



Society of Broadcast Engineers

Chapter 24 Newsletter

Madison, Wisconsin

July 2010



Next Meeting

Tuesday, July 13

Tektronix®

TEKTRONIX DTV ANCILLARY DATA ANALYSIS

Scott Howard, Senior Applications Engineer for Tektronix, will demonstrate how to use their latest test and measurement products to read and evaluate the ancillary data present in DTV signals. The Aux Data carries the traditional audio and CC data, and several unique DTV data words that will explained.

Dutch Treat Dinner 5:30 PM
Perkins

1410 Damon Road

Madison, WI

(no reservation - just gather together)

Meeting and Program at 7:00PM
Wisconsin Public Broadcasting Center
3319 W. Beltline Hwy
Madison, WI

Visitors & Guests are welcome at all Chapter 24 events!

FCC SHOCKED!

>>> A commentary by Tom Smith

On June 1st, the FCC issued a release (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-298525A1.pdf) stating that 80% of Internet users did not know the speed of their broadband Internet connection. The release also stated that 91% of the respondents were satisfied with the speed of their service. The Commission asked for 10,000 volunteers to participate in a study of Internet speeds. Last March, the Commission placed an Internet test site on their Boardband.gov website.

The fact that most people did not know the speed of their Internet connection should not be a surprise. (In most cases, there is no indication of the connection speed on users' computers.) This indifference is reminiscent of the flashing 12:00 on VCR's. Unknowingly, most people would accept the connection speed number the Internet provider states and most people do not have the interest or knowledge in the technology to begin to seek out the information. This news release is an example on how fixated the Commission is on the Internet and Broadband, to the near exclusion of all other issues.



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FCC TAKES BROADBAND SPECTRUM ACTIONS

>>> by Tom Smith

The FCC has taken other actions to add spectrum for broadband and wireless use.

The Commission issued a Report and Order (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-10-82A1.pdf) on May 20th allowing for 25 MHz of the 30 MHz allotted to the Wireless Communication Service (WCS) to use for mobile service.

Currently the bands only allows for fixed service. The band goes from 2305 –2320 MHz and 2345-2360 MHz. The spectrum between the two bands used by WCS is used by Sirius and XM satellite radio. The upper 2.5 MHz of the lower band and the lower 2.5 MHz of the upper band will remain for fixed service due to interference protections required for the satellite services and their land based repeaters.

Secondly, the FCC on June 18th issued a notice (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-298880A1.pdf) asking for comments on allotting the 90 MHz of spectrum allocated to the Mobile Satellite Service MSS) for land-based broadband use.

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Coming Up

Wed., Aug. 18	Linear Acoustic – Hear Factor Tour
Thurs., Sept. 16	Loudspeakers – Part 4
Wed., Oct. 27	Broadcasters Clinic – SBE Awards Dinner



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
Wisconsin Public Radio
kevin.trueblood@wpr.org

Past Chair

Dennis Baldridge
W: 608-489-3999
baldridge@mwt.net

Committee Appointees

Program Committee

Steve Paugh 277-5139
volunteers needed for program committee

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 June 2010 Business Meeting

On June 17, 2010, Chapter 24 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers held their monthly meeting and annual picnic at Badger Prairie Park in Verona, Wisconsin. There were 10 members present, 9 who were certified, and 3 guests. The Chapter provided hot dogs, brats, and hamburgers, while those attending brought a variety of other dishes for everyone to enjoy.

Chairman Fred Sperry called a brief meeting to order at 7:15pm and thanked everyone for coming. The May meeting minutes, as published in the June Newsletter were approved on a motion by Steve Paugh and a second by Stan Scharch.

Treasurer Kevin Trueblood reported that the Chapter had been issued a new Employer Identification Number (EIN) and Associated Bank closed the existing checking account then opened a new account with the corresponding EIN. Kevin also noted that the account continues to have a healthy balance. Fred Sperry further explained that as a tax-exempt non-profit organization, the Chapter is required to send in an IRS notice every year. As the old tax ID number was no longer in the database at the IRS, a process was started to receive the new one.

Reporting as Sustaining Membership Chair, Fred Sperry noted that the Chapter currently has 20 sustaining members. Token Creek Mobile Television is the most recent sustaining member to renewed their support.

Program Committee Chair Steve Paugh announced that the Wisconsin Public Broadcasting Center will be the location for the July meeting.

Tektronix is scheduled to present information on Ancillary Data Analysis (ANC) in digital video on Tuesday, July 13th. The August 18th meeting will feature "The Hearfactor Tour" by Linear Acoustics.

National Liaison Leonard Charles reported that the new CertPreview is now online and available for download at www.sbe.org.

CertPreview is a program which has sample exams to help prepare for SBE certification. Leonard also noted that tickets for the October SBE National awards dinner are \$15 and are available online at www.sbe.org. Also, the SBE wants to get the "Sticks and Bones" band back together for entertainment prior to the awards dinner; if you are an interested musician contact the SBE National. The SBE is also offering a webinar titled Human Factors in Broadcasting on July 13th; see the National web site for more information and to register.

For new business, Leonard Charles mentioned that the WBA Summer conference was coming up on June 23rd. Registration is available online and they will accept on-site registration.

In professional announcements, Tom Weeden mentioned that WBUW is looking for a contract engineer for some on-call engineering support. There were no tech-tips or other announcements, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm. Fred Sperry thanked Steve Paugh for organizing all of the picnic logistics, as well as handling the grilling duties. The group then continued to enjoy music, conversation, and the good food.

Submitted by Mike Norton, Secretary



WT Docket No. 10-119, Review of the Commission's Part 95 Personal Radio Services Rules

WT Docket No. 98-182, RM-9222, 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review – 47 C.F.R; Part 90 – Private Land Mobile Radio Services

RM-10762, Petition for Rulemaking of Garmin International, Inc

RM-10844, Petition for Rulemaking of Omnitronics, L.L.C.

On June 1st, the FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-10-106A1.pdf) concerning several personal radio services. In the notice, they are proposing to eliminate the licensing of General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) two-way radios and relax the eligibility requirements for that service, go to 12.5 KHz channeling, allow for GPS and text emergency messaging. There are some rules changes to the Family Radio Service (FRS) also. The rules changes that apply to both FRS and GMRS include the prohibition of both voice scrambling and the ability for transmission on emergency channels such as marine radio. FRS would also be able to use GPS and text emergency messaging. Businesses may also be allowed to use GMRS radios. The FCC is also suggesting that handheld GMRS radios be limited to two watt output. Citizen Band rules may be modified to allow for longer conversations and for hands-free microphones.

Part of the reason for the rule changes are that there are many radios that are sold that cover both the

GMRS and FRS bands, as they are adjacent to each other. Many people were purchasing these radios and not getting licenses for use in the GMRS band.

The Commission is also looking at other personal radio bands such as the 406 MHz personal locators, medical telemetry services and others personal radio bands. There is also a review of some technical rules pertaining to frequency stability, and classification of some services under different parts of the FCC rules.

This rulemaking is basically an adjustment of the rules to acknowledge the reality of who uses the services and how they are used.

FCC TAKES BROADBAND SPECTRUM ACTIONS

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Thirdly, the Broadband Planning Group issued a report reaffirming the desire to auction the 10 MHz in the 700 MHz Public Safety band for broadband use. In the report, it is suggested that with the existing spectrum allotted for public safety, the 10 MHz in the 700 MHz band already allotted to public safety is sufficient. The report calls for the creation of a national cellular system to be used for public safety within the existing 700 MHz spectrum. If that is insufficient, public safety should have access to the commercial wireless networks. This plan, the report says, would give public safety enough spectrum for normal operations. The report stated that there are many fewer users per megahertz in all of the public safety bands than in the commercial wireless bands.

The spectrum in the WCS and the MSS bands were auctioned to their current licensees. Expect to see much more reallocation of spectrum by the FCC including further sharing of previously auctioned spectrum.

SAVE THE DATES

The 2010 Broadcasters Clinic will be held October 26th thru the 28th at the Madison Marriott West in Middleton. The program agenda for this year's conference is being finalized and will be released soon. Look for it in coming issues of this newsletter and on the various SBE email lists.

This year the National SBE will be joining us for their National Meeting and Awards Dinner. Please note that tickets for the Wednesday night Awards Dinner are separate or in addition to Clinic registration. So if you plan on attending this event you need to purchase a separate \$15 ticket from the SBE National, now available on their web site.



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

August 2010 Chapter 24 Newsletter Deadline:
Sunday, August 1
paul.stoffel@wpt.org

edited using Adobe InDesign CS4

Tokencreek MOBILE TELEVISION

John Salzwedel
President

501 Moravian Valley Road, Waunakee, Wisconsin 53597
Phone: (608) 849-4965 Fax: (608) 849-4035 Cell: (608) 235-9632
Web Page: www.tokencreek.com E-Mail: john@tokencreek.com





Amateur Radio News

compiled by Tom Weeden, WJ9H

- Possible changes to the newest amateur band, 60 meters: In May, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking – ET Docket #10-98 – proposing to amend the Part 97 rules pertaining to the use of five channels in the 5330.6-5406.4 kHz band. The proposal would replace one designated channel with one that is less encumbered by interference, to authorize three additional emission designators and to increase the maximum authorized power in this band.

Currently the only emission type that is authorized on the 60 meter channels is single-sideband voice with a peak power of 50 watts. The proposal would add Morse Code and narrow-band digital transmissions, and increase peak power to 100 watts.

On June 15, a summary of the NPRM was published in the Federal Register, which started the clock on the deadline for comments. Comments must be filed on or before July 15; reply comments must be filed on or before July 30, 2010.

- Solar activity in sunspot cycle 24 remains low, although geomagnetic conditions were fairly active over the last week in June. The summertime phenomenon of sporadic E-layer ionization of the upper atmosphere (which doesn't seem to be directly related to sunspot activity) brought the maximum usable frequency well over 100 MHz several times in June, giving hams long-distance contacts on the 50 MHz band, and allowing TV/FM "DXers" to hear distant broadcast stations all over North America. This author heard 8 distant FM stations in June, from KDLY

(97.5) Lander WY and CHLB-FM
(95.5) Lethbridge, Alberta, to WPGC (95.5) in Washington DC. (I also saw a few seconds of snowy NTSC soccer video on channel 2 and presume that the signal was originating from somewhere in Canada.) Some persistent DXers have been able to receive the few remaining low-band VHF DTV stations via the ionosphere when conditions are good, although it's difficult due to multipath.

Hobbyists who keep track of this sort of TV/FM "skip" can be found posting real-time conditions at <<http://dxworld.com/tvfmlog.html>>. A brief example is shown below. Note that WA5IYX in San Antonio snagged a couple of Wisconsin FM stations in this list.

Jul03 20:31 The Big Cheese - I love that station! – rzz mlw
Jul03 20:30 K1MOD: Canada distance. If you have stn coordinates, you can use this -> <http://jan.ucc.nau.edu/~cvm/latlongdist.html> ... Mike/cm87
Jul03 20:29 Es 107.1 WPVL Wisc - de WA5IYX EL09ql
Jul03 20:28 Es 93.9 2 deep Spanish, mix with Rapid City - KW4RZ EM60
Jul03 20:28 Tr 104.7 WDDW Sturtevant. WI SS ads 322 mi -de Jeff VA3NN
Jul03 20:28 Tnx rzz! de MOD
Jul03 20:26 OTOH, Es 55.25 gurger et al XE stuff - de WA5IYX EL09ql
Jul03 20:26 92.1 kjmn
Jul03 20:24 Es 107.9 Wisc Big Cheese RDS - de WA5IYX EL09ql
Jul03 20:23 Es 104.9 WNFM WI Reedsburg - de WA5IYX EL09ql

Jul03 20:22 Es "Oldies 101.9"
Rapid City, SD - KW4RZ EM60
Jul03 20:22 Canadian FM

Spreadsheet:
http://www.dxfm.com/Content/spreadsheet_info.htm - rzz
Jul03 20:21 92.9 Spanish now peaking from TX - rzz milw

Jul03 20:20 Is there a distance chart for Canadian DX? Tnx de K1MOD

Jul03 20:20 Es 89.7 Mexico City, 92.3 Rapid City, SD, KW4RZ EM60

Jul03 20:19 Es 88.7 Unid Air One -de Jeff VA3NN

Jul03 20:19 Es thru 105 MHz - de WA5IYX EL09ql

Jul03 20:18 Tr killing Es now -de Jeff VA3NN

Jul03 20:17 Tr 88.9 WYMS Milwaukee, WI "Radio Milwaukee", RDS 324 mi -de Jeff VA3NN

Jul03 20:16 Es 88.9 XHSSA MEXICO Sonora, Sonoyta, Radio Sonora, noticias w/M&W in Spanish; Steve/AB5GP Harlingen, TX

Jul03 20:16 Es 91.1 WOVM Wisc The Avenue - de WA5IYX EL09ql

Jul03 20:14 Tr 105.1 WOJO Evanston, IL SS "Buena" 334 mi -de Jeff VA3NN

Jul03 20:13 Es 93.5 WOZZ WI New London RDS - de WA5IYX EL09ql

Jul03 20:11 Es 2007z 93.1 WI Jamz 93.1 - de WA5IYX EL09ql

Jul03 20:11 Tr 104.1 WZEE Madison, WI "Z-104" 404 mi -de Jeff VA3NN



TV SPECTRUM PLANS FOR BROADBAND REVEALED

>>> by Tom Smith

On June 15th, the FCC released a 57-page paper titled SPECTRUM ANALYSIS, Options for Broadcast Spectrum ([http://download.broadband.gov/plan/fcc-omnibus-broadband-initiative-\(obi\)-technical-paper-spectrum-analysis-options-for-broadband-spectrum.pdf](http://download.broadband.gov/plan/fcc-omnibus-broadband-initiative-(obi)-technical-paper-spectrum-analysis-options-for-broadband-spectrum.pdf)). There was not anything in the paper that has not been discussed in the original broadband plan released last November or been discussed by FCC personnel in the media. This paper does give some more clarity to the FCC's thinking on the subject, but still lacks detail on the effects on individual markets or broadcasters. There are no examples of proposed allocation plans under the different scenarios. They did give a couple of examples of how the different scenarios were run and they gave math formulas they used in the appendix. The report begins with an analysis of the value of TV broadcasting versus broadband and wireless use. The numbers concerning the value of the spectrum are derived from the auction returns of the 60-megahertz of spectrum in the 700 MHz band and the enterprise value of the total TV broadcast industry. Using the 700 MHz auction results, they declared that the value of one megahertz of spectrum per person is \$1.28. For one megahertz of spectrum used for TV broadcasting they figure the value of one megahertz per person is worth \$0.11-0.15. They arrived at that value by taking the value of all TV broadcasting stations as \$63.7 billion and multiplying it by the percentage of over the air viewer's which they

estimate as 14-19% giving a value of \$8.9-12.2 billion. They then divided that value by 294 megahertz and by the population of the United States, which they gave as 281.4 million, the 2000 census figure. The current population estimate is at 315 million. Using the true population number would reduce the value of the spectrum per person for both the broadcast and 700 MHz spectrum. If missing something as simple as using an updated population estimate, one could question other data in the report. The report goes into the reduction of over-the-air viewing, decreases in station revenues and ratings verses cable networks. Discussed were retransmission and the revenue stations are now getting from it and the possibility of a future court case in which broadcasters could lose must-carry and its effects. They did acknowledge there were possible opportunities with DTV and that TV broadcasting is still a very effective mass communications delivery system and provides significant public benefits to the communications landscape and should be preserved. They noted that mobile broadband was in its beginnings and may also provide many public benefits.

In this report, the Commission ran a series of scenarios to repack the TV stations in a smaller band. They included moving all the stations in a market to a single transmitter site, 2 stations to 1 channel sharing (2-1), 6 stations to 1 channel sharing (6-1), channel changes and whether to include Canadian and Mexican border stations. After they made their computer scenarios, they did not recommend co-location of transmitters and the 6-1 channel sharing. Co-location was ruled out due to the cost of moving transmission facilities and 6-1 channel sharing due to the cost to stations to provide HD and quality SD

>>> **TV Spectrum**

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>>> **TV Spectrum**

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signals to cable and satellite providers. 6-1 channel sharing would only give broadcasters a minimum quality off-air signal. The Commission showed high interest in 2-1 channel sharing as they did extensive research into bit usage of HD and SD signals and compression techniques. They analyzed the bit streams of a number of Washington D.C. stations to determine the amount of bits used by each stations HD and SD program streams.

The FCC was not able to free up more than one to seven TV channels (6 to 42 MHz) in either scenario of channel sharing or repacking (by changes in allocations). They did not move stations between the UHF and VHF bands in their series of scenarios, which further limited the amount of channels that could be opened up. They plan on running allotment optimization models including moving stations between the UHF and VHF bands. Other methods to repack stations that may be used include changing the interference criteria and the total redo of the allocation tables. To get more channels free, the FCC may ask Congress to use auction revenues to pay stations to give up their channel or share channels. The Commission is also interested in developing different transmission systems such as using multiple transmitters in a cellular approach. None of the allotment scenarios considered Class A or other LPTV stations, translators, land mobile shared channels or wireless microphones and white space devices.

As far as the Commission's view of the future of TV broadcasting, they discussed the recent declines in revenue and viewers and noted a pessimistic prospect of multicasting in an article from TVBR.com. and noted that even with high user levels of mobile TV in Japan and South Korea, they have yet to succeed financially.

On June 25th, the Commission held an all day engineering forum (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-298707A1.pdf) on the broadcast spectrum plan. The forum was divided into 4 working groups, which covered Advancements in Compression Technology, Improvements in VHF Reception, Cellularization of Broadcast Architecture and Methodologies for Repacking the TV Bands. The four groups meet during the day and, then at 3 PM, the Commission held a webcast in which the four groups gave a report on their discussions.

Andy Selos of Fox gave the first presentation on Compression Technology. The FCC is interested in compression technology in order to do channel sharing. The group reported that there are problems with compression when two stations doing HD share a channel. Even with statistical multiplexing there would be one winner and one loser as there is not enough bandwidth for two quality HD signals. Evan Kwerel of the FCC stated that they thought that the stations could decide who gives up signal quality during high picture activity by a contract between the stations. He also said that they expected that the second station would be SD and would be a second tier station. A second tier station would be a religious, Spanish language or an independent, including a station with a network like the CW. Kwerel said that they did not expect to disrupt the major network stations. Selos stated that more stations are converting to HD plants and most syndicated programming is now being sent in HD format. The group came to the conclusion the channel sharing was not practical.

After discussing the various methods of cellularization, the Panel on Cellularization of the TV system concluded that using a number of transmitters to cover a market

was not practical. With a single frequency system, there would be too many interference zones between transmitters. With a multi-frequency system, more spectrum, not less, would be needed. That presentation was given by Bob Seidel of CBS.

Kerry Kozad of Dielectric and Victor Tawel of MSTV gave the report on VHF Reception. That group concluded that there was no easy way of correcting the low band VHF reception problem. To overcome noise affecting the signal, power at the transmitter would have to be increased to around a quarter of a megawatt and the long elements needed for the antenna at those frequencies made practical antennas difficult to design and be attractive to viewers.

The panel that examined Methods of Repacking Channels went further than the FCC and included Class A LPTV stations, the land mobile allocations in the TV bands and Canadian and Mexican border stations.

>>> **TV Spectrum**

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>>> **TV Spectrum**
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They placed all stations within channels 2-30, which would free the 120 MHz, the FCC wants. They did not move any station into channels 2-6 from the High band VHF or UHF bands, but did leave the 39 stations already there in place. They came to the conclusion that as many as 85 markets would be required to have stations share channels and 21 of those markets would have to have all of the stations share channels. They also said that by packing stations in fewer channels, there would have to be adjustments for greater interference between stations. There were also questions about Nielsen's estimates of 10.6 million off-air only homes when 35 million converter box coupons were redeemed and 50 million converter boxes were sold. Bruce Franca of MSTV who gave the report also noted that off-air sets in homes with cable or satellite service were not taken into account.

The video and the PowerPoint's from the workshop can be found at (<http://reboot.fcc.gov/workshops/broadcast-engineering-forum>).

Both the FCC report and the panels seem to have concluded that 120 MHz couldn't be taken from the TV band without extensive channel sharing or stations going dark. The Commission did discuss the sharing of auction proceeds with stations to have them give up their spectrum. That would have to be approved by Congress.

On Monday, June 28th, President Obama signed a memorandum (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/presidential-memorandum-unleashing-wireless-broadband-revolution>) endorsing the spectrum plan in the Broadband Plan that was released last February, which included the recovery of 500 MHz for auction for broadband service including the 120 MHz from TV. The Memorandum did not state anything about the TV spectrum,

but did say that various agencies were to work together to recover 500 MHz for fixed and mobile wireless broadband. A fact sheet was also issued (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/fact-sheet-doubling-amount-commercial-spectrum-unleash-innovative-potential-wireles>). Later in the day, Larry Summers, Director of the National Economics Council, spoke (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/nec/speeches/technological-opportunities-job-creation-economic-grow>) at a New America Foundation luncheon about the plan. The New America Foundation has been critical of spectrum planning and the FCC and was one of the leaders in the lobbying for unlicensed use of the TV spectrum for broadband devices. Eric Schmidt of Google heads the board of directors. Summers spoke of the "Spectrum Crunch" and of finding 500 MHz for new broadband services;

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SAVE THE DATES

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>>> **TV Spectrum**

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he also spoke of how auctions of the spectrum created 214,000 jobs in the wireless industry since they start using auctions in 1993. He noted the theory forwarded by Ronald Coase of the Chicago School of Business "that auctions ensured that spectrum is devoted to its most productive use by the investor's willingness to pay for it". Unlicensed spectrum use was also mentioned. Incentive auctions, which spectrum users would benefit from for giving up their spectrum, were discussed. An example is a station with limited revenue that is holding spectrum that may be worth millions. In return for a share of auction proceeds, stations would either share a channel with another station or give up its license. He said the decision would be voluntary on the part of the station. He also suggested the freeing up of radar spectrum used for services like air traffic control and replacing radar with the use of GPS technology. He made claims that 2.4 million jobs are dependent on the wireless industry, each dollar invested in wireless added \$7-10 to the GDP, E-bay created 800,000 jobs and that expending wireless would add a trillion dollars to the nation's wealth.

Also on June 28th, the FCC (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-10-1168A1.pdf) indefinitely postponed the nationwide filing of first-come first-served licensing applications for LPTV and translators. They are currently taking applications for areas 75 miles outside the largest 100 cities in the country and will continue to do so, but they will not start in the larger cities because of the proposed spectrum reallocation to broadband. They will take applications for conversions of low-power stations to digital and for digital companion stations to the current analog stations in the larger markets.

In none of these reports or speeches

about the reallocation of spectrum from TV to wireless has there been any discussion of the possible job loss due to stations shutting down or of failure of stations due to further erosion of viewers due to reduced influence of local broadcasting.



CHAPTER 24 SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Recent Renewals

Token Creek Productions

Thanks to all our Sustaining Members

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<http://www.sbe.org/SBEUniversity.php>

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



**JVC Professional
Products Company**

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



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

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For more information about SBE Certification exam dates, contact Jim Hermanson, services@jimhermanson.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

Nov. 5-15, 2010

February

4-14, 2011

Location Application

Local Chapters

Local

Application Deadline

September 17, 2010

December 31, 2010