



Society of Broadcast Engineers Chapter 24 Newsletter Madison, Wisconsin

January 2011



Next Meeting

Wednesday, January 19

CommConnect

IP AUDIO FOR STL MICROWAVE LINKS

Mark Hile of CommConnect will explore the use of IP audio for STL microwave links. Computer IP networks continue to merge with traditional studio facilities and the recent popularity of IP-based consoles and routers seems poised to supplant analog and AES digital audio based facilities. As IP-audio becomes the norm in the studio, it makes sense to continue that IP transport over the Studio To Transmitter link. Mark will bring his years of experience with various microwave link manufactures to this presentation and will show how to plan and commission microwave links.

Dutch Treat Dinner 5:30 PM
Culver's Frozen Custard
2102 W. Beltline Hwy
(North frontage road)
Madison, WI

(no reservation - just gather together)

Meeting and Program at 7:00PM
Wisconsin Public Broadcasting Center
3319 West Beltline Highway
Madison, WI

Visitors & guests are welcome at all
SBE meetings and events!



Coming Up

Thurs., Feb 17 Synchbak / Nominations
Tues., Mar 15 TBD / Nominations
Weds., Apr 20 Condenser Microphones
/ Elections

SBE Chapter 24 By-Law Changes

*Changes to be voted on
at January Chapter Meeting*

It has been several years since the Chapter 24 By-Laws have been reviewed and updated. A review of our by-laws has uncovered some sections needing an update and others that are no longer current. There have also been some additions to the by-laws to include some new chapter initiatives.

These by-law changes will be voted on at our January 19th meeting. Please take some time to review the changes below prior to the meeting and e-mail any questions or concerns to me at fred.sperry@ecb.org. With the number of changes being made, I don't intend to go through each of them at the meeting unless there are specific questions regarding a section of the updated by-laws. Please note that the new initiatives presented have already gone through the proper voting and approval processes, so the vote we take will be to approve the changes to the wording and policy changes of the by-laws and not these initiatives themselves.

Proposed changes are noted with additions in *blue italics* and proposed deletions are noted with a strikethrough. The following by-law articles listed are only those that contain the proposed changes. You can access the entire set of the current version of by-laws on the Chapter 24 web site at <http://www.sbe24.org> and clicking on the *By-Laws* button.

>>> *BYLAWS* continued on page 5

CONGRESS PASSES TWO ACTS AFFECTING BROADCASTERS

>>> by Tom Smith

Congress has passed two Acts affecting broadcasters and one has been signed into law. The Act that President Obama signed into law on December 15th was the CALM ACT (http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:s2847es.txt.pdf) which requires the FCC to set standards on audio loudness. The FCC will have one year to write the rules. The Act affects TV stations, cable operators and multi-channel video providers such as satellite services and the phone companies. The act requires that all those affected by the law to follow the ATSC standard A/85, Recommended Practice and Techniques for Establishing and Maintaining Audio Loudness for Digital TV. To be in compliance, video providers will have to install, maintain and utilize equipment that meets the standards requirements. The FCC may grant waivers to the law for good cause to any video provider or class of provider such as TV stations or cable systems under a certain size.

The second Act (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-111hr6533eh/pdf/BILLS-111hr6533eh.pdf>) passed by Congress is not yet law, but has been passed by both houses. The law allows for low-power FM stations to operate on the 3rd adjacent channel to a full-power or

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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
Wisconsin Public Radio
kevin.trueblood@wpr.org

Past Chair

Dennis Baldrige
W: 608-489-3999
baldrige@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

TWO VIDEO SERVICES CEASE OPERATIONS

>>> by Tom Smith

Two video services are ceasing operations. They are Flo-TV by Qualcomm and Sezmi. Qualcomm (<http://www.qualcomm.com/news/releases/2010/12/20/att-agrees-acquire-wireless-spectrum-qualcomm>) announced that they were shutting down their Flo-TV operation in March of 2011 and selling the spectrum to AT&T for \$1.925 billion. Qualcomm had previously announced that they were ceasing to sell their Flo-TV receivers directly, but would continue to offer the 20 channels of video to cell phone providers. Flo-TV operated in Channel 55, which was a national license that Qualcomm held, and on channel 56 in markets where they held regional licenses. Doug Lung, in one of his online articles for TV Technology (<http://www.tvtechnology.com/article/111190>), estimated that a UHF channel value was \$18 million. He arrived at that value by dividing the \$1.925 billion by the 107 markets Flo-TV was operating in. When figuring the markets that operated on two channels and the markets that were not operational, the value would even be less. Nearly all stations in the larger and middle markets are worth more than \$18 million and when the lesser value of spectrum is considered in smaller markets, stations in those markets would probably be worth

more than the cost of spectrum. And even if the FCC were able to pay the stations to give up the spectrum, those stations would only receive a portion of the auction proceeds which would be, for many stations, worth less than the value of their station.

The second video service that ceased operation was the Sezmi Select Plus service. Sezmi (www.sezmi.com) has developed a set top box that was an ATSC receiver and DVR with Internet connectivity to receiver to receive video programming. The service charges a monthly fee of \$4.95 with an additional per program or movie fee. In Los Angeles, Sezmi also offered a scrambled cable type service using excess spectrum from local broadcasters. This was the Sezmi Select Plus service. This service is similar to the USDTV service that was operated in Slat Lake City, Las Vegas and Albuquerque. The service shut down a couple of years ago after operating for a little over a year. The main difference between the two services is that Sezmi used MPEG4 encoding instead of MPEG2 in order to save bandwidth. Sezmi will continue to sell their set-top boxes and service in the 37 markets that they operate their Internet services in and they plan on expanding into other markets.



Meeting Minutes

from the December 2010 Business Meeting

On Thursday, December 16, 2010, members of Chapter 24 gathered at Fitzgerald's in Middleton for the annual SBE holiday celebration dinner. There were 12 members present, 10 who were certified. There was no formal meeting or program. Enjoyable conversation and socializing occurred over drinks and dinner.

Submitted by Mike Norton, Secretary



PROPOSED

Travelers Information Stations, PS Docket No. 09-19; American Association of Information Radio Operators Petition for Rulemaking on Travels Information Stations Rules; Highway Information Systems Inc. Petition for Rulemaking, RM-11514; American Association of State highway and Transportation for Rulemaking, RM-11531

The FCC is proposing a number of rule changes (http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2010/db1230/FCC-10-203A1.pdf) concerning the Travelers Information Service (TIS) in response to a number of petitions for rule changes. The TIS is a service that uses AM radio frequencies to provide information for travelers. This information includes information on traffic conditions and routing such as information on access to tourist sites and other venues. These stations operate with 10 watts into a conventional antenna and 50 watts into a cable which radiates the signal via openings in its shielding. TIS stations are authorized to operate on 530 kHz on a primary basis and on 540-1700 kHz on a secondary basis.

The service was originally proposed to provide traffic information as well as other emergency information and to operate at higher powers. When the rules were enacted in 1977, the service was limited to traffic information and restricted to the current power limits due to objections by broadcasters. The current petitions request that the TIS stations be able to relay weather and emergency information and Amber alerts. They also would like to increase power and coverage to make it a service to those in the nearby communities.

The Commission acted on this rulemaking on December 29th and released it on December 30th. Comments are to due 30 days after publication in the Federal Register with reply comments are due 15 days after the comment period.

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FM translator station. Stations providing reading services to the blind will continue to receive 3rd adjacent protection. New LPFM stations will have to make periodic announcements for the first year of operation concerning filing interference complaints from their operation and notify the FCC of those complaints and take actions to address those complaints. The FCC will also be required to accept interference complaints from those by the transmitter site of a LPFM station, mobile reception interference complaints and accept informal evidence and engineering reports on interference issues. FM translator stations will also receive protection from interference on input signals that are 3rd adjacent to the LPFM stations. The bill passed the House on December 20th and a similar bill had passed the Senate earlier last fall.

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www.scharch.net

Stan Scharch
stan@scharch.net

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Brian Stumpf
Regional Sales Manager -
Midwest USA

1266 Gils Way
Cross Plains, WI USA
53528-9837

Tel: (608) 798-9578
Cell: (608) 345-2544
Fax: (608) 798-9577

bstumpf@rossvideo.com
www.rossvideo.com

Canon

David Pavlik
Midwest Regional Sales Manager
Broadcast Division

Canon U.S.A., Inc.
100 Park Blvd.
Itasca, IL 60143

dpavlik@cusa.canon.com
Tel 630.250.6231
Cell 630.215.9233 Fax 630.250.0399

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bryan@alphavideo.com / www.alphavideo.com

Token Creek
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

CLARK
WIRE & CABLE

Shane Collins
Clark Wire & Cable Sales
Unit A
408 Washington Blvd
Mundelein, IL 60060-4401
(800) CABLE-IT
(847) 949-9944
Fax: (847) 949-9595
e-mail: sales@clarkwire.com
www.clarkwire.com

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ARTICLE VI

Appointed Officers and Committees

Section 1. Committees, either as standing or special committees, shall be appointed by the Chairperson as necessary.

Section 2. The Chairperson of each standing or appointed committee shall be an Appointed Officer. Appointees to the committees must be members of the Chapter.

Section 3. The following standing committees are to be appointed by the Chairperson.

- a. Program
- b. Newsletter
- c. Certification and Education
- d. Frequency Coordination
- e. ~~World Wide Web Site Operations~~ *Webmaster*
- f. Membership
- g. Sustaining Membership
- h. ~~Strategic Planning~~
- i. ~~Special Events~~
- j. ~~Chapter Liaison~~ *National Liaison*

Section 4. The Membership Chairperson shall retain and be responsible for a Chapter membership database, and periodically collaborating it with the National SBE Office's chapter listing, and shall provide mailing labels for newsletter distribution. The Chapter membership database may be used by sustaining members and members in good standing as a source for making job openings known. No Chapter membership database information may be released to any *other* party.

Section 5. The Newsletter Editor shall elicit pertinent material for publication in a monthly Chapter newsletter. *The monthly newsletter will be made available in electronic form and a link to the newsletter will be e-mailed to Chapter 24 members, sustaining members and other individuals as approved by Chapter 24 officers. An electronic version of the newsletter will also be uploaded to the Chapter 24 web site.* and may solicit help from the membership to construct and mail the newsletter. Acceptance of articles for publication in the Chapter newsletter shall be at the discretion of the Newsletter Editor and the Chapter Elected Officers. Job openings may be announced in the newsletter. ~~An electronic version of the newsletter may be uploaded to appropriate computer bulletin board services and World Wide Web sites.~~ *With the exception of Sustaining Membership ads, other commercial advertisements, blurbs or announcements are not considered pertinent material for the Chapter 24 World Wide Web site. Equipment for sale listings from members and sustaining members may be published in the newsletter, and uploaded to appropriate computer bulletin board services and World Wide Web Sites. Permitted information for such equipment listings are make, model, condition, brief description and price. Equipment lists offering equipment that is normally sold as part of the seller's routine business offerings are not permitted.* {Ratified Aug. 18, 2005}

Section 6. The Frequency Coordinator shall maintain a local frequency database and provide information on request, but shall not assign specific frequencies.

~~Section 7. Access to a computer bulletin board system not operated by the Chapter, but providing services to chapter members shall be determined by the System Operator. The Chapter shall provide the System Operator with information needed to determine access to the system.~~

Section ~~8~~7. Duties of standing and appointed committees shall be defined by the Elected Officers.

ARTICLE IX

Disbursement of Funds

Section 1. Payments, purchases, honorarium, reimbursement, of over \$300 (Three Hundred Dollars) must be voted on by the general membership. *Reoccurring costs to the Chapter of over \$300 need only be approved one time by the general membership at the time the proposal is presented; however, any Chapter 24 member in good standing can make a request to the current Chapter Chair for the expense to be brought forth to the general membership for a re-vote. Only one request will be allowed in a given year. If there is an increase to a reoccurring cost, the new expense amount must be voted on by the general membership.*

Section 2. Payments, purchases, honorarium, reimbursement of between \$50 and \$300 (between Fifty and Three Hundred Dollars) must be in unanimous agreement by all the elected officers. *Reoccurring costs to the Chapter of under \$300 need only be approved one time by the elected officers at the time the proposal is made. If there is an increase to a reoccurring cost, the new expense amount must be voted on by the current slate of elected officers.*

Section 3. Payments, purchases, honorarium, reimbursement of less than \$50 per occurrence not to exceed \$150 total per month may be executed by any elected officer of the chapter at his or her discretion when it is in accordance with guidelines established by the current elected board of chapter 24.

Section 4. At any point that the treasury drops below \$500 the above guidelines are no longer active and any expenditure must be voted on by the membership.

Section 5. The chapter funds must remain liquid in a "not for profit" account set up for chapter 24 Madison.

ARTICLE X

Member Awards

Section 1. The Chapter Officers, at their discretion, may present an annual Special Recognition Award to a member of the Chapter that they determine to be deserving of such an award.

Section 2. Criteria to be used in selection of a candidate for a Special Recognition Award should include the following:

1. Active work toward chapter membership growth
2. Unselfish volunteer work for the chapter
3. Genuine desire for the betterment of the industry, broadcast engineering, and the place of the broadcast engineer
4. Has exhibited involvement in Chapter activities above and beyond the call of duty
5. *Has been nominated or is the recipient of a National SBE Award.*
6. Must be a member in good standing

Section 3. The Special Recognition Award should be presented in the form of a plaque *or other award deemed appropriate by the elected officers* and is paid for with Chapter 24 funds.

~~Section 4. The Chapter Officers, at their discretion, may present a Nominee for National SBE Award to any individual in the Chapter who has been nominated by the Chapter for any annual National SBE award.~~

~~Section 5. Recipients of the award of Nominee for National SBE Award may be any Chapter 24 member in good standing who has been nominated by Chapter 24 Officers for an SBE National Award. This nomination may be made for any individual directly involved in the award in question.~~

~~Section 6. The Nominee For National SBE Award should be presented in the form of a paper certificate purchased with Chapter 24 funds.~~

ARTICLE XI

Annual Chapter Scholarship

~~Section 1. Each year, account balance permitting, Chapter 24 will offer an education scholarship. The use and amount of the scholarship will be determined by the reigning executive committee and will be awarded based on the following criteria and points accumulated:~~

- ~~1. Must be a current member of Chapter 24~~
- ~~2. Attendance at six of the twelve meetings prior to the application deadline.~~
- ~~3. Employment in or a student of a broadcast related field. Points will be assigned as follows:~~
 - ~~a. Five points for each month applicant has at least one article published in the Chapter 24 newsletter spanning the 12 issues prior to application deadline.~~
 - ~~b. Five points for certification, any level~~
 - ~~c. Two points for each monthly meeting attended in excess of the six required~~

~~Section 2. Final selection will be by the elected officers of Chapter 24 or by a committee appointed by those officers, excluding any whom may have applied.~~

~~Section 3. The scholarship winner will be required to write a summary article to be published in the chapter newsletter.~~

~~Section 4. Application is required in the form of a letter to a designated Scholarship Chairman, signed, dated and received by the published deadline.~~

*ARTICLE XI (replaces Article XI above)**Annual Reimbursement for National Board Members*

(approved by vote at the April 20, 2010 Chapter 24 Meeting)

Section 1. Each year, account balance permitting, Chapter 24 will help cover travel expenses of any Chapter 24 member elected to the National Board up to a maximum of \$1000.00 annually. The expenses must be related to travel to attend the two annual National Meetings board members are asked to attend.

Section 2. Only members of SBE Chapter 24 who are elected to either an Officer or Director position on the National Board are eligible for this reimbursement.

Section 3. The maximum amount of reimbursement from the Chapter 24 treasury for this program will be capped at \$1000.00 per year.

Section 4. If more than one member from Chapter 24 is voted to either an Officer or Director Position on the National Board, the \$1000 maximum provided by Chapter 24 will need to be split equally among board members.

Section 5. There will be no reimbursements made for National Board Meetings that are held in Madison as part of the Broadcaster's Clinic.

Section 6. The following expenses will be reimbursed up to the limit set forth above:

- 1. Transportation to and from meeting location. If driving a personal vehicle, gas for the trip will be reimbursed.*
- 2. Two nights lodging for attendance at the National Meeting.*
- 3. Meal expenses for the day prior to, the day of and the day after the National Meeting.*
- 4. Receipts will be required upon return from the meeting. Reimbursement will be made by check after all receipts have been reviewed by the current chapter treasurer.*

ARTICLE XII

Annual Certification Drive

(as approved by vote of Chapter 24 Officers at the June 18, 2009 Chapter 24 Officers Meeting)

Section 1. Each year, account balance permitting, Chapter 24 will reimburse half the application fee to any member of Chapter 24 in good standing who successfully obtains any SBE certification level not previously held by that member.

Section 2. Recertification of a currently held certification will not be included in this drive. Only new certification levels for a member will be permitted.

Section 3. Only one reimbursement per member will be allowed during a given calendar year.

Section 4. The Chapter will limit the number of approved applications to ten a year.

Section 5. Reimbursement for half the cost of a given exam will be provided to the member upon presentation of a congratulatory letter from the National Office indicating exam passage and the brief application form available on the SBE Chapter 24 web site (www.sbe24.org). This letter and application should be forwarded to the Chapter Chair to begin the reimbursement process (if the Chapter Chair wishes to apply for this reimbursement, another officer will review the application and letter for reimbursement).

Section 6. Approved reimbursements will be sent in the form of a check sent from the Treasurer of Chapter 24.

Section 7. SBE Chapter 24 Officers reserve the right to deny any reimbursement that doesn't meet the stated guidelines.

Section 8. There is no targeted termination date for this program; however, each slate of newly elected officers will likely review this program and determine whether they desire to continue this membership drive. SBE Chapter 24 Officers reserve the right to terminate or change the guidelines of this certification drive at any point they deem necessary.

ARTICLE XIII

Don Borchert Fellowship

(as approved by Chapter 24 Chair August 14, 2010)

Section 1. On an annual basis starting in 2011, Chapter 24 along with the other Wisconsin SBE Chapters will contribute \$125 per chapter towards "the Don Borchert Fellowship."

Section 2. The annual grant of \$500 would go to one person who would like to attend the Broadcasters Clinic but who would otherwise not be able to afford the trip.

Section 3. The annual sum of \$500 would be used by the recipient of the fellowship to cover registration, lodging and expenses related to attending this event.

Section 4. The fellowship will be administered by the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association (WBA).

ARTICLE ~~XIII~~ XIV

Amendment of Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Chapter by a two-thirds vote of the members present *and a quorum has been established (see article 7; section 4)*, provided that the amendment has been ~~submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting~~ and published in the Chapter newsletter *and/or Chapter web site* prior to the vote.

