# Beating the cops on speeding

OWERING MY STURDY compact car along a lovely tree-lined road in Larchmont, I spot a sign reading: "35 MPH — Patrolled by Radar." I smirk. Speed limits mean nothing to me. Newly installed on my dashboard is a radar emission detector called Fuzzbuster. It will warn me to slow down when the car draws in range of a police radar unit. I have Smokey the Bear at bay.

of a police radar unit. I have Smokey the Bear at bay.
Or do 1? After spending an afternoon driving under the protection of a 
radar delector, I find that I could have 
been arrested for having one in my car. 
Radar detectors are the latest toys 
for adult motorists. Electronics dealers 
asy that they are the hottest thing to 
hit the shelves since CB radios, and 
they seem to be selling by the tens of 
thousands.

ousanos.
New York State says the devices are New York State says the devices are legal to sell and legal to buy, but state police regard their use as a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum fine of \$1,000 and up to six months in jail. Certainly, no deiver caught with a detector goes to the pokey or is fined anything like \$1,000 — but the legal menare is there. Indeed, in Connecticut, state police confiscate the devices on sight and motorists are liable to fines up to \$100. New Jersey, on the other hand, does not thave a law restricting them.

and the storage and the storag

quietly on the dashboard. Back in New York City, with 134 miles clocked on the edometer, I still had not heard from

the Fuzzbuster. It had been a bad day for speed traps.

Radar detectors have not been popu-lar long enough for their legal status to be clarified. Until two years ago, nolice believed the devices were undependable and inelfective and did not bother with

In New York now, arrests are based on a section of the vehicle and traffic code which makes it illegal for a private citizen to receive signals on police radio frequencies. Prosecutors and courts, however, repeatedly have found the statute inadequate and have thrown out many radar detection cases. Some judges ru! that the 1933 law was passed before the invention of radar and fherefore cannot apply in any case involving it.

de Desore the invention of rada: and therefore cannot apply in any case involving it.

But the future of the radar detector in "ew York State may well hang on the outcome of an appeal filed by a truck driver who was fined \$100 last February for possession of a Fuzzbust-February for possession of a Fuzzbust-February for possession of a Fuzzbust-Graity of using the heard in county court, which will be the first time the legality of using the devices will be tested above the justice of the peace level.

Of course, state police are notoriously sensitive about motorists employing gulle to outfox their speed traps. Some years ago when police enlarged th if radar network upstate, motorists possing installations retallated by flashing their headlights to warn oncoming cars. The irked police began arresting the light blinkers.

As it turned out, one of those nab-

The irked police began arresting the light blinkers.

As it turned out, one of those nabbed was a News editor, since retired, F. Heizer Wright, Fined \$10, he appealed the conviction, contending that the police were misconstruing the law. Police argued that the law forbids the display of "constantly" flashing white lights. Wright won on the grounds that the section did not mention any display of lights. Blinker ar "sts stopped.

In fact, radar delectors have been on the market since the early 1960s, but not until the mid 1970s was a device put into mass production that was reliable and had enough range to allow a driver time to slow down to avoid a speed trap.

Three companies supply most of the radar delectors on the market these days. Electrolert, maker of the Fuzzbuster, is the undisputed kingpin in the field with sales of 500,000 units worth \$35 million. Audstronies, a Texas electronics firm, makes the Super Snooper and claims sales of \$12 million. Radalron does not give out dollar sales for its Senturion delectors, although they apperently sell well enough.

Cost of the devices runs from \$50 for a simple battery-operated unit to

appurently sell well enough.

Cost of the devices runs from \$30 for a simple battery-operated unit to \$150 for a more sophisticated device that will monitor two police bands. The more expensive detectors are designed to receive signals from the new one-man radar "guns" that police departments currently favor.

In effect, the detector is a radio receiver tuned to police frequencies. Some companies boast that signals can be defected up to three miles away, but many electronic specialists find this ridiculous. Detection distance can be affected by numerous factors, the experts say, factors like terrain and climatic conditions.



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Generally, they argue, a device will function reliably at twice the distance being tracked by radar. That is, if the radar unit's range is ball a mile, the detector will pick it up at a mile. The driver then, will have a half mile to brake down to legal speed.

driver then, will have a half mile to brake down to legal speed.

And in explaining why Fuzzbusters and the like are not "licenses to speed," industry executives stress that such short notice will not help a motorist roaring down the highway at 90 miles an hour.

The devices, one promotional pamphlet suggested, are for those "who eausally drift over the normally safe limit." They are designed "to help you keep sware of speed limits and keep you from feeding the Bears."

Not surprisingly, Jeff Wood, national agent for the International Truckers Association, agrees. "Sure, police are irritated by the radar delectors, but it actually helps them," he says. "A trucker hears the beep-beep :nd he slows down. It's like the CB radios and their 'Smokey' reports. Some policemen say they help. One California traffic safety officer told me these reports make 16 police cars sound like 50."

As with CB radios, truckers were the first customers for the devices, Gradually, they became popular with road salesmen and other folks who spend an inordinate amount of time behind the wheel. Drivers like these tend to push the speed limit. Tickets are a constant harard and loss of their licenses means loss of their livelihood.

UT PROBABLY the bliggest im-

UT PROBABLY the biggest impelus to sales was the imposition of the national 55 mile an hour speed limit — particularly in the West where drivers think nothing of 75 miles an hour, and 200-mile day trips are routine. Bob McLaughlin, assistant to the marketing director for Autotronics in Richardson, Texas, said, "The 55-mile-an-hour limit drove people mad out here. The interstate thruways were designed for high speeds—70 to 80 miles an hour. What was the use of having them if we couldn't use them?" UT PROBABLY the biggest im-

Them?"
With the 55 mile decree, police became more intense in their efforts to control speed and introduced an increasing number of radar units. Electrolert, which makes the Fuzzbuster, reports that police around the country now employ 50,000 radar units compared with only 3,000 or 4,000 a few years ago.

Worse for drivers, the companies charge, the police radars are often placed in "unfair" locations — at the bottom of hills or at town lines — where even the most prudent driver might find himself speeding. And there is also the contention that too many police are using their radar skills to raise local revenues, rather than as a speed check.

In a way, moforists and police are engaged in an arms race in which there is little possibility of detente.

Dale Smith, inventor of the Fuzzbuster and head of Electrolert, argues that his device puts the motorist on an eoual footing with the policeman who stalks him. The story is that Smith, who had been designing police radar units, go' caught in a speed trap and hurried home to put together his own radar delector.

"Speed radar is a sympt m of a society headed for a police state," Smith linsits. "The Fuzzbuster negales the effectiveness of radar and in its own way, adds to our storehouse of personal freedom."

freedom."

In Virginia, where radar detectors are banned, the fruding between state police and truckers who are devoted to the devices can turn nasty. In the last few years, authorities have confiscated 4,000 detectors, mainly from truckers. Their owners were fined an estimated \$500,000.

To tweak the sensibilities of the law, some truck drivers rolling through the Virginia hills place card-board replicas of Fuzzbusters on their dashboard. When a trooper stops a truck carrying what appears to be a banned device, the joke is on him.

him.

Last month, a trooper not only failed to laugh good naturedly at the trucker's ploy. He arcested the driver, Henry Hillard, and brought him before a magistrate who levied a \$125 fine. The trucker recalled that the trooper was "spitting 10 penny nails."

In effect, Hillard had been arrested and fined for possession of a small cardboard box.

The trucker appealed with the help of Fuzzbuster's manufacturer, Electrolert, Inc., and the Independent Truckers Association. During a five-minute court session, the state attorney decided to drop all charges.



#### THE VOICE by Ted Vail

The voice by Ted Vail

To start off, I would like to pose a few questions, agric in the vain of control and other reispones noises.

They are a manufaced the way of singly interest on the control of th

her Jim-Instead of Sectroping the militime catebility of the key telephone, way not just locate the too line wires for one of the likes and how up to ther? I have to see expensive stutpment descripted—makes about as much sense as in the militime of the m

It has occurred to me, and to you too, I'm sure, that most far readers are generally "counter-culturalists". I think: I can taffly sessue that you are, too. Than why oot treat further away from the system (which, of course, accourage you to just it on your seal) and ig succession, "seek" apply SURSI's. The has there as a nation of peasite pleasures and entertainment are everyone just sits around, consumes goods, and doesn't think for kinself at all. The ubugutous "book tube" is a parfect example—for all I'm dedice and indeed a majority of mericans it has become practically a prestitum, if you have to make a parfect temple—for all I'm dedice and indeed a majority of mericans it has become practically a prestitum. I you want to come cut of the delirium, and help yourself (and someous class) to be an independent that I'm Viller hat it was to do so than by helping July I'm, the area is a concerned, you can do just that I'm Viller hat the set was to do so than by helping July I T', standing for "What I'm for Thick !" becames that is the real question in IAD—what do you think? We want to know. Sot only can TAP not ignore yet all will manage to contribute Tay Tay and the comply put it for All I'm can be reached. The permitting, at TAP, Tot Wall. Boom Ukl, July Wall I can be reached. The permitting, at TAP, Tot Wall. Boom Ukl, July Wall I'm on the TAP-More I'm over 100 interesting the contribute of the property of the local Postal Service. We, there is more loops. Please mention what area code you must i months you courtesy of the local Postal Service. We, there is

Hopefully, devices such as this one and others even more advanced will help to close the technology gap again in the never-ending battle with these "Diue-belled" Tuckers.

with these "Dius-belled" fuckers.

It is a matter of increasing concern the growing number of felony convictions which are being passed on to really Tregular" foliar these days. Such truly trivial items such as sere possession of an encoding device, blasting caps, night viewing equipment, and on and on... they might as well lock everyone up and get it over with. The dirty fuckers and their "Grand" juries are causing thousands to lose their rights to possess gum, with they are likely selling three rights within a 90 day period is a federal felony rap". I have heard of individuals who were "Out of favor" with the government be approached by Alcohol and Tax agents possing as interested gum buyers and having made the required maintain "gurthsse" then buyed the passes of the passe

As a former design engineer for the Bell System, am in a position to know how really fucked up their attitude lowerd the public they "serve" really is. Publications such as TAP must be supported and not allowed to go under. Not all of us are into the circuitry end of things - how about those of you who really make the system talk? Lists of country codes and foreign senders should be updated yearly. the system is in a state of constant flux. The U.N. Bookstore in New York will sell copies of the ITT Green Book. Get the volume on "Signaling and Sectioning" to be brought up to date. However, where the process are when you place foreign calls? This book will tell you!

Inquiries regarding these circuits may be made by the placing of an ad in the "personal" column of the Seattle Post Intelligencer. Mention my name, leave telephone number or address.

Gentlemen, keep up the good work. There is more at stake in this than you may suspect.

Milo Fonebill

#### LETTERS FROM READERS

Your past couple newletters have indicated an urgent need for material - weil, let me lay one on you! Here enclosed are plans two different units, one a combination blue/red, and the other only. They are fully automatic, and programmable.

Liberal use of COSMOS integrated circuit techniques precludes even the need for an off/on switch, since the standby power on there is for all practical purposes, 0. These are usually built in layers, and it results in a very viouse efficient device (see illustration of hand-held unit). Three layers considered the control of the contro

or constructing your own unit, and all details may be found there.

In actual operation, the blue/red unit is very simple and straightforward. One need only key in the entire evening's "activities" prior to leaving for a booth (you wouldn't use your own, would you'). The straight is a straightforward or the straight of the straightforward or the straightforward or

Specification.

If you have experienced difficulty in penetrating exchanges which are employing the new "Message Format Discriminators", you will "mally love using this - the calls sail through every time, while the using this - the calls sail through every time, while the usin units fail. The feature which is nost appealing to those of us a siry concealed, pre-programmed so that there is "a "though both a big "Dow" out in public with the state of the stat

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR
from Tom Edison and my staff of burn-outs:
Stan Joe Greybound
Duff Ted Vail
Dave Agent MDA
Sam Mark

Stay the bell out of Spotswood, N. J. 1 The local pigs have got a good racket going for them. The name of the game is called Fadar Trap. You play this game by craftly hiding a 40 mpb sign between two 50 mpb signs and then placing a radar pig boat with the complete of th two 50 mph signs and then placing a radar pig oct-by the 40 mph sign. By the time you take your foot off the gas when you spy the flashing blue lights behind you, hey've opt you! If only 10'r ead about the radar detectors mentioned on the front page of this issue. I hope you flickin Spotswood porkers choke on my \$15!

#### NEW RATES !!

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### CB BULL by Joe Greyhound

Writing this month's column may be a tatal waste, but i'm writting it anyhow. I've been let in on the financial status of TAP and it isn't on the financial status of TAP and it isn't good at all. There isn't even enough greenery in the bank to pay the bills and rent on their hole in the wall! If you think us writers and workers here are getting payed, you're full of shit!

I'm waiting for the word on whether to write this column or not, but figured I'd write it up

any way just in case.

I was supposed to give a modification for CBs using the type of synthesizer explained in my last column, but while thinking about it, I figured out an easier way to do the entire syntha series, that is if there is still something to write it for!???

The mod. will come after all the synthas are looked at. So, this second type of synthesizer is used in 23 channel radios manufactured by Sharp, Teaberry, Courier, Pearce Simpson, and probably Teaberry, Courier, Pearce Simpson, and probably others. Again there are six main crystals used in both the transmit and receive modes. They happen to be, 23.290IHz used for channels 1-4, 23.340IHz used for channels 5-8, 23.390IHz for channels9-12, 23.440IHz for channels 13-16, 23.490IHz for channels 17-20, and 23.540IHz for channels 21-23.

In these radios there are another four crystals that are used in both modes. Channels 1,5,9,13,17, and 21 use the 14.950IHz crystal - Channels 2,6,10, 14.18, and 22 use the 14.950IHz crystal - Channels

14,18, and 22 use the 14.960MHz crystal - Channels 3,7,11,15, and 19 use the 14.970MHz crystal - and channels 4,8,12,16,20, and 23 use the 14.990MHz

crystal.

Mhen the radio is in the transmit mode on, say channel five, the 23.340MHz and 14.950MHz crystals are added in the synthesizer mixer to produce a 38.290 Elz output. Next the 1st IF frequency of 11.275 liz is subtracted from the above 38.290 liz to give a frequency of 27.015 llz, channel five. The procedure continues all the way from 1 through 23.

The receive mode works the same way, even though a 11.730131z crystal is thrown in somewhere. This has to do with heterodyning in order to produce the 455kHz 2nd IF frequency, but don't worry about it. Just remember, in order to check your receiver's frequencies the frequency of the ist local oscillator equals the sum of both main crystals ( the two crystals that are used for one channel in both modes ) plus 11.275MHz. But for it, since this is all constant and in doing mod-But forget

ifications they always stay the same. Whewilling Even though all this shit is probably boring to read, don't sweat it. I've got some goodles planned for future issues (I hope!!!!?) of TAP.

If any of you out there would like info on any type of CBs or equipment just drop me a card along with a long stamped self-addressed envelope, and I'd be glad to send you back manufacturer's pamphlets or whatever.

Member, send any info, questions, comments, money, requests for info, money to:

TAP c/o Joe Greyhound 152 W. 42 Street Room 418 New Tork, N.Y. 10036

### **GET DOWN!! by TOM EDISON**

I'm sorry that my column in this month's issue is so small but I want to use as many new articles and columns by readers as possible in each issue. There are many new developments that I wanted to write about but these will just have to wait until the next issues. I'm gonna be a bastard and pull a cliff hanger on ya by telling ya that in our next issue, we'll tell ya where ya can LEGALLY by a Blue Box! How's THAT fer balls?!

I couldn't end the year without thanking Stan & Duff fer making this one of the most expensive but far fuckin out summers that I've ever had! Thankx again, ya burn-outs!

Let me end my column with a plug for a fantastic new store that's opened in New York City, better known as Cin Sity.

The name of the store is simply The Computer Store. For all you real techno-phreaks just dying for a place that deals in computer info, this is the place to go. Three books that all you phreaks should be interested in are listed below. For more info, write or visit <u>The Computer Store</u>, <u>55 West 39th Street</u>, <u>New York</u>, <u>N. Y.</u> <u>10018</u>. Tell em Tom Edison sent ya!

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## Turn kids on to real grass

GREENBURGH, N.Y. (AP) — Neighborhood kids gave a 60-year-old woman is plants several weeks ago, teiling her they would grow "beautiful flowers."

The flowers never came, but police say the fruit of the woman's labor was a thriving marirrute of the woman's labor was a dirrying mati-juana garden, with the plants two feet high.

"She had no idea they were marijuana plants," Lt. Michael Gangemi said Friday.
"She planted them right in front of her house.
She thought they were real pretty."

The police removed the crop.