



April 2011

# Society of Broadcast Engineers Chapter 24 Newsletter

Madison, Wisconsin



## Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 20



### LOW COST CONDENSER MICROPHONES & Elections

Kevin Peckham of Full Compass Systems will evaluate the current crop of low cost Chinese microphones currently on the market. How do they compare with the high end and the mid-priced European and American counter parts, and can you hear the difference? This should be an interesting evening.

We will also be collecting ballots for the election of officers. Blank ballots will be available at the meeting.

Dutch Treat Dinner at 5:30pm  
Rocky Rococo  
Tree Lane (Mineral Point at Beltline)  
(near Brothers Main Appliance store)  
Madison, WI

Meeting and Program at 7:00PM  
Full Compass Systems  
9770 Silicon Prairie Parkway  
(use main entrance)  
Madison, WI

See maps on page 5

### TV SPECTRUM RECEIVES ANOTHER THREAT

>>> by Tom Smith

On March 28th, the FCC released a notice ([http://www.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2011/db0328/DA-11-562A1.pdf](http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2011/db0328/DA-11-562A1.pdf)) requesting comment on a petition for a rulemaking and a freeze on licensing new TV stations or allowing the modification of existing stations on Channel 51. CTIA-Wireless Association and the Rural Cellular Association made the petition. They requested that the Commission prohibit the future licensing of TV broadcast stations on channel 51, freeze the acceptance, processing and granting of applications for new or modified broadcast facilities on channel 51 and accelerate the clearance of channel 51 broadcasters who reach voluntary agreement to move to an alternate channel.

This petition is due to possible interference from the higher-powered TV stations on channel 51 to the wireless operations on the adjacent former TV channel 52. These wireless operations operate with much less power from their base stations and very low power from subscriber units. This should not have been a surprise to the wireless industry as there were interference issues with analog stations on channel 69 to mobile operations on the old translator channel 70. There were also issues with channel 14 analog stations and land mobile users on the 450-470 MHz band. In fact at one time the FCC allowed UHF stations with a transmitter output of one kilowatt or less to transmit the full lower sideband except on channel 14. Stations on channel 14 had to use a lower sideband filter like those required for higher power transmitters.

Comments are due on April 27th and replies due on May 12th.

## 2011 Summer Engineering Workshop

Save the date! The WBA-SBE Summer Engineering Workshop is scheduled for June 22nd at the Grand Geneva Resort and Spa in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. The session schedule is being finalized now and will feature The EAS-CAP Mandate, The Alternative FCC Inspection, Interference Situations and Studies, and Disaster Planning. There will also be a panel discussing actual recent disasters, their impact, short-term recovery, and long-term path back to normalcy. Look for full details coming soon to a mailbox, in-box, or newsletter near you.



WISCONSIN BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION



## Coming Up

- Tues., May 17 WPT Remote Truck Tour and Elections
- Thurs., June 16 SBE Summer Picnic
- Wed., July 20 ATSC Mobile Handheld Solutions



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## Chapter Contacts

### Chapter Leadership

#### Chair

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#### Treasurer

Kevin Trueblood  
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#### Past Chair

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W: 608-489-3999  
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### Committee Appointees

#### Program Committee

Steve Paugh 277-5139  
volunteers needed for  
program committee

#### Membership / Newsletter Editor

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#### Certification & Education

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#### Frequency Coordination

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#### National SBE Chapter Liaison

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# Meeting Minutes

from the March 2011 Business Meeting

Chapter 24 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers held their monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 15, 2011, at the Wisconsin Public Broadcasting Center in Madison, Wisconsin. There were 13 members present, 11 who were certified.

Chairman Fred Sperry called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The meeting minutes from February, as published in the March *Newsletter*, were approved on a motion by Mike Kulis and a second by Steve Paugh.

Fred Sperry relayed information from Treasurer Kevin Trueblood that the chapter account remains stable. Reporting on the *Newsletter* and Membership, Paul Stoffel had two items. He mentioned that the April deadline for articles was April 1<sup>st</sup>, and that the Chapter 24 membership list had been checked to verify eligible voters for elections next month.

Reporting as Sustaining Membership Chair, Fred Sperry noted the Chapter is holding steady with 21 sustaining members. Three recent renewals have been received from Scharch LLC, Wisconsin Public Television, and Maney Logic.

Program Committee Chair Steve Paugh talked about program topics for upcoming meetings. The next meeting on Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> will be at Full Compass Systems, and feature a talk on microphones by Kevin Peckham, along with some demonstrations. The May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting topic is currently open. The June meeting will include the annual Summer Picnic, while July promises a program on ATSC M/H (mobile/handheld).

In Certification and Education, Jim Hermanson announced the next SBE exam opportunity was on April 12<sup>th</sup> at the NAB convention in Las Vegas. The next local exam session will be June 3 – 13<sup>th</sup>, with the application deadline on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Jim also mentioned that a number of SBE University online courses were available at [sbe.org](http://sbe.org). As an additional note, Jim congratulated Mark Baldrige for passing the CBNT exam.

Frequency Coordination Tom Smith remarked that he received only one frequency coordination request (for wireless microphones) during the recent media coverage of protests at the Wisconsin state capitol. Tom was asked a question about how to find the contact person in a local market. He replied that there was a list of local frequency coordinators on the [SBE.org](http://SBE.org) web site.

For the national liaison report, Leonard Charles reminded those going to the NAB convention that there is a National SBE membership meeting scheduled the Tuesday of NAB. He also mentioned that SBE members can get \$100 off the NAB registration by using promo code TF34. Leonard also told everyone that there will be a live Networking Technology for Broadcast Engineers webinar on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Information and registration is available at [www.sbe.org/education](http://www.sbe.org/education).

Reviewing old business, Steve Paugh reported the current chapter officer nominees. Webmaster Leonard Charles has developed a program to be used for online voting. This web-based ballot system will be activated when the April *Newsletter* is published. There will be a link on the [sbe24.org](http://sbe24.org) web site. It is hoped that the new system will allow greater participation in the election process. Steve Paugh mentioned that paper ballots and a traditional ballot box will be available at the April meeting, but there are not plans to include ballots in the *Newsletter*. Leonard Charles gave a quick demonstration of the online voting system, with fictional candidates.

In new business, Fred Sperry said that submissions for the National awards are due at the SBE National by the end of May. Fred and the new chair will work on submissions for Chapter 24 awards. If you would like to submit an item for an individual award, send your completed information to Fred and he will include it with the submissions to the national office. Leonard Charles announced that the first organizational meeting for the WBA Summer Seminar and the Broadcast Clinic was scheduled for Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Forward any ideas for sessions to Leonard or other members of the planning committee. It was also announced that the applications period for the Don Borchert Broadcasters Clinic Fellowship was now open; click on the Broadcast Clinic button at [www.sbe24.org](http://www.sbe24.org) to retrieve the application.

There were no professional announcements or tech tips, and the meeting adjourned at 7:33pm. Steve Paugh turned it over to Tom Smith, who presented a talk on the national broadband plan and its implications for broadcasters.

Submitted by Mike Norton, Secretary



**FCC Rulemakings**  
compiled by Tom Smith

**PROPOSED  
MB Docket Number 09-52,  
RM 11528  
Policies to Promote Rural Radio  
Service and to Streamline  
Allotment and assignment  
Procedures**

On March 3<sup>rd</sup> the FCC adopted and released a Second Report and Order, a Notice of Reconsideration and a Further Notice of Rulemaking ([http://www.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2011/db0303/FCC-11-28A1.pdf](http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2011/db0303/FCC-11-28A1.pdf)) concerning a number of issues concerning the allotment of AM and FM frequencies.

In the Second Report and Order and the Notice of Reconsideration, the FCC set allotment rules for new AM and FM Stations that could give preference to Native American tribes in certain circumstances. If the proposed signal coverage area of the frequency being allotted has a population of more than 50% Native American or the area of tribal lands covers more than 50% and has a Native American population of 2,000, the tribe shall get a preference in the allotment. This is part of a FCC plan to improve communication services among Native American tribal lands.

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking addresses issues of AM and FM allotment in rural areas. The FCC is concerned about the migration of stations from rural to urban areas. There has been a trend for new allotments to be made in communities near major metropolitan areas or stations seeking to change their community of license to a location nearer to large cities. This has caused the loss of service to many small cities. The FCC has always given preference to allotment proposals for first or second service to a community. In many cases, petitioners for new allotments have filed as a first

or second service to a community that is a suburb to a large city. The suburban community in the FCC's eyes is in many cases just an extension of the larger city. The FCC is proposing that any allotment that covers 50% of the larger city will be considered as one of those city's stations and will not be considered as serving the smaller city. Proposals that cover 25% or less of a larger city with 5 or less stations will be considered. The FCC will use the same criteria for stations that wish to change their city of license. Many city of license changes also have a transmitter location change to better serve the larger city.

The Commission is also tightening the FM translator rules to prevent applicants from applying for a translator in the non-reserved or commercial band and then asking to move to a frequency in the reserved or non-commercial band. Some non-profit stations do this in order to expend their coverage. They apply for a frequency in the non-reserved band that is easier to get and then apply for the frequency change once they get the construction permit. Translators in the non-reserved band are limited to coverage within the main stations service contours while those in the reserved band may be fed with microwave or satellite and can be outside a non-profit stations contour. This option is limited to non-profit stations licensed in the reserved band.

Comments are due 30 days after publication in the Federal Register with replies due 15 days later.

**MB Docket No. 11-43  
Video Description:  
Implementation of the Twenty-  
First Century Communications  
and Video Accessibility Act of  
2010**

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The FCC released a Notice of Rulemaking ([http://www.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2011/db0311/FCC-11-36A1.pdf](http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2011/db0311/FCC-11-36A1.pdf)) concerning the broadcast of video

**Rulemakings**  
>>> continued on page 7

May 2011 Chapter 24  
Newsletter Deadline:  
Sunday, May 1  
[paul.stoffel@wpt.org](mailto:paul.stoffel@wpt.org)  
*edited using Adobe InDesign CS4*



Tom Sibenaller  
Sales Representative

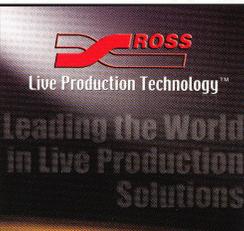
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MADISON  
WISC-TV  
5



# Amateur Radio News

compiled by Tom Weeden, WJ9H

• Amateur Radio operators became involved in the rescue effort soon after the March 11 8.9 earthquake and devastating tsunami that hit northern Japan, and that effort continued nearly two weeks later. “In the early stage following the earthquake and tsunami, several radio amateurs were able to activate their stations with car batteries or small engine generators, despite the electric power outages,” according to Ken Yamamoto, JA1CJP, International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 3 Secretary. “They transmitted rescue requests and information on the disaster situation — including refugee centers and their needs — and the availability of basic infrastructures, such as electricity, water and gas supplies.” After the earthquake and tsunami, there was no electricity, water or gas service in many of the affected areas.

In his report to the American Radio Relay League, Yamamoto said that the Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) quickly activated JA1RL, its headquarters station in Tokyo, to assist in the rescue effort. With the help of many other amateurs, it also activated its regional headquarters station JA3RL in Osaka to communicate with amateurs in the areas devastated by the tsunami, including its Tohoku headquarters station JA7RL in Sendai. “The communications were mostly on the 7 MHz band in daytime and the 3.5 MHz band at night,” Yamamoto explained. “Short range communications were also made on the 144 and 430 MHz bands. The information gathered through Amateur Radio communications was reported to the rescue and disaster relief organizations for their appropriate deployment. Some other amateurs accepted health-and-welfare

inquiries from the [impacted] areas and then posted the information on the Internet.”

Japan’s Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications — that country’s equivalent of the FCC — approved the use of an additional 300 UHF/VHF transceivers in the affected areas. With gasoline and natural gas in short supply, Yamamoto said that the fuel shortage was “a very serious problem in the cold climate. Calls for fuel were received over radio from many disaster areas, but delivery remained very difficult at least for the first week as the access roads were hacked up everywhere. Several days later, some Amateur Radio clubs reached the affected areas with their radio equipment and established communications for supporting disaster relief.”

Yamamoto told the ARRL that several radio equipment manufacturers offered “hundreds of VHF/UHF transceivers to JARL for the use at refugee centers and local disaster relief centers. These transceivers should help to establish mutual communications between refugee and disaster relief centers, and to facilitate smooth and appropriate delivery of disaster relief goods.”

As of noon JST on March 23 (0300 UTC), Japanese authorities announced that 9,408 people have been killed and another 14,716 people have been reported missing in the earthquake and tsunami.

• Even though they aren’t scheduled to go to the International Space Station (ISS) until 2013, two astronauts — Chris Cassidy and Luca Parmitano — are now licensed amateurs. Cassidy, who received the call sign KF5KDR, is scheduled to head to the ISS in

March 2013 as part of Expedition 35. Parmitano, who is KF5KDP, goes up three months later in May, as part of Expedition 36.

“Our aim is to have at least one crew member licensed and trained in on-air protocol, who is somewhat excited about ham radio and the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program (ARISS), per expedition,” explained ARRL ARISS Program Manager Rosalie White, K1STO. NASA ISS Ham Radio Project Engineer Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, told the ARRL that both Cassidy and Parmitano are “excited and interested in the educational aspects of Amateur Radio on board the ISS.”

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

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# CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES

## **Bill Hamilton – Candidate for Chairperson**

Bill Hamilton is the Technology Manger 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 restarting 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 & SMPTE. He received a local Emmy nomination for editing and his animation work was showcased by Adobe at NAB.

## **Kevin Trueblood – Candidate for Vice Chair**

Kevin Trueblood is currently an Engineer with Wisconsin Public Radio. This is Kevin’s 14th year working in radio, starting back in high school at a group of stations in his hometown of Galesburg, IL. Along the way, he’s been an on-air talent, Intern, Program Director, Operations Manager, and Engineer in cities all over Illinois including Bloomington, Chicago, and Rockford. Kevin considers one of the highlights of his career flipping two formats, installing a new automation system, building two new studios, installing 4 generator systems, recovering from a devastating lightning strike, and getting married...all in the span of 4 months.

At WPR Kevin focuses primarily on the maintenance of the network’s Audio Vault automation system and production systems, but also helps maintain the network’s studios in Madison and other bureaus around the state. He lives in Madison with his wife and family.

## **Mike Norton – Candidate for Secretary**

Mike has been working in broadcasting for the past 18 years, starting as an on-air DJ in 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 the University Wisconsin-Platteville, with a major in Broadcast Technology Management and a minor in graphic arts. He worked as a master control operator at WISN-TV/Milwaukee, and is currently a staff engineer for Wisconsin Public Broadcasting at the Educational Communications Board’s Telecommunication Operations Center.

His current duties include electronic maintenance of radio and television equipment and satellite uplink systems, along with configuration of ATM and IP networks, and encoding systems. Mike has been an SBE member since 1992, was the SBE Chapter 24 newsletter editor from 1996 to 2006, and is serving his second term as SBE Chapter 24 Secretary. He is certified at the CSTE and CBNT levels.

## **Matthew Glissendorf – Candidate for Treasurer**

Matt Glissendorf is a Video Site Operations Manager for AT&T U-verse at the Madison Video Hub Office (VHO). He has been working for AT&T for 10 years, working as a Central Office Technician and Loop Electronics Coordinator before joining the VHO in October of 2008, shortly before U-verse service launched in the Madison market. Matt is involved with an EAS Logs Team which verifies that all the VHOs across the company’s footprint are receiving and re-broadcasting all appropriate EAS alerts and also with an Optimization Team which works to improve the energy efficiency of the data center environments where the VHOs are located.

Matt holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Milwaukee School of Engineering and has been a member of SBE since 2009.

## Rulemakings

>>> continued from page 3

description services for the blind. The rulemaking is 158 Pages. The first 34 pages are on this rulemaking and the rest of the 158 pages are of the first two Notice of Rulemakings on this subject. The reason the FCC has issued this notice is to comply with the twenty First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 in which Congress required the FCC to reinstate the Video Description rules for TV broadcasters and multi-channel video distributors.

The proposed rules would require the ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox network stations in the top 25 markets to provide 50 hours of prime time or children's programming every quarter. Multi-channel video distributors (cable and satellite services) would be required to provide the same number of hours for prime time or children's programming on the top five non-broadcast networks they carry. According to the law, live and near live programming would be exempt. Near live programming would be programming produced within 24 hours of airing. All programming subject to these rules would have to be programming that had not been previously aired with descriptive video.

All TV stations and MVPD's would have to pass all network programming with video description when the network provides it and the station or MVPD has the technical ability to do so. If a station or MVPD has previously aired the program with video description, they would do so when the program is repeated.

The rules would go into effect on January 1, 2012 with the number of markets affected by the 50-hour rule, extended to markets 26-60 within six years after the rules go into effect.

The rulemaking asks for comments on these proposed rules including on how some of the definition of some of the particular wording of the rules.

Comments are due 30 days after publication in the Federal Register with replies due 30 days later.

## 2011 SBE Chapter 24 Election Ballot

(For use by members not using the on-line 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

\_\_\_\_\_ **Bill Hamilton**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(write-in candidate)*

### VICE CHAIR

\_\_\_\_\_ **Kevin Trueblood**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(write-in candidate)*

### SECRETARY

\_\_\_\_\_ **Mike Norton**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(write-in candidate)*

### TREASURER

\_\_\_\_\_ **Matthew Glissendorf**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(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 27, 2010.

## 2011 SBE Membership Drive Kicks Off

The 2011 SBE annual membership drive has now begun. It will run through May 31st. Help grow SBE's membership by sponsoring a new member.

For every new member that you sponsor, your name will be entered in the membership drive prize drawing. You will receive five entries for every Sustaining Member that you sponsor.

You will also receive five dollars off your 2012 membership renewal for each new member you recruit (up to \$25), which means everyone is a winner!

This year will also see the return of the Golden Recruiter award. This award will be given to the top two chapters who have the highest percentage of current SBE members participating in the drive.

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



[http://www.sbe.org/sections/cert\\_exam\\_prep.php](http://www.sbe.org/sections/cert_exam_prep.php)



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



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

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## CHAPTER 24 SUSTAINING MEMBERS

### *Recent Renewals*

GEPCO International, Inc.  
Scharch Electronics

### *Thanks to all our Sustaining Members*

Alpha Video  
Belden, Inc.  
Canon U.S.A., Inc.  
Clark Wire and Cable  
Full Compass Systems  
Heartland Video Systems  
JVC Professional  
Products Company  
maney-logic  
Midwest Media Group  
Resonant Results, Ltd.  
Roscor Wisconsin  
Ross Video  
Sound Devices, LLC  
Token Creek Productions  
WISC-TV 3  
WMTV-TV 15  
WKOW-TV 27  
WMSN-TV 47  
Wisconsin Public Television

## 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
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