



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

Society of Broadcast Engineers

October 2002

Next Meeting:

**Wednesday,
October 16, 2002**

**Regional SBE
Meeting and
Broadcasters
Clinic**

Reception at 6:00pm

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

**at Marriott West,
1313 John Q.
Hammons Drive**

TAUZIN SEEKS TO SPEED DTV TRANSITION

By Tom Smith

Congressman Billy Tauzin, Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce has introduced a bill to speed up the transition from analog to digital TV transmission.

The bill sets a number of new deadlines, starting with making December 31, 2006, the absolute deadline for shutting down of all analog transmissions. Currently, 85 % of homes have to have digital reception capability before all analog transmissions have to cease. All DTV sets and other devices sold or manufactured after January 1, 2006 would be required to recognize a broadcast flag to prevent the unauthorized distribution of digital TV content over the internet. All DTV devices manufactured after July 1, 2005 cannot have analog outputs. News and public affairs programming cannot be flagged. The flagging system cannot degrade normal reception or home recording. Broadcast equipment would be exempted from the digital output only requirement. The bill upholds the FCC rules that phase in the addition of DTV tuners in TVs. The bill requires warning labels for consumers on all devices for receiving, recording or viewing TV signals that indicate it will not operate under the proposed digital only regulations. Recorded material will also have to display the labels.

Local network affiliate stations will be required to pass through digital signals from their network without degradation, and cable systems would be required to transmit signals that can be received by receivers without a separate set-top box. The set may be required to use a security module from the cable system. Cable systems will not be required to provide dual-must carry of both the analog and digital signal of a TV broadcaster. Broadcasters were asking for dual carriage to speed up the penetration of digital transmissions.

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UPPER MIDWEST REGIONAL SBE MEETING PLANNED

By Tom Smith

The program for the joint SBE Chapter 24 and Upper Midwest Regional Meeting will take place Wednesday, October 16th. The program, which will be held in conjunction with the Broadcasters Clinic, will consist of two presentations.

One presentation will be the unveiling of the Chapter 24 digital TV Website (www.widigital.tv). The website is a result of the panel discussion that was held at last year's meeting during the Broadcast Clinic. One of the main points of discussion

was getting the general public aware and educated about DTV. While there is still work to be completed on the website, we feel that it is a good time to unveil it to those who helped made the idea for it possible. Jason Mielke and Steve Paugh will show a site demo.

The second part of the program is a presentation on the Amber Alert System in Wisconsin. This should be a timely presentation, with all the interest in the Amber Alert System this past summer due to the number of nationally publicized child abductions. Wisconsin will be starting the Amber Alert program in several months and it

should be of interest to all of us and how it will affect our stations. The presenter will be Gary Timm, Wisconsin EAS Chairman, and Co-Chair of the Wisconsin Amber Committee.

To find out what the Amber Alert System will involve and how broadcast stations and law enforcement agencies will be included, please plan on attending this presentation. To find out about other scheduled presentations at the Broadcasters Clinic, see the information on page 7 of this newsletter, or visit www.wi-broadcasters.org.

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September Business Meeting Minutes

Chapter 24 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers met on Wednesday, September 18th, 2002 at Token Creek Mobile Television in Waunakee, Wisconsin for the chapter's monthly meeting. There were 15 members in attendance, 10 of whom were certified, and one guest.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by chairman Tom Smith. The August meeting minutes as published in the newsletter were approved. There was no treasurer's report.

Denise Maney of the Program Committee reported that nothing had been set yet for the October meeting at the Broadcasters Clinic. Steve Paugh was asked to show the chapter's DTV web site as a demo for the October meeting.

Newsletter editor Mike Norton announced the deadline for articles for the October issue will be due at midnight, Friday, October 4th. The folding party will be held Wednesday, October 9th at 5:30 PM at WKOW-TV. Mike Norton reported for sustaining membership chair Fred Sperry that recent renewals were WMSN and CTI. Chapter 24 continues to have 23 sustaining members.

Certification chair Jim Hermanson reported that two exams were taken at the local exam session August 2nd. Mike Norton earned Senior Television Engineer certification. The next exam session will be November 8-18, with applications due September 29. No reports from special events and membership chairs.

National Liaison Leonard Charles reported National election results and National awards that were recently granted. The National meeting will be held October 17th.

Steve Paugh from the DTV web committee reported that he was about to contact TV chiefs to get e-mail contact information for those submitting reception reports via the web site.

Frequency Coordinator Tom Smith reported no requests for coordination for football, and that Good Karma's WKPO was using a temporary STL.

There was no old business. In new business, Tom Smith issued a reminder on the upcoming Broadcasters Clinic. A tentative program idea at the SBE meeting would be a discussion of DTV and IBOC radio.

In professional announcements, Tom Smith announced that Vicki Kipp has had two more tower articles published in "Site" magazine. John Salzwedel announced that Brendan Clark is now a full time staff engineer at Token Creek Mobile Television.

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM. This month's program was a tour of the Token Creek Mobile Television truck by John Salzwedel and Brendan Clark.

Submitted by Tom Weeden, Acting Secretary

SIGN UP TO STAFF THE CHAPTER BOOTH

By Lonnie Cooks

SBE Chapter 24 will have a booth at the Broadcasters Clinic. The booth will feature a DTV website demo, SBE membership and Programs of Certification handbooks, SBE Chapter 24 awards, certification pins, conversation, and much, much more.

To insure that the SBE Chapter 24 booth will be alive and have an impact, the Chapter needs your help in staffing the booth. Please volunteer for one of the times that are listed below:

Tuesday, October 15

- 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm
- 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm
- 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Wednesday, October 16th

- 10:00 am – 11:00 am
- 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
- 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
- 1:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Two volunteers are needed for each of the time slots on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Please contact Lonnie at his e-mail address [Lcooks@ecb.state.wi.us] to post a time to work the booth. If you have any questions about volunteering for the Chapter 24 booth, you can also send those to the email address listed above.

With your help, Chapter 24 can provide information and promote the Society of Broadcast Engineers at the Broadcasters Clinic.

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

Are you an aspiring technical writer that can explain the technology used in broadcasting?

Submissions of interest to the broadcast technical community are always welcome. You can email articles to: MNorton@ecb.state.wi.us

AMATEUR RADIO NEWS

By Tom Weeden, WJ9H

- Four new cosponsors have signed aboard HR 4720, the bill in Congress aimed at providing relief to amateurs faced with private deed covenants, conditions and restrictions (“CC&Rs”) in erecting antennas. The list of 27 cosponsors includes two amateurs—Oregon Republican Greg Walden, WB7OCE, and Arkansas Democrat Mike Ross, WD5DVR. Wisconsin’s 2nd district representative Tammy Baldwin (D) is one of the new cosponsors.

New York Democrat Steve Israel introduced HR 4720—the “Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act”—on May 14. The measure would require private land-use regulators such as homeowners’ associations to “reasonably accommodate” amateur radio communication consistent with the PRB-1 limited federal preemption. PRB-1 now applies only to states and municipalities.

Representative Walden has also been appointed to fill a vacancy on the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. Walden’s appointment to the key House panel is considered good news for the amateur community. Walden’s appointment was announced by House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Billy Tauzin, a Republican from Louisiana.

“With his extensive background in broadcasting, Greg has a world of experience and expertise in telecommunications issues,” Tauzin said. “His knowledge of the issues will help the Subcommittee address digital television, spectrum management, broadband deployment and other telecommunications matters.”

- Solar flares vs. satellites? Russian sources report that the RS-12/13 amateur radio satellite appears to be dead. RS-12/13 went dark apparently as a result of severe solar flare activity in July and August.

RS-12/13 were integrated into the COSMOS 2123 Russian navigation satellite, launched on February 5, 1991. Beacons have not been heard from it since August 20. RS-12/13 sported transponders on 21, 29, and 145 MHz.

(Excerpts from the American Radio Relay League’s “ARRL Letter” <www.arrl.org> and the AC5DK RS-12/13 Satellite Operator’s web site <www.qsl.net/ac5dk>)

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!

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MOVE OVER IBOC

By Tom Smith

Motorola has introduced a new chipset that they are claiming will improve the sound of radio without requiring consumers to pay for a satellite service or wait for IBOC broadcast digital radio. The new chipset, which Motorola has called Symphony Digital Radio, is built around a 24-bit DSP digital audio processing architecture.

Motorola claims that it will improve both AM and FM signals and operates from 200 kHz to 165 MHz. Included in the tuning range is the weather band. The chipset includes one or two RF front-end chips, an all-digital DSP baseband/audio processor with a number of DSPs on one piece of silicon, an IF sigma-delta analog to digital converter and digital to analog

converters to convert data between the RF front-end and the DSP output. Digital input and an Enhanced Serial Audio Interface to connect to other digital devices will also be available. The interface will sample convert and have a SPDIF receiver.

The listener will benefit from extended FM reception from a Range Extension FM Demodulator, which uses an algorithm that will extract a signal from a weaker carrier with greater quieting. Adjacent interference will be reduced with a variable bandwidth IF filter. Multipath will be addressed with a diversity antenna system. Stereo separation will be greater than 40 db.

Other features include RDS/RBDS data detection, dual source playback including two radio or one radio and

CD playback for separate listening in the front and rear seats, baseband audio processing for tone and volume control, noise reduction and image enhancement. The system will also decode Dolby 5.1 encoding as well as Dolby Pro-logic.

Manufacturers that use the Symphony Digital Radio System will be able to create their own software to customize features for different models. The Chipset is now available in sample quantities for \$29.95 and mass production of the chipset will start in 2003. Details can be found on the Motorola website (www.motorola.com/mediacenter/news/detail/0,1958,1573_1221_23,00.html)

From Motorola press release (www.motorola.com).

TAUZIN SEEKS TO SPEED DTV TRANSITION (continued from page 1)

Trade and consumer groups commented in the press and at a committee hearing about the proposed bill. Consumer groups objected to the bill because of the cost to consumers, as they would be required to replace all of their video equipment to be compatible with the regulations. They also fear that viewers would lose their ability to record TV programs as they do now. The NAB is concerned about the loss of viewers when their existing sets no longer operate.

The wireless industry and public safety groups like the idea of the 2006 analog shutdown so they could get hold of the spectrum.

At a hearing of the bill on September 25th., Congressman Eliot Engel warned members of the committee

that the end of analog broadcasting at the end of 2006 could end many careers of members of congress. Tauzin suggested that the bill is subject to changes before it is introduced to Congress.

From House Energy and Commerce Committee Release, with additional information from TVTechnology.com, WashingtonPost.com, and [Broadcasting and Cable \(www.broadcastingcable.com\)](http://Broadcasting and Cable (www.broadcastingcable.com))

SBE CHAPTER OF THE AIR:

HamNet meets the second Sunday of each month at 0000 GMT on 14.205 MHz. Hal Hostetler WA7BGX is the Control Station.

UPCOMING EVENTS

There are some broadcast conferences which offer educational opportunities for broadcast engineers.

To find out more about the scheduled sessions, visit the listed web site.



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

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SBE Short Circuits – October 2002

By John L. Poray, CAE
SBE Executive Director

PENNINGTON RE-ELECTED NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Troy Pennington, CSRE, CBNT of Birmingham, AL has been elected to a second term as President of the Society. Troy is a 35-year veteran of broadcast engineering, most recently with Cox Broadcasting. Beginning October 7, he will join WIAT-TV Channel 42, the CBS affiliate in Birmingham. He is a Senior Member of SBE and is certified at the Senior Radio Engineer level and also as a Certified Broadcast Networking Technologist. Troy currently serves as a member of the SBE Certification Committee and is a member and past chairman of Chapter 68 in Birmingham. Members wishing to contact Troy can reach him at his home number at (205) 663-0033. His new e-mail address is tpennington@wiat.com.

Also elected to a second term was Vice President, Raymond C. Benedict, CPBE, Director Spectrum Management, Viacom, Inc. in Washington, D.C. and Treasurer, John Batson, CPBE, Regional Engineering Manager, Sinclair Broadcast Group in Birmingham, AL. Elected to a first term as Secretary was Sam Garfield, CPBE, Vice President, Technical Broadcast Consultants in Raleigh, NC.

Elected to two-year terms on the national Board of Directors were Ted D. Hand, CPBE, Director of Engineering, WTKR-TV, Norfolk, VA; Mark D. Humphrey, CPBE, Chief Engineer, WPLY-FM/Radio One, Media, PA; Keith M. Kintner, CPBE, Assistant Director of Technology, WILL AM-FM-TV, Urbana, IL; Vincent A. Lopez, CEV, CBNT, Systems Technician, WSYT/WNYS-TV, Syracuse, NY;

Thomas R. Ray, III, CSRE, Corporate Director of Engineering, Buckley Broadcasting/WOR Radio, New York, NY and Barry L. Thomas, CPBE, CBNT, President, Thomas Media Systems & Design, Hollywood, CA.

The newly elected officers and directors will be inducted on Thursday, October 17 during the SBE Annual Membership Meeting in Phoenix, AZ, joining six other members of the Board who will continue their terms of office along with Immediate Past President, Andy Butler, CPBE. Together, this group of 17 members constitutes the SBE Board of Directors.

TOP AWARDS PRESENTED AT SBE NATIONAL MEETING

SBE will be shining the spotlight on a number of deserving members and chapters when it holds its annual National Awards Dinner in Phoenix, October 17. Among the award highlights will be the induction of Howard Fine, of Los Angeles, as the Society's newest Fellow member. Past national president, Richard Rudman, CPBE, recently retired from KFWB radio in Los Angeles, will receive the SBE Lifetime Achievement Award. Other awards presented will include the SBE Engineer of the Year, Educator of the Year, Chapter Website of the Year and Best Regional Convention or Conference.

Joann Donnellan, Media Relations Manager for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, will be the keynote speaker at the SBE National Awards Dinner. Donnellan will speak about the AMBER program. We are pleased to announce that the SBE National Awards Dinner is sponsored by Leitch, Inc. and the Awards Reception that precedes the dinner is sponsored by TRON-Tek, Inc. Both of these

companies have generously supported SBE in this way since the mid-1990s.

Also on tap for the National meeting on the 17th will be the sixth annual Fellows Luncheon, which has been sponsored by Scala Division of Kathrein, Inc. since its inception. Later that day will be the Annual SBE Membership Meeting, which includes the induction of the newly elected national officers and board of directors. All events on the 17th will be held at the Civic Plaza Convention Center, in downtown Phoenix.

Tickets for the National Awards Reception and Dinner are just \$12 and are available from the SBE National Office by calling Linda at (317) 846-9000 or by e-mail at lbaun@sbe.org. Check, VISA, MasterCard or American Express are accepted. Tickets are available on a first come, first served basis and should be purchased by October 11.

The National Meeting is being held in conjunction with the SBE Chapter 9 Regional Convention and in cooperation with the Arizona Broadcasters Association. The combined events also include the fall SBE Board of Directors Meeting and national Certification Committee meeting on October 16, and broadcast equipment trade show, career fair and technical presentations on the 17th.

VA APPROVES SBE CERTIFICATION FOR REIMBURSEMENT

The SBE Certification Committee announces that the US Veterans Administration has approved the certification program of the Society of Broadcast Engineers as a participant

(continued on page 6)



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Paul Jensen/Member Mobile: 608-235-8559
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nationaltower@aol.com

SBE Short Circuits – October 2002 (continued from page 5)

in its certification benefits program. This means eligible veterans will be able to receive reimbursement of SBE certification exam fees! To apply for this VA benefit, those eligible should visit the VA's web site at www.gibill.va.gov.

SBE FREQUENCY COORDINATORS LIST UPDATED MORE OFTEN

As a service to members and the broadcasting industry, the Society of Broadcast Engineers has maintained a list of volunteer frequency coordinators for many years. Since 1995, the list has been available on the SBE website, www.sbe.org and has been updated on a monthly basis. Because of the ever growing need for the most accurate listing of coordinators, beginning October 3, SBE will update the list on a weekly basis.

Please send any updates to Scott Jones, kjones@sbe.org, at the National Office. Our thanks to Jim Bernier, CPBE, volunteer webmaster for the SBE website for his cooperation in making this possible and also to Scott, for his good work in maintaining the list.

ENNES WORKSHOP PART OF FIRST BOSTON REGIONAL CONVENTION OCTOBER 29-30

The first-ever Boston SBE Regional Convention, "BOS-CON" will be held October 29-30 at the Best Western Royal Plaza and Trade Center in Marlborough, Massachusetts. The event will include a broadcast equipment trade show on October 30 and a full day Ennes Workshop on the 29th. There is no cost to attend the trade show and the

Workshop is only \$25. Presentations on digital radio, DTV and regulatory issues will be included. See the SBE website at www.sbe.org for a complete rundown of the Workshop.

To register for the Ennes Workshop, call, fax or e-mail Linda Baun at the SBE National Office at (317) 846-9000, fax: (317) 846-9120 or lbaun@sbe.org. Checks should be made payable to SBE. VISA, MasterCard and American Express will also be accepted.

FALL SBE REGIONAL CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Plan to take part in one or more of the SBE Regional Conventions held in October. They are affordable (some are free!) and close to home for many of you.

October

15-17 2002 Broadcasters Clinic
Marriott Hotel West, Madison, WI
Contact Don Borchert (608) 255-2600

16-17 SBE Chapter 9/Arizona
Broadcasters Annual Convention &
SBE National Meeting
Phoenix Civic Plaza & Hyatt Regency
Hotel
Contact Gerry Grunig (602) 262-5106
or www.broadcast.net/~sbe9

23-24 Electronic Equipment Expo
Washington State Convention Center,
Seattle, WA
Contact Gary Engard (206) 784-2049
or www.emexpo.org

29-30 Boston SBE Regional
Convention (Ennes Workshop, Oct. 29)
Best Western Royal Plaza and Trade
Center, Marlborough, MA
Contact Bob Hess (617) 787-7050

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 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, or send an email to msnsbe-request@broadcast.net with *lists* in the body of the message.

Thanks to Denise Maney for arranging the September meeting and program presentation.

Thanks also to John Salzwedel and Brendan Clark of Token Creek Mobile Television for the tour of the production truck.



Visit Chapter 24
on the World Wide Web

<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.

2002 BROADCAST CLINIC AGENDA

The 48th annual Broadcasters Clinic will be held October 15-17, 2002, at the Madison Marriott, Madison, WI. This is an excellent opportunity to increase your knowledge on timely broadcast engineering topics.

The cost is \$155 for any two days, or \$180 to attend all three days of sessions. To register, call the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association at 608-255-2600, or 800-256-3986. You can find more information and register online at the WBA website: www.wi-broadcasters.org.

9:15 am.... Three Phase Power Tutorial for Broadcasters
 10:00 am .. Equipment Exhibits Open
 1:30 pm.... R.F. Safety and Monitoring Systems at the Sears Tower – Chicago
 2:15 pm.... IEEE1394 Is it for the Broadcaster?
 3:00 pm.... Break
 3:15 pm.... Future of Tower Lighting
 4:00 pm.... Datacasting for Fun and Profit
 6:00 pm.... RECEPTION
 7:00 pm.... Upper Midwest Regional Society of Broadcast Engineers Meeting

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15

7:45 am.... Registration & Continental Breakfast
 9:15 am.... Practical Uses of Cat 5/RJ45 for Audio
 10:00 am .. Non-Data Applications for Category 6 Cable
 10:45 am .. Break
 11:00 am Mercury VoIP - Take Communications to the Next Level
 Noon Luncheon
 2:00 pm.... A Practical FM Antenna for IBOC
 2:45 pm.... Tieline Technologies Unique Codecs
 3:30 pm.... Break
 3:45 pm.... Fifty Years of Broadcasting and Still Learning
 4:30 pm.... EQUIPMENT EXHIBITS ARE OPEN
 7:30 pm.... Broadcast Engineering on the "Lite" Side

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16

7:45 am.... Registration & Continental Breakfast
 8:30 am.... Dolby E and Dolby Digital in the DTV Broadcast Audio Environment

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17

7:45 am.... Registration & Continental Breakfast
 8:30 am.... Getting to Air from the Field
 9:15 am.... The Importance of TV Broadcast Antenna Tip Deflection and the Impact on Received Signal Quality
 10:00 am .. Break
 10:15 am .. A Real World Subscription Service using Available Capacity on the Digital Broadcast
 11:00 am .. High Definition Production
 Noon Luncheon
 1:15 pm.... Real Life Performance of Dualband Antennas for VHF/UHF Transmissions
 2:00 pm.... A Super Efficient Five Segment Multi-Stage Depressed Collector (MSDC) IOT
 2:45 pm.... New-Multi Channel Combining Network for Digital TV Systems

Adjournment...Thanks and see you at the Broadcasters Clinic next year!

RADIO SHACK ENDS CATALOG

By Tom Smith

As I do every September, I wandered into my local Radio Shack store to pick up the new issue of their catalog for 2003 and a part for a project. I found the store in disarray and was not able to find the part I was looking for.

What I found was that most of the electronic parts such as resistors, capacitors, LEDs, and ICs were now in a couple of large bins, and not on the wall pegs were I normally found them. I asked the salesman about the part, which he was unable to locate, and for a catalog. He said that the catalog was no longer published and that Radio Shack was going to use the web only. I did go to the website a couple of days later and found it to be somewhat improved, but surely not as handy as the catalog. I found the

part in another store.

One of my co-workers was able to get a CD-ROM from his local Radio Shack, but it is pretty much useless with only a fraction of the items and no pricing.

I would suggest holding on to your 2002 catalog, as it may be a collectors item and a handy reference for the near future. See the latest issue of DIGITAL TV for further comments on the demise of the Radio Shack catalog.

HAVE AN IDEA FOR A SBE PROGRAM?

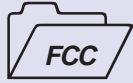
Is there a topic you would like to see covered at one of our local Chapter 24 meetings? Is there a technology that you would like to learn more about? Or, better yet, is there a topic that you are qualified to speak on at an upcoming meeting?

Please forward your ideas to one of the Program committee members.

SBE RESUME SERVICE

Want to get your resume out to employers? Participate in SBE's new Resume Service, available to SBE members only, free of charge.

Call the SBE National Office at (317) 846-9000 or e-mail Scott Jones at kjones@sbe.org for a Resume Service participation form.



FCC Rulemakings

Compiled By Tom Smith

PROPOSED

MB Docket 02-277; MM Docket Nos. 01-235, 01-317, 00-244, FCC 02-249 2002

Biennial Regulatory Review-Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996

The FCC has started a comprehensive review of all the broadcast ownership rules. There are six groups of rules that they are reviewing, with inquiries already in progress in two of them. The notices concerning Newspaper/Broadcast Cross-Ownership Prohibition (MM Docket 01-235) and Local Radio Ownership (MM Docket 00-244) rules have already been released. The original rules for newspaper/broadcast cross-ownership prohibition were adopted in 1975, while rules for local radio ownership were adopted in 1941.

Other rules being looked at include national TV ownership adopted in 1941, local TV multiple ownership adopted in 1964, radio/TV cross ownership restrictions adopted in 1970, and the dual television network rules adopted in 1946. The National TV Ownership Rule and the Local Ownership Rule are subject to a U.S. Court of Appeals order to the FCC to be reviewed.

The FCC affirmed its goal of promoting diversity, localism, and competition in the local media market. The rulemaking is to explore if the marketplace will provide a sufficient level of competition to protect and

advance those goals, and if not, to determine if the current rules achieve those goals. They want comments on what revisions to the rules are required to protect and advance diversity, competition, and localism in the local market. The FCC has formed a working group to publish a number of studies on ownership.

The full notice can be found on the FCC Website at hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachments/FCC-02-246A1.pdf. This notice was adopted on September 12, 2002.

The second part of this notice was released on October 1, 2002. In this part of the notice the FCC released twelve studies on the current media marketplace. Eight of the studies were authored by staff from the FCC with three published by university researchers, including one from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. One study was authored by Neilsen Media Research. Links to the papers are available on the FCC web site in the news section of the Home Page.

With the release of the studies, the comment period on the studies and the rulemaking notice starts with comments due on December 2, 2002 and replies due on January 2, 2003.

FINAL RULEMAKING

**DA 02-2312
Notice Regarding Certification of EAS Decoder**

This notice is a follow-up to a rulemaking notice from February 26, 2002. In that notice, the FCC ruled that low-power FM stations did not have to install an EAS decoder until the FCC certified a decoder-only unit.

The FCC has certified a decoder from TFT, Inc. so the LPFM stations will have one year after the notice is published in the FEDERAL REGISTER to install a decoder. Cable systems with less than 5000 subscribers must have installed either an encoder/decoder or a decoder only by October 1, 2002.

This notice was released on September 19, 2002 and the TFT decoder was certified on July 23, 2002.

From FCC Releases (www.fcc.gov)

**700 MHZ BAND
AUCTION CLOSES**

By Tom Smith

On September 18th, the FCC completed the auction of 740 licenses in the 710-716/740-746 MHz paired bands (TV channels 54 and 59) and the 716-722 MHz band (channel 55). The total amount received for the auction was \$88,651,630.

There were 102 winning bidders for 484 licenses. The highest bid was \$5,394,350 for a license in Los Angeles and the low bid was \$2,665 for a license in Johnson, Tennessee. The average bid was \$119,800. Most of the bidders were telephone companies with a few broadband providers. Two of the bidders were the TV broadcast groups Lin Television, Inc. and Capitol Broadcasting.

Lin won 17 licenses and Capitol won 12 licenses. They could use them for phone, data, or even television, which is still allowed in this band by auction winners.

From FCC Release (www.fcc.gov)

HARRIS CORPORATION
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 1913 Fairoak Road
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HARRIS

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 FAX: 847.674.7485
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 e-mail: jam@norlight.com

SO LONG, BETAMAX

By Tom Smith

Sony announced on August 27th that they were going to build 2000 more Betamax machines before ceasing production. In a report from Reuters News, they stated that with the advent of digital formats such as DVD and the difficulty of getting parts, they were discontinuing production. Sony produced 2700 machines in the last year and 18 million over the last 27 years with 2.3 million produced in 1984. Parts and tapes will still be available.

The Betamax has been the subject of many articles on the marketing or mis-marketing of a product that was first on the market. It was considered to be superior to the competition, which was VHS. The VHS machine eventually overtook the Betamax and dominated the home videotape machine market.

Even as a failed product, it lived on in the introduction of many different videotape machines for broadcast and professional video production. The basic mechanical tape transport was used in the Betacam and Betacam SP analog machines and in the Digital Betacam, Betacam SX, Betacam IMX and HDcam machines. The transport design was also used in the 8 MM and HI-8 videotape formats and in Panasonic's D-3 and D-5 machines as well.

(From Yahoo.com)

BURK EAS UPGRADE

By Gary Timm

Owners of Burk EAS Units should e-mail the address below to be informed when the Burk EAS Unit Upgrade is available. Note the statement following statement from the Burk website.

"Burk Technology is currently working on the AMBER update for the EAS encoder/decoder. The new firmware will be available late this year as a free download from our web site. Email: sales@burk.com to be notified when it is released."

If your station has a different brand of EAS encoder/decoder, you can check on the status of an available upgrade. Info on upgrades for all EAS Units is kept current at: www.sbe24.org/eas/encode.asp.

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.

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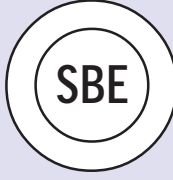
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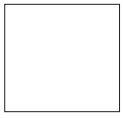
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Panasonic Broadcast & Television Systems Company
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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

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OCTOBER MEETING and PROGRAM



**Society of Broadcast Engineers
CHAPTER 24 MADISON, WISCONSIN
Wednesday, October 16, 2002**

UPPER MIDWEST REGIONAL SBE MEETING AND BROADCASTERS CLINIC

Join us for the regional SBE meeting and program at the Broadcast Clinic. We will explore the planning to date of the Wisconsin Amber Alert system and we will take a look at the new Wisconsin DTV web site designed by Wisconsin SBE Chapters. We hope to see you there!

Reception at 6:00 PM

Meeting and Program at 7:00 PM

**at Marriott West
1313 John Q. Hammons Drive
Middleton, WI**

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

2002/2003 UPCOMING MEETING/PROGRAM DATES:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>
Thursday	November 21	T. B. A.
Tuesday	December 17	T. B. A.
Wednesday	January 15, 2003	T. B. A.

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