



September 2010

 **Next Meeting**

**Thursday, September 16**



**DANE COUNTY  
EMERGENCY  
PLANNING**

David Janda, Assistant Director of the Dane County Emergency Management office will lead a discussion of pending improvements the Dane County warning system. David is looking for input, guidance and opinions from the local broadcast community on proposed updates and changes to the current system. He will also introduce one of the consultants hired by Dane County to assist with this project. If you are involved in EAS this will be an important interactive meeting.

Chapter 24 will provide  
Pizza & Soda - 6:00 PM  
WISC Conference Room B  
7025 Raymond Road  
Madison, WI

Meeting and Program at 7:00 PM  
WISC Conference Room B  
7025 Raymond Road  
Madison, WI

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

Guests are welcome to join us!

**2010 Broadcasters Clinic**

Now is the time to register for the 2010 Broadcasters Clinic. Check out the program agenda by clicking on the "Broadcaster Clinic" button on the front page of the Chapter 24 web site at <http://www.sbe24.org>.



To Register on-line go to the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association web site

go to <http://www.wi-broadcasters.org/wba/index.php/events/broadcasters-clinic/>.



This year the National SBE will be holding their National Meeting and Awards Dinner at the Clinic. If you plan on attending the Wednesday evening Awards Dinner you'll need a separate \$15 ticket (not included with Clinic registration). To purchase that ticket please visit the National SBE web site at [https://ssl18.pair.com/sbe/cgi-bin/sbe\\_event\\_reg.pl?goto=form&ec=72](https://ssl18.pair.com/sbe/cgi-bin/sbe_event_reg.pl?goto=form&ec=72) or call the National SBE at 317-846-9000.

Here's the top ten reasons to attend the Clinic:

- 10.** Its late October (26th thru 28th) and your Summer rush is over
- 9.** The very best sessions in one place since NAB
- 8.** Door prizes and the latest

- technology on the Exhibit Floor
- 7.** Nuts N Bolts on Tuesday evening
- 6.** The food (OK, that one might be a stretch)
- 5.** Rub elbows with the National SBE Officers, Board, and Committee Members
- 4.** The neat free gift in your registration packet
- 3.** Free Parking
- 2.** Live Mobile DTV demonstration transmitted on a Madison TV station
- 1.** It beats spending the night inside a broken transmitter.

See you there!



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**Coming Up**

- Wed., Oct. 27** Broadcasters Clinic –
- Wed., Nov. 17** Utah Scientific – HD Master Control
- Thurs., Dec. 16** Holiday Party – Fitzgerald's



## Chapter Contacts

### Chapter Leadership

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volunteers needed for  
program committee

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# Meeting Minutes

from the August 2010 Business Meeting

On Tuesday, August 18, 2010, Chapter 24 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers held their monthly meeting at WISC-TV in Madison, Wisconsin. There were 10 members present, 7 who were certified.

The meeting was called to order by Treasurer Kevin Trueblood at 7:13pm. The meeting minutes from July, as published in the August Newsletter, were approved on a motion by Tom Smith and a second by Leonard Charles. Treasurer Kevin Trueblood then reported the chapter bank balance to be at a positive level. There was no newsletter or sustaining membership report available.

As had been mentioned last month there was no information heard back regarding the status of Madison Video Repair. Kevin relayed the Sustaining Membership report from Fred Sperry that stated the Chapter continues to hold steady at 20 sustaining members.

Program Committee Chair Steve Paugh noted that some future presentations remain in flux. Currently the September upcoming program is to be by ~~Utah Scientific on master control switcher systems~~ [changed to Dane County Emergency Management], followed by the Broadcasters Clinic in October; November tentatively holds a program by ~~Mayah Communications~~ [changed to Utah Scientific on master control switcher systems]. Watch the chapter web site for changes and firm dates

Frequency Coordinator Tom Smith said that there was no local coordination activity, and that the FCC has a recent Notice of Proposed Rulemaking related to the 7 and 13 GHz band related to backhauls for broadband providers. There was no Certification and Education report available.

As National Liaison, Leonard Charles noted that S.2881 (FCC Commissioners' Technical Resource Enhancement Act) received the Senate committee recommendation that it pass the full Senate; it's possible the Senate will take it up for a vote before the session is over. The SBE National election ballots are due back by August 26<sup>th</sup>. Members were informed about registration for a free EAS webinar on August 19<sup>th</sup> that covers Next Generation EAS. Leonard also encouraged all Chapter 24 members to attend the Broadcasters Clinic and SBE National meeting, held right here in Madison on October 26 – 28<sup>th</sup>. Entertainment at the annual awards reception and dinner will be by "Sticks and Bones," an all-SBE member band.

In old business, Kevin Trueblood reported that the Chapter rebate check has been sent back to the National office to be applied to the three scholarship funds. Kevin also announced that Chapter 24 will receive recognition for winning national awards for the Best Regional Conference and Best Chapter Newsletter at the SBE National meeting. A sympathy card was circulated for the passing of Don Borchert. Leonard Charles then talked about the desire of the WBA to create a fellowship to honor Don Borchert for his many years of dedication to the Broadcasters Clinic. All four SBE chapters in Wisconsin will be approached for their participation in creating this fellowship, to allow funding for attendance at the event.

There were no announcements or tech tips, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:28pm. Kevin turned over the meeting to Steve Paugh, who gave his presentation on Loudspeakers: Part 4.

*Submitted by Mike Norton, Secretary*

## FCC SEEKS MORE BROADCASTER SPECTRUM

>>> by Tom Smith

On August 5th, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and a Notice of Inquiry concerning various microwave issues and spectrum. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking concerns the use of broadcast auxiliary spectrum for broadband back haul usage, licensing additional "auxiliary links" to a primary microwave link and allowing adaptive modulation standards to allow for bandwidth reduction to compensate for signal fading. The Notice of Inquiry concerns efficiency standards in rural areas, Part 101 antenna standards and other issues concerning Part 101 of the Rules.

TV broadcasters would be directly affected by the proposed rule that would allow fixed microwave stations, carrying non broadcaster traffic, to share the 6875-7125 MHz band and the 12.7 to 13.2 GHz band. TV broadcasters already share this band with cable providers. Cable companies have used the 12.7-13.2 GHz band for distribution of their signals from their headends to outlying systems. That use is being phased out in favor of fiber-optic cables, except for some small rural systems. For broadcasters, the biggest issue is how these proposed rules would affect mobile operations such as news ENG operations. The FCC did offer broadcasters one rule change that could be to their advantage; allowing broadcasters to license their studio to transmitter

link in any fixed microwave band. Currently broadcasters can use the other fixed microwave bands for intercity links and other links they may need to get a signal to the studio, but they must use a broadcast auxiliary band frequency to get to the transmitter. They have two exceptions, they are the 17.7-18.58 and the 21.2-23.6 GHz bands which broadcasters are able to share with all other fixed service licensees.

The so-called auxiliary link proposal could allow a licensee for a fixed-link station to operate, on a secondary basis, a number of low-powered links on the same frequency from the main transmitter site. This would create a small-point to multi-point system for distribution.

In the Notice of Inquiry, the Commission is proposing to allow fixed links in rural areas to use lower payloads on their carriers, such as 4 or 16 QAM, instead of 64 QAM. This allows for longer paths or lower power. They are also proposing the use of smaller antennas to allow for less loading on towers and reduced objection by the public when towers are zoned. They did note the current requirements for the use of Category "A" antennas over Category "B" antennas to reduce interference. The final part of the inquiry is a request for any other information on how Part 101 rules could be changed to better use the various fixed microwave bands.

The names of the rulemaking and inquiry are:

WT Docket No. 10-153; The rulemaking is Amendment of Part 101 of the Commission's Rules to

Facilitate the Use of Microwave for Wireless Backhaul and Other Uses and to Provide Additional Flexibility to Broadcast Auxiliary Service and Operational Fixed Microwave Licensees

WT Docket No. 06-106; Request for Interpretation of Section 101.141(a)(3) of the Commission's Rules Filed by Alcatel-Lucent, Inc., *et al.*

WT Docket No. 07-121; Petition for Declaratory Ruling Filed by Wireless Strategies, Inc. Request for Temporary Waiver of Section 101.141(a)(3) of the Commission's Rules Filed by Fixed Wireless Communications Coalition

The full notice can be found at ([http://www.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2010/db0805/FCC-10-146A1.pdf](http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2010/db0805/FCC-10-146A1.pdf)) and the short version in the Federal Register can be found at (<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-20785.pdf>). Comments are due on October 25th and replies are due on November 22nd.

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President

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**WISC-TV**

**MADISON**





# Amateur Radio News

compiled by Tom Weeden, WJ9H

- The amateur radio station at the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami, WX4NHC, activated the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) on Monday, August 30, as Hurricane Earl threatened the British Virgin Islands and Anguilla. The HWN was deactivated later that day as Earl pulled away from lands and moved more out into the open ocean. Hurricane Earl was expected to remain a major hurricane for several days as it traverses just off the US East Coast.

When active WX4NHC monitors the Hurricane Watch Net on 14.325 MHz. Secondary HF frequencies are 7.268 MHz and 3.950 MHz +/- QRM, should propagation be lost on 20 meters.

- An Oklahoma town has agreed that its radio interference ordinance does not apply to ham radio operators after intervention by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). A ham in Midwest City (suburban Oklahoma City) was notified that he “was in violation of the ordinance as the result of radio frequency interference appearing in a neighbor/complainant’s home electronic equipment. The licensed radio amateur was ordered to remedy the problem in one day, under penalty of a sanction assessed against the real property of the radio amateur.”

On July 21, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, notified Midwest City officials that only the FCC is empowered to regulate such matters. Imlay asserted, “The City in fact has absolutely no jurisdiction whatsoever over radio frequency interference. Such regulation is exclusively within the jurisdiction of the Federal Communications Commission and all regulation of

radio transmission and interference phenomena is preempted by Federal law.” Two weeks later, Midwest City Assistant City Attorney Randal D. Homburg sent an e-mail to the ham to let him know “the previously delivered notice is hereby rescinded [sic]. There will be no citations issued and thus, the issue is moot.”

(Chris Imlay is also General Counsel to SBE.)

(Excerpts from the American Radio Relay League’s <<http://www.arrl.org>> and VoIP Hurricane Net <<http://voipwx.net>> web sites)




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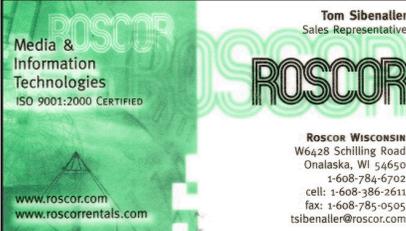


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# CONGRESS PROPOSES NEW CAPTIONING BILL

>>> by Tom Smith

A bill has been passed in the House of Representatives that would expand closed captioning and descriptive video requirements for both broadcasters and those providing video to the internet. The bill would also expand other requirements to video and web based services to better accommodate the disabled including making various functions of the internet such as voice over IP. The bill would require all video devices to display closed captioning, program guides to be easy to navigate by those with disabilities including provide audible tools for the blind to use on screen program guides.

There would be some exemptions to the requirements for small program providers. The laws would take some time to be phased in. The bill requires that the FCC file reports on the current status of the requirements proposed in the bill and there are timelines, covering several years, for the implementation of most of the items in the bill. The bill's number is H.R. 3101 and it's 72 pages can be found at ([http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:h3101eh.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:h3101eh.txt.pdf).) The bill still has to be passed by the Senate to become law.

# NAB RELEASES ANTENNA PAPERS

>>> by Tom Smith

On August 17th, the NAB released a report on the subject of indoor antennas for TV reception. The report contained a number of papers on various antenna designs, on matching the antennas to transmission lines and on receiver electronics. The report is 131 pages. The designs for many of the antennas drew their concepts from cell phone and microwave antennas and the designs did look very similar to those that appear in microwave and wireless system design journals. The paper can be found at (<http://www.nabfastroad.org/NABHigh-performanceIndoorTVantennaRpt.pdf>). The designs and theories in the papers may give members in the broadcast community some new thoughts on indoor reception issues and their possible cures.



<http://sbe.org/CertPreview.php>

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

October 2010 Chapter 24 Newsletter Deadline:  
Friday, October 1  
[paul.stoffel@wpt.org](mailto:paul.stoffel@wpt.org)  
*edited using Adobe InDesign CS4*

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## Certification Exam Session Dates

For more information about SBE Certification, contact Jim Hermanson, [services@jimhermanson.com](mailto: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](mailto:mclappe@sbe.org).

EXAM DATES	LOCATION	APPLICATION DEADLINE
November 5-15, 2010	Local Chapters	September 17, 2010
February 4-14, 2011	Local Chapters	December 31, 2010
April 12, 2011	NAB Convention	March 25, 2011
June 3-13, 2011	Local Chapters	April 15, 2011
August 5-15, 2011	Local Chapters	June 3, 2011
November 4-14, 2011	Local Chapters	September 16, 2011

## SBE Board of Directors Election Results

The results are in from the annual election of SBE officers and directors. All four officer positions and six of the 12 director seats were being contested. Vincent Lopez, CEV, CBNT of Syracuse, N.Y. was re-elected to a second term as national president. Lopez is Director of Engineering for WSYT-TV, WNYS-TV, which are stations of the Sinclair Broadcast Group.

Elected to one year terms as officers include:

President: Vincent A. Lopez  
 Vice President: Ralph Hogan  
 Secretary: Ted Hand  
 Treasurer: Andrea Cummis

Elected to two-year terms on the Board of Directors were:

Timothy Anderson  
 Ralph Beaver  
 Gary Kline  
 Gary Liebisch  
 Scott Mason  
 Jeff Smith

The national Board of Directors of SBE is responsible for the development of policy and determines

the programs and services the Society provides to its more than 5,200 members. Those elected will begin their terms on October 27 during the Annual SBE Membership Meeting. They will join the other six directors who have another year remaining in their terms as well as immediate past president, Barry Thomas.



<http://sbe.org/CertPreview.php>



[http://www.sbe.org/cert\\_index.php](http://www.sbe.org/cert_index.php)



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



## CHAPTER 24 SUSTAINING MEMBERS

### Thanks to all our Sustaining Members

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