



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

*Society of Broadcast Engineers*

*November 2005*

## **CONGRESSIAL COMMITTEES SET ANALOG SHUTOFF DATE**

*By Tom Smith*

The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee and the House Commerce Committee advanced their separate versions of a bill to set a firm shut-off date for analog TV transmissions. In the Senate Bill, The date was set as April 7, 2009, which would place the shutdown after the 2009 NCAA Men's basketball final. The House version places the shut-off date as December 31, 2008 (*see sidebar on page 4*). Both bills propose a payment to lower income homes to purchase set top converters. The senate is proposing \$3 billion and the house is proposing \$990 million. According to the House Bill, each household would get up to two coupons for the purchase of two converters starting on January 1, 2008. Coupons could not be doubled up for the purchase of one box. The coupons would expire on March 31, 2009. The Senate also allotted \$200 million for translator conversions.

The overriding issue is that of auctioning up the spectrum and creating new spectrum for public safety. Both bills require auctions for the remaining spectrum from TV channels 52 through 69 to begin to be auctioned by January 7, 2008. The auctions are expected to take in \$10 billion and both versions have allotted much of the money for other purposes in this bill. The Senate is also requiring the FCC to add another \$10 Million in 2006 regulatory fees.

In the House version of the bill, there are requirements for manufacturers and dealers of analog TVs to place notices in stores and on packaging that alerts consumer to the analog shut off date, options for continued reception of broadcast TV after the shut off date, and information on the converter box program. TV Stations will be required to air a 60 second public service

(continued on page 4)

## **Next Meeting:**

**Thursday,  
November 17, 2005**

**DTV Receiver  
Shootout and PSIP  
Stream Sniffing**

**Dutch Treat Dinner  
at 6:00 PM  
at Parkway Family  
Restaurant  
1221 Ann Street**

**Meeting and Program  
at 7:00PM  
WBUW-TV Studios  
2814 Syene Road**

## **In This Issue:**

Minutes .....	page 2
Certification Info.....	page 2
Amateur Radio News ....	page 3
Low Power AM .....	page 5
SBE's Short Circuits .....	page 6

## **FCC OKs NEW AM ANTENNA SYSTEM**

*By Tom Smith*

On October 25<sup>th</sup>, the Media Bureau issued a notice that announced simplified procedures for the authorization of the use of the KinStar antenna system by non-directional AM stations. The FCC will not require stations to routinely submit proof of performance, current distribution measurements of formula for vertical plane radiation characteristics for non-directional AM stations using this antenna.

The antenna was developed by Star-H Corporation and manufactured

by Kintronic Laboratories, Inc. The antenna is about one third the height of a normal quarter wavelength vertical tower used by many AM stations.

The KinStar antenna consists of a cage that is .08 wavelengths high and .008 wavelengths in diameter. From the top of this cage four horizontal elements extend out .17 wavelengths. These elements are at 90 degrees to each other (see figure 1).

The antenna is matched to the transmitter and transmission line with similar units as would be used with a

vertical tower, and the standard 120 ground radial system is used.

At the bottom of the AM band at 550 kHz, the KinStar antenna would be 136.3 feet high with the horizontal elements having a radius of 306.6 feet and the cage being 32 feet in diameter. At the center of the AM band at 1000 kHz, the height is 75 feet, the horizontal elements radius is 168.6 feet and the cage is 17 feet in diameter. At the top of the AM band at 1680 kHz, the height is 44.9 feet, the horizontal elements radius is 100.1 feet and the cage is 10 feet in

(continued on page 5)

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## October Business Meeting Minutes

Chapter 24 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers meet on October 17, 2005 at the Marriott Hotel in Middleton, as part of the program of the Broadcasters Clinic. There were 29 persons in attendance. 28 were members of which 20 were certified. There was one guest. Chair Jim Magee called the meeting to order at 7:11 PM and conducted a short business meeting.

Minutes were approved as published in the October Newsletter on a motion by Stan Starch, which was seconded by Leonard Charles.

Newsletter Editor Mike Norton announced the deadline for the November newsletter as being at Midnight on November 4<sup>th</sup> and the folding party as being held at WKOW at 5:30 PM on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

Program Chair Steve Paugh announced that the next meeting would be held at WBUW-TV and would be the DTV Receiver Shoot Out and Stream Sniffing Demo.

SBE National Board member Keith Kinter was present and congratulated the Chapter on winning a National Award for Best Newsletter and said that he would be attending the National Meeting.

There was no other business discussed.

Anna Marie Newman from American Transmission Company presented an interesting program on electrical power distribution in Wisconsin.

*Submitted by Tom Smith, Secretary*

## SBE Certification Information Available

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 [jhermanson@wisctv.com](mailto:jhermanson@wisctv.com).

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.

## Long Time . . .

You know you have been a broadcast engineer for a long time when...

- Unlike most listeners, you turn up the volume when the DJ comes on and down when the song starts.

- The tips of your thumbs still have grooves from cleaning quad heads.

- You think you can tweak the color balance of things that you see on the street.

- Your excuse for not wearing a tie is that you are afraid it will be caught in a tape machine.

- You wish you could turn down the enhancement on your own skin tones.

- You have a TV or radio in your house that you consider your official "demod".

- You are old enough to know that "Kilocycles" has nothing to do with Harley Davidson.

- You can say "El-Tee, Ar-Tee" like its one word.

- When someone says, "Hit the plates," you don't think of breaking dishes.

Can you think of any more? Let us know!

(Submitted by Kevin Ruppert)

Thank you to Steve Paugh for coordinating the October Program by American Transmission Company.



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## AMATEUR RADIO NEWS

By Tom Weeden, WJ9H

- The American Radio Relay League again has urged the FCC to provide meaningful operating privileges to entry-level Amateur Radio licensees, including access to high frequencies (HF), even if it doesn't want to create a new license class. Commenting in response to the FCC's July 9 Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order, the League also stood by its stance that the Commission retain the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for Amateur Extra applicants, but do away with it for General applicants.

"Retaining Morse telegraphy as a requirement for only the Amateur Extra class license, in ARRL's view, places Morse telegraphy in a proper, balanced perspective," the League told the Commission October 31, the deadline to comment in the proceeding. Reply comments are due November 14.

The FCC's NPRM&O proposed eliminating the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes but denied requests to create a new entry-level license class with limited HF privileges. The League said the FCC needs to finish the job of license restructuring it began in 1998 by reviewing operating privileges for all classes—especially at the first rung of the licensing ladder.

The ARRL reminded the FCC that its restructuring plan enjoyed the support the two Amateur Radio licensees in Congress—Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR) and Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR).

Eliminating the Morse requirement for General class applicants "creates an anomaly with respect to the Technician class license," the ARRL noted. "If the telegraphy requirement for the General class license is eliminated, the distinction between the Technician class licensee and the Technician Plus class licensee will have disappeared completely." Therefore, the League contends, there is a logical basis for affording Technician licensees entry-level HF privileges.

Under the ARRL plan, Technicians would have telegraphy and data privileges on 3.55-3.7 MHz, 7.05-7.125 MHz and 21.05-21.20 MHz at 100 W output and on 28.05-28.3 MHz at 50 W output. The League wants the FCC to provide HF phone and image privileges to Technicians on 3.9-4.0 MHz, 7.2-7.3 MHz and 21.35-21.45 MHz at 100 W output, and on 28.3-28.5 MHz at 50 W.

The time is right to take a look at the operating privileges of Amateur Radio license classes, the ARRL said in its filing, "because the entry-level license class is demonstrably neither attractive to newcomers nor encouraging in terms of retaining the interest of license holders."

To back up its assertions, the League pointed to surveys it conducted in  
(continued on page 7)

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## COMMITTEES SET ANALOG SHUTOFF DATE (continued from page 1)

announcement twice a day on the hours between 8 to 9 AM and 8 to 9 PM alerting of the shut off. A short script is included in the bill. The bill also makes the FCC tuner rules and the deadlines for finalizing the DTV allotment table law.

The House version of the bill is 33 pages long and the Senate version is six. The House version contains much background material and more

specific language while the Senate version just refers on many cases to the striking out and replacing of many sections of the current law.

Both bills will have to be voted on by their respective members and the bills will then have to go to conference to work out the differences.

*From The House and Senate Websites*

## 8-VSB Measurement Seminar

Gary Sgrignoli will present a 8-VSB seminar on November 17, 2005 in Elk Grove Village, IL. The one-day seminar will be presented on the ATSC's digital television (DTV) vestigial sideband (VSB) transmission system measurements. This seminar, a follow-up to the original VSB Fundamentals seminar, is aimed at broadcasters, broadcast consultants, equipment manufacturers (broadcast, consumer, & test), translator/LPTV operators, and cable operators.

The seminar will help you develop a basic understanding of 8-VSB transmission system measurements in the laboratory, at a transmitter site, and at remote field test sites. Practical test equipment information such as features, options, specs, & other performance requirements will be covered. Attendance at this seminar earns one SBE credit towards re-certification and it can facilitate preparation for the SBE VSB Specialist Certification exam when it is released.

The seminar will focus on the following topics:

- Brief 8-VSB Transmission System Review
- Basic Measurement Concepts
  - Power meters Spectrum analyzers Clock frequency & jitter analyzers
- VSB LABORATORY Measurement Concepts, equipment requirements, specs, etc.
- VSB TRANSMITTER Measurement Concepts, equipment requirements, specs, etc.
- VSB FIELD Measurement Concepts, equipment requirements, specs, etc.

Time for Q and A will not only be *allowed*, but *encouraged* throughout the all-day Power Point presentation. In-depth seminar notes and reference material will be handed out to all attendees to take home. A *lunch buffet* will be provided. Dress will be *casual*.

Enrollment is limited, so please RSVP soon. Cost is \$60 when pre-registered; \$70 at the door. If you have **Questions**, Contact **Mark Albert**, Chapter 26 vice-

## WHY EVEN YEARS?

*By Tom Smith*

One issue that never changes in these bills is the year. The shut off date for analog TV is always at the end of an even year. First, it was the end of 2006, now it is at the end of 2008. Even the date first tossed around when they DTV rules were written was January 1, 2011.

Why always even years? This places the shut-off date just after the November Congressional elections. This gives the members of Congress 18 to 22 months depending on which date the shut off occurs before they stand for reelection. And if the loss of analog TV service raises the ire of enough people, they may need the time for the public to cool off if they want to get reelected. And for many people, fooling around with their TV is a serious issue.

chairman at 847-299-8080 (x1639), or FAX 847-299-4206, or E-mail: malbert@roscor.com.

*Hosted by: Chicago SBE Chapter 26*

8-VSB Measurement Seminar  
Thursday, November 17, 2005  
8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Holiday Inn Hotel &  
Conference Center  
1000 Busse Road  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

## Sprint/Nextel BAS Website

Learn more information about the Broadcast Auxiliary Service changes in the 2 GHz ENG band, and find out how it effects your station at:  
[www.2ghzrelocation.com](http://www.2ghzrelocation.com)



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AUDIO VIDEO A / V LIGHTING

## ANOTHER LOW POWER PROPOSAL

By Tom Smith

The FCC is seeking comments on a petition proposing the creation of low power station on the AM band. This petition is in response to a petition by Fred Baumgartner for the creation of a low power AM service on the extended AM band (1610-1700 kHz). Baumgartner proposed a 100-watt service with a short antenna and with fixed distance separations from both existing full power stations and other LPAM stations.

The new petition is on behalf of five groups or persons. They are The Amherst Alliance of Michigan, The LPAM Network of Maine; The Michigan Music is World Class! Campaign, Nickolaus Leggett and Don Schellhardt.

In their petition, the group proposed that LPAM stations could not be owned by established broadcasters, an ownership limit of 12 LPAM stations, commercial operation allowed, owners live within 25 miles of one of their stations, no requirement that owners be a established non-profit group like in LPFM, with business and individual ownership allowed, and exemption from auctions.

The petition group was able to agree on the ownership and other non technical standards, but they did not present a final proposal for technical standards. The LPAM Network proposes a 100-watt power limit with the spacing-planning factor based on a 1000-watt output. The other groups proposed three power limits, 1 to 10 watts in large urban areas, 100 watts in

smaller urban areas and 101 to 250 watts in rural areas. The planning factor for channel spacing would be five times the transmitter power.

The main point of the technical part of the petition was that the spacing guidelines in the Baumgartner petition were overly restrictive. With the ownership issues, they disagreed with Baumgartner's request that the service be non-commercial and built their case on the consolidation of the broadcast industry with the large ownership of station by one entity.

The Docket number is RM-11287 with comments on the petition due on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

From [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov), with additional information from [www.rwonline.com](http://www.rwonline.com)

## FCC OKs NEW AM ANTENNA SYSTEM (continued from page 1)

diameter. Above 1200 kHz, wooden utility poles can be used for support, with metal towers used for antennas below 1200 kHz.

The KinStar antenna can be used to avoid aeronautical issues as they are short enough to normally not be lit or painted, and should be easier to get zoning approval as their appearance would be similar to overhead power lines and would be less visible than a tall tower.

The FCC will consider the use of the KinStar antenna for directional stations when more information is available.

The notice and the data submitted by the designers of

the system, including construction information, modeling, and field-testing are linked to in the October 25<sup>th</sup> online edition of the FCC Daily Digest.

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

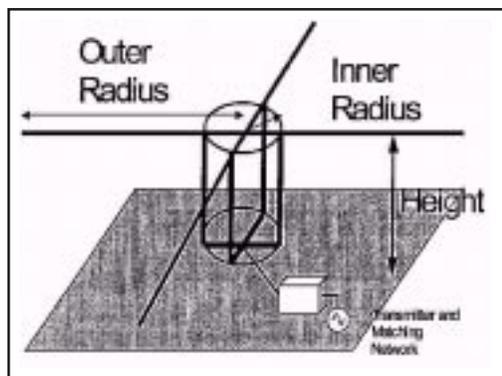


Figure 1. KinStar AM Antenna System diagram (from KinStar filing with the FCC, from the Star-H Corporation.)

## DTV STATIONS ON THE AIR

As of November 8th, there are 1525 DTV stations in 211 markets providing programming. Over 99.98% of all US homes are in markets with at least one DTV signal on the air.

In Wisconsin there are 41 DTV stations currently on air. The National Association of Broadcasters maintains a list of DTV stations that are in operation. This can be found at the NAB web site ([www.nab.org](http://www.nab.org)).

## 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.

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

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

**SBE UNVEILS NEW WEB SITE**

The Society of Broadcast Engineers has unveiled a newly designed and improved web site. The new site, which retains the [www.sbe.org](http://www.sbe.org) address, features improved navigation, more functionality and modern graphic design. Among the new functions available are an on-line new member application and on-line ordering of books and logo items from the SBE Store. The site continues to feature the popular JobsOn-line, ResumeBank and Contract Engineer Directory as well as information about all of SBE's services and programs.

The new web site includes a number of items for SBE members only, which can be accessed by using your log-in code (your SBE member number) and a password supplied by SBE. Your password has been mailed to you with your annual SBE Membership Directory and Buyers' Guide. Look for the special SBE web site information, which includes your log-in and personal password, printed on a yellow insert that comes with your Membership Directory.

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP  
DIRECTORY MAILED TO  
MEMBERS**

The annual SBE Membership Guide and Buyers' Guide has been mailed to all SBE members. Members should expect to receive theirs in late October or early November. The 2005-06 edition includes contact information for more than 5,000 individual members. Listings are arranged alphabetically and by state and chapter.

A Buyers' Guide is a special section

devoted to more than 130 SBE Sustaining Members, which are also listed alphabetically. Sustaining Members can also be located using the classified yellow section which lists members' services and products in more than 140 categories. There is a listing of contract and consulting engineers organized by state.

The SBE Membership Directory also includes helpful and historical information about SBE including a list of all chapters and their web sites, the national Board of Directors and staff, lists of Charter, Fellow, Honorary and Life members and all past winners of the national SBE awards. The SBE By-laws and Canons of Ethics and a directory of SBE programs and services are also included.

This year, your directory is also coming to you with a yellow page inserted that includes your log-in and password for the new SBE web site. Be sure to look for it. If you don't see it, contact the National Office at (317) 846-9000.

**ITHACA, NEW YORK IS NEWEST  
SBE CHAPTER**

The charter application for Chapter 140 of Ithaca, New York was approved by the Board of Directors on October 19. The chapter is based at Ithaca College and its members, so far, consist of employees at the college's broadcast stations. Ithaca is in the Finger Lakes Region of New York State. The new chapter chairman is SBE Charter member, David D. Allen.

**CHAPTER 22, CENTRAL NEW  
YORK TO HOST 2006 NATIONAL  
MEETING**

The 2006 National Meeting of the Society of Broadcast Engineers will be

hosted by Chapter 22 of Central New York during their 34th Annual Broadcast Technology Expo in Verona, New York, September 26-27. The events of the National Meeting and Broadcast Technology Expo will be at the Turning Stone Casino Resort, located 30 miles east of Syracuse, New York.

The SBE Board of Directors accepted the invitation of Chapter 22 after considering invitations from several chapters. This will be the third time that SBE has held its National Meeting in conjunction with Chapter 22's regional convention since establishing the National Meeting concept in 1997. Past SBE National Meetings have been held with the Chapter 22 regional convention in 1997 and 2001.

**SBE WILL WORK WITH  
EXCELSIOR COLLEGE**

At its October 19 meeting, the SBE Board of Directors voted to begin a working relationship with Excelsior College of Albany, New York. Excelsior College offers degrees in a number of disciplines including business technology and grants college credit for completion of qualified certifications and training courses. Students are able to package these credits with other college credits they have accumulated to earn a degree through Excelsior or another institution.

Excelsior assessment staff will be reviewing SBE's certification exams and educational offerings to determine if they would be eligible for college credits. SBE members who may have accumulated some college credits in the past may be able to convert SBE certification into additional credits and earn or degree.

(continued on next page)



**Short Circuits (continued)**

More information about this new program will be available in the December issue of the SBE Signal.

**BOARD VACANCY FILLED, COMMITTEE CHAIRS APPOINTED**

SBE President Chriss Scherer, CSRE CBNT has appointed R.J. Russell, CSTE CBNT to fill the unexpired Board term of Vincent Lopez, CEV CBNT. Russell is a senior broadcast engineering manager with Sprint Nextel. The term will run through September 27, 2006. The vacancy occurred when Lopez, who was elected to a two-year term to the Board in 2004, was elected to the office of Secretary.

**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? Please let us know!

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

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!

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

1992 and 2003. Nearly half of the licensees responding in the latter poll indicated that they were not currently active in Amateur Radio—up 30 percent from the earlier survey. “The number of inactive Technician class licensees is 46 percent,” the ARRL noted, adding that more than a quarter of Technicians responding in 2003 said they’d never even been on the air.

• Ground controllers are continuing efforts to get the Student Space Exploration and Technology Initiative (SSETI) Express satellite back in working order. The spacecraft, sent aloft from Russia October 27, went silent after about five orbits. Telemetry has indicated power problems. “Due to a failure in the electrical power system on board, the spacecraft is inoperable and mission control is on standby,” SSETI Express Project Manager Neil Melville said last week. “There is a small but significant possibility of recovery, the likelihood of which is being ascertained by ongoing testing.” The European Space Agency (ESA) and the SSETI Association are asking radio amateurs around the world to check for signals on 437.250 MHz at appropriate pass times. These signals may be short bursts of 9k6 data every 18 seconds or bursts of pulse telemetry every 30 seconds. Melville said the team remains “hopeful and vigilant.”

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

**CHAPTER 24 SUSTAINING MEMBERS**

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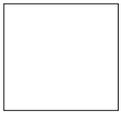
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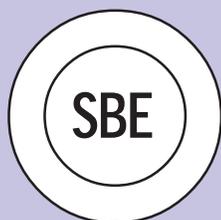


**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

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

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# NOVEMBER MEETING and PROGRAM



## Society of Broadcast Engineers CHAPTER 24 MADISON, WISCONSIN Thursday, November 17, 2005

### DTV RECEIVER SHOOTOUT & PSIP STREAM SNIFFING

This month's meeting will be an audience hands-on participation event. We will provide an off-air antenna feed and an 8-way splitter to feed a PSIP analyzer, a Spectrum Analyzer and up to 6 ATSC demodulators simultaneously. We will be able to observe how each ATSC receiver handles PSIP information and compare lock-up times and general performance. We will also be comparing each stations PSIP data and general signal coverage at the WBUW-TV site.

You are encouraged to bring along your favorite ATSC receiver or TV set for comparison. We will provide a 17" wide screen LCD display that accepts NTSC, Y/C and Component.

6:00 PM – Dutch Treat Dinner  
Parkway Family Restaurant  
1221 Ann Street  
Madison, WI

Meeting and Program at 7:00PM  
WBUW-TV Studios  
2814 Syene Road  
Madison, WI

(parking in front with overflow in the PPG lot next door, south of the studio)

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

2005/2006 UPCOMING MEETING/PROGRAM DATES:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>
Tuesday	December 13, 2005	Chapter Holiday Party
Tuesday	January 12, 2006	Digital Photography Techniques
Wednesday	February 15, 2006	Nominations/POD'casting

Program Committee:

Steve Paugh  
277-5139

Fred Sperry  
264-9806

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274-1234