



A Preview of the GRE PSR-900



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**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
MONITORING ASSOCIATION**

"In God We Trust – All Others We Monitor"



THE MONITORING POST

SEPTEMBER
2012

The Newsletter of the Southern California Monitoring Association



SCMA CLUB NEWS

SCMA EMAIL

All members should be receiving emails from the SCMA Members Only Yahoo Group. If you are not receiving emails from us, please contact Rich Sauer, LA-104 at a meeting or by email at socalscanner@gmail.com so you can get on the list.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- **Ramon Vargas LA-173 El Segundo**
Monitors County Sheriff, Local Police, County Fire, City Fire, and Amateur Radio. Uses Radio Shack scanner. Amateur Radio License KROMAN.
- **Joe Oliveira LA-174 Hollywood**
Monitors Local Police, County Fire, and City Fire. Uses various scanners including a Uniden BCT996XT. Amateur Radio License WB6BJM. Owns the 447.000 repeater in Hollywood.
- **Billy Dunwoody LA-175 Culver City**
Monitors Local Police, City Fire, and Ambulance/EMS Services. Uses a Radio Shack PRO-197. @CulverCity311 on Twitter.
- **Landon Jensen LA-176 Arcadia**
Monitors County Sheriff, Local Police, County Fire, City Fire, Ambulance/EMS Services. Uses Motorola and Kenwood two-way radios, GRE scanners. GMRS License WQOE733.

NOTES FROM THE BOSS

Hello Everyone!

The Club had a tour of the Los Angeles Police Department "Air Support Division" at Piper Tech in downtown Los Angeles. We had a total of 20 members show up for this great event. Club members Lance Ordin and Terri Lincoln led the tour at Hooper Heliport

We had an extra surprise when Sean Fox, WD6FOX, who is with the LAPD, came out to give us a rundown on some of the "special vehicles" and their operations for the department. If you haven't done so, go to the club's web site and check out the video that Rich, LA-104, did of the tour.

Upcoming tours for the club are in the works and will include the Verdugo Fire Communications Center, the Burbank Fire Department and Museum and the Culver City Police Department.

One last thing for everyone – don't forget to check out the Los Angeles Times article "They're Town Criers in the Age of Twitter." Several SCMA members talked with *Times* reporter Westen Phippen and are featured in the article. This is also on the club's website for reading.



Best of Monitoring to Everyone, Catch the Action, 73's... *Rick*, LA-101 / WA6KFI



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GRE PSR-900 Scanner Preview

For those of you that like the GRE PSR-800 handheld scanner, start saving your pennies for a mobile version.

The **GRE PSR-900** will offer amazing capability along with ease of use. The expected frequency coverage is: 25-54, 108-136.99, 137-174, 216-512, 764-781.99, 791-798.99, 806-960 (excluding cellular bands) and 1240-1300 MHz. This radio comes with a 2GB SD card preloaded with US and Canadian public service frequencies. You automatically program your scanner by merely entering your zip code or city. It handles analog and digital systems including APCO 25.

One extremely interesting feature of this radio is the remote mount head. It magnetically fastens to the head bracket! This facilitates vehicle installation and use. Other features of this radio include:

- ▶ Simple menu driven user interface
- ▶ Preloaded MicroSD card included
- ▶ Easy updating via Internet
- ▶ APCO P25 Digital
- ▶ Multi-system analog trunking (Motorola, EDACS and LTR)
- ▶ CTCSS and DCS subaudible decoder
- ▶ SAME Weather Alerts
- ▶ Service search
- ▶ User upgradable CPU firmware
- ▶ Spectrum Sweeper

GRE America has announced an estimated October/November 2012 shipping date.



Sci-Fi Policing: Predicting Crime Before It Occurs



AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes

By GREG RISLING Associated Press

Los Angeles police are aiming to beat suspects to the scene of a crime by using computers to predict where trouble might occur.

The Los Angeles Police Department is the largest agency to embrace an experiment known as "predictive policing," which crunches data to determine where to send officers to thwart would-be thieves and burglars. Time Magazine called it one of the best inventions of 2011.

Early successes could serve as a model for other cash-strapped law enforcement agencies, but some legal observers are concerned it could lead to unlawful stops and searches that violate Fourth Amendment protections.

In the San Fernando Valley, where the program was launched late last year, officers are seeing double-digit drops in burglaries and other property crimes. The program has turned enough in-house skeptics into believers that there are plans to roll it out citywide by next summer.

"We have prevented hundreds and hundreds of people coming home and seeing their homes robbed," said police Capt. Sean Malinowski.

Crime mapping has long been a tool used to determine where the bad guys lurk. The idea has evolved from colored pins placed on a map to identifying "hot spots" via a computer database based on past crimes and possible patterns.

Over the past decade, many large police departments, including Los Angeles and New York City, have used CompStat, a system that tracks crime figures and enables police to send extra officers to trouble spots.

The new program used by LAPD and police in the Northern California city of Santa Cruz is more timely and precise, proponents said. Built on the same model for predicting aftershocks following an earthquake, the software promises to show officers what might be coming based on simple, constantly calibrated data — location, time and type of crime.

The software generates prediction boxes — as small as 500 square feet — on a patrol map. When officers have spare time, they are told to "go in the box."

The goal is not to boost the number of arrests, a common police benchmark to reflect crime reduction. Officers want to either intercept a crime in progress or deter would-be criminals.

"I want to disrupt an activity before an arrest is made," Malinowski said. "You can't arrest your way out of some of these problems."

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Sci-Fi Policing: Predicting Crime Before It Occurs

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Jeff Brantingham, an anthropology professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, said the data also is derived from criminal behaviors — repeat victimization and the notion that criminals tend not to stray too far from areas they know best.

"If you are victimized today the risk that you'll be a victim again goes way up," said Brantingham, who co-founded a software company tapped by LAPD for its program.

So far, the program has been implemented in five LAPD divisions that cover 130 square miles and roughly 1.3 million people. In the valley's Foothill Division, where more than half of the crimes committed are property-related, about 170 patrol officers are spending a total of about 70 hours a week working in the boxes.

Proving It Works

In one instance, a police captain questioned sending officers into a box that was on the edge of his coverage area. Officers went out and didn't find anything, but returned several nights later and found a guy breaking a window.

The division leads the department in crime reduction, Malinowski said. Crimes were down in the area 13 percent following the rollout compared to a slight uptick across the rest of the city where the program wasn't being used.

"If you had told us a few years ago you could get an algorithm to perform as the same as a crime analyst, we would think you were crazy," Malinowski said. "Even the most skeptical people are now coming up to me and saying, 'I think this is working.'"

Other police departments across the nation are using similar approaches. Tech titan IBM has teamed up with police in Memphis and Charleston, S.C., to provide analysis; Minneapolis police are breaking down crime statistics and factoring in geographic locations to determine future crimes.

Andrew Guthrie Ferguson, an assistant law professor at the University of the District of Columbia, has written about predictive policing and how it may impact Fourth Amendment protections from unlawful searches and seizures.

Ferguson said the trend is "a seductive idea" for law enforcement agencies that carry a lot of power. He believes the LAPD has done a good job with the data but he's concerned that other departments could abuse the process with racial profiling or stereotyping a neighborhood or an area.

"There are real pressures to expand this nationally and see it succeed," Ferguson said. "I think it's an important innovation. But like any innovation, it's not foolproof, and looking closely at the data is important to ensure it doesn't harm the civil liberties of the people living in those areas."

Possible Legal Challenge

Ferguson said he envisions a legal challenge at some point. He used an example of an officer patrolling a predicted area of burglary and who sees a man carrying a bag and detains the man because he looks suspicious.

"Alone, a man carrying a bag is not reasonable suspicion," Ferguson explained. "But in court, the officer will say, 'The computer told me to go there.' For the lawyer or the court, what are you going to do with this information? You can't cross-examine a computer."

Brantingham's company has been contacted by about 200 police departments across the globe interested in the software. He wouldn't disclose the costs of the program because it varies on a city's population and size. LAPD isn't incurring any costs because it has shared data and other information with Brantingham's company for research purposes.

Brantingham and others believe predictive policing is the wave of the future and won't result in the elimination of jobs.

"It's not a replacement for police officer's knowledge and skills and not designed to take the officer out of the equation," he said. "It's about putting them in the right time and place for crime prevention."



FCC Blames AT&T Cell Towers for Interfering with Oakland Police Radio System

AT&T has partially shut down 16 cell phone towers across Oakland, CA, in response to an FCC investigation that blamed the structures for interfering with police radio systems.

According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, city officials and the FCC notified AT&T of the interference last week, informing the carrier that its 850 MHz (2G) frequency was causing radio failures among police and firefighters. In response, AT&T suspended its 2G frequency at the 16 cell towers on Saturday, while promising minimal consumer impact.

The company's 3G and 4G services remain intact, as do other 2G frequencies.

Oakland police have been experiencing problems with their radio system for the better part of a year now, most notably in July, following a visit from President Barack Obama. But officials weren't able to identify the culprit until earlier this month, when investigators noticed that radio signals became significantly weaker around specific cell towers.

According to David Cruise, the city's public safety systems adviser, police radio systems were especially hindered within a quarter to a half mile of a given tower.

"If the officer is in an area close to one of their cell sites, essentially the cell site overpowers their radios," he said.

In a statement to *Ars Technica*, AT&T spokesman Seth Bloom described the shutdown as a "cautionary measure," adding that the company is working closely with the city to determine whether "the issues they've raised are connected in any way to AT&T's network."



City officials are also looking into cell towers operated by T-Mobile, which runs a frequency that could pose similar issues for police radio systems. FCC regulations give priority to spectrum used for public safety communications.

Since July 2011, the Oakland Police Department has been using a new \$18 million police radio system that has suffered numerous failures. Police and local officials have been scratching their heads trying to figure out what's gone wrong.

The Bay Area city, home to 400,000 residents, has had problems with its understaffed police force over the last year. A basic issue like radio communications certainly doesn't help things.

"Our investigation is continuing," Cruise told the *Chronicle*. "This is not the end of it, for sure. There are plenty more issues we're looking at. We're working on plans to remove all of them."

Cruise also told the *Chronicle* that while the two companies involved in installing Oakland's new radio system, Daily Wells Communications Inc. and Harris Corporation, checked for interference, they may not have done a thorough job.



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CIVIL AIR PATROL FREQUENCIES

STATEWIDE

Frequency	Tone	R/S	Mode	Description	Use
141.5750		S	FMN	PRIMARY	Primary Simplex
141.0000		S	FMN	ALTERNATE	Alternate Simplex
149.2750		S	FMN	AIR 1	Air-to-Ground Primary
150.5625		S	FMN	AIR 2	Air-to-Ground Alternate
150.2250	162.2	S	FMN	GUARD	Aircraft Guard Channel
139.8750	173.8	S	FMN	TAC 1	Tactical Simplex

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Frequency	Tone	R/S	Mode	Description	Use
129.4500		S	AM	AIR BAND	CAP California Wing Air-to-Air
142.2625		R	FMN	LINK	San Diego County Repeater Link Channel
148.1500	PL 186.2	R	FMN	SANTIAGO A1	Santiago Peak Primary Analog
148.1250	PL 186.2	R	FMN	SANTIAGO A2	Santiago Peak Secondary Analog
148.1500	NAC 746	R	P25	SANTIAGO D1	Santiago Peak Primary Digital
148.1250	NAC 746	R	P25	SANTIAGO D2	Santiago Peak Secondary Digital
148.1500	PL 167.9	R	FMN	SADDLE A1	Saddle Peak Analog
148.1500	NAC 68F	R	P25	SADDLE D1	Saddle Peak Digital
148.1500	PL 156.7	R	FMN	OAT A1	Oat Mountain Analog
148.1500	NAC 61F	R	P25	OAT D1	Oat Mountain Digital
148.1500	PL 173.8	R	FMN	BLUE RIDGE A1	Blue Ridge Analog
148.1500	NAC 6CA	R	P25	BLUE RIDGE D1	Blue Ridge Digital
148.1500	PL 127.3	R	FMN	ONYX A1	Onyx Peak Analog
148.1500	NAC 4F9	R	P25	ONYX D1	Onyx Peak Digital
148.1500	PL 141.3	R	FMN	PALOMAR A1	Mount Palomar Analog
148.1500	NAC 585	R	P25	PALOMAR D1	Mount Palomar Digital



The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is a federally supported non-profit corporation that serves as the official civilian auxiliary of the United States Air Force. CAP is a volunteer organization with aviation-minded membership that includes people from all backgrounds.

Its missions include search and rescue, disaster relief, aerospace education and cadet programs for teenage youth. CAP has recently also been tasked with homeland security and courier service missions.

Membership consists of cadets ranging from 12 to 20 years of age and senior members 18 years of age and up. All members wear uniforms while performing their duties.

The CAP web site is <http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/>.



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MORE SCMA CLUB NEWS



WE ARE ON THE MOVE!



After 20 years of having our club meetings at the Grinders Restaurant, the property was sold and the doors closed on Sunday August 12th, 2012. This was a very good location for us, but we must move on.

Rich, LA-104 did the ground work to check out some other locations.

We made our choice to meet at "Dinah's Family Restaurant" on the Culver City / Westchester border. Members and guests should buy a meal (or at least *something!*) in order to be at the meeting. This is the way we are able to get a meeting room.

There is something for everyone, the food is excellent, and the prices are very good, too.



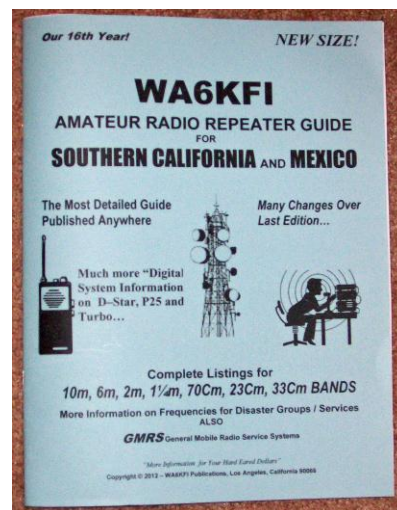
SCMA MEETINGS

Always on the Second Wednesday of the Month

Dinah's Family Restaurant
6521 S. Sepulveda Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90045

The Club meeting starts at 7:30 PM. Most people arrive around 6:00 PM for dinner and conversation before the meeting starts. The "official" meeting usually is over by 8:30 PM but members usually stick around and chat until 9:00 or later.

WA6KFI Amateur Radio Repeater Guide



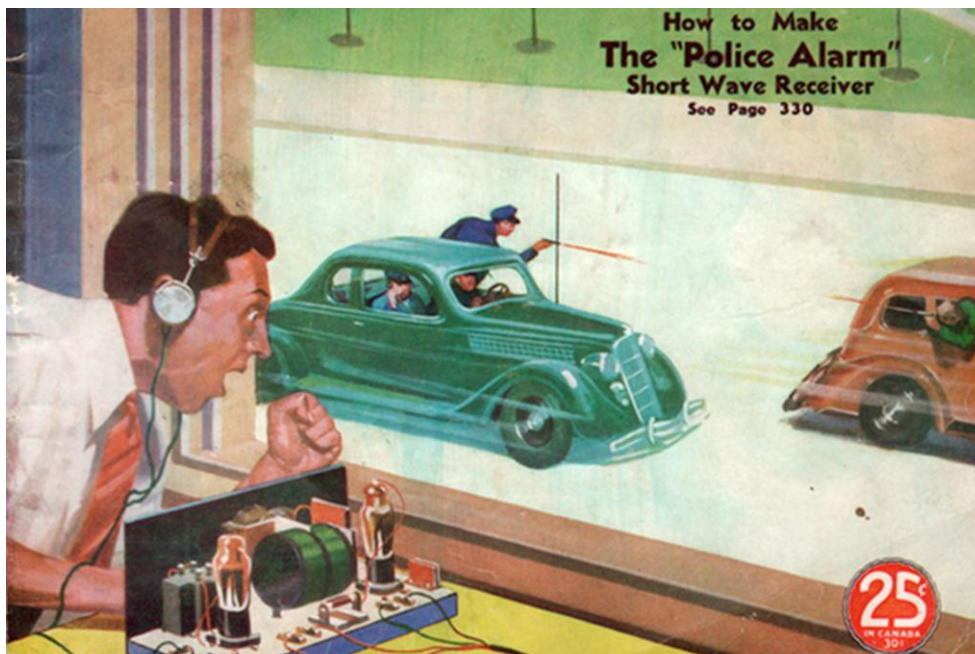
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Police Radio Scanning: Nothing New



IN SIMPLER TIMES THE MERE PRESENCE OF A HOME-BUILT POLICE SCANNER WAS LAUDED AS A HOME COURSE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT.

NOW TWITTER CONTINUES THE BATTLE AGAINST CRIME.

Article By Matt Novak

A portion of the cover of the October 1935 issue of *Short Wave Craft* magazine

Yesterday I had the rather strange experience of reading a tweet about a grass fire burning not far from my apartment. Not five seconds later I heard fire truck sirens in the distance. This, it would seem, is the new pace of breaking news.

I follow about half a dozen Los Angeles police scanner accounts on Twitter. These accounts are run by people who tune into radio frequencies used by police, fire, and medical responders in order to tweet about events as they happen.

Social media sites like Twitter and Facebook have radically sped up the pace at which news spreads. This immediacy is even more apparent in these police scanner accounts all across the U.S. Even the raw audio feeds are online, with breaking news of crimes and medical emergencies all around the country little more than an Internet connection away.

Back in more analog days, tuning in wasn't quite so easy. In fact, private citizens would have to build

their own police radio receiver if they wanted to hear the action.

The October 1935 issue of *Short Wave Craft* magazine explained how anyone could build his own "police alarm" shortwave radio receiver. The cover featured a rather excited looking man wearing headphones as he looked out of his window at the police chase below.

The appeal of police scanners is and always has been a kind of law-and-order voyeurism. Robberies, car crashes, burglaries, high-speed chases, and even kidnappings were touted by *Short Wave Craft* as the kinds of sordid events you'd be privy to with a "police alarm" radio receiver. They even included an illustration showing the kinds of "thrilling situations frequently covered in short-wave police calls on the 120 and 180 meter bands."

Inside the magazine, the article by Walter C. Doerle touts building a receiver as not merely a voyeur's

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Police Scanning: Nothing New

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plaything, but a very serious learning tool for those men who have dreamed of becoming a policeman ever since they were a “little shaver of a kid.” He argues that simply by listening in you can serve the public good:

Why not take advantage of the many free “courses” offered to you through the use of a short-wave set as herein described and become a public officer in the Police Corp? But you say, what are these courses? Well, in stenographic language, our recent kidnap cases are enough to baffle the brains of many brilliant police forces—this is the “college course” and it tops the list of courses as requiring the best minds for permanent solution.

As a second course, murdering ranks next, petty burglaries are third, and auto accidents are at the bottom. So you see unless full advantage is taken of radio in the short-wave field, it is hard to be convinced that scientists have made a worth-while contribution to our civilization.

The article included detailed schematics for precisely how to build your own inexpensive “amateur sleuth” radio receiver, which used a 2-tube regenerative circuit made popular by Doerle in the early 1930s.

Today, citizen voyeurs such as myself have no need to get our hands dirty with circuits or wires or antennas, as the Internet continues it’s often strange and sometimes beautiful march forward. But Doerle would no doubt be proud of all the amateurs doing our part simply by listening in to his “battle against crime.”



The “thrilling situations” you might hear about on your DIY radio receiver (1935)

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 12

SCMA MEETING 7:30 PM
DINAH’S FAMILY RESTAURANT

SEPTEMBER 15

CHINO HILLS HAM RADIO SWAP MEET
6:30 AM

SEPTEMBER 16

SOUTH PASADENA POLICE AND FIRE
OPEN HOUSE 10:00 AM

SEPTEMBER 29

W6TRW HAM RADIO SWAP MEET
IN REDONDO BEACH 7:00 AM

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This Edition of the *Monitoring Post* Edited By Richard Sauer, N6CIZ, LA-104