



DTV CHANNEL TABLE ISSUED

By Tom Smith

On June 23rd, the FCC issued a tentative DTV table for 1554 stations based on the first round of channel elections. The table was adopted at the June 9th meeting of the Commission. Over 1700 stations filed their channel election for DTV with 1,628 asking for their current NTSC or DTV channel, 50 stations decided to wait for round 2, while 62 stations entered into 37 Negotiated Channel Arrangements. Channels were listed for stations that were parties to a negotiated channel arrangement, that elected their current DTV channel, and stations that elected their NTSC channel and had no conflicts. There were 155 stations with unresolved conflicts and did not make the list in this round. WGBA (Ch. 26) in Green Bay and WMTV (Ch. 15) and WMSN (Ch. 47) in Madison were not on the list. WGBA's current DTV channel is 41. WMTV is operating its DTV transmitter on channel 19 and WMSN is operating on Channel 11. WFXS (Ch. 55) in Wausau will have to wait for the next round as it has no DTV channel and is out-of-core and is not on the list.

There are a couple of special cases in the table. WTPX in Antigo has always been DTV and will retain its channel 46 allotment. WBIJ in Crandon was one of the last NTSC channels allotted. NTSC channels allotted after a certain date did not receive a second DTV allotment and must wait until all the other stations have their final allotments before receiving theirs, or select their current NTSC channel. WBIJ choose their current NTSC channel, which is channel 4. Two stations in Wisconsin were part of a negotiated channel arrangement that got rejected. WVTV asked for channel 25 and was assigned its NTSC channel, which is channel 18. WCGV-TV asked for channel 24, which is its NTSC channel and received its current DTV channel, which is channel 25. Both stations are owned by Sinclair Broadcasting and are in Milwaukee. The FCC stated the reason was interference to WHRM in Wausau on DTV channel 24 and to WBAY in Green Bay on DTV channel 23.

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Next Meeting:

**Wednesday,
July 20, 2005**

**Land Mobile Radio
Overview**

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

**Perkins
1410 Damon Road**

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

**Wisconsin Public
Broadcasting Center
3319 W. Beltline Hwy**

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Proposed Change to Chapter 24 Bylaws

By Jim Magee

The Chapter 24 elected officers and newsletter editor have approved a proposed change to the Chapter's bylaws which now needs to be approved by the Chapter members. The change would permit the newsletter and chapter website to list equipment for sale. The intent is to allow members and sustaining members to offer unused/old equipment for sale.

The change would be to Article VI (Appointed Officers and Committees), Section 5 (The underlined portion is the proposed addition):

The Newsletter Editor shall elicit pertinent material for publication in a monthly Chapter newsletter and may solicit help from the membership to construct and mail the newsletter. Acceptance of articles for publication in the Chapter newsletter shall be at the discretion of the Newsletter Editor and the Chapter Elected Officers.

Job openings may be announced in the newsletter. An electronic version of the newsletter may be uploaded to appropriate computer bulletin board services and World Wide Web sites. Commercial advertisements, blurbs or announcements are not considered

pertinent material for the Chapter 24 World Wide Web site.

Equipment for sale listings from members and sustaining members may be published in the newsletter and uploaded to appropriate computer bulletin board services and World Wide Web Sites. Permitted information for such equipment listings are make, model, condition, brief description and price. Equipment lists offering equipment that is normally sold as part of the seller's routine business offerings is not permitted.

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June Business Meeting Minutes

Chapter 24 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers met on June 21, 2005 at Badger Prairie Park in Verona for the annual picnic meeting. Chef Steve Paugh started the grill at 5:30 with brats and hamburgers along with dishes brought by members to pass. There were 11 members and 4 guests present.

Chair Jim Magee called a brief business meeting to order at 6:58 PM. The minutes of the May meeting were approved as published in the June newsletter as motioned by Gerrit Marshall and seconded by Tom Weeden.

Treasurer Leslie Franzen reported the current balance was in the black. Chair Jim Magee reported that the chapter had received the dues rebate from the SBE national office.

Steve Paugh gave the program committee report. The next meeting will be held on July 20th at the ECB offices and will be on mobile commercial and public safety radio. The August 18th meeting will a tour of the Overture Center, the September meeting will be on fiber connections between cameras and trucks, and the October meeting will be at the Broadcast Clinic. The November meeting will be a DTV tuner shoot-out and program on stream sniffing with the Holiday party at the December Meeting.

Frequency coordinator Tom Smith reported that Nextel was planning a kick-off meeting for the 2 GHz transition tentatively set for July 18th. Also reported was that the FCC had set the date of June 27th for the start of the transition of land mobile and public safety users in the 800 MHz band that is part of the changes being made with Nextel moving part of their service to the 2 GHz band.

There were no other committee reports due to the absence of committee chairpersons.

In new business, Chair Jim Magee noted the passing of SBE member and ECB engineer Bill Fletcher on June 11th. Jim also raised the issue of accepting want ads in the newsletter. It was discussed and the executive committee will come up with a by-law change to be voted on at the next meeting.

In old business, Jim mentioned that the committee positions of newsletter editor, certification and education chair, and special event chair were still open.

Submitted by Tom Smith, Secretary

Proposed Change to Chapter 24 Bylaws (continued from page 1)

The proposed change was discussed at the June meeting, but had not been formally written. The formal change will be submitted at the July meeting and then voted upon at the August meeting.

The amendment would need to be approved by two-thirds vote of those members present.

800 MHZ TRANSITION STARTS

By Tom Smith

On June 27th, the 800 MHz band realignment was to commence. Just as TV broadcasters have to realign the 2 GHz band to allow for Nextel to move into the band, users in the 800 MHz band must also start to realign that band. This realignment is to reduce interference in the 800 MHz band, and is the reason that Nextel requested spectrum in the 2 GHz band.

By moving some of their system to the 2 GHz band, Nextel is able to free up some of the 800 MHz spectrum for public service users. Public service and business users were subject to much interference from Nextel base stations. Nextel moving part of their operations to 2 GHz and realigning the 800 MHz band from interweaved users to separate blocks of spectrum should reduce interference among the users of that band.

The timetable for this transition is the same as the 2 GHz broadcast transition, which will finish in 30 months. Wisconsin and its surrounding states will be in the first wave to make the transition. The notice for order was released on May 27, 2005.

(From www.fcc.gov web site)

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 important and experience with PageMaker for Windows a plus. Please contact the Chapter Chair for more information.



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AMATEUR RADIO NEWS

By Tom Weeden, WJ9H

- A US Senate version of the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2005 has been introduced with bipartisan support in the 109th Congress. Senator Michael Crapo of Idaho sponsored the measure, S 1236, on June 14. The wording of the bill is identical to the House version, HR 691, introduced earlier this year by Representative Michael Bilirakis of Florida. Joining Crapo as cosponsors of the Senate bill were Senators Christopher Bond of Missouri, Max Baucus and Conrad Burns of Montana, and Daniel Akaka of Hawaii. The bill has been referred to the US Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee of which Burns is a member.

Like previous versions of the proposal, the House and Senate measures would require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to the Amateur Radio and Amateur-Satellite services in the event of reallocation to other services of primary amateur spectrum or the diminution of secondary amateur spectrum. The bill also would cover additional allocations within Amateur Radio bands that "would substantially reduce" their utility to Amateur Service licensees.

The legislation references Amateur Radio's role in providing "voluntary, noncommercial radio service, particularly emergency communications," and it points out that hams have "consistently and reliably" provided communication support in the event of emergencies and disasters including tornadoes and hurricanes, chemical spills, forest fires and rail accidents. As the measure notes, FCC actions already have led to the loss of at least 107 MHz of spectrum to radio amateurs.

- Effective Monday, July 11, a revised FCC Form 605, "Quick-Form Application for Authorization in the Ship, Aircraft, Amateur, Restricted and Commercial Operator, and General Mobile Radio Services," goes into effect. The revised form includes a new Question 13 that will affect amateurs applying for an administrative update (AU) to reflect a change in licensee name. Question 13 now asks: "If the licensee name is being updated, is the update a result from the sale (or transfer of control) of the license(s) to another party and for which proper Commission approval has not been received or proper notification not provided?"

Amateur Radio Service applicants should always answer "no" to Question 13. Not answering the question—which has nothing to do with the Amateur Radio Service—could result in dismissal of an application. The FCC has indicated that versions of Form 605 prior to July 2005 will be considered obsolete. But the change will not affect the NCVET Form 605 that Volunteer Examiner teams use.

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

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DTV CHANNEL TABLE ISSUED (continued from page 1)

There will be another round of channel elections starting in August, with stations filing conflict decision forms and the rest of the stations filing round two channel elections in September. This round affects stations that have two out-of-core channels and stations with in-core channels that decide to wait or have unresolved channel conflicts. Next February, stations that still have a conflict must resolve it or decide on accepting interference in part of their coverage

area. Stations without a DTV channel now will also have an opportunity to select a channel from what may be open in the table after the round two selections are made.

The following list contains all of the Wisconsin stations that have received DTV channel assignments, as well as the markets in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Michigan that adjoin Wisconsin. Study of the table may help in understanding how the stations are to

fit together and avoid interference to each other.

Some of the results are not unexpected while others are. None of the low band VHF NTSC stations choose their low band channels for DTV and a few of the high band VHF stations choose a UHF channel instead of their NTSC channel. There were stations in other areas that did elect to keep their low band VHF NTSC channel for their final DTV channel.

Station	Location	DTV	NTSC	Election
WTPX	Antigo	46	.....	-
WACY	Appleton	27	.....	32
WEUX	Chippewa Falls	49	.....	48
WBIJ	Crandon	-	.....	4
WYOW	Eagle River	28	.....	34
WEAU-TV	Eau Claire	39	.....	13
WQOW-TV	Eau Claire	15	.....	18
WWAZ-TV	Fond Du Lac	44	.....	68
WBAY-TV	Green Bay	23	.....	2
WFRV-TV	Green Bay	39	.....	5
WLUK-TV	Green Bay	51	.....	11
WPNE	Green Bay	42	.....	38
WBWU	Janesville	32	.....	57
WPXE	Kenosha	40	.....	55
WHLA-TV	La Crosse	30	.....	31
WBKT	La Crosse	41	.....	8
WLAX	La Crosse	17	.....	25
WHA-TV	Madison	20	.....	21
WISC-TV	Madison	50	.....	3
WKOW-TV	Madison	26	.....	27
WWRS-TV	Mayville	43	.....	52
WHWC-TV	Menomonie	27	.....	28
WCGC-TV	Milwaukee	25	.....	24
WDJT-TV	Milwaukee	46	.....	58
WISN-TV	Milwaukee	34	.....	12
WITI	Milwaukee	33	.....	6
WMVS	Milwaukee	8	.....	10
WMVT	Milwaukee	35	.....	36
WTMJ-TV	Milwaukee	28	.....	4
WVCY-TV	Milwaukee	22	.....	30
WVTV	Milwaukee	61	.....	18
WLEF-TV	Park Falls	47	.....	36
WJJA	Racine	48	.....	49
WJFW-TV	Rhineland	16	.....	12
KBJR-TV	Superior	19	.....	6
WIWB	Suring	21	.....	14
WAOW-TV	Wausau	29	.....	9
WHRM-TV	Wausau	24	.....	20
WSAW-TV	Wausau	40	.....	7
Michigan				
WDHS	Iron Mountain	22	.....	8

Illinois				
WBBM-TV	Chicago	3	.....	2
WCIU-TV	Chicago	27	.....	26
WCPX	Chicago	43	.....	38
WFLD	Chicago	31	.....	32
WGN-TV	Chicago	19	.....	9
WLS-TV	Chicago	52	.....	7
WMAQ-TV	Chicago	29	.....	5
WSNS-TV	Chicago	45	.....	44
WTTW	Chicago	47	.....	11
WYCC	Chicago	21	.....	20
WPWR-TV	Gary	51	.....	50
WYIN	Gary	17	.....	56
WIFR	Freeport	41	.....	23
WQRF-TV	Rockford	42	.....	39
WREX-TV	Rockford	54	.....	13
WTVO	Rockford	16	.....	17
Iowa				
KFXB	Dubuque	43	.....	40
KFXA	Cedar Rapids	27	.....	28
KGAN	Cedar Rapids	51	.....	2
KPXR	Cedar Rapids	47	.....	48
KRIN	Waterloo	35	.....	32
KWWF	Waterloo	-	.....	22
KWWL	Waterloo	55	.....	7
KIIN	Iowa City	45	.....	12
KWBK	Iowa City	25	.....	20
Minnesota				
KDLH	Duluth	33	.....	3
KQDS-TV	Duluth	17	.....	21
WDIO-TV	Duluth	43	.....	10
WDSE-TV	Duluth	38	.....	8
KARE	Minneapolis	35	.....	11
KMSP-TV	Minneapolis	26	.....	9
KMWB	Minneapolis	22	.....	23
WCCO-TV	Minneapolis	32	.....	4
KTTC	Rochester	36	.....	10
KXLT-TV	Rochester	46	.....	47
KPXM	ST. Cloud	40	41
KSTP-TV	St. Paul	50	5
KCTA-TV	St. Paul	34	2
KCTI-TV	St. Paul	16	17



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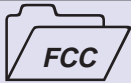
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FCC Rulemakings

Compiled by Tom Smith

FINAL RULEMAKINGS

ET Docket 05-24 Requirements for Digital Television Receiving Capability

At the June 9, 2005 meeting of the FCC, the Commissioners rejected a request by the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) and the Consumer Electronics Retailers Association (CERC) to delay the date by which 50% of all mid-size receivers (25"-36") must have digital television tuners. The CEA and CERC asked that the July 1, 2005 date for the 50% requirement be eliminated and that all mid-sized sets have DTV tuners in them by July 1, 2006, which is the date originally set by the FCC.

The FCC retained the July 1, 2005 date for 50% compliance of the DTV tuner rule. In a notice of further rulemaking the FCC proposed that the date for all mid-size TV's to have DTV tuners be moved up to March 1, 2006. By requiring manufacturers to comply with the DTV tuner rule for all sets by March 1st, the FCC feels that it will ensure that there will be sufficient DTV sets available for the 2005 holiday and 2006 Super Bowl seasons.

The FCC also moved up the date for having all sets to have DTV tuners from July 1, 2007 to December 31, 2006. This is a change from the original July 1, 2007 rule that would have required DTV tuners in sets from 13'-24". Sets smaller than 13" were not under any DTV tuner requirements in the original rules. The deadline for devices to record TV programs that included tuners, such as VCRs and DVRs, was

also moved from July 1, 2007 to December 31, 2006.

In the comments concerning the request for the delay in the DTV tuner requirement for 25"-36" sets, the comments for the delay were from the consumer electronics industry and the comments against the delay were from broadcasters, consumers and public safety interests.

This notice was released on June 9th with comments due on July 27, 2005 and replies due on August 10, 2005. The rule that reconfirms the 50% DTV tuner date of July 1, 2005 date for 25"-36" TV's and the moving up of the DTV tuner date to 100% for 25"-36" to March 1, 2006 takes effect on August 5, 2005.

PROPOSED RULEMAKINGS

MB Docket No. 05-210; RM-10960 Revision of Procedures Governing Amendments To FM Table of Allotments And Changes of Community Of License in the Radio Broadcast Service

In response to a petition by First Broadcasting Investment Partners, LLC, the FCC is proposing significant changes in the method that new FM allocations are made and in changes in the application process that allows a station to change its city of license.

The changes that the FCC is proposing for the amendment of the FM table of allotments are the first changes since 1982, when the FCC removed some restrictions. The current method of making allotments for new FM stations was started when the current table was issued in 1963. Currently, one has to file a petition for rulemaking when requesting a new FM allotment.

The petitioner and anyone else interested in the allotment can file if the proposed allotment meets FCC rules and it is added to the table and then an application to build the station. In the FM auction the FCC concluded that most of the petitioners for new FM allotments were not following through by applying and bidding for the allotments. In fact, there were 259 allotments in the auction that were the result of petitions and only 18 of the 149 petitioners bid on any. First Broadcasting, the FCC and commentators agreed that too many of the petitions for allotments were not bona fide.

To solve the problem, the FCC is proposing that the petition to amend the table of allotments be filed with a 301 application to construct a new station. This would make applying for a new FM station a one-step process much like AM radio. Part of the problem is that a petition to amend the table of allotments is made with no fee, allowing one to file many petitions with no plans to use them. Clear Channel and Cumulus proposed that the FCC create a fee for filing a petition to amend the table. The FCC proposed that by having to file a 301 application with its fee, that would be a disincentive for frivolous petitions. These applications would still be subject to counterproposals to the allotment.

As part of this proposal, the FCC would also like to limit the amount of changes to other allotments, including those of existing stations, to five channel changes. Another change would be since the 301 application is electronically filed, the petition to amend the table would also be electronically filed as it would be submitted with the 301 application. Currently, a petition to amend the FM or TV tables of allotments are one of the few actions that must be filed for with a piece of paper.

(continued on page 6)

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FCC Rulemakings (continued from page 5)

The second part of this rulemaking concerns community of license changes for existing stations. The FCC is proposing the AM and FM community of license changes all be handed as minor changes. This would allow the applications to be handled on a first come, first served basis. This would shorten the application process and may reduce the number of mutually exclusive applications and the likelihood of going to auction.

As part of the change of community process, the FCC is also seeking comment on limits to stations moving from a community if it is the only station located there, or in multi-station communities, how should the increase in the number of stations in one place balance the decrease in another.

As Part of this notice, the FCC ordered a freeze on accepting any new petitions to amend the FM table of allotments. They also opened a 90 day settlement window where mutually exclusive petitioners can settle the outcome of their petitions. The FCC

has waived their buy-out rules to allow payment larger than expenses only. Normally, one cannot profit from a settlement of a mutually exclusive allotment petition.

The discussion in this notice is quite in-depth, even though it is only 27 pages long. Because this is a major change in FCC rules concerning an application process, there are many other issues not covered here that further explain the background of the issues.

The action was adopted by the FCC on June 9th with the full text released on June 14th. Comments are due 60 days after publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER, with replies due 30 days later.

**MM Docket No. 99-25; FCC 05-75
Creation of a Low Power Radio
Service**

On July 7th, the FEDERAL REGISTER published the proposed rule

changes for low power FM (LPFM). The FCC adopted an order in March for a proposed rulemaking concerning changes in certain rules for the LPFM service. At that time, the order stated that comments would be taken for 30 days after publishing the notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The Comment period has now started and will end on August 8th, with replies due on August 22nd.

The FCC also published a separate notice that would order a six-month freeze on new LPFM applications, and would increase the area that a licensee could move a LPFM transmitter and still have the move considered a minor change.

Because of a delay by the Office of Budget and Management, no date for making these rules effective was issued. That date will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER later. For more information, see the April Newsletter.

(From www.fcc.gov web site)

SBE's Short Circuits – July 2005

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

**DEADLINE FOR NATIONAL BOARD
NOMINATIONS NEAR**

The deadline for voting members of SBE to nominate candidates for national officer and director positions is July 18. Qualified members nominated by the deadline will be added to the nominees already put forth by the Nominations Committee.

To be included on the ballot, nominations from members must be submitted by letter to the national Secretary (Ralph Hogan, CPBE, CBNT). Any qualified member

proposed by ten or more members will be entered on the ballot. Eligible candidates are those who are voting members of SBE (Regular, Fellow, Senior and voting representatives of Sustaining Members) in good standing (dues paid) and hold an engineering-level SBE certification (CBT, CBRE, CBTE, CSRE, CSTE, CPBE).

Nomination letters should be mailed or expressed to the SBE National Office, 9247 N. Meridian Street, Suite 305, Indianapolis, IN 46260 and addressed to Ralph Hogan, National Secretary; Attention: Nominations. They must be RECEIVED by July 18.


Election ballots will be mailed no

later than August 2 and will be due back to the National Office no later than September 1. The list of nominees forwarded by the Nominations Committee follows.

**8 VSB TO BE SPECIALIST
CERTIFICATION**

The Society of Broadcast Engineers has announced that the second topic in a series of specialist certifications will be 8-VSB. 8-VSB was chosen because of the ongoing progress in digital television and the importance of identifying qualified broadcast engineers who are critical to its implementation.

(continued on next page)



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SBE's Short Circuits (continued)

David Carr, CPBE, is leading a subcommittee to create this Specialist Certification. Carr is a former chairman of the SBE National Certification Committee. He is also the director of engineering for Telemundo Arizona and has been involved with the group's transition to digital transmission. He previously oversaw the transition to digital at KHOU-TV in Houston, which was the first all-digital station in the country.

The SBE National Certification Committee expects to have this level of Certification ready by mid-October, when SBE will hold its annual National Meeting in Dallas, Texas. The first SBE Specialist Certification exams were administered during NAB2005 on the topic of maintaining AM directional.

SBE NATIONAL MEETING SET FOR TEXAS

The 2005 National Meeting of the Society of Broadcast Engineers will be held October 19-20 in Grapevine, Texas. Grapevine is just north of DFW International Airport in the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex.

The National Meeting is being held in conjunction with the Broadcast Engineering Expo (BEE) sponsored by SBE Chapter 67 of North Texas. More information about the BEE is available at the chapter 67 web site, www.sbe67.org.

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FCC ISSUES CONSUMER FACTS ON PAYOLA

By Tom Smith

The FCC has issued a consumer fact sheet on Payola Rules. In this fact sheet the FCC gives a short explanation of the rules and a description on how to make a complaint to the FCC.

The section about the rules describes what payola is and who can be held responsible for airing material that payment has been accepted for. In the section about filing a complaint, the FCC asks the complainant for details of the content of the broadcast, date and time, call sign of the stations, and a reason why they believe payment or other consideration was made that required sponsorship identification.

FCC Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein applauded the release of the fact sheet in a full-page press release. Adelstein had made a speech on May 25th concerning payola and the use of video news releases that were provided for promotion purposes. This Fact Sheet and Adelstein's press release were issued on June 15th.

(From www.fcc.gov web site)

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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CHAPTER 24 SUSTAINING MEMBERS

WELCOME TO OUR NEW SUSTAINING MEMBER:
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Token Creek Productions

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Belden CDT—Networking Division
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CTI
Clark Wire and Cable
Harris Corporation
Heartland Video Systems
maney-logic
Norlight Telecommunications
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Sony Broadcast
Sound Devices, LLC
WISC-TV 3
WKOW-TV 27
WMSN-TV 47
WMTV-TV 15
Wave Communications
Wisconsin Public TV

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NATIONAL**



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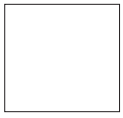
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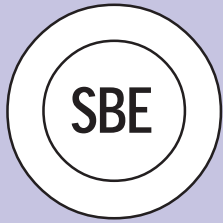


FIRST CLASS MAIL

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

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JULY MEETING and PROGRAM



**Society of Broadcast Engineers
CHAPTER 24 MADISON, WISCONSIN
Wednesday, July 20, 2005**

LAND MOBILE RADIO FOR COMMERCIAL AND PUBLIC SAFETY OPERATIONS

Steve Miller of General Communications Inc. will present an overview of land mobile radio. Steve will discuss trends in FCC licensing and frequency allocation in business communications and in government/public safety communications. He will provide a look at current and emerging technologies. Steve will host a question and answer session.

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

**Perkins
1410 Damon Road
Madison, WI
(no reservation - just gather together)**

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

**Wisconsin Public Broadcasting Center
3319 W. Beltline Hwy
Madison, WI**

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>
Thursday	August 18, 2005	Overture Center Technial Tour
Tuesday	September 13, 2005	Fiber Optic Cable for Remotes
Wednesday	October 12, 2005	T.B.D./Broadcast Clinic

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