



February 2010

 **Next Meeting**

Thursday, February 18

**Wireless Microphones
& Spectrum Planning
Issues
& NOMINATIONS**

Chapter 24

Frequency Coordinator
Tom Smith, will give us a
PowerPoint presentation
on the FCC wireless mic
frequency re-allocation plan
and the new FCC broadband
plan. If the broadband report
is delayed until March 17th,
Tom will cover spectrum
planning issues.

We will also have
our first call for nominations
for Chapter 24 officers.

Chapter 24 will provide
Pizza & Soda - 6:00 PM

Meeting and Program
at 7:00 PM

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

 **Coming Up**

- Thur., Mar. 18** Noise Pollution/
Nominations
- Tues., April 20** Rf Spectrum
Analyzers/
Elections
- Weds., May 12** TBD

**FCC RULES ON
WIRELESS MICS**

>>> *by Tom Smith*

On January 14th, the FCC issued a Report and Order and a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-10-16A1.pdf) concerning wireless microphones. In the report and order, the FCC stated that use of wireless microphones operating on TV channels 52-69 must cease operation on June 12, 2010, one year after the end of the digital TV transition. Any wireless microphone that causes interference to a new licensed user on channels 52-69 must cease use immediately. They also prohibited the manufacture, sale, import, lease, import or the offer of wireless microphones that operate on channels 52-69 in the United States. The final ruling in the report and order will allow those operating without authorization to operate under Part 15 until the FCC takes action on the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. This would include all those not eligible for a part 74 license including such places as churches, theaters, stadiums and arenas and concert venues.

The Commission is requiring manufacturers of wireless microphones to place a disclosure statement on new wireless microphones about use and licensing as well as requiring manufacturers to send information about the June 12th deadline to those that filled in warranty cards and place deadline information in their ads and on

their websites. The FCC will seek contact with organizations whose members use wireless systems and has a website (www.fcc.gov/cgb/wirelessmicrophones) which has information on the deadline, user eligibility and a list of all the brands and models of wireless microphones that are affected by the June 12th deadline.

In the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, the FCC is proposing that wireless microphones be allowed to operate on the TV bands as unlicensed devices under Part 15 of the rules, be limited to 50 milliwatts, not be connected to the public telephone system so not to be used as cordless headsets for phones, must operate with under the same spacing requirements as Part 74 system to co-channel TV stations as well as the same technical requirements for channelization, frequency stability, and bandwidth. They also asked if part 74 licensing be extend to cover more then broadcasters, cablecasters, and motion picture and TV producers. Some of those that could be licensed include stadiums and arenas, Broadway and similar theaters, churches, entertainment complexes, educational and government facilities, convention,

Wireless Mics >>> cont. on page 4

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Chapter Contacts

Chapter Leadership

Chair

Fred Sperry, ECB-OC
W: 608-264-9806
fred.sperry@ecb.org

Vice Chair

Bill Hamilton, Wisconsin Eye
W: 608-316-6850 Ext. 305
Bill.Hamilton@wiseye.org

Secretary

Mike Norton, WPT
W: 608-264-9807
mnorton@ecb.state.wi.us

Treasurer

Kevin Trueblood
Midwest Family Broadcasting
kevin.trueblood@midwestfamilybroadcasting.com

Past Chair

Dennis Baldrige
W: 608-489-3999
baldrige@mwt.net

Committee Appointees

Program Committee

Steve Paugh 277-5139
Steve Zimmerman 225-1293

Membership / Newsletter Editor

Paul Stoffel
paul.stoffel@wpt.org

Sustaining Membership

Fred Sperry
608-264-9806
fred.sperry@ecb.org

Certification & Education

Jim Hermanson
services@jimhermanson.com

Frequency Coordination

Tom Smith
608-263-2174
smithtc@wpt.org

National SBE Chapter Liaison

Leonard Charles
W: 608-271-4321
F: 608-271-1709
lcharles@wisctv.com



Meeting Minutes

from the January 2010 Business Meeting

The January meeting of Chapter 24 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers was held at WISC-TV on Tuesday, January 12th. There were 17 members present, 10 who were certified, and one guest.

Chairman Fred Sperry called the meeting to order at 7:04pm, and invited everyone to make quick introductions around the room. A call was made for any changes or corrections to the November and December minutes, and they were approved as published in the newsletter.

Treasurer Kevin Trueblood announced that the Chapter held a balance of \$6,306.00. Fred then reminded everyone that the deadline for items to be sent to Newsletter Editor Paul Stoffel was February 1st at midnight.

Reporting on Sustaining Membership, Fred announced that the Chapter remains steady with 21 sustaining members; recent renewals included WISC-TV, WKOW-TV, Sarch Electronics, and Sound Devices.

Program Committee Chair Steve Paugh briefed everyone on plans for future programs. Up next for February, Frequency Coordinator Tom Smith will cover issues concerning changes to the wireless microphone spectrum. In March Steve is working on bringing in a presentation on a PC-based spectrum analyzer system. There was some discussion on moving the date for the upcoming February meeting to Thursday, February 18th. That was agreed upon, and it was decided that the Chapter will provide pizza prior to the meeting.

Frequency Coordinator Tom Smith reported that there was no recent activity in our area. Tom did state

that the FCC was scheduled to act on January 20th on the wireless mic spectrum issues. National Liaison Leonard Charles had no new items to report.

In old business Fred Sperry brought up the date changes for the 2010 Broadcast Clinic, now scheduled for October 26—28th. Leonard Charles talked about the adjustments, which were necessary due to scheduling conflicts with the venue. The adjusted dates do allow the Broadcast Clinic to accommodate the SBE National meeting this year in Madison. Fred noted that we could expect SBE Executive Director John Poray to attend our March meeting, as he plans to be in town working on preparations for the National meeting in October.

For new business, Fred announced that there is an ATSC Transmission Seminar happening January 20—21 at Milwaukee Area Technical College. In other new business, Fred said that SBE National awards nominations were now open, and that he will help coordinate submissions to the awards committee. One final item brought up was a suggestion for a possible future program at CRT Processing in Janesville.

In professional announcements, Tom Smith noted that Dave Schilz has recently retired from WHA-TV, and that Jim Hermanson was now full time and Dick Madouse was now an LTE at WHA-TV. With no other items, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18pm. Steve Paugh presented a program which touched on the Commercial Advertisement Loudness Mitigation Act (CALM) in Congress, and covered Dolby dialnorm and television audio perceived loudness.

Submitted by Mike Norton, Secretary

COMMENTS SOUGHT ON FUTURE OF MEDIA

>>> by Tom Smith

On January 21st, the FCC issued a notice (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-10-100A1.pdf) asking for comment on the *Future of Media and Information Needs of Communities in A Digital Age*.

They issued a preliminary list of six areas of questions. They include Information Needs of Communities and Citizens, which asks for information on media platforms, formats and geographic focus including how the media handles emergencies, how various groups use media and how government and education support media. Other subjects include requests for information on Business Models and Financial Trends: Commercial Broadcast TV and Radio, Cable and Satellite; Noncommercial and Public Media; Internet and Mobile; and Newspapers and Magazines. The Commission asks for information on trends in usage, finance, and future trends. The final question asks for what other questions about media should be addressed and gives a list of FCC proceedings that may be relevant to the inquiry.

The FCC has broken each subject down to a number of categories with many more questions in each category. This inquiry will be used to help the FCC be better informed when dealing with issues such as media ownership, universal broadband, the Internet and children's issues. There are a large number of questions asked in the notice and they encompass nearly every form of information transmission that FCC regulations affect.

The FCC has a website on the inquiry www.fcc.gov/futureofmedia. Comments are due on March 8th.



CHAPTER 24 SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Recent Renewals

Heartland Video Systems

Ross Video

Scharch Electronics

Sound Devices, LLC

Thanks to all our Sustaining Members

Alpha Video

Belden, Inc.

Broadcast Richardson

Clark Wire and Cable

Full Compass Systems

GEPCO International, Inc.

JVC Professional
Products Company

maney-logic

Midwest Media Group

Resonant Results, Ltd.

Roscor Wisconsin

Token Creek Productions

WISC-TV 3

WMSN-TV 47

WMTV-TV 15

WKOW-TV 27

Wisconsin Public Television

March 2010 Chapter 24

Newsletter Deadline:

Monday, March 1

paul.stoffel@wpt.org

edited using Adobe InDesign CS4



Kim DeLoso
Lead Business Unit Sales
Specialist

Electron Device Group
40W267 Kessinger Road
P.O. Box 393
LaFox, IL 60147-0393
USA

Toll Free: (800) 348-5580 x2518
Fax: (630) 208-2450
Email: kimd@rell.com

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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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Sales Representative
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Amateur Radio News

compiled by Tom Weeden, WJ9H

• In a posting on January 28 to the FCC's blog, Mindel DeLaTorre — the Commission's International Bureau Chief — noted how Amateur Radio operators are assisting with communications support in earthquake ravaged Haiti. "The amateur radio community is also contributing to the relief efforts," she wrote. "In the aftermath of the earthquake, the amateur radio community in Haiti, the Dominican Republic and elsewhere has dedicated equipment and spectrum resources to the relief efforts." DeLaTorre reiterated that those who want to assist in the relief effort must go through the proper channels: "For anyone wanting to help, to protect against harmful interference, it is important to go through the Haitian government before any radio equipment or spectrum resources are used in Haiti."

• 2009 was a banner year for new Amateur Radio licensees. According to the American Radio Relay League's Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, the FCC issued more than 30,000 new ham radio licenses. "In 2009, the demand for Amateur Radio exam sessions remained elevated and is still running at a higher rate than before the FCC's restructuring of the license requirements in 2007," Somma said. "This high level of exam session activity has produced an elevated influx of new applications, far outpacing recent years." A total of 30,144 new licenses were granted in 2009, an increase of almost 7.5 percent from 2008 and an 84 percent increase over 2005.

• UW-Madison's Space Place Amateur Radio Center in conjunction with the Four Lakes Amateur Radio

Club and other local clubs will offer a Technician license class on February 13-14. This weekend class will conclude with the license exam given on Sunday. (Morse Code is no longer a requirement.) The classes will be at the UW Space Place in the Villager Mall, 2300 South Park Street, Madison. These classes are free but some advance study from the ARRL license manual is expected. More information is available at <www.flarc-hams.org>.

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



**Job Opening
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Wireless Mics

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and other trade and cultural events.

The FCC also is proposing that Part 74 microphones, higher than 50 milliwatts, be sold only to a buyer that certifies they are eligible. There was discussion on requiring the use of digital transmission in the future and developing methods share channels for more efficient use of the spectrum. Finally the FCC asks for comment on the use of the 8 wireless microphone frequencies at 170 MHz under Part 90. They note there are few users or licensees under Part 90 and asks if the Part 90 rules need to be revised.

The FCC published the rules and the rulemaking notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER on January 22nd making the 700 MHz shutdown official and starting the comment period on the Further Notice of Rulemaking. Comments are due on February 22nd and replies due on March 15th.

Job Opening / deadline Feb. 25 WHA-TV Maintenance Supervisor

See: http://wisc.jobs/public/job_view.asp?annoid=41381&jobid=40896&index=true



Tom Sibenaller
Sales Representative

Roscor Wisconsin
W6428 Schilling Road
Onalaska, WI 54650
1-608-784-6792
cell: 1-608-386-0511
fax: 1-608-785-0505
tsibenaller@rosacor.com



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Certification Exam Session Dates

Exam Dates	Location Application	Application Deadline
April 13, 2010	NAB Convention	March 26, 2010
June 4-14, 2010	Local Chapters	April 16, 2010

WBA Seeking Station Internship Grant Applications

The Wisconsin Broadcasters Association and Wisconsin Broadcasters Association Foundation know there is a shortage of persons seriously interested in becoming qualified broadcast engineers, and we want to help develop such talent throughout Wisconsin by helping you to initiate an Engineering Internship at your station. This program will connect "future" engineers to Wisconsin broadcasters by funding a "Summer Engineering Intern" position right in your workplace!

Up to five grants at \$2,500 for a two-month internship will be awarded to cover internship stipend and expenses.



Internships are to run from June 15-August 15, 2010.

What will a Station have to do to participate?

- 1) Application is made to WBA by the Station desiring the Grant
- 2) The station agrees that the Intern is to be assigned exclusively to the Engineering/Technical Services Department
- 3) A check list of basic skills to be taught to the intern will be determined by the Station and presented to the WBA to aid in selection of candidates
- 4) The WBA Foundation Board will assess applications and match up selected stations with potential intern candidates
- 5) As part of the WBA's Assistance Action Plan for EEO Compliance this program may be used as EEO Credit as a non-vacancy specific outreach initiative.

Skill Sets

Broadcast engineering skills incorporate: IT Networking Skills,

Broadcast/IT hardware and software maintenance, control room and studio operations, media preparation, remote and news department support, transmitter operation and maintenance, effective interaction with all departments, and development of a service-oriented attitude. In order to most effectively match applicants to your station, we require a list of skills that your station is prepared to teach potential interns.

For more information contact Linda Baun at lbaun@wi-broadcasters.org or by phone at 608-255-2600

Linda Baun
Vice President
Wisconsin Broadcasters Association
44 E Mifflin Street - Suite 900
Madison, WI 53703
Telephone (608)255-2600

DIGITAL POWER INCREASE OK'D

>>> by Tom Smith

On January 29th, the FCC issued an order (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-10-208A1.pdf) that FM stations would be able to increase their digital signal by 6 db immediately. This is a four-fold power increase. Stations operating in excess of class maximums, so called super-powered stations, would be limited in order to protect analog radio service from interference. WOLX in Madison is one of the grandfathered super-powered stations. The FCC will establish an application process to allow stations to increase their digital signals by 10 db from the current limit, which is - 20db down from their analog carrier. They will also establish interference remediation procedures that will require the Media Bureau to resolve each bona fide dispute or imposed tiered power reductions within 90 days. Finally the FCC is reserving the right to revisit the issue of digital power levels if significant interference results to analog reception.



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PROPOSED RULEMAKINGS

EB Docket No. 04-296 Review of the Emergency Alert System

The FCC adopted a Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on January 12th and released it on January 14th. In this notice (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-10-11A1.pdf) the FCC is proposing a yearly National EAS test with participants filing a report of the results of the test with the FCC. The FCC is also seeking comment on how the operation of the various EAS encoders/decoders will operate during a national test include the reception and relaying of header codes and how they operate with failures in the daisy chain relay network.

The notice was published in the Federal Register on January 29th with comments due March 1st and replies due March 30th.

WT Docket No. 10-4 Wireless Bureau Seeks Comment On Petitions Regarding the Use of Signal Booster and Other Signal Amplification Techniques Used With Wireless Services

On January 6th the FCC issued a release (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-10-14A1.pdf) asking for comments on five petitions concerning the use of signal boosters and other devices to extend wireless service. Three petitioners have filed Petitions for Rulemaking. The are Bird Technologies, Inc which is requesting

that users of such devices have permission from the licensee of the service to use them. The DAS Forum, a membership group that is Part of the PCIA-Wireless Infrastructure Association and Wilson Electronics, Inc., asked that the FCC set standards for booster devices and their use.

The CTIA, the Wireless Association and the Jack Daniel Company asked for Declaratory Rulings concerning the use of signal boosters. The CTIA, which represents the wireless industry such as cellphone companies, would like the FCC to clarify that the sale and use of such devices without the consent of a CMRS licensee is unlawful. The Jack Daniel Company is asking that the Commission set standards for such devices.

Comments are due on February 5th and replies on February 22nd.

FINAL RULEMAKING

ET Docket No. 03-254 Amendment of Parts 25, 75, 78 and 101 of the Rules regarding Coordination between the Non- Geostationary and Geostationary Satellite Orbit Fixed-Satellite Service and Fixed Broadcast Auxiliary and Cable Relay Services In the 7 GHz, 10 GHz and 13 GHz Frequency Bands.

On January 14th the FCC adopted a rulemaking (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-10-15A1.pdf) concerning coordination in the 7, 10 and 13 GHz bands used by broadcasters and cable companies. The released the notice on January 20th. In this notice, Fixed-Satellite service (FSS) stations must do formal "notice and response" coordination for new FSS (both Non-Geostationary and Geostationary Satellite Orbit stations) with fixed broadcast and cable auxiliary stations and the broadcast and cable auxiliary stations must do

the same with the Fixed-Satellite stations. These coordination rules will fall under parts 25 and 101 of the rules. Mobile operations (ENG) will allow either the current part 74 and 78 informal ad hoc coordination rules or the formal part 101 "notice and response" rules. These rules follow what is commonly known as the prior coordination rules followed when applying for a 950 STL link in radio.

James D. Daniels, Jr. (J.D.)
District Sales Manager
Digital Video Division

JVC JVC Professional Products Company

16206 Hunter Court 800.851.2020, ext. 7679 Branch
Orland Hills, IL 60487-7410 630.851.0130 Branch Fax
jdaniels@jvc.com 708.460.1451 Regional
www.jvc.com/pro 708.460.4476 Regional Fax
630.248.5185 Cell

GEPCO
INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Rick Thompson
Central Regional Manager

1770 Birchwood Avenue
Des Plaines, IL 60018-3006
Office: 847-795-9555 ext.21
Mobile: 847-942-7990
Fax: 847-795-8770
E-mail: rick_thompson@gepco.com
www.gepco.com

Token Creek
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John Salzwedel
President

501 Moravian Valley Road, Waunakee, Wisconsin 53597
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Web Page: www.tokencreek.com E-Mail: john@tokencreek.com

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