



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

*Society of Broadcast Engineers*

*October 2005*

## **HURRICANES RENEW CALLS FOR ANALOG TV SHUTDOWN**

*By Tom Smith*

Once again after a disaster, members of Congress are blaming communication breakdowns during and after Hurricane Katrina on the fact that the DTV transition is not complete, and that the four TV channels that are to be assigned for public safety are not available yet. Senator John McCain (R-Ariz.) is leading the renewed calls for the shutting off of analog TV service by the original shutdown date of January 1, 2007. In a speech before the Senate on September 13th, McCain renewed a call for the creation of a public safety radio system that would allow for interoperability between federal, state, and local police and safety agencies. He outlined the steps that the Department of Homeland Security has taken and the money already spent or budgeted. He then spent over half of the speech calling for analog TV shutdown on December 31, 2006 and placing the blame on broadcasters for not being willing to give up the spectrum.

On Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, the Washington Post ran an article on a report issued by the 9-11 Commission that faulted lawmakers on not developing a unified communications system because of opposition from broadcasters for giving part of the broadcast spectrum for medical and disaster response. On September 19<sup>th</sup>, the Washington Post published a letter from Senator McCain that was co-written with Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.), and Representatives Jane Harman (D-Calif.) and Curt Weldon (R-PA.). The letter called for the government to develop a comprehensive emergency communications plan and for the allocation of more spectrum, but did not mention the shutdown of analog TV service. The two members of Congress also introduced a bill with several other members that would require the complete assignment of TV channels 63,64,68 and 69 for public safety services no later than January 1, 2007. The bill is H.R. 1646.

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## **USDTV TO EXPAND**

*By Tom Smith*

USDTV has signed a \$25.75 million agreement with an investment group that includes Fox Television Stations, Inc, Hearst-Argyle Television, Inc, McGraw-Hill Broadcasting, LIN TV Corp, Morgan-Murphy Stations, and Telcom DTV, LLC. This agreement will expand its financial and strategic support to expand its low cost over-the-air cable alternative.

USDTV offers a service that combines over-the-air free DTV with a 12 channel subscription services

that uses part of a broadcasters DTV data stream. USDTV currently operates pilot projects in Salt Lake City, Albuquerque, and Las Vegas.

The USDTV service provides 12 subscription channels including ESPN, ESPN2, Discovery, TLC, The Disney Channel, Toon Disney, Lifetime, Lifetime Movie Network, HGTV, The Food Channel, Starz, and the FOX News Channel. The service uses a proprietary set-top DTV box which also receives regular DTV transmissions. The service sells for \$19.95 a month and with the regular DTV channels, a viewer

## **Next Meeting:**

**Wednesday,  
October 12, 2005**

**Upper Midwest  
Regional SBE  
Meeting – American  
Transmission  
Company**

**Reception at 6:00 PM  
Madison Marriott West  
1313 John Q. Hammons Dr  
Middleton, WI**

**Meeting and Program  
at 7:00PM  
Madison Marriott West  
1313 John Q. Hammons Dr**

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has a selection of 20-30 channels. The service is aimed at those off-the-air viewers that have refused to subscribe to cable or DBS, and cable or DBS subscribers whom wish to pay less for TV service. USDTV figures there are 20 million homes that rely on off-the-air viewing that they can draw subscribers from. Other services planned for future set-top boxes are video-on-demand and digital video recording.

Three of the USDTV financial partners have stations in Wisconsin. FOX owns Channel 6, WITI in

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## September Business Meeting Minutes

Chapters 24 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers meet on September 13, 2005 at WISC-TV. There were 14 members present of which 9 were certified. There were also 3 guests present.

Chair Jim Magee called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. The minutes of the August meeting were approved as published in the September newsletter as motioned by Mike Kulis and seconded by Tom Weeden.

Newsletter editor, Mike Norton announced that the deadline for the submission of articles for the October newsletter was due at Midnight on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> and that the folding party would be held at 5:30 PM on October 5<sup>th</sup> at WKOW-TV.

Chair Jim Magee report that the Chapter was in the black as submitted by Treasurer Leslie Franzen.

Program Chair Steve Paugh reported that the October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting would be presented by the American Transmission Company at the meeting held as the Wednesday night program of the Broadcasters Clinic. The November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting would be the DTV receiver shootout held at WBUW, Channel 57. The December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting would be the Holiday Party at Fitzgerald's in Middleton.

Frequency Coordinator Tom Smith reported that there were two coordination requests. One was from WITI in Milwaukee on clearing a wireless mike frequency for the September 2<sup>nd</sup> UW football game and a request from the UW Athletic Department for a frequency for a wireless camera to feed the scoreboard video screens.

National Liaison Leonard Charles reported that the SBE National Office has started a fund to aid SBE members affected by Hurricane Katrina. He also reported on the results of the election of officers for the national SBE.

The meeting was adjourned after guest introductions of which there was one, Fred Moore from WKOW-TV.

Bryan Keen of Telecast and Chuck Anello of Joseph's Electronics then presented a presentation on Fiber Optic video transmission.

*Submitted by Tom Smith, Secretary*

## USDTV TO EXPAND (continued from page 1)

Milwaukee, Hearst-Argyle owns Channel 12, WISN in Milwaukee, and Morgan-Murphy owns Channel 3, WISC in Madison and Channel 8, WBKT in LaCrosse.

The web address for USDTV is [www.usdtv.com](http://www.usdtv.com) and has a large amount of information on the service.

*(From USDTV press release)*

## SBE's Short Circuits – October 2005

By John L. Poray, CAE  
SBE Executive Director

### SBE ADDS TO CERTIFIED SCHOOL LIST

Michigan Career & Technical Institute (MCTI) has been added to the SBE Certified School List following approval by the SBE Certification Committee. MCTI, located in Plainwell, Mich., just north of Kalamazoo, will award students who complete their program with a B or better average and who apply for SBE certification, with the SBE Certified Broadcast Technologist (CBT). For more information about MCTI, call Philip Schmitt at (269) 664-9249 or e-mail him at schmittp@michigan.gov. The school's web site is [www.michigan.gov/mcti](http://www.michigan.gov/mcti).

### NEW SBE WEB SITE COMING IN OCTOBER

SBE will unveil a newly designed and improved web site during the month of October. The new site, which will retain the [www.sbe.org](http://www.sbe.org) address, will feature improved navigation, more functionality and modern graphic design. Among the new functions

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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

By Tom Weeden, WJ9H

- The Chief Operating Officer of the American Radio Relay League, Harold Kramer, WJ1B, testified September 29 before the US House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. Addressing the hearing topic, "Public Safety Communications from 9/11 to Katrina: Critical Public Policy Lessons," Kramer reiterated and amplified comments ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, delivered earlier this month to the House Government Reform Committee. Kramer testified on the successful efforts of amateur radio operators who provided communications during the Hurricane Katrina response.

"Amateur radio was uniquely suited to this task by virtue of the availability of HF communications covering long distances without fixed infrastructure," Kramer pointed out in his testimony. In addition to those who responded to support relief agencies in hurricane-devastated areas, thousands more radio amateurs outside the affected area monitored radio traffic and relayed health-and-welfare messages, he said.

Kramer noted that there's been a lot of discussion in recent years about public safety interoperability. "The Amateur Radio Service provides a good deal of interoperability communications for first responders in disaster relief incidents," he told the subcommittee. He said ham radio is able to fill this crucial role because even the "interoperability channels" that exist in most public safety allocations are useless when the public safety communication infrastructure goes down.

"Interoperability, in short, presumes operability of Public Safety facilities," Kramer said. "While some 'hardening' of public safety facilities is called for, there is in our view an increasing role for decentralized, portable amateur radio stations which are not infrastructure-dependent in providing interoperability communication on site."

Kramer told Subcommittee Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) and his House colleagues that amateur radio "is largely invisible to both the FCC and to Congress on a daily basis, because it is virtually self-regulating and self-administered," he said. "It is only during emergencies that the Amateur Radio Service is in the spotlight." Also testifying at the subcommittee session was FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin, and Kramer said he had the opportunity to introduce himself to the chairman before the subcommittee convened.

Kramer noted that for the first time ever, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) has provided \$170,000 in grant supplements to the ARRL to support the efforts of Hurricane Katrina emergency communicators in the Gulf Coast. The grants to the ARRL's "Ham Aid" fund enable the League to reimburse some volunteers' out-of-pocket expenses on a per diem basis.

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## HURRICANES RENEW CALLS FOR ANALOG TV SHUTDOWN

(continued from page 1)

On Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, FCC Chairman Kevin Martin appeared before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. After giving the members of the Committee in his prepared statement a status report of communication problems and FCC actions in dealing with them after Hurricane Katrina, the Chairman called for the development of an interoperable, mobile wireless communication system, as well as improvements to the 911 system. He also called for sufficient spectrum for emergency purposes. He did not call for any changes in the DTV transition. He did state that one thing we have learned from Hurricane Katrina is that we cannot rely on terrestrial communication systems and that satellite communications are sometimes the best way of communicating. He also stated that systems should be agile enough to take advantage of other communication systems such as WI-FI gateways and smart radios, which are mainly an advanced frequency and modulation agile radio that uses digital and computer processing.

The next question is how much of an effect is the continued use of the spectrum for analog TV on future public safety use of spectrum in the UHF TV band. The TV channels that will be converted for public safety use after the DTV transition are channels 63, 64, 68 and 69. Because they were high in the band and have poor signal propagation issues and the fact that transmitters are not as efficient as in the lower frequency, the channels were not very popular and have few full power TV stations on them. In fact there are only 36 analog stations and three DTV stations on the four channels. There are also two Class A community TV Licenses on the four channels as well as pending

applications for new analog station in four cities. These stations are located in 20 states and Puerto Rico. An additional two states each have an application for a new analog station. The rest of the states have translators and low-power TV stations, which have secondary status. With secondary status, a LPTV or translator can be shut down to allow for the operation of a full power station in the same area. There are about 350 LPTV stations and translators on the four channels with another 100 construction permits and applications for LPTV and translators. Some of these CPs may have stations operating under test authority, while some of the CPs and applied for stations may never be built.


During the recent hurricanes, there were only two full power stations in the four affected states. The two stations are on channel 68, one is in Birmingham, Alabama and one is in Arlington, Texas, which is between Dallas and Fort Worth. There were few translators and LPTV stations in the four states with four in Alabama, two in Mississippi along with two construction permits and a pending application. There were three in Louisiana along with two construction permits that were for the hard hit community of Lake Charles. Texas had the most translators and LPTV's with 19 stations, 8 construction permits and 6 pending applications.

Other states with full power stations on these four channels include California with 3 analog and 2 DTV stations. Florida has 3 analogs as does Georgia and Indiana. The following states each have two stations on these four channels, New Jersey, Ohio, Rhode Island, and Pennsylvania, which also has a Class A LPTV Station. Puerto Rico has one analog and one DTV

Station. The following states have one station on these channels, Delaware, Kentucky, Michigan, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Virginia and Wisconsin. Nevada has a Class A LPTV station. There are applications for two new analog stations in Florida and one each in Iowa and Oklahoma. The rest of the states have only LPTV stations and translators.

Public Service communication systems have been sharing the UHF TV band for many years. They have operate on channels 14 through 20 in the 10 largest cities in the nation. Different channels are assigned in different cities depending on the existing TV allocations. This has occurred even though there are many more stations on those channels, particularly with the advent of DTV. There are four to six times as many analog stations on each channel from channels 14 through 20 and again as many DTV stations on each of those channels. And there are two to three times as many LPTV and translators on those channels. There should be no reason that public service radio could not be phased in on channels 63, 64, 68 and 69. Because there are so few full power stations and because many of the translators are in rural areas where spectrum demand is lower, it would not be as difficult to implement a plan to phase in and share the band until the end of the DTV transition. Another consideration is that planning of a new public service system would not be completed in the next 15 months considering the possible political infighting and turf wars, which was shown to be quite possible considering the examples shown during the recent disaster. Construction of a new system would most likely not be started for two to three years and by the

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## ANALOG TV SHUTDOWN (continued)

time everyone would be ready to use the entire spectrum available, the DTV transition would be complete if the government does actually end analog transmission on January 1, 2009, which is only three years and three months away. And consideration has to be given for the transition of the public service users in the 800 MHz band to a new band plan because of the Nextel rebanding which ends in less than two years.

The main problem in the hurricane disaster areas was not spectrum, but lack of working infrastructure. Communications becomes very difficult when towers are blown down, telephone switches and generators are under water and battery back-up at cell sites are good for only the few hours that it take to repair a power line after a car hits a pole or lighting takes out a transformer. The hardening of infrastructure by both public and commercial communications may be the more important task, but it may be easier for Congress to pass a law to shut off three dozen TV stations with the economic fallout for the station owners and staff then spend the money needed to a communications system that will provide the service require in disasters.

Instead of the adage of throwing money at a problem, now the call is to throw spectrum at the problem whether it can be properly assigned or not.

From FCC Releases ([www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov)), Sen. McCain Press Release ([www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)), Congressional Release, [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com), [www.broadcastengineering.com](http://www.broadcastengineering.com)



## FCC BUSY WITH HURRICANES

By Tom Smith

In his appearance on Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, FCC Chairman Kevin Martin before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, outlined actions the FCC has taken to allow the restoration of communications services because of Hurricane Katrina. Most of these actions were for Special Temporary Authority or waivers of specific rules affecting a proposed temporary operation. The FCC also issued a number of notices to alert companies affected by the hurricane that FCC would allow for certain operations under STAs or waivers.

The FCC granted 12 waivers to wireline companies (telcos) in the whole area affected by Katrina. These allowed flexibility in assigning temporary numbers and waiving waiting periods for changes to the network. The FCC also issued 12 waivers, notices, and STAs for wireless operation in the whole affected area. Most of these were for temporary use of frequencies not normally licensed or used by different organizations or companies, and allowed for cell phone providers to use other company's facilities.

The FCC granted 20 STAs and waivers in Louisiana, mainly to allow temporary microwave links to connect facilities or operation on frequencies different from licenses, when replacing damaged communication systems. Four waivers were issued in Mississippi for similar reasons, along with one in Alabama. One was issued in Tennessee, which was outside of the affected area. It was for a Red Cross office to provide for GMRS radios for operations and security.

For broadcasters, the FCC issued eight public notices to alert stations of

waivers of the rules in order to continue operations with temporary replacement equipment, and to extend deadlines for filings due shortly after the hurricane. Many of those notices were discussed in last month's newsletter. The FCC issued one notice shortly after last months newsletter deadline. The notice was for a waiver for non-commercial stations in New Orleans to simulcast and rebroadcast commercial station programming without having to delete the commercials. The FCC also issued 19 waivers to public radio and TV stations to allow for airing of programs and spots to raise funds and donations for hurricane relief efforts.

The FCC issued 18 STAs and waivers to Louisiana stations, mostly for stations to remain silent. One STA was for the Salvation Army to operate an emergency station in New Orleans, two stations received waivers for construction deadlines, and one notice was a letter to get a landlord to allow station staff into it's studios. Mississippi had two STAs for stations to remain silent, one to operate an emergency station, and one to expedite the grant of authority of a station to operate on newly upgraded facilities. The final waiver listed for Mississippi was for Mississippi Public Broadcasting to carry on its station in Biloxi, WHAM-TV the New Orleans Saints and Green Bay Packers games on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

The FCC issued 14 waivers and STAs to allow for temporary operations by satellite providers and for news operations by international news organizations. They included the BBC and ITN for Britain, ARD from Germany, and Canada TV. One satellite STA was granted for a System for the Louisiana State Police and two

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## FCC BUSY WITH HURRICANES (continued from page 5)

in Mississippi for military relief operations. Finally, the FCC coordinated the use of government frequency bands with the National Telecommunication Information Agency for use of frequencies by the military, for through-the-wall radio imaging, and wireless Internet connections at two disaster centers.

When Hurricane Rita hit Texas and Louisiana, the FCC started over issuing notices concerning waivers and STAs. The window for most of these waivers and STAs will expire on January 1<sup>st</sup>, which is one month after Katrina's waivers and STAs expire.

In Chairman Martin's prepared presentation to the Senate Committee, he had a number of charts showing the extent of outages of communications facilities from Hurricane Katrina. In the area affected by the hurricane, nearly 3 million phone consumers were without service from August 30<sup>th</sup> to September 5<sup>th</sup>. It got better after September 5<sup>th</sup> very quickly, but there are still 250,000 consumers out of service, mostly in Louisiana. During that time nearly forty 911 Centers were out as were over 7000 long distance links.

On the day of the hurricane over 20 million calls failed, with a gradual decrease with a large number of call failures still occurring on September 21<sup>st</sup>. There is no data on the percentage of cell sites that were operating during

the hurricane and for the week after. A week after the hurricane, 60% of the cell sites were operational with only 20% of the sites in New Orleans working. On September 21<sup>st</sup> 80% of the cell sites were operational with 60% working in New Orleans.

There were 137 radio stations in the affected area with 20% of them off-the air during the hurricane. In Mississippi, only 10% were on during the hurricane and 20% were on in Louisiana and 50% in Alabama. By September 21<sup>st</sup>, 70% of the stations were on the air including 70% in Mississippi, 65% in Louisiana and nearly 100% in Alabama. Out of 26 TV stations in the affected area, only 35% remained on the air on the day of the hurricane. Of the 5 stations in Mississippi, 40% were on, 50% of the 6 stations in Alabama were on, and only 25% of the 15 Louisiana stations remained on. All of the Mississippi and Alabama stations are now on with 75% of the Louisiana stations on the air as of September 21<sup>st</sup>.

Looking at the graphs, charts and maps in Chairman Martin's presentation, it becomes very apparent how extensive and wide spread the damage was. In two or three weeks, there will no doubt be another report regarding Hurricane Rita and we will see if any area had as severe of damage as the New Orleans area did.

*(From www.fcc.gov)*



### FCC Rulemakings

*Compiled by Tom Smith*

#### PROPOSED RULEMAKINGS

**CG Docket No. 05-231;  
FCC 05-142  
Closed Captioning of Video  
Programming;  
Telecommunications of the  
Deaf, Inc Petition for  
Rulemaking**

As reported in the August newsletter, the FCC has started a proceeding to examine the rules concerning closed captioning by TV broadcasters. This proceeding is in response to a petition by Telecommunications for the Deaf, Inc. and several other organizations from the deaf community. This petition would set strict standards for the quality of captions including standards for text errors in captioning, technical problems, and monitoring.

The comment period was to be 45 days after the proposed rule was published in the FEDERAL Register with reply comments due 15 days later. On September 26<sup>th</sup>, the notice was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The comment deadline was set for November 10, 2005 and the reply deadline was set for November 25, 2005.

*(From the FEDERAL REGISTER)*



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Steve Paugh is the editor for the HTML Version of this Newsletter, available monthly on the SBE Chapter 24 web page.

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>

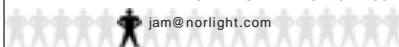


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**Amateur Radio News  
(continued from page 3)**

• A dozen youngsters from two NASA Explorer Schools (NES) spoke September 16 via amateur radio with International Space Station Expedition 11 NASA Science Officer John Phillips, KE5DRY. The contact between W1ACT at the Matthew J. Kuss Middle School in Fall River, Massachusetts, and NA1SS in space was arranged by the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program.

The audience of more than 100 parents, faculty members, fellow students, and dignitaries was split between two locations, reports Roland Daignaut, N1JOY, of the Fall River Amateur Radio Club/ Bristol County Repeater Association. Club members, who have set up a club station and conducted licensing classes at Kuss Middle School, assisted in the contact.

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

**SBE's Short Circuits  
(continued from page 3)**

available will be an on-line new member application and on-line ordering of books and logo items from the SBE Store. The site will continue to feature the popular JobsOn-line, ResumeBank and Contract Engineer Directory as well as information about all of SBE's services and programs. Watch for the big roll-out date in the next several weeks.

**CERTIFICATION EXAM SESSION  
DATES FOR 2005 & 2006**

The SBE Certification Committee has established exam dates for 2005 and 2006. Check the list at the SBE National web site for the exam period that is best for you. For more information about SBE Certification, see the local Chapter Certification Chair or contact Linda Baun, Certification Director at the SBE National Office at (317) 846-9000 or lbaun@sbe.org.

The next local chapter exam session is scheduled for February 10 - 20, 2006, with an application deadline of December 30, 2005.

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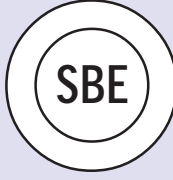
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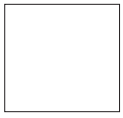
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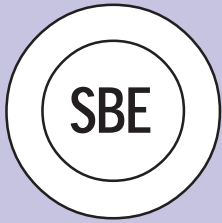
FIRST CLASS MAIL

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

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# OCTOBER MEETING and PROGRAM



**Society of Broadcast Engineers  
CHAPTER 24 MADISON, WISCONSIN  
Wednesday, October 12, 2005**

## **UPPER MIDWEST REGIONAL SOCIETY OF BROADCAST ENGINEERS MEETING SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER – ANNAMARIE NEWMAN**

Annemarie Newman is Communications Project Manager for American Transmission Company. Her presentation will include an overview of today's electric transmission system. She will also discuss the planning for new transmission lines, future power needs and the public involvement process.

Annemarie has been with the Madison office of ATC since 2003. Prior to working for ATC, she worked for the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin for 10 years in various capacities including media spokesperson, complaint investigator and consumer policy analyst.

**Reception at 6:00PM  
Madison Marriott West  
1313 John Q. Hammons Drive  
Middleton, WI**

**Meeting and Program at 7:00PM  
Madison Marriott West  
1313 John Q. Hammons Drive  
Middleton, WI**

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

**2005/2006 UPCOMING MEETING/PROGRAM DATES:**

<b><u>Day</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Program</u></b>
Thursday	November 17, 2005	DTV Receiver Shoot-Out/Stream Sniffing
Tuesday	December 13, 2005	Chapter Holiday Party
Tuesday	January 12, 2006	Digital Photography Techniques

Program Committee:

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277-5139

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264-9806

Steve Zimmerman  
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