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Inventor(s)	Stampfl; Burtrom L et al.

Tool tracking system

Abstract

A wireless transmission system logs and communicates a location of an object. The wireless transmission system includes a wireless antenna configured to transmit a first beacon signal and a second advertising beacon signal. The system also includes a processor and a memory that stores instructions executable by the processor. The instructions cause the wireless antenna to repeatedly transmit the first beacon signal through a first number of transmission repetitions spaced at a first repeat interval. After completing the first number of transmission repetitions, the wireless antenna withholds transmission during a transition interval. After the transition interval, the wireless antenna repeatedly transmits the second advertising beacon signal through a second number of transmission repetitions at a second repeat interval. The wireless antenna, memory, and processor may be integrated in to a mountable housing and attached to an object or integrated with the tool.

Inventors: Stampfl; Burtrom L (Bristol, WI), Stueber; Kevin W. (Menomonee Falls, WI), Hoossainy; Tauhira (Milwaukee, WI), Cunningham; Steven (Reston, VA)

Applicant: MILWAUKEE ELECTRIC TOOL CORPORATION (Brookfield, WI)

Family ID: 62022817

Assignee: Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation (Brookfield, WI)

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Primary Examiner: Milord; Marceau

Attorney, Agent or Firm: Michael Best & Friedrich LLP

Background/Summary

RELATED APPLICATIONS (1) This application is a divisional of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/565,086, filed on Dec. 29, 2021, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/863,521, filed on Apr. 30, 2020, now U.S. Pat. No. 11,218,833, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/439,477, filed on Jun. 12, 2019, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,694,316, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/798,627, filed on Oct. 31, 2017, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,368,186, which makes reference to, claims priority to, and claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 62/415,290, filed on Oct. 31, 2016, all of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

(1) The present invention relates to communication and logging of location for tools and other devices.

SUMMARY

(2) In some embodiments, a signaling method is used to communicate and log the location of a tool. In some embodiments, the method includes repeatedly transmitting, by a beacon transmitter, a first beacon signal through a first number of transmission repetitions spaced at a first repeat interval. After completing the first number of transmission repetitions, the beacon transmitter withholds transmission during a transition interval. The method further includes repeatedly transmitting, by the beacon transmitter, a second advertising beacon signal through a second number of transmission repetitions at a second repeat interval.

(3) In some embodiments, the first repeat interval is of a length different from a length of the second repeat interval. In some embodiments, the first repeat interval is of a fixed length different from a fixed length of the second repeat interval. In some embodiments, the first beacon signal is a signal for alerting a receiving application to the presence of the beacon transmitter the second advertising beacon signal. In some embodiments, the second advertising beacon signal is a signal for providing identification of the beacon transmitter transmitting the second advertising beacon signal. In some embodiments, the first beacon signal is a signal using a first open protocol for alerting a receiving application to the presence of the beacon transmitter transmitting the second advertising beacon signal. In some embodiments, the second advertising beacon signal is a signal using a second proprietary protocol for providing identification of the beacon transmitter transmitting the second advertising beacon signal. In some embodiments, the first repeat interval is of a length that is less than $\frac{1}{50}$ th of a length of the second repeat interval. In some embodiments, after completing the second number of transmission repetitions, the beacon transmitter returns to the repeatedly transmitting the first beacon signal through the first number of transmission repetitions spaced at the first repeat interval.

(4) In some embodiments, a wireless signal transmission system is provided including a transmitter and a memory. The transmitter is configured to transmit a first beacon signal and a second advertising beacon signal. The memory stores instructions executable on a processor to cause the transmitter to repeatedly transmit the first beacon signal through a first number of transmission repetitions spaced at a first repeat interval; after completing the first number of transmission repetitions, withhold transmission during a transition interval; and repeatedly transmit the second advertising beacon signal through a second number of transmission repetitions at a second repeat interval.

(5) In some embodiments of the system, the first repeat interval is of a length different from a length of the second repeat interval. In some embodiments of the system, the first beacon signal is a signal for alerting a receiving application to the presence of the beacon transmitter transmitting the second advertising beacon signal, and the second advertising beacon signal is a signal for providing identification of the beacon transmitter transmitting the second advertising beacon signal. In some embodiments of the system, the first beacon signal is a signal using a first open protocol for alerting a receiving application to the presence of the beacon transmitter transmitting the second

advertising beacon signal, and the second advertising beacon signal is a signal using a second proprietary protocol for providing identification of the beacon transmitter transmitting the second advertising beacon signal. In some embodiments of the system, the first repeat interval is of a length that is less than $1/50$ th of a length of the second repeat interval.

(6) In some embodiments, a location recording method is provided. The method includes receiving, wirelessly by a personal wireless device having an electronic processor, a first beacon signal. The method further includes, responsive to receiving the first beacon signal, activating a dormant transmitter location logging application on the electronic processor of the personal wireless device. The transmitter location logging application then listens for a second advertising beacon signal. The personal wireless device receives, wirelessly, the second advertising beacon signal. Responsive to receiving the second advertising beacon signal, a location of a transmitter that transmitted the second advertising beacon signal is logged.

(7) In some embodiments, the first beacon signal is a signal for alerting a receiving application of the personal wireless device to the presence of a beacon transmitter transmitting the second advertising beacon signal, and the second advertising beacon signal is a signal for providing identification of the beacon transmitter transmitting the second advertising beacon signal.

(8) In some embodiments, the first beacon signal is a signal using a first open protocol for alerting a receiving application to the presence of a beacon transmitter transmitting the second advertising beacon signal, and the second advertising beacon signal is a signal using a second proprietary protocol for providing identification of the beacon transmitter transmitting the second advertising beacon signal. In some embodiments, the method further includes an operating system of a personal wireless device receiving the first beacon signal, wherein the activating the dormant transmitter location logging application further comprises the operating system activating the dormant transmitter location logging application. In some embodiments, the logging a location of the transmitter that transmitted the second advertising beacon signal further comprises reporting to an external database an identity and a location of the transmitter that transmitted the second advertising beacon. In some embodiments, the method further includes waiting through a first number of transmission repetitions spaced at a first repeat interval; after the first number of transmission repetitions, waiting during a transition interval; and receiving the second advertising beacon signal through a second number of transmission repetitions at a second repeat interval.

(9) Other aspects of the invention will become apparent by consideration of the detailed description and accompanying drawings.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

(1) FIG. 1A illustrates a diagram of a beacon transmitter for location reporting according to embodiments of the invention.

(2) FIG. 1B illustrates a front view of a beacon transmitter according to embodiments of the invention.

(3) FIG. 2 depicts an object location tracking system including the beacon transmitter of FIGS. 1A-B attached to an object, according to embodiments of the invention.

(4) FIG. 3 is a flowchart for a method of communication by a beacon transmitter for location reporting according to embodiments of the invention.

(5) FIGS. 4A-B illustrate examples of timing diagrams for a series of transmissions by a beacon transmitter for location reporting according to embodiments of the invention.

(6) FIG. 5 depicts a first beacon diagram for a first beacon signal transmittable by a beacon transmitter for location reporting according to embodiments of the invention.

(7) FIG. 6 depicts a second beacon diagram for a second beacon signal transmittable by a beacon

transmitter for location reporting according to embodiments of the invention.

(8) FIG. 7A is a flowchart for a method for implementing location reporting for a receiving device in communication with a beacon transmitter according to embodiments of the invention.

(9) FIG. 7B is a flowchart for a method for implementing location reporting for a receiving device in communication with a beacon transmitter according to embodiments of the invention.

(10) FIG. 8 is a flowchart for a method for processing location tracking data by a location server according to embodiments of the invention.

(11) FIG. 9 depicts a user interface for a device implementing location reporting for a receiving device in communication with a beacon transmitter for location reporting according to embodiments of the invention.

(12) FIG. 10 illustrates an exemplary computer system for implementing location reporting according to embodiments of the invention.

(13) FIG. 11A-B illustrates an exemplary power tool incorporating the beacon transmitter of FIG. 1A for location reporting according to embodiments of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

(14) Before any embodiments of the invention are explained in detail, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and the arrangement of components set forth in the following description or illustrated in the following drawings. The invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced or of being carried out in various ways.

(15) It should also be noted that a plurality of hardware and software based devices, as well as a plurality of different structural components, may be used to implement the invention. In addition, it should be understood that embodiments of the invention may include hardware, software, and electronic components or modules that, for purposes of discussion, may be illustrated and described as if the majority of the components were implemented solely in hardware. However, one of ordinary skill in the art, and based on a reading of this detailed description, would recognize that, in at least one embodiment, the electronic based aspects of the invention may be implemented in software (e.g., stored on non-transitory computer-readable medium) executable by one or more processors. As such, it should be noted that a plurality of hardware and software based devices, as well as a plurality of different structural components may be utilized to implement the invention. Furthermore, and as described in subsequent paragraphs, the specific mechanical configurations illustrated in the drawings are intended to exemplify embodiments of the invention and that other alternative mechanical configurations are possible. For example, “controllers” described in the specification can include standard processing components, such as one or more processors, one or more computer-readable medium modules, one or more input/output interfaces, and various connections (e.g., a system bus) connecting the components. In some instances, the controllers described in the specification may be implemented in one of or a combination of a general processor, an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC), a digital signal processor (DSP), a field programmable gate array (FPGA), or the like.

(16) FIG. 1A illustrates a beacon transmitter **100** for location reporting according to embodiments of the invention. The beacon transmitter **100**, also referred to as a transmitting device, includes a battery **110** (also referred to as a power source), a controller **125**, a power block **130**, a wireless antenna **140**, an input/output (I/O) port **145**, a memory **160**, user input **155**, sensors **170**, and user output **175**. As described in further detail below, the beacon transmitter repeatedly transmits, via the wireless antenna **140**, a first beacon signal and a second advertising beacon signal according to a transmission pattern, which, in some embodiments, enables power-efficient location tracking of the beacon transmitter **100** and objects to which it is attached.

(17) The battery **110** provides direct current (DC) power to the power block **130**. The battery **110** includes a housing within which is one or more battery cells, such as lithium ion (“Li-ion”) cells, Nickel-Cadium (“Ni-Cad”) cells, or cells of another chemistry type. In some embodiments, the

battery **110** is a coin cell battery. In some embodiments, the beacon transmitter **100** includes another power source in addition to the battery **110** or in place of the battery **110**, such as a circuit for connection to alternating current power (e.g., including a rectifier), photovoltaic cells and related circuitry for solar-based power generation, or a wind-based power generator.

(18) The power block **130** is coupled to the battery **110** via the terminals (not shown) of the battery **110** and matching terminals (not shown) of the power block **130**. The power block **130** provides DC power to components of the beacon transmitter **100**. The power block **130** may include power regulating and conversion circuitry to ensure that the power provided to various components of the beacon transmitter **100** is at the appropriate level(s).

(19) The controller **125** is further coupled to the wireless antenna **140** and the input/output (I/O) port **145**. As will be described in greater detail below, the power block **130**, wireless antenna **140**, and I/O port **145** enable the beacon transmitter **100** to communicate with external devices and may be collectively referred to as a physical interface.

(20) The controller **125**, which may be an electronic processor, is in communication with the memory **160**. In some embodiments, the memory **160** stores and provides to the controller **125** for transmission the data making up the first beacon signal and the second advertising beacon signal, which are described in further detail below. The memory **160** further includes, among other elements, instructions that are executed by the controller **125** to control the functions of the beacon transmitter **100** described herein. Although the instructions are described as software stored in memory **160** and executed by the controller **125**, the instructions may be implemented in part or wholly in hardware of the controller **125** or outside of the controller **125**. For example, the instructions may be implemented by one or more separate digital signal processors (DSPs) or general purpose processors executing the instructions, or by one or more field programmable gate arrays (FPGAs) or application specific integrated circuits (ASICs). Although the memory **160** is shown as a singular unit, the memory **160** may be made up of various memories individually coupled to the controller **125** or coupled to the controller **125** via a bus. Additionally, portions of the memory **160** may be embedded within the controller **125**. For instance, parameters such as a status of battery **110** may be stored within a memory of the controller **125**. The data stored in the memory **160** described herein may be provided from an external computing device via the wireless antenna **140** or I/O port **145** and stored in the memory **160** by the controller **125**.

(21) The user input **155** and sensors **170** include one or more of buttons, microphones, accelerometers, temperature sensors, humidity sensors, and light sensors capable of detecting external stimuli from the environment or the user. The user output **175** includes one or more of LEDs, a speaker, a vibrating element, etc. to inform the user of the status of the beacon transmitter **100**. For example, if an error occurs, such as low battery power, the beacon transmitter **100** may output an audible alert, an LED may flash, and/or the vibrating element may provide tactile feedback to the user. The user output **175** may be controlled by output signals from the controller **125**.

(22) The controller **125** is further coupled to the wireless antenna **140** and the I/O port **145**. As described in further detail below, the controller **125** may transmit wireless communications via the wireless antenna **140** and may receive wireless communications via the wireless antenna **140**. The I/O port **145** may include a wired connection for the beacon transmitter **100** to enable, for example, programming of the beacon transmitter **100** or data export from the beacon transmitter **100**.

(23) FIG. 1B illustrates an embodiment of the beacon transmitter **100** including a housing **180** with mounting holes **182**. The various components of the beacon transmitter **100** illustrated in FIG. 1A are located within and supported by the housing **180**. The mounting holes **182** are configured to receive fasteners (e.g., screws) to secure the beacon transmitter **100** to an object to be tracked. Other securing elements are used in some embodiments, such as an adhesive pad on the back of the housing **180** (not shown). In some embodiments, the beacon transmitter **100** includes a housing having one or more of a different shape, differently positioned mounting holes, and different

elements for mounting to objects.

(24) FIG. 2 depicts an object location tracking system **200** including the beacon transmitter **100** attached to an object **210**, illustrated as a ladder. In some embodiments, the beacon transmitter **100** is secured to the object **210** using an adhesive, hook and loop fasteners, or the like, rather than via fasteners through the mounting holes **182**. The beacon transmitter **100** communicates via wireless signals **202** (e.g., Bluetooth™ low energy transmissions) with a personal wireless device **204** configured to receive such signals. The personal wireless device **204** (also referred to as a receiving device) may be, for example, a mobile smart phone, laptop computer, desktop computer, personal digital assistant (PDA), or other receiving device. Personal wireless device **204** communicates via a network **206** with a location server **208**. Example computer systems that may implement personal wireless device and location server **208** are discussed below with respect to FIG. 10. The network **206** may include one more of a local area network (LAN), wide area network (WAN) (e.g., the Internet), a cellular network, or other networks.

(25) In some embodiments, the beacon transmitter **100** is integrated within an object to be tracked. For example, with respect to FIGS. 11A-B, the beacon transmitter **100** is integrated into a power tool **1100**, which is described in further detail below.

(26) As described in further detail below, the personal wireless device **204** receives beacon data from the beacon transmitter **100** via the wireless signals **202**. The beacon data may include one or more of a transmitter identifier, a user identifier, user contact information, timestamp, state of charge of the battery **110**, an object identifier (identifying the object **210**), and other status information. In turn, the personal wireless device **204**(a) logs the beacon data locally on a memory of the personal wireless device **204**, (b) sends tracking data, based on the beacon data, to the location server **208** for logging, or (c) both logs the beacon data and sends the tracking data.

(27) The location server **208** includes a tracking database **212**. A tracking application may be executed by a processor of the location server **208** to receive tracking data from the personal wireless device **204**, update the tracking database **212**, and to receive and respond to database queries for the tracking database **212**. The tracking database **212** stores tracking data for the beacon transmitter **100** including one or more of a transmitter identifier, a user identifier (e.g., an owner of the beacon transmitter **100**), user contact information, timestamp, last known location, state of charge of the battery **110**, other status information, personal wireless device identifier (e.g., identifying the most recent personal wireless device **204** that received communications from the beacon transmitter and communicated to the location server **208**), and location history (e.g., including previous known locations, timestamps, and personal wireless device identifiers). The tracking database **212** also stores a lost/not-lost indication (e.g., a flag) that indicates, based on a value of the indicator, whether the beacon transmitter **100** is considered “lost” or “not lost.”

(28) Although a single beacon transmitter **100** is illustrated in FIG. 2, in some embodiments, the system **200** includes a plurality of beacon transmitters **100**, each used to track a different object. Similarly, although a single personal wireless device **204** is illustrated in FIG. 2, in some embodiments, the system **200** includes a plurality of personal wireless devices **204** that may each receive wireless signals **202** from one or more of the personal wireless devices **204** and that may each communicate with the location server **208** over the network **206** or another network.

Accordingly, the tracking database **212** stores and updates tracking data for each beacon transmitter **100** in the system **200** based on communications from the one or more personal wireless devices **204**.

(29) Although the location server **208** is illustrated as a singular unit, the location server **208** may be made up of various servers located together or remotely and coupled via one or more networks. Similarly, the tracking database **212** may be made up of various databases in communication with one another.

(30) Although the object **210** is illustrated in FIG. 2 as being a ladder, the beacon transmitter **100** may be mounted on various other objects including other types of tools and accessories. For

example, the beacon transmitter **100** may be mounted on and used with hand tools, power tools, test and measurement equipment, battery packs, vacuum cleaners, work site radios, outdoor power equipment, and vehicles. Other tools on which versions of the beacon transmitter **100** may be mounted include drills, circular saws, jig saws, band saws, reciprocating saws, screw drivers, angle grinders, straight grinders, hammers, multi-tools, impact wrenches, rotary hammers, impact drivers, angle drills, pipe cutters, grease guns, and the like. Test and measurement equipment can include digital multimeters, clamp meters, fork meters, wall scanners, IR thermometers, laser distance meters, laser levels, remote displays, insulation testers, moisture meters, thermal imagers, inspection cameras, and the like. Vacuum cleaners can include stick vacuums, hand vacuums, upright vacuums, carpet cleaners, hard surface cleaners, canister vacuums, broom vacuums, and the like. Outdoor power equipment can include blowers, chain saws, edgers, hedge trimmers, lawn mowers, trimmers, and the like. Other tools on which versions of the transmitter may be mounted include devices such as electronic key boxes, calculators, cellular phones, head phones, cameras, motion sensing alarms, flashlights, worklights, weather information display devices, a portable power source, a digital camera, a digital music player, a radio, and multi-purpose cutters.

(31) FIG. **3** is a flowchart for a method **300** of communication by a beacon transmitter for location reporting according to embodiments of the invention. The method of FIG. **3** is described with respect to the system **200**; however, the method may be similarly applicable to other devices and systems. In block **302**, the beacon transmitter **100** repeatedly transmits a first beacon signal through a first number of transmission repetitions spaced at a first repeat interval. In some embodiments, the first beacon signal is a signal for alerting a receiving application (e.g., of the personal wireless device **204**) to the presence of the beacon transmitter **100** that is transmitting the second advertising beacon signal. In some embodiments, the first beacon signal is a signal using a first open protocol, such as iBeacon™, rather than a proprietary protocol.

(32) After completing the first number of transmission repetitions, the beacon transmitter **100** withholds further transmission (e.g., of the first beacon signal) during a transition interval (block **304**). After the transition interval, the beacon transmitter **100** repeatedly transmits a second advertising beacon signal through a second number of transmission repetitions at a second repeat interval (block **306**). In some embodiments, the second advertising beacon signal is a signal for providing identification of a device (e.g., the beacon transmitter **100**) transmitting the second advertising beacon signal. In some embodiments, the second advertising beacon signal is a signal using a second proprietary protocol, rather than an open protocol, that is different than the protocol of the first beacon signal.

(33) In some embodiments, the first repeat interval of block **302** is of a length different from a length of the second repeat interval of block **306**. In some embodiments, the first repeat interval of block **302** is of a fixed length different from a fixed length of the second repeat interval of block **306**. In some embodiments, the first repeat interval of block **302** is of a length that is less than a length of the second repeat interval of block **306**, such as less than $1/50$ th of a length of the second repeat interval of block **306**. In some embodiments, the first repeat interval is set at 100 ms for purposes of standards compliance. In some embodiments, the second repeat interval is 7.8 seconds to compromise between transmitter battery life and user experience. In some embodiments, an overall cycle time of 40 seconds results from the selection of the two intervals. In some embodiments, the first repeat interval and the second repeat interval are selected to be the same. One of ordinary skill in the art will readily ascertain, in light of having read the present disclosure that the selection of particular repeat intervals and cycle times will vary between embodiments without departing from the scope and intent of the present disclosure.

(34) In some embodiments, after completing the second number of transmission repetitions in block **306**, the process returns to block **302** to perform the repeatedly transmitting the first beacon signal through the first number of transmission repetitions spaced at the first repeat interval. In some embodiments, a terminal interval elapses between the completing the second number of

transmissions in block **306** and returning to block **302** perform the repeatedly transmitting the first beacon signal through the first number of transmission repetitions spaced at the first repeat interval. (35) FIG. **4A** illustrates an example of a timing diagram for a series of transmissions **400** according to embodiments of the invention. The series of transmissions **400** may be, for example, transmissions resulting from execution of the flow chart illustrated in FIG. **3**, and may be transmitted by the beacon transmitter **100**. The series of transmissions **400** includes a first beacon signal **402-408** that is repeatedly transmitted through a first number (e.g., nine transmissions in the series of transmissions **400**) of transmission repetitions spaced at a first repeat interval **410**. For example, the first beacon signals **402-408** are transmitted during execution of block **302** of FIG. **3**. In the series of transmissions **400**, an example embodiment uses a first repeat interval **410** of 100 milliseconds (ms). While only a first repeat interval **410** between the first beacon signal **402** and first beacon signal **404** is labeled, some embodiments employ first repeat intervals of equal duration between each of first beacon signals **402-408** and the respective preceding first beacon signal, but that labeling of those first repeat intervals is omitted in FIG. **4A** in the interest of clarity of illustration. Additionally, while a first repeat interval **410** of 100 ms is illustrated in FIG. **4A**, other repeat interval lengths for the first repeat interval **410** are used in some embodiments.

(36) After completing the first number of transmission repetitions, transmission is withheld during a transition interval **412** (see, e.g., block **304** of FIG. **3**). In the series of transmissions **400**, an example embodiment uses a transition interval **412** of 100 ms, although other durations are used in some embodiments. Additionally, while the transition interval **412** is of a duration equal to the first repeat interval **410**, in some embodiments, durations of the transition interval **412** will vary from durations of the first repeat interval **410**. Further, while nine repetitions of first beacon signal **402-408** are shown FIG. **4A**, other numbers of transmission repetitions of the first beacon signal **402-408** are used in some embodiments.

(37) A second advertising beacon signal **414-422** is repeatedly transmitted through a second number of transmission repetitions at a second repeat interval **424**. For example, the second advertising beacon signal **414-422** are transmitted during execution of block **306** of FIG. **3**. In the series of transmissions **400**, an example embodiment uses a second repeat interval **424** of 7800 ms. In the series of transmissions **400**, an example embodiment resumes transmission of the first beacon signal **402** after a terminal repeat interval **426** of 7800 ms. While five repetitions of the second advertising beacon signal **414-422** are shown FIG. **4A**, other numbers of transmission repetitions of the second advertising beacon signal **414-422** are used in some embodiments. Further, while terminal repeat interval **426** is of a duration equal to the second repeat interval **424**, other interval durations for the terminal repeat interval **426** are used in some embodiments, and, in some embodiments, durations of the terminal repeat interval **426** will vary from durations of the second repeat interval **424**. Additionally, while the second repeat interval **424** is illustrated in FIG. **4A** as 7800 ms, other repeat interval lengths for the second repeat interval **424** are used in some embodiments.

(38) The second advertising beacon signal **414-422** includes the beacon data noted above, including one or more of a transmitter identifier, a user identifier, user contact information, timestamp, state of charge of the battery **110**, and other status information.

(39) In some embodiments, the series of transmissions **400** including the first beacon signals **402-408** and the second advertising beacon signals **414-422** are transmitted using a 2.4 GHz Bluetooth™ low energy (BLE) signal. While a BLE signal is described as an example of a suitable radio beacon signal, one of ordinary skill in the art will readily ascertain from having read the present disclosure that other beacon signal types will be used in various embodiments without departing from the scope and intention of the present disclosure.

(40) Accordingly, in some embodiments, the series of transmissions **400** includes a beaconing transmission pattern that uses two different beacon signals (the first beacon signal **402-408** and the second advertising beacon signal **414-422**) repeated in a pattern in which the first beacon signal

402-408 is repeatedly transmitted using a first repeat interval **410** and the second advertising beacon signal **414-422** is repeatedly transmitted using a second repeat interval **424** that is longer than the first repeat interval **410**. By using a longer interval, the rate of transmission is decreased during the period of time that the second advertising beacon signal **414-422** is transmitted relative to the period of time that the first beacon signal **402-408** is transmitted. Reducing the rate of transmission in this period reduces power consumption of the beacon transmitter **100** over the series of transmission **400** and extends the life of the battery **110**.

(41) FIG. **4B** illustrates another example of a timing diagram for a series of transmissions **400b** according to embodiments of the invention. In some embodiments, the series of transmissions **400b** are used in place of the series of transmissions **400** of FIG. **4A**. The series of transmissions **400b** may be, for example, transmissions resulting from execution of the flow chart illustrated in FIG. **3**, and may be transmitted by the beacon transmitter **100**. The series of transmissions **400b** is similar to the series of transmissions **400**, and, accordingly, the previous discussion of the series of transmissions **400**, including alternative embodiments, similarly applies to the series of transmissions **400b**, but for the differences described below. Accordingly, like elements between FIGS. **4A** and **4B** are given like reference numerals with the addition of a “b” for those shown in FIG. **4B**, and the particular discussion of the similar elements is not repeated.

(42) The series of transmissions **400b** in FIG. **4B** is similar to the series of transmissions **400** in FIG. **4A** except for the number of transmission repetitions of the second advertising beacon signal **414b**, the duration of the second repeat interval **424b**, and the duration of the terminal repeat interval **426b**. More particularly, in FIG. **4B**, the first beacon signal **402b** is transmitted nine times in repetition with the first repeat interval **410b** between each transmission being 100 milliseconds. Transmission is then withheld during the transmission interval **412b** for 100 milliseconds. The second advertising beacon signal **414b** is then transmitted eighteen times in repetition with the second repeat interval **424b** between each transmission being 3280 milliseconds. Then, transmission is withheld during the terminal repeat interval **426b** for 3340 milliseconds, before returning to the beginning of the series of transmissions **400b** to resume transmission of the first beacon signal **402b**. The total duration of the series of transmissions **400b** (as illustrated in FIG. **4B**) is 60 seconds, which is seconds longer than the total duration of the series of transmissions **400** (as illustrated in FIG. **4A**).

(43) To simplify the diagram of FIG. **4B**, only the first instance of the first beacon signal **402b** (rather than all nine) and the first instance of the second advertising beacon signal **414b** (rather than all eighteen) are labeled. Additionally, similar to the series of transmissions **400**, in the series of transmissions **400b**, the number of transmission repetitions of one or both of the first beacon signal **402b** and the second advertising beacon signal **414b** is varied in some embodiments, as is the duration of one or more of the first repeat interval **410b**, the transmission interval **412b**, the second repeat interval **424b**, and the terminal repeat interface **426b**.

(44) FIG. **5** depicts a first beacon diagram **500**, which represents exemplary contents of the first beacon signals **402-408** transmitted by the beacon transmitter **100** according to embodiments of the invention. The example first beacon diagram **500** illustrates the iBeacon™ protocol and includes a 47-byte transmission includes a 1-byte preamble **502**, a 4-byte access address, which is generally set to the value 0x8E89BED6, a protocol data unit (PDU) **506** of 2-39 bytes, and a cyclic redundancy check of 3 bytes.

(45) PDU **506** includes a header **510** of 2 bytes, a MAC address **512** of 6 bytes, and data **514** of 0-31 bytes. Data **514** includes an iBeacon™ prefix **516** of 9 bytes, a universally unique identifier (UUID) **518** of 16 bytes, a major component **520** of 2 bytes, a minor component **522** of 2 bytes, and a transmission power component **524** of 1 bytes. The UUID **518** may identify, uniquely, the device transmitting the signal (e.g., the beacon transmitter **100**). In some embodiments, the first beacon signals **402-408** may take the form of another open protocol different than that which is illustrated in FIG. **5**. For example, the particular fields and the lengths of the fields (e.g., the

number of bytes) in the first beacon signals **402-408** illustrated in FIG. **5** is exemplary, and some embodiments include additional fields, fewer fields, alternate fields, or fields with different lengths. (46) FIG. **6** depicts a second beacon diagram **600**, which represents exemplary contents of the second advertising beacon signals **414-422** transmitted by the beacon transmitter **100** according to embodiments of the invention. The second beacon diagram **600** has various segments including a uniquely identifying product identifier (ID) **602** that uniquely identifies the type of device transmitting the signal (e.g., the model of the beacon transmitter **100**), a serial number **604** that uniquely identifies the particular device from other devices of a similar type, and a universally unique identifier (UUID) **606** that uniquely identifies the particular device transmitting the signal (e.g., the beacon transmitter **100**). The second beacon diagram **600** also includes other segments **608** as well, which may include data representing one or more of a user identifier, user contact information, timestamp, state of charge of the battery **110**, and other status information. In some embodiments, the second advertising beacon signals **414-422** may take the form of another proprietary protocol different than that which is illustrated in FIG. **6**. For example, the particular fields and the lengths of the fields (e.g., the number of bytes) in the second advertising beacon signals **414-422** illustrated in FIG. **6** is exemplary, and some embodiments include additional fields, fewer fields, alternate fields, or fields with different lengths.

(47) FIG. **7A** is a flowchart for a method for implementing location reporting for a receiving device in communication with a beacon transmitter according to embodiments of the invention. The method of FIG. **7A** is described with respect to the system **200**; however, the method may be similarly applicable to other devices and systems. In block **700**, the personal wireless device **204** receives a first beacon signal, such as one of the first beacon signals **402-410**. Responsive to receiving the first beacon signal, a dormant transmitter location logging application executing on the personal wireless device **204** is activated (block **702**). In some embodiments, an operating system of the personal wireless device **204** receives the first beacon signal and activates the dormant transmitter location logging application. In some embodiments, the first beacon signal is a signal using a first open protocol for alerting the receiving application to the presence of the beacon transmitter **100** transmitting the second advertising beacon signal.

(48) The transmitter location logging application of the personal wireless device **204** listens for a second advertising beacon signal (block **704**). For example, to listen, the personal wireless device **204** may execute a software loop that repeatedly checks for a second advertising beacon signal being received by a wireless antenna of the personal wireless device **204**. In block **706**, the personal wireless device **204** receives the second advertising beacon signal, such as one of the second beacon signals **416-422**, from the transmitting device.

(49) In block **708**, a location of the beacon transmitter **100** that transmitted the second advertising beacon signal is logged by the transmitter location logging application of the personal wireless device **204**. For example, upon receipt of one of the second advertising beacon signals **414-422** including the beacon data, the personal wireless device **204** determines the transmitter identifier of the beacon transmitter **100** based on beacon data, and determines the location of the personal wireless device **204** based on an output from a global navigation satellite system (GNSS) receiver of the personal wireless device **204**. As one of skill in the art will readily ascertain from having read the present disclosure, while GNSS is described as an example of location detection, embodiments will include other forms of location awareness, such as registration of location (e.g. stored in a memory as part of an initial set-up) or location detection through detection of wireless networks, without departing from the scope and intent of the present disclosure. The personal wireless device **204** logs (e.g., stores in a memory) the determined location with the transmitter identifier of the beacon transmitter **100** such that the location of the personal wireless device **204** is logged as the location of the beacon transmitter **100**.

(50) In some embodiments, the additional information may be logged by the personal wireless device **204** for the beacon transmitter **100** in block **708**. For example, additional information from

the beacon data including one or more of a user identifier, user contact information, timestamp, state of charge of the battery **110**, and other status information may be logged for the beacon transmitter **100** in block **708**. Furthermore, additional information from the personal wireless device **204** may be logged for the beacon transmitter **100** in block **708**, such as a timestamp (e.g., when not provided as part of the beacon data) and receiving device identifier that identifies the personal wireless device **204** or the user thereof. The data that is logged by the personal wireless device **204** in block **708** may be referred to as logged data for the beacon transmitter **100**.

(51) In some embodiments, the personal wireless device **204** further sends the logged data, including the transmitter identifier and location of the beacon transmitter **100** to the location server **208** for storage and processing. In some embodiments, the receiving device sends the logged data to the location server **208** each time block **708** is executed. In other embodiments, the receiving device may be configured to delay sending the logged data when the receiving device has already sent similar data recently (e.g., within the past minute, ten minutes, or hour) to limit data transmissions and conserve power. In some embodiments, delaying transmission of the logged data enables the receiving device to obtain further logged data for other beacon transmitters using a similar process and to bundle the logged data for multiple beacon transmitters for a single transmission.

(52) In some embodiments, the method of FIG. 7A further includes, during execution of steps **700-706**, the personal wireless device **204** waiting through a first number of transmission repetitions of the beacon transmitter **100** spaced at a first repeat interval, after the first number of transmission repetitions, waiting during a transition interval, and, thereafter, receiving the second advertising beacon signal through a second number of transmission repetitions of the beacon transmitter **100** spaced at a second repeat interval.

(53) In some embodiments, the method of FIG. 7A occurs in the background of the personal wireless device **204** such that the receiving and logging of information related to the beacon transmitter **100** occurs without particular notifications to a user of the personal wireless device **204** of the particular receiving and logging. For example, although the transmitter location logging application may be activated from a dormant state, the activation may occur in the background such that an application on the personal wireless device **204** currently displaying information on the personal wireless device **204** is not interrupted or altered to provide a notification of the activation. Similarly, the logged data may be logged on the personal wireless device **204** and sent to the location server **208** for logging without a particular notification of these actions being provided to the user of the personal wireless device **204**.

(54) In some embodiments, in addition to being able to be activated upon receipt of the first beacon signal (e.g., as described with respect to blocks **700** and **702**), the transmitter location logging application of the personal wireless device **204** may also be activated in response to receiving a user activation input through a user interface. For example, the user activation input may include a user input indicating a selection of the transmitter location logging application for execution. In response to the user activation input, the receiving device proceeds to block **704-708** as previously described.

(55) FIG. 7B is a flowchart for a method for implementing location reporting for a receiving device in communication with a beacon transmitter according to embodiments of the invention. The method of FIG. 7B is described with respect to the system **200**; however, the method may be similarly applicable to other devices and systems. In block **710**, the personal wireless device **204** detects a beacon advertisement, such as one of the first beacon signals **402-410**. Responsive to detecting the beacon advertisement, personal wireless device **204** wakes a dormant app for transmitter location logging. In some embodiments, an operating system of the personal wireless device **204** receives the beacon advertisement and wakes the dormant transmitter location logging application. In some embodiments, the beacon advertisement is a signal using a first open protocol for alerting the receiving application to the presence of the beacon transmitter **100** transmitting the

second advertising beacon signal. In some embodiments, the detected beacon advertisement is a generic beacon advertisement that is not filtered based on, for example, the device type or device manufacturer that transmitted the beacon advertisement. In other embodiments, a beacon advertisement is considered detected in step **710** after the personal wireless device **204** determines that the beacon advertisement is a specific beacon advertisement including information indicating that the beacon advertisement was transmitted from a device of a particular type or manufacturer.

(56) The personal wireless device **204** then performs a scan (e.g., a Bluetooth™ scan) for devices transmitting device-specific advertisements (block **712**). For example, to scan, the personal wireless device **204** may execute a software loop that repeatedly checks for a device-specific advertising beacon signal being received by a wireless antenna of the personal wireless device **204**. In block **714**, the personal wireless device **204** discovers the device associated with each received device-specific advertising beacon signal and, in response, saves to a local database the identity of each discovered device, a current longitude and latitude, and a time stamp.

(57) For example, upon receipt of one of the device-specific advertisements, such as second advertising beacon signals **414-422**, including the beacon data, the personal wireless device **204** determines the transmitter identifier of the beacon transmitter **100** based on the beacon data, and determines the location of the personal wireless device **204** based on an output from a global navigation satellite system (GNSS) receiver of the personal wireless device **204**. The personal wireless device **204** logs (e.g., stores in a memory) the determined location with the transmitter identifier of the beacon transmitter **100** such that the location of the personal wireless device **204** is logged as the location of the beacon transmitter **100**.

(58) In some embodiments, the personal wireless device **204** further sends the logged data, including the transmitter identifier and location of the beacon transmitter **100** to the location server **208** for storage and processing by periodically transmitting the data in the local database to an API for processing (block **716**). In some embodiments, the receiving device sends the logged data to the location server **208** each time block **714** is executed. In other embodiments, the receiving device may be configured to delay sending the logged data when the receiving device has already sent similar data recently (e.g., within the past minute, ten minutes, or hour) to limit data transmissions and conserve power. In some embodiments, delaying transmission of the logged data enables the receiving device to obtain further logged data for other beacon transmitters using a similar process and to bundle the logged data for multiple beacon transmitters for a single transmission.

(59) In some embodiments, the method of FIG. 7B further includes, during execution of steps **710-716**, the personal wireless device **204** waiting through a first number of transmission repetitions of the beacon transmitter **100** spaced at a first repeat interval, after the first number of transmission repetitions, waiting during a transition interval, and, thereafter, receiving the second advertising beacon signal through a second number of transmission repetitions of the beacon transmitter **100** spaced at a second repeat interval.

(60) In some embodiments, the method of FIG. 7B occurs in the background of the personal wireless device **204** such that the receiving and logging of information related to the beacon transmitter **100** occurs without particular notifications to a user of the personal wireless device **204** of the particular receiving and logging. For example, although the transmitter location logging application may be activated from a dormant state, the activation may occur in the background such that an application on the personal wireless device **204** currently displaying information on the personal wireless device **204** is not interrupted or altered to provide a notification of the activation. Similarly, the logged data may be logged on the personal wireless device **204** and sent to the location server **208** for logging without a particular notification of these actions being provided to the user of the personal wireless device **204**.

(61) In some embodiments, in addition to being able to be activated upon receipt of the generic advertisement beacon (e.g., as described with respect to blocks **710**), the transmitter location logging application of the personal wireless device **204** may also be activated in response to

receiving a user activation input through a user interface. For example, the user activation input may include a user input indicating a selection of the transmitter location logging application for execution. In response to the user activation input, the receiving device proceeds to block **712-716** as previously described.

(62) FIG. **8** is a flowchart for a method for processing location tracking data by the location server **208**. The previously noted tracking application executed by a processor of the location server **208** may, in some embodiments, be used to implement the method of FIG. **8**. In block **802**, the location server **208** receives the logged data sent by the personal wireless device **204** (e.g., transmitted via the network **206**). For example, as described above with respect to FIG. **7**, the personal wireless device **204** may send logged data (e.g., logged in block **708**) associated with the beacon transmitter **100** to the location server **208**. In block **804**, the location server **208** updates tracking data of the tracking database **212** with the logged data. For example, the location tracking application executing on the location server **208** determines the identity of the beacon transmitter **100** using the transmitter identifier within the logged data, and, further based on the logged data, updates the tracking data in the tracking database **212** associated with the determined beacon transmitter **100** including one or more of the user identifier, user contact information, timestamp, last known location, state of charge of the battery **110**, other status information, personal wireless device identifier, and location history.

(63) In block **806**, the location server **208** determines whether the beacon transmitter **100** is currently designated as “lost.” For example, the location tracking application executing on the location server **208** uses the transmitter identifier from the logged data to query the tracking database **212** to determine whether the lost/not-lost indicator indicates that the beacon transmitter **100** is lost or not lost. When the beacon transmitter **100** is currently designated as “not lost,” the location server **208** returns to block **802**. When the beacon transmitter is currently designated as “lost,” the location server **208** proceeds to block **808** and sends a notification to a user associated with the beacon transmitter **100**. As noted, user contact information for each beacon transmitter **100** may be stored in the tracking database **212** that identifies a user associated with the beacon transmitter **100** who is to be notified. Accordingly, in block **808**, the location tracking application executing on the location server **208** may access the user contact information for the beacon transmitter **100** and generate a notification (e.g., an email, text message, or other data message) to the user in accordance with the contact information.

(64) Although FIG. **8** is described with respect to the system **200** and executed by the location server **208**, the method illustrated may be applicable to other systems and executed by other devices in some embodiments.

(65) FIG. **9** depicts a user interface for a device implementing location reporting for a receiving device in communication with a beacon transmitter for location reporting according to embodiments of the invention. The personal wireless device **204** generates and displays a user interface **900**, for example, in response to a user selection of the beacon transmitter **100** on an inventory interface displayed on the personal wireless device **204**. The user interface **900** includes an image **902**, which may be of the beacon transmitter **100**, the object **210** on which the beacon transmitter **100** is mounted, or the device into which the beacon transmitter **100** is integrated. The image **902** may be stored on the personal wireless device **204** or the tracking database **212** and is associated with the beacon transmitter **100** via, for example, the transmitter identifier of the beacon transmitter **100**. A map **904**, showing a logged location **906** of the beacon transmitter **100** is displayed. The logged location **906** may be the last known location of the beacon transmitter **100** obtained from a memory of the personal wireless device **204** or the tracking database **212**. A timestamp **908** associated with the logged location **906** is also illustrated on the user interface **900**. The user interface **900** further displays information **910** about the beacon transmitter **100** (e.g., obtained from the tracking database **212** or a memory of the personal wireless device **204**).

(66) A missing device control **912** for reporting the beacon transmitter **100** missing is also

displayed. The personal wireless device **204** is operable to receive, via the missing device control **912**, user input that indicates that the beacon transmitter **100** (identified by the information **910**) is lost. The personal wireless device **204**, in response, communicates lost device information to the tracking database **212** including one or more of a transmitter identifier of the beacon transmitter **100**, an indication that the beacon transmitter **100** is lost, a timestamp, a user identifier, user contact information, and personal wireless device identifier. In response to receiving the lost device information, the location server **208** updates the tracking database **212** to indicate that the beacon transmitter **100** is lost (e.g., sets the lost/not-lost indicator to “lost”), and may update the beacon transmitter **100** data in the tracking database **212** with other of the lost device information as well. For example, the user contact information associated with the beacon transmitter **100** on the tracking database **212** may be updated to contact information for the personal wireless device **204** that is reporting the beacon transmitter **100** lost.

(67) As can be appreciated based on the previous description of the system **200** and related methods, after the beacon transmitter **100** is reported lost, a second personal wireless device (similar to the personal wireless device **204**) may later receive beacon data for the beacon transmitter **100** (e.g., in accordance with the method of FIG. 7) and the resulting logged data is sent to the location server **208**. The location server **208** may then determine that the beacon transmitter **100** has been reported lost and provide a notification to the user in accordance with the method of FIG. 8. Accordingly, embodiments of the invention may implement community tracking and finding of objects (each associated with one of the beacon transmitters **100**) using a plurality of personal wireless devices **204** and the location server **208**.

(68) Embodiments of location logging module and/or of the various location logging methods and techniques as described herein may be executed on one or more computer systems, which may interact with various other devices. One such computer system is illustrated by FIG. 10. In different embodiments, computer system **1000** may be any of various types of devices, including, but not limited to, a personal computer system, desktop computer, laptop, notebook, or netbook computer, mainframe computer system, handheld computer, mobile telephone, workstation, network computer, a camera, a set top box, a mobile device, a consumer device, video game console, handheld video game device, application server, storage device, a peripheral device such as a switch, modem, router, or another type of computing or electronic device. The computer system **1000** is an example of a computer system that may be configured to implement the location server **208** (FIG. 2), and of a computer system that may be configured to implement the personal wireless device **204** (FIG. 2).

(69) In the illustrated embodiment, computer system **1000** includes one or more processors **1010** coupled to a system memory **1020** via an input/output (I/O) interface **1030**. Computer system **1000** further includes a network interface **1040** coupled to I/O interface **1030**, and one or more input/output devices **1050**, such as cursor control device **1060**, keyboard **1070**, and display(s) **1080**. In some embodiments, it is contemplated that embodiments may be implemented using a single instance of computer system **1000**, while in other embodiments multiple such systems, or multiple nodes making up computer system **1000**, may be configured to host different portions or instances of embodiments. For example, in one embodiment some elements may be implemented via one or more nodes of computer system **1000** that are distinct from those nodes implementing other elements.

(70) In various embodiments, computer system **1000** may be a uniprocessor system including one processor **1010**, or a multiprocessor system including several processors **1010** (e.g., two, four, eight, or another suitable number). Processors **1010** may be any suitable processor capable of executing instructions. For example, in various embodiments, processors **1010** may be general-purpose or embedded processors implementing any of a variety of instruction set architectures (ISAs), such as the x86, PowerPC, SPARC, or MIPS ISAs, or any other suitable ISA. In multiprocessor systems, each of processors **1010** may commonly, but not necessarily, implement

the same ISA.

(71) In some embodiments, at least one processor **1010** may be a graphics processing unit. A graphics processing unit or GPU may be considered a dedicated graphics-rendering device for a personal computer, workstation, game console or other computing or electronic device. Modern GPUs may be very efficient at manipulating and displaying computer graphics, and their highly parallel structure may make them more effective than typical CPUs for a range of complex graphical algorithms. For example, a graphics processor may implement a number of graphics primitive operations in a way that makes executing them much faster than drawing directly to the screen with a host central processing unit (CPU). In various embodiments, the image processing methods disclosed herein may, at least in part, be implemented by program instructions configured for execution on one of, or parallel execution on two or more of, such GPUs. The GPU(s) may implement one or more application programmer interfaces (APIs) that permit programmers to invoke the functionality of the GPU(s). Suitable GPUs may be commercially available from vendors such as NVIDIA Corporation, ATI Technologies (AMD), and others.

(72) System memory **1020** may be configured to store program instructions and/or data accessible by processor **1010**. In various embodiments, system memory **1020** may be implemented using any suitable memory technology, such as static random access memory (SRAM), synchronous dynamic RAM (SDRAM), nonvolatile/Flash-type memory, or any other type of memory. In the illustrated embodiment, program instructions and data implementing desired functions, such as those described above for various embodiments, are shown stored within system memory **1020** as program instructions **1025** and data storage **1035**, respectively. In other embodiments, program instructions and/or data may be received, sent or stored upon different types of computer-accessible media or on similar media separate from system memory **1020** or computer system **1000**. Generally speaking, a computer-accessible medium may include storage media or memory media such as magnetic or optical media, e.g., disk or CD/DVD-ROM coupled to computer system **1000** via I/O interface **1030**. Program instructions and data stored via a computer-accessible medium may be transmitted by transmission media or signals such as electrical, electromagnetic, or digital signals, which may be conveyed via a communication medium such as a network and/or a wireless link, such as may be implemented via network interface **1040**.

(73) In one embodiment, I/O interface **1030** may be configured to coordinate I/O traffic between processor **1010**, system memory **1020**, and any peripheral devices in the device, including network interface **1040** or other peripheral interfaces, such as input/output devices **1050**. In some embodiments, I/O interface **1030** may perform any necessary protocol, timing or other data transformations to convert data signals from one component (e.g., system memory **1020**) into a format suitable for use by another component (e.g., processor **1010**). In some embodiments, I/O interface **1030** may include support for devices attached through various types of peripheral buses, such as a variant of the Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) bus standard or the Universal Serial Bus (USB) standard, for example. In some embodiments, the function of I/O interface **1030** may be split into two or more separate components, such as a north bridge and a south bridge, for example. In addition, in some embodiments some or all of the functionality of I/O interface **1030**, such as an interface to system memory **1020**, may be incorporated directly into processor **1010**.

(74) Network interface **1040** may be configured to allow data to be exchanged between computer system **1000** and other devices attached to a network, such as other computer systems, or between nodes of computer system **1000**. In various embodiments, network interface **1040** may support communication via wired or wireless general data networks, such as any suitable type of Ethernet network, for example; via telecommunications/telephony networks such as analog voice networks or digital fiber communications networks; via storage area networks such as Fibre Channel SANs, or via any other suitable type of network and/or protocol.

(75) For example, when the computer system **1000** implements the personal wireless device **204**, the network interface **1040** may include one or more wireless antennas to enable wireless

communication with the beacon transmitter **100** and the location server **208**. Additionally, when the computer system **1000** implements the location server **208**, the network interface **1040** may include one or more wireless antennas to enable wireless communication with the personal wireless device **204**.

(76) Input/output devices **1050** may, in some embodiments, include one or more display terminals, keyboards, keypads, touchpads, scanning devices, voice or optical recognition devices, or any other devices suitable for entering or retrieving data by one or more computer system **1000**. Multiple input/output devices **1050** may be present in computer system **1000** or may be distributed on various nodes of computer system **1000**. In some embodiments, similar input/output devices may be separate from computer system **1000** and may interact with one or more nodes of computer system **1000** through a wired or wireless connection, such as over network interface **1040**.

(77) As shown in FIG. **10**, the computer system **1000** may further include a global navigation satellite system (GNSS) receiver **1090**. The GNSS receiver **1090** is configured to receive signals from global navigation satellites and to determine, based on the received signals, a location of the GNSS receiver **1090** (e.g., including a latitude, longitude, and altitude) and time. The GNSS receiver **1090** is further configured to provide the determined location and time to other components of the computer system **1000**, such as the processor(s) **1010**. When the computer system **1000** implements the personal wireless device **204**, the determined location and time information may be used as the location and time of the personal wireless device **204** used in the various embodiments described herein. The GNSS receiver may, in some embodiments, be a global positions system (GPS) receiver.

(78) Those skilled in the art will also appreciate that, while various items are illustrated as being stored in memory or on storage while being used, these items or portions of them may be transferred between memory and other storage devices for purposes of memory management and data integrity. Alternatively, in other embodiments some or all of the software components may execute in memory on another device and communicate with the illustrated computer system via inter-computer communication. Some or all of the system components or data structures may also be stored (e.g., as instructions or structured data) on a computer-accessible medium or a portable article to be read by an appropriate drive, various examples of which are described above. In some embodiments, instructions stored on a computer-accessible medium separate from computer system **1000** may be transmitted to computer system **1000** via transmission media or signals such as electrical, electromagnetic, or digital signals, conveyed via a communication medium such as a network and/or a wireless link. Various embodiments may further include receiving, sending or storing instructions and/or data implemented in accordance with the foregoing description upon a computer-accessible medium. Accordingly, the present invention may be practiced with other computer system configurations.

(79) Various embodiments may further include receiving, sending or storing instructions and/or data implemented in accordance with the foregoing description upon a computer-accessible medium. Generally speaking, a computer-accessible medium may include storage media or memory media such as magnetic or optical media, e.g., disk or DVD/CD-ROM, volatile or non-volatile media such as RAM (e.g. SDRAM, DDR, RDRAM, SRAM, etc.), ROM, etc., as well as transmission media or signals such as electrical, electromagnetic, or digital signals, conveyed via a communication medium such as network and/or a wireless link.

(80) FIGS. **11A-B** illustrate a power tool **1100** incorporating the beacon transmitter **100** described above. The power tool **1100** includes a power tool battery pack or other power tool power supply **1102**, a tool controller **1104**, a tool motor **1106**, and a tool output component **1108**. The power tool power supply **1102** may include a circuit for connection to alternating current power, may include power generation components, such as a wind or solar generator, or may be a battery pack that may include one or more battery cells (e.g., lithium-ion cells) within a housing includes contacts and an attachment mechanism for selectively securing and removing the power tool battery pack to the

power tool **1100**. The tool controller **1104** is coupled to and powered by the power tool power supply **1102**, and controls the tool motor **1106** to drive the tool output component **1108**. The tool output component **1108** may be, for example, a drill chuck, as illustrated in FIG. **11B**. The tool controller **1104** may control the tool motor **1106** based on user input received via user input component **1110**, which may be, for example, a trigger, as illustrated in FIG. **11B**. The power tool **1100** may further include a tool housing **1112** (FIG. **11B**) that house the tool controller **1104**, the tool motor **1106**, and the beacon transmitter **100**.

(81) The beacon transmitter **100** may be coupled to the tool controller **1104** and the power tool power supply **1102**. For example, the beacon transmitter **100** may be powered by the power tool power supply **1102** when present, and by the battery **110** of the beacon transmitter **100** when the power tool power supply **1102** is not coupled to the power tool **1100**. Additionally, the beacon transmitter **100** may communicate with the tool controller **1104** to, for example, (i) obtain tool usage data stored on a memory of the tool controller **1104** (e.g., obtained by sensors of the power tool **1100**) to send to the personal wireless device **204** and/or (ii) provide tool configuration data (e.g., that is sent to the tool controller **1104** for storage on a memory thereof) received from the personal wireless device **204**. The beacon transmitter **100**, when incorporated into the power tool **1100**, may store within the memory **160** (see FIG. **1**) identifying information for the power tool **1100**, such as a product identifier (e.g., identifying the type of power tool) and a serial number (e.g., uniquely identifying the particular instance of the power tool). This identifying information of the power tool **1100** may also be provided by the beacon transmitter **100** as part of the beacon data transmitted with the second advertising beacon signal **414-422** noted above.

(82) The power tool **1100**, as illustrated in FIG. **11B**, is a hammer drill/driver. However, the power tool **1100** is merely exemplary, and other power tools may have the beacon transmitter **100** incorporated therein. Additionally, other devices may have the beacon transmitter **100** incorporated therein, such as test and measurement equipment, battery packs (e.g., the power tool power supply **1102**), vacuum cleaners, work site radios, outdoor power equipment, and vehicles. Such an incorporated beacon transmitter **100** may be powered by a battery of the device in which the beacon transmitter **100** is incorporated, similar to that which is described with respect to the power tool **1100**.

(83) Further, in some embodiments, the beacon transmitter **100** is incorporated into a repeater device that receives other beacon signals (e.g., similar to the beacon signals emitted by the beacon transmitter **100**) and repeats (i.e., transmits) those beacon signals using beaconing techniques as described herein, such as described with respect to FIG. **3-6**.

(84) The various methods as illustrated in the Figures and described herein represent example embodiments of methods. The methods may be implemented in software, hardware, or a combination thereof. The order of method may be changed, and various elements may be added, reordered, combined, omitted, modified, etc.

(85) Various modifications and changes may be made as would be obvious to a person skilled in the art having the benefit of this disclosure. It is intended that the invention embrace all such modifications and changes and, accordingly, the above description to be regarded in an illustrative rather than a restrictive sense.

(86) Thus, the invention provides, among other things, a systems and methods for location logging of transmission devices. Various features and advantages of the invention are set forth in the following claims.

Claims

1. A personal wireless device comprising: a network interface; a display; an electronic processor coupled to the network interface and to the display, the electronic processor configured to control the display to display a graphical user interface that simultaneously displays: a missing device

button, an image of one of a first beacon transmitter and an object to which the first beacon transmitter is secured, a map showing a logged location of the first beacon transmitter, a timestamp associated with the logged location, and product information about the object to which the first beacon transmitter is secured; wherein, in response to receiving a user input indicating that a user has selected the missing device button, the electronic processor is configured to transmit, via the network interface and to a location server, lost device information that indicates (i) an identity of the first beacon transmitter and (ii) that the first beacon transmitter is lost.

2. The personal wireless device of claim 1, wherein the missing device button is displayed on the graphical user interface above the map and below the image and the product information.
3. The personal wireless device of claim 1, wherein the product information includes a product name of the object, an assigned location of the object, and a person to whom the object is assigned.
4. The personal wireless device of claim 1, wherein, in response to receiving the user input indicating that the user has selected the missing device button, the electronic processor is configured to transmit, via the network interface and to the location server, first contact information of the personal wireless device to be stored by the location server such that user contact information associated with the first beacon transmitter is updated to include the first contact information of the personal wireless device that reported the first beacon transmitter as lost.
5. The personal wireless device of claim 1, wherein the electronic processor is configured to control the display to display the graphical user interface in response to a user selection of the first beacon transmitter on an inventory interface displayed on the display.
6. The personal wireless device of claim 1, wherein the electronic processor is configured to: receive a beacon signal from a second beacon transmitter; determine logged data associated with the second beacon transmitter, wherein the logged data includes (i) a transmitter identifier of the second beacon transmitter, (ii) a second timestamp of a time when the beacon signal was received from the second beacon transmitter, and (iii) a second location of the personal wireless device at the time when the beacon signal was received from the second beacon transmitter; and transmit, via the network interface, the logged data to the location server.
7. The personal wireless device of claim 6, wherein the electronic processor is configured to delay a time period after determining the logged data and before transmitting the logged data in order to limit data transmissions from the personal wireless device.
8. The personal wireless device of claim 7, wherein the electronic processor is configured to determine a time at which the personal wireless device transmits the logged data to the location server at least partially based on a time delay from a time at which the personal wireless device last transmitted other logged data associated with at least one of the group consisting of the first beacon transmitter, the second beacon transmitter, another beacon transmitter, and combinations thereof to the location server.
9. The personal wireless device of claim 7, wherein: during the time period, the electronic processor is configured to: receive a second beacon signal from a third beacon transmitter, and determine second logged data associated with the third beacon transmitter, wherein the second logged data includes (i) a second transmitter identifier of the third beacon transmitter, (ii) a third timestamp of a second time when the second beacon signal was received from the third beacon transmitter, and (iii) a third location of the personal wireless device at the second time when the second beacon signal was received from the third beacon transmitter; and wherein the electronic processor is configured to transmit bundled logged data to the location server in response to the time period elapsing, wherein the bundled logged data includes the logged data associated with the second beacon transmitter and the second logged data associated with the third beacon transmitter.
10. The personal wireless device of claim 9, wherein the second location and the third location are different.
11. A method of controlling a personal wireless device, the method comprising: controlling, with an electronic processor of the personal wireless device, a display of the personal wireless device to

display a graphical user interface that simultaneously displays: a missing device button, an image of one of a first beacon transmitter and an object to which the first beacon transmitter is secured, a map showing a logged location of the first beacon transmitter, a timestamp associated with the logged location, and product information about the object to which the first beacon transmitter is secured; receiving a user input indicating that a user has selected the missing device button; and in response to receiving the user input indicating that the user has selected the missing device button, transmitting, via a network interface of the personal wireless device and to a location server, lost device information that indicates (i) an identity of the first beacon transmitter and (ii) that the first beacon transmitter is lost.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the product information includes a product name of the object, an assigned location of the object, and a person to whom the object is assigned.

13. The method of claim 11, further comprising, in response to receiving the user input indicating that the user has selected the missing device button, transmitting, via the network interface and to the location server, first contact information of the personal wireless device to be stored by the location server such that user contact information associated with the first beacon transmitter is updated to include the first contact information of the personal wireless device that reported the first beacon transmitter as lost.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein controlling the display to display the graphical user interface includes controlling, with the electronic processor, the display to display the graphical user interface in response to a user selection of the first beacon transmitter on an inventory interface displayed on the display.

15. The method of claim 11, further comprising: receiving, with the personal wireless device, a beacon signal from a second beacon transmitter; determining, with the electronic processor, logged data associated with the second beacon transmitter, wherein the logged data includes (i) a transmitter identifier of the second beacon transmitter, (ii) a second timestamp of a time when the beacon signal was received from the second beacon transmitter, and (iii) a second location of the personal wireless device at the time when the beacon signal was received from the second beacon transmitter; and transmitting, via the network interface, the logged data to the location server.
