone on the road. Locate ham radio repeaters along US and Canadian travel routes using this map-based software.

This feature-packed CD-ROM includes the following features:

Map your travel route and tune in. Supports GPS (with separate external hardware*). View and print maps and repeater lists.

Access the ARRL Repeater DataBase, global Internet linked nodes, AM/FM radio, broadcast television, and NOAA weather stations, USA and Canadian licenses, and ham radio points of interest.

Export data. Transfer to Palm™ or Pocket PC, radio programming software, and more.

*Cable and adapter purchased separately (not supplied with *TravelPlus*) and Palm is a trademark of Palm, Inc.

This CD requires Microsoft Windows XP or Vista and a Pentium or comparable processor.

The pocket-sized book (ISBN: 0-87259-127-1) ARRL #1271 costs \$10.95 and the Desktop edition (ISBN: 0-87259-129-8) ARRL #1298 sells for \$15.95, both plus shipping. The *TravelPlus for Repeaters* CD-ROM. (ISBN: 0-87259-130-1) ARRL #1301 retails for \$39.95 plus shipping.

These fine amateur publications are available from the ARRL website (www.arrl.org), via their toll free order line at 1-888-277-5289 9 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays), or snail mail to ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111-1494. Also check your local amateur radio dealer for these and other ARRL publications.

DX Bulletin Reader 1.0

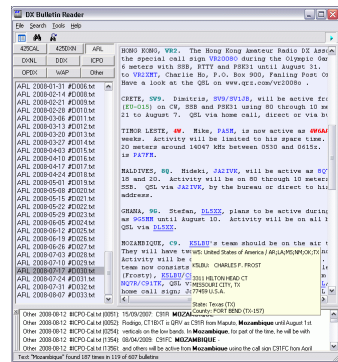
If you are an amateur radio operator and chase DX, we have found a nice piece of software that will aid you in your pursuit of that elusive new country or grid you are seeking. Alex Shovkoplyas, VE3NEA, and his company Afreet Software, Inc, have released the DX Bulletin Reader 1.0 for Windows 95/98/ME/NT4/2000/XP.

DX Bulletin Reader is a tool for viewing, archiving and searching the DX news bulletins.

When the program displays a DX bulletin, it highlights all prefixes, callsigns, IOTA references and grid squares in different colors, and, best of all, it highlights the items that are on your DXCC and IOTA Needed lists.

Every highlighted item has a tooltip with extra information, such as IOTA group name and prefix, country of the callsign, and latitude/longitude of the Grid Square.

If the optional databases are installed, even more information is shown on the tooltips, including the full name and address for the US and Canadian callsigns.



The program includes a find function that performs full text search in all archived bulletins. The best part of this program is the cost – Free!

You can download the DX Bulletin Reader 1.0 software package on Alex's website at www.dxatlas.com/BullRead/. While you are there, be sure to check out some of the other software offerings that Alex has written, including his popular DXAtlas and IonoProbe propagation software packages. And be sure to tell Alex that *MT's What's New* sent you.

Books and equipment for announcement or review should be sent to What's New, c/o Monitoring Times, 7540 Highway 64 West, Brasstown, NC 28902. Press releases may be faxed to 828-837-2216 or emailed to larryvanhorn@monitoringtimes.com