



Questions and answers, forum news and a book to read.

I am happy to report that my SBS is currently working away using the new Snoopy software in conjunction with the Basestation reporter. The reporter software certainly makes searching the aircraft list a far easier task.

A big thank you to everyone who has been keeping my inbox topped up with interesting E-mails about their SBS encounters. This month I am going to go through some of the questions sent in by correspondents.

The first questions tackled are from Mr Elliott, who has recently taken the plunge and purchased an SBS1 (good move!). He also asked a few questions that I do not currently know the answers to but I will endeavour to find out for a forthcoming issue.

Q) What is the PSU for as it runs without one?

A) The SBS 1 virtual radar can be powered by the computer it is connected to via the USB connection. However, this will drain some of the juice from the computer and might slow down its performance.

For those who are running their SBS on a laptop or a slightly older desktop, using the supplied PSU will take the strain off the computer and increase the performance of your radar system.

Q) What is the 9-pin RS232 socket for?

A) The socket is for a network cable that can allow

SBS users around the country, or the world, to connect their systems to a virtual network. This allows data to be shared and a much wider area to be covered. This is something that a few friends and I will be experimenting with in the coming month. As always, the results will be mentioned here.

Q) Could I use a map overlay with the jet airways such as the one in flightsim?

A) There has been a lot of discussion about using a map overlay but I don't know if anyone has succeeded yet. I will investigate further and let

you know when I find out more.

Another interesting recent addition to my Inbox came from Mr Marshall. He sent details of his current SBS setup, which involves using the standard SBS-1 antenna attached to a biscuit tin in his loft. This is exactly the same setup as the one I am using

and the results have been fantastic. I have to admit though, Mr Marshall's range is a bit further than mine - his record is 210.7nm!

Thanks to Mr Lancaster, who E-mailed to report that he had successfully taken his SBS on holiday during the summer. He reports that: "In June, I took my SBS to Kalamaki on Zakynthos (Zante) where I was staying close to the airport. I could lounge by the pool and then check the listing for the aircraft seen earlier. It was interesting to see aircraft going 750 feet into the ground on landing! Apparently, this was due to the differences between QNH and QFE. No one questioned the equipment either in Greece or in Manchester."

With Nevada, USA looking like a possible destination for my summer vacation next year, you can be sure that my SBS will be with me all the way!

The final interesting letter this month came from Mr Roberts, who has sent material to prove that upgrading the Kinetics software is a must for those users looking for better reception. The reception returns he provided clearly

Logs & Comments

Logs comments and contributions always welcome to:

The SBS-1 Files,
28 Eglinton Street,
Saltcoats,
Ayrshire,
Scotland KA21 5DG.

E-mail:

sbsfiles@btinternet.com
www.kevinpaterson.co.uk

Forum News

If you've not dropped into the SBS Forum before, it's well worth it whether you own an SBS-1 or not. One interesting entry concerned an aircraft that was seen with an unusual flight pattern. The spotter wondered if it was some kind of check flight. There were a couple of helpful answers, including one that confirmed it was a flight check aircraft. An interesting website was mentioned too:

<http://www.airliners.net/search/photo.search?regsearch=D-CACB>

Reading Matter

Torture Taxi: On The Trail of the CIA's Rendition Flights by Trevor Paglen and A.C. Thompson (ISBN 1-933633-09-3) is a book that reports on the investigation conducted by the two authors. They claim that the CIA have quietly kidnaped more than 100 people and detained them at prisons throughout the world. The flights that leave the US have been monitored and that's where the SBS-1 comes in.

"On this mild spring day, Ray's testing a new piece of gear: a Kinetic Avionics SBS-1, a "virtual radar" system. Attached to his laptop with a USB cable, the system allows him to watch air traffic within a forty or fifty-mile radius and to log callsigns and basic information about the planes."

I've not read the book but if any readers have, please let me know more!



Cartoon Courtesy Kinetic Avionics