

PAGE ONE

CHAPTER 24 - MADISON

FEBRUARY 1990

Edited by: Leonard Charles

Articles Welcome!! Send them to:
Chapter 24 Newsletter
5714 Modernaire St.
Madison, WI 53711
(608)-274-0041
(608)-271-4321

(hard copy or text files on 360K disk)

Contributors this month:

- Doug McDonell
- Doug Smith
- Tom Weeden
- Stan Scharch
- Phil Mikalofsky

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

DATE: Feb 20 1990
CORBYS
Nakoma Plaza
Verona Road at the Beltline

DINNER: 5:45
Meeting/Program: 7:15pm

SONY/KEVIN PECKHAM ON DIGITAL

From Kevin Peckham: Instead of the usual product demonstration I thought I would try to set up a forum or round table type discussion about the impact of digital on the broadcast and production industry. Since this is my home chapter I thought I might try to stimulate some more interactive involvement in the presentation that night by asking you to give some thought to the topic and come prepared to raise issues or speak your mind about digital.

I plan to briefly go over some of the specifics of D-1 and D-2 video tape formats and show how they compare to analog type "C" specifications. I will have a D-2 machine available for those of you that want to touch the technology

or record waveforms. After that I hope to get some discussion going about where

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digital is taking us. I am looking forward to this as a sort of experiment for other SBE chapter meetings. I hope to see you there.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Mar 21 - Wednesday Lunch
Oct 4-7 - SBE National

YOUR OFFICERS....

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

FROM THE OFFICERS....

News Timer Plus now locks your pc to...

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maney_logic

804 Jenifer St Madison, WI 53703 (608) 255-8708

Time Remain	Time Out
10:28	28:57
PC Compatible Composite video	

The by laws are being checked to insure that we have a legal quorum when we vote on the Chapter 24 address list issue. If we have sufficient membership in attendance at this meeting, the vote will take place.

Denny Behr is going to chair this years nominations committee. If you are interested in running for an office or if you would like to be on the committee, contact Denny at the TOC, 273-6916.

WHO DO YA CALL....

There is a new phone number to contact the FAA in the event you have a tower

RAM Professional Audio Products

RON A. MITCHELL PRESIDENT	RAM BROADCAST SYSTEMS INC. 346 West Calfax St. Palestine, Texas 76067 Telephone 708-358-3330 Telefax 708-358-3577
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illumination failure. It is 1-800-451-7644. Thanks to Tom Adams at the TOC who had to find it out the hard way. And remember, for your own protection, get the name of the person/persons who took the report. There have been recent cases where the FAA had been notified but had no record of the notification when contacted by the FCC.

CPR RE-CERTIFICATION....


For those Chapter 24 members who took part in the Red Cross CPR Certification classes last year, it is time to re-certify. The Red Cross requires a refresher course (4 hours on one night) to keep your certification current. The

cost is \$28.00. Contact Dave Gerisch at TV 15, 274-1515 for more information.

THE LEGALS....

info by Doug McDonell

Shalom Christian Center, Inc., has tendered for filing and application for a new Low Power TV station for Madison on Channel 59. ERP 14.4KW, TPO 1.0KW,



WISC-TV
7025 RAYMOND ROAD
MADISON, WI 53711
608-271-4321

TL 5702 Tokay Blvd, Height 366 Meters.

Warren L. Cave, Madison, WI has tendered for filing an application for a new Low Power TV station on Channel 5. ERP .034KW, TPO .01KW, TL 4610 University Avenue, Height 68 Meters.

A CP change has been granted to Eagle Broadcasting of Southern WI, Inc., of Evansville. The change is ERP to 1.4kW at a HAAT 147 Meters for station WMJB, 105.9 MHZ.

Douglas Sheldahl of Janesville, WI has tendered for filing an application for a new Low Power TV station for Janesville on Channel 19. ERP 7.48KW, TPO 1.0KW, TL 150 Parker Drive, Janesville, Height 152 Meters.

Odon Madison Limited Partnership of Sauk City, WI has been granted a CP to change their STL path on 945.875 MHZ. The new path would be from 4610 University Avenue to NL 43-04-34, WL 89-27-15. This path is used in conjunction with WMLI FM, Sauk City, WI.

SONY Kevin Peckham
Sales Engineer
Broadcast Sales Division


Sony Communications Products Company
500 Park Boulevard, Hamilton Lakes
Itasca, Illinois 60143
Telephone (608) 271-3778
Itasca Office (312) 773-6046
Service Center (312) 773-6037
Emer. Tech. Assis. (201) 833-9533
Nat. Parts Ctr. (800) 538-7550

Family Stations Inc. of Sun Prairie, WI has filed an amended application for a new FM Translator to serve Sun Prairie on 89.3 MHZ. The major amendment is to change the antenna system and to change the community of license to Madison, Morrisonville, Cross Plains & Brooklyn, WI.

Skywave Communications Corp., Madison, WI, has tendered for filing an application for a new Low Power TV station for Madison, WI on Channel 11. ERP .0132KW, TPO .01KW, TL near Tokay Blvd and Rosa Rd., Height 365 meters.

Skywave Communications Corp., Madison, WI, has tendered for filing an application for a modification of CP for Channel 54 to change ERP to 4.32KW, TL near Tokay Blvd and Rosa Rd., Height 365 meters.

Inspiration TV of Southern Oregon has tendered for filing an application for a new TV Translator station for Madison, WI on Channel 33. ERP 8.0KW, TPO 1.0KW, TL near SR 19 and U.S. Route 12 near



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R. T. (Dick) Thomas
District Sales Manager
Midwest Area

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LaFox, IL 60147 USA

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Phone: *(708) 208-2200
FAX: *(708) 208-2550
Telex: 283461

Springfield Corners, Height 152 meters. Primary TV station KTBN-TV CH-40, Santa Ana, CA.

CERTIFICATION....

The next round of SBE Certification Exams will be given between June 8-18, 1990. Applications for those exams must be in Indianapolis, SBE headquarters, by April 11, 1990.


Future Exam Dates:
SBE Convention October 6th
November 9-19

Chicago SBE Chapter 26 will be conducting certification classes on all levels for anyone interested in becoming an SBE Certified Engineer. The classes are free and open to all on a first-come

first serve basis; however, each class will be limited to fifteen people. The

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A Division of Herzog Institute

classes will be held on Saturday, March 24, 1990 at NBC, 454 North Columbus Drive, Chicago. The Broadcast Technologist, and Broadcast Engineer AM/FM sessions will be held in the morning, and the Broadcast Engineer TV, Senior Broadcast AM/FM, and Senior Broadcast Engineer TV will be held in the afternoon. To register, call Mike Pratts at NBC weekdays between 10 am and 5 pm. His phone number is 312/861-5674.

FCC NEWS....

info by Doug Smith

After the GAF Corp. and its vice-chairman were found guilty of federal stock fraud, the FCC is considering a hearing to determine whether GAF should be permitted to continue to operate classical music station WNCN in New York.

The group of U.S. congressional leaders

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JOHN CROOKS
Vice President

and broadcasters sent to Cuba to discuss Cuban interference to U.S. AM broadcast stations was received by an unusually high-level Cuban delegation (indeed, if the visit hadn't coincided with the Panamanian invasion, the U.S group was scheduled to meet with Fidel Castro himself) which made it obvious that the institution of TV Marti would result in increased Cuban interference. The

Cubans also demonstrated their ability to effectively jam the planned channel 13 TV transmissions.

Three Bakersfield, Calif. area TV stations have filed petitions to deny the transfer of bankrupt KDOB-TV Bakersfield from Dorothy Owens to her brother, former Hee-Haw star Buck Owens, for \$4,500,000. The licensees of KBAK, KGET-TV, and KMPH claim that the Owens' conspired to place KDOB-TV in bankruptcy to permit Buck, who already owns KUZZ AM/FM radio in Bakersfield, to obtain an FCC waiver to receive control of the TV station. They also question whether KDOB-TV is really bankrupt, or whether Dorothy always intended to transfer

TODD COMMUNICATIONS

Steve Peck
Regional Sales Manager

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ownership to her brother. KGET-TV also alleges that, while Dorothy and her brother testified in a comparative hearing that Buck would have no involvement in Dorothy's application, facts revealed in the bankruptcy hearing show that Buck guaranteed a \$1,500,000 bank loan to Dorothy for the station.

The Soviet Council of Ministers is planning on legalizing the viewing of overseas TV programming via satellite for Soviet citizens; Soviet industries are reportedly also preparing to produce home satellite dishes.

50kW WBLM-FM has traded facilities with 100kW WTHT-FM, obtaining a near-doubling of the population in its coverage area. Both stations are located near Portland, Maine.

W53AA (LPTV) New York was sold for what is probably the highest price ever paid for a LPTV, \$1,800,000. The station was bought from CBS (who used it as a translator for WCBS-TV) for \$50,000 in the mid-1980's. The new owners plan to air Asian ethnic programming.

A U.S. district court judge in Los Angeles has ruled that the city's refusal to permit more than one cable company to operate in any geographical

area of the city is unconstitutional.

Another appeals court, in Washington, has ordered the FCC to either continue

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renewal proceedings for six Spanish-language TV stations now owned by Hallmark Cards, or explain to the court their departure from a precedent prohibiting the sale of a station by a licensee whose qualifications are being challenged, unless the sale is for less than market value. The Commission had held that the relationship of minority stockholders the Azcarraga family-- Mexican citizens-- with SICC president Reynald Anselmo gave foreigners a degree of influence over the stations much greater than permitted by law.

The Supreme Court will review two FCC cases involving minority preferences in licensing of broadcast stations.

Speculation that Jesse Jackson may run for mayor of Washington D.C. after current mayor Marion Barry's arrest on drug charges may make it difficult for Jackson's new TV talk show to sell to any Washington TV station. If Jackson were to become an official candidate for mayor, any station airing his talk show would be obligated to provide equal time for Jackson's opponents. The situation would not affect sales of the program elsewhere in the U.S.

According to Circuit Research Labs (CRL), only 80% of AM stations are expected to have converted to the NRSC audio standard by the FCC deadline of

15
WMTV

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June 30. Stations missing this deadline will be required to immediately convert to the 1994 RF mask standard or be subject to penalty for out-of-band emissions. CRL officials say they expect many stations to ignore the NRSC regulations.


The first customers of the National Supervisory Network (NSN) are now on line. NSN operates its customers' transmitters by satellite remote control from their headquarters in Colorado.

8 "stale" FCC broadcasting proposals have been dropped in a "housecleaning" operation. The most prominent was the 1980 proposal for VHF dropins.

The Commission has ordered KUCB-FM Des Moines to show cause why its license shouldn't be revoked for going off the air without informing the FCC.

The FCC proposed a new class of amateur license: the Communicator class, to replace the Novice and Technician

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BURNSVILLE, MN 55337
(612) 890-8820



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KEITH EMMONS

classes. Communicator would not require a code exam. Existing Novice and Techs would be grandfathered. Communicator privileges would be 222 MHz and up. No 2 or 6 meter or HF privileges would be permitted. The Communicator would be tested through the VE program. As the Communicator would replace the Novice license, this would bring all amateur testing under the VE program. The Communicator test would consist of 30 Novice questions, 25 Technician questions and 5 new questions. Communicators could get VHF & HF by passing a 5 WPM test. No new license or callsign would be granted and no FCC action would be taken. The upgrade would be conferred by VEs only. Upgraded Communicators would sign /AC after their call. FCC staff could not explain why a code test was chosen as the means to obtain VHF privileges other than to state that that was what the ARRL wanted. The Commission will explore the possibility of some limited

Communicator HF privileges, but for domestic HF use only. Comments on PR 90-55 are due Aug. 6, 1990 with replies due Sept. 7, 1990. The FCC expects to take final action in this docket one year from now.

SBE BOARD MEETS....

The current FCC rules governing aural STLs was among the topics of discussion at the annual SBE Board of Directors meeting in Washington. Goals set in the STL area include tightening up of antenna and receiver criteria and

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Sales Manager

ROSCOR

Roscor Wisconsin
11350 West Theodore Trecker Way
West Allis, Wisconsin 53214
Phone: 414-476-2600
FAX: 414-476-4949

frequency tolerance of transmitters to promote spectrum efficiency. In polling STL manufacturers, the SBE learned that it would cost about \$2000 to upgrade most units to the new type acceptance FCC standards, and that some of the units now in operation would not be upgradable forcing those stations to purchase replacement equipment. In comments to the FCC concerning the extension of the new STL type acceptance guidelines, the SBE argued that it would make little sense to force stations to buy the current analog technology when pending new digital systems would operate with better quality and lower power. The FCC has since extended the deadline to 1993.

The SBE Board also filed comments opposing a proposal by Cellular 21 of New Jersey for reallocation of 940 - 944 MHz for cordless telephone service. Although no STLs are currently being assigned to that spectrum, several grandfathered systems still do operate there and the SBE opposes Cellular's suggestion that those STLs be re-allocated to the 24 GHz band.

Upcoming conventions and past attendee surveys were discussed and a special award was given to Charles Hallinan, a founder and early president of the Society in the 60s.

RADIO....

by Stan Sarch, N9HMA

3M has agreed to sell its International Tapetronics division to Donald Carle, a West Vancouver, British Columbia entrepreneur. No immediate changes are planned for product and support. The firm, which will remain in Bloomington, Illinois, will operate under the name International Tapetronics Corporation, its name before being purchased by 3M in 1981.

TFT Corporation has prototyped a new line of EBS tone decoders and encoders. They are compatible with much shorter tones than those presently required by the FCC. The commission is presently reconsidering the tone length requirements of the present rules.

The RF lighting issue is a hot topic again. At least 4 east coast electric utilities are offering the lamps to customers at no charge as an energy savings promotion. RF light bulbs reportedly cause interference to radio receivers, especially AM.

WQYK(AM) 1010 khz in Tampa, Florida has applied to the FCC for experimental authorization to begin over the air testing of Noise Free Radio (NFR). NFR is a system proposed by PE George Yazell that frequency deviates a standard broadcast carrier at plus or minus 1 khz at the same time as "normal" (up to 90% modulation) AM modulation. The compatible system can then be received on a special FM receiver in the standard broadcast band. Critics of the system have said that the allowable deviation is too narrow for good audio quality.

(Excerpts from Radio World)

AMATEUR RADIO NEWS....

by Tom Weeden, WJ9H

Six new amateur radio satellites were launched into orbit January 21 from Kourou, French Guiana, "hitching a ride" with the commercial satellite on board the Ariane launch vehicle. In addition to acting as "orbiting repeaters," each of the six was designed to perform other specific functions. One carries a camera on board and will send encoded pictures via UHF packet radio which can

be processed by any IBM compatible computer. Another satellite is sending FM telemetry in the 2-meter band on 145.825 MHz. The signal is strong enough to be picked up on a hand-held radio or a typical scanner. (I caught it on February 5 with no problem.) This satellite will later be transmitting synthesized voice for educational programs. The new satellites are in sun-synchronous orbit, making several passes daily over southern Wisconsin, a few around 11 AM and again around 10 PM.

The American Radio Relay League has petitioned the FCC to allow limited automatic control of data transmissions on the high frequency (shortwave) bands. The current rules require a control operator for operation at HF, although unattended operation is permissible on the generally line-of-sight VHF frequencies and higher. Several stations have been operating automatically on HF under a special temporary authority (STA) for the last 2 1/2 years. The League feels, based on these stations' experience, that limited automatic HF operation is desirable and can be accomplished with a minimum of inconvenience to existing operations.

The annual "Madison Swapfest" is just around the corner. Amateurs from all over Wisconsin will converge on the Dane County Expo Center on Sunday, April 8 to buy and sell radio, computer, and electronic gear. Some radio and TV stations use the opportunity to sell old or unused equipment to hams and experimenters. For details, contact the Madison Area Repeater Association at 249-7579.


(From the "ARRL Letter," "Badger State Smoke Signals," and "QST" Magazine.)

SATELLITE NEWS....

by Phil Mikalofsky

GTE Spacenet Corporation officials

WMSN tv



7847 Big Sky Drive
Madison, WI 53719
608-433-0047

recently reported that the GSTAR 3 Ku-band communications satellite is now operational and has finally reached its orbital assignment of 93 deg W longitude over the Equator. This announcement follows a long recovery effort undertaken after the satellite's apogee kick motor (AKM) failed to ignite and boost the spacecraft into its original FCC orbital assignment of 125 deg W.

GSTAR 3 was launched on September 8th, 1988 along with MCI Corporation's SBS 5 Ku-band bird by the European Space Agency at their launch complex in Kourou, French Guiana. The launch and separation of the two satellites from the Ariane 4 launch vehicle was successful. The failure of GSTAR 3's AKM forced GTE to use station-keeping fuel and the small attitude-control rocket motors on the spacecraft in order to slowly move the satellite into its current orbital position. This procedure has dramatically reduced the estimated operational lifetime of the satellite from 10 years to 5 years.

GSTAR 3 is now in and will remain in what a GTE Spacenet Corp. satellite service technician termed an "inclined" orbit which is a result of the recovery effort. This type of orbit, on my own observations, is near-geosynchronous-- it is necessary to track this bird with a steerable antenna. The spacecraft is drifting back and forth in elevation by several degrees. To maximize signal strength to and from the satellite's transponders, the antenna needs to be elevated up or down a couple tenths of a degree every 15 minutes or so.

GTE Spacenet Corp. has filed an insurance claim with the satellite's underwriters in order to recover their losses on the project. They are also offering discounts on transponder leasing costs as an incentive to use the satellite.

(excerpts taken from Via Satellite magazine and 1990 World Satellite Annual)

NETWORK ON CABLE....

Fox affiliate relations VP, Preston Padden, said his network is interested in affiliating with cable systems. Padden said it would only be in so called "white areas" where no Fox broadcast affiliate exists and where

there is not likely to be one in the future.

CABLE DBS....

Tele Communications Inc. (TCI) has announced plans for a 10 channel satellite broadcasting service which it



and a group of cable operators and GE Americom hopes to have up and running by the end of 1990. The planned 100 million dollar service would beam seven superstations and three pay per view channels via GE Americom's Satcom K-1 to subscribers with one-meter dishes.

USER FRIENDLY ?....

A recent study by an American university research group indicates that only about 5 to 7% of the US adult population could be called technically literate. Nearly 60% of those questioned did not know that the earth revolves around the sun. The implication for the electronics industry involves the apparent inability of large segments of the audio/video consuming population to deal with complex and elaborate components, especially those units that require user skill to achieve maximum performance. The concept of what represents saturation for a specific product or even a product category may also have to change. People do not buy what they do not understand or cannot perceive.

from Studio Sound Magazine via Chapter 24, Milwaukee.

COPTER MEETS TOWER....

Editors note: The following was a conversation on CompuServe on February 1st passed along to this publication by

Doug Smith.

From: Tom Bosscher WCUZ
Grand Rapids, Mich.

January 30, 1990, someone was in a hurry. Speeding in excess of 100 mph, with a dual jet driven helicopter, this person was flying below 1000 ft. The rotor caught the attention of one of the top set of guys on WXMI's (CH 17 Grand Rapids, MI) 1000 foot tower. The bird took it hard on the nose and smashed most of the nav gear there. The rotor then cut the guy wire, which, being drawn taught, sprang back at the tower, flipping this piece of guy wire (about 400 feet), over the TOP of the tower. The collision snapped the tower, causing a list, plus a permanent visible bend in the antenna. Viewers on the fringe noticed immediately. I have no idea how much damage there is. The station stayed on the air, but the waveguide/antenna leaks like the proverbial sieve. No doubt the antenna will have to be replaced, along with extensive tower work. The tower is



painted. Accident occurred at 10:30 AM. Pilot admitted to not paying much attention (he was on auto-pilot!!!) There is another 1000 footer less than a mile away, and these are both on the air charts. What does this mean... The FAA will probably claim rf intermod caused the autopilot to drift!!!! Here's hoping this never happens to any of you.

The deadline for entries in the March 1990 Chapter 24 newsletter is Friday March 9, 1990.

CHAPTER 24 SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Welcome to our latest Sustaining Member

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