

THE NORTH AMERICAN NUMBERING PLAN Part one of two

by Neal McLain
Communication Technologies, Inc.

This is the first in a two-part series of articles about the North American Numbering Plan, or NANP. NANP is the telephone numbering plan for what's called World Zone 1, which includes the United States, Canada, and part of the Caribbean.

NANP is running out of area codes. Of the 144 possible area codes presently available in North America, 143 have been assigned. As of this writing, there's only one area code left (710), and it will be assigned in September.

To alleviate this problem, a new numbering plan will be introduced in 1995. This new plan will eliminate the present restriction on area codes: the second digit will no longer be restricted to 0 or 1. This change will produce 840 new area codes.

This new plan is actually the fourth numbering plan which has existed: previous plans were introduced in 1952, 1960, and 1975. In this article, we'll take a look at the history of these earlier plans.

THE 1952 NUMBERING PLAN

The first attempt to establish a uniform format for telephone numbers in the United States and Canada was introduced in 1952 (1). According to this plan, all telephone numbers were supposed to look like this:

215 LOcust 4-9232

The number was composed of three segments: the area code (215), the central office code (LOcust 4), and the individual subscriber line number (9232).

Insofar as possible, one area code was assigned to each state or province. However, there were exceptions: some states and provinces had more than one area code, and the Maritime Provinces (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island) shared one area code (902).

The second digit of the area code was always 0 or 1 so that area codes could be

See "New Numbering Plan", page 4

July WBA/SBE Workshop/Meeting

By Dan Smith, SBE Chapter 112

The July 12, 1994 WBA Engineering Workshop and Regional SBE Meeting in Egg Harbor, WI drew SBE members from all of the Wisconsin and one Illinois Chapter. This record size group received information from experts in digital hard disc storage for Radio and TV, digital compression schemes for Radio and TV production, digital compression for future Advanced Broadcast Systems. Digital, digital, Digital, you get the idea. This digital stuff is here and we better pay attention.

A paper from Broadcast Communications gave some very good advice on taking a good look at our transmission lines and antennas with a network analyzer for accurate return loss measurements. The old VSWR figures for system performance have been replaced by much more valuable and sensitive measurements with today's state of the art analyzers. A table was used to show how a VSWR change from 1.05 to 1.08 could mean a 3 dB power loss from the antenna. How many of us trust the VSWR readings on our systems to accurately reveal the loss?

The SBE Vice-president, Terry Baun, from Criterion Broadcast Services, Milwaukee, spoke to noon luncheon guests and Evans Associates partners and brothers in real life provided the noon program. The Evans brothers "Information Highway" message stressed the changing role of broadcasting in the new order of tomorrow's world. A slight reference was made to a "Tall Tower Project" in Milwaukee which could be a "Bomb Shell" impact development in Milwaukee's broadcasting future. We will hear more about this project in the months to come. The 1994 WBA Engineering Workshop and Regional SBE Meeting was a great success. Our thanks goes out to the organizers and program co-chairs including our Chapter 112's Mark Berg. Rumor has it that next year's WBA/SBE event will be in La Crosse!

AUGUST MEETING

Tuesday, August 23

Location:
BTCI

Located next to Promega in the Fitchburg Industrial Park

See the program flyer for directions

Our Topic:

The Information Superhighway

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NAB Gets Five Proposals for Better Rabbit Ears

by Tom Smith

Six companies submitted five proposals to the NAB in response to their request for the development of a better set-top antenna. They include designs that are both ready to market and some that are on the drawing board.

The companies are Terk Technologies Corp., Channel Master, Compact Satcom Systems Inc., and Pico Macom Inc. The fifth group is a joint effort of Radio General and Waveworks.

The NAB is now evaluating the proposals and will be deciding how they will proceed in the next month. (from BROADCASTING & CABLE)

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July Meeting: 1st Annual Chapter 24 Family Picnic

The first annual SBE family picnic was a great success. The weather was perfect for a picnic July 30. There were about 30 people in attendance. Food and fun were abundant. No one left hungry. The grill master, Chuck, had two grills going and the brats, hot dogs burgers and chicken breasts were kept hot in Judy's (Charles) special brewing sauce. Judy's super radio also provided the musical entertainment.

The Rupperts and the Peckhams dominated the baseball field, while the women chatted on the side lines. The Weedens and the Stoffels commanded the playground area. The horse shoe tournament between the Kevins and non-Kevins was interesting to the end ... when Brian Ruppert scored a double ringer to win the game.

A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL....HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE NEXT YEAR!

Picnic coordinator, Denise Maney.

Ralph Evans Inducted into WBA Hall of Fame

by Paul Stoffel

Ralph Evans, a long-time consulting engineer with Evans and Associates of Thiensville, was inducted into the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame during the recent WBA Summer Convention.

Evans began his engineering career as a part-time transmitter operator at WHA radio in 1940 while a student at UW Engineering School. As a professional engineer, Evans, from 1947-1987, was the guiding technical force of Bartell Media Corporation, a Milwaukee-based national broadcasting and publishing giant. There he built six radio and four television stations including Wisconsin's WEXT-AM (later WOKY), WOKY-TV (later WWTW-TV), WTWT-AM (later WSPO) and WMTV-TV.

He was an early designer of cable television systems with projects in Maine and New York in 1966. He built one of the first two-way interactive systems, connecting school districts in Trempealeau County, WI, which became a model for distance learning in secondary schools. In 1967, he founded Evans and Associates, a consulting firm which he headed for over 25 years.

Ralph Evans joins past engineering inductees John "Jack" Stiehl, 1992, and Elmo Reed, 1991.

The Hall of Fame, located in the State Historical Society's auditorium in Madison, complements the Society's extensive Mass Communications History Collection.

The WBA Hall of Fame was founded in 1989 to honor those who have devoted their careers to broadcasting and its development in Wisconsin.

(Information gathered while visiting the WBA Hall of Fame, from Ralph Evans, and from the WBA's WISCONSIN BROADCASTER newsletter, John Laabs, Editor)

Stations Run Unattended

by Tom Smith

Two stations were recently found to be operating without an operator in control of the transmitter, including one station in Wisconsin.

In early May, WXOL-AM in Oshkosh was discovered to be operating unattended. Station WCWC in Ripon received information that WXOL was airing a program that they held the rights for in the Oshkosh market. It was discovered the WXOL was airing a satellite feed without taking any local breaks or running ID's. Both stations shared the network with WXOL having secondary rights.

WCWC tried to contact WXOL in the beginning of May and was unable to reach anyone. On June 7 WXOL ceased broadcasting. It seems that the owners of WXOL walked away from the station and, instead of turning off the transmitter and going dark, they left the transmitter running.

The FCC, during a surprise inspection, found a station in Denison, TX, operating unattended. The station manager said times were hard and he had to lay off the staff. Recorded programming was periodically delivered to the station to be ran in the unmanned operation. The FCC is filing a violation notice.

A spokesman for the network that WCWC and WXOL are affiliated with suspected that a number of stations are running unattended because of financial problems or there is not enough staff to watch the place.

In 1992, the Communications Act was amended by Congress where the provision for requiring attended operation was dropped. The FCC is examining the issue and is awaiting a decision to go forward with the proposal from Chairman Hundt.

Information from RADIO WORLD/
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Deaths Raise ENG Safety Issue

by Tom Smith

Once again the issue of safely raising ENG masts was brought home with the death of a Wisconsin broadcaster on July 14. Announcer Andrew Siehr, 22, of station WKTT in Cleveland, WI, was killed when an antenna he was raising for a remote in Manitowoc touched a power line. Salesperson Nancy Kortbein was seriously injured in the same accident.

In the July issue of TELEVISION BROADCAST, there was an article on mast safety and power lines. It mentioned the death of Al Battle who was killed in February when a mast he was raising to do a feed for CNN contacted a power line. The article also mentioned Denver technician Don Hayford who lost both legs from burns from an accident in 1985. He misjudged the distance between a power line and the mast on his truck and it came in contact with a power line.

All of us need to be aware of power lines whenever we are in the field. When putting up a mast or dropping cables from a window or roof, there is always the chance of making contact with power lines.

The TELEVISION BROADCAST article went on to mention the need for better safety training in the broadcast industry. If you do not have a copy of the article, try to get one and share it with your co-workers. It is part of a series they are doing on safety in the broadcast workplace.

Information from WISCONSIN STATE
JOURNAL/TELEVISION BROADCAST

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Another New FOX Affiliate?

by Tom Smith

The newest FOX affiliate in Wisconsin could be WLUK-TV in Green Bay. The station was purchased by Savoy Pictures Entertainment from Burnham Broadcasting Co. for \$38 million.

Savoy Pictures is partly held by FOX which holds 25 percent of the stock with options to buy more. Savoy executives, Victor Kaufman and Lewis Korman, hold all of the voting rights.

This gives FOX all or part ownership in stations in all NFC cities, except New Orleans and Minneapolis. Burnham Broadcasting also owns WVUE-TV in New Orleans.

WGBA, the current FOX affiliate in the market has been notified of the possible change, according to Broadcasting & Cable.

From WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL/
BROADCASTING & CABLE

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New Numbering Plan, cont from pg. 1

distinguished from central office codes.

The second digit also specified the number of area codes within a state or province: 0 meant the state had only one area code, and 1 meant that it had more than one. Florida, for example, had one area code (305), but Wisconsin had two (414 and 715).

Only the first two letters of the central office code were dialed; these letters were capitalized in directory listings. "LOcust 4" actually represented the digit combination 564.

It was a nice quaint numbering system. Telephone companies could pick prominent locally-significant names for central office codes (like LOcust in Philadelphia, NAtional in Washington, and Uptown in Chicago) so they'd be easy to remember. And long-distance operators could easily recognize states with multiple area codes.

But the system had problems:

-Much confusion arose over the "dial-only-the-first-two-letters" requirement. When confronted with LOcust, some callers would dial LOCUST.

-Confusion arose over the distinction between the letter "O" and the number zero: LOcust 4 would be dialed as 504 instead of 564. Similar confusion arose over the distinction between the letter "I" and the number one: Lincoln 9 would be dialed as 519 rather than 549.

-The choice of central office code names sometimes added to the confusion. Skokie, Illinois was home to ORange 0, which directory assistance operators cheerfully pronounced, "oh are oh".

-Some central office names had unintended cultural significance, particularly to outsiders. To someone unfamiliar with Philadelphia street names, what does "LOcust" mean? An insect? A tree? The Ninth Plague?

-Some combinations were just about impossible to use because of the lack of suitable English words: 55 and 57 were never used (apparently, KLondike and KRemlin weren't considered "local").

The second-digit-0 designation for single-area code states didn't work either, because many of the original single-code states outgrew number capacity. By 1958, four single-code states (New Jersey, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and

Washington) had already acquired a second.

Of course, multi-area code states grew too: Wisconsin's 414 was split (creating 608) in 1959. About the same time, Michigan's 616 was split (creating 906), and Minnesota's 507 was carved out of two other area codes, 612 and 218.

THE 1960 NUMBERING PLAN

By the late fifties, it was obvious that the system needed to be changed. The second-digit-0 designation for single-area code states had already been abandoned, and it was time to abandon the two-letter central office designations as well. In a flurry of publicity, ANC, or All Number Calling, was born: LOcust 4 became 564; ORange 0 became 670; NAtional 8 became 628; Uptown 8 became 878.

There was much opposition to this change. City officials railed against the plan as though the telephone companies were trying to steal their very cultural identities. Newspaper editors fretted that the public would never be able to remember seven-digit numbers.

But in the end, ANC happened anyway. By the time the dust settled, telephone numbers looked like this:

215 564-9232.

The telephone number was still composed of three segments: the area code (215), the central office code (564), and the individual subscriber number (9232). The second digit of the area code was still restricted to 0 or 1 so that the telephone switching equipment could distinguish area codes from central office codes.

This change produced two immediate results: dialing errors were reduced, and formerly unusable central office codes could be used. One formerly unusable combination (55) was put to immediate use as the uniform nationwide code for Directory Assistance: 555.

THE 1975 NUMBERING PLAN

By the mid-seventies, the demand for numbers was again outgrowing the capacity of the numbering plan. But it was evident that just assigning more area codes wasn't necessarily the best solution if number assignments within existing area codes could be used more efficiently.

In attempt to do this, some telephone companies began assigning area-code-like combinations (with 0 or 1 as the second digit) as central office codes. We started seeing telephone numbers

like these:

- 201-200-2000
- 214-907-2297
- 215-619-9232
- 301-713-2825
- 708-803-3608

Within area codes where these central office codes were used, the switching equipment couldn't tell the difference between area codes and central office codes. This posed a problem for intra-area long-distance calls. To illustrate this problem, compare the following numbers:

- 313-913-2639 in Ann Arbor, Michigan
- 913-263-9232 in Abilene, Kansas

If a caller from Detroit (also in area code 313) attempted to call the Ann Arbor number by dialing 1-913-2639, the switching equipment would interpret 1-913-263 as the code sequence for Abilene.

To solve this problem, callers within these area codes were forced to use a new dialing plan: an area code was necessary for all long-distance calls, including intra-area calls. In the example above, the Detroit caller would have to dial 1-313-913-2639 to reach Ann Arbor.

The 1960 and the 1975 Numbering Plans are both still in use today. About 50 area codes use the 1975 Numbering Plan; the

Continued on Page 5

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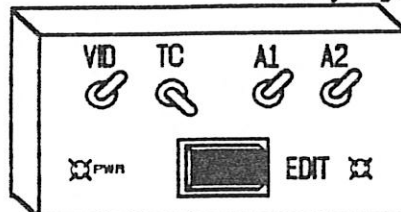
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August MEETING and PROGRAM



**Society of Broadcast Engineers
CHAPTER 24 MADISON, WISCONSIN
Tuesday, August 23; 7:00 P.M.**

Meeting and Program

Our program for August is a presentation on the Internet by Greg Carter of Promega. The program will be presented in the auditorium of the BTCl building, on Tuesday, August 23, at 7:00 PM.

Directions from the Beltline:

Exit South on Fish Hatchery Road
Turn Left on East Cheryl Parkway
Continue to the last building, the address 5445 E. Cheryl Parkway
It's a red brick building
Directions to the auditorium are inside the BTCl building.

For those interested in stopping for something to eat before the meeting we will meet at Perkins near the intersection of Fish Hatchery Road and the Beltline. The dinner is dutch treat at 5:30 P.M. No group reservations will be made for dinner.

Visitors and guests are welcome at all our SBE meetings!

UPCOMING MEETING/PROGRAM DATES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Sept. 21, 1994	TBA
Oct. 20, 1994	Video Server/Digistore
Nov. 22, 1994	Candelabra Tower Progress Report
Dec. 21, 1994	Disk-Based video/BTS Media Pool System
Jan. 19, 1995	Digital Audio Editing for the Studio

Program Committee: Kerry Maki 833-0047 Denise Maney 277-8001 Steve Zimmerman 274-1234 Mark Croom 271-1025

Continued from Page 4

rest of North America still operates under the 1960 plan.

Under both of these numbering plans, four constraints exist:

-The second digit of the area code is still restricted to 0 or 1.

-Area codes and central office codes can't end in 11. These combinations are reserved for special access codes like 411 (Directory Assistance) and 911 (Public Emergency).

-Area codes can't end in 00. These combinations are reserved for special access codes like 800 (toll-free) and 900 (pay-per-call).

-The area code and the central office code can't be the same. Combinations like 201-200, 310-510, and 708-709 are permissible, but 201-201, 310-310, and 708-708 are not.

INTO THE NINETIES

In spite of efforts to conserve telephone numbers, demand for new numbers has continued to grow rapidly, particularly during the past decade. This growth has resulted from four factors:

-Rising population.

-Rising residential penetration levels. As recently as the 1960s, telephone service was still regarded as an unnecessary luxury by many people. In the years since, telephone penetration has risen to almost 100%, and exceeds 100% in many households: a separate line for the office-at-home, a separate line for the teenage children, a separate line for the security system, a separate line for the computer.

-Increased use of centrex and centrex-like telephone systems by businesses. With centrex, each extension has a separate seven-digit telephone number.

-The endless proliferation of gadgets: pagers, cellular telephones, fax machines, computer modems, voice mail boxes.

Accommodating all these new numbers has required many new area codes. Florida has grown from one area code to four; Ontario has grown from two to six; California has grown from four to 13. New York City alone has three area codes, including one (917) just for cellular and pager numbers. Three area codes once assigned to Mexico (706, 903, and 905) have been taken back and reassigned in the United

States and Canada. Combinations ending in 10 (like 610 and 810), once reserved for the "TWX" (teletype) network, have been taken back and assigned as area codes.

As of today, 143 area codes have been assigned. To put that number in perspective, let's compare it with the maximum number of area codes permissible under the present numbering plan. We can calculate this as follows:

The first digit can be anything from 2 to 9.

The second digit is restricted to 0 or 1.

The third digit can be anything from 0 to 9.

Therefore: $8 \times 2 \times 10 = 160$ combinations.

But area codes can't end 00 or 11, so we have to subtract 16 combinations. Net result: 144 area codes.

That leaves just one unassigned area code. It's area code 710, and it will be assigned next month (2).

THE 1995 NUMBERING PLAN

The new Numbering Plan will be introduced in January, 1995. This plan removes the restriction on the second digit of the area code:

The first digit can be anything from 2 to 9.

The second digit can be anything from 0 or 9.

The third digit can be anything from 0 to 9.

Therefore: $8 \times 10 \times 10 = 800$ combinations.

But we still have to subtract 16 combinations because area codes can't end 00 or 11. Net result: 784 area codes.

The first assignments in this new format will be in Alabama (334), Arizona (520), California (562), Illinois (630), Virginia (540), and Washington (360).

INTRA-AREA DIALING

Once this new plan is introduced, the problem described earlier (1975 Numbering Plan) will exist everywhere: the switching equipment won't be able to distinguish area codes from central office codes. From

here in Madison, we'll see the same problem the Detroit caller faced. A case in point:

608-562-8232 in New Lisbon

562-823-2000 in Los Angeles

The solution to the problem is the same, too: all callers will have to dial the area code for all long-distance calls, including intra-area calls. In the example above, we'll have to dial 1-608-562-8232 to reach New Lisbon.


Even though new area codes won't be introduced until 1995, this dialing change is already under way. Right now, we're in a transition period: using the area code is optional. Starting next month (September 15), it will be mandatory.

Next month, we'll discuss the new numbering plan in more detail.

(1) Nunn, W. H. "Nationwide Numbering Plan." The Bell System Technical Journal, September, 1952, pp. 851-859.

(2) Area code 710 will be assigned to the United States Government for a new national emergency-coordination service called Government Emergency Telecommunication System, or GETS. More about this in a future article.

Don't forget there's no newsletter without your editorial contributions. The deadlines are announced at meetings and on the Chapter 24 BBS

Panasonic 

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FCC RULEMAKINGS

MASS MEDIA REGULATORY FEES

By Tom Smith

On June 29th the FCC issued a Public Notice reminder concerning regulatory fees.

If you operate a TV station, your payment was due on July 29th. FM stations were due on August 10th. AM and Shortwave stations are due on September 2nd. The fees due include those for auxiliary stations. If the fees are not received by the due date, there is a 25 percent late charge. Failure to pay could cause penalties from the FCC or even loss of license.

PROPOSED RULES

Temporary Operating Authority for Commercial Radio Operator Applicants. PR Docket No. 94-58; FCC 94-169

While not of major importance to broadcasters in light of the use of the Restricted Permit, the FCC has proposed rules for temporary licenses for other classes of operator permits.

Since the FCC has started to use outside services to give licensing tests, an applicant must now take the tests for the various elements and then apply for the license. The FCC is proposing that after an applicant receives notice that he or she has passed all of the required elements and is awaiting the license application to be processed, they could operate on a temporary and conditional basis until the license arrives.

The proposed rule is to allow the applicant to begin work immediately if a license is a condition of employment.

Comments due September 1 and replies due on October 1. Published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on July, 1994.

From the FEDERAL REGISTER

"SHORT CIRCUITS VIA BBS"

July 27, 1994

FREQUENCY COORDINATION RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

SBE received notice this week that it has been added to the Associations Advance America Honor Roll for its Frequency Coordination program. Associations Advance America, sponsored by the American Society of Association Executives, cited the Frequency Coordination program as "a perfect example of how associations play a vital role in helping the nation adapt to complex and changing times." The letter also stated that, "Contributions such as yours are vital and add real value to society." We will take the opportunity to publicize this national recognition to members and others in the broadcasting industry in the coming weeks.

Congratulations to all who make the Frequency Coordination program work on a daily basis.

SBE ENGINEERING CONFERENCE AND WORLD MEDIA EXPO

Register now for the SBE Engineering Conference and World Media Expo.

Look for conference and hotel information in the May/June issue of the SBE SIGNAL or the conference brochure, both mailed to all SBE members.

The Engineering Conference is October 12-15, at the Los Angeles Convention Center. Updated information can also be obtained through the SBE Fax-On-Demand service.

Call (301) 216-1853 from the handset on your fax machine.

GEARING UP FOR FALL

The autumn months are an ideal time for some great SBE chapter meetings. Sometimes the summer months are tough on chapter attendance.

If you have had some light attendance recently, or perhaps took the summer off from regular meetings, invite your other officers to a location where you have access to several phone lines. A personal call to each member to let them know about the next meeting is sure to improve attendance. With several people making the calls, you'll be able to get them done quickly. It's also a great way to build teamwork among your chapter officers and get them excited about the chapter's activities for the coming months.

UPDATED MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

An updated copy of your chapter roster and a list of former members recently dropped from the membership roles who did not renew this year was sent to the Chapter Chairs. Past members are encouraged to rejoin SBE. Chapter Officers will now have access to their own chapter's up-to-date roster from the SBE National database, via the National BBS. To request access to your own chapter's roster, contact the National BBS at (317)

253-7555 (N,8,1) and leave a Private E-Mail message to Peggy Hall.

SBE Chapter 24 BBS
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Chris Cain, Sysop

Leonard Charles is the editor for the Electronic Version of this Newsletter uploaded monthly onto SBE Chapter 24's BBS

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Court Strikes Down FCC Fine Schedule

Information from Radio World
8/10/94 issue

The U.S. Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia struck down the FCC's schedule of fines and forfeitures last month, voiding nearly all fines imposed by the Commission since the schedule was adopted 3 years ago, or putting them on hold. The National Association of Broadcasters believes the decision should also lead to the withdrawal of the most recent FCC Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) enforcement policy, adopted in a separate policy statement last February.

However, FCC General Counsel William Kennard said broadcasters should not assume that the FCC has any intention of vacating EEO fines imposed so far under the current policy.

The court ruled that the FCC's "Policy Statement on Fines and Forfeitures" released in August of 1991 is a substantive rule, and therefore should have been subject to the same public notice and comment procedures that are required of all major Commission rulemaking matters.

The 1991 fee schedule replaced an earlier one considered largely obsolete by many. Large telephone companies and other media company conglomerates found in violation of FCC rules were believed to be unaffected by fines set before years of inflation blunted their sting.

The United States Telephone Association (USTA) filed suit against the FCC in late 1992 in a challenge of the new fines. USTA was supported in its action by a number of co-plaintiffs, including the NAB, claiming that approval of the schedule without public notice and comments violated procedures set forth in federal law, including the Communications Act of 1934, and the Commission's own rules.

By finding in USTA's favor, the court voided fines for a wide range of FCC broadcast-related rules, from tower painting and lighting, to content regulation, including indecency regulations.

Most or all off the fines could be reinstated if the FCC approves the fine schedule after public notice and proceedings. "This is a procedural defect we're talking about", and not a defect in the substance of the schedule itself, according to the FCC's Kennard.

Invitation--Special Event

From Dan Smith
SBE Chapter 112, LaCrosse

Our next chapter meeting looks like a real don't miss special treat. On Thursday, August 18, 1994, we will get together at Volk Field near Camp Douglas, WI. At 11:30 AM we will meet for our annual "cookout" meeting. After brats, beans, etc. we will tour the Air Combat Maneuvering and Instrumentation control center. This ACMI is the heart of one of the few Electronic "TOP GUN" facilities in the country. The ACMI provides data gathering and analysis for the large combat range around the Camp Douglas, Volk Field, Camp Williams, and Fort McCoy area. The best air combat teams from all around Mid-America with the best equipment including F14, F15, F16, and F18A aircraft come to this facility to train under the most demanding simulated combat conditions. The electronics that make this ACMI function will be open to us (security classification excluded) and tech reps from the prime contractor will be there to answer questions. The tour should be over by three o'clock. We welcome members from other SBE chapters and we will have plenty of food for all our guests. Plan on attending this chapter 112 special event.

FIRST SPECTRUM AUCTIONS NETS THE TREASURY A BUNDLE

by Tom Smith

The FCC has held its first round of spectrum auctions and raised more than \$800 million for the U.S. treasury. The first ten nationwide PCS licenses went for approximately \$60 million. The total was \$617,006,674 after 47 rounds of bidding for all the PCS licenses up for auction. Five hundred seventy-four interactive video data service licenses went for \$251 million. With credits for small businesses, minorities and women, the government will earn \$216 million. Ninety-four percent of the IVDS licenses went to these groups.

Because of the success of the auction, the NAB has raised concerns that Congress may extend the process to the broadcast spectrum. FCC Commissioners Andrew Barrett and James Quello both stated that spectrum fees for broadcasters were not being discussed and Congress had not authorized them.

It has been predicted that when the PCS auctions are completed, the FCC and the Treasury will have raised as much as \$12.5 billion which will go to the reduction of the national debt.

(from BROADCASTING & CABLE)

CHAPTER 24 SUSTAINING MEMBERS

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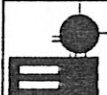
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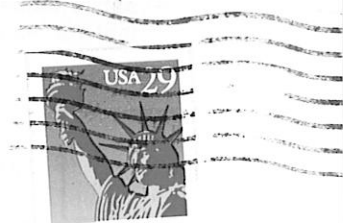
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