



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

*Society of Broadcast Engineers*

*June 2002*

## **FCC CREATES A SPECTRUM POLICY TASK FORCE**

*By Tom Smith*

FCC Chairman Michael Powell has formed a Spectrum Policy Task Force and issued a public notice seeking comment from the public on spectrum policy. The task force consists of senior staff from FCC Bureaus and Offices and will be headed by Dr. Paul Kolodzy, Senior Spectrum Policy Adviser of the Office of Engineering and Technology. The Deputy Director of the Task Force is Lauren M. Van Wazer, Special Counsel to the Chief of the Office of Engineering and Technology. Dr. Michael Marcus, Associate Deputy of the Office of Engineering and Technology will serve as Senior Technical Advisor, and Maureen C. McLaughlin, Office of General Counsel will serve as Special Counsel to the Task Force. The task force will be guided by a steering committee composed of the Chiefs of the Bureaus and Offices of the FCC.

As part of the creation of this Task Force, the FCC has issued a notice which outlines the tentative work plan for creating the final report and seeks comment from the public. The timeline starts with the issuing of the Public Notice on June 6th. Comments are due on July 8th and reply comments are due on July 23rd. The Task Force will conduct a number of workshops between July and August of this year. The Report is due by October 2002.

Comments are sought from all interested parties including industry, government, consumers and academia. The FCC listed five different categories of questions to guide the discussion. Comments are not limited to these five categories and the FCC would like to hear other comments that relate to spectrum issues. The five categories that the FCC has suggested are: (1) Market-oriented Allocation and Assignment Policies; (2) Interference Protection; (3) Spectral Efficiency; (4) Public Safety Communications, and (5) International Issues. Each of the categories has

(continued on page 4)

## **NEW WISCONSIN EAS PLAN**

*By Gary Timm, Broadcast Chair  
Wisconsin EAS Committee (SECC)*

The FCC made some EAS Rule changes, which took effect May 16, 2002. As a result, the Wisconsin EAS Plan has been updated. The May 2002 version is now available for download as PDF files at: [www.sbe24.org/eas/](http://www.sbe24.org/eas/). Once at this page, click on: "Wisconsin State EAS Plan."

Also on this web page, find the latest details on upgrading your EAS unit to meet the new FCC rules. Click on: "Encoder Update Information."

If you have questions about the state EAS plan, or the participation of your local station, you can contact [gteas@execpc.com](mailto:gteas@execpc.com) or your local area EAS coordinator.

## **SBE JULY 2002 PICNIC**

*By Kevin Ruppert*

Join SBE Chapter 24 for an unprecedented intense entertainment event at this year's July picnic. This specially prepared program, presented by two of Madison's favorite special program providers, has been over 40 years in the making. If you're thinking that all of this sounds just like a bunch of hype, then you do not want to miss this year's Chapter 24 July picnic!

Join us for superb music and an historic look at Wisconsin radio. There will be contests to find out how much you really know about local radio! Come and get ready to tap your toes! Test your knowledge! Win prizes! You won't believe your ears! This long awaited funfest is presented to our friends and colleagues by Trailing Edge Productions.

Plan to join us on the evening of July 18 at Mendota County Park. Details will follow in next months newsletter.

## **Next Meeting:**

**Thursday,  
June 20, 2002**

**Weather Central -  
Video Graphics  
For Broadcast**

**Catered Dinner  
at 5:30 PM**

**Meeting at 6:00 PM**

**Program at 7:00 PM**

**at WKOW-TV  
5727 Tokay Blvd.**

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## CHAPTER 24 OFFICERS

### CHAIR:

**Tom Smith (WHA-TV)**  
W - 263-2174  
smithtc@vilas.uwex.edu

### VICE CHAIR:

**Vicki Kipp (ECB-TOC)**  
W - 264-9631  
vkipp@ecb.state.wi.us

### SECRETARY:

**Tom Weeden (WMTV-TV)**  
W - 274-1515  
tcweeden@nbc15.com

### TREASURER:

**Stan Scharch (WISC-TV)**  
W - 271-4321  
sscharch@wisctv.com

### Past-Chair:

**Kevin Ruppert (WISC-TV)**  
kruppert@wisctv.com

## COMMITTEE APPOINTEES

### Program Committee:

<b>Denise Maney</b>	<b>277-8001</b>
<b>Steve Paugh</b>	<b>277-5139</b>
<b>Fred Sperry</b>	<b>264-9806</b>
<b>Steve Zimmerman</b>	<b>274-1234</b>

### Membership:

**Paul Stoffel**  
stoffel@vilas.uwex.edu

### Sustaining Membership:

**Fred Sperry** W - 264-9806  
fsperry@ecb.state.wi.us

### Special Events:

**Lonnie Cooks** W - 264-9631  
lcooks@ecb.state.wi.us

### Certification and Education:

**Jim Hermanson** 836-8340  
jmh@execpc.com

### Frequency Coordination:

**Tom Smith** W - 263-2174  
smithtc@vilas.uwex.edu

### National SBE Chapter Liaison:

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

## May Business Meeting Minutes

Chapter 24 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers met on Tuesday, May 21, 2002 at Wisconsin Public Television in Madison, Wisconsin for the chapter's monthly meeting. There were 24 members in attendance, 16 of whom were certified, and one guest (included in member total).

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM by chairman Tom Smith. The April 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 June issue will be due at midnight, Friday, June 7th. The folding party will be held Wednesday, June 12th at 5:30 PM at WKOW-TV.

Denise Maney from the Program Committee reported that she was waiting on confirmation of the June meeting program. The new date for the meeting will be June 20th rather than the 19th. The chapter's annual picnic will be held July 18th. Kevin Ruppert reported that the picnic will have a "unique" program of radio nostalgia.

Certification chair Jim Hermanson reported that one exam will be given in June. The following test session window will be in August with registration due by the last week of June.

Sustaining membership chair Fred Sperry reported recent renewals by Alpha Video, National Tower, Roscor, and Sony. The chapter continues with 23 sustaining members.

National Liaison Leonard Charles reported that the SBE National meetings will be held October 16-17 in Phoenix, hosted by Chapter 9. Nominations for SBE Fellow are open. Information is available on the [www.sbe.org](http://www.sbe.org) web site. Tom Smith reported that the National web site also has an online resume service. The National's membership drive ends May 31st, and awards nominations will be accepted through June 21st. A few seats are still available for broadcast engineer training in Indianapolis. The National's financial balance sheet has been released.

Steve Paugh from the DTV Web Site Committee reported that the clickable DTV map is coming along well with more material being added. It's hoped that the site can be rolled out at the Broadcasters Clinic.

Special Events Coordinator Lonnie Cooks reported on the tour of the windmill farm near Montfort on May 18th.

In old business, ballots for the election of Chapter 24 officers were collected. There was no new business.

Frequency Coordinator Tom Smith reported that the 7 GHz band is now shared with the mobile satellite service, but

(continued on next page)

## Election Results

*Submitted by Steve Paugh,  
Elections Chair*

The Chapter 24 election ballots were certified and counted on Jun 3rd, 2002. There are 71 voting members in Chapter 24.

We received 24 ballots, 23 were certified as valid and one was invalidated due to a missing membership number. The invalidated ballot did not affect the outcome of the results. Twenty-three ballots were collected at the May 21st, 2002 chapter meeting and one ballot was received by mail after the chapter meeting. Congratulations to our newly elected officers:

**Chairperson – Tom Smith**  
**Vice Chair – Vicki Kipp**  
**Secretary – Jim Magee**  
**Treasurer – Stan Scharch**

The nomination committee members were Steve Paugh, Jim Hermanson and Andy Rothschild.

## Meeting Minutes (continued)

coordination will be unclear. WHA-DT is now on the air on channel 20.

In personal and professional announcements, Leonard Charles reported that EAS upgrade information to cover FCC rule changes is now available on the sb24.org web site.

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM.

This month's program was a presentation by Rich Tarney of Lightning Experts of Milwaukee.

*Submitted by Tom Weeden, Secretary*



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 Regional Sales Manager  
 scott@srossvideo.com

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## AMATEUR RADIO NEWS

*By Tom Weeden, WJ9H*

- The FCC has amended its rules to promote the introduction of new digital transmission technologies for high-speed wireless communications. The action came May 16 in a Second Report & Order in ET Docket 99-231, Amendment of Part 15 of the Commission's Rules Regarding Spread Spectrum Devices.

Specifically, the Commission has modified Part 15 of its rules to permit new digital transmission technologies to operate in the 902-928 MHz, 2400-2483.5 MHz and 5725-5850 MHz bands under the current rules for spread spectrum systems. All three segments incorporate amateur radio allocations, but the changes are not expected to affect amateur operations in those bands.

Part 15 rules now permit spread spectrum systems to operate on an unlicensed basis. FCC rules offer no protection to unlicensed Part 15 devices from amateur radio operations that might interfere, and Part 15 devices must not cause interference to licensed operations.

- A case of strange interference involving a power company and an AM broadcast station has been substantially resolved. In January, the FCC wrote Cincinnati AM radio station WLW and Cinergy Corp, the electric utility serving the region to help resolve the unusual and longstanding interference situation that was affecting local amateurs. Apparently spurious signals associated with WLW transmissions had been monitored over a wide area and frequency range and were severely affecting some amateur bands.

The investigation focused on utility towers carrying 345-kV lines in the vicinity of the WLW broadcast tower. Jay Adrick, K8CJY, a member of the amateur team involved in tracking down the problem, said that the primary problem seemed to stem from so-called static lines on the towers, which do not carry electrical power.

The static lines were not sufficiently RF-bonded to the tower structure but loosely fitted into a hanging bracket. "At 60 Hz, it's a reasonable ground. At RF, it's a non-linear junction," he said. The result was something that sounded a bit like a spark gap modulated by WLW's audio being re-radiated by the static wires acting as a huge antenna.

Ohio ARRL Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE, said the local amateurs brought the matter to the FCC's attention after working with WLW and Cinergy for almost two years to pin down the cause of the spurious signals.

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



**WISC-TV**  
 CBS  
**MADISON**  
**5**



**John Reuter**  
 Director of Technology  
 johnr@alphavideo.com  
 7711 Computer Ave.  
 Edina, MN 55435-5494

p 952.896.9898  
 f 952.896.9899  
 c 612.889.6540

# SPECTRUM POLICY TASK FORCE (continued from page 1)

questions on a number of approaches the FCC is interested in.

Under the Market-oriented Allocation and Assignment Policies, the FCC is asking for information on how to allocate spectrum on a more flexible basis so that it can be put to its best and highest value use. The first question asks what policy and rule changes are needed to convert from the present allocation system to a market-oriented system.

The second question consists of a number of parts and includes how much flexibility should users have with their licensed spectrum, and should licenses for particular sites (broadcasting, private land mobile) be converted to geographic areas like cellular or PCS licenses. The question asks how spectrum not currently licensed by geographic areas can be reassigned by auction or other means. Comment is sought on the efficiencies of each licensing model, certainty and size of transaction costs, and how interference rights should be handled.

The third question asks if spectrum policy should be different for congested urban areas than for less congested rural areas.

Question four asks how market based spectrum allocation and assignment would affect public safety and service users.

Questions five and six ask about allocating more spectrum for unlicensed devices and changes in experimental, developmental, and demonstration licenses.

The category on Interference

Protection is just what it says. The FCC asks what interference is acceptable and if there should be rules concerning receiver standards.

The category Spectral Efficiency asks how to require users to use the spectrum with the highest amount of use per allocation. Suggestions on usage, the use of fees for spectrum usage, and receiver standards are some of the questions asked in this category.

In the category of Public Safety Communications, the commission asked how dependable communications can be ensured for public safety and how much spectrum should be available for public safety. The Commission asks how spectrum could be shared among agencies to maximize usage.

The final category is International Issues. How should international spectrum agreements affect US policy and how can coordination with our neighbors, Canada and Mexico, be improved are the questions asked in this category.

The docket number is ET Docket No. 02-135 and the notice is on the FCC Home Page in the headlines. The notice looks like a press release and is seven pages long which is very short for this type of document. The FCC also has a Task Force website at [www.fcc.gov/SPTF](http://www.fcc.gov/SPTF).

The FCC has created a very important and large task to be completed in a very short time.

*From FCC Press Releases  
(www.fcc.gov)*

## WEB SITE ENHANCEMENTS

*By Leonard Charles*

The Chapter's web site (<http://www.sbe24.org>) now has a "Chapter 24 Archives" section. The section is accessible with a click from the front page menu. From the archives menu page you can click to past Chapter newsletters, past Chapter Officers lists, and a listing of the Chapter's past meeting dates with program subjects.

Also available in the archive section is the meeting attendance history for individual members. Simply access the "Meeting Attendance" page from the archive menu, enter your last name and membership number, and you'll get a listing of all the Chapter 24 meetings you have attended. This should be handy when applying for recertification, as meeting attendance gets you recertification points.

## DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR A SBE PROGRAM?

Is there a topic you would like to see covered at one of our local Chapter 24 meetings? Is there a technology that you would like to learn more about? Or, better yet, is there a topic that you are qualified to speak on at an upcoming meeting?

Please forward your ideas to one of the Program committee members, or to one of the Chapter 24 officers. They are listed on page two of this newsletter.



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 Madison, WI 53718      Fax: 608-838-0404  
[nationaltower@aol.com](mailto:nationaltower@aol.com)

## WBA/SBE SUMMER ENGINEERING WORKSHOP

Wednesday, June 19, 2002

The WBA/SBE summer engineering workshop is being held at the Stone Harbor Resort in Sturgeon Bay, WI [(920) 746-0700] on Wednesday, June 19th. The following is the schedule of topics and presentations to be covered:

- 8:00 am **Registration and Continental Breakfast**
- 8:30 am **Seminar Open, Welcome**
- 8:35 am **XM Satellite Radio/IBOC Digital Radio** – Cliff Groth of Marathon Media; Richard Hinkle, DE of Broadcast Electronics
- 9:45 am **Emergency Alert System Changes** – Gary Timm of WTMJ Radio, Wisconsin SECC Chairman
- 10:35 am **Break**
- 10:50 am **AES Audio Trouble Shooting** – Randy Hall of Nvision
- Noon **Lunch Speaker: Analyzing the Analyzer** – Rich Wood of Resonant Results
- 2:00 pm **Digital Audio Processing**
- 3:00 pm **Next Level Transmission Solutions** – Ted Nahil, Intraplex Transport by Harris
- 4:00 pm **Workshop Adjourns** – Engineers join managers At WBA exhibit reception (SBE Booth to be staffed by representatives of area chapters)
- 7:00 pm **ADJOURN TO THE LAKEFRONT COURTYARD** — Refreshments & Entertainment; Outdoor buffet dinner on the lakefront.
- 7:45 pm **WBA FOUNDATION LIVE AUCTION**
- 8:30 pm **FREE TIME ON YOUR OWN** – Time to network and take advantage of Door County

**Fees:** \$25 (one day)/\$40 (Both days) To register by phone, call the WBA at 608-255-2600.

**IMPORTANT:** Arrangements for your stay at Stone Harbor Resort must be made separately by calling them directly at (920) 746-0700! (tell them that you're with the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association)

For additional information, visit the web site at [www.wi-broadcasters.org](http://www.wi-broadcasters.org) or [www.sbe24.org](http://www.sbe24.org).

## FCC POSTPONES AUCTIONS

By Tom Smith

The FCC Postponed Auction No.31, which consists of the frequencies of 747-762 MHz and 777-792 MHz in the upper 700 MHz band, which correspond to TV channels 60-62 and 65-67. The FCC plans to conduct the auction starting January 14, 2003. The FCC will still conduct Auction No. 44 for the lower 700 MHz band, which is TV channels 52-59 and covers 698-746 MHz, starting on June 19, 2002. Auction No. 31 was to start on June 19th also.

Bills have been introduced in both the House and the Senate for indefinite delay of both auctions. There is fear that the auctions would bring in amounts less than Congress believes the spectrum is worth due to the uncertainty of when the DTV transition would be completed.

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

## SBE Short Circuits – June 2002

By John L. Poray, CAE  
SBE Executive Director

### MEMBERSHIP DRIVE ENDS – PRIZE WINNERS TO BE DRAWN JUNE 22

The SBE Membership Drive concluded on May 31 with more than 50 new-member sponsors participating and close to 60 new members recruited directly as a result of the Drive. Prizes will be drawn on June 22 during the SBE Executive Committee meeting in Birmingham, AL and winners will be notified beginning Monday, June 24.

The Grand Prize is 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! 1st prize is an entertainment package that consists 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. Other great prizes will be awarded and all recruiters will receive \$5 off their 2002 SBE membership renewal for each new member they recruit, up to \$25. Our thanks to all the members who participated in the Drive and we welcome the new members who have joined as a result of their efforts.

(continued on page 7)

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[edwards@panasonic.com](mailto:edwards@panasonic.com)

Bill Edwards  
District Sales Manager  
Advanced Digital Video Systems Division  
Central Region

John J. Jennings  
Director of Sales Operations  
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Itasca, Illinois 60143-1356  
Fax 630.787.0805  
Video 700.737.5253  
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 **FCC Rulemakings**

Compiled by Tom Smith

**PROPOSED**

**MM Docket 02-113; FCC 02-150  
Remedial Steps for Failure to  
Comply with Digital Television  
Construction Schedule, Requests  
for Extension of the October 5,  
2001 Digital Television Construction  
Deadline**

The FCC has released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on a graduated series of sanctions for failure to construct digital transmission facilities by the May 1, 2002 deadline. The sanctions would affect stations that failed to make the deadline and did not have any demonstrable circumstances that were unforeseeable or beyond their control or had legitimate financial hardship.

The proposal would increase the sanctions every six months that the licensee fails to construct the facility beginning with admonishment, followed by notices of apparent liability of forfeiture and culminating with loss of the DTV authorization. The FCC also clarified its minimum-facilities Special Temporary Authorization would not apply to network affiliated top-thirty TV market licenses. They did grant extensions to nine top thirty stations. Two were for pending rulemakings, one for an antenna delay, five for zoning problems and one for WBBM in Chicago for interference to cable.

Comments are due 30 days after publishing the notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER with replies due 15 days after comments are due. The notice was adopted on May 16, 2002.

**FINAL RULEMAKING**

**WT Docket No. 02-8; FCC 02-152  
Reallocation of 27 MHz of Spectrum  
for Non-Government Use**

The FCC has reallocated 27 MHz of spectrum for non-government use in seven bands.

The FCC allocated the bands of 216-220 MHz, 1427-1429.5 MHz and 1429.5-1432 MHz under Part 90 of the Rules on a coordinated site by site approach. The bands would be used for telemetry operations with the 1427-1429.5 MHz band reserved for medical use.

The band of 1392-1395 MHz paired with the band of 1432-1435 MHz will be assigned to six economic area groupings and auctioned. The bands of 1670-1675 MHz and 2385-2390 MHz will each be assigned on a single nationwide basis and auctioned. The 1392-1395 MHz band with its pair band of 1432-1435 MHz and the 1670-1675 MHz and 2385-2390 MHz bands have no particular service assigned to them.

The FCC adopted this action on May 16, 2002.

**ET Docket 99-231; FCC 02-151  
Commission Amends Part 15 of its  
Rules to Facilitate Development of  
High Speed Wireless services**

The FCC has adopted rules that allow for new digital transmission technologies in the 902-928 MHz (915 MHz), 2400-2483.5 MHz (2.4 GHz) and 5725-5850 MHz (5.7 MHz) bands. The new rules will allow for fewer but wider hopping channels in 2.4 GHz frequency hopping spread spectrum

transmissions. The rules will now allow as few as 15 channels, but power will have to be reduced to 125 mW when fewer than 75 hopping channels are used. Bandwidth for 2.4 GHz systems could be increased to up to 5 MHz.

In all bands, processing gain requirements were eliminated in direct sequence spread spectrum systems with the FCC counting on manufacturers to design radios that can withstand interference from other radio frequency devices.

This action was adopted on May 16, 2002.

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

Thanks to Fred Sperry for arranging the location and program presentation on Lightning Protection for the May meeting.

**WBA NEEDS YOUR HELP**

The Wisconsin Broadcasters Association is again organizing the HDTV booth at the State Fair. They seek 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 for parking and will provide a ticket to the Fair. To volunteer contact Michelle Lukens— [mlukens@wi-broadcasters.org](mailto:mlukens@wi-broadcasters.org)

  
**WKOW**  
Madison

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**LOCAL LEGALS**

Compiled by Tom Smith

**W33AX Madison, WI TV  
Translator Channel 33**

Trinity Broadcasting Network has applied to modify their construction permit to change operations from channel 33 to channel 38. The proposed operation will have a ERP of 14.1 KW with a maximum ERP of 19.2 kilowatts at 86 meters above ground. The existing construction permit is for 10 KW at 152 meters above ground. The coordinates are 43-03-09 degrees North and 89-

28-42 degrees West, which is the WKOW-TV Doppler tower. The antenna will be a non-directional Andrew ALP 16.

W33AX rebroadcasts KTVB, Santa Ana, California and is currently located at Springfield Hill between Middleton and Sauk City, and operates with 8 KW at 134 meters above ground. The call letters are W38CT for the channel 38 channel, when it starts to operate.

This application was announced on May 8, 2002.

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

**Short Circuits (continued from page 5)**

**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 it's SBE regional convention. The National Meeting will begin on Wednesday, October 16 with the fall Board of Directors Meeting.

On Thursday, National Meeting events will include the annual Fellows Reunion (this year, a luncheon), Annual Membership Meeting and the Annual SBE National Awards Dinner. Thursday will also be the day of the Regional Convention, with a broadcast equipment tradeshow and

educational sessions. Most events will take place at the Phoenix Civic Plaza, in the heart of downtown. Watch for more information about the SBE National Meeting and Arizona Regional Convention in the coming months.

The *Chapter 24 Newsletter* is published monthly by Chapter 24 Inc, Madison, WI.

Submissions of interest to the broadcast technical community are always welcome.

You can email articles to:  
MNorton@ecb.state.wi.us

**CHAPTER 24  
SUSTAINING  
MEMBERS**

**RECENT RENEWALS:**

Alpha Video

**THANKS TO ALL OUR  
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- Clark Wire and Cable
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- Sony Broadcast
- Swiderski Electronics
- Token Creek Productions
- Wisconsin Public TV
- WISC-TV 3
- WKOW-TV 27
- WMSN-TV 47
- WMTV-TV 15

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!



[www.belden.com](http://www.belden.com)

Belden Electronics Division  
2020 Lincoln Road  
Monroe, Wisconsin 53566

Telephone: 608 329 4660  
Facsimile: 608 329 4667

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EMAIL [patrick.keller@gbe.com](mailto:patrick.keller@gbe.com)



821 University Ave. Phone 608.263.2121  
Madison WI 53706 Fax 608.263.9763

[www.wpt.org](http://www.wpt.org)



**Kevin Peckham**  
Account Manager  
Broadcast Products Division

Sony Communications Products Company  
1200 North Arlington Heights Road  
Itasca, Illinois 60143  
Telephone (608) 271-3778  
(708) 773-6046

Service Center (708) 773-6037  
Emer. Tech. Assist. (201) 833-9533  
National Parts Center (800) 538-7550



**SBE NATIONAL**




**Society of Broadcast Engineers, Inc.**  
**9247 North Meridian St.**  
**Suite 305**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46260**



**Office (317) 846-9000**  
**Fax (317) 846-9120**



<http://www.sbe.org>



**Tom Sibenaller**  
Sales Representative

**ROSCOR**  
**Roscor Wisconsin**  
 W6428 Schilling Road  
 Onalaska, WI 54650  
 phone: 608-784-6702  
 fax: 608-785-0505  
 e-mail: tsibenaller@rosacor.com



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**JESSE MIX**  
Account Executive  
Satellite & Video Services

**3617 OAKTON STREET**  
**SKOKIE, IL 60076**  
**847.568.7195 OR 888.255.8755**  
**FAX: 847.674.7485**  
**PAGER: 708.988.1934**  
**e-mail: jam@norlight.com**



**FUJINON INC.**

**Alan Tanielian**  
**Midwest Regional Sales Manager**  
**Broadcast and Communications Products Division**


1121 Waukegan Road  
 Deerfield, IL 60015  
 Tel: (847) 945-8923 Fax: (847) 945-8943  
 E-mail: atanielian@fujinon.com



DVC-232.exe

Current Time	04/02/06	COM2
Event 1	23:59:59	00:30:30
Event 2	01:29:00	02:00:00
Event 3	03:15:10	03:45:00
Event 4	--:--:--	--:--:--
Event 5	--:--:--	--:--:--

Press s 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**



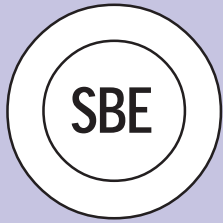
**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

Newsletter edited on Pagemaker 7.0 by: **Mike Norton**  
 Contributors this month: **Leonard Charles, Steve Paugh, Kevin Ruppert, Tom Smith, Gary Timm, and Tom Weeden.**  
 Thanks to **Leonard Charles** for his work on the Chapter 24 WWW page.

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# JUNE MEETING and PROGRAM



## Society of Broadcast Engineers CHAPTER 24 MADISON, WISCONSIN Thursday, June 20, 2002

### Weather Central – Video Graphics

Join us for an exciting program this month by Weather Central, to learn about weather graphics for broadcast. We'll get a look at their new SuperGENESIS:LIVE system and see how they utilize powerful computer platforms in their products.

Weather permitting, we'll have dinner outside on the patio at WKOW-TV. Sandwiches, chips, and soda will be delivered by J.T. Whitney's Brew Pub, so we need to know if you'll be attending. The cost will be \$6.50. *RSVP to [denise@maney-logic.com](mailto:denise@maney-logic.com) or leave a message at 277-8001 by Tuesday June 18th.* The program will be at 7:00pm in the FOX News Studio (the doors are located off the back parking lot of WKOW-TV). We hope to see you there!

Catered Dinner  
at 5:30 PM (RSVP required)

Meeting at 6:00 PM  
at WKOW-TV  
5727 Tokay Boulevard

Program at 7:00 PM

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

#### 2002 UPCOMING MEETING/PROGRAM DATES:

<b><u>Day</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Program</u></b>
Thursday	July 18	Annual Picnic
Tuesday	August 20	NEV
Wednesday	September 18	Token Creek Mobile Television

Program Committee:

Denise Maney  
277-8001

Steve Paugh  
277-5139

Fred Sperry  
264-9806

Steve Zimmerman  
274-1234