

Edited by: Leonard Charles

Articles Welcome!! Send them to:
Chapter 24 Newsletter
5714 Modenaire St.
Madison, WI 53711
(hard copy or text files on 360K disk)

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

DATE: June 12, 1989

ALEXANDERS of Madison
5614 Schroeder Road
Across from Vitense mini golf

Lunch: 12 Noon

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Tuesday July 11 - Lunch
Monday Aug 7 - Lunch

OUR NEXT YEAR OFFICERS....

At the April Chapter 24 meeting, all current reigning officers were re-elected for another year of service. All officers graciously agreed to serve another year making nominations committee work extremely easy this year. They are:

Chairman: Andy Murphy (WMSN TV)
Vice Chair: Steve Zimmerman (WKOW TV)
Secretary: Jim Hermanson (WTSO/WZEE)
Treasurer: Dave Gerisch (WMTV TV)

CHAPTER 24 AUDIO CLINIC....

The next in a series of broadcast technical clinics, The Audio Clinic, was held in the studios of WISC TV on Saturday May 20.

Program #1 featured a presentation on audio proofs, AM-FM-and Television.

Consultant Doug McDonell handled AM proofs, WTSO/WZEE Chief Engineer Jim Hermanson discussed and demonstrated parts of the FM proof, and Andy Murphy (WMSN TV) sat in for the ailing Herb Jordan for an impromptu discussion on TV audio proofs.

Program #2 featured WMTV's Tom Weeden's discussion on the MS stereo miking technique including actual stereo video tape of a parade recorded during a WMTV telecast.

Program #3 was a back to the basics demonstration by Mark Hill of ITC on the setup of those pesty stereo cart deck head stacks. Of great interest was the variety of the latest alignment guides he used in his demonstration including one as yet not available to the industry.

Program #4 was an in-depth discussion on room/studio acoustics by WMSN's Erv Vanags. Using a pending studio at Channel 47 as a model, Erv covered every angle of calculating and choosing the proper materials and placements of those materials within the confines of his model to achieve the best acoustic results for various applications.

The entire seminar was video taped. If you desire a copy, call Program Chair Kevin Ruppert at WISC Channel 3 TV to make arrangements.

THE LEGALS....info by Doug McDonell

Skywave Communications Corp of Madison's application has been granted for a change of transmitter site for W54BH, Low Power Channel 54. The new site is 125 Larkin Street with 1.68KW ERP at a height of 86 meters.

WTFX FM, 94.1 MHZ, Watertown, WI was granted a CP to change transmitter location to 1.4KM NE of Deerfield Village.

FCC NEWS....

The Commission has granted a waiver for WNZK AM Westland, MI to operate on a split frequency. The waiver will permit the station to broadcast on 690KHZ at increased power during the day and then at 680 KHZ at night.

On May 18, the FCC lifted the mandatory must-carry rules for cable systems while in the same decision, implementing a new rule in which cable systems must make available to subscribers an input selector (A/B) switch along with education on its use. A notice of that availability must begin to be included in the systems regular billing cycle on November 1. Commissioner James Quello dissented saying that the A/B switch is a poor alternative to a carefully crafted set of carriage requirements and that most American households no longer have off air reception capability.

The FCC has released the third edition of OET Bulletin No. 56 entitled, "Questions and Answers about Biological Effects and Potential Hazards of Radiofrequency Radiation." The previous edition of this bulletin, released in June 1983, required updating. The new version is more complete and contains additional information on FCC policy and health and safety standards. Copies of OET Bulletin 56 may be purchased from the FCC's contractor for public records duplication, International Transcription Services, Inc., (202) 857-3800.

This file is a position paper on the Professional Licensing controversy, formulated by the Society of Broadcast Engineers and released Sunday, April 30 at the NAB Convention in Las Vegas. All rights reserved, permission granted to republish this policy in FULL ONLY.

BROADCAST ENGINEERS

The Society of Broadcast Engineers, having studied the matter of State Licensing of Broadcast Engineers, including the nature and scope of the problem and having considered numerous possible courses of action to protect its members from unreasonable state regulatory efforts, hereby adopts the following findings of fact and statement of policy.

1. Accounts of enforcement of state registration statutes to date are few. Those which do exist are cases involving engineers who have indicated availability to provide engineering services to the general public. State legislative initiatives and enforcement efforts to date do not include efforts to regulate employees of broadcast licensees or of companies under the jurisdiction of the Federal Communications Commission [FCC]; contract engineers; employees of manufacturing companies; or technical operators.

2. Where certain state statutes could be applied unreasonably to regulate contract engineers, technical operators or chief engineers, modification of those statutes should be pursued by the Society. Counsel and the Executive Committee are specifically instructed to pursue modification of those state statutes, using administrative or legislative efforts at the state level to exempt such individuals from the threat of unreasonable state regulation.

3. There is no rationale for the state regulation of technical "operators" of communications facilities, be they employees or independent contractors. Regulation of such persons is solely the statutory responsibility of the FCC.

The deregulation of operator licensing is not akin to the delegation of the FCC's exclusive regulatory function to the states. The Society shall immediately seek a declaratory ruling that state licensing of technical operators is preempted by the Federal Government through the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

4. There is state jurisdiction to regulate consulting engineers who hold themselves out to the general public to perform engineering functions not related to FCC application processing or

technical functions at FCC-regulated communications facilities. The ethical broadcast engineer operates with care, and recognizes and respects the areas of expertise of the structural, mechanical and electrical engineers and architects, and does not imply knowledge or skill in these areas by virtue of his or her activity as a broadcast engineer. He or she must make no such claim of expertise, directly or indirectly, unless licensed to do so by the proper state agency.

5. The titles "engineer," "chief engineer," and "broadcast engineer" are legitimate appellations for technical operators and those who perform technical functions at broadcast facilities. The use of the titles "consulting engineer" or "professional engineer" should be avoided by those who are not registered PE's in the state in which the individual is performing engineering or technical functions.

6. SBE recognizes the legitimacy of contract engineering, which involves the operation, installation and maintenance of broadcast facilities and equipment for a specific fee, as distinct from hourly or salaried employment. This may involve acoustic, audio, video, RF or electronic design. It also may involve the preparation of technical data and exhibits for submission to the FCC or other federal agencies. Such activities should not be subject to state regulation.

7. The titles Broadcast Technologist, Broadcast Engineer, Senior Broadcast Engineer, and Professional Broadcast Engineer are various levels of certification long employed in the SBE-sponsored certification program. They are in no way intended to imply competence in other disciplines, and may not be used by members or other certified persons to represent themselves as being state-licensed Professional Engineers.

8. There is ample precedent for the use of the title "broadcast engineer". The broadcast industry itself has historically used the title "engineer" to describe its operating, technical, and maintenance personnel. This practice is reinforced by the use of the title "engineer" in other fields, developed in the last century, to describe those who are properly versed in the design, construction, and operation of engines, machines or technical apparatus. Any effort to

restrict the use of the title "engineer" only to those with state registration or academic credentials is unreasonable. It is the policy of the Society of Broadcast Engineers to defend the right of the broadcast engineer to use that title to describe his or her profession, reflecting the traditions and history of the calling.

ORBAN SOLD....

AKG Acoustics Inc. of Stamford Connecticut announced just before the NAB Convention that it had acquired Orban Associates of San Francisco. The Company's line of audio and video processing equipment will continue to be sold under the Orban name with Robert Orban continuing to serve as the Chief Engineer and his partner John Delatoni as General Manager.

SBE Chapter 73 (ham radio) continues monthly activity on the second Sunday of each month at 14.205 MHz at 0000 UTC.

OOPS !

On May 18 in Panama City Florida, an F-15 on training maneuvers clipped the top guy wire of a 1500 foot tower collapsing the tower onto the transmitter building below. The tower was owned by WMBB-TV and was also occupied by WPAP-FM and WFSG-TV. WMBB TV Chief Engineer Wendell Nelson had been scheduled to be at the site for transmitter repairs at the time of the accident but, fortunately, the part needed to complete those repairs was late in arriving. Wendell added "we don't need it now". The pilot made an emergency landing unhurt at Tyndall Air Force base in Panama City. The Air Force acknowledging responsibility in the accident will cooperate in getting the stations back up to full operation.

TV WITHOUT PICTURES....

What's the latest attempt for a "unique" AM Radio format. The growing trend seems to be audio simulcasting of the local TV's 6 o'clock newscast. Beginning July 1, WRAL TV in Raleigh, N.C. will reportedly have at least a

dozen AM Radio stations simulcasting its 6 o'clock newscasts. WRAL's GM says the move will allow the station's potential and existing audience without access to a television set the opportunity to listen to their newscasts. It will also provide on-air promotion for the TV station. No money will change hands and the TV station will alter their newscasts to make them more appealing to an audio only audience. WSOC TV in nearby Charlotte, N.C. began radio simulcasting in May.

TIME TO RE-REGULATE....

The Cable Television industry is under fire recently from allegations of it being an un-regulated monopoly. In fact, bills are surfacing in the House and Senate aimed at re-regulating the cable industry and providing it with some healthy competition. It would seem that soon the telephone industry will be allowed to distribute video services under strict guidelines thus providing competition to cable systems, and a bill gaining steam in Congress would 1) restore city authority to regulate rates, 2) would require cable programmers to make their programming available to cable competitors such as wireless cable, and 3) would restrict the number of subscribers any one company can have to 25% of the total cable subscribers in the country.

REGISTER TO WIN A FREE SEMINAR!

Jim Wulliman, SBE National Certification Committee chairman, and Chairman of the Ennes Educational Foundation, announces that those attending the 1989 SBE National Convention October 5-8 in Kansas City can register to win a grant for tuition and subsistence for their choice of the following seminars:

NAB Satellite Operator's Training Course

NAB Directional Antenna Seminar
NAB Technical Management Seminar

Details on registration will be available at the convention.

Clay's Corner (from Chp 16, Seattle)
by Clay Freinwald

I ran across an old equipment instruction book the other day published by the old Gates Radio Company, now called Harris. In the back of this was a section called "Helpful General Information."

To give you an idea of just how old this manual is... Section 17 states..

"To have a maintenance program, certain capital equipment is necessary. Do not be ashamed to tell your Manager about this because he will recognize that proper maintenance is saving money and not spending money. As a minimum you should have this equipment:

Dummy antenna (frequently supplied in Gates Transmitters).
Proof of performance equipment, which includes an audio oscillator, distortion meter, gain set, and RF pickup coil or rectifier, known as the Gates SA131 proof of performance package.

- A good grade of voltmeter.
- A spare antenna current meter.
- An inexpensive Oscilloscope.

All of the above will cost less than \$1000 and will pay for itself many times through the years"

This was written for the AM radio broadcaster, perhaps before FM and TV got going. \$1000 for all that equipment. Can you remember when? If you can, you're older than I am.... Ya!

From Chp 16, Seattle....

Two teenagers have been accused of cutting the guy wires at KSMA, KSNI, KUHL and KGDP, all of Santa Maria, California, on March 1st.... One of the suspects had unsuccessfully applied for work at each of the stations earlier this year. Perhaps, in times like these, you might want to keep good records on those that apply for jobs at your station, especially those that you DON'T HIRE!!

From Chp 38, Milwaukee

LAND-BASED TV DIGITAL....
Bell Communications Research, Inc., will test a 45-Mb/s digital microwave system to link TV stations in Los Angeles, St. Louis, New York City, and Indianapolis,

as well as a fiber-optic link between Boston, NYC, Atlanta, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Los Angeles, and Washington, DC. The system, known as DS3, is a standard digital transmission channel available on microwave and fiber systems throughout the US and Canada and will allow two-way channel capability for broadcasters to distribute and receive programming simultaneously. In practice, the network could replace up to 16 satellite transponders. But standards for broadcast use still need to be agreed upon to allow the system to work universally. ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX and PBS will participate in the trial, along with five inter exchange carriers.

....

From Japan comes a new converter developed by NHK that makes HD "Hi-Vision" compatible with existing NTSC sets. A joint venture of Sanyo and Mitsubishi, the device reportedly enhances picture quality even though it converts the Hi-Vision signal to NTSC scanning line pitch and aspect ratio.

....

Matsushita Electric has announced a new nickel-hydride battery with 50% more storage capacity than a nicad, yet can be recharged 500 times with no residual "memory."

LA RF....

Los Angeles County will save money and drivers will save time and gas through the operation of a new RF-synchronized traffic signal system on some of LA's busiest commuter corridors. The county will install over 1000 specially designed RF controllers from Precision Standard Time, Inc., each controller containing a shortwave receiver turned to the atomic-clock based time signal from WWV. The receivers scan the five WWV frequencies, selecting the one with the clearest signal, and together provide time accuracy to within +/- 2 ms of UTC (Coordinated Universal Time). The system will replace a maze of interconnecting phone loops, which currently generate a monthly telephone bill averaging \$50,000.
--from Microwaves & RF Magazine

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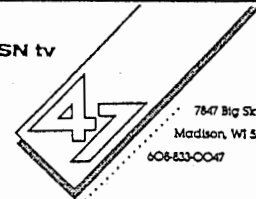
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