



## “High Def” Comes to Radar - Will Anything Be The Same?

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Last week, you found an article here on radar (see SSP, “Radar, Your Eye Aye’s”) where I extolled the virtues and increasing cost-effectiveness of radar. While a lot of enhancements have been made over the years (my first radar set was, I think, installed by Marconi!), they have largely fallen into two categories – tracking boogies to avoid collisions at sea and tuning out the effects of weather. But, like with our TVs, High Definition (“high-def”) has come to radar and nothing will be the same. A new “arms race” between radar manufacturers has begun and safety of life at sea will be beneficiary. This column is about that.

### What’s So Bad About What We Have?

Really, only two things. First, even the best radar systems have difficulty is differentiating close objects from each other. As you may remember from last week’s article, we thought were closing in on a large slow moving vessel in Narrow Bay one night when our forward-looking infra-red scanner told us the truth – a flock of swans serenely paddling ahead of us... This can also be true for a tug and its tow – which is less serene to come upon in the fog... Secondly, in close quarters, it can be deceptively assuring – when assurance is not at hand. Last Spring, we came in



to Moriches Bay via the Inlet one moonless, cloud covered night with no visible contacts but the radar overlay on the chart plotter. Well, that is certainly better than nothing – except that the east channel from the Inlet to the seaway within the bay is narrow. I didn’t have 50’ on either side of good water – but the chart and radar resolution wasn’t much better than that. What to do? Slow down and get a crewman on the bow... so much for technology...!

### “High Def” Means What?

When I saw my first high-def TV, I realized that actors had better see their dermatologists, right away. I could count the hairs on the chin of the actors – which also meant their scars, pimples and pock marks! It also meant that sports figures needed to clean up their language because now it was a lot easier to read their lips when they ‘cussed out the referee or umpire..!

Happily for boaters, high-def means better, not worse. Instead of a smudge of

radar return signals implying that the Queen Mary is anchored in Moriches Bay west of the Inlet, you’ll be able to count the boats swinging at anchor, or drift fishing, within feet of each other. I’ve seen high-def radar screen-shots showing boats in slips at a marina. Prior to that, all I would have been able to see is one large radar return of a very large object ahead.

High-def is all about resolution. And better resolution leads to better problem resolution, and sooner... and that means better safety of life at sea...

### What’s Available

Well, like TV in the early days of the high-def revolution, not everyone has the technology and, for those that do, not all their gear is “plug-compatible.” Raymarine’s latest – the G Series – is the state of the art in high-def radar. And their prior state-of-the-art E Series can be retrofitted through firmware (specialized software) to receive and process the high-def signal. But the C Series is out of luck. Remember that 3 years ago, the C Series was the state of the art... that’s how fast this is moving...

Who else is out there with high-def? Furuno, as long as you are running their NavNet 3D system; Northstar, Simrad and Lowrance are also geared up for high-def.

As you would imagine, mounting the radome/scanner is now especially important. Recall again from last week’s article that as the boat pitches, the radar “beam” can shoot down into the water or off into outer space... Some installers argue that this means that a scanner should be mounted on a gimbal that keeps the radar true to the horizon... makes sense to me but that means a specialized mount that I have yet to find for powered boats... So, just be aware, especially in heavy seas, that you are getting a picture that is sweeping from the depths of the water to the heights of the sky...

### What’s Next?

It is always hard to predict the future so I won’t begin to... but bear this in mind... everywhere that there have been systems with moving parts, the moving parts are the most inefficient and, thanks to friction, the most likely to break... So, maybe the magnetron inside the scanner is the next enhancement...?

BTW, if you are interested in being part of USCG Forces, email me at [JoinUSCGAux@aol.com](mailto:JoinUSCGAux@aol.com) or go direct to the D1SR Human Resources department, who are in charge of new members matters, at DSO-HR and we will help you “get in this thing...”



## County Clerk Update

by SUFFOLK COUNTY CLERK  
JUDY PASCALE

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR RECENTLY DISCHARGED VETERANS

As we recognize those who have proudly served our Country in the United States Armed Forces, Suffolk County Clerk Judith A. Pascale would like to remind all veterans, especially those returning from abroad, to file a copy of their DD-214 (military discharge papers) with the Suffolk County Clerk.

“Very often veterans are required to submit DD-214 papers when they apply for certain benefits. By filing their papers with the County Clerk, veterans are assured that a permanent record exists in the event their original DD-214 is misplaced, destroyed or needed by their family,” commented Suffolk County Clerk Pascale.

At the time of filing, a copy of the original must be presented along with a current mailing address. The County Clerk’s office will return the original; issue a convenient identification card and two certified copies free of charge to the veteran. Additionally, all filed discharge papers are sealed from public view, but available to the veteran and his/her next of kin. A DD-214 can be filed at any time after separation from the armed forces.

In Suffolk County, veterans may be eligible for numerous service related programs. Most notably is a reduction in their county, and sometimes town property taxes based on the type of service they rendered to their country in wartime.

Additionally, a DD-214 is required and must be submitted for other programs including Social Security benefits, Veterans Administration services, Civil Service testing, and replacement medals. For a better understanding of all the services available to veterans within Suffolk County, individuals should contact the Suffolk County Veterans Services Agency at (631) 853-VETS (8387).



## Janice Harkins Dog Talk

Dear Dog Talk,

I have a 13 month old female dog and she doesn't seem to be putting on a lot of weight anymore. She is a very fussy eater and I am having trouble trying to find her a dry food she likes. Can you suggest anything to help her put on weight.

Thanks, Cindy

Dear Cindy,

Thank you for writing in Cindy. The first thing you always want to do when having a concern in anyway about your dog’s health is check with your vet. Once you have a clean bill of health you will want to start making choices. The first choice is food you don’t want to over do it and over feed your dog and change her food and up the protein to a level that she can’t handle. For an example Blue Buffalo makes many types of food. Blue’s wilderness is very high in protein it is about 34% which a lot of dogs can’t handle that much protein. Blue’s basic line I use for my dog. This item has protein in the 24-26% range this is much more manageable. When I say manageable I mean no loose stools and not an excessive amount of #2s and the most important one the less the protein the less bad gas! You will want to research brands and pick what is right. I wrote an article about how to read labels if you missed it please send an email and it will be forwarded on to you. The next step let’s go with good fats that will take a little longer to stick to her but it will be done in a healthy way. Nutro cal is a wonderful item to use. This item is high in vitamins and it is a nice way of adding proper weight. The next step is to add in people food. If you are thinking I do not want to do that I can understand. Adding people food is a healthy cheaper way of feeding your dog more food but in a healthy way. You can feed your little lady cooked eggs once a week. Give her some plain burger or some plain grilled chicken. Mix them in well with her food otherwise she might pick out the good parts and leave the rest behind. I use soup in my dog’s food but I only use one kind that is safe for dogs. My dog gets Campbell’s vegetable beef soup. I mix one tea spoon in to her 1 cup of food. Do not over do it with anything you add in. Less is more unless you want #2 issues! Anything you add should be very plain. Another idea I have seen clients use is low sodium chicken broth. They sprinkle a little over the food just to give it a little taste. The last two cheap ideas are add warm water to her food this will give it a stronger odor and or put a little water on it and put it in the microwave for 10 seconds with will give it an intense odor and hopefully draw her in. I hope this has helped! If you have any further questions I welcome you to write in and ask this is what I am here to do help you take the best care possible of your dog. Please keep the questions coming I enjoy them and want to keep sharing the best ways to take care of your four legged children!

Thank you,  
Janice Harkins, Dog Talk

Send questions to: [sspress2000@aol.com](mailto:sspress2000@aol.com), Attention: Dog Talk.