



SOCIETY OF BROADCAST ENGINEERS

CHAPTER 24

AN AWARD WINNING NEWSLETTER

MADISON, WISCONSIN

APRIL 1991

MARCH 1991 MINUTES

Chapter 24 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers met on Tuesday, March 19, 1991 at MPI FILM AND VIDEO in Madison for its regular monthly meeting. There were 11 members and one guest present. Eight of the members were SBE certified.

A business meeting was conducted following a program put on in cooperation with the Madison Chapter of the International Television Association. The program consisted of two demonstrations of disc based technology. Kirk Paulson of Roscor demonstrated the EMC2 off-line editing system, and Ray Mandll of Mandll Communications discussed the uses of discs in designing and delivering interactive instruction.

Chairman Steve Zimmerman called the business meeting to order at 7:30 p.m..

Vice-Chairman Jim Hermanson read the minutes of the February meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

Vice-Chairman Hermanson reminded members of the field trip to WTMJ Radio and TV in Milwaukee set for the following Saturday, March 23 at 10:00 a.m..

Program Chairman Kevin Ruppert indicated that he would be looking for reports from members who intended to attend the upcoming NAB convention in Las Vegas this Spring. He once again reminded members of the upcoming field trip

to WTMJ, which was to be a carpool trip.

There was no old business.

In new business, Chairman Steve Zimmerman reported that the Nominations Committee would be accepting nominations for the upcoming slate of Elected Officers, until April 12. Anyone interested in running for an office should contact Doug McDonell.

Chairman Steve Zimmerman adjourned the business meeting at 7:38 p.m..

Jim Hermanson, Vice-Chairman

APRIL MEETING

DATE: APRIL 23, 1991

AT: ALEXANDER'S SNAP SHOTS

5614 Schroeder Rd.

DINNER: 5:30 P.M.

MEETING: 7:00 P.M.

The program for this month's meeting will be the annual "NAB Roundup." We will have a chance to hear from members who were at the NAB convention in Las Vegas about what they learned and observed. This has been an interesting round table discussion in previous years, and has proven to be interesting for both radio and TV engineers. We also hope to have handouts and video from some of the exhibitors at the convention. Come to the meeting and be part of the discussion whether or not you are going to be attending the NAB convention.

Also, don't forget, elections for Chapter 24 officers for 1991-1992 will also be held during the meeting (see insert).

UPCOMING MEETING

May 22, 1991

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Equipment Exchange

LOCAL LEGALS

Info by David Willow and Doug McDonell

The FCC recently shut down an unlicensed Wisconsin pirate broadcast station and levied a fine against the illegal operator.

The FCC Field Operations Bureau, in coordination with its monitoring network and the Chicago Office, shut down the unlicensed station in Reedsburg, Wisconsin known as "KUSA." The pirate station's operator, Domenic R. Bianco of Reedsburg, was fined \$1,000.

"KUSA" was illegally operating on 7.411 MHz, which is allocated to the international fixed public radio communications service. The pirate station's format was commentary and music.


In regard to FCC MM Docket 90-423, Construction Permit for Channel 288A in Verona, Wisconsin, the FCC on March 20, granted an amendment by Janice and Ronald Fedler, General Partners, for an increase in ERP to the maximum permitted for Class A stations. It further approved a settlement agreement with WBCF, Inc. and granted the Fedler application.

A construction permit for Waukegan (MM Docket 90-507) was given final grant on March 18.

The FCC has accepted and granted an application for a UHF TV translator low power broadcast construction permit to change the ERP to 8.73 Kw for station WSSN TV, Inc., the Concourse Hotel, One West Dayton Street, Madison, Wisconsin.

A construction permit for WWRS TV Channel 52, Pacer Television Company, Mayville, Wisconsin has been cancelled by the FCC. Deletion of the call sign and cancellation of the permit were effective January 30, 1991.

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KEITH EMMONS

VOTE !!

Chapter 24 Officer Elections
at the April 23 meeting

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PROFESSIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT

John Reuter has been promoted to maintenance engineer at the TOC (Telecommunication Operations Center.) John has been a staff engineer with Wisconsin Public Broadcasting since the Fall of 1988.

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JOHN CROOKS
Vice President

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W - 274-1234
H - 845-8738

VICE CHAIRMAN:

Jim Hermanson (WTSO/WZEE/
WKOW TV)
W - 274-1234
H - 231-2005

SECRETARY:

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

TREASURER:

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

CHAPTER 24 COMMITTEE APPOINTEES

Past President - Denny Behr
Membership - Dave Gertsch
Sustaining Membership - Leonard Charles
Strategic Plan Comm - Denny Behr (Chair)
Newsletter - Deanna Morris
Program Chairman - Kevin Ruppert
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Frequency Coord - Chris Cain
Chapter Liason - Paul Meyer

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PC's TIME-OF-DAY LOCKED TO NETWORK

by Dan Maney of maney_logic

Network video from ABC, CBS, or NBC provides line 20 VTC to lock your PC's time-of-day clock to the network clock. By occasionally accessing the line 20 data, and monitoring it via software, the PC's hardware clock is kept accurate.

At WKOW TV a PC running News Timer Plus software stays perfectly locked to ABC time and also keeps the hardware clock accurate. After a power outage, the PC boots with the correct time and the News Timer Plus software proceeds to verify it by monitoring the network line.

This works equally well with WWV radio either off-air or via cable TV on the FM band. Occasional good reception is adequate to stay accurate, as the software confirms data before adjusting the PC's timers.

For stations with their own time standard (ESE, etc.), an available GPI from these devices can be monitored in the same way.

For more information call maney_logic at (608) 277-8001.

IT'S ON FOX 47 MADISON!



7847 Big Sky Drive Madison, WI 53719 608-833-0047

RADIO

by Stan Scharch

Low-quality avionics receivers are to blame for commercial broadcast interference with navigational equipment. This from John Furr and Associates in San Antonio. They have filed a petition with the FCC that proposes new minimum standards for avionics receivers used for direction finding aboard aircraft. Furr says that such standards would also eliminate the need for proposed FAA regulation that would give the agency even greater authority than they have now over FM and VHF applications before the FCC.

In an attempt to alleviate station operator confusion about FM modulation monitors, the FCC has issued a public notice about FM modulation measurement. The FCC says that "despite all technical differences, it has been the experience of the commission that all commercially manufactured monitors with which it is familiar produce satisfactory results, which agree substantially with the commission's rules". The public notice was prompted by a recent inquiry from Modulation Sciences.

Gannett Broadcasting has unveiled a new in-band DAB system that would require only a small amount of new equipment and little in the way of FCC action. Digital coded polyvector modulation (DCPM) is transmitted within the normal 200 KHZ FM channel along with the existing FM transmission. It is reportedly immune to multipath.

(Excerpts from Radio World)

EBS ACTIVATIONS

The FCC is receiving reports of Emergency Broadcast System activations at a record rate.

In 1990, there were 1,410 activations for emergencies reported to the FCC from 192 broadcast stations. Reported situations for activations included flash floods, tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, blizzards, ice storms, power outages, high winds, chemical explosions, evacuations, prison escapes, telephone outages, Hurricanes Lily and Gustav, gasoline spills, fires, gas leaks, and a railroad chemical spill.

Broadcast stations received notification to activate from a variety of officials, including NOAA Weather Radio, EBS decoder/receiver, and state and local police, fire and emergency personnel.

The EBS state and local programs were started in 1976 through a joint effort by the FCC, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the National Weather Service (NWS), and the National Industry Advisory Committee (now the Emergency Broadcast System Advisory Committee.) Since that time, the FCC has received a total of 11,926 activation reports.

Because the Commission does not require broadcasters to file a report when they activate the EBS, the total number of activations may be greater than the above numbers indicate.


The FCC commends broadcasters for serving the public interest by using the EBS to disseminate emergency information.

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FREQUENCY CONGESTED AREAS

Madison is considered a "frequency congested area". If you have any "fixed" microwave stations you WILL be affected by this. Your license will NOT be renewed unless you comply with larger "Category A" antennae.

The following are the SBE "comments" regarding the Congested Area Docket, reprinted here from an SBE press release. —Chris Cain, Frequency Coordination/Chapter 24

The Society of Broadcast Engineers, Inc. has filed updated maps in the FCC "Congested Area" docket showing proposed "frequency congested areas" in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The SBE had petitioned the FCC in February, 1990 to adopt a clear-cut definition of the term "frequency congested area" which has been in the FCC rules since 1981.

New fixed microwave stations located in "frequency congested areas" are required to install Category A antennas, while microwave stations not in areas subject to frequency congestion are allowed to install smaller Category B antennas.

In its February 1990 petition for Rule Making, the SBE proposed using Census-defined Standard Metropolitan Statistical areas (SMSA's) as the first cut criteria for whether a station is located in a frequency congested area. There are 309 SMSA's nation-wide based on the

(cont'd pg. 5, col. 3)

FCC NEWS

by Leonard Charles

Comments are being sought on a third proposal for spectrum allocation for DAB. This one proposes the use of 2360 to 2410 MHz, revised from the 2390 to 2420 proposal of last fall. Most comments on last fall's proposal were unfavorable. Inadequate propagation characteristics head the list of objections.

Most broadcasters, and the NAB, favor an L band proposal (1493-1525 MHz), but say the 32 MHz byte of spectrum would be insufficient to allow a simulcast DAB channel for every AM and FM station now on the air. A UHF spectrum allocation (728-788 MHz) proposal is still on the table.

The FCC is considering two DAB proposals by Strother Communications Inc. The first is to test DAB in the UHF spectrum. The second request test in the Washington DC area is in the L band. In the Washington DC tests, more than one system may be tested including the Eureka 147 system.

A petition for rulemaking has been filed requiring FCC approval for network affiliation of a foreign based station if a US station serves the market and wishes affiliation with the network. KUSI-TV, San Diego, has been unable to reach agreement with Fox, which has XETV-TV Tijuana, Mexico as an affiliate already serving San Diego. KUSI licensee, McKinnon Broadcasting, has filed the petition.


New England branches of the NAACP have filed petitions to deny renewal of WINE AM - WRKI FM of Brookfield, Conn.; WWBB-FM, Providence, RI.; WCDJ-FM, Boston; WHMP-AM-FM, Northampton; WJDA-AM, Quincy, Mass.; WESX-AM, Salem, Mass.; and WHYN AM-FM Springfield, Mass. The NAACP said the stations had "no more than token employment of blacks and other minorities during the license term."

The Commission has sent the license renewal challenge settlement between WWOR-TV and Garden State Broadcasting Ltd. to an administrative law judge. The FCC wants to determine if the Garden State challenge was for the improper purpose of obtaining a settlement.

The Washington law firm Hogan & Hartson filed petition for declaratory ruling to allow limited third party interest in FCC licenses. Their hope is to increase the level of secured debt from broadcasters.

(Excerpts from Broadcasting Magazine)

JEFFREY M. CLARINE
CENTRAL REGION SALES MANAGER



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AMATEUR RADIO NEWS

by Tom Weeden, WJ9H

As of this writing, the "all-ham" crew of the space shuttle Atlantis is scheduled to lift-off April 4th. The astronauts will be including packet-radio, slow-scan TV, and 2-meter FM on their flight. Operation is expected to begin on Day 2 of the flight, with packet on 145.51 MHz and occasional FM voice operation on 145.55 MHz (ground stations are to transmit 600 kHz lower). The Soviet MIR space station has been operating on 145.55, and the two crafts may be able to link up via amateur radio if orbital conditions permit.

The FCC's 1992 appropriations request to Congress has called for \$65 million in new "user fees" including nearly \$3 million to be collected from amateur licensees. Applicants for new or renewed licenses would be billed for their full license terms (ten years) at issuance, at a rate of \$3 per year. License fees were proposed and actually adopted in 1989 by both houses of Congress, but were dropped at the last minute in a Conference Committee. The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) will again oppose license fees for hams.

So-called "scanner laws," which state and local jurisdictions use to prohibit the possession of receivers in vehicles that can receive police traffic, are the focus of an FCC inquiry. The ARRL had requested the FCC to federally preempt these laws as they affect licensed amateurs.

Current amateur mobile radio designs often include receiver coverage of frequencies adjacent to amateur bands, such as police and other public safety services. Hams are subject to fines or equipment confiscation when operating in areas subject to "scanner laws." The deadline to comment in FCC Docket number PR 91-36 is June 7.

We apparently are not on the downside of the current 11-year sunspot cycle. On January 30, the solar flux reading hit a surprising level of 367, causing some worldwide propagation on 50 MHz and above.

East coast hams were reportedly working European stations on VHF, with west coasters hitting New Zealand and other south Pacific stations. Many U.S. low-band VHF TV stations probably also (unknowingly) took part in the incredible propagation....has there been any unusual viewer mail received over at WISC-TV lately?

From April 1991 QST Magazine and the WD9ESU packet BBS.)

WISC 3 TV

CONGESTION

(from pg. 4)

1980 Census. That number will probably be increased when the 1990 Census data becomes available.

The SBE filing continues to endorse the premise that any area with sufficient population to have been designated as a SMSA is also likely to be "frequency congested." In response to input from its 115 affiliated frequency coordinating committees, the SBE fine-tuned its proposal to include a four-level "safety net" to ensure that no Broadcast Auxiliary microwave station be required to bear the expense of an antenna upgrade where no need exists.

The SBE also proposed a "structural exemption," to accommodate existing microwave antennas which are installed on towers so heavily loaded that the additional wind-loading caused by a larger antenna would create a safety problem. However, the SBE proposed that confirmation of the tower loading must be provided by either a Registered Structural Engineering or by the tower manufacturer.

Copies of the full 85 page SBE Docket 90-500 filing, which includes updated detailed maps of each state, are available from SBE Secretary Paul Lentz (419-882-5906) at a cost of \$15.00 for SBE Members, and at a cost of \$25.00 for non-SBE members.

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BTS
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Skyline Communications
Broadcast Communications
LDL Communications Inc.
Roscor Corporation
Sony Broadcast
Video Images

EQUIPMENT EXCHANGE

Got something you want to sell???

This equipment exchange area is dedicated primarily to individual SBE members and local area broadcast or telecommunications stations who have equipment for sale or trade.

If you have one or several items that you would like to list here, please contact the editor with your information. All notices will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis, and the line length of each notice will be limited according to space available. Each notice will be posted for one month; if you wish to have your notice re-posted, you must re-submit your information to the editor. And, best of all, listing your items here is FREE!

Look for this feature in the next issue of the Chapter 24 newsletter.

CHAPTER 24 NEWSLETTER

(hard copy or ASCII text message on BBS at 608-274-7776)

Edited by: Deanna Morris

Contributors this month: Denny Behr, Leonard Charles, Jim Hermanson, Kevin Ruppert, Dan Maney, Doug McDonnell, Stan Scharch, Tom Weeden, and David Willow.

Articles Welcome! Send correspondence to:

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50 Schroeder Ct. #108
Madison, WI 53711
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CHAPTER 24 NEWSLETTER

50 SCHROEDER CT. #108
MADISON, WI 53711

Tom Weeden 1
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1991-1992
NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICER POSITIONS
SOCIETY OF BROADCAST ENGINEERS, CHAPTER 24
MADISON, WISCONSIN

CHAIRMAN: JIM HERMANSON

Jim began his broadcasting career in 1974 as an announcer at WBEV in Beaver Dam. Upon graduation in 1976 from M.A.T.C., with an associate degree in Electronics Technology, Jim began work as Resident Engineer at WBEV/WXRO, Beaver Dam. In 1977 he accepted a position with Goetz Broadcasting Corporation as a Corporate Broadcast Engineer. With Goetz, responsibilities included engineering work for as many as 20 radio stations in south and central Wisconsin. In 1981, Jim enrolled at U.W.-Madison to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in the Letters and Science department. In 1983 he began working part-time at WKOW-TV and was promoted to full-time as 10 PM News Technical Director in 1985. In late 1986, Jim accepted a position as Chief Engineer for WTSO/WZEE radio. Early in 1991, he left WTSO/WZEE, returned to full-time status at U.W.-Madison, and is currently working part-time at WKOW-TV. Jim has been a member of Chapter 24 since 1986. He is certified as a Senior Broadcast Engineer-AM/FM. He has served as Chapter Membership Chairman, Secretary, and is currently Vice-Chairman.

VICE-CHAIRMAN: LEONARD CHARLES

Chuck began his broadcast career in 1974 as Chief Engineer at WAGO in Oshkosh. Since then he has been Chief Engineer at KLEE, Ottumwa, Iowa; KQDS(FM), Duluth, Minnesota; and WIBA AM/FM, Madison. He is currently a TV Broadcast Engineer at WISC-TV, Madison. Chuck holds an AS Degree in Electronic Engineering Technology from the Wisconsin School of Electronics; a Diploma in Radio-TV Broadcasting Studies from Brown Institute in Minneapolis; a Lifetime General Class FCC License; and Certification from the SBE as a Broadcast Engineer-TV. He is a past officer of Chapter 24, serving as Treasurer and two terms as Vice-Chairman. Chuck is also the SBE delegate to the Dane County Telecommunications Commission and serves as the Chapter 24 Sustaining Membership Chairman. As Chapter 24 Newsletter Editor, he was honored with the National SBE award as Best Newsletter Editor in 1990. Chuck also was awarded the Chapter 24 Dedicated Service Award in 1987.

SECRETARY: FRED SPERRY

Fred earned an Associate Degree in Electronic Communications from the Milwaukee Area Technical College in May of 1984. From June 1984 to August 1985, he was an announcer and Chief Engineer at WTOQ/WKPL, Platteville. From August 1985 to May 1986, Fred was Chief Engineer for WFAW/WSJY, Fort Atkinson and WRDB/WNFM, Reedsburg. In May of 1986, he moved to Park Falls as Transmitter Operator for WLEF Television, licensed to the Educational Communications Board. In February of 1988, he assumed the duties of Staff Engineer for the Technical Operations Center (TOC) in Madison. Fred joined SBE in 1986 with the Fox Valley Chapter and transferred membership to Chapter 24 in 1988. He is certified as a Broadcast Engineer-TV and currently serves as Chapter 24 Treasurer.

TREASURER: PAUL STOFFEL

Paul has worked in Television broadcasting since 1977 with stations in Marquette, Michigan; Green Bay; and Madison. In 1980 he joined WHA-TV, serving in several positions. In 1987, Paul became a member of the team designing the Telecommunications Operations Center (TOC) for the Educational Communications Board. When the plans were finalized, he was a member of the team which constructed the TOC. Paul has since returned to WHA-TV and is certified as a Senior Broadcast Engineer-TV.

1991-1992
BALLOT FOR OFFICER POSITIONS
SOCIETY OF BROADCAST ENGINEERS, CHAPTER 24
MADISON, WISCONSIN

CHAIRMAN: JIM HERMANSON _____

VICE-CHAIRMAN: LEONARD CHARLES _____

SECRETARY: FRED SPERRY _____

TREASURER: PAUL STOFFEL _____

Mark your choice with an "X" on the line after the name of the person listed.

The blank line below the nominee of the committee is for any "write-in" votes. List the name of your choice and mark an "X" on the line following the name.

Only current members of the Society of Broadcast Engineers, Chapter 24, may cast ballots in this election of officers.

The election of officers will take place at the Chapter 24 meeting on April 23, 1991.

Those members who are unable to attend the meeting may vote by mail. Mail ballots must be received by April 22, 1991.

Send to:

Doug McDonell
Nominations Committee
2830 Waubesa Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53711