



Society of Broadcast Engineers August 2002

HDTV EXHIBIT AT WISCONSIN STATE FAIR

By Tom Weeden

The Wisconsin Broadcasters Association and Sound Investments, Ltd., are co-sponsoring an HDTV exhibit at the Wisconsin State Fair in West Allis August 1-11. The exhibit is located in the Wisconsin Products Pavilion. The WBA has recruited help from Wisconsin TV stations' engineering staffs to represent DTV broadcasters and to answer questions from the public about HDTV in general.

Sound Investments, a Milwaukee-area company specializing in home theater, home automation and security, has six HDTV monitors on display, ranging from 15" to 57" and one SDTV projector.

A Samsung DTV-only receiver (\$599) feeds a 15" 4:3 LCD monitor (\$1,299), a 27" 4:3 Zenith CRT (\$999), and a 30" 16:9 CRT (\$1,599). An RCA DTC-100 feeds a third-generation Pioneer 43" plasma display (\$9,850), which seemed to gather the most attention. A 53" projection set also shows HDnet. Another 57" projection set is showing either WTMJ-DT or the output of a JVC HM-DH3000U D-VHS HDTV VCR. The 16:9 projection sets are in the \$3,500-4,000 price range. The JVC VCR, at \$1,500, features a Firewire input for HD recording, but can also record SD or analog video. The JVC-provided HD material playing on this VCR rivals the quality of HDnet or WTMJ's HD feed. (Pretty impressive for what looks like a VHS cassette!)

I volunteered for the first day of the fair, where maybe 200-300 people came through between 9 AM and 3:30 PM. The most frequent questions I heard from visitors were:

- *How much does this cost (referring to the plasma display)?*
- *Can I see the Packers in high definition?*

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Next Meeting:

**Tuesday,
August 20, 2002**

**Digital Studio
Connectivity**

**Dutch Treat Dinner
at 5:30 PM**

**at Perkins
1410 Damon Road**

**Meeting and Program
at 7:00 PM**

**at Wisconsin Public
Broadcasting Center
3319 W. Beltline Hwy**

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CHAIRMAN COMMENTS ON DTV PROGRESS

By Tom Smith

FCC Chairman Michael Powell issued two statements on the progress of DTV. In a statement issued on July 11th, he commended ABC, CBS, HBO, and Showtime for their commitments to broadcasting a "wide range of high definition programming". He also commended Discovery, HDNet, and PBS for their programming efforts. He noted that DBS suppliers were going to provide five channels of HDTV or value added programming by January 1st and NBC was planning on increasing its HDTV programming. Cable also was commended for its

adoption of new digital boxes capable of HDTV. Fox's plans for value-added digital were also noted.

The Chairman also posted copies of letters from heads of NAB, Disney ABC, Discovery, Viacom CBS, NBC, National Cable & Telecommunications Association (NTCA), HBO, News Corp-FOX TV, and the Satellite Broadcasting and Communications Association. In these letters, these groups noted their progress on the digital transition so far and gave their plans for the future.

In the July 11th statement and in a second statement on July 12th, the

Chairman stated that the commitment of the consumer electronics industry to the manufacturing of DTV tuners was in fact no commitment at all. He stated that the consumer electronics industry was waiting for certain issues to be resolved before acting, while others had moved forward. Powell did commend Zenith for their commitment to a phased-in DTV tuner requirement.

Copies of the first statement can be found at the FCC web site at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-224218A1.pdf. The

(continued on page 7)

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July Business Meeting Minutes

Chapter 24 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers met on Thursday, July 18, 2002 at Mendota County Park in Middleton, Wisconsin for the chapter's monthly meeting. There were 14 members in attendance, 12 of whom were certified, and 16 guests. Eight of the guests were members of the Badger Area Technical Society (BATS).

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Chair Tom Smith. The June meeting minutes as published in the newsletter were approved.

Newsletter editor Mike Norton announced the deadline for articles in the August issue would be midnight, Friday, August 2nd. The folding party will be held Wednesday, August 7th at WKOW-TV.

Fred Sperry from the Program Committee announced that the August program would be a presentation on digital studio connectivity by ADC. Also being planned following the program is a one hour seminar on the proper installation of BNC and triax connectors.

Chair Tom Smith welcomed members of the Badger Area Technical Society (BATS). Tom also asked for ideas for the upcoming Broadcasters Clinic, and those can be sent to him by either email or phone.

Frequency Coordinator Tom Smith reported about a coordination request for 7GHz frequencies for an upcoming auto race in Oregon.

Steve Paugh reported that the contact information for chief engineers is needed for the Chapter 24 DTV web site. The web site is close to being completed.

Leonard Charles was recognized for his work on the RSVP form on the web site for the picnic. Leonard announced that the problems with the Chapter 24 list server have been corrected. To get on the mailing list, send email to Leonard at LCharles@wisctv.com.

Certification chair Jim Hermanson reported Bill Fletcher passed his Broadcast Engineer TV (CBTE) certification.

There was no old or new business. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM. The program was entertainment by Trailing Edge Productions (Kevin Peckham and Kevin Ruppert) playing vintage air checks, spots, and music.

Submitted by Jim Magee, Secretary

SBE CHAPTER OF THE AIR:

HamNet meets the second Sunday of each month at 0000 GMT on 14.205 MHz. Hal Hostetler WA7BGX is the Control Station. Any amateur operator is welcome and encouraged to participate.

Another Picnic Success

By Denise Maney

The Annual SBE Chapter 24 picnic, held July 18 at Mendota County Park, was a big hit this year. We would like to thank the members of the Badger Area Technical Society (BATS) for joining us and bringing some great gourmet treats. There was plenty of great food and the Chapter would like to thank Andy Rothschild and Dan Maney for the great job they did as grill masters.

The outstanding entertainment by "Trailing Edge Productions" was wonderful fun and added spice to the outing, (albeit a little loud for the Park Ranger). We all enjoyed the sound bites and music clips. The radio quizzes were fun, informative, and taxing on our memories. We did have a few contest winners: among them were Fred Sperry, Jim Hermanson, and Stan Scharch. The prizes were sponsored by Sony and Kevin Peckham. The warm glow of the neon ON-AIR light added a touch of live realism to the event. Although we were not supposed to have amplified music in the park, we may try this again next year, perhaps at a different location.

Kevin Peckham and Kevin Ruppert requested past air checks/sweepers from Wisconsin stations, for an archive project that will continue to build over the next year. If your past includes some on-air time behind the microphone, dig out those old tapes!

AMATEUR RADIO NEWS

By Tom Weeden, WJ9H

- Sunspots keep growing and growing, and one wonders if the peak of solar cycle 23 has really passed. With sunspot numbers topping 300 this week, it appears to be an unusual third peak in a cycle with a double peak so far. The average solar cycle lasts 11 years. Cycle 23 peaked in 2000, then after a decrease in activity had a second peak in December 2001. Sunspot numbers recently surged back to peak again on July 27. Current helioseismic readings suggest several active regions on the sun's far side, so more excitement may be in store. Strong solar activity can occasionally cause problems with satellites and electrical power distribution.

- Bob Baird, W9NN, former engineering supervisor at WGN radio, died August 1 at age 96. Baird, of Plover, Wisconsin, was among the longest-licensed amateurs in the US, having been a ham for more than eight decades. "Bob was an icon, and he will be missed by many in Wisconsin and around the world," said American Radio Relay League Wisconsin Section Manager Don Michalski, W9IXG. Baird remained active on the air until shortly before his death. He reportedly died peacefully in his sleep with his niece, Betty Johnson, WD9AUC, at his side.

A native of Dayton, Ohio, Baird was first licensed as a youngster in 1920 as 8BTI. He later became 8CWR. He went on to become engineering supervisor for WGN in Chicago (where he acquired the call 9NN in 1927), retiring after 36 years of service. Baird was a founder and charter member of the Quarter Century Wireless Association. Last year, fellow QCWA Chapter 174 members presented him with a plaque honoring his years of service to QCWA and his long tenure as an Amateur Radio licensee.

A QCWA memorial scholarship fund will be established. Donations payable to "QCWA Scholarship Fund" may be sent in care of Betty Johnson, 4820 Love Creek Ave, Plover, WI 54467-9526.

(Excerpts from "The ARRL Letter" and the www.arrl.org web site)



Visit Chapter 24
on the World Wide Web
<http://www.sbe24.org>

Steve Paugh is the editor for the HTML Version of this Newsletter, available monthly on the SBE Chapter 24 web page.

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HDTV EXHIBIT AT WISCONSIN STATE FAIR (continued from page 1)

- *When is analog TV going away?*
- *...and various questions on sports and prime time network shows available.*

There is still plenty of confusion in the public's mind over the role of HD on cable, over-the-air broadcasting in digital, satellite reception, and my favorite, whether a special ("HDTV")

antenna is needed to pick up the local digital stations. More than once when that question was asked, two of us simultaneously answered "No!"

I was pleased to hear the overall favorable answers that the gentlemen from Sound Investments gave in response to the questions about broadcasters.

Some people asked when local stations would begin broadcasting HDTV, and most were surprised when we answered that about half the stations in Wisconsin already were.

Nearly all visitors were awestruck as they entered the exhibit room. I felt that this year's exhibit generated more excitement and interest than last year.



Figure 1. John Laabs of WBA explaining HDTV to the public at the Wisconsin State Fair.



Figure 2. Rick Ellsworth of Sound Investments Ltd. (the actual exhibitors) discusses the various HDTV displays.

DTV STATIONS ON THE AIR

The National Association of Broadcasters maintains a list of DTV stations that are in operation. This can be found at the NAB web site (www.nab.org) in the DTV update section.

As of August 7th, there are 455 DTV stations in 135 markets providing programming. Over 88% of all US homes are in markets with at least one DTV signal on the air. In Wisconsin there are 15 DTV stations currently on air, with the most recent being WAOW-DT in the Wausau market.

CERTIFICATION EXAM SESSION DATES ANNOUNCED FOR 2003

The SBE National Certification Committee has announced exam session dates for 2003. Check the list below for the exam period that is best for you. For more information about SBE Certification, see your Chapter Certification Chair or contact Linda Godby, Certification Director at the SBE National Office at (317) 846-9000 or lgodby@sbe.org.

<u>2002 Exam Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Application Deadline</u>
August 16-26, 2002	Local Chapters	CLOSED
November 8-18, 2002	Local Chapters	September 29, 2002

<u>2003 Exam Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Application Deadline</u>
February 7-17, 2003	Local Chapters	December 31, 2002
April 8, 2003	NAB - Las Vegas	March 1, 2003
June 6-16, 2003	Local Chapters	April 25, 2003
August 15-25, 2003	Local Chapters	June 13, 2003
November 7-17, 2003	Local Chapters	September 26, 2003



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SBE Short Circuits – August 2002

By John L. Poray, CAE
SBE Executive Director

DONNELLANTO KEYNOTE AWARDS DINNER

Joann Donnellan, Media Relations Manager for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, will be the keynote speaker at the SBE National Awards Dinner, October 17 in Phoenix, Arizona. The Awards Dinner is the final event of the SBE National Meeting, which runs October 16-17 at the Phoenix Civic Plaza convention center and the adjacent Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Donnellan will speak about the AMBER program, which is gaining widespread acceptance across the country as an effective method of disseminating information quickly to the public about missing children.

The National Meeting is being held in conjunction with the SBE Chapter 9 Regional Convention and in cooperation with the Arizona Broadcasters Association. The combined events will include the fall SBE Board of Directors Meeting and national Certification Committee meeting on October 16 and a trade show, career fair, technical papers, Fellows Luncheon, Annual Membership Meeting and National Awards Reception and Dinner on the 17th. All events are free except the reception and dinner, which has a very reasonable ticket, price of \$12. Contact the SBE National Office for tickets at (317) 846-9000.

NATIONAL ELECTION BALLOTS COMING SOON

The SBE annual election of officers and members of the Board of Directors will take place on Thursday, September 12. Ballots will be mailed to all voting members by August 9. Voting members

are urged to participate in the election process and complete and return their ballot. It must be received by September 12 to be counted. Allow at least seven days for USPS delivery. See the June issue of the SBE SIGNAL for a list of the candidates.

RESUME SERVICE GOES ON-LINE

The SBE Resume Service is now online! With increased visibility and ease of use, the Resume Service is the perfect companion to JobsOnline for SBE members searching for new positions and for employers searching for the right candidates.

At no cost, SBE members complete a questionnaire and send the national office copies of their resumes. This information is used to compile an anonymous profile that is posted (not the resume) on the SBE website for employers to browse. Employers interested in one or more profiles will contact the national office and pay a small fee to access the actual resumes.

Only SBE Members may use this service and any broadcast related employer may participate. For more information Contact Angel D. Bates at abates@sbe.org, (317) 846-9000 or go to www.sbe.org.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE WINNERS DRAWN

The SBE Membership Drive successfully concluded on May 31. 50 members sponsored 60 new members during the Drive and all of them came away with a prize. The Grand Prize, a trip to the SBE National Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, October 16-18 AND a Panasonic TV, compliments of SBE and Panasonic, was won by Steve West, of Chapter 29 in Corpus Christi, Texas. First Prize, an entertainment

package that includes an RCA 27" Stereo Monitor-Receiver TV, compliments of Thomson Multimedia Broadcast & Network Solutions, a DVD Player, compliments of Acrodyne and a Freeplay, Freepower Radio, compliments of Broadcast Richardson, was awarded to Ralph Hogan of Chapter 117, Palouse/Clearwater, Idaho. Second Prize, a SBE Mini-Library that includes 13 different broadcast engineering related publications, went to John Merrill of Chapter 133 in Buffalo, New York. All recruiters will receive \$5 off their 2003 SBE membership renewal for each new member they recruit, up to \$25.

Winning Golden Recruiter Awards were Chapter 29, Corpus Christi in the small chapter category and Chapter 54 in Tidewater, Virginia in the large chapter category. These chapters had the highest percentage of members participate in the Drive.

RADIO OPERATOR HANDBOOK DELAYED

The new SBE Radio Operator Handbook, previously announced for release in September, will not be available until December. The publication of the Handbook will coincide with the release of a new certification exam for Radio Operators.

Employment Opportunity

Chief engineer for a 5-station radio group. Experience and knowledge of both FM and AM transmitters as well as current digital automation systems is required. Live and work in beautiful Upper Michigan at the premier radio facility on the peninsula.

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EchoStar Ka-band Licenses Cancelled

By Mike Norton

In July, The Federal Communications Commission revoked the licenses for two Ka-band orbital locations that had been granted to EchoStar Communications Corp in May 1997. The licenses for geosynchronous orbit satellites at 83° W.L. and 121° W.L. had authorized 500MHz of uplink and 500 MHz of downlink spectrum for two-way broadband data service for fixed satellite service. The Dish Network DBS service operated by EchoStar operates with Ku-band allocations, and is not believed to be directly affected by this FCC action.

The FCC states that EchoStar failed to satisfy the initial mandatory implementation milestone as set forth in the original license authorization. The milestone required EchoStar to begin construction of its Ka-band satellite system by January 2002. To determine whether the licensees had complied with the terms of the license, the FCC requested that each licensee submit an executed copy of a construction contract to verify that construction had begun on the spacecraft.

EchoStar had reported that it was working toward a launch later this year of the EchoStar IX satellite, which would include Ka-band capacity. The FCC requested and received documents from EchoStar that demonstrate that EchoStar has contracted to build a satellite that will operate in the C-band and Ku-band frequencies. The FCC contends that the contract does not assure that the Ka-band transponders will ever be operational.

Thirteen other applicants were granted licenses for Ka-band satellite systems in May of 1997. Of those, nine

had construction, launch, and operation milestone requirements included in their authorizations. In June the FCC released a public notice stating that six companies, including Hughes Network Systems, Loral CyberStar, and Teledesic LLC had met their construction commencement milestone requirements.

VisionStar, a company developing a Ka-band system and majority owned by EchoStar, has filed a request for an extension on the Ka-band license. Other licensees including Motorola and Astrolink have filed for extensions.

(Information for this article came from www.rockymountainnews.com, www.dallasnews.com, www.skyreport.com, and www.fcc.gov)

SPECTRUM FOUND FOR 3G WIRELESS PHONES

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration has recommended spectrum for use by third generation wireless phone systems. These are systems that will carry both voice and data at higher rates than is possible with existing wireless systems.

The NTIA has selected the bands of 1710-1770 MHz and 2110-2170 MHz for 3G wireless, and has set forth a plan for the re-allocation of the frequencies from 1710-1755 MHz and 2110-2170 MHz for this new service. Note that the upper band of this pair of frequencies starts just above the 2 GHz TV remote pick-up band.

The FCC released the notice on July 24, 2002 and asked for comment by August 8, 2002.

From FCC Release (www.fcc.gov)

UPCOMING ENGINEERING EVENTS

There are some engineering related conferences on the horizon which offer educational opportunities for broadcast engineers. Check your calendar, find out more about the scheduled sessions by visiting the listed web sites, and then plan on attending!

2002 WBA/SBE Broadcasters Clinic

Date: October 15, 16, and 17
Location: Marriott Madison West, Middleton, WI
Contact: Wisconsin Broadcasters Association 608-255-2600 www.wi-broadcasters.org or Don Borchert (608) 837-3462

SBE National Meeting

Date: October 16 and 17
Location: Hyatt Regency and Phoenix Civic Plaza, Phoenix, AZ
 Held in conjunction with the Arizona Broadcasters Association and SBE Chapter 9 SBE regional convention
Contact: Linda Godby lgodby@sbe.org (317) 846-9000 www.sbe.org

Iowa DTV Symposium


Date: November 5, 6, and 7
Location: University Park Holiday Inn, Des Moines, IA
Contact: Karen Schaeffer karen.schaeffer@iptv.org (515) 242-4139
Registration: Admission is free Register online at www.iowadtv.iptv.org



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IDEAS NEEDED

By Tom Smith

The Broadcasters Clinic is coming up in October and our SBE Chapter is responsible for the Wednesday Night program. So far, we are planning on a panel discussion much like the DTV panel last year. That discussion was very successful, as it led to the creation of our DTV Web site which we plan to introduce at the Clinic, as well as other DTV promotion by other Chapters.

The question is: Should we once again focus on DTV, or with IBOC digital radio getting near, should we expand the discussion to include a number of issues pertaining to the future of broadcasting?

I would like to hear your ideas and suggestions on subjects, panelists, and format. Please e-mail me with your ideas before the August meeting, so that we can firm up the program at that meeting. Thanks!

Send ideas and comments to Chapter 24 Chairman Tom Smith at smithtc@vilas.uwex.edu.

Thanks to Denise Maney for arranging the outing for the July SBE picnic.

Special thanks to Kevin Ruppert and Kevin Peckham of *Trailing Edge Productions* for providing the great entertainment!

Thanks to WKOW-TV for providing copying and folding facilities for the Chapter 24 newsletter!

Thanks to WISC-TV for maintaining the web server for the Chapter 24 Web page!

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CHAIRMAN COMMENTS ON DTV PROGRESS (continued from page 1)

commitment letters from the nine groups can be viewed at www.fcc.gov/dtv/industryletters.pdf. The second brief statement from Powell directed to the consumer electronics industry is also available for viewing. That can be found at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-224289A1.pdf.

From FCC Releases (www.fcc.gov)

AUCTIONS POSTPONED

By Tom Smith

Congress passed and the President signed a law postponing auctions for the spectrum that is currently occupied by TV channels 52-69. The auction for spectrum in the 747-762 and 777-792 MHz bands that was scheduled for January 14, 2003 will be rescheduled for a later date. Congress gave the FCC the authority to set the new date with no deadline.

The Congress did set a date for the auction of spectrum in the channel 52-59 band. That auction will be for a paired band of frequencies of 710-716 and 740-746 MHz and a second band of 716-722 MHz. This auction will encompass one license for the paired frequencies in each of 734 market areas and one license in each of six regions of the country for the 716-722 MHz.

The six regions in total will cover the whole nation. The date for starting the auction will be August 27, 2002.

From FCC Releases (www.fcc.gov)



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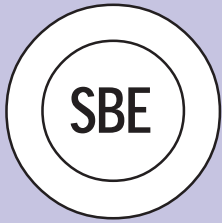


FIRST CLASS MAIL

Newsletter edited on Pagemaker 7.0 by: Mike Norton
Contributors this month: Jim Magee, Denise Maney, Mike Norton, Tom Smith and Tom Weeden.
Thanks to Leonard Charles for his work on the Chapter 24 WWW page.

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AUGUST MEETING and PROGRAM



Society of Broadcast Engineers CHAPTER 24 MADISON, WISCONSIN Tuesday, August 20, 2002

Digital Studio Connectivity Fundamentals and Applications

The program this month will feature a presentation by ADC, which will focus on the practical applications of design and integration of the infrastructure for a digital/HD facility. They will include recommended wiring practices for analog and AES audio, SDI/HD video, and data interconnection. Real world application examples will feature photos and HD frequency spectrum measurements.

For those interested, following the presentation a short class will be offered on the proper termination technique of ADC BNC connectors and ProAx triaxial camera connectors. ADC will be offering certificates for the BNC and ProAx camera connectors.

Dutch Treat Dinner at 5:30 PM
at Perkins
1410 Damon Road
(near Fish Hatchery Road and the Beltline)

Meeting and Program at 7:00 PM
at Wisconsin Public Broadcasting Center
3319 West Beltline Highway

Visitors and guests are welcome at all of our SBE meetings!

2002 UPCOMING MEETING/PROGRAM DATES:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>
Wednesday	September 18	Token Creek Mobile Television
Wednesday	October 16	Broadcasters Clinic
Thursday	November 21	T. B. A.

Program Committee:	Denise Maney 277-8001	Steve Paugh 277-5139	Fred Sperry 264-9806	Steve Zimmerman 274-1234
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