Product Review....

G.E. World Monitor

Considerable national promotion recently of General Electric's new "World Monitor" (model number7-2990) portable radio motivated us to secure one for a field test at Grove Enterprises. Discounters list the Unit in the $170 range.

Initial appearance is neat, massive, with metal (not plastic) knobs. The unit is powered either by 120/240 VAC or internal batteries (six D cells).

A swivel-type telescoping antenna provides reception on all bands, or an external antenna may be affixed to terminals provided on the rear of the cabinet.

Frequency coverage is in six bands: 540-1600 KHz, 3.5-31 MHz and 88-108 MHz (shortwave in 4 bands).

A fluorescent digital readout provides resolution to 1 KHz on AM and shortwave, 100 KHz on FM. An RF gain control is provided to attenuate strong AM and shortwave siganls.

Front-panel output jacks are provided for recorder and earphone audio. An adjustable BFO is used to refine CW and SSB reception; a separate control permits calibration of the receiver on shortwave.

BUT HOW DOES IT WORK?

FM reception provided crisp, clean audio. Not excellent, but good. Separate bass and treble controls permit contouring of sound to personal taste. An automatic frequency control (AFC) switch works well to correct for drift on FM.

Image rejection leaves a great deal to be desired; prominent heterodynes (whistles) could be heard throughout the shortwave and AM bands using only the integral whip antenna.

Frequency drift on SSB and CW rendered the receiver very marginal for this purpose. The condition was aggravated by an erratic bandswitch (wouldn't return to the same frequency when switched) and pulling of the oscillator by strong signals.

A bandwidth control ("narrow/wide") was more cosmetic than functional, refusing to separate adjacent frequency signals noticeably.

Fine tuning is tricky; only the main dial is provided, and its rapid excursion through the spectrum makes accurate adjustment difficult.

No noise limiter is provided. The left-reading S-meter is confusing to anyone used to a normal right-reading indicator. GENERAL IMPRESSIONS: A typical mass-merchandise radio not worth serious consideration except for casual listening.

Tuning In On British Ship To Shore

Monitoring Times is pleased to welcome James R. Hay, a maritime radio enthusiast who will share his expertise in monitoring ship to shore transmissions beginning this issue.

England offers a wide variety of shortwave frequencies of interest to listeners. While there are only three coastal stations (as shown on the map) they offer ample opportunity to be heard.

To the north of Scotland, the United States Navy operates a station which can be heard using Morse code on 3724, 7504.5, and 12691 Khz. The station is located at Thurso, and its callsign is GXH. Also in the north of Scotland, the British Post Office operates a station at Wick on 12709 Khz, using callsign GKR.

Before delving into the specifics of frequencies at Portishead, a word of explanation is in order. The British have a system of assigning callsigns to a transmitter depending on its frequency.

In that system, a number follows the first three letters of the callsign; a number two is used for the 4 Mhz band, 3 for 6 Mhz, 4 to 8 Mhz, 5 for 12 Mhz, 6 for 16 Mhz, and 7 for 22 Mhz.

There are exceptions, but this is the general rule; I have deleted the numbers from the callsigns given below.

Although the callsigns for the radiotelephone stations are shown the name is preferred on the air. Thus, a ship would call "Portishead Radio" or "Wick Radio".

In the radiotelephone bands, Portishead Radio can be heard on the following frequencies (USB) (GKT) 4373, 13100.8, 13130.9, 17236, and 22611.5 Khz; (GKU) 8765.4, 8774.7, 22630.1, Khz, (GKV) 13172.1; and (GKW) 17329 Khz.

Portishead Radio can be heard in morse code using the following frequencies (kHz) and callsigns:

GKA	GKB	GKC
4286	4272	4251.6
6369	6379.5	6397.9
8546	8557.9	6407.5
12822	12835.5	8516
GKA	GKB	GKC
17098	17112.9	13019.8
22467	22449	16956
		22407.3
GKD	GKE	GKG
6428.5	4350.4	6469.3
8468.7	8705.5	8591.4
12778.5	13072	12789.9
16974.6	17198	17072
22431	22561	22503
GKH	GKI	GKJ
6470.8	6473.2	6477.5
8604	8606	8684
12791.5	17151	16918.8
17092		22545
22525.5		
GKK	GKM	GKN
4336	6397	6379.8
6542	8581.6	8580.5
8552	12714	17135.7
13006.5	17136.8	
17167.5		
22494		
GKO	GKP	GKS
8582.5	8711	6402
17137.1		8497.3
		16882.5

With the number of frequencies in use, one is bound to be on the air when you attempt to hear them. Marker transmissions in Morse code can also provide a place for a shortwave listener to get some practice as many of them use slow speed.

Three British coastal stations may be heard worldwide

New Beacon Frequencies On A More Serious Note

The Federal Communications Commission has approved a revised list of automatic beacons intended for propagation studies on the amateur radio frequencies. Modulated or unmodulated Morse and RTTY are the only modes permitted in an automatic mode.

The maximum legal power authorized is 100 watts and the signal must be identified once a minute by a callsign followed by "BCN" or "B".

Voice modulation may also be used; an obsolete entry in the "beacon" must be spoken.

Frequencies in megahertz for beacon operation are as follows:

28.20-28.30
50.06-50.08
144.05-144.06
220.05-220.06
222.05-222.06
432.07-432.08