by Kevin Paterson
Virtual Radar Tracking of Aircraft

A new dimension to airband listening

A diverted flight and Air Force One were spotted this month by SBS monitors.

Logs & Comments

Logs comments and contributions always welcome to:
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Welcome to another exciting instalment of the SBS-1 Files. First of all, I have to quickly rectify an error I made in the last issue. While answering a question I received regarding the 9-pin socket port in the rear of the unit, I wrongly put that it was for network and data sharing. This was an error on my part and was actually intended for a total different feature altogether.

The RS232 socket on the back of the SBS is for connecting external devices, namely a radio scanner, with other options coming in the future. My humble apologies for the error and I have learned not to work on two separate articles at the same time.

Emergency Squawk

On 21st November, Northwest Airlines flight 49 made an emergency divert to Prestwick Airport. The divert was reported on the news but for 'local' SBS monitors, they were aware of the situation as it happened.

Thanks to **Paul Marshall** for sending the logs and also the screenshot of the aircraft on finals into Prestwick showing the E beside the aircrafts Squawk code.

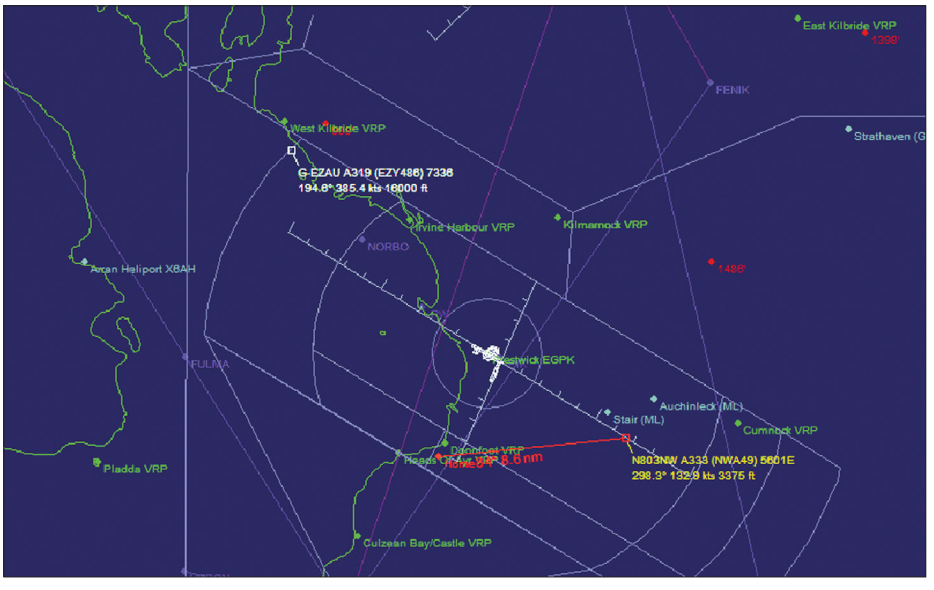
AAEE43
NWA49
N803NW A333
United States

President Bush on the Move

On 30th November, President Bush over flew the UK in Air Force 1, accompanied by his usual entourage of aircraft consisting of:

ADFDF9 = BVC-25A 92-9000
ADFDE4 = C-20C 86-0403
ADFEB6 = E-4B 75-0125
ADFEB9 = VC-32A 99-0003

Not quite as interesting as the last time Air Force 1 sneaked into Mildenhall but an interesting day on the SBS.



Screenshot from Paul Marshall's SBS-1.

Antenna Thoughts

Thanks to **Jim** for his letter regarding antennas. After reading about my Mk1 biscuit tin lid, Jim forwarded some details of his antenna creation that has made a huge improvement to his SBS experience. Living at 400ft above sea level (ASL) and with hills to his north and west sides both over 1000ft, antennas are of huge importance, including the height at which they are erected.

After initially using a 10mm thick, 40cm radius piece of round steel as a ground in the loft, it was decided that better results could be achieved. During an 'Einstein moment', the antenna was mounted on a pole with the magnetic base sitting and secured to the top. The ensemble was then lashed to the side of the cast iron down pipe, which is about 300mm in diameter and goes down to the earth. This allows the antenna to stand clear, out of the way of the roof and so on. With a long length of cable to run into the shack, low resistance coaxial has been used. The results reported have been a vast improvement, with ranges up to 120 nautical miles.

For anyone looking to get a bit more range out of your standard antenna, why not follow Jim's lead and have a play about and see what you can come up with. On the other hand, of course, and with it being Christmas time, there is always the option of purchasing the Kinetic BS1100 external antenna kit.

Merry Christmas

Let me take this time to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and all the best for the coming New Year. Hopefully some of you might be lucky enough to have an SBS-1 under the Christmas tree this year.

Remember to keep those SBS-1s running, you never know what might be lurking about in the skies above ●