



## Chapter 24, Inc. Madison, Wisconsin

Society of Broadcast Engineers

July 2002

### SBE CERTIFICATION INFORMATION

By Jim Hermanson

The certification program developed by the Society of Broadcast Engineers continues to be an excellent way for broadcast engineers to exhibit knowledge in their field, both to their employers and their peers. It also helps provide motivation for individuals to continue to learn about technology used in the changing business of broadcasting. The next available opportunity to take a certification exam is November 8 – 18, with a deadline of September 29 to get your completed application to SBE National.

The National Certification committee has selected dates for upcoming certification exam opportunities. The dates for exams in 2003 have been set. The 2003 local exam dates are February 7 – 17, (application deadline is December 31, 2002), June 6 – 16 (application deadline is April 25), August 15 – 25 (application deadline is June 13) and November 7 – 17 (application deadline is September 26). The certification exams at the NAB convention will be given on April 8 (application deadline is March 1).

The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Television Operators Handbook and Certification* has been released. This updated edition includes the latest information that all TV master control operators should know. As a companion to this, the Certification Committee, with the approval of the National Board of Directors, is working with an author to prepare a new version of the *Radio Operators Handbook and Certification*. The author is Ron Bartlebaugh, director of engineering of WKSU-FM, Kent, OH. The new edition will be available later this summer.

SBE certification and recertification helps you stay current with technology, and challenges broadcast engineers to expand their knowledge of the industry. Visit [www.sbe.org](http://www.sbe.org) to read more about the certification program, or contact Chapter 24 certification chairman Jim Hermanson at [jmh@execpc.com](mailto:jmh@execpc.com).

### JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL SBE CHAPTER 24 SUMMER PICNIC!

By Denise Maney  
and Kevin Ruppert

Plan to enjoy good food and broadcast-related entertainment at the annual summer picnic on Thursday, July 18th at 5:30pm. The event will be held at the Mendota County Park on Highway M in Middleton, about a mile east of Allen Boulevard, near shelter number 2.

This year the Chapter will supply burgers and brats for the grill, and condiments and buns. Paper plates, napkins, plastic ware, and cups will also be provided. Please bring a dish

to pass, your own drinks (alcohol is allowed), and an entree if you prefer something other than brats or burgers.

Come for the food and company, stay for the music and entertainment (new this year). There is also a playground near the shelter.

The chapter web site ([www.sbe24.org](http://www.sbe24.org)) has a list to sign up for a dish to pass. This will help prevent there from being nothing but potato salad! If there are already two people signed up for one item, please choose a different item. The list will

### Next Meeting:

Thursday,  
July 18, 2002

#### SBE Chapter 24 Annual Picnic

Party starts at 5:30 PM

Grill ready at 6:00 PM

Meeting/Entertainment  
at 7:00 PM

at Mendota County  
Park, Shelter #2

Highway M in Middleton

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be updated every 24 hours. Thanks for your cooperation. Eat, drink and let's have fun!

PLEASE RSVP by July 17th at 4pm. Email the number in your party plus your choice of a dish to pass to [lcharles@wisctv.com](mailto:lcharles@wisctv.com).

A new twist this year will be entertainment. Our Program Committee is proud to present an evening of Wisconsin radio trivia and nostalgia. A specially prepared program will include music, contests

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## CHAPTER 24 OFFICERS

**CHAIR:**  
**Tom Smith (WHA-TV)**  
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**smithtc@vilas.uwex.edu**

**VICE CHAIR:**  
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**vkipp@ecb.state.wi.us**

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**TREASURER:**  
**Stan Scharch (WISC-TV)**  
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**Past-Chair:**  
**Kevin Ruppert (WISC-TV)**  
**kruppert@wisctv.com**

## COMMITTEE APPOINTEES

### Program Committee:

Denise Maney	277-8001
Steve Paugh	277-5139
Fred Sperry	264-9806
Steve Zimmerman	274-1234

### Membership:

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### Sustaining Membership:

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**fsperry@ecb.state.wi.us**

### Special Events:

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### Certification and Education:

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### Frequency Coordination:

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### National SBE Chapter Liaison:

**Leonard Charles**  
**W - 271-4321 FAX - 271-1709**  
**lcharles@wisctv.com**

## June Business Meeting Minutes

Chapter 24 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers met on Thursday, June 20, 2002 at the studios of WKOW-TV in Madison, Wisconsin for the chapter's monthly meeting. There were 11 member members in attendance, 8 of whom were certified, and 3 guests.

The meeting was called to order at 6:26 PM by Chair Tom Smith. The May meeting minutes as published in the newsletter were approved.

Treasurer Stan Scharch reported that the chapter's bank balance was in the black. Newsletter editor Mike Norton announced the deadline for articles for the July issue will be at midnight, Friday, June 5th. The folding party will be held Wednesday, July 10th at 5:30 PM at WKOW-TV.

Sustaining membership chair Fred Sperry submitted his report about the recent renewal of Token Creek Productions. The chapter continues with 23 sustaining members.

Frequency Coordinator Tom Smith reported about a July 1st deadline for licensees of certain broadcast auxiliary stations to submit information to the FCC. The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau is updating licensing information for Broadcast Auxiliary Radio Stations authorized under 47 CFR Part 74, Subparts D, E, F, and H to ensure the FCC database is accurate and includes the current Parent Station Call Sign Information. Licenses that are not associated with a broadcast station will be allowed to expire, starting July 1, 2002.

Gary Timm, Wisconsin statewide EAS Coordinator, was checking for frequencies for a statewide EAS network. FCC Chairman Michael Powell has formed a task force to review existing spectrum policies with public comments to be filed by July 8th, 2002.

Development continues on the Wisconsin Digital Television web site.

There was no old or new business. The meeting adjourned at 6:36 PM.

This month's program was a presentation by Doug Stacker and John Vrany of Weather Central.

*Submitted by Jim Magee, Secretary*

## Certification Information Available

New certification information brochures and applications are available from Jim Hermanson, the Chapter 24 Certification Chair. If you are considering taking an SBE certification exam, would like more information, or have questions about the process, you are encouraged to contact Jim. He can be reached by sending an email message to [jmh@execpc.com](mailto:jmh@execpc.com).

## SPAM REMOVAL?

*By Stan Scharch*

You may receive email solicitations with this paragraph included somewhere in the message: "This message is sent in compliance with the new email bill section 301. Under Bill S.1618 TITLE III passed by the 105th U.S. Congress this message cannot be considered Spam as long as we include the way to be removed, Paragraph (a)(c) of S.1618. Further transmissions to you by the sender of this email may be stopped at no cost to you by sending a request to be removed to \_\_\_\_"

This is not true.

U.S. Senate Bill 1618, an Anti-slammimg (yes, *slamming*, not spamming) Amendments Act, contained a Section 301, relating to transmissions of unsolicited commercial electronic mail. S.1618 was approved by the U.S. Senate on May 12, 1998. It was then referred to the House Committee on Commerce on October 21, 1998. The Bill died in committee and was never passed into law by the 105th Congress, nor has the 106th Congress passed anything similar at this time.

So first, the quoted paragraph above is in error since the bill never became law. Secondly, if it did become law the SPAM messages generally received citing the above are deficient in compliance with the alleged law that they reference.



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## AMATEUR RADIO NEWS

*By Tom Weeden, WJ9H*

- The amateur radio satellite world is abuzz with news that the nearly three-decades-old OSCAR 7 satellite suddenly has come back to life. The bird was first heard June 21 by Pat Gowan, G3IOR—who copied and downloaded telemetry on 145.9738 MHz. AO-7 was launched November 15, 1974, and it remained operational for more than six years.

"I'm blown away," was the reaction of the original AO-7 Project Manager Jan King, W3GEY. King says that even "a cheap spacecraft built by a bunch of hams, without very many high reliability parts and without designing for a radiation dose like this, can last for 27+ years in space as far as a majority of its electronics is concerned." Following commissioning in 1974, AO-7 stopped transmitting in 1981 after a battery failure.

AMSAT, the non-profit Amateur Satellite Corporation, says it seems certain the satellite is running only off its solar panels, not from the onboard batteries, so it will only remain operational while it's in sunlight. King speculates that the batteries, which shorted as they failed two decades ago, now are "un-shorting" and causing the satellite to come back to life as long as it's in the sun.

- On May 2nd the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (ET Docket 02-98) which, if approved, would give amateurs a new, secondary, domestic (US-only) HF allocation at 5.25 to 5.40 MHz and a new LF "sliver band" at 135.7 to 137.8 kHz. In addition, amateurs would be elevated from secondary status to primary at 2400 to 2402 MHz.

The FCC has recommended permitting amateurs to operate at full legal limit on a new 5-MHz allocation, but it left open for further discussion whether to restrict band access to certain license classes. The FCC also has invited further comment on whether the band should be broken down into mode-specific subbands.

On 136 kHz, the FCC has proposed limiting output to 1 W effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP)—or 100 W PEP maximum transmitter output—and with a transmission bandwidth of only 100 Hertz. The FCC proposed to limit access to the band to General and higher-class licensees.

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

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

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



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## Dish (Echostar) – DirecTV Merger

**By Roy Trumbull, SBE Chapter 40**

When mergers take place that require government approval, documents are posted that give a rare view into an otherwise private world. The FCC has a trove of such documents on its web site concerning the DBS merger.

Dish Network has 6 million subscribers and DirecTV has 10.3 million. According to the financial pages, the ripe fruit has already been shaken from the tree. Signing up new subscribers for the merged system will be costly.

The primary sixty-one page document with all the signatures is a fine example of how lawyers can observe the formalities and still say nothing. There are many promises but they all lack specifics. The engineering exhibit is a bit more forthcoming.

The mega-headache is that the set top boxes for the two systems aren't compatible. Many of Echostar's birds have low power transponders. The high powered ones most used across the US are at 110 and 119 degrees WL. To get local programming from Dish Network requires an additional dish pointed at either 61.5 or 148 degrees WL. Fewer than 5% of their subscribers have installed a second receive dish.

DirecTV's customers are pointed at 101 degrees WL. A few have a dish that covers both 101 and 119 degrees WL. Even fewer customers are equipped to also receive 110 degrees WL. It appears that DirecTV has more useful transponders that are high power than does Echostar.

The two systems have a programming overlap of 300 channels.

Presumably those channels will be freed up for local into local or pay-per-view. It's not enough channels to accommodate all the potential local into local channels.

Both systems are launching spot beam birds that reuse the same frequencies in 5 to 7 ground footprints. That appears to be the preferred method for accomplishing local into local channels. I don't know what the energy budget is to maintain such precise coverage.

National programming will utilize transponders at one orbital location while local and regional programming will come from another. Thus the dual antenna will be the norm for the future.

Based upon my contact with over 6000 viewers back when satellite waivers were required, I found that the average viewer just wanted to get network programming and had no loyalty or interest in local television. It remains to be seen how many DBS customers will install the second dish.

The present capacity for SDTV channels is 500 for Dish and 460 for DirecTV assuming a 10:1 compression ratio. Post merger it is projected that the local stations in at least one metro market in each state will be carried. Up to 12 channels total will be reserved for HDTV. Both Echostar and DirecTV have offered Internet access but so far less than one percent of their subscribers have opted to use it.

Left out of the news headlines is the fact that DirecTV / Hughes owns 81% of PanAmSat and it will be part of the surviving company.

### Notes:

Presently the only way a viewer in a

defined metro market can watch network programming is through his local network affiliate. "Local into local" makes the affiliate available in some local markets via DBS.

A person outside a major market who represents that he can't receive the local affiliate can be granted a waiver to receive a "national" feed of the network. Such feeds come from one of the major cities. Most prized on the west coast are eastern time zone network feeds that push the schedule up by 3 hours.

Many small market affiliates aren't available via local into local and thus must either grant waiver requests or fight a losing battle against their viewers. I believe the rather dubious legal protection provided for the local affiliates under the Satellite Home Viewing Act (SHIVA) as being a pen stroke away from vanishing.

Under the post merger plan, the viewers will require two dishes to get their networks (local affiliates) and national programming. Since viewers will rebel and write to their congressmen and DBS firms will most likely contribute to their reelection campaigns, I've already cut to the chase and written off local TV via DBS.

One of the major concerns for the future is: what happens when the public becomes aware of HDTV? I recall the time at NAB when I was in the HD exhibit area for over an hour and then had to go back to the main hall to meet someone in the Sony booth. The SDTV on the monitors looked awful. Should the public develop a taste for HD, neither cable nor DBS has anywhere near the capacity to carry more than a few HD channels.

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## SBE Short Circuits – July 2002

**By John L. Poray, CAE**  
**SBE Executive Director**

### MEMBERSHIP DRIVE GRAND PRIZE WINNER CHOSEN

The SBE Membership Drive concluded on May 31 with 58 new-member sponsors participating and over 60 new members recruited directly as a result of the Drive. Prizes were drawn on June 22 during the SBE Executive Committee meeting in Birmingham, AL.

The Grand Prize winner of a trip for one to the SBE National Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, October 16-18, 2002 AND a Panasonic TV, compliments of SBE and Panasonic is Steve West of Chapter 29 in Corpus Christi, Texas! Steve recruited two members during the Drive, Martin Wind and Felipe Franco.

The 1st prize entertainment package of an RCA 27" Stereo Monitor-Receiver TV, compliments of Thomson Multimedia Broadcast & Network Solutions, a DVD Player, compliments of Acrodyne, and a Freeplay, Freepower Radio, compliments of Broadcast Richardson is Ralph Hogan of Chapter 117 in Palouse/Clearwater, Idaho.

All 58 recruiters won a prize and all will be getting \$5.00 off their 2003 Membership renewal for each new member recruited during the Drive. Our thanks to all the members who participated in the Drive and to the many Sustaining Member companies that donated prizes.

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE ADOPTED

The SBE Board of Directors has approved a recommendation from the Membership Committee to institute a fee for those applying for Life

Membership, affective October 1, 2002. Beginning on that date, applicants will need to include a one-time fee of \$35 when applying for Life Membership. Life Membership following the initial application year will remain free. Only those members who make application for Life Membership beginning October 1, 2002 are affected. Current Life Members and those who make application through September 31, 2002 are not affected by the new fee. The revenue generated by the new fee is to help cover rising operational costs.

To be eligible for Life Membership, an applicant must have been a member in good standing (dues paid) for ten consecutive years immediately prior to applying, and be retired from full time broadcast engineering employment. Application for Life Membership is made on a form available from the National Office. Life Members receive the same benefits as Regular members, have full access to SBE services and maintain their voting privileges.

### SBE RESUME SERVICE GOES ON-LINE

The SBE Resume Service is now online! With increased visibility and ease of use, the Resume Service is the perfect companion to JobsOnline for both SBE members searching for new positions and potential employers searching for the right candidates. SBE members complete a questionnaire and send the national office copies of their resumes. To guard the confidentiality of our members, anonymous "resume profiles" will be constructed from the information provided in the member questionnaire. The resume profile will be comprised of the position a candidate is seeking, his or her experience in different

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**SONY** Kevin Peckham  
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## UPCOMING ENGINEERING EVENTS

There are some engineering related conferences on the horizon which offer educational opportunities for broadcast engineers. Check your calendar, find out more about the scheduled sessions by visiting the listed web sites, and then plan on attending!

### 2002 WBA/SBE Broadcasters Clinic

**Date:** October 15, 16, and 17  
**Location:** Marriott Madison West, Middleton, WI  
**Contact:** Wisconsin Broadcasters Association 608-255-2600 www.wi-broadcasters.org or Don Borchert (608) 837-3462

### SBE National Meeting

**Date:** October 16 and 17  
**Location:** Hyatt Regency and Phoenix Civic Plaza, Phoenix, AZ Held in conjunction with the Arizona Broadcasters Association and SBE Chapter 9 SBE regional convention  
**Contact:** Linda Godby lgodby@sbe.org (317) 846-9000 www.sbe.org

### Iowa DTV Symposium

**Date:** November 5, 6, and 7  
**Location:** University Park Holiday Inn, Des Moines, IA  
**Contact:** Karen Schaeffer karen.schaeffer@iptv.org (515) 242-4139  
**Registration:** Admission is free Register online at www.iowadtv.iptv.org



## SBE Short Circuits – July 2002 (continued from page 5)

broadcast areas and management; education credentials; desired market size; language skills and preferred location of employment. Each profile will be assigned an identification number that prospective employers will use to make requests, and members can use to monitor their posting. Individual profiles will be posted for six months, unless a member requests to either be removed or have his or her term extended. Employers interested in one or more candidate profiles can contact the national office, and for a small fee, receive copies of the resumes for the candidates they want.

Only SBE Members in good standing may submit resumes to the Resume Service. There is no charge to do so. A Member Questionnaire can be downloaded from the SBE website

or requested from the national office. Any broadcast-related employer may request complete resumes from the Resume Service for a fee of \$35, payable in advance, by company check or credit card. All Resume Service queries should be sent to the attention of Membership Services Director Angel D. Bates at [abates@sbe.org](mailto:abates@sbe.org), (317) 846-9000, fax (317) 846-9120 or Society of Broadcast Engineers, 9247 North Meridian Street, Suite 305, Indianapolis, IN 46260.

### PHOENIX TO HOST SBE NATIONAL MEETING

SBE Chapter 9 in Phoenix, Arizona, in cooperation with the Arizona Broadcasters Association, will host the SBE National Meeting as a part of its SBE regional convention. The National Meeting will begin on Wednesday, October 16 with the National Certification Committee meeting from

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, followed by the fall National Board of Directors meeting at 6:00 pm. Both meetings will take place at the downtown Hyatt Regency Hotel. On Thursday, National Meeting events will include the annual Fellows Reunion (this year, a luncheon), Annual Membership Meeting at 5:00 pm, and the Annual SBE National Awards Reception and Dinner beginning at 6:00 pm.

Thursday will also be the day of the Regional Convention, with a broadcast equipment tradeshow and educational sessions. All of Thursday's events will take place at the Phoenix Civic Plaza, across the street from the Hyatt Regency.

Admission to the Regional Convention exhibits and educational sessions is free. Tickets for the National Awards Dinner and the reception that precedes it are \$12 and can be ordered from the SBE National Office at (317) 846-9000 or by e-mailing Linda Godby at [lgodby@sbe.org](mailto:lgodby@sbe.org). Make checks payable to SBE. American Express, VISA and Master Card are also accepted.

## DBS MERGER (continued from page 4)

Cable pushes what they call digital cable. Digital cable is merely a way to compress from 8 to 12 SDTV signals into the space normally occupied by one uncompressed TV signal. If HD signals were in the 720P format, the most they could put in a one channel space would be two channels. For 1080i they can get only one channel of HD per channel.

As more bandwidth is required for HD, many of the marginal cable-only channels will disappear and there will be a major lobbying effort to permit cable systems to drop over-the-air channels that aren't significantly viewed.

## HDTV GOES TO THE STATE FAIR

The Wisconsin Broadcasters Association is again organizing the HDTV booth at the State Fair. They are seeking your help in staffing the booth for the run of the fair. Here are the details:

- August 1st through 11th.
- Booth is in the Wisconsin Products Pavilion
- Need 1 person per shift
- Shift 1 = 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM daily
- Shift 2 = 3 PM - 10 PM daily

The WBA will reimburse you for parking and will provide a ticket to the Fair. To volunteer contact Michelle Lukens – [mlukens@wi-broadcasters.org](mailto:mlukens@wi-broadcasters.org).

## EAS TEST SCHEDULE AVAILABLE

The schedule of Required Weekly Test (RWT) and Required Monthly Test (RMT) times to be sent on Wisconsin Public Radio is listed on the web. It can be found at [www.wpr.org/eas](http://www.wpr.org/eas).

All of the designated State Relay stations in Wisconsin are members of Wisconsin Public Radio. Also listed on the web page are scheduled time for RMTs from NOAA Weather Radio stations.



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## SBE Listserver Changes

Some changes have occurred to the Chapter 24 listserver system located at broadcast.net. The list is now running on a new mailing list package called *Mailman*. If you are subscribed to the *msnsbe* list, you should have received a message briefly explaining the change. To post to the list, the email address continues to be the same: *msnsbe@broadcast.net*.

Chapter 24 members are invited to join the chapter listserver. To subscribe, send an email message to the following address: *msnsbe-request@broadcast.net*. In the body of email message type: *subscribe*. (The subject line can be left blank.)

The *Mailman* package also has a web interface for subscribing to the list. Point your browser to [www.broadcast.net/mailman/listinfo/msnsbe](http://www.broadcast.net/mailman/listinfo/msnsbe) to subscribe.

Instructions and a confirmation message will be emailed to you. To post to the list, address your email to: *msnsbe@broadcast.net*.

The SBE National also has a listserver: To subscribe, send email to: *sbe-request@broadcast.net*. Body of email message: *subscribe*. To post to the list, send email to: *sbe@broadcast.net*.

There are also various other lists of technical interest running on the broadcast.net *Mailman* package. To view the lists, go to [www.broadcast.net/mailman/listinfo](http://www.broadcast.net/mailman/listinfo), or send an email to *msnsbe-request@broadcast.net* with *lists* in the body of the message.

## Annual SBE Chapter 24 Summer Picnic (continued from page 1)

and prizes. Join us and see how much you know about Wisconsin radio! Bring your ears, your memory and your sense of humor!

You won't want to miss this program that has been extensively researched and developed by some of our own Chapter 24 members, as well as others who wish to remain anonymous. How could you not be interested in finding out more and attending this event?

The program providers, Trailing Edge Productions, have been putting the finishing touches on this extravaganza in the past few weeks. We hope to see you there, and know you'll enjoy the show!

Thanks to Steve Zimmerman for arranging the meeting and program presentation at Weather Central for the June meeting.

## DTV STATIONS ON THE AIR

The National Association of Broadcasters maintains a list of DTV stations that are in operation. This can be found at the NAB web site ([www.nab.org](http://www.nab.org)) in the DTV update section.

As of July 10th, there are 438 DTV stations in 130 markets providing programming. Over 80% of all US homes are in markets with at least one DTV signal on the air. In Wisconsin there are 14 DTV stations on air.

## CHAPTER 24 SUSTAINING MEMBERS

### RECENT RENEWALS:

**Graybar**  
**Ross Video**  
**Token Creek Productions**

### THANKS TO ALL OUR SUSTAINING MEMBERS:

**Alpha Video**  
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**WMTV-TV 15**



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**SBE Chapter 24 Newsletter**  
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**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

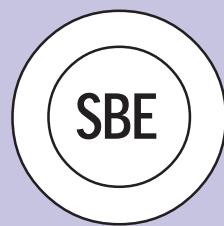
Newsletter edited on Pagemaker 7.0 by: Mike Norton

Contributors this month: Leonard Charles, Jim Hermanson, Jim Magee, Denise Maney, Kevin Ruppert, Stan Scharch, Roy Trumbull, and Tom Weeden.

Thanks to Leonard Charles for his work on the Chapter 24 WWW page.

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# JULY MEETING and PROGRAM

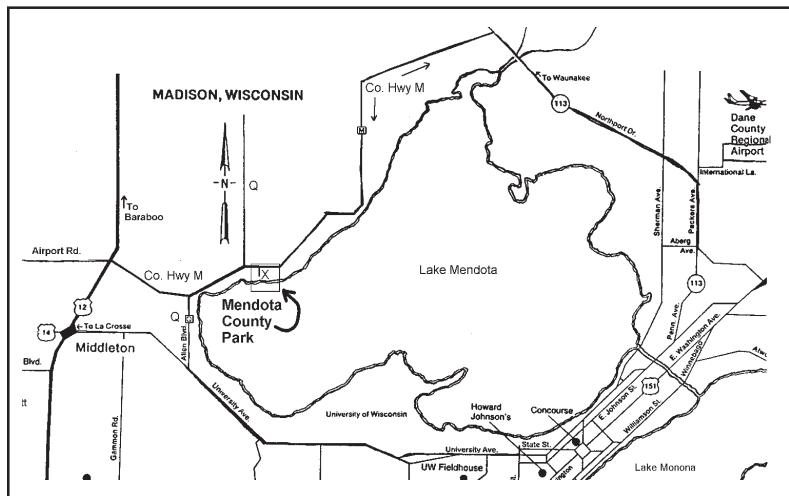


## Society of Broadcast Engineers CHAPTER 24 MADISON, WISCONSIN Thursday, July 18, 2002

### SBE Chapter 24 Annual Picnic

Enjoy a summer time event! Chapter 24 will supply burgers and brats for the grill, and condiments and buns. Please bring a dish to pass, your own drinks (alcohol is allowed), and an entree if you prefer something other than brats or burgers. Visit [www.sbe24.org](http://www.sbe24.org) to RSVP (and indicate what you'll bring) by Wednesday, July 17th at 4 pm.

After the great food, you'll enjoy the great entertainment of Wisconsin radio trivia and nostalgia, and have a chance to win prizes!



Mendota County Park  
Highway M in Middleton  
Shelter #2 (near  
campgrounds)

The party starts at 5:30 PM,  
and the grill will be ready by  
6:00 PM.

Brief meeting at 7:00 PM  
and entertainment to follow!

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

#### 2002 UPCOMING MEETING/PROGRAM DATES:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>
Tuesday	August 20	AMS/Neve
Wednesday	September 18	Token Creek Mobile Television
Wednesday	October 16	Broadcasters Clinic

Program Committee:

Denise Maney  
277-8001

Steve Paugh  
277-5139

Fred Sperry  
264-9806

Steve Zimmerman  
274-1234