



NEXTEL OUTLINES 2 GHZ TRANSITION PLANS

By Tom Smith

On January 11th, SBE National Frequency Coordinator David Otey and representatives from Nextel conducted a meeting at WLS-TV in Chicago concerning the 2 GHz Broadcast Auxiliary Systems relocation. This meeting was attended by a number of Chief Engineers, ENG operation personal and local SBE frequency coordinators, including Leonard Charles, Tom Weeden, and Tom Smith from the Madison SBE chapter. The SBE will be working very closely with Nextel during this transition.

In 1997, the FCC reallocated BAS channels 1 and 2 to the Mobile Satellite Service. After a number of attempts, several companies failed to launch satellite phone systems in the band or went bankrupt in the process. Meanwhile, the FCC was looking for other uses for the band, so they could conduct an auction of the spectrum. In 2004, Nextel, the National Association of Broadcasters and the Maximum Service Association of Television Broadcasters submitted a proposal for BAS band relocation. Broadcasters were to be paid for their relocation costs by the MSS providers, but none of them ever came up with a plan or the money. Nextel meanwhile was having interference issues with public safety users who shared the 800 MHz band with them. In part of the band, Nextel and public safety users were interleaved in small adjacent slivers of spectrum. Since the base stations for Nextel were operated as a cellular system, there were many high power transmitters spread around most communities.

In the plan Nextel presented to the FCC, they would give up part of the spectrum they held in the 800 MHz band for public safety use and the FCC would repack the 800 MHz band. The band is divided into identical upper and lower blocks of spectrum with each user getting identical position in each block of the band. Normally the base station would operate in one block of the band and the mobile units in the other block. In the plan proposed by Nextel, the

(continued on page 4)

Next Meeting:

**Tuesday,
February 15, 2005**

**Electronic Theater
Controls Tour**

**Dutch Treat Dinner
at 5:30 PM**

**at Quaker Steak
and Lube
2259 Deming Way**

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

**at Electronic Theater
Controls, Inc
3031 Pleasant View Rd**

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Notice Of Elections

By Steve Paugh, Nominations Chair

Secretary – VACANT

In April we will hold elections for Chapter 24 offices of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer for the 2005-2006 term. All interested members of Chapter 24 who are current in their dues are eligible to run for elected office. The nominations committee is now accepting nominations for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. Leslie Franzen has agreed to run again as Treasurer.

Chair – VACANT
Vice Chair – VACANT
Treasurer – Leslie Franzen

First Call For Nominations

During the February 15th meeting, the nominations committee will solicit the members present for nominations. If you would like to run for an office, or know someone who wishes to run, please bring it to the attention of the nominations committee. All nominees are requested to submit a short biography for publishing with the ballot. The nominations committee consists of Steve Paugh (chair), Jim Hermanson, and Leonard Charles.

Appointed Officers

The appointed offices do not fall under the jurisdiction of the nominations committee and are appointed by the Chair of Chapter 24. Traditionally, the existing appointed officers continue for another term automatically. If you are a current appointed officer and would like to step down, please contact the current Chair Vicki Kipp. If you would like to serve as an appointed officer please make your desire known to the Chair. To a large extent, the success of Chapter 24 is due to the tireless dedication of the appointed officers.

(continued on page 5)

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January Business Meeting Minutes

Chapter 24 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers met on Thursday, January 13, 2005 at the Wisconsin Public Broadcasting Center in Madison, Wisconsin for the chapter's monthly meeting. There were 15 members in attendance, 12 of whom were certified and 2 guests.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Chapter Chair Vicki Kipp. The minutes of the November meeting as published in the December newsletter were approved. The minutes of the December meeting as published in the January newsletter were also approved.

Treasurer Leslie Franzen submitted his reported that the chapter has a balance in the black. Membership Chair Paul Stoffel reported the chapter has 64 members, 43 of whom are certified, and the chapter is mailing 113 newsletters.

Sustaining Membership Chair Fred Sperry reported on one new sustaining member – CPH Engineering. Recent renewals are Heartland Video, WISC-TV, WKOW-TV, Richardson Electronics, Harris Corporation, and Sound Devices. The chapter has 23 total sustaining members.

Program Chair Steve Paugh reported the next meeting will be Tuesday, February 15th and will be a tour of Electronic Theater Controls new building. The March meeting will be on March 16th and will have the first round of nominations for chapter offices. The chapter elections will be held on April 12th.

Certification and Education Chair Jim Hermanson submitted his report that the next certification period is during the NAB. The application deadline is March 1st.

Frequency Coordinator Tom Smith reported there has been no local coordination activity for the past couple of months. There was a SBE meeting concerning the 2 GHz transition with Nextel in Chicago on January 11th attended by Tom Smith, Tom Weeden, and Leonard Charles from the Madison area. For stations in the Madison market, the transition is going to come rather quick. New York and Los Angeles will be the first markets to do the conversion, followed by Chicago. Nextel will be paying for the equipment change, except for a couple of items. The transition will consist of about nine steps and will be handled very quickly. The whole transition is supposed to take place in a year or less.

The major markets are being done with the adjacent DMA's, of which there are 8 around Chicago. The next key date is February 7th when Nextel informs the FCC if they accept the plan or not. The new equipment is supposed to operate on the center frequency of the old channel and on the cutover date, probably a weekend, switch channels to the new compressed band. Stations should have their inventory lists of affected hardware that will need to be replaced.

The deadline line for the February newsletter will be Friday,

(continued on next page)

January Business Meeting Minutes (continued)

February 4th at midnight and the folding party will be held Wednesday, February 9th at 5:30 PM at WKOW-TV.

Under new business, Chapter Chair Kipp presented newsletter editor Mike Norton an award from the October National SBE Conference for Best Chapter Newsletter. The chapter also was award Best Regional Convention or Conference.

There was no old business.

Under professional announcements, John Salzwedel of Token Creek Mobil Television announced their new 53 foot digital truck called Hiawatha that includes the necessary infrastructure to support HD. The meeting adjourned at 7:17 PM

The evening's program was a presentation by Don Heinzen and Dave Geon of Belden CDT who updated us on the recent merger of Belden and CDT as well as an update on their latest broadcast and networking options.

Submitted by Jim Magee, Secretary

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AMATEUR RADIO NEWS

By Tom Weeden, WJ9H

- Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) reports that an Industry Canada (IC) analysis has found "overwhelming agreement" that Canada should move away from retaining a Morse code requirement as "the sole means of gaining access" to the HF amateur bands. "Amateurs should note that while the responses heavily favored deletion of the Morse Qualification as a requirement for access to the HF bands, Industry Canada still has to make and announce a decision on Morse retention or deletion," RAC emphasized. IC reported 123 comments in favor of relaxing the code requirement in Canada and only 19 "clearly opposed." Another six comments were inconclusive.

Here in the US, the FCC has made no recommendation or decision regarding the future of the current 5 WPM (Element 1) Morse requirement for HF access. It's reviewing several petitions, including one from the American Radio Relay League, that propose further amateur radio license restructuring.

- The Borough of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, has decided against plans to offer broadband Internet service via broadband over power line (BPL) technology, according to a January 18 report in "Public Opinion." The Cumberland Valley Amateur Radio Club (CVARC) spearheaded ham radio opposition to the plan in the eastern Pennsylvania community of some 17,000 residents through an informational campaign.

The Public Opinion article quoted Chambersburg officials as saying there wasn't enough money in the municipality's Electric Department budget to go forward with a BPL deployment this year. CVARC members were reportedly pleased by the outcome. "That is good news," the article quoted CVARC President David Yoder, KB3HUC, as saying "All amateur radio operators in the area are relieved to learn that apparently our concerns were taken into account." Among other things, CVARC members had told the Borough Council last year that BPL would interfere with amateur radio and its ability to provide emergency communication.

Chambersburg officials had been looking into leasing the borough's power lines to an Internet service provider as a way to generate revenue, and a consultant had recommended Chambersburg look into BPL.

- Following up on the introduction last month of two new audio public service announcements promoting Amateur Radio to the general public, the ARRL is now offering video PSAs. The new videos underscore how, in the wake of recent disasters, ham radio operators once again were able to pass emergency messages when other communications systems failed.

These "mini-commercials" for ham radio are already being played on dozens of stations across the country, and the numbers keep growing.

A 30 second MPEG version of the video is available at <<http://www.arrl.org/pio/ARRL30mpeg-video.mpg>>. Broadcast-quality video in DVD+r format is available by contacting <apitts@arrl.org>.

The audio files are available on the ARRL's web site.
30 second PSA: <<http://www.arrl.org/pio/HAMWORKS30.mp3>>
60 second PSA: <<http://www.arrl.org/pio/60HamRadioWorks0105.mp3>>

(Excerpts from the arrl.org web site)

NEXTEL TRANSITION PLANS (continued from page 1)

band would be divided into new groupings which the public service users and Nextel would each get one large band of spectrum and one band of spectrum of interleaved spectrum would go to public safety and business users. For the spectrum that Nextel gave up in the 800 MHz band, they requested spectrum in the MSS band at 1910-1915 MHz and at 1990-1995 MHz, for a total of 10 MHz of spectrum. In this plan, Nextel would have a band of frequencies just below the cellular service in the 800 MHz band and a band of frequencies just above the PCS service in the 1.9 GHz band.

As everyone is interested in getting this process underway as soon as possible, the FCC set a deadline for the BAS transition. That deadline is dependent on a decision Nextel has to give the FCC on February 7th. On that date, Nextel must notify the FCC if it accepts the terms of the decision that the FCC has ordered based on the proposal Nextel, the NAB, and the MSTV sent the Commission. If Nextel accepts on February 7th, the transition must be completed in 30 months. Nextel must then deliver a timetable to the FCC by April 6th.

Nextel has already set up a plan for the transition. The transition will be based on Designated Marketing Area's (DMA) with consideration for overlapping markets. No BAS user will have to give up spectrum before relocation. As of the Chicago meeting, Nextel will transition the New York and Los Angeles markets first, followed by the Chicago market. These markets transitions will be followed quickly by several other large markets. They will then start doing the smaller markets, proceeding on a regional basis. They will start with the Northeastern part of the nation followed by the rest of the Eastern Seaboard

and then move west with the Northern Plains and the far West going last.

The transition will follow nine steps, starting with a Pre-Market Kick Off which gives an over view of the process. The meeting in Chicago was considered the Pre-Market Kick Off for this area. That will be followed by a Market Kick Off soon after the Nextel decision in the first markets in the transition—about a month after the Pre-market Kick-off in other markets. This meeting gives the timetable and other information concerning the transition in each market. The third step occurs two months later, when stations give Nextel an inventory of equipment to be replaced and prepare for negotiations. Step four is the negotiation period which lasts for a month. Step five is the ordering of equipment which they figure should take two to four weeks. Step six is the delivery of equipment which they expect to take two months. This time is very short considering the amount of microwave equipment to be built in 30 months, but all of the manufacturers are aware of the situation and Nextel is working with them.

In the plan, Nextel will pay for transmitters and receivers, control systems, and multiband equipment if you already have it. Many stations have equipment that operates on both the 2 GHz and 7 GHz bands and they will replace these dual band units if a station is using them. Ancillary equipment such as interference filters and low-noise amplifiers; talent cueing equipment to deal with delays due to digital transmission with the new units; as well as labor and administrative costs due to planning and installation will be paid for.

They will not pay for new receive quad antennas, and omni-directional

antennas, nor will they pay for fixed link relocations such as those used for inter-city relays. They will pay for transmitters used for traffic cams. For stations that recently updated to digital radios, they will supply loaners, so their units can be updated. Nextel will pay the suppliers directly for your units, and will pay for tower work and other local labor in advance.

Nextel plans on all the stations to have the equipment installation completed by a certain date and then cutting over to the new band plan on a week-end when there are fewer news feeds. To aid in the cut-over they will be equipping the networks and RF suppliers to the networks with tunable equipment at the beginning of the transition so they can operate in any market no matter what their status is in the transition. At the end of the transition in each market, Nextel will collect and destroy the old equipment. They do not want any of the equipment finding its way back in use and causing problems, and the government needs assurance that the money was spent to replace equipment—and not add to a station's inventory.

Nextel plans on negotiating with group owners for a master agreement for the stations that they own, with the local station only having to deal with their local equipment inventory and payments. Independently owned stations will have negotiate the full agreement.

How does the Madison market fall into the plan? Madison will be an early market to convert to the new band plan as it is included with the Chicago market. There are nine DMA's included with Chicago, including Madison, Milwaukee and Rockford. They did not give the

(continued on next page)



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POWELL TO LEAVE FCC

By Tom Smith

On January 21st, Michael Powell announced that he had informed the President that he was planning to resign from the FCC as both Chairman and a member of the Commission some time in March. With his one page announcement, there was a five page attachment that highlighted his tenure. Many of these actions that he highlighted were as controversial as was the Chairman himself.

During his tenure as Chairman, he expanded the use of unlicensed spectrum and created other spectrum plans such as secondary markets where a licensee could lease spectrum to another user to do mostly as they pleased. In this spectrum reordering, he added new services that many fear will add to greater interference to the spectrum, such as broadband over power lines, ultra-wideband technology, and unlicensed services mixed in with

licensed services. The general tone of the actions during his tenure was that he spread broadband services over the airwaves with limited regard for existing services. He also attempted to speed up the transition to DTV by working out a DTV tuner agreement and mandate, and did take some steps in consumer education with a FCC webpage dedicated to the consumer and DTV.

During his time at the FCC, Powell presided over the greatest loosening of broadcast ownership rules in the history of broadcasting. Even after the FCC received the greatest number of comments on an issue (over two million comments against the proposed rules) he removed most limitations on broadcast ownership, only retaining a few rules limiting the number of stations owned by one entity in a market, newspaper-broadcast restrictions, and a limited cap on national TV ownership. Some of the new rules loosening ownership have been overturned by the courts or

been modified by Congress. Due to anger over the new rules, the FCC conducted a number of hearings on localism in broadcasting, with Powell only attending a couple of them.

His tenure may be most remembered by the FCC's reaction to the "Wardrobe Malfunction" in the 2004 Super Bowl and the increase of indecency actions against broadcasters after that time, including action against Viacom-CBS for the "Wardrobe Malfunction."

A successor has not been named, but FCC Commissioner Kevin Martin and former Texas Public Utility Commission Chairperson Rebecca Armendariz Klein have been mentioned, as have several others.

From FCC Releases (www.fcc.gov) with additional information from the Washington Post Online (www.washingtonpost.com).

Nextel Transition Plans (conclusion)

other markets included. Other markets adjacent to Chicago are South Bend-Elkhart, Grand Rapids-Kalamazoo-Battle Creek, Peoria, Champaign-Springfield-Decatur, Terre Haute and Lafayette, IN. According to the proposed plan that Nextel outlined, they expect the Chicago area including Madison to be converted to the new band plan by this time next year. It will be a busy time for the local stations.

Finally, the personnel from Nextel did not believe that the proposed merger of Sprint and Nextel would affect the transition plan.

Notice Of Elections (continued from page 1)

Their hard work often goes unseen by the membership and we owe them a debt of gratitude for their service.

The current appointed offices are Program Committee Chair- Steve Paugh, Program Committee Members- Fred Sperry & Steve Zimmerman, Newsletter Editor- Mike Norton, Membership- Paul Stoffel, Sustaining Membership- Fred Sperry, Special Events- Lonnie Cooks, Certification and Education- Jim Hermanson, Frequency Coordination- Tom Smith, and National Liaison- Leonard Charles.

Certification Chair Vacancy

Jim Hermanson has announced that he will be stepping down as Certification

Chair. Please contact Chapter Chair Vicki Kipp or Jim Hermanson if you would like to be considered for the position of Certification Chair.

Ballots

The election ballot will be included in the April newsletter. The deadline for nominations and the submission of biographies will be 48 hours prior to the deadline for submissions to the April newsletter, as announced during the March 16th meeting.

Thank you to Fred Sperry and Steve Paugh for arranging the January meeting and program with Belden CDT.




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LOCAL LEGALS

Compiled by Tom Smith

PROPOSED

**WTTN (AM), 1580 KHz,
Watertown, WI**

Good Karma Broadcasting LLC seeks to change the city of license for WTTN from Watertown, WI to Columbus, WI. They plan to move the transmitter site to the current location of WLTX (FM) which is located 7.5 miles west of Columbus just south of highway 60, and would be 23 miles from the current transmitter location in Watertown.

Power would be increased to 1.5 kilowatts daytime from the present one kilowatt. Service would be added during critical hours with 460 watts, with a nighttime power of 6 watts. Nighttime power is currently 6 watts and there is not an increase of power during critical hours for the present operation. Critical hours are time just before sunrise and after sunset, and are normally after 6 AM or before 6 PM during the parts of the year that sunrises are later than 6 AM and sunsets are before 6 PM.

The transmitter antenna would be a two tower directional with the main lobes going slightly northwest and southeast. A 163 foot tower would be added to the site with a u skirt antenna.

The notice for application was announced on January 25, 2005.

From FCC releases and WTTN application as posted on FCC web site (www.fcc.gov)

WHLA's Dan Smith Retires

By Steve Bauder

After a 31½ year career with the partners for public broadcasting in Wisconsin (Wisconsin Public Television, Wisconsin Public Radio, and the State of Wisconsin Educational Communications Board [ECB]), Dan Smith transitioned to retirement on January 24, 2005.

Dan was hired by the ECB in October 1973 to assist in the construction of WHWC-TV and FM near Menomonie. He worked with Bruce Vincent, Carl Rohde, and Vern Christian to put WHWC-TV on the air in late 1973, and the relocated WHWC-FM on the air in early 1974.

Dan's road to employment with the ECB took a few twists and turns. His skills in electronics and communications were fostered as Dan served Uncle Sam in the Army's Air Defense Command in the 1960's. After his military service, Dan cut his teeth in broadcasting beginning at channel 7 in Wausau, where he learned AM and FM radio broadcasting and earned his First Phone license. He learned the ropes of TV broadcasting after accepting a position at channel 9, also in Wausau. He had his first experience working for Tony Moe (who later became Executive Director of the ECB) at channel 9. Dan then spent a few years as an electronics and audio/visual technician at North Central Technical College in Wausau.

In mid 1973, Dan heard that the State of WI was in the process of building a TV network and was looking for talented TV Technicians to help out. He was quickly hired to help out at Menomonie. Dan was promoted to supervise the ECB's LaCrosse facility (WHLA-TV/FM) less than two years later, where he remained until his retirement.

During his career, Dan had the pleasure of serving under a number of ECB Executive Directors including Tony Moe, Paul Norton, Glenn Davison, Tom Fletemeyer, and Wendy Wink. Dan had only three direct supervisors during his ECB career: Bruce Vincent, Jim Sheetz (for over 25 years) and Pete Kingslien. Dan supervised a number of employees over his years at WHLA including Warren Bey (for nearly 19 years), Don Brisson, Charlie Ferries, Floyd Hanson, Jim Molledahl, Jack Yoshizumi, and Bill Fletcher.

Dan relates that he thought he was doing a pretty good job for the ECB until the early 90's when he got the assignment to take care of ECB's newly-acquired W64AU LPTV station on Friendship Mound. After seeing the site's location, he figured it was ECB's purgatory (or worse!). W64AU site access was strictly via 6x6 ATV driven by part-time ECB employee Carl Roekle, who's motto was "hang on or you're gonna have to walk!" Dan learned how to hang on pretty good. [This writer took only one trip up the hill and elected to walk down...yikes!!]

Dan says he'll miss the 3am phone calls the least, and the people he works with the most. His advice to those of us still looking forward to retirement is to maintain a positive outlook and to not put off those things you really want to do.

This is a bittersweet time for those of us at the ECB. We are happy to see Dan enjoy his well-earned retirement, but will miss the day-to-day interaction with Dan, his wit and wisdom ("Sometimes you just can't avoid train wrecks"), and his optimistic outlook. Have a great retirement Dan, and stay in touch!

(Steve Bauder is a regional technical manager for the ECB, and is based at WHWC-TV/DT/FM in Menomonie, WI).



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SBE To Offer Specialist Certification

By Jim Hermanson

To establish a benchmark of individual strengths, the Certification Committee created the concept of Specialist Certifications.

The SBE Program of Certification designed the AM Directional Specialist Certification to help evaluate an individual's ability to perform the necessary tasks to keep facilities operating properly. AM radio stations can operate as non-directional with a single tower or directional using more than one tower. While both require knowledge and skill to maintain in proper working order, the directional antenna system involves a higher degree of skill and understanding of RF theory.

The exam will cover the operation, maintenance and repair of a directional antenna system, tasks common to the station engineer charged with maintaining these systems. The exam will also gauge a person's knowledge of AM radiators, understanding of the principles of phase addition and cancellation, familiarity with the various components used in a directional antenna system, and ability to correctly make necessary measurements and take proper procedures to make repairs and adjustments to the system. In addition, the exam will cover the FCC rules concerning directional operation, test equipment and safety procedures. The AM Directional Specialist exam will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions.

The SBE will offer the AM Directional Specialist exam at NAB2005. An application is available on the SBE website or through the National Office.

The AM Directional Specialist Certification was developed by a subcommittee of the National Certification Committee. Larry Wilkins, CPBE, CBNT, led this effort. You can read more about the first Specialist Certification in the February 2005 issue of The SBE Signal.

FCC HOLDS LPFM FORUM

By Tom Smith

The FCC held a half-day forum on low-power FM on February 8th. There were two panels, with one discussing "meeting Local Needs" and the second discussing "Issues Affecting the Future of LPFM." The morning finished with comments from LPFM providers in the audience. The panels consisted of persons who operate LPFM stations, so all the views on the subject should be from the those who have dealt with the planning, construction and operation of a LPFM stations. Coverage of the forum was to be broadcast over the web from the FCC's Audio/Video Events web page at www.fcc.gov/realaudio and the forum should be archived there for a while.

From FCC Release (www.fcc.gov/media)

CHAPTER 24 SUSTAINING MEMBERS

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Swiderski Electronics
Token Creek Productions
WMSN-TV 47
WMTV-TV 15
Wave Communications
Wisconsin Public TV**

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SBE Chapter 24 Newsletter
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Newsletter edited on Pagemaker 7.0 by: Mike Norton
Contributors this month: Steve Bauder, Jim Hermanson, Jim Magee, Steve Paugh, Tom Smith, and Tom Weeden.
Thanks to Leonard Charles for his work on the Chapter 24 WWW page.

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FEBRUARY MEETING and PROGRAM



Society of Broadcast Engineers CHAPTER 24 MADISON, WISCONSIN Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Electronic Theater Controls Tour

Join us this month for a tour of ETC's new 25,000 square foot corporate headquarters in Middleton. The front entrance is designed to look like an amphitheater with a lighting truss over the entrance to give the appearance of a stage. Once inside the lobby you are transported to an Urban Main Street, complete with a town square, movie marquee, and a corner cafe reminiscent of Edward Hopper's Nighthawks painting. Sylvia Sinclair, Midwest Regional Sales Manager for ETC will give us an overview of current lighting technology.

Dutch Treat Dinner at 5:30 PM
Quaker Steak & Lube
2259 Deming Way
Middleton, WI

(From the Beltline, take the University Ave exit, heading west, just after the stop light (under the Beltline), turn right onto Deming Way - you'll see the Quaker Steak & Lube from the stop light)

Meeting and Program at 7:00PM
Electronic Theater Controls, Inc
3031 Pleasant View Road
Middleton, WI

(Continue west past the restaurant to the next set of stoplights; turn right onto Pleasant View Road. Then left on the frontage road and follow the road as it curves to the right. Keep going straight until you see ETC on your right (almost to Airport Road).

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

2005 UPCOMING MEETING/PROGRAM DATES:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>
Wednesday	March 16, 2005	Full Compass/Nominations
Tuesday	April 12, 2005	Tower Inspections/Elections
Thursday	May 19, 2005	Token Creek

Program Committee:

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277-5139

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264-9806

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