

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

**Society of Broadcast Engineers**

**December 2005**

## CONGRESS WEIGHS IN ON EAS

*By Tom Smith*

A draft of a bill has been introduced in the US Senate to extend the EAS system in both how it is received and who can require its use. The bill would require all broadcast licensees engaged in digital broadcasting to transmit any emergency alert that comes from the President, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Governor of the state that the station is located in. The bill would also establish a National Program Office within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

One requirement of this proposed office would be that the director would have to have five years operational experience in the management and issuing of warnings and alerts, hazardous event management or disaster planning. The bill seems clear that they do not want a repeat of Katrina with the problems of an appointee like Michael Brown. The director would be required to work with the FCC to ensure that the system complements the current emergency alert system. By placing the office with NOAA, this bill would ensure that it would work with the National Weather Service and the Hurricane Center in Miami.

The bill calls for the system to be an all-alert system to alert the public to any imminent threat from natural disasters, accidents, and terrorist activity. The system would coordinate and supplement existing warning and alert systems, and transmit alerts to the widest variety of media. That would include analog and digital radio and TV, cable, satellite TV and radio, and wireless and hardwire telecommunications.

The bill would require the director of this new office to implement procedures that would make the system available to credentialed personnel to access and utilize the system, to provide alerts to specific geographic areas. The EAS system would be available to state and local officials with a mechanism to

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## Next Meeting:

**Tuesday,  
December 13, 2005**

**SBE Holiday  
Celebration Dinner**

**Happy Hour  
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

**Dutch Treat Dinner  
at 7:00 PM**

**at Fitzgerald's**

**3112 W. Beltline Hwy  
Middleton, WI**

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## A Good Supplier

*By Matt Kinnan, CEV CBNT*

For years now I have planned, designed and maintained many audio and video systems. I'm sure you have done the same and know that planning and designing are always the most exciting part of the process. Even the installation can be rewarding when everything comes together just as planned.

If you have done your planning well and performed a clean installation, you probably won't have much maintenance other than the routine items. Adding a new system or piece of equipment will

always have a few challenges; some will be financial, some logistic, but many times the challenge involves the supplier.

Finding a good supplier is like finding a good car mechanic: once you find a good one consider yourself lucky. A good supplier should be helpful, but not pushy; honest, but not a know-it-all. If you get a call from your supplier making sure your order made it and your installation is going well, then you know you have the right guy. If your supplier returns your phone call even when there's a problem, you have the right guy.

Make sure he fully backs what he sells, and make sure you have a delivery date before you sign the purchase order. A good supplier can make your next project a success or a nightmare, so make sure you have a supplier you can trust. If you're not sure you have a reliable supplier, then ask a colleague – like one of us in the SBE.

Please join us this month for our meeting, we would like to see you there.

*(Matt Kinnan is chair of SBE Chapter 59, Kansas City)*

## CHAPTER 24 OFFICERS

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## November Business Meeting Minutes

Chapter 24 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers meet on November 17, 2005 at the studios of WBUW-TV, Channel 57. There were 17 members present, 14 of who were certified. There were also two guests present. Vice-chair Dennis Baldrige called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM in the absence of Chair Jim Magee.

The minutes were approved as published in the newsletter after Steve Paugh requested a correction. He wished to note that Jim Magee had invited the speaker for the October meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Steve Paugh and seconded by Gerrit Marshall.

Treasurer Leslie Franzen reported that the Chapter was in the black.

Certification Chair Jim Hermanson reported that the next Certification test would be held from February 10<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> with the application deadline being December 30<sup>th</sup>.

Leonard Charles gave the report on the SBE national office. He reported that dues would increase by three dollars after July 1, 2006 to \$63.00 with student dues increasing two dollars to \$20.00. This is the first increase in three and a half years.

Applications for the 2006 Ennes Scholarship Awards are now available from the National Office. The SBE is Co-sponsoring an "Outstanding Woman in Broadcast Engineering" award with the American Woman In Radio and Television Organization. Nomination forms will be available in late December (on the SBE Web site) with a deadline of late January for applying. The award will be presented at the AWRT's Leadership Summit, March 10<sup>th</sup> in Washington, D.C.

Frequency Coordinator Tom Smith reported that a PCN had been filed for Midwest Management Inc. for a STL from Madison to Barneveld for its Mount Horeb station and a change to its WHIT-FM STL. There was also a coordination request for 450 MHz frequencies and a 2 GHz frequency for the ABC telecast of UW football. The 2 GHz frequency was for a blimp camera.

Newsletter Editor Mike Norton reported that the deadline for articles for the December newsletter would be Midnight, December 2<sup>nd</sup> and the folding party at WKOW would be on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM.

Program Chairman Steve Paugh reported that the December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting would be the Christmas Dinner at Fitzgerald's in Middleton. The January meeting was moved from January 18<sup>th</sup> to January 17<sup>th</sup>. The program will be Digital Photography Techniques. The February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting will be on Podcasting at WISC-TV.

National SBE board member Keith Kintner presented Newsletter Editor Mike Norton a certificate for the national award for Best Newsletter for 2004.

(continued on next page)

## CONGRESS WEIGHS IN ON EAS (continued from page 1)

verify the legitimacy and authenticity of an alert while guaranteeing the integrity of the system.

This bill is no doubt in response to Hurricane Katrina, and makes proposals similar to the current notice on EAS that the FCC has issued (see FCC Rulemakings). There seems to be a great interest in greater use of the EAS system by government.

Broadcasters should remain alert to both Congress and the FCC and make their input known. It is possible to end up with a more burdensome Emergency Alert System unless limits to possible overuse and conflicting authority are not dealt with in the beginning.

## November Business Meeting Minutes (continued from page 2)

Leonard Charles reported that the dates had been set for Broadcasters Clinic for the next two years. They are October 24<sup>th</sup> through 26<sup>th</sup> in 2006 and October 9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> in 2007.

The program was a demonstration of DTV tuners that various members brought to display and compare features.

*Submitted by Tom Smith, Secretary*

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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## AMATEUR RADIO NEWS

*By Tom Weeden, WJ9H*

- FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy has announced that she will exit the Commission December 9. Her tenure already was set to end when the current session of Congress adjourns. Appointed by President George W. Bush to fill an unexpired term, Abernathy, a Republican, has served on the FCC since May 2001 but never was nominated for a full term. In her announcement, Abernathy lauded the FCC's increasing reliance on competition rather than regulation.

"Our largely market-driven approach to advanced services has helped create a vibrant market for new wired and wireless telecommunications products," she said, "and our spectrum reform initiatives have improved our ability to put this scarce resource to its most effective use."

In 2003, the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) strongly objected to Abernathy's suggestion that broadband over power line (BPL) technology would contribute to what she described as "broadband Nirvana." Addressing the United Power Line Council's annual conference that year, Abernathy expressed unabashed enthusiasm for BPL and recommended a combination of regulatory restraint and the elimination or substantial modification of existing rules as steps along the "path to Enlightenment."

Earlier this month, President Bush nominated Deborah T. Tate of Tennessee, a Republican, to serve out the remainder of the term of former FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell, which expires June 30, 2007. Under current FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin, a Republican who succeeded Powell, the FCC has been operating with four members ever since, and it could be down to three if Tate is not confirmed by the US Senate before Abernathy's departure.

Before her appointment to the FCC, Abernathy was director for government affairs at BroadBand Office Inc. She also previously served as legal advisor to FCC Commissioner Sherrie Marshall and Chairman James Quello. Martin thanked Abernathy for her "dedicated service" on the FCC and wished her well. "I have enjoyed working with Commissioner Abernathy since we joined the Commission together over four years ago," he said. "She has made valuable contributions to the agency during her tenure, and we have all benefited from her extensive knowledge of the communications industry."

The White House this month also reappointed Commissioner Michael J. Copps, a Democrat, for a new five-year term, starting last July 1. That appointment also is subject to Senate confirmation.

- The seventh annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) <<http://hamradio.noaa.gov/>> special event was in progress at press time (December 2-3). Cosponsored by the National Weather Service (NWS) and ARRL,

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**SBE's Short Circuits – December 2005**

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

**SBE ROUNDTABLE DEBUTS**

SBE president, Chriss Scherer, CSRE CBNT has announced a new benefit for members who would like to have a forum for discussing issues related to the broadcast engineering field or SBE. The Society has created the "SBE Roundtable," an e-mail discussion group open to SBE members only.

Members may wish to discuss equipment issues, the latest technology advances or regulatory issues. Participants can also discuss issues regarding their SBE chapter or the national organization.

Scherer will serve as moderator for the list. To participate, send your request via e-mail to sberoundtable@sbe.org. Include the e-mail address you wish to have subscribed to the list.

**SBE AND ATSC CO-SPONSOR DIGITAL ENG SUMMIT**

SBE will cosponsor a Digital Electronic News Gathering (D-ENG) Summit with ATSC on Tuesday, February 21, 2006 in Palm Springs, Calif. The half-day seminar will be held in conjunction with the Hollywood Post Alliance Technology Retreat.

Topics will include developments and technical aspects of data return links (DRL), DRL system implementation considerations, advanced codecs and what they mean to D-ENG, HDTV over ENG, a technical primer on COFDM, ENG spectrum issues and frequency coordination.

The Hollywood Post Alliance is a

Southern California-based professional community of businesses and individuals who provide expertise, support, tools and the infrastructure for the creation and finishing of motion pictures, television commercials, digital media and other dynamic media content.

To register for the event, visit the ATSC web site at [www.atsc.org](http://www.atsc.org). The registration fee to attend the D-ENG Summit is \$225.

**NEW AWARD TO RECOGNIZE WOMEN IN ENGINEERING**

The contributions of women in the field of broadcast engineering will be recognized with a new award cosponsored by SBE and the American Woman in Radio and Television (AWRT) association. The award, called the, "Outstanding Woman in Broadcast Engineering," will be presented to the recipient during AWRT's Leadership Summit, Friday, March 10, 2006 in Washington, D.C.

Several members of SBE are helping to draft the criteria for the award and will participate with members of AWRT in the selection of the winner.

The award is open to members of SBE and AWRT. Nomination forms will be available on the two organization's web sites in late December. The deadline for nominations will be the end of January.

**MEMBER DUES WILL RISE JULY 1, 2006**

The SBE Board of Directors, at its meeting on October 19 in Grapevine, Texas, approved the budget for the national organization for 2006. The budget includes a \$3.00 increase in membership dues for Regular, Senior

and Associate members. The new rate will go into affect on July 1, 2006 and bring the dues level for those membership categories to \$63 per year. Dues for Student Members will also be increased on July 1, 2006. They will rise by \$2.00 to \$20.00 per year.

The increases come AFTER the 2006 membership renewal period so most members will not experience the increase until 2007. There will be no changes to the dues rates for Youth and Sustaining Members.

**LOCAL LEGALS**

*Compiled by Tom Smith*

**Granted**

**W65EE, Channel 65,  
Janesville, WI**

The FCC has granted Trinity Broadcasting Network a construction permit to change operation from channel 65 to channel 29. The antenna will remain at 55 meters above ground with power increasing from 20.3 KW to 21.5 KW with a non-directional antenna pattern. The call letters will change to W29DC. The coordinates are 42-41-09 latitude and 89-09-05 longitude. The action was adopted on November 29, 2005 and released on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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

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

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## FCC Rulemakings

Compiled by Tom Smith

### FINAL RUKEMAKINGS

#### EB Docket No. 04-296 Review of the Emergency Alert System

The FCC has issued a First Report and Order setting new rules concerning the Emergency Alert System. In the same notice, the FCC also issued a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

In the Report and order, the FCC extended the requirements concerning the participation in EAS beyond that of just the analog broadcasters and cable systems. Required participation in the National EAS plan will be required for all TV stations on both the analog and digital transmitters, all radio stations on both the analog and digital IBOC carrier and all cable systems on the analog and digital channels. For TV and radio broadcasters, EAS messages must be transmitted on all program streams including subscription programming. Cable systems must transmit EAS messages on all tiers including subscription services. Participation in local plans will still remain voluntary, but if a broadcaster or cable system participates in the local plan on their analog services, they must participate in their digital services.

In this report and order, the FCC also extended the requirement to participate in the National EAS to both the Direct-to-Home Satellite Services and the Satellite Digital Audio Radio Service. The DBS and satellite radio services will be required to broadcast any National EAS message on all of their program services. DBS services will also be required to pass any local

EAS messages they receive from local stations in the local-to-local services. The FCC also requested that since they have the capabilities to air localized traffic and weather reports, Sirius and XM Radio create a system of airing local EAS messages. The carrying of local EAS on satellite radio would still be voluntary as it is for local broadcasters.

Broadcasters and satellite radio will have until December 31, 2006 to implement EAS on their digital systems, while satellite TV will have until May 31, 2007 to implement National EAS on their systems.

One thing to note is that since the start of emergency broadcast systems with the original Conelrad system in 1951, there has never been a national activation of the system. The only purpose of the national system is for the President to make a statement to the Nation in times of a national emergency. The FCC does recognize that most of the use of the EAS system is for local and state emergencies. They also recognize the role that the National Weather Service has in the system by its originating 80% of all EAS alerts.

In the second part of this notice, the FCC issued a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. In this rulemaking, the FCC asks about updates to the system in the digital media world of today. Some of the subjects that the FCC has raised include extending EAS to other digital services such as cell phones and new digital TV services proposed by telephone companies, adding the capability to send enhanced information such as detailed text messages, maps, longer audio messages including multiple languages and other enhancements to

both the systems and to receiving equipment.

There was a proposal to replace the current system of relaying national EAS messages via a system of AM relay stations, and replace it with a satellite system. There was also a proposal to add to the EAS codes a code for a message originated by the Governor of a state, and also a proposal to make participation in a state system mandatory for the broadcasting of messages from the Governor's office. These proposals are in response to issues raised by the hurricanes this year.

This notice was adopted on November 3, 2005 and released on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Comments are due 60 days after publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER with replies due 30 days later.

#### ET Docket No. 05-24 Requirements for Digital Television Receiving Capability

In this action, the FCC moved up the date in which all television receivers with screen sizes from 13" through 24" must have the ability to receive digital transmissions. The date is changed from July 1, 2007 to March 1, 2007. The date for VCRs and digital recorders such as TiVo to have digital reception capability is also moved from July 1, 2007 to March 1, 2007.

The FCC also extended the requirements for digital reception to TV sets with screens to less than 13". The deadline for sets with screen sizes of less than 13" will be the same as the larger sets, March 1, 2007. The new deadlines the inclusion of digital tuners for all new receivers are as follows.

- Receivers 36" and above; 50% by July 1, 2004, 100% by July 1, 2005;

(continued on page 6)

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## FCC Rulemakings (continued from page 5)

- Receivers 25" to 36"; 50% by July 1, 2005, 100% by March 1, 2006
- Receivers less than 25"; All by March 1, 2007
- VCRs and digital disc recorders including DVD recorders w/tuners; March 1, 2007
- Cell phones and PDAs that receive TV through the cell service are not required to have DTV tuners.

This notice was adopted on November 3, 2005 and released on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

### PROPOSED RULEMAKINGS

#### MB Docket No. 05-312 Digital Television Distributed Transmission System Technologies

The FCC has issued a clarification on a previous ruling concerning the use of distributive transmission of DTV signals. Distributive transmission is the use of multiple transmitters operating on the same frequency in a station's coverage area to broadcast a DTV signal.

In the clarification notice, the FCC ruled that a station must provide service to all its replication area and may provide service to all of its maximization coverage area if it does not increase interference. Stations may not use distributive transmission systems to increase service beyond their maximized service area. Some signal spillover outside of the maximized coverage area is allowed on a secondary basis due to required field strength needs to serve a population center within the licensed coverage area. Also, stations cannot use the excuse of the need to build multiple transmission facilities as a reason to not meet the FCC deadlines providing service to the entire replication

coverage area.

In the notice of proposed rulemaking, the FCC proposed that distributive transmission systems (DTS) transmitters would enjoy the same primary status as using a single transmitter, all the transmitters operate under one license, that the transmitters cover all of the service area that is presently required under replication and maximization, and that DTS transmitters may be placed with interference considerations in any area within a fixed radius from the current licensed coordinates of a TV station. Stations must meet their required signal level over their city of license.

The DTS stations could operate with the same tower height and power limitations as a single transmitter station and use the same emission mask. All other technical standards would be the same as any other DTV station. Stations must complete the construction of all DTS transmitters within the same deadline as the FCC requires for the construction of all TV station. The fixed radius that the FCC will allow DTS transmitters to be placed within is:

- Channels 2-6 in Zone 1, 67 miles;
- Channels 2-6 in Zones 2 and 3, 80 miles;
- Channels 7-13 in Zone 1, 63 miles;
- Channels 7-13 in Zones 2 and 3, 77 miles;
- Channels 14-69 in all Zones, 64 miles;

Zone 1 is the Northeast part of the US including parts of Southern Wisconsin, Zone 3 is an area along the Gulf of Mexico Coast, and Zone 2 is the rest of the United States.

The FCC also addressed low-power TV stations and translators. They did not propose DTS operation for translators, LPTV or TV boosters, but

did propose DTS operation for Class A stations. A Class A station is a LPTV station given primary status by meeting certain local origination requirements. Class A stations will be able to use DTS within their current coverage area and possibly to construct a chain of Class A stations to serve a larger market area.

The FCC also asked for information on the following questions. They include questions on whether all DTV receivers will work with DTS, how will it impact stations using single transmitter sites, the burden on communities such as zoning and new tower erection and tower co-location, time to build out, and costs.

This notice was adopted on November 3, 2005 and released on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Comments are due 60 days after publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER with replies due 30 days later.

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

Thank you to Steve Paugh for coordinating the November Program on DTV. Thanks to Jeff Juniet at WBUW for hosting the program.

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

Could you be the next newsletter editor? Chapter 24 is seeking a volunteer to become the next editor of the award winning Chapter 24 newsletter. Good PC skills are helpful and experience with PageMaker for Windows a plus.

Please contact the Chapter Chair for more information.



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### Amateur Radio News (continued from page 3)

SKYWARN Recognition Day is the Weather Service's way of expressing its appreciation to amateur radio operators for their commitment to helping keep communities safe. During this 24-hour special event, teams of radio amateurs set up stations at local NWS offices to contact other hams across the US and around the world.

"Ham radio operators volunteering as storm spotters are an extremely valuable asset to National Weather Service operations since they are cross-trained in both communications and severe storm recognition," says SRD organizer Scott Mentzer, N0QE, the Meteorologist-In-Charge at the Goodland, Kansas, NWS office, home of WX0GLD.

Last year, 114 NWS offices participated in SRD, logging more than 15,000 contacts during the 24-hour event, says David Floyd, N5DBZ, the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at Goodland. The object is for amateur stations to exchange information with as many NWS stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 meters, and 70 cm. Contacts via repeaters and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) modes, such as EchoLink and IRLP are also welcome.

According to Floyd, in typical SKYWARN operations during severe weather, direct communication between mobile spotters and local NWS offices provides critical "ground truth" information for forecasters. "Spotter

reports of hail size, wind damage and surface-based rotation in real time greatly assist the radar warning operator, since that information can be correlated with Doppler radar displays," he says. The result may be a more strongly worded statement to convey greater urgency or issue a tornado warning a few minutes earlier than would otherwise have been possible.

"While NWS offices utilize the real-time reporting of severe weather events to assist in warning operations, hurricanes Katrina and Rita have shown us that ham radio operators are equally important during the recovery phase of natural disasters," Floyd points out.

Floyd also cites the example of the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) on 14.325 MHz. He notes that the HWN, which organized in 1965 during Hurricane Betsy, started out as an informal group of amateurs but has since developed a more formal relationship with the National Hurricane Center in Miami via its Amateur Radio station WX4NHC (formerly W4EHW). HWN ham radio members and volunteers at WX4NHC work together when hurricanes threaten, to provide real-time weather data and damage reports to NHC forecasters.

Some 75 NWS offices in the US were planning to participate along with the Prairie Storm Prediction Center in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

*(Excerpts from the American Radio Relay League's www.arrl.org web site)*

## CHAPTER 24 SUSTAINING MEMBERS

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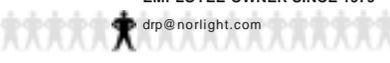
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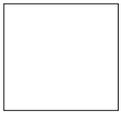
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**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

Newsletter edited on Pagemaker 7.0 by: Mike Norton  
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 Thanks to Leonard Charles for his work on the Chapter 24 WWW page.

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# DECEMBER MEETING and PROGRAM



## Society of Broadcast Engineers CHAPTER 24 MADISON, WISCONSIN Tuesday, December 13, 2005



### SBE Holiday Celebration Dinner



Join us for this month's meeting when we celebrate the Holidays and toast the New Year in a relaxing atmosphere at Fitzgerald's in Middleton. We'll gather in the bar area before heading to the dining area.

You can sign-up for the dinner on the Chapter 24 web site, <http://www.sbe24.org>, and follow the links to the December Holiday Party sign-up sheet.



Happy Hour  
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM



Dutch Treat Dinner  
at 7:00 PM



at Fitzgerald's



3112 W. Beltline Hwy  
Middleton, WI

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

#### 2006 UPCOMING MEETING/PROGRAM DATES:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>
Wednesday	January 18, 2006	Digital Photography Techniques
Wednesday	February 15, 2006	POD'casting/Nominations
Thursday	March 16, 2006	T. B. D./Nominations

Program Committee:

Steve Paugh  
277-5139

Fred Sperry  
264-9806

Steve Zimmerman  
274-1234