

# What's NEW

Tell them you saw it in *Monitoring Times*

## Everything Old is New Again - Icom R75

Earlier this year, Icom's news that they would be discontinuing their IC-R75 workhorse was met with consternation. With the demise of the Drake R8A shortly thereafter, it left very little else available in the U.S. in the mid-price, stand-alone, desktop receiver category. So, it is with great satisfaction indeed that we report Icom has reversed its decision and will be putting the IC-R75 back into production this fall.

This is one radio whose qual-



ity keeps going up as its price goes down! When it was first introduced in 1999, the R75 cost \$800 and the optional digital signal processor was an additional \$140. When the radio comes back, it is expected to cost slightly over \$600 with the DSP module already factory-installed. The DSP unit adds an automatic notch filter and digital processing to improve the signal-to-noise ratio and adds substantial value.

Coverage runs from 30 MHz or below to nearly 60 MHz in the following modes: AM, S-AM (Synchronous AM detection), FM, USB, LSB, CW, and RTTY. The R75 tunes in increments as fine as 1 Hz, and features a large, backlit, 8 character alphanumeric LCD display. There are 99 memory channels plus two scan edges and five different scan modes.

The Icom IC-R75 is an affordable receiver for the discriminating listener and the serious broadcast or utility DXer. For those who have steeper requirements, the R75 has slots for two optional filters – one each for 1st and 2nd IF stages. There is a jack for an external speaker to augment the audio quality. A voice synthesizer is also an optional accessory. Computer control of the R75 is available with optional software and connection cable.

Check with Grove Enterprises (1-800-438-8155, <http://www.grove-ent.com>) or other dealers for availability, more information, or to order.

## Kinetic Avionics SBS-1

Thanks to the requirement that all aircraft must soon be equipped with a Mode-S/ADS-B transponder, for the first time, aircraft enthusiasts worldwide will be able to directly monitor the skies. Kinetic Avionic Products Limited has produced the innovative SBS-1 – a “virtual radar” on your computer screen!

Using the SBS-1 the user can track *Mode-S/ADS-B* equipped



aircraft in real time. The receiver apparatus connects to your PC via USB 1.1 or 2.0. Ethernet / 802.11b wireless. An external magnetic mount antenna and external low voltage power supply are provided. The SBS-1 is designed for portable use and can be powered directly from a suitable laptop PC via the USB port without the requirement for an external power supply.

Not only is the SBS-1 intended for hobby use, but it is a cost-effective tool to provide small and medium sized airfields with many of the safety and operational benefits previously only available to large international airports. The SBS-1 can even be an invaluable tool in flight training operations.

Mode-S signals are received from the aircraft on 1090 MHz at 250 miles or more using the supplied antenna.

SBS-1 Base Station is the software distributed with the receiving equipment, which generates the virtual radar display on your computer screen. This powerful application provides more than a map, but includes any other information transmitted, such as the identification of aircraft by callsign, altitude, speed and other parameters.

An additional feature available

by subscription is the MapModes network, in which online members can view data from the whole community of connected users, such as viewing the virtual radar from another member's screen in another part of the world.

The SBS-1 is currently available only from the UK (at a cost of around £500), but Kinetics Avionics has an active dealer program. For more information and where to buy, visit <http://www.kineticavionics.co.uk>, email [info@kinetic-avionics.co.uk](mailto:info@kinetic-avionics.co.uk) or write Kinetic Avionic Products Limited, Elstree Aerodrome, Elstree, Borehamwood, Herts, WD6 3AR England.

## Marine Monitoring

What the SBS-1 does for “plane spotters,” the AIS Receiver does for boat enthusiasts. Also a product of the UK, the KATAS AIS Receiver 1 enables the listener to receive and decode Automatic Information System digital signals, which give location and other information about ships within reception range. (See this month's *Boats, Planes and Trains* column.)

AIS Receiver 1 is a single channel audio receiver (A or B) designed for use with ShipPlotter software (also mentioned in the *Boats* column). ShipPlotter will produce a chart on your computer screen denoting the location of all ships within range.

The AIS Receiver/Decoder 1 produces RS232 serial output instead of audio and may be used with or without ShipPlotter. Other products, such as two-channel receivers and base monitors will soon be available.

For product details and system requirements, go to the company website at <http://www.katas.co.uk> Katech marine electronic products are marketed and distributed by Ships Electronic Services Ltd



(<http://www.ses-marine.com>) of Waterside Court, Neptune Close, ROCHESTER ME2 4NZ United Kingdom; +44 1634 295500, (Fax) +44 1634 295537; [sales@ses-marine.com](mailto:sales@ses-marine.com)

## Alinco Wideband Pocket Receiver

Alinco has announced a new pocket-size wideband communications receiver measuring only 2.28 x 3.78 x 0.57 inches. One of the most-touted features of the new DJ-X7T is its excellent audio performance in a “credit card” size communications receiver, which Alinco says will redefine the standard in miniature electronics technology.

In response to customer preferences, the DJ-X7T receiver offers five operating modes, three different antenna modes, triple conversion AM/NFM plus double conversion WFM. The DJ-X7T receives 100 kHz to 1.3 GHz (with cellular frequencies blocked in the U.S.) and features 1,000 memory channels, which are easy to program using free software available for download from <http://www.alinco.com>.



The DJ-X7T weighs less than 4 ounces and operates using a long-lasting lithium ion battery, which is included. Also included is a standard adapter that charges the battery and operates with

AC power at the same time, so you can monitor frequencies even while charging. It also comes standard with a large, easy-to-read illuminated LCD screen, 39-tone Tone Squelch, Auto Power Off, Monitor/Mute, cable-cloning capabilities and priority receive.

Watch *Monitoring Times* for a review of this intriguing miniature!

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 [Rachel.Baughn,editor@monitoringtimes.com](mailto:Rachel.Baughn,editor@monitoringtimes.com).