

Edited by: Leonard Charles  
 Articles Welcome!! Send them to:  
 Chapter 24 Newsletter  
 5714 Modenaire St.  
 Madison, WI 53711  
 (608)-274-0041  
 (608)-271-4321  
 (hard copy or ASCII text message  
 on BBS at 608-274-7776)

Contributors this month:  
 Doug McDonell  
 Tom Weeden  
 Stan Scharch  
 Paul Stoffel

**MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

DATE: Dec 12, 1990

AT CORBY'S/Nakoma Plaza  
 Dinner at 5:45PM  
 Meeting at 7:00pm  
 Program follows meeting

This month the folks from Audio Precision will demonstrate their computer controlled audio test set.

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**UPCOMING MEETING DATES**

January 15, 1991  
 February 13, 1991  
 March 21, 1991  
 April 23, 1991  
 May 22, 1991

**YOUR OFFICERS....**

**CHAIRMAN:**

Steve Zimmerman (WKOW TV) W - 274-1234  
 H - 845-

**VICE CHAIRMAN:**

Jim Hermanson (WTSO/WZEE) W - 275-7130  
 H - 231-2005

**SECRETARY:**

Tom Weeden (WMTV TV) W - 274-1515  
 H - 276-7915

**TREASURER:**

Fred Sperry (WI Public TV/ TOC) W - 273-5500  
 H - 833-6074

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 PRESIDENT

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**COMMITTEE APPOINTEES**

Past President - Denny Behr  
 Membership - Dave Gerisch  
 Sustaining Membership - Leonard Charles  
 Strategic Plan Comm - Denny Behr (Chair)  
 Newsletter - Leonard Charles  
 Program Chairman - Kevin Ruppert  
 Cert/Ed - Doug McDonell/Tim Trendt  
 Frequency Coord - Chris Cain  
 Chapter Liason - ( open )

**WORTH NOTING....**

from the Editor

This month represents a first for this publication. It is the first time that one of our members has taken a tape recorder out and conducted an in depth interview with a prominent figure. Paul Stoffel took the time and initiative to interview SBE President Brad Dick at last month's Broadcasters Clinic. Don't miss his column "A Conversation with the President" in this issue. It's this kind of effort that keeps this newsletter among the best in the country. Thanks for the effort Paul!

**LAST MONTH'S MEETING....**

NOVEMBER 1990 MEETING MINUTES  
 Chapter 24 of the Society of Broadcast

Engineers met on Wednesday, November 14, 1990 at the Holiday Inn Southeast in Madison for its regular monthly meeting. The meeting was held in conjunction with the fall Broadcaster's Clinic. Present at the meeting were 33 SBE members, of which 23 were SBE certified. There were also 17 guests present.

Chairman Steve Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 6:41 PM. Secretary Tom Weeden read the minutes of the October meeting. Treasurer Fred Sperry reported the chapter's account balance. Program Chairman Kevin Ruppert reported on upcoming programs. For December, there is a training session scheduled for the Audio Precision test set. In January, Neil McLain will give a presentation on cable TV headends and installation. Sustaining Membership Chairman Leonard Charles reported two new sustaining members: a renewal of BTS, and a new membership for Panasonic Broadcast, bringing the total

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 Broadcast Products Division

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to 18 sustaining members. Frequency Coordination Chairman Chris Cain announced that he has the latest frequency printouts available for inspection.

SBE National President Brad Dick then presented the five awards that Chapter 24 had won at the National Convention in October.

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 PM. The program for the evening was the "Nuts and Bolts" engineering discussion at the Broadcaster's Clinic.

Tom Weeden, Secretary

**CERTIFICATION....**

by Doug McDonell

Milwaukee Chapter 28 will hold a "Professional Certification" meeting December 11 where by anyone qualifying for that level of certification will be certified on the spot with no exam. Please read the enclosed letter from Chapter 28. There is also an application enclosed for your convenience. For more information contact Doug McDonell at 222-1580.

**THE LEGALS....**

info by Doug McDonell

The FCC has proposed allotting Channel 240A to Portage as its second FM service. The filing window opens January 7th and closes February 6, 1991.

**FCC NEWS....**

by Leonard Charles

**Editors Note:** Doug Smith has moved to Nashville's WSMV TV. Thanks for your service and your friendship. May no snow fall on you in Country Music land!

FCC chair Al Sikes vowed that another year will not pass without a Commission opinion on telephone companies offering

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midwest district sales manager

cable service within their service areas. Reasons are not clear as to why the FCC never got around to issuing an opinion this year.


The FCC has given Cablevision IV Inc., 120 days to divest itself of its cable system serving Hawarden, Iowa. Cablevision, which has a 1% share in the system has the same parent company that owns KDTL TV in Mitchell, SD. Since KDTL's grade B contour covers part of the Hawarden cable system, the Cable Act of 1984's prohibition against crossownership is being enforced.

FCC Chair Al Sikes said the Commission's goal is to set a high definition television transmission standard by spring of 1993. That announcement was in conjunction with the release of the Advanced Television Test Center's transmission testing schedule. The ATTC will begin testing in April 1991 and end

about a year later.

In an unusual move, the FCC granted license renewal to WSWR FM in Shelby, OH and then rescinded the grant. Attorney Thomas Root had owned shares in the company that owns the station and was to have divested himself of same after conviction of fraud charges involving his Sonrise Management Services company. You'll remember Root as being involved in many questionable docket 80-90

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KEITH EMMONS

applications before plunging his single engine Cessna into the Atlantic. It appears he sold his shares to members of his family and the FCC wants to make sure he has no control over the station before the final renewal grant.

Excerpts from Broadcasting magazine.

**RADIO....**

By Stan Sarch

Initial comments to the FCC about digital audio broadcasting (DAB) seem to

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PRESIDENT

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reflect enthusiasm for radio's future, along with concern for DAB's impact on existing AM and FM operations. Some cautioned against moving too quickly. Others think existing broadcasters should get allocation preference once DAB is made available.


Comments to the FCC about the 1610 to 1700 band expansion reveal interest in the new channels primarily from 2 different viewpoints. Minority broadcasters want allocation preference because of their minority status, while some existing broadcasters want preference to go to those stations

experiencing the most interference and limited coverage area. In response to

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JOHN CROOKS  
*Vice President*

the overall FCC improvement notice, one broadcaster made the point that elimination of simulcasting in small markets could reduce local special events and sports coverage. The reasoning is that some smaller stations simulcast 80 to 90% of their sister station and then break away for local and sports coverage.

The Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE) is proposing that Congress require the FCC to have at least one qualified engineer among its five commissioners.

(Excerpts from Radio World)

**AMATEUR RADIO NEWS....**

by Tom Weeden, WJ9H

The Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) on board the space shuttle Columbia may be underway as you read

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this. At press time, the launch was scheduled for the evening of December 1-2. This was the mission which has been scrubbed several times due to fuel leak problems. Dr Ron Parise, WA4SIR, will be operating 2-meter voice and packet radio with earthbound hams during recreational times in his work schedule.

Another amateur radio satellite may be in orbit as well. A Soviet-German joint effort known as RS-14 is scheduled for a late November launch. RS-14 will feature linear transponders and a variety of digital store-and-forward capabilities, and be inserted into a low-earth orbit.

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The cost of taking an amateur radio exam will go up on January 1, but is still a bargain when compared to the \$35 FCC fee for other operator licenses. The

**Patrick Allinson**  
Service Manager


**ROSCOR**

Roscor Wisconsin  
11350 W. Theodore Trecker Way  
West Allis, Wisconsin 53214  
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FAX: 414-476-4949

maximum fee volunteer examiners may charge in 1991 is \$5.27. The original fee was set at \$4.00 when the VE program was initiated, and has been adjusted for inflation every year since.

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The Canadian equivalent of the FCC, the Department of Communications, revamped the license structure of their amateur service on October 1. High-frequency (HF) mode subbands have been eliminated, and Canadian hams may operate any mode or emission type on any amateur frequency as long as they observe bandwidth limits. The Canadian Radio Relay League has urged Canadians to continue observing traditional band plans which are still in effect in the remainder of the Western Hemisphere, including the United States.

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The American Radio Relay League has filed comments in an FCC Notice of

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Inquiry in a docket concerning the possible establishment of a new Personal Communications Service using devices such as advanced cordless telephones and portable radio systems for personal use. Frequency ranges being considered are in the 800/900 Mhz bands and between 1700 and 3000 Mhz. ARRL comments argue for avoiding impact on amateur allocations. Similar comments were filed in response to a NOI for establishment of Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB).


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(From December 1990 QSI and W1AW radioteletype bulletins.)

## A CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESIDENT....

by Paul Stoffel

The Annual Broadcasters Clinic was honored with the attendance of National SBE President Brad Dick. At the meeting, Mr. Dick presented national awards certificates to individuals of our local chapter. Chapter 24 swept the Chapter awards at this year's National Convention in St. Louis. During his overnight visit to Madison, Mr. Dick set aside time for an interview. Mr. Dick discussed the function of local SBE chapters: "The strength of SBE comes from the local chapter level. It comes from the individual members and the organization

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that you have there. The entire SBE organization is based on what people do locally, not what is done on the national level.

"Frequency coordination, in terms of national activities will continue to be an important part of the SBE. We continue to see the FCC reducing its role in terms of coordination at the local level. In terms of frequency usage, the number of users who are on Part 74 frequencies continues to increase, and it's simply too big an issue for the commission to deal with. The only one who has a chance is the local chapter. If we can keep the chapters involved, they can solve the local problems. I think the key is localism.

"The main thing local chapters can do in addition to frequency coordination is comradery between the members. Because some engineers work alone, they don't have the chance to exchange ideas. So,

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only the local chapter can meet that kind of need.

"The second thing they can do is provide education. Education comes in the form of meetings, attending conferences and seminars, and simply being around as a pal to help other people face the same problems that you have faced and have found the answers to. That's the type of education that only the local chapters can provide."

The much discussed issue, "SBE Proposes Engineer on FCC", appeared recently in a Radio World article. Not surprisingly, Mr. Dick used this opportunity to further discuss this issue. When asked about activities the National is currently involved in, he responded, "The major thing we're working on right now is changing the 1934 Communications Act. We have been lobbying very hard for this. We want to change the Act so that at least one of the commissioners has to be an engineer.

"While some of my best friends are lawyers, engineers think about problems differently--they approach problems differently. And, one of the things we want to see done is that technical issues should be addressed by technical professionals. And that's why we think an engineer should be on the commission.

Mr. Dick commented further on other concerns: "Simply ruled re-regulation,

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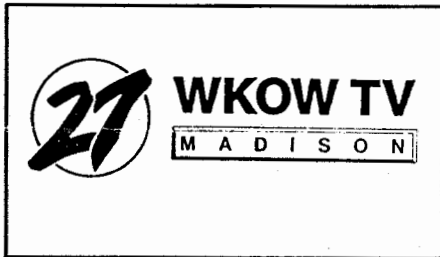
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deregulation or unregulation, whatever you want to call it, is not bad. The big thing I hear from my members is they're tired of trafficking stations. Simply brokering stations like so much bacon is not good for the industry. We've all seen the debt that results: highly leveraged debt to where the staff hurts, equipment hurts and the audience hurts. I'm not sure SBE can address that. I hope the opinion is going to swing the other way. Now that we have a chairman on the commission who's a former broadcaster, we have a chance of bringing some more regulation back into the equation.

"Engineers tend to be the kind of people who like rules to follow and guidelines

to go by. We're not going to go back to the micro-regulated stage that we had twenty years ago, but some reasonable balance needs to exist between regulation and a lack of regulation in the technical area. SBE will continue to propose rule changes which benefit the local station.

"Another one comes to mind--changing the required antenna specifications requirements for different classes of



service, especially the TV-ENG bands is important. And SBE Board Member Dane Erickson has been very involved in helping write new regulations proposed to the commission saying, 'You need to tighten up on these specifications to help cut down interference.'

"The other thing the SBE National is going to try to work on is support for the local chapters. We have on the National Board Steve Ingram who has professional association management experience that we can pass onto the local chapter. I'd like to establish a system whereby the local chapter chairman (or whoever at the local chapter) can call the office, and Steve can help them with whatever kind of problem exists. The key for National is to be supportive, and, in some ways, to help direct efforts of local chapters."

And, finally, Mr Dick talked about the



future of broadcasting: "I don't think SBE members should be passive about technology. I think we need to be identifying what technologies are coming and address them for what we believe are the best interests for our industry. We should make our decisions on a technical basis, not a political basis. I want

members to become involved in the decision-making process.

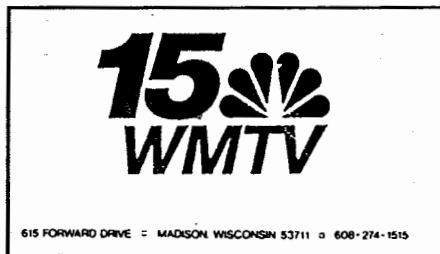
"The SBE needs to address technology in whatever forms it comes. Whether or not we can affect it, depends a great degree on how much time and effort we're willing to put into it. If we want to lobby hard, if we want to push our representatives in Congress in certain ways, then we can be very effective. But I don't want us to be passive about it. I want us to be progressive.

"At the same time, we need to recognize that the industry is changing and the tools and skills that you used five, ten, fifteen years ago, are not going to make you a success tomorrow. So, we have to train our people to adopt to the new technologies that are coming. SBE has a job to train our people to be successful tomorrow."

The SBE Chapter 24 thanks National SBE President Brad Dick for taking the time to visit local chapters and for sharing his thoughts with us up close and personal.

**TAK DEAL....**

TAK Communications, Inc., announced it has accepted a tentative proposal from

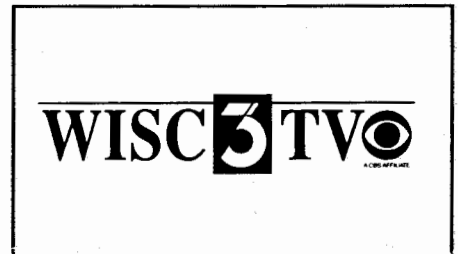


its financial lenders that will restructure its corporate debt and allow it to continue to build its operations throughout the country. "This tentative agreement will have remarkably little impact on the daily operations of our company and its stations.... there will be no layoffs nor staff reductions while we complete this restructuring and chart a revised financial course" said Mr. Sharad Tak, chairman and owner of the firm. He added the draft plan also eliminates erroneous reports and unfounded rumors that the company's Wisconsin television stations would be sold. As part of the agreement, Tak said the banks have withdrawn their request for a federal court to appoint a receiver for the company's nine radio and television stations. WKOW TV, Channel 27 in Madison is a TAK owned

station.

**QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS....**

This past summer, you may have been

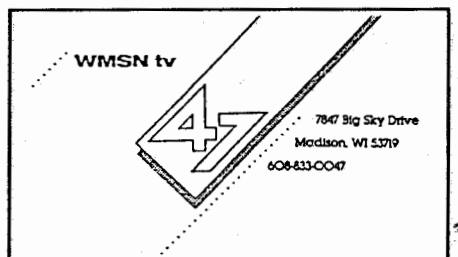


contacted by a Chapter 24 officer asking you to respond to an information gathering phone questionnaire. Here is the tabulations of answers:

- Are you an active member?  
YES 47 NO 7
- Preferred meeting nights?  
TUE 39  
WED 35  
THU 35  
MON 11  
FRI 3
- Should we have lunch meetings?  
YES 29 NO 18
- Can you attend lunch meetings?  
YES 28 NO 16
- Which days for field trips?  
SAT 41 OTHER 4
- Field trips in addition to or in place of monthly meetings?  
IN ADDITION TO 33 / IN PLACE OF 8
- Radio and TV covered adequately in monthly programs?  
YES 28 NO 7

**CLASSIFIED....**

**JOB OPENING:** Chief Engineer for Shamrock Communications Milwaukee FM.



Computer literacy and SBE Certification valued. Send resume to: Kris Foate, General Manager, WQFM, 606 West Wisconsin Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53203. EOE.