



**Chapter 24, Inc.  
Madison, Wisconsin**

*Society of Broadcast Engineers*

*February 2002*

## **The 2002 Consumer Electronics Show: A Broadcast Perspective – Part 1**

*By Fred Sperry*

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to attend this years Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas in early January. The show drew close to 100,000 attendees and featured 1800 plus exhibitors. CES was the first convention to use the newly added South Hall of the Las Vegas Convention center, so there was plenty of ground to cover during the four-day show. This month I am going to cover some observations I made as they relate to television and video.

### **The Consumer Electronics Industry and CES**

Despite the slowed economy, the consumer electronics industry is feeling fairly optimistic these days. As people are travelling less and spending more time at home following September 11th, indications show consumers are spending as much if not more on home entertainment.

CES isn't really about manufacturers presenting new products to the end consumer though, but rather to show them to those who will sell and market them to the consumer. The large companies don't spare any expense either – dazzling those in attendance with elaborate displays and entertainment (see Figure 1).

### **Television Monitors**

There has been some differing post show opinions as to what caused the biggest buzz at the show. Some say it was the next generation of wireless personal electronics and wireless home networking (such as the Moxi Box). However, according to the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA), who puts on CES, the next generation of digital TVs received the most attention from those in attendance.

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## **Next Meeting:**

**Tuesday,  
February 19, 2002**

**Sonic Foundry  
Software**

**Pizza and Soda  
provided  
at 6:00 PM**

**at Sonic Foundry  
1617 Sherman Avenue  
(see map inside)**

**Meeting and Program  
at 7:00 PM**

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## **EFFORT TO REDUCE SPAM MAIL – PART 2**

*By Stan Sarch*

In the last newsletter, I explained how spammers exploit mail exchangers that are configured as open relay. Here then is an explanation of how the current effort underway in the ISP (Internet Service Provider) industry to reduce spam has focused on open relay exchangers. Remember, open relay exchangers are exploited by spammers for sending bulk junk mail.

Several non-profit organizations have setup regular testing of all mail exchangers and maintain a database of those that are detected as open relay.

They refer to it as the "Black Hole List." Each organization maintains their own list using test methods and criteria of their own design.

It is easy to test a mail exchanger to see if it is open to relay mail without authentication. Explained in simple terms, a tester sends a mail message to itself via the target exchanger to see if it gets through. Since the tester is not authorized to use the exchanger, the message will be rejected if it is not open relay. But, if the message is successfully delivered, the target server is listed as open relay and added to the Black Hole List.

Recently, ISPs have begun to use the Black Hole Lists made available to them. An ISP uses the list for instructing their own exchanger to reject mail received from any exchanger that is on the Black Hole List. The reasoning is that if they reject mail from open relay exchangers, the amount of spam that goes to their subscribers will be reduced. This seems like a good plan since open relay exchangers are clearly the ones that spammers prefer to exploit because they act as amplifiers and anonymizers for their junk mail.

Here is a problem. Many legitimate  
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## January Business Meeting Minutes

Chapter 24 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers met on Thursday, January 17, 2002 at the J.T. Whitney Restaurant in Madison, Wisconsin for the chapter's monthly meeting. There were 20 members in attendance, 17 of whom were certified, and three guests.

The meeting was called to order at 7:14 PM by chairman Tom Smith. A correction to the December minutes as published in the newsletter was offered: Chapter 112 chair Ron Viste of WEAU-TV was incorrectly named as "Tom" Viste. Corrected minutes were approved.

Chairman Tom Smith reported on behalf of Treasurer Stan Scharch that the chapter bank balance was in the black.

Denise Maney from the Program Committee reported that the February program would be at Sonic Foundry in Madison, and that future programs would be listed in the newsletter.

Newsletter editor Mike Norton announced the deadline for articles for the February issue will be due at midnight, Friday, February 1st. The folding party will be held Wednesday, February 6th at WKOW-TV.

Sustaining membership chair Fred Sperry was absent.

Certification chair Jim Hermanson reported that the next local exam session would be held February 9-19. The following local session is scheduled for June 8-18, with a registration deadline of April 27th.

Special Events Coordinator Lonnie Cooks was absent.

Frequency Coordinator Tom Smith reported some coordination activity with the Pyle Center on the UW-Madison campus, and that WEKZ/Monroe was planning an STL link to Lena, IL.

Membership chair Paul Stoffel was absent.

National Liaison Leonard Charles reported that the September 11th Fund was at \$168,000. The SBE/NAB Engineering Conference will be held April 6-11 at the NAB convention in Las Vegas. Chairman Tom Smith reported that the SBE National's strategic planning session was held last weekend.

In old business, Tom Smith reported that Chapter 24 contributed \$100 to the September 11th Fund, and that the chapter had received a letter of thanks from SBE President Troy Pennington. For the Chapter 24 DTV promotion committee, Steve Paugh was named as the chair, and Tom Weeden agreed to serve on the committee. Any others interested in serving or having articles to submit should contact Tom Smith.

(continued on next page)

## Meeting Minutes (continued)

There was no new business.

In personal and professional announcements, Tom Smith reported that the WHA-DT transmitter is in, but that air conditioning, the transmitter switching controller, and the encoding equipment are still not installed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM.

The program for the evening was presented by Burt Boldebeck of Boldtronics, a local security firm.

*Submitted by Tom Weeden, Secretary*

## NEW DTV FORM AVAILABLE

*By Tom Smith*

The FCC has made available Form 337 (Application for Extension of Time to Construct a Digital Television Broadcast Station). The form is available by ordering a print version from the FCC, downloading it from the FCC website, or filing the application electronically. Electronic filing is done on the Mass Media Bureau's Consolidated Database System. The FCC will not accept applications before February 17, 2002.

*From FCC Release (www.fcc.gov)*



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## AMATEUR RADIO NEWS

*By Tom Weeden, WJ9H*

- President George W. Bush spoke via amateur radio to members of the Northern Florida Amateur Radio Emergency Service Net January 31st. The president was in Florida to spotlight five volunteer groups—among them the Volusia County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)—for their value to the new Office of Homeland Security. “I want to thank all the volunteers who help make sure that Florida is prepared for any kind of emergency,” the president said in part, after checking in around 9:15 AM to a regular ARES net session.

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Northern Florida Section Manager Rudy Hubbard, WA4PUP, said Bush spoke from a portable station set up at a Daytona Beach fire station. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, said he was “extremely gratified” that President Bush recognized the valuable service amateur radio operators provide in times of emergencies, and “I know that all hams in the United States stand ready to do their part in America's Homeland Security Program.”

- Broadcasters may borrow an amateur microwave band for Winter Olympics coverage. The FCC has granted the Salt Lake Organizing Committee a Special Temporary Authority to utilize the 13 centimeter band (2300-2305 and 2390-2450 MHz) for broadcast auxiliary operations at Olympic venues through March 1.

While the STA does not forbid amateur use of the band between now and then, it does authorize the Broadcast Auxiliary Service as a co-secondary user until March 1. The FCC has designated the Salt Lake Organizing Committee as the single point of contact for coordinating operations under §74.24 of the Commission's rules through March 31, 2002.

- Wisconsin is poised to be the next state to incorporate the language of the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1 into state law. ARRL Wisconsin Section Manager Don Michalski, W9IXG, said the antenna bill—Assembly Bill 368, “Amateur Radio FCC PRB-1 Amateur Radio Antenna Protection Act”—passed the State Senate in January on a voice vote. The bill now goes to Governor Scott McCallum for his signature.

“We would like to acknowledge this victory due to the tireless efforts of Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ,” Michalski said. Romelfanger, a Baraboo amateur radio activist and editor of the Badger State Smoke Signals ham radio newspaper, passed away December 22.

AB 368 would require that ordinances or resolutions affecting the placement, screening or height of amateur radio antennas or support structures have a “reasonable and clearly defined aesthetic, public health, or safety objective.” Such an ordinance or resolution also must represent “the minimum practical regulation” necessary to accomplish the locality's objectives and must reasonably accommodate amateur radio communication.

*(Excerpts from “The ARRL Letter” and the www.arrl.org web site)*

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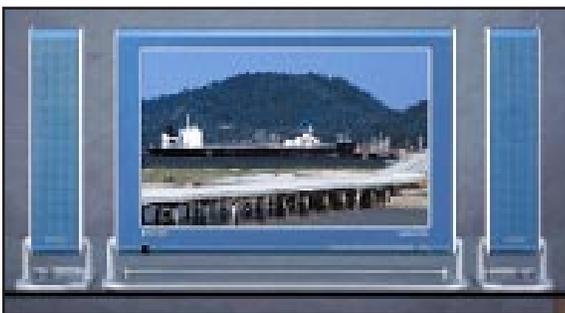
## 2002 Consumer Electronics Show (continued from page 1)



**Figure 1:** Panasonic (left) and Samsung (right) were two of the many large companies with elaborate and eye-catching exhibits and entertainment.

There were plenty of makes and models of high definition television sets and monitors to be found too. As is really no surprise, flat screens were the hottest item. All flat screen technologies were represented: liquid crystal display (LCD), plasma, liquid crystal on silicon (LCOS), and Digital Light Processing (DLP). LCD and plasma were most predominant though, and most major television manufacturers had numerous models of each. Plasma displays as large as 60 inches were common (Samsung reportedly has the largest plasma display available at 63 inches). LCD screens ranged in size from 10 inches to 30 inches, with Samsung showing a 40-inch model that is expected to be available early this year.

Flat panel TVs continue to be rather



**Figure 2.** Samsung's LTM245W 24" LCD Panel TV. MSRP of \$6,999.99.

pricey, but their prices are dropping. According to Sharp, the price on their 20-inch LCD panel TV in their AQUOS line has already dropped from a list price of \$5999 in 2000 to the current list of \$3999. LCD panels also open up some interesting possibilities. For example, Samsung won a CES Innovations Award for Design and Engineering at the show for their LTM245W LCD Panel TV that has an internal NTSC TV tuner with PC/DVD/DTV inputs (see Figure 2). Plug a DTV tuner in the DTV input and you have a high definition display. With its RGB input and picture-in-picture feature, one can watch TV or a DVD and work on the computer at the same time. Other manufacturers are also offering LCD models with similar features.

Despite the predominance of flat screen TVs, there was no shortage of CRT and projection HDTV sets being displayed. One of the most innovative things I saw in this area was a new line of CRT-based HDTV sets by Philips that employed a technology they refer to as Pixel Plus. Philips touts this as a feature that will take current analog or digital source

material (NTSC broadcasts/DVDs for example) and display them with "HDTV like" quality. I was a bit skeptical until I saw a demonstration. These sets have a built in screen-split feature so you can view the source with and without Pixel Plus. With a DVD as the source material, I was amazed at the quality difference of the picture between the two. I thought the Pixel Plus version could probably pass as high definition content. Apparently this technology is accomplished by digitally converting the source material then doubling the number of pixels displayed. This feature does shut off when the set is receiving true high definition content. This TV seems to be an ideal fit in the current marketplace while the analog to digital conversion takes place, for those who want to get the best picture quality out of non-HD material.

Regarding new entries in set-top box DTV tuners to connect to these monitors, this area seems somewhat stagnant, as Samsung was the only company to introduce a new prototype model, the SIR-TS160. More HDTVs are becoming available with internal ATSC tuners, but at least one manufacturer feels it is still too soon to include tuners within their sets. A representative from Philips told me that none of their HDTV sets come with internal tuners. They feel that there are still too many issues that need to be worked out, especially when it comes to cable TV standards in this area. Also worth noting in the area of tuners is that Dish Network has an 8VSB tuner cartridge that can be installed in their model 6000 satellite receiver. It will receive both off-air analog and digital broadcasts, allowing for seamless channel surfing between off-air and satellite channels. This is certainly a welcome development for both consumers and broadcasters.

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## 2002 Consumer Electronics Show (continued)

I didn't see as much futuristic and "out there" technology at CES as I was expecting. However I did come across something in the area of television that caught my attention. It was a prototype 3-dimension TV Samsung had on display. According to the Samsung representative I talked to, it will be at least five years before this technology will be ready to hit the market. They expect the 3-D sources to be games and DVDs, but as long as the content is 3-D the source could be anything – even broadcast! However, don't expect to see this happen anytime soon and I for one can wait.

### DVD Technology

Another hot technology being shown at CES was DVD recorders. Up until now, most units available have been fairly high priced and have mostly been purchased within the professional market. Now lower priced consumer models are being introduced. One model garnering a lot of interest was the DVDR985 from

Philips that is scheduled to hit store shelves in March at a MSRP of \$1,000. This unit will record on both DVD+R (write once) and DVD+RW (rewritable) discs, and according to Philips will play them back on most existing DVD players. Just like VHS machines, different recording modes are available depending on the video quality desired. The Philips machine offers four choices: DV quality (1hr), DVD (2hr), S-Video (3hr), and VHS (4hr).

One thing that may hinder this technology from initially taking off is the confusion that is sure to plague consumers. Right now, there are four different formats out there for recordable DVDs. DVD-RAM (Panasonic), DVD-RW (Pioneer), DVD+R/+RW (Philips) and DVD-R (Panasonic and Pioneer). Add to this the fact that there are single and double-sided versions available, and you can see where the confusion may set in. However, even with the multitude of options, the idea of recording on DVD (especially on rewritable disks) at home rather than on VHS will probably

make this an issue most consumers will be willing to deal with. One also has to wonder if this technology may find its way into the broadcast facility in the future.

On the HD-DVD front, the blue laser technology used in this format was demonstrated for the second year at CES. Reportedly these units will be ready for production in the next year, but copy protection standards and issues with the motion picture industry will likely delay introduction of HD-DVD even further.

Next month I will report on what I saw in the area of radio, receive antennas, and some general observations about HDTV, broadcasting and the consumer electronics industry.

**Sources:** *Popular Mechanics: January 2002 article by Rebecca Day; HDTV Magazine (ilovehdtv.com) Consumers Electronics Show 2002 - Research and Analysis by Rodolfo La Maestra.*

## CHAPTER WEBSITE TO PROMOTE DTV

By Tom Smith

At the December meeting, it was decided that Chapter 24 would create a website to promote and educate the public about DTV. This is an outgrowth of discussions by the officers of the chapter, the panel discussion at the Broadcasters Clinic, and discussions with the Chairpersons of the Western Wisconsin and Fox Valley chapters.

Steve Paugh has consented to chair the committee to create the web site. Steve brings his experience in the education of the public in DTV from his organization of the DTV demonstration at two UW Engineering Expos. He is

also involved in the Chapter 24 website. Tom Weeden has also volunteered to serve on the committee. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact Steve or myself. If, you do not wish to serve on the committee, but would like to help promote DTV, you can still help. If you have some experience or interest in DTV, TV reception, or home entertainment equipment installations, you can write articles that can be incorporated into the site. If you run across a DTV web site or article, please forward the web address or the title and issue of the magazine or paper. Individual experiences with DTV are also welcome as they may be sources of

information to base articles on. Experiences include solutions to reception problems, dealing with retailers, viewer questions, and anything else that you run into.

The plan is to make this site a resource for broadcasters to educate the public about what DTV is, what they need to know when purchasing a set, and how to install it. The differences between the various digital sources such as broadcast, cable, satellite and DVD need to be explained. Information on installation can deal with off the air reception, integrating with satellite receivers and DVD, and hooking up

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Thanks to WKOW-TV for providing copying and folding facilities for the Chapter 24 newsletter!

Thanks to WISC-TV for maintaining the web server for the Chapter 24 Web page!

## THE FCC REORGANIZES

By Tom Smith

The FCC has reorganized the various bureaus, with the elimination of the Cable and Common Carrier Bureau. This action started with the creation of the Enforcement and Consumer Bureaus. This reorganization is part of a FCC plan to make itself more effective, efficient, and responsive to the changes in telecommunications.

The services in the Cable and Common Carrier Bureaus were spread among a number of bureaus. The new Bureaus and their functions are as follows:

The *MASS MEDIA BUREAU* will still handle issues concerning broadcast radio and TV. But, now the bureau will also handle cable relay service licensing. The Mass Media Bureau will lose its oversight of the ITFS and MMDS video services.

The *WIRESLINE COMPETITION BUREAU* will handle issues concerning wireline common carrier and incumbent local exchange carriers (telcos). The wireline common carrier responsibilities come from the old Common Carrier Bureau. This bureau will not handle wireless services such as cell phone providers and microwave systems which the telcos also provide.

The *WIRELESS BUREAU* will handle all wireless services such as cellphone, land mobile, and microwave. They also will handle ITFS and MMDS video services that were formally in Mass Media. The only wireless services that they will not handle are broadcast and cable relay. Auctions are also conducted by the Wireless Bureau.

The *CONSUMER and GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS BUREAU* will be the FCC's face with the public and other governmental entities. This bureau is responsible for the administration and management of the FCC, handles consumer inquiries, complaints and education, conducts rulemaking actions, deals with federal, state, local, tribal and other government agencies, and handles issues in communications for the disabled. As part of the function of this new bureau, they will handle the cable services information function that used to be in the Cable Bureau.

The *INTERNATIONAL BUREAU* will handle international policy and spectrum issues, including spectrum rulemaking functions and intergovernmental and regional planning functions. The bureau will also handle satellite licensing.

The *ENFORCEMENT BUREAU* will add some duties that were formally in the Cable Bureau. They include pole attachment complaints and some multichannel video and cable TV service complaints.

The FCC has tried to group like services and tasks within the same bureaus. This may make it easier for the public to contact and get a timely response from the FCC. Basically, all wireless applications go one place, all complaints go to another, etc. The FCC has published a new organizational chart that can be found on their web site.

From FCC Release ([www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov))

Thanks to Steve Zimmerman for arranging the security/surveillance speaker for the January program.

### Correction to Tower Industry Part 13 – What To Expect

By Vicki W. Kipp

The January 2002 article stated: *The EIA/TIA Code 222F tower standard has been replaced by EIA/TIA 222G.*

The article should have said: The EIA/TIA Code 222G proposed tower standard is expected to replace the EIA/TIA Code 222F, after being voted on by members of the EIA later in 2002.

If the 222G code goes into effect, following the code will still be optional. Even though there will be no legal mandate to follow EIA/TIA 222G, the tower owner may be pressured to follow it by their tower's insurer.

### WEBSITE TO PROMOTE DTV (continued from page 5)

multi-channel sound. DTV needs to be considered as much a digital medium as DVD and satellite TV.

No deadline has been set, but it would be nice to be up and running sometime around the May deadline for all commercial stations to be on the air. This site is not intended to compete with the broadcasters or the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association, but to provide additional information that they can link to. Chapter 112 will include our website in their DTV promotion.

Thank you for your help.

Tom Smith, Chapter 24 Chair



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**LOCAL LEGALS**

Compiled by Tom Smith

**PROPOSED**

**Boscobel, WI 96.7 MHz FM**

Starboard Broadcasting, Inc. has petitioned the FCC to amend the FM table of allotments to allocate an FM channel in Boscobel on channel 244C3 (96.7 MHz) as a class C-3 station. A class C-3 can operate with up to 25 KW at 100 meters. There would not be any site restriction on the location of the transmitter.

Starboard Broadcasting recently purchased WIBU-AM in Poynette, and has stations in the Fox Valley and the Wisconsin Rapids Area.

Comments on the petition are due on February 19th, and replies on March 6th.

From the *FEDERAL REGISTER* ([www.access.gpo.gov](http://www.access.gpo.gov))

**Chapter 24 Web Site**

<http://www.sbe24.org>



Steve Paugh is the editor for the HTML Version of this Newsletter, available monthly on the SBE Chapter 24 web page.



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**SPAM MAIL**

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exchangers are configured for open relay. This is the default configuration for many exchangers. By now you have probably deduced that if your exchanger is configured for open relay it is probably on the Black Hole List. And, if it is on the list, there are some ISPs whose subscribers cannot receive mail from you.

If you as a sender are having this problem you will typically get an NDR (Non Delivery Report) that says your message is rejected, and states the reason "550 Open Relay Rejected" or similar.

You should contact your ISP to fix the problem. If you operate your own corporate exchanger then you will have to fix the problem yourself. Use a search engine on the WWW with the words "Open Relay" and you'll find plenty of information describing in detail the problem and ways to resolve it.

Once you have open relay disabled on your exchanger, request that it be retested and removed from the Black Hole List. Do this by contacting one or more of the organizations that you will have discovered by searching the WWW as described above.

If you continue to receive 550 NDRs, keep track of which ISPs are rejecting your messages. Sometimes you have to wait a week or two for an ISP to get their updated list and then to update their own rejection list. Worse still, some ISPs apparently use the Black Hole List in a "one-way" mode. They automatically add exchangers to their reject list, but deletions are not automatic—they are manual. You may find it necessary to contact some ISPs to convince them to remove your exchanger from their list.

**CHAPTER 24  
 SUSTAINING  
 MEMBERS**

**LATEST RENEWALS:**

**Harris Corporation  
 Scharch Electronics**

**THANKS TO ALL OUR  
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 Clark Wire and Cable  
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**SBE NATIONAL**



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DVC-232.exe

```

CURRENT TIME 04:02:36 COM2
record stop
Event 1 23:59:59 00:00:00
Event 2 01:29:00 02:00:00
Event 3 03:15:10 03:45:00
Event 4 -: -:
Event 5 -: -:
Press a for edit mode, VTR Status: stop
DVC Timer copyright 2001 maney-logic
maney-logic 608-277-8001
    
```



**SBE Chapter 24 Newsletter**  
**2029 Greenway Cross #11**  
**Madison, WI 53713-3000**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

Newsletter edited on Pagemaker 5.0 by: Mike Norton  
 Contributors this month: Vicki W. Kipp, Stan Scharch, Tom Smith, Fred Sperry, and Tom Weeden.  
 Thanks to Leonard Charles for his work on the Chapter 24 WWW page.

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# FEBRUARY MEETING and PROGRAM



**Society of Broadcast Engineers  
CHAPTER 24 MADISON, WISCONSIN  
Tuesday, February 19, 2002**

## Sonic Foundry Presentation

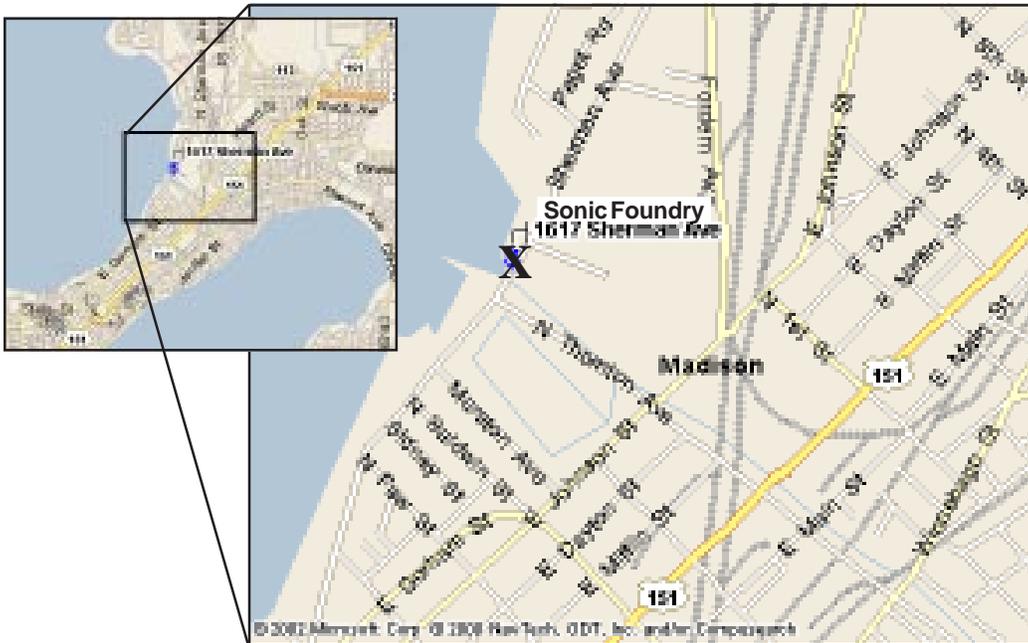
Mike Bryant from Sonic Foundry will give us a Power Point presentation and explanation of their popular audio and video editing software packages, with time for your questions. There will also be a software give-away! Pizza and soda will be provided by SBE Chapter 24 at 6:00pm, with the meeting at 7:00pm and program to follow. Hope to see

you all there!

**Pizza and Soda  
at 6:00 PM**

**at Sonic Foundry  
1617 Sherman  
Avenue  
(near Tenny Park)**

**Meeting and  
Program  
at 7:00 PM**



**Visitors and guests are welcome at all of our SBE meetings!**

### 2002 UPCOMING MEETING/PROGRAM DATES:

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Program</b>
Wednesday	March 20	FCC Rules and Q&A
Thursday	April 18	Elections and NAB Review
Tuesday	May 21	Lightning Protection

Program Committee:

Denise Maney  
277-8001

Steve Paugh  
277-5139

Fred Sperry  
264-9806

Steve Zimmerman  
274-1234