

Society of Broadcast Engineers Chapter 24 Newsletter

Madison, Wisconsin

April 2009

Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 14

LED Lighting

by



and Chapter Elections

Middleton based Electronic Theater Controls (ETC) is a world famous manufacturer of lighting instruments used in the broadcast, theater and motion picture industry. They have recently acquired a line of LED based luminaries now being tested for use in television broadcast studio lighting. A representative of ETC will explain how these energy saving instruments work and demonstrate them along side conventional instruments in the WISC-TV studios.

Dutch Treat Dinner at 5:30 PM
Griff's Restaurant & Frozen Custard
1233 McKenna Blvd
(across from Elver Park)
Madison, WI

No reservations— Just gather together

Meeting and Program at 7:00PM
WISC Studio C
7025 Raymond Road
Madison, WI

Park in front parking lot;
enter via front lobby entrance.

Coming Up

- Wed., May 13** Linear Acoustics
Audio Processing
- Thur., Jun 11** SBE Summer Picnic
- Tues., July 14** TBD

FCC SEEKS TO ADD MORE DTV ASSISTANCE

>>> by Tom Smith

The FCC has taken two steps to provide more assistance to viewers during the final DTV transition. On March 26th the FCC asked for proposals (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-689A1.pdf) to provide in-home installation services to low-income and non-English speaking individuals, senior citizens, minority communities, the disabled, and those living in rural areas. They plan to get contracts in each of the countries six regions. The closing date for proposals is April 9th.

The FCC announced on March 27th that they signed an agreement with AmeriCorps (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-289629A1.pdf) to provide assistance with members of the FCC staff in providing service to the same groups that were to be targeted by the in-home installation contractors. With AmeriCorps, the FCC will focus on the 49 least prepared markets, which include Milwaukee and Chicago.

On March 5th the Commission held an open meeting in which there were presentations and discussions by FCC staff and industry and consumer groups. Speakers included David Rehr of the NAB, Kyle McSlarrow of the NCTA representing cable and David Donovan of MSTV. Comments of the Commissioners and staff and staff presentations are on the FCC website (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-288992A1.pdf) along with the audio from the meeting.

Cast Your Ballot!

>>> by Steve Paugh, Nominations Chair

The official ballot for the SBE Chapter 24, 2009 election of officers is being mailed along with this month's meeting notice. The deadline for getting your ballot to the nomination chair is noon on Wed., April 22nd, 2009. The nominations committee will count the ballots on the afternoon of Wednesday, April 22nd, 2009 at WISC-TV.

You may turn in your ballot in person during the April 14th, 2009 chapter meeting. I will have additional ballots available at the April 14th business meeting. If you are unable to attend the April meeting, you may mail your ballot directly to me at:

Steve Paugh- c/o WISC-TV
Ballot
7025 Raymond Road
Madison, WI 53719



Please indicate "Ballot" on the envelope and we will hold your ballot unopened until the official counting process. Your ballot must be in our possession before we begin the counting on April 22nd. Remember that your membership must be current to be eligible to vote. Your membership number must be entered on the ballot for it to be valid. Thanks to the nomination committee members Mike Kulis and Leonard Charles.

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From the Chair

Dennis Baldrige



The SBE can help you find that job!

Are you looking for the right occupation? Or perhaps you are an employer looking for someone to fill that critical position in your workplace. The SBE's personal resources section at www.sbe.org assists its members in locating available broadcast engineering positions throughout the country. Although referenced in last month's column, I would like to further focus on two services specifically designed to enhance your employment.

SBE Jobs Online lists broadcast engineering positions across the United States. It is available to members only and is updated weekly. The SBE Resume Bank features an online posting of anonymous resume profiles (comprised solely of SBE members) for prospective employers to view. Employers can request the member resumes of their choice from the SBE National Office.

Current SBE members can have their resume profiles posted at no charge.

In a downsizing economy, it is important to publicize yourself where prospective employers can readily recognize your skills. It is proper and principled to promote your achievements. Norman Vincent Peale once said, "Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities! Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers you cannot be successful or happy."

Fortunately, the SBE makes the task of posting your qualifications an easy undertaking. Just download the free Resume Bank Questionnaire to begin the process. It helps gather the pertinent information about you and your skills. Additionally, it identifies the type of position you are seeking while selecting states or areas where you would be willing to work. You can also post your resume online for pertinent parties to peruse.

Our jobs are at times uncertain. What will happen later this year or next year is proctored in providence. As George Crane once said "There is no future in any job. The future lies in the man who holds the job." When in need, utilize the SBE's member services to locate that desired position. It is there to help you succeed.

Certification Exam Session Dates

For more information about SBE Certification, contact Jim Hermanson, jhermanson@wisctv.com, Chapter 24 Certification Chair, or contact Megan Clappe, Certification Director at the SBE National Office at (317) 846-9000, or mclappe@sbe.org.

Exam Dates	Location Application	Application Deadline
June 5-15, 2009	Local Chapters	April 17, 2009
August 7-17, 2009	Local Chapters	June 5, 2009
Nov. 6-16, 2009	Local Chapters	September 18, 2009
February 5-15, 2010	Local Chapters	December 31, 2009



Amateur Radio News

compiled by Tom Weeden, WJ9H

ARRL Comments on FCC's Proposed Establishment of Rural Broadband Plan

In March, the FCC invited comments via a Public Notice concerning the establishment of a comprehensive rural broadband strategy as part of the Department of Agriculture's Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, commonly known as the 2008 Farm Bill. Per the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), Congress required the FCC to develop a "comprehensive national broadband plan." According to the FCC, they, Congress, and the Secretary of Agriculture "have repeatedly recognized the importance of ensuring access to advanced telecommunications and information services to all Americans, with a special focus on rural and hard-to-serve areas." The opportunity to comment on the Public Notice provided the American Radio Relay League to express concerns about broadband over power lines (BPL) that the FCC has yet to satisfactorily address.

In the comments submitted by ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, the ARRL reaffirms its support of broadband opportunities in rural areas. "ARRL is in agreement that broadband is critical to the health of agricultural and other businesses, and to the educational interests of Americans who live in rural areas," Imlay stated. Imlay commended the FCC in looking for broadband solutions on both the short and long term, as well as identifying how Federal programs "might overcome obstacles that currently impede rural broadband development."

Imlay reminded the Commission that the ARRL, as well as broadcast

industry representatives, challenged the adequacy of the FCC's BPL interference rules: "On appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, the Court remanded the ET Docket 04-37 proceeding to the Commission with some very specific instructions, including reconsideration of assumptions relating to interference mitigation and disclosure of studies that had previously only been released in redacted form." Imlay pointed out that almost a year after the Court's decision, the Commission has done "literally nothing" to comply with the mandated instructions.

Imlay reminded the Commission that President Barack Obama, on his inauguration day earlier this year, placed a series of goals on the White House Web site. "Among these," Imlay said, "was the following, obviously laudable goal: 'Restore Scientific Integrity to the White House: Restore the basic principle that government decisions should be based on the best-available, scientifically valid evidence and not on ideological predispositions.' The Commission has the opportunity to implement this goal in this Docket proceeding."

North Dakota Hams Help to Head Off River Flooding

Early on Friday, March 27, the Red River— the natural boundary separating North Dakota and Minnesota— rose to 40.32 feet, more than 22 feet above flood stage and inches more than the previous high water mark of 40.10 feet set April 7, 1897. According to Mark Johnson, KC0SHM, President of the Red River Radio Amateurs (RRRA), hams are "substantially

involved" with the flood operations. "This flooding event is impacting residents in both North Dakota and Minnesota" he told the ARRL. "National Weather Service forecasters are predicting that the river will crest to 41 feet, maybe even as high as 43 feet, by Saturday."

Johnson said that on March 22, officials in North Dakota's Cass County and Minnesota's Clay County requested the assistance of local amateurs. Hams set up local nets on the W0ILO repeater system, using 444.875+ and 145.350-. "Initially, hams supported the area, helping out with coordinating food and water requests for the Salvation Army and Red Cross," he said. "In addition, Clay County hams have been heavily involved with coordinating sand and sandbag logistics."

Johnson said that as the river continues to rise and sandbagging operations near completion, "ham activity is morphing from dike preparations to developing emergency communications for evacuations, in the event should that become necessary. As of Thursday, March 26, we are currently communicating between three hospitals, two county Emergency Operation Centers, volunteer centers, the Salvation Army, the American Red Cross, the Coast Guard and a helipad." Johnson said these are 24 hour operations.

"As both a ham and a resident of Fargo, I am deeply touched by the community outpouring of support for fellow man," Johnson said. "Volunteers by the thousands have poured into churches to help with food, volunteer centers to help fill sand bags and to the front lines for sand bag placement. Everyone pray for us -- we need a miracle for the community as a whole to pull this off."

Amateur >>> continued on page 4



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Amateur >>> continued from page 3

FCC Proposes New Rules for Medical Devices Operating on 70 cm Band

On March 20, the FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), proposing to allocate spectrum and adopt service and technical rules for the utilization of new implanted medical devices that operate on 413-457 MHz (70 cm). According to the Commission, these devices, called implanted neuromuscular microstimulators, would greatly expand the use of functional electric stimulation to restore sensation, mobility and function to those persons with paralyzed limbs and organs; they would be implanted in a patient and function as wireless broadband medical micro-power networks (MMNs). The Amateur Radio Service has a secondary allocation in the 70 cm band.

The FCC said that several proponents claim that this technology “could revolutionize medical treatment and therapy for millions of people living with brain and spinal cord injuries and neuromuscular disorders such as multiple sclerosis, polio, cerebral palsy and ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, often referred to as ‘Lou Gehrig’s Disease’), as well as numerous other neurological disorders.

In February, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, met with officials of the Alfred Mann Foundation, developers of the implanted neuromuscular microstimulators, to discuss ARRL concerns with the NPRM. Imlay and Price both came away satisfied that the project should have little, if any, impact on Amateur Radio operators. “There are redundant layers of interference rejection mechanisms built into the product that should protect its users from being impacted by strong Amateur Radio signals,” Price said. “The very low power output of these devices should have no

impact on the Amateur Radio Service. The ARRL Executive Committee will monitor this filing and take action as appropriate.”

The FCC is seeking comments on the feasibility of allowing up to 20 MHz of spectrum in the 413-457 MHz band to be used under the Medical Device Radiocommunication Service (MedRadio Service, formerly the Medical Implant Communications Service [MICS]) in Part 95 of the Commission’s rules, and seeks comments on the allocation of four specific segments for this purpose: 413-419 MHz, 426-432 MHz, 438-444 MHz and 451-457 MHz. The Commission also seeks comments on the prospective service and technical rules that would govern MMN operations, such as transmitter power, emission bandwidth, duty cycle, contention protocols, and other operating specifications that generally comport with the framework of the existing MedRadio Service.

(Excerpts from the American Radio Relay League’s <arrl.org> web site)

SENATE BILL SEEKS SPECTRUM AUDIT

>>> by Tom Smith

Senators John Kerry (D-Mass) and Olympia Snowe (R-Maine) has introduced a bill they called the Radio Spectrum Inventory Act (<http://www.opencongress.org/bill/111-s649/text>) which would require the Federal Communications Commission and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to inventory each radio spectrum band from 300 MHz to 3.5 GHz.. They would have 180 days to complete the inventory from when the bill becomes law. Both agencies would have to list: the licenses or the government users in each band; the number of intentional radiators in each band and the type of radiators used; the

type of unlicensed intentional radiators authorized in each band and contour maps showing signal coverage and strength. The agencies must also document the location of fixed transmitters and base stations.

The bill would also require the FCC and the NTIA to have a website for making the inventory available to the public and requires that the website be updated in a near real-time fashion whenever licenses are transferred, auctioned or there is a change in allocation. Government users that require protection because of national security would not be included.

The inventory is to be submitted to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives when completed.

In both Kerry’s (<http://kerry.senate.gov/cfm/record.cfm?id=310100>) and Snowe’s (http://snowe.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=PressRoom.PressReleases&ContentRecord_id=2053558c-802a-23ad-4ef2-676799a7d3ff&Region_id=&Issue_id=) releases on their Senate websites, they mentioned the fact the recent 700 MHz auction raised nearly \$20 billion and that the TV White Space rules were recently enacted, both which would open the spectrum to new uses. Kerry was a proponent of the TV White Space rules.



WMTV
MADISON

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www.nbc15.com

Thanks to Leonard Charles for maintaining the Chapter 24 web site and to Steve Paugh for mailing the meeting reminder postcards.

WHITE SPACE CONTROVERSY CONTINUES

>>> by Tom Smith

The controversy surrounding the unlicensed use of TV White Spaces continues as the second phase of the challenges to the FCC adoption of the Rules allowing such usage. The first phase of challenging the FCC decision was the filing of the two lawsuits in Federal Court with the National Association of Broadcasters and the Association of Maximum Service Telecasters filing in Washington D.C. Circuit Court and ESPN, major league sports and Broadway Theater operators filing in New York Appeals Court. Starting on March 17th, one month after the FCC published the Rules in the *Federal Register*, 16 groups filed petitions for reconsideration of the rulemaking action. The petitions were divided between proponents of the unlicensed use of TV White Space and those who fear interference to TV reception and the use of wireless microphones.

The proponents for unlicensed White Space usage included the Public Interest Spectrum Coalition (PISC) with partners the New America Foundation, Urbana Wireless Network and Media Access Project, manufacturers Adaptrum and Motorola, and a joint filing from Dell and Microsoft. Other industry groups filing included the Wi-Fi Alliance, Wireless Internet Service Providers, and the Tribal Digital Village. The standard organization IEEE also filed to have standards that they are suggesting added to the Rules. These standards were favorable to the White Space proponents.

PISC asked for no sensing of TV and wireless mike signals with the database usage, no reserved channels for wireless mikes, increased power for fixed unlicensed devices two channels away from protected channels, database operated by a non-profit group, operation

of personal devices on channels under 21, easier FCC certification of unlicensed devices and the entry of location coordinates by anyone. Adaptrum asked for protection of licensed wireless microphones only, increased power for personal devices, new rules for predicting TV coverage and reduced protection of cable head-ends. Dell-Microsoft asked for no sensing with database, reduction of sensing level from -114 db to -107 db, personal devices below channel 21 and reduced cable head-end protection. Wi-Fi Alliance asked for no sensing with database and real-time database access. Wireless Internet Service Providers also asked for no sensing with database, 3-meter height for sensing antennas instead of 30 meters and no requirement for omni-directional sensing antennas. They asked for an increase of antenna height to 100 meters instead of the 30-meter limit and an increase of power from 4 watts to 20 watts for fixed transmitters.

Motorola also asked for reducing the microphone sensing level to -107 db with no sensing for unlicensed mikes. They would like the transmit antennas raised to 100 meters and the sensing receive antennas lowered to 3-meters, reserve 2 channels for wireless mikes in all markets, no ID's transmitted from unlicensed devices, personal devices below channel 21, some mobile vehicle operation with 4 watts of output and reduced adjacent channel protection. Tribal Digital Village asked for relaxation of the rules restricting use near the Mexican border. Tribal Digital Village is a group of tribes in Southern California that operate wireless broadband networks. Unlicensed operation in the TV band is restricted in border areas because of coordination agreements the United States has with Canada and Mexico.

The IEEE proposed standards include the use of height above average terrain instead of the fixed 30 meter above ground limit. The IEEE proposed allowing antenna heights to above 600 meters with distances from co-channel

TV stations increasing with height. The other groups proposing the 100-meter limits also specified increased distances with increases in height. Other IEEE proposals included no sensing with use of database, continuous connection to the Internet by fixed transmitters with real-time access to the database, decrease of wireless mike sensing level to -107 db and allowing a client transmitter to use the database information from the main base unit.

Groups that expressed concerns that the new Rules would not protect TV reception and wireless microphones include the Community Broadcasters Association, SBE, Shure, National Telecommunications and Cable Association, a joint filing by DirecTV and Dish TV, a joint filing by broadcast engineers Richard Rudman and Dane

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Meeting Minutes

from the March 2009 Business Meeting

The Madison Chapter of the Society of Broadcast Engineers met on March 19, 2009 at the offices of the Educational Communications Board in Madison. 15 members present of which 11 were certified. There was one guest in attendance.

Chairman Dennis Baldrige called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. He asked if there was anyone guests present and Duane Grotphorst from Avid introduced himself as a new member. Steve Paugh made the motion to accept the February minutes as published in the newsletter and the motion was seconded by Clif Groth.

Treasurer Leslie Franzen gave the current balance in the chapters checkbook. Leonard Charles reported that the National SBE was mainly preparing for the NAB 2009 and the National Meetings in Las Vegas.

Sustaining membership Chair Fred Sperry reported that there were four recent renewals: WMTV, Ross Video, Maney Logic and Gepco. He also reported that there was one representative for Belden in the area and that Belden would only have one business card instead of two in the chapter's newsletter.

Certification Chair Jim Hermanson reported that the next exams will be held between June 5th through 15th, with applications due before April 17th. He also announced that Dennis Baldrige has passed the exam for Digital Radio Certification. Jim mentioned that the SBE had started the on-line SBE University which currently has 4 courses costing

between \$75-\$125.

Frequency coordinator Tom Smith reported that WMTV was interested in 7 GHz usage and asked on the status of the 2 GHz transition and Tom Weeden and Leonard Charles said it was completed. Tom said that there should be a meeting in the near future concerning updating the 2 GHz band plan and creating a 7 GHz band plan.

Leonard Charles, Chair for the WBA-SBE Engineering Conferences, asked that members keep June 17th open for the WBA Summer Conference and Engineering Workshop and that the agenda was complete for the conference.

Tom Weeden passed out flyers for an upcoming Hamfest.

Program Chair Steve Paugh gave the list of programs for upcoming meetings with the April meeting being on LED lighting from ETC and the May meeting's program being giving by Linear Acoustics. Both meetings will be at WISC-TV. The June meeting will be the annual picnic.

Steve Paugh also asked for Bios from those running for office in the upcoming election.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Tom Weeden and a second by Mike Kulis.

The program was presented by Megan Bradley of Digital Broadcast on video servers and archiving.

*Respectfully submitted by
Tom Smith, Secretary*



CHAPTER 24 SUSTAINING MEMBERS

*Welcome to new
sustaining member:*

GEPCO International, Inc.

Recent Renewals:

maney-logic

WMTV-DT 15

Thanks to all our Sustaining Members

Alpha Video

Belden

Broadcast Richardson

Clark Wire and Cable

Full Compass Systems

Heartland Video Systems

Madison Video Repair

Midwest Media Group

Resonant Results, Ltd.

Roscor Wisconsin

Ross Video

Scharch Electronics

Sound Devices, LLC

Token Creek Productions

WISC-DT 3

WKOW-DT 27

WMSN-DT 47

Wisconsin Public Television

Soon Parting with an Old Friend

>>> by Paul Stoffel

I was working on the computer putting together the newsletter and also recording the final episode of NBC's ER on the DTVpal DVR when the neighborhood power went out because of a car verses utility pole accident. (It was a good reminder that I really do need to purchase a UPS for the computer and DVR.)

I located a flashlight that helped me locate the candles and matches. It was approaching 9:00pm and an option to pass time would be to listen to the portable, battery-powered TV-band radio tuned to Fox47's evening newscast to listen for a news update as to when my power would be restored.

It occurred to me that my friendly Radio Shack TV-band radio will be of less value to me after June 12's analog TV shut-off. No problem... when I get a chance, I'll buy a new radio that can tune to DTV audio. (Believe it or not, there is a minority of us who like to listen to TV on a portable device.)

A quick web search revealed that there is no such thing as a portable radio with a DTV tuner. The closest thing I found was a portable ATSC LCD TV. (http://www.lcddigital.tv/7_tv_digital.html) There are also ATSC tuners that can plug into a USB slot of a laptop.



Or, I could use a Slingbox and view DTV remotely through a PDA/phone with an EVDO aircard or G3 network.

But the great thing about the portable radios with the TV band meant I could listen to Bob Lindmeier give live severe weather updates and, most importantly, the batteries lasted a long time. Powering an LCD screen on a portable ATSC LCD TV is going to chew up the batteries. Besides, I do not need to watch an LCD screen while I am waiting for the power to return, or the storm to pass, or while I pulling weeds in the garden.

If anyone comes across a portable radio with a DTV tuner let me know. In the meantime, I will use the portable radio, my old friend, for listening to radio.

White >>> continued from page 5

Erickson, and a filing from the law firm of Cohen, Dippell and Everist PC.

Community Broadcasters Association expressed concerns about unlicensed devices operating on channels adjacent to low-power TV stations and asked for more protection. DirecTV and Dish asked for the same protection for all other multi-program video providers as the Rules afford to cable providers. Cohen, Dippell and Everist express concerns that the FCC did not sufficiently consider the effect on reception by current TV antennas particularly the amplified indoor antennas that are now common. They noted that there were many viewers unhappy with DTV because of reception issues. SBE also noted that TV antennas were not as good as the FCC suggested, used the wrong desired to undesired signal ratios and less separation distances between TV's and these devices that afforded for computers and other electronic devices. Rudman and Erickson noted a number of issues including that there were few if any available channels in many large markets, the devices tested were not any thing like what would be marketed, that the FCC did not investigate interference complaints, no FCC database of cable head-ends, lack of definition of a "Professorial Installer" and no anti-tampering protection. They also expressed concern about the FCC signal computations and possible charges for use of the database. Shure asked for more rigorous testing, adjacent channel protection, tougher sensing requirements, real-time database access, doubling of wireless mike protection zone and protection for all wireless mikes.

The NTCA filed a 144-page petition, which raised issues concerning ingress into TV's and cable systems from unlicensed devices and protection of cable head-ends. The petition actually was 20 pages with an appendix of 124 pages of test results. The tests and the results look to be more detailed than

the tests the FCC conducted during the Rulemaking.

Other petitioners included Fiber Tower with Sprint-Nextel, which asked for up to 6 channels to be reserved for licensed fixed point-to-point back-haul for cell systems. Another petitioner was Keybridge which would like to provide database services and asked that the Commission to consider database security in their Rules.

The White Space proponents in their petitions asked that the Commission give the incumbents in the band, TV stations and wireless mike users less protection, and asked for greater power and antenna height. The current users of the TV band asked for more protections and questioned many of the assumptions that the FCC used in creating the Rules. With a new Chairman and a number of new Commissioners, there is no telling if the Commission will revisit the Rules, but with the interest in increasing Internet access, expect to see Rules that allow some sharing of the TV band with other users. Licensing of others using the TV band would be the best outcome as far as broadcasters are concerned. It would make it possible to deal with interference in a timely matter.

To read to the petitions go to the read comment page on the FCC website (http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/comsrch_v2.cgi) and type 04-186 in the box in the upper left corner.



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FINAL RULEMAKING

MB Docket No. 09-17:

Implementation of DTV Delay Act

MB Docket No. 07-148: DTV Consumer Education Initiative

MB Docket No. 07-91: Third Periodic Review of the Commission's Rules and Policies Affecting the Conversion to Digital Television

MB Docket No. 05-312: Digital Television Distributed Transmission Systems Technologies

On March 13, 2009 the FCC adopted and released a report and order (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-19A1.pdf) which updated the Rules for shutting off analog transmissions in light of the extension 'til June 12th — the final shutdown date. The Report ran 46 pages and did not contain the normal legal disclaimers that take several pages at the end of most FCC Rulemaking notices.

All stations were required to notify the Commission by March 17th of their intentions on when they planned to shut down analog transmissions. They needed to fill out a new form called an Analog Service Termination Notification form. Commercial Stations could not shutdown before April 17th. Non-commercial stations could shut down before April 17th after filing for hardship or technical relief. They had to wait to shut down until after March 27th. All stations had to air the equivalent of 30 days of shutdown notices with the additional requirement of notifying the public of any loss of service if more than two percent of their analog viewers lost service because of decreased

coverage with their digital signal. All markets were required to have one major network station provide regular program service or enhanced nighttime service until June 12th.

Stations that have made the transition do not have to provide transition information, but they must provide consumer information if their digital service provides reduced coverage to more than 2% of analog viewers. Stations must also provide information on antennas and rescanning of sets and converter boxes. Locations and hours of walk-in centers, the phone number of the FCC Call Center and the station's consumer call number must also be promoted.

Stations that still need to make the transition will no longer need to do the 100-day countdown, but will need to do a 60-day countdown. Stations shutting down on June 12th would do the full 60-day countdown, but stations shutting down before June 1st (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-589A1.pdf) would start on April 1st and count the number of days they have left from that date. All stations transitioning after February 17th would also need to produce a new 30-minute video with the new transition dates.

Stations wishing to fill in their problem coverage areas with Distributive Transmission System have until December 14th to apply for transmitters

under the DTS. The Commission will also consider phased transition for station with unique challenges.

This notice needs to be read to completely understand all of the actions of the Commission. Many of the Rules have numerous intricacies that cannot be explained in a short summary of the Report and Order.

MB Docket 05-312

Digital Television Distributive Transmission System Technologies

On February 27th, the FCC announced (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-289481A1.pdf) that they would begin accepting DTS applications. Stations that previously received special temporary authorizations to operate a DTS system must now apply for a regular license. DTS stations operate as part of the regular station license and can consist of one high-power transmitter and one or more low-power transmitters or two or more low-power transmitters. All of the transmitters operate on the same frequency and are normally operate in some synchronized fashion.

Rulemaking>>> continued on page 9



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Rulemaking >>>
continued from page 8

PROPOSED RULEMAKING

MB Docket No. 09-29

Implementation of the Child Safe Viewing Act; Examination of Parental Control Technologies for Video or Audio Programming

On March 2, 2009, the FCC adopted and released a Notice of Inquiry (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-14A1.pdf) asking for information on technologies to allow parents to prevent certain types of programming from being seen by children. The technologies proposed extend beyond that of the V-chip in televisions. The Commission would like these technologies to extend to Cable set-top boxes, satellite receivers, DVD players, Internet devices (including computers), MP3 players, cell phones and any other electronic devices one can think of. They would like video devices to delete foul language based on closed captions and devices that would prevent viewing or listening by children without the need of ratings information from the program producer or programmer.

This Inquiry is required by a law passed by Congress called the Child Safe Viewing Act which was adopted on December 2, 2008. Comments are due on April 16, 2009 and replies due on May 18, 2009.

ET Docket No. 09-36; RM-11404

Amendment of Part 2 and 95 of the Commission's Rules to Provide Additional Spectrum for Medical Device Radio Communication Service in the 414-457 MHz Band

The FCC is asking for comment on whether they should allow very low power medical devices to operate in the 413-457 MHz spectrum. They are particularly interested in using three bands in spectrum that is reserved for

government use and a portion of the land mobile band. In the government band, they wish to use: the 413-419 MHz band which is used mainly for government land mobile; the 426-432 and 438-444 MHz bands which are used for radar service; and the 451-457 MHz part of the 450-470 mobile band. Broadcasters are assigned the 450-451 and 455-456 MHz portions of the land mobile band for remote aural pick-up.

The proposed service would be used to provide communications with implanted electronic stimulators to aid in the treatment of a number of muscle and nerve diseases and injuries. The transmitters would operate at power levels of 1 milliwatt or less with external transmitters operating at the higher powers and implanted devices operating at in the microwatt range.

This Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-20A1.pdf) was adopted on March 17, 2009 and released on March 20th. In another action, the FCC allotted additional spectrum to the 402-402 MHz medical band for both implanted and external medical transmitters. They added one megahertz to both ends of the band extending it to 401-406 MHz. These transmitters operate at nanowatt and microwatt levels. This action was adopted on March 19th and released on March 20th. The Docket number is ET 06-135 Investigation of Spectrum Requirements for Advanced Medical Technologies and RM-11271 Amendment of Part 2 and 95 of the Commission's Rules to Provide Additional Spectrum for Medical Device Radio Communication Service at 410-402 and 405-406 MHz (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-289481A1.pdf).

May '09 Chapter 24
Newsletter Deadline:
Friday, May 1
paul.stoffel@wpt.org

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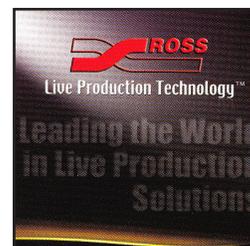
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PROPOSED

Boscobel, WI: New FM

The FCC will conduct an auction (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-422A1.pdf) to grant construction permits for 122 new FM stations. In our area there is a license to be auctioned for Boscobel. It is one of three licenses (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-422A2.pdf) in Wisconsin with the other two being in Tigerton and Owen.

The proposed Boscobel station is a class C-3 which is allowed to operate with 25 kilowatts at 100 meters. The new station will operate on channel 244 which is 96.7 MHz.

The minimum bid is \$40,000 for the Boscobel station. The minimum bid for the Tigerton station which is a class A (6KW at 100m) is \$30,000. And the Owen station which is another class C-3 having a minimum bid of \$50,000. The Auction is to start on September 1st with comments due on the auction procedures by March 20th and replies to be in by April 1st. The Notice was released on February 27th.

WWAZ-TV Fond Du Lac, WI

WWAZ-TV has applied for two translators under the new fill in rules for DTV stations. The FCC adopted rules to would allow stations to build translators to fill in dead spots in their coverage or extend their DTV signal to match their previous analog coverage.

WWAZ-TV is on DTV channel 44 with their current transmitter site south

of Mayville. Their analog channel is channel 68. Both transmitters are currently dark and WWAZ-TV has petitioned the FCC to have their digital channel changed to channel 5.

Their current digital channel is adjacent to WWRS-TV in Mayville. WWRS-TV is on channel 43 and their transmitters sites are next to each other. Because they are adjacent channels they are limited on how far they can be separated from each other.

According to the translator applications, WWAZ-TV would like to build their channel 5 transmitter in Milwaukee in the existing tower farm. The translators would cover areas that the channel 68 analog transmitter would presently serve but the DTV transmitter would lose coverage to that area with the move to Milwaukee.

The two translators would be located in Ripon and Columbus. The Ripon Translator (http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/cdb/forms/prod/getattachment_exh.cgi?exhibit_id=733878&formid=346&q_num=5100) would operate on channel 15 with 7 kW at 147 meters above average terrain at a site southwest of Ripon. The Columbus translator would operate on channel 30 with 5 kW at 87 meters above average terrain. The translator would be located west of Columbus with a cardioid pattern which is pointed west and would cover an area from Markesan to Madison.

WWAZ-TV plans to provide Spanish programming to the Milwaukee area with the proposed move.

Milwaukee Pirate Fined

The FCC has fined a Steven Stalecki \$10,000 for operating a pirate FM station on 92.9 MHz. The FCC tracked a signal to his home on several occasions starting on March 25, 2006.

But Mr. Stalecki denied operating the illegal transmitter claiming it was

operating from one of his neighbors.

The FCC left or mailed several notices to his home but did not enter the home or seize the equipment used. It was Mr. Stalecki's response to the second notice, which was mailed and signed for, that claimed the signal was coming from a neighbor.

The FCC tracked signals coming from Mr. Stalecki's home three more times in the next year. The FCC issued a notice of liability on December 14, 2007 and issued a forfeiture order on March 14, 2009. It was released on March 17, 2009.

(http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-588A1.pdf)

from FCC Releases (www.fcc.gov)



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SBE Chapter 24 CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES

Fred Sperry – Candidate for Chairperson

Fred has been in the broadcasting business since graduating from the Milwaukee Area Technical College with an Associate Degree in Broadcast Communications in 1984. Fred worked for radio stations in Platteville and Fort Atkinson before going to work with his current employer the Educational Communications Board (ECB)/Wisconsin Public Broadcasting in 1986.

Fred was involved in the original construction of the ECB's Telecommunications Operations Center in 1988 and was involved in the operations and maintenance of this facility. The ECB moved into a new "digital" Operations Center in 2006 where Fred continues his role in the operations and maintenance of the facility as part of the technical support staff.

Even though Fred is still adjusting to the world of computer n the modern broadcast facility, he is enjoying the transition to digital TV and is intrigued and challenged by the technology. At the same time, Fred still occasionally longs for the good old days of broadcasting –especially in radio and misses the days of turntables, cart machines and live overnight announcers!

Fred has been a member of SBE Chapter 24 since arriving in Madison in 1988. During that time, he has held all the officer positions at one time or another (including Chair) and has been a sustaining membership chair since 1995.

Bill Hamilton – Candidate for Vice Chair

Bill Hamilton is the Technology Manager of WisconsinEye, an all digital HD television station that is a privately funded "State Span" for

the State of Wisconsin. He started his career nearly 30 years ago as a 2nd generation broadcaster in the St. Louis, Missouri television market. There he worked for television stations; KDNL, KTVI and KETC, cable companies, in post production and in corporate video. While there he held a variety of positions from operations to Engineer in Charge and Chief Engineer. He also worked on several broadcast installation projects, including the design and installation of a 3 edit suite production house.

Since moving to Wisconsin in 2005, he has worked for SignaSys, in San Jose, CA as an instrumental part of the team assembled to create and present training to broadcasters in the use of digital ENG equipment, required by the FCC mandated BAS relocation. This included creating the course curriculum and designing the supporting hardware system. Following that he was at AZCAR in Pittsburgh to work on restating the BAS relocation/digital ENG training program, where he managed the construction and commissioning of the technology used. He also assisted with the development of the trainers and training materials.

Bill holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering degree from Southern Illinois University. He has an FCC General Class RadioTelephone License and a SBE CBT certification. He is a member of SBE, IEEE and SMPTE. He received a local Emmy nomination for editing and his animation work was showcased by Adobe at NAB.

Mike Norton – Candidate for Secretary

Mike has been working in radio and television broadcasting for the past 16 years. He started as an on-air DJ while attending college. Also while a student, he held the technical operations director and station manager positions at WSUP-FM/Platteville. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from UW-Platteville,

with a Broadcast Technology Management major and a graphic arts minor.

He worked as an MCO at WISN-TV/Milwaukee, and is currently a staff engineer at the Educational Communications Board Telecommunications Operation Center for Wisconsin Public Broadcasting in Madison. His current duties include electronic maintenance for radio and television equipment, automation, DTV encoding, and satellite uplink systems.

Mike has been an SBE member since 1992, was the SBE Chapter 24 newsletter editor from 1996 through 2006, and is currently certified at the CSTE and CBNT levels.

Kevin Trueblood – Candidate for Treasurer

Kevin is one of Madison's newest engineers, having just moved here in December to become an Engineer for Mid-West Family Broadcasting's 8 stations.

Though still considered a "pup" he's in his 12th year in radio, starting at a group of stations in Galesburg, IL while still in high school. From there to college at Northern Illinois University while working for stations in Rockford, DeKalb and Chicago and was hired to be an OM/PD right after graduation.

Most recently Kevin worked for a group of stations in Bloomington, IL where he accomplished "the crowning achievement of his career": Remodeling a studio, installing 4 generators, flipping 2 formats, installing a new automation system, recovering from devastating lighting damage at the studio, and getting married...all within 3 months.

In late 2007 he started his first full-time engineering job as an Assistant Engineer and IT Manager for public station WGLT in Bloomington, putting the station's HD signal on the air with 2 multicast stations last summer. Kevin lives in Madison with his wife and tower inspection dog in training.

2009 SBE Chapter 24 Election Ballot

You must be a current member of SBE Chapter 24 to be eligible to vote.

Please include your SBE member number: _____
Voter names will not be identified.

VOTE FOR ONE FOR EACH OFFICE. MARK AN "X" NEXT TO YOUR SELECTION.

CHAIRPERSON

_____ Fred Sperry

(write-in candidate)

VICE CHAIR

_____ Bill Hamilton

(write-in candidate)

SECRETARY

_____ Mike Norton

(write-in candidate)

TREASURER

_____ Kevin Trueblood

(write-in candidate)

Elections will take place during the April chapter meeting. If you cannot attend that meeting, you may send your completed ballot to the address below. Please vote only once.

Steve Paugh - c/o WISC-TV
Ballot
7025 Raymond Rd.
Madison, WI 53719

All ballots must be received by noon, Wednesday, April 22, 2009.