

December 2009

Society of Broadcast Engineers Chapter 24 Newsletter Madison, Wisconsin

Next Meeting

Thursday, December 17



SBE HOLIDAY CELEBRATION DINNER

Join us for this month's meeting when we celebrate the Holidays and toast the New Year in a relaxing atmosphere at Fitzgerald's in Middleton. We'll gather in the bar area before heading to the dining area. You can sign-up for the dinner on the Chapter 24 web site <http://www.sbe24.org> and follow the links to the December Holiday Party sign-up sheet.

Happy Hour 6PM – 7:30 PM
Dutch Treat Dinner at 7:30PM

Fitzgerald's
3112 Parmenter Street
Middleton, WI



ATSC Digital Television
8-VSB Transmission System
Fundamentals & Measurement
Seminar
January 20 & 21, 2010
MATC Milwaukee
<http://www.sbe24.org/MPTVFlyer.pdf>

From the Chair...

>>> by Fred Sperry

As many of you may already be aware, the dates for the 2010 Broadcasters Clinic have been moved from the original scheduled dates of October 12-14 to October 26, 27 and 28.

If you were at the November Chapter Meeting, you may recall that I mentioned at that time we were not going to be able to extend an invitation to the National SBE to host the National Convention as part of the 2010 Broadcasters Clinic. This was due to the fact that we were informed by the Madison Marriott West that they did not have the additional room available that would be needed to accommodate the National Meeting on the originally scheduled dates. The November meeting minutes make note of this as well.

A number of things have changed since that time and due to some circumstances beyond our control, it became necessary to change the dates of the Broadcasters Clinic to the end of October in 2010. The upside of this is that because of this change in dates, Chapter 24 was able to extend an invitation to the National after originally informing them we would not be able to host the National Meeting.

We received word on December 1st that that following a meeting between SBE President John Poray and the SBE National Board that our invitation had been accepted. This is certainly great news for our Chapter to be host of this event once again. Though it does mean some extra

coordination efforts for the Broadcast Clinic Program Committee and the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association (WBA), hosting the National meeting is also a positive for the Broadcasters Clinic event as a whole.

I would like to thank Leonard Charles, who heads the Broadcast Clinic Program Committee, and Linda Baun and Michelle Vetterkind of the WBA, who scrambled to finalize these alternate dates with the Marriott in order that we were able to get our invite in to the National just before their board meeting on December 1. Believe me when I say there was a lot more going on behind the scenes here than it appears. It shows the great commitment that is put into the Broadcasters Clinic and why it continues to be the great event it is.

Finally and on a different note, I wish everyone a great and safe upcoming holiday season. I hope you will be able to join the Chapter for the annual Holiday Party on Thursday December 17 at Fitzgerald's in Middleton.



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Coming Up

Tues. Jan. 12	TBD
Wed. Feb. 17	TBD/Nominations
Thur. Mar. 18	TBD/Nominations



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Meeting Minutes

from the November 2009 Business Meeting

Chapter 24 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers met at WISC-TV/Madison on Wednesday, November 11th. There were 18 members present, 14 of who were certified, and three guests were present.

Chairman Fred Sperry called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, after those gathered enjoyed chapter-provided pizza and soda. The group then went around the table and made quick introductions. A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes from both September and October, and was passed.

In the absence of Treasurer Kevin Trueblood and an exact amount, Fred stated that the chapter continues to retain a healthy balance. Fred also reminded everyone that the next Chapter newsletter deadline was December 1st at midnight to submit items to Newsletter Editor Paul Stoffel. Reporting on Sustaining Membership, Fred announced JVC Professional Products as the newest sustaining member, bringing the total to 21. A recent renewal was received from Belden Wire and Cable.

Program Committee Chair Steve Paugh reminded those present that the December meeting would be the holiday party at Fitzgerald's in Middleton on Thursday the 17th. In order to plan, there will be a signup area on the sbe24.org web site.

Frequency Coordinator Tom Smith reported that he received no requests for Big 10 sporting events, or for the recent presidential visit by President Obama to Madison. Tom briefly talked about the FCC proposal for allocating other users in the current

television spectrum. National Liaison Leonard Charles had no new items to report.

In old business Fred Sperry presented a plaque for 2008 Best Chapter Newsletter to John Salzwedel. He congratulated John and Paul Stoffel, both who were editors of the Newsletter during 2008. In new business, Fred said that the SBE National has invited Chapter 24 to submit an application to host the 2010 National meeting. During general and professional announcements, John Salzwedel noted that Token Creek Mobile Television has been invited back to cover the Heisman Trophy Awards in New York.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm. Program Committee Chair Steve Paugh turned things over to Tom Siebenaller from Roscor, who introduced Scott Hight from Telestream. The presentation by Telestream was about managing file-based media for television facilities.

Submitted by Mike Norton, Secretary



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TV BROADCASTERS MAKE THEIR SPECTRUM CASE

>>> by Tom Smith

In response to calls by wireless providers, computer manufacturers, economists and others, broadcasters are starting to build their case on why the FCC and Congress should not acquire part, or all, of the TV broadcast spectrum for wireless and broadband use. After comments by Blair Leven of the FCC and a paper commissioned by the Consumer Electronics Association that was released on the day comments were due on spectrum needs for wireless broadband service, TV broadcasters rallied to tell their side of the story.

There were a number of filings made by groups of broadcasters and a couple of comments from individual broadcast companies.

The groups that filed included a joint filing by all of state broadcast associations and a group called the Local Television Broadcasters which consisted of the following broadcast groups: Allibriton Broadcasting, Bahakel Broadcasting, Boise Telecasters, Cocola Broadcasting, Communication Company of America, Evening Post Publishing, Granite Broadcasting, Gray Television, Jovon Broadcasting, Local TV, McGraw-Hill, Media General, Meredith Broadcasting, Midwest Television, Smith Media and WNAC.

Another group was the Broadcast Service Coalition which consisted of Lin Television, MPS Media, Manship Media, New Age Media, Nexstar Broadcasting, Pappas Telecasting and Sinclair Broadcast Group. The final large group to file comments was the Public Television Licenses which consisted of most if not all of public TV stations. Individual station groups filing were Univision Communications, Inc and Lima Communications. One manufacturer filed. Sezmi filed comments describing a number of products that they were

introducing that used available digital TV signals.

The broadcasters' comments detailed services that they currently provided, new services that they planned to provide including mobile TV, and questioned how efficiently the wireless industry was using the spectrum they already have including whether some companies were warehousing some of their spectrum and if they were building efficient cellular networks.

Most of the broadcasters questioned the logic of the Bazelon paper issued by the Consumer Electronics Association. They questioned the theory that placing the value of what the spectrum could be sold for in auction was of more value than the public and viewer services that broadcasters provide.

The State Broadcasters Associations questioned the Bazelon paper's point that if TV was available by cable TV services, broadcasters did not need to use spectrum. If you followed Bazelon's logic, Broadcasters stated that the same point could be made for various wireless services, like voice and Internet services, that could also be delivered by wire and did not need spectrum to operate. Univision made a point that the Hispanic viewers they serve rely on broadcast TV heavier than the general population.

Besides the comments, a number of broadcasters made ex parte visits to the FCC. They included Media General, Fox Television, NBC Universal, NAB, Texas Association of Broadcasters, PBS and Sezmi.

Broadcasting and Cable reported on December 1st, (http://www.broadcastingcable.com/article/391338-FCC_to_Issue_Spectrum_Comment_Request.php) that a spokesman for the FCC said that they would be asking for comments on spectrum use soon, but would not give specifics. Meanwhile, the spectrum issues will play out in the press and media as broadcasters, wireless and computer industries, and members of the Commission continue to make comments.



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

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Amateur Radio News

compiled by Tom Weeden, WJ9H

- On Saturday, November 21, astronauts Mike Foreman and Randy Bresnik completed the second EVA (extra-vehicular activity) of their mission. While on the 6 hour, 8 minute EVA, Foreman installed the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) antennas for 2 meters and 70 cm on the Columbus module. NASA ISS Ham Radio Project Engineer Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, told the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) that this new antenna — along with another VHF antenna — was developed by ARISS in cooperation with the European Space Agency (ESA) to support an experiment involving the maritime Automatic Identification System (AIS). “Both antennas were installed on the Earth-facing starboard edge of the Columbus module,” he explained. “The AIS antenna is forward and the ARISS antenna is aft. The ARISS team is planning to migrate some stowed Amateur Radio gear to take advantage of the new antenna.” Frequencies available for transmission to and from Columbus will be 2 meters, 70 centimeters and 13 cm. To start, two radios for 2 meters and 70 cm that don’t see much use on the ISS will be moved and installed in Columbus.

- Around 5:30 on the morning of October 6, George E. Smith, AA2EJ, of Barnegat, New Jersey, got a phone call that changed his life: He had just found out he had won the Nobel Prize in Physics for 2009 “for the invention of an imaging semiconductor circuit -- the CCD sensor.” Smith will share the prize money with two other recipients: Charles K. Kao, of Standard Telecommunication Laboratories in the United Kingdom and Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Willard S. Boyle, of Bell Laboratories. Boyle and Smith invented a digital image sensor — the

CCD — that has become an electronic eye in almost all areas of photography.

The CCD — invented in about an hour over lunch when Smith and Boyle worked at New Jersey’s Bell Labs — was, according to Wired Magazine, the first practical way to let a light-sensitive silicon chip store an image and then digitize it. In short, it is the basis of today’s digital camera. According to Wired, the “most amazing thing about the invention” is that Boyle and Smith came up with the design so quickly. With Bell Labs threatening to take the funds from their department and transfer the money to other research, Boyle had to come up with a competing semiconductor design. He got together with Smith, and within an hour, they came up with the idea and sketched it all out on a blackboard.

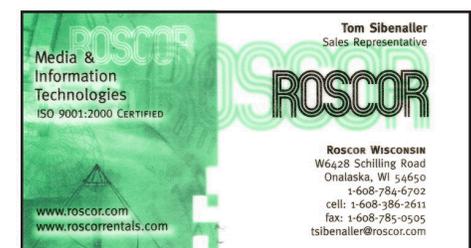
“One morning in October, 1969,” Boyle wrote on his Web site, “I was challenged to create a new kind of computer memory. That afternoon, I got together with George Smith and brainstormed for an hour or so on a new kind of semiconductor device, drawing a few sketches and equations on a blackboard. We called it a charge-coupled device: A ‘CCD.’ When we had the shops at Bell Labs make up the device, it worked exactly as expected, much to the surprise of our colleagues.”

“Amateur Radio has always attracted individuals who want to understand and exploit nature’s laws,” fellow Nobel Laureate Joe Taylor, K1JT, told the ARRL. “These are essential characteristics for first-rate scientists, as well. The 2009 Nobel Prize in Physics honors the invention of an imaging semiconductor circuit -- the CCD sensor used in digital cameras, the Hubble Space Telescope and many other scientific and consumer devices. It was no great surprise to learn that one

of the Laureates, George Smith, is also a radio amateur.” Taylor was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1993 “for the discovery of a new type of pulsar, a discovery that has opened up new possibilities for the study of gravitation.”

Smith will travel to Stockholm, Sweden for the award ceremony on December 10. It is certain that his picture will be taken by the international media, made possible through the technology that he and Boyle pioneered.

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



**NEWBAY MEDIA
PURCHASES
BROADCASTING &
CABLE**

>>> *by Tom Smith*

On December 1st, NewBay Media, publishers of Radio World, TV Technology, Pro Sound News and Pro Audio Review, added Broadcasting and Cable, Multichannel News and Twice (This Week In Consumer Electronics). NewBay is purchasing these magazines from Reed Publishing. Broadcasting and Cable was started in 1931 as Broadcasting and under went a number of name changes over the years. At one time it covered Washington regulatory, issues, programming, and broadcast technology in depth. Many issues ran over 200 pages with extensive coverage of all broadcast and cable conventions.

They also covered FCC actions, printing a short synopsis of all broadcast license applications and grants and all broadcast station sales. Currently the magazine runs 24-64 pages depending if they have a special ad section or not. Much of the focus is on TV programming and some Washington and technology coverage. There is little radio coverage. Multichannel News covers cable and Twice covers the consumer electronics industry. Broadcasting and Cable posted an article about its sale on their website (http://www.broadcastingcable.com/article/391235-NewBay_Media_Buys_B_C_.php) as did Radio World and TV Technology (<http://www.radioworld.com/article/91116>).

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**CHAPTER 24
SUSTAINING
MEMBERS**

Recent Renewal

WISC-TV 3

**Thanks to all our
Sustaining Members**

- Alpha Video
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- Broadcast Richardson
- Clark Wire and Cable
- Full Compass Systems
- GEPSCO International, Inc.
- Heartland Video Systems
- JVC Professional Products Company
- maney-logic
- Midwest Media Group
- Resonant Results, Ltd.
- Roscor Wisconsin
- Ross Video
- Scharch Electronics
- Sound Devices, LLC
- Token Creek Productions
- WMSN-TV 47
- WMTV-TV 15
- WKOW-TV 27
- Wisconsin Public Television

January 2010 Chapter 24
Newsletter Deadline:
Sunday, January 3
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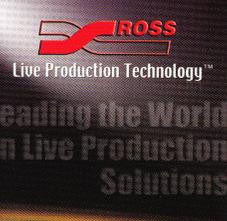
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ET Docket No. 04-186 Office of Engineering Invites Proposals from Entities Seeking to be Designated TV Band Device Database Managers

On November 25th, the FCC released a request for proposals (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2479A1.pdf) from entities interested in providing database management services to users of unlicensed TV Band devices. The entities that propose to provide the database services must demonstrate they are technically capable and have a viable business plan to operate the database for a five-year term as required by the FCC rules. They must explain the scope of database services that they will provide such as management of the database, performing calculations to determine the available channels, synchronization of multiple databases and how they will register fixed unlicensed and licensed services not in the FCC databases. Those applying must also supply diagrams on the architecture of the database system and if not supplying any database functions, information on how their system will work with other databases. The FCC is also requiring information on how the databases will be accessed and what security the system they will have.

The database managers will be able to charge fees to register fixed TV band devices and temporary broadcast auxiliary fixed links and to provide lists of available channels to TV band devices.

Proposals are due on January 4, 2010 with comments due on the proposals on February 3, 2010 and replies to the comments due on February 18, 2010.

BROADCAST OWNERSHIP REPORT DEADLINE EXTENDED

>>> *by Tom Smith*

On October 30th, the FCC extended the deadline (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2457A1.pdf) for filing the deadline for the filing of the Biennial Broadcast Ownership Report from December 15, 2009 until January 11, 2010. This was the second time that the filing date was extended; it was originally set for November 1st. The first deadline was extended because the Office of Management and Budget had not approved the form. All new and revised FCC forms must be approved by the OMB after they examine their impact on small business. The FCC revised this form in order to collect more information on minority and female ownership of broadcast stations.

The FCC also set a common date for filing by all stations instead of the previous state by state deadlines that were spread over the two year report cycle. The National Association of Broadcasters filed objections (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-92A1.pdf) to the every two year filing of the reports by stations held by sole proprietorships as a burden to those owners. They stated that because there are no changes in ownership, the FCC will not receive any new race or gender information from those stations and that ownership information could be updated at licensing or change of ownership. The FCC rejected the NAB's request.

On November 30th, the Law Firm of Fletcher, Heald and Hidreth filed a motion (<http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs/comment/view?id=6015500385>) for reconsideration of the rules and a stay in requiring stations to file the forms due to concerns about the use of Social Security numbers for identification of owners in granting FCC identification numbers. They expressed concerns over

the security of the databases that would be used to reference the social security numbers and the possible privacy issues that they raise. The FCC has not acted on their petition.

As of now, every commercial station will be required to file this from electronically by January 10th.



Wisconsin Broadcasters Association

There have been many developments since we last met in October for the Broadcasters Clinic which has culminated with exciting news for Broadcasters Clinic 2010.

The 2010 Broadcasters Clinic dates have changed. The new dates for the 2010 Clinic will be October 26, 27, and 28. The Madison Marriott West will still be location of the Broadcasters Clinic.

The SBE National has selected the Broadcasters Clinic for the site of their 2010 National Meeting and Awards Dinner.

Please make note and reserve the dates in your calendar and we look forward to Broadcasters Clinic 2010!

Stay tuned for further developments.....

Thank you for your support and have a great holiday season!

Linda Baun
WBA Vice President

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