



I wish I was 20 again!

Roy Carman is crazy about feed hunting. With his two motorized dishes he is constantly on the lookout for satellite signal transmissions from all of the satellites he can see. He's already working on picking up DVB-S2 feed signals.

■ Roy Carman in his comfortable easy chair. From here the coach potato, as he calls himself, controls his six receivers, two PC's, three monitors and many extras such as a spectrum analyzer to find active transponders with his numerous remote controls.

These new technologies are nothing new for Roy: "I am fascinated by all of these new possibilities", he says but at the same time regrets that he was born some time ago, "now it's getting really interesting!" Other new technologies such as IPTV are becoming popular. Roy is now retired and he's beginning to feel the effects of his age. "I set up my receiving station in such a way that I can control everything from my easy chair", he explains, "In the evenings my wife sits next to me and watches normal TV from a 60cm dish while I put on headphones and switch my monitor to the motorized system and check out all the feeds."

Roy started with his satellite hobby in 1984. He was a career soldier with the British Army and was stationed for many years in Germany and worked there, of all things, as the manager of a TV production unit. That's where he first became exposed to satellite transmissions.

After he was honorably discharged from military duty and returned to England, he

started working for a construction equipment dealer. But the satellite virus had already infected him. He acquired his first 80cm antenna from a satellite shop that today no longer exists. It was with this first system that he began searching for feed transmissions. "I always found it fascinating to receive something that no one else could watch", says Roy as he explains his motives.

In 1988 he reached a little deeper into his pockets and bought himself a 100cm antenna along with an actuator and an Echostar 8700 receiver: "Back then that set me back about 1000 pounds", remembers Roy as he thinks back to those expensive days. His main satellites at that time were INTELSAT at 27.5° west and PAS at 43° west.

One of his more interesting experiences with a feed occurred in 2001: "I was watching a feed on TELECOM 2D at 8° west. It was a congressional transmission and you could see the moderator standing in front of a large video screen. All of a sudden the heads of

everyone in the room turned towards that large video screen; the second airplane could be seen crashing into the Twin Towers." Roy was a witness to this event because of a feed that happened to carry a TV news transmission. "That experience was etched into my mind", comments Roy.

Today Roy operates six satellite receivers with two motorized antennas, one with a diameter of 100cm and the other 120cm in diameter. "I can't install any larger dishes; the community regulations won't allow it." He would love to be able to erect a C-band antenna. "We are on a hill here and the house points exactly to the south", comments Roy as he glances over to his house that he moved into 10 years ago. "It is a dream location for a satellite DXer!"

Roy uses a Manhattan XTF100 for his feed hunting: "It is very sensitive and also shows me the FEC values." What's so important about the FEC? Modern receivers can detect the FEC value automatically. "Maybe so", says Roy, "but

■ Roy Carman lives in this attached house in Dorking south of London and 45 minutes away from Victoria station by train. He set up his control center right behind the living room window with which he moves his 100cm antenna.



with real distant reception, such as at the edge of a satellite's footprint, everything counts, and if you're able to enter the FEC in the receiver manually, it may be possible to receive a signal while in automatic mode a receiver might not be able to recognize the FEC." You can learn something from Roy!

And how does Roy receive DVB-S2 feeds? "For this I use the TECHNO-MATE 6900 HD", says Roy, "but I have to use one of my tricks to see if a feed is transmitted in DVB-S or DVB-S2." The TECHNOMATE 6900 HD does not indicate whether it is receiving in DVB-S mode or DVB-S2 mode. So what does Roy do? "I split the satellite signal and receive it in parallel with a DVB-S receiver." If Roy can only see the signal with his TECHNOMATE, then it must be in DVB-S2. If he can see it with both receivers, then it has to be DVB-S. You just have to find a way!

"In my opinion you should take your experiences and freely pass them on to others", believes Roy. For years he has

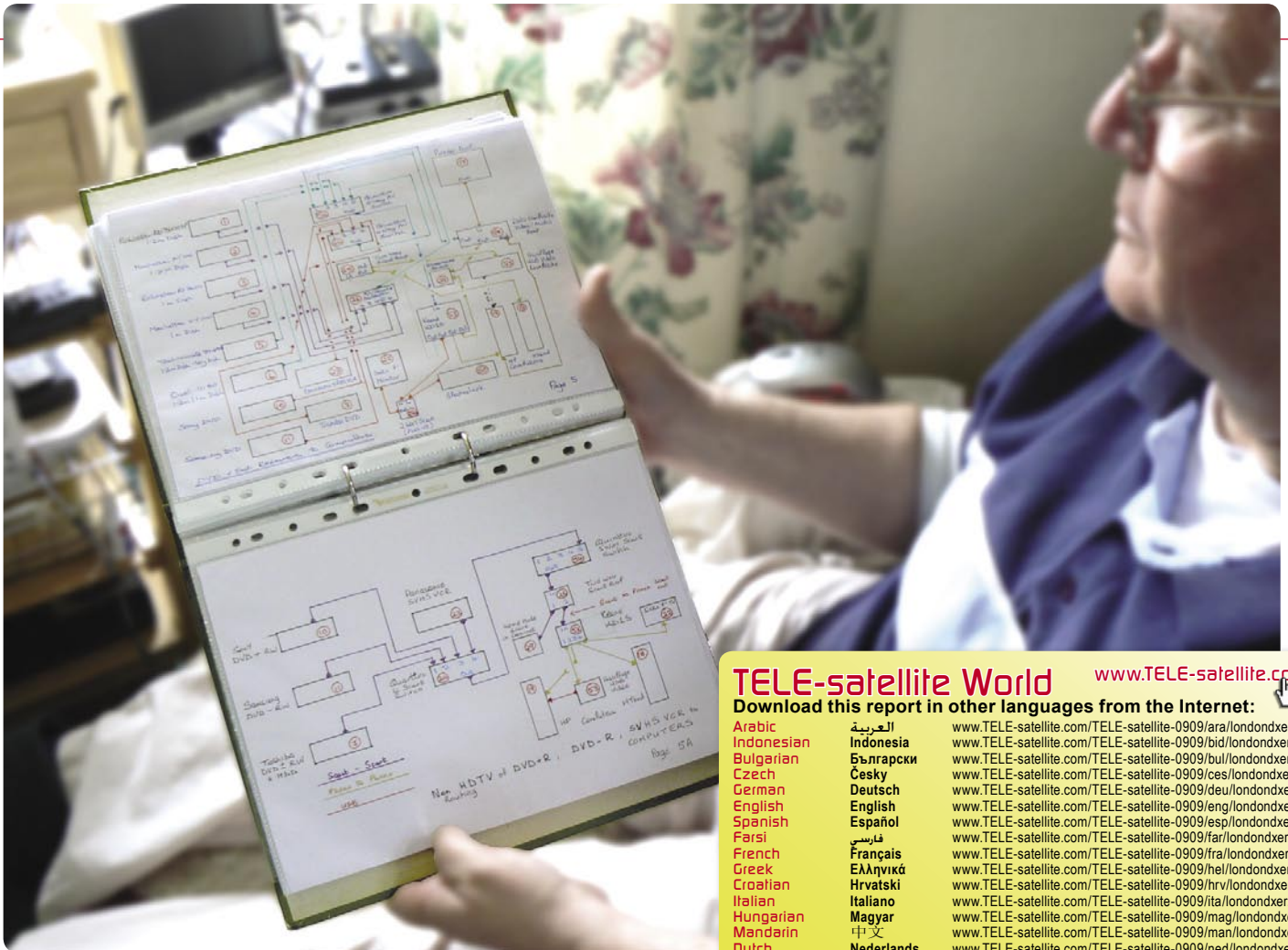
He erected a second 120cm dish in the backyard of his house. A smaller 60cm antenna for Sky TV can be found on the roof next to the chimney.



■ Roy opened his living room cabinet for this picture: here can be found the six receivers as well as a DVD players. "In order to quickly upload a software update I connected a null modem cable to each receiver and routed it to the front", says Roy as he gestures to the jack under each receiver.



■ Roy spent quite a bit of time connecting all of his receivers cleanly and neatly. Here is a look behind his 16:9 flat screen TV with all of its various cable connections.



■ For Roy it is too many connections for him to memorize. For this reason he created block diagrams so that he himself can remember what cable goes to which receiver.

been the moderator of one of the best European feed hunter groups in the Internet: groups.yahoo.com/group/feedhunters/ and groups.google.com/group/feedhunter with nearly 1500 members, and not just from Europe but from all over the world.

lite feeds. He also keeps up with changes in technology and constantly updates his satellite system.

Satellite reception is a hobby that Roy takes full advantage of.

To top it off, Roy produces a list of all of his feed discoveries once a month and sends them to other feed hunters. "I will gladly add every TELE-satellite reader to my address book", offers Roy, "just send an e-mail to roycarman@yahoo.com."

If you want to get an idea of what this feed list looks like, you can check it out online: Geoff Boyce in western England, also a feed hunter as well as a radio amateur, publishes Roy's list on his web site: www.radsat.co.uk/satellite_tv/satellite_main.htm.

Roy is very active with the reception of worldwide satel-

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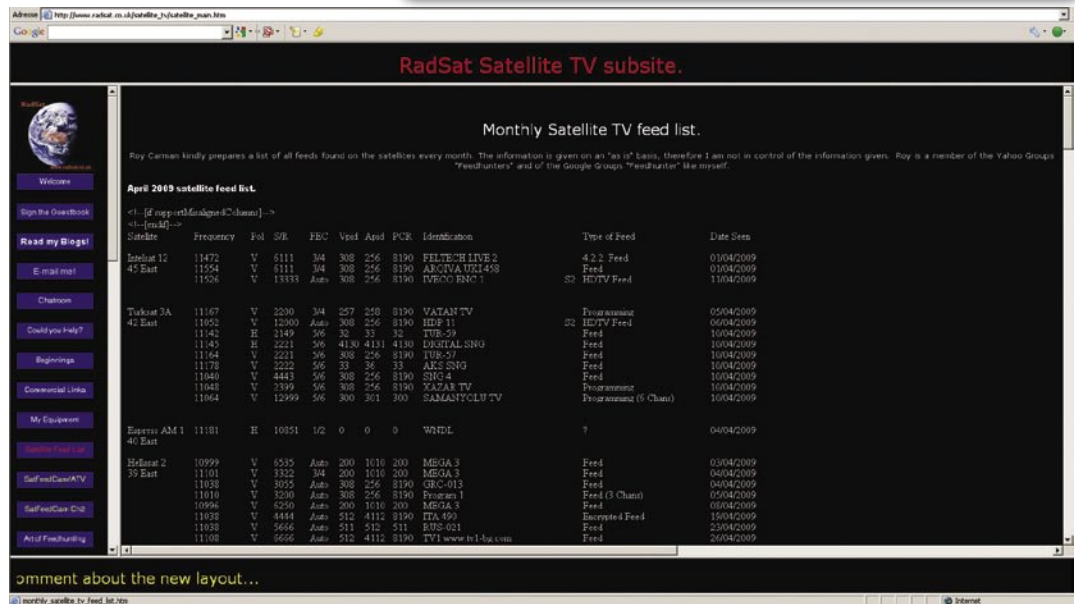
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The World of Satellite DXers

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■ Geoff Boyce publishes Roy's feed list on a monthly basis at www.radsat.co.uk. Here you can see everything that a feed hunter in Europe can receive.