In Search of

….your comments

Special

ANNIVERSARY EDITION

As you might expect, we are excited about celebrating our 15th anniversary in 2006. In honor of this momentous milestone, we plan on publishing a Special Anniversary Edition of Tracker News next year.

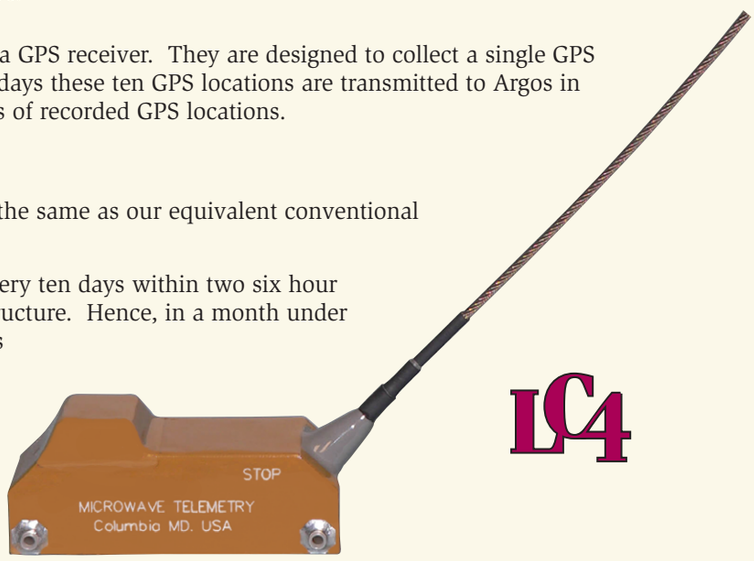
With that in mind, we are looking for feedback from you, our wonderful customers. Nothing long or extensive, please—just a few words or short sentences with your comments, testimonials, expressions of good wishes—whatever you would like to share!

Email us at microwt@aol.com before March 15, 2006

The LC4™ Advantage

Our range of LC4™ GPS enhanced PTTs has several advantages over conventional PTTs, both in cost and performance, especially when deployed in Europe.

LC4™ PTTs are battery powered and incorporate a GPS receiver. They are designed to collect a single GPS location each day at local noon time. Every ten days these ten GPS locations are transmitted to Argos in two messages each containing five alternate days of recorded GPS locations.



The Advantages:

Cost: We have priced these GPS enhanced PTTs the same as our equivalent conventional battery powered PTTs.

Argos Charges: These units transmit to Argos every ten days within two six hour windows, as designated by the new JTA price structure. Hence, in a month under the JTA plan, the cost would be for only 1.5 days worth of Argos service.

Accuracy: The locations are of GPS accuracy, so are typically accurate to within ± 10m. (The best Class 3 Argos locations are within ± 150m).

Reliability: Under adverse conditions, such as are now being experienced in parts of Europe, a single message from a LC4™ PTT will give 5 alternate days of GPS accurate locations for your bird. Only two messages are needed to receive 100% of the data, i.e. one location for each day. With a conventional PTT two messages would give a grade B location at best and only if these were received in the same satellite pass.

Our Apologies

Many of you emailed us in mid-October to inform us that you could not access our website. This disruption in service was due to Hurricane Wilma. Our server, located in southern Florida was down due to problems related to the storm. Although beyond our control, we apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our customers.

Thanks for your continued support during a difficult time.

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Eagle Monitored

programmed to transmit every 2 days in winter, extended to every 10 days during the nesting season.

On a personal note, this eagle was truly (or at least, nearly) a bald eagle when she was captured (photo). The crown of her head was missing a large patch of feathers probably a result of a tussle with another eagle over a salmon-- undoubtedly, another experience this eagle has long-forgotten since her days on the Skagit River.

*The last transmission that provided location information was at 6 years, 285 days.

Watson, J.W., and D.J. Pierce. 2001. Skagit River bald eagles: movements, origins, and breeding population status. Final Report. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia, Wash.