



BY BEN ELLISON (@Panbo_BE)

Senior Electronics Editor Ben Ellison shares some of his observations from his Marine Electronics Hub, Panbo.com.

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NEW ELECTRONICS

Raymarine LightHouse II Sounder Management

Lighthouse II-enabled units start at \$814.99; www.raymarine.com

One of many features in Raymarine's **latest software update** (besides the LightHouse charts) is support for multiple sonar sources. While I didn't have the hardware or even the working vessel to test this, it's neat that there's a **demo video** built right into the LightHouse II update (and actually more detailed than the one currently on YouTube). But who needs multiple sonar sources? I know that some readers may perceive it as feature glut, but not I, and I'm not even much of a fisherman.

The major manufacturers seem to be working hard to bring **CHIRP improvements** to even modest fishfinding hardware and also to the structure detail of high-frequency narrow-beam down- and side-scanning. I find the latter particularly useful for gunkholing and just plain interesting to keep an eye on. These new technologies are being delivered as black boxes or built right into even small MFDs—often at little added cost—and after that purchase/install it's just a matter of installing a



new transducer (like a Ray CP100 DownVision), plus having a software switch. Then all your MFD screens can have new ways to see underwater.

The LightHouse II feature list also claims **new support for GPX format waypoint files**, new support for GPX format waypoint files, and I found out that it includes importing and exporting GPX route and track files as well. Waypoint names in a route, for instance, were quickly typed into Coastal Explorer running on a PC. There are also planning improvements like the ability to set a planned SOG or see leg times either as hours or as ETAs.

Si-Tex T-760 Series Radar

\$2,095; www.si-tex.com

There's more to the new Si-Tex T-760 Series radar than you'll currently find on the company's website. Those multi-speed radomes are unlike anything Si-Tex has offered before and contain digital processing that will eventually put 16-level true-color target imagery on that 800 x 480 pixel touch screen (with a software update). Plus, the case is carved from solid aluminum and can be easily flush mounted. At a suggested retail of about \$2,100 with the 18-inch radome and an impressive set of radar features, the T-760 looks like **an interesting alternative for boaters** who don't want all their electronic navigation tools on a multifunction display. It might also work for those early adopter types who can't get radar on the tablets they want to use for primary navigation.

Some **old salts value redundancy** over the easy integration and common interface of an MFD, and they might pair the T-760 with one of the new Si-Tex SVS-760 Series (not shown), though they're sourced from a different manufacturer. The plotter-only "C" model—which can run either C-Map Max or Navionics Gold cartography—retails at \$799, the "F" fishfinder



at \$749, and the SVS-760CF combo above at \$999. At 5.4 inches wide and 8.9 inches high, the T-760 display might also fit neatly next to an existing 10- or 12-inch plotter that doesn't have a radar option. But note how close that profile is to, say, an iPad mini in portrait mode, and that **the head-up, look-ahead style** that looks good on the T-760 screen can also work well in many charting apps.

