



CHAPTER 24

SOCIETY OF BROADCAST ENGINEERS

MADISON, WISCONSIN

JANUARY 1992

MORE FROM THE FCC VISIT

by Paul Stoffel

In November, 1991, the Broadcaster Clinic held in Madison included an evening FCC panel discussion. Included on that panel were: Al Jarratt, FCC St. Paul Office; Garrett Lyslak, Owl Engineering, Inc.; and moderator, Doug McDonell, Technical Consultant.

Lasting for nearly three hours, panel representatives and clinic attendees discussed issues such as tower lighting, remote control, EBS, the new fines schedule and more. The following excerpts are from that discussion.

Monitoring Points

Lyslak said, "I've noticed in the last couple of years that I have been practicing, AM directionals are in a sad state of affairs. What I have found is sometimes the monitoring points' descriptions are all wrong. Somebody should be able to take that description of the monitoring points of your directional array and be able to drive to it. Do not assume that the (FCC Field) Engineers know how to get there. (In) the last several years, a lot of construction has gone on in the Midwest. Either a point has been constructed over, there's a road, or a tree that was there is no longer there. A new description needs to be written. When the FCC comes and inspects you, make sure that they can get there (because the FCC) assumes that (the broadcaster) knows where (the points) are."

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JANUARY MEETING

DATE: January 21, 1992

AT: **Memory Lane Supper Club**
Poynette, Wisconsin

DINNER: 5:30 p.m.

MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

PROGRAM FOLLOWING: **WIBU**

The program will be a tour of WIBU radio in Poynette. WIBU has recently put a service on the air that totally controls the station's programs, commercials, ID's, etc. via satellite. We will have a chance to look at the computer system which stores and totally integrates the station's local announcements with those from the satellite service.

Please join us for dinner and our monthly business meeting right in Poynette.

Directions: The best way to get to there is on Interstate 90-94. From Madison, head West towards Wisconsin Dells. Exit on Hwy. 60, the Local exit. Once on Hwy. 60, turn left at the 3rd intersection onto WIBU road. You will see the Pioneer Seeds company at that intersection. Drive past the WIBU station. The road becomes Main Street. Once downtown, you will see Memory Lane Supper Club.

DECEMBER MINUTES

Chapter 24 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers met on Thursday December 19, 1991 at Alexander's Restaurant in Madison for its regular monthly meeting. The attendance of the December meeting included 20 SBE members, 18 who were certified, and one guest for a total attendance of 21.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Jim Hermanson. Secretary Fred Sperry read the minutes from the November meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer Paul Stoffel reported the Chapter's account balance.

There was no old business.

In new business, Paul Stoffel distributed information on the National Public Radio/Society of Broadcast Engineers Certification Course. This course will be available through

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

February 19

March 19

April 21

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FCC IN TOWN

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Self-Inspection Reports

Jarratt said, "We do not have a draft of the form (Broadcast Self-Inspection Report) to send out at this point like certain field offices do. The field offices have been trying a number of things to get the message out. One of them is the self-inspection form. We (St. Paul Office) are not using (the form), and I don't think the Chicago office is, either. The form is not standardized field-wide. It follows very closely with the Public Bulletin Checklist for AM, FM and TV (i.e., FCC FIELD OPERATIONS BUREAU BULLETIN No. 18, BROADCAST SERVICE CHECKLIST (AM/FM/TV) FCC Rule Part 73). The Checklist is a good reference if you want to go through and do a self-type inspection."

Lyslak commented, "What happens if the general manager gets a form in the mail? Let's be realistic, a lot of stations don't have engineers anymore. The manager gets the form, they look at it and they don't know what to do with it. (Or.) what happens if you (broadcast engineers) fill the form out wrong (or) you make a mistake?"

Some other comments from the floor included: "Does management allow the engineers to fill out this form correctly with accurate data without the possibility of being fined?" and "The general manager will not understand this complex form and its answers. Is this a correct procedure for the GM not to know or understand?"

Fines

Jarratt said, "Fines, being what they are with the new schedule, (include) routine technical violations at \$12,500, and they go up to \$20,000 for tower lighting and some of the safety things. They are steep.

I do not have anything to do with issuing (the fines). I have nothing to do with setting the amounts. (The

Field Offices) used to have administrative authority for \$2,000, \$5,000, in that range. (This new schedule) exceeds that delegated authority, so we are not issuing (fines) from the Field Office at all. Be aware that (the fines) are very real. They just take a lot longer to issue.

The Commission acts upon the fines, and it could take months before you actually see the fines. Just because the amounts of the fines are higher, doesn't mean we're going to issue more advisory notices rather than violation notices. You will receive a notice of apparent liability, and you will be given an opportunity to respond."

Tower Lights

Attender questions, "Do I have to log the tower lights every 24 hours?" Jarratt responds, "No. You don't have to log the observation. What you have to log is any malfunctions, and log when you have notified the FAA. You have to observe them; you don't have to log that they are working." (Rules - part 17.48(a))

Lyslak added, "Log the name of the Flight Service Specialist and the Service office." (Green Bay Flight Service, 1-800-451-7644)

Attender questions, "If you have four beacon bulbs on one level and one bulb goes out at twelve midnight, are you responsible to tell the FAA within a half hour of that point in time?"

Jarratt responds, "If something goes wrong you have to notify the FAA. There are inspectors that will cite you for one bulb out of the tube in the beacon being out. The simple solution to the problem is: You call the FAA. You write it down and you are covered."

McDonnell adds, "If, after fifteen days you do not tell the FAA that things have been fixed, the FAA, in

CHAPTER 24 OFFICERS

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WKOW TV)

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H - 231-2005

VICE CHAIRMAN:

Leonard Charles (WISC TV)

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H - 274-0041

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TREASURER:

Paul Stoffel (WI Public TV)

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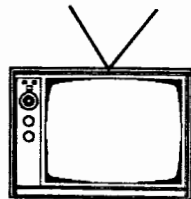
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CHAPTER 24 SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Our newest sustaining member
is:
Tom Koppelman - ANIXTER

Our latest renewal is:
WKOW TV 27

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SUNNY SIDE UP SIGN-ON BREAKFAST

Coming Up: Chapter 24 will be having an early morning BREAKFAST get-together some time in early February. Start your day off right by meeting with local SBE members and eating a hearty breakfast! Details of this purely social gathering will be announced at the January meeting.

MINUTES

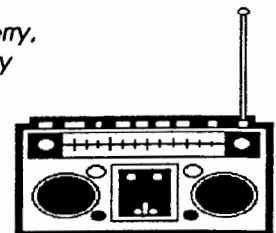
(cont'd from pg. 1)

Chapter 24 for members to be certified for the first time or to become certified at a higher level. The course contains study materials along with an opportunity to participate in a live satellite teleconference through the facilities of Wisconsin Public Radio. If you are interested in these materials when they become available or you need further information, contact Certification and Education Chairman Doug McDonell, Chairman* Jim Hermanson or Paul Stoffel.

There were no professional announcements.

Following roundtable introductions, the meeting was adjourned. The meeting then reconvened at the facilities of WISC-TV in Madison for a tour of their studios and transmitter conducted by WISC-TV engineers Kevin Ruppert and Leonard Chartes.

Fred Sperry,
Secretary



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RADIO

by Stan Sarch

U.S. to Promote S-Band DAB

The U.S. delegation to the February 1992 World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC) will seek to promote DAB operation in the 2300 MHz S-Band and not the much publicized 1500 Mhz L-Band.

Specifically, the FCC says the U.S. will seek 2310-2360 MHz. S-Band is considered unsuitable for terrestrial DAB and will strengthen broadcaster interest in IN-Band DAB according to NAB's Edward Fritts. S-Band is said to be most useful for Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) use. NAB continues to support terrestrial DAB over DBS DAB.

Owner of Imperial Transmitters Arrested

The FBI has arrested the owner of Imperial Transmitters in Nebraska. Jerry Kautz had been sought for failure to deliver over \$200,000 worth of equipment to broadcasters.

FM Denied Change of City

The FCC has denied an Anniston, Alabama FM application to change their city of license. Tom Gammon had hoped to move his station 90 miles into an Atlanta, Georgia suburb. The commission says the move is unjustified because Atlanta is already a well-served market. Gammon on the other hand says Anniston would still have other radio service while the move would allow new service in 2 other unserved communities. The FCC also has concerns about possible interference to a northern Georgia first adjacent.

AMATEUR RADIO NEWS

by Tom Weeden, WJ9H

(Take Note: Hams can talk to other SBE members on the second Sunday of every month on 14.205 MHz USB at 0000 Zulu-7 p.m. CDT)

HAMs and Consumer Electronics Interference

In a favorable ruling to hams, the FCC has reaffirmed that amateurs who are not at fault for interference to consumer electronics devices will not be made to suffer as a result.

The neighbor of a Tucson, Arizona ham had taken an interference case through appeals court, which found that the FCC had sole jurisdiction over interference to home electronic equipment.

FCC Special Services Division Chief Robert McNamara replied to the complainant: "...it is not reasonable to place the burden for resolving all interference problems on amateur service licensees. Congress recognized that electronic equipment manufacturers also have a responsibility to design properly their equipment to prevent interference. We believe the Commission's Rules properly reflect Congressional desires."

Local HAMs Launch Balloon

Area hams launched a high-altitude balloon carrying an amateur radio package from Hillsboro, 60 miles northwest of Madison, on December 7. On board was a 144 MHz

receiver, a 28 MHz beacon transmitter, and a black-and-white video camera feeding a 439 MHz amateur television transmitter.

The video signal was seen around the midwest from the balloon aloft. One station in Arkansas reported seeing the picture.

The balloon burst about 45 minutes into the flight and began a controlled descent via parachute. The on-board camera helped chase teams identify the landscape where the balloon came down, just outside Rio, 30 miles north of Madison. The crew hopes to attempt another balloon launch this spring.

Final Extension on HF STA

The FCC has extended its Special Temporary Authority (STA) for unattended high-frequency (HF) digital operation by a limited number of specified amateur stations until January 3, 1993. FCC rules only allow unattended operation for digital packet-radio stations at VHF and above. The STA was granted to a few stations several years ago to allow experimentation on the long-distance HF bands. The Private Radio Bureau termed the extension "final."

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Stan Scharch

FCC VISIT

(cont'd from pg. 2)

turn, is obligated to tell the FCC to inquire as to why the FAA hasn't been told that the light has been fixed." (FAA Policy, "Notification of Restoration")

Jarratt said, "It doesn't mean you have to fix it in fifteen days. It just means it has now come to our attention, and, at some point, we're probably going to send you a letter saying, "Did you fix it and forget to notify the FAA, or is it still a problem?"

Modulation

Jarratt said, "Modulation is measured with an oscilloscope. We are looking at peaks and for a consistent pattern of over-modulation. With the compressors and so forth that are running, I think you are either going to be in compliance or at the edge, or you're going to be out. We don't sit there and count how many times the peak light comes on in a minute."

Criteria for When Stations are Visited

Jarratt said, "We may get a request from the Mass Media Bureau to look at a particular station because of a complaint or some other reason. (Or, the Field Office) may be aware of a problem or get a complaint from a competitor. If there is something that we think is valid, we will look into it.

We are not inspecting very many stations. Realize that we don't do a large number of broadcast inspections, but, what we are doing is looking at specific areas. We are doing things that we can do to maximize our affect on what the commission

sees as problem areas: tower lighting, AM directional and EBS. We can visit more stations in one day by looking at specific items."

Chief Operator

Attender questions, "What if the chief operator doesn't review the station record weekly (every 7 days)?"

Jarratt said, "That's one of the very few things that the chief operator could conceivably get a fine for. That is a specific responsibility of the (chief) operator. That is one of the few cases where the (chief) operator could be held directly responsible and get the fine personally as opposed to the licensee."

WIRELESS MIC WARNING

from Chapter 28 Jan. Newsletter

Chapter 28 Frequency Coordination Chair, Dave Janzer, reports that the FCC is concerned about wireless microphones being sold to broadcasters that may be set on invalid frequencies. Dave reports that broadcasters may NOT use frequencies in the 168-172 MHz band, as some units are configured. Additionally, operation by broadcasters in the 530-806 MHz band is also prohibited. Evidently some vendors have been selling wireless mics tuned to those frequencies, which broadcasters are not permitted to use.

provided by Chris Cain



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SBE LINKS WITH ENGINEERS IN INDIA

The Society of Broadcast Engineers has signed a cooperative agreement with the Broadcast Engineering Society (BES) of India.

The agreement, signed in a ceremony during the first annual BES exhibition and seminar (held in New Dehli on December 7th), marks another milestone in SBE efforts to build a network of broadcast engineers worldwide.

The BES has approximately 800 members in India. It was founded in 1989 with the same basic goals and direction as the SBE.

The agreement with BES is identical to documents signed last October with the Korean Broadcast Engineers and Technicians Association (KBETA), and the Mexican Broadcast Engineers Association (AMITRA). It allows for the interchange of public documents between SBE and its affiliates, as well as providing for an exchange of information regarding the technical regulation of broadcasting in various countries. The agreement does not bind either organization financially, and confers no voting privileges.



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FREQUENCY COORDINATOR UPDATE

from Chapter 28 Jan. Newsletter

SOME VIEWS FROM ON-LINE ABOUT CLOSED CAPTIONING

by Richard Jones, from Chapter 16 Jan. Newsletter

Closed captions have been around for over ten years now and broadcasters have been increasing their use of this technology in addition to the newer inventions. They appear on most network programs and are used even in local markets to caption local productions or newscasts.

However, except for the hearing impaired community, the use of captioning has been slow to catch on. Although most viewers have seen the little "cc" logo at the beginning of many of their favorite programs, they may have little knowledge or understanding of how captioning works and can misunderstand it. A few have thought that the captioning signal makes the sound louder.

Perhaps, some of these misconceptions can change now, since through the efforts of the hearing impaired community, this technology will become mandatory, by legislation, and will become more widely available to the average consumer. Beginning in 1993 all TV sets sold or shipped to the United States must have caption decoder chips built in. As a result, more viewers should become familiar with closed captioning.

Recent studies have shown that not only can the hearing impaired benefit from captioning, but that it serves as a useful learning aid as well. As an example, preschool-aged children have demonstrated improved reading skills by reading the

captions of programs they're viewing while listening to the dialogue.

Recently, on one of the computer networks a discussion took place on the subject of closed captioning from a consumer's point of view. Most of the participants were enthusiastic about its use, but many seemed unable to understand how it was carried to their TV sets. Although it is not required that they should have great technical understanding of closed captions, this general lack of comprehension seemed to lead to misconceptions about how to correct for bad reception problems.

Sometimes there's a tendency to blame the local station for every ill. Extensive discussion continued debating whether or not supering a logo "covers up the caption signal." Conversely, local stations may be neglecting this resource because of its generally limited audience. The caption signal, normally appearing on line 21, may seem to disappear if an improperly set time base corrector shifts it to another line. It may even disappear altogether.

It seems, at times, that the average consumer can be overwhelmed by the many forms of technology available to them, and that it may be useful to find out as much as we can about what they really know. If there are shortcomings in consumer understanding, then the "great equalizer" of computer networking could help in bridging the gap between the user and the provider.

2 GHz USERS, UNITE!

If your station uses 2 GHz RPU equipment, pay attention! The FCC is proposing to take those frequencies and assign them to the new "personal communications" services. The SBE is vigorously opposed to this spectrum shift, and needs the help of broadcasters in fighting it.

Chris Imlay, SBE counsel, is collecting information to be filed with the FCC in opposition to the re-allocation. Chris requests the following information from all current 2 GHz users:

- Number of units in operation;
- Number of sites with antennas;
- A short report on the operational impact on your news operations if the 2 GHz band is re-allocated;
- Recommendations of other possible frequencies for TV RPU;
- Estimated cost to replace all your current 2 GHz equipment.

Send your data to:

Chris Imlay
Booth, Freret & Imlay
1900 N St. NW Washington DC
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Phone: (202) 296-9100, FAX (202)
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If you care about preserving the current 2 GHz band, WRITE TODAY!

provided by Chris Cain

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CERTIFICATION COURSE UPDATE

by Paul Stoffel

The materials for the NPR/SBE Certification Course should arrive this month. The course will consist of 5 chapters: 1) Electronic Fundamentals; 2) AM/FM Transmissions; 3) Audio Systems; 4) Broadcasting Regulations; and 5) Satellites and Microwaves.

Participants taking the course are encouraged to spend the necessary time studying the materials. Plan to spend 4-6 hours reading each chapter. And spend another 1-2 hours performing the exercises on the cassette tapes.

Participants will want to review the materials in time for the five live audio interconnections that will be held on successive Tuesdays in the month of March.

Our chapter will also receive edited versions of the live sessions upon conclusion of all interconnections.

During these live audio interconnections, the course instructors will provide answers to the review questions at the end of each chapter. In addition, the instructors will expand on the materials presented in both the text and the accompanying audio cassettes, as well as answer your questions.

Course participants will be able to participate in the live audio interconnections through the facilities of Wisconsin Public Radio in Vilas Hall on the UW-Madison Campus.

If you have contemplated becoming a member of the SBE and obtaining certification, now is the time. Contact Paul Stoffel for more information at 263-2175. Or Doug McDonell, Chapter 24 Certification/Education Chairman, has information about future SBE Certification exam dates and application deadlines. The application deadline for the June 5-15th local chapter exam is April 3rd.

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FCC NEWS

by Deanna Morris

(Editors note: The Chapter 24 newsletter is still looking for a new FCC News columnist. If you are interested, please contact the editor.)

Interactive Video

Chances are good that the FCC will authorize a new Interactive Video Data Service, thereby making available two channels in each market for radio-based two-way video services. Linger concerns about interference with Channel 13 and other TV channels seem to have been put to rest by tests conducted by FCC Labs in October and November.

Network/Cable Crossownership Rules

In early December, the FCC reopened a proceeding to lift or relax the current ban on network/cable crossownership.

If ownership rules relax, network affiliates fear that network purchases of cable systems could speed the shift of power to the cable industry. Lifting the current ban would allow a network-owned cable system to refuse to give rival broadcast affiliates prime cable channel positions or refuse to carry them on their system altogether.

The FCC has proposed some "safe-

guards" to allay affiliates' fears. Currently, the Commission is seeking comments on a must-carry requirement for carriage of all affiliated stations by a network-owned cable system and a prohibition of discrimination in channel positioning. These proposed safeguards are similar to those proposed by Capital Cities/ABC to their affiliates—which the affiliates rejected by a two-to-one margin in a straw poll.

International Satellite Services

The FCC has granted authority to Columbia Communications Corporation to begin offering separate international satellite services via 12 C-Band transponders aboard each of two NASA Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System birds. Both TDRSS satellites are already in orbit, one over the Atlantic and one over the Pacific.

(Excerpts from *Broadcasting Magazine*)

LOCAL LEGALS

info by Doug McDonell

The FCC has granted Skywave Communications Corporation a modification in the construction permit of a VHF low power TV translator. This modification will change ERP to 0.019 KW for W11CE, Channel 11, located at The Concourse Hotel, 1 W. Dayton St., Madison, Wisconsin.

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UHF DUPLEXER WANTED

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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!!

CHAPTER 24 NEWSLETTER

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

Edited by: Deanna Morris

Contributors this month: Chapter 16, Chapter 28, Chris Cain, Richard Jones, Jim Hermanson, Doug McDonell, Paul Mikalofsky, Kevin Ruppert, Stan Scharch, Fred Sperry, Paul Stoffel, Tom Weeden.

Articles Welcome!! Send correspondence to:

Chapter 24 Newsletter

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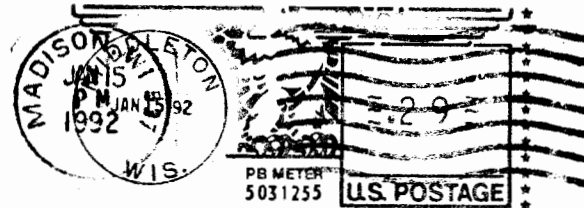
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The Chapter 24 Newsletter is edited on a Macintosh using Aldus Pagemaker

CHAPTER 24 NEWSLETTER

50 SCHROEDER CT. #108

MADISON, WI 53711



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