



 **March 2011**

# Society of Broadcast Engineers Chapter 24 Newsletter Madison, Wisconsin

## **Next Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 15**

### THE BROADBAND PLAN & WIRELESS MICS and SECOND CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Chapter 24 Frequency Coordinator Tom Smith will update us on the government's Broadband Plan and how it and the White Spaces Devices initiative will impact the users of wireless microphones.

Tom will cover some of the new rules and give us some guidance on how we can protect ourselves, if possible, from unwarranted interference. We will also have the second call for nominations.

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 W. Beltline Hwy  
Madison, WI

Visitors & guests welcome at all SBE meetings and events!

## Don Borchert Broadcasters Clinic Fellowship

Following the passing of Don Borchert, long time Chairman of the annual Broadcasters Clinic, the program committee sought a fitting way to remember him.

The Don Borchert Broadcasters Clinic Fellowship presents the opportunity to attend the Clinic to someone who would not have otherwise been able to attend for financial reasons. The program will cover the expenses of the annual recipient(s) under the financial support of all four Wisconsin SBE Chapters and independent donors. In addition the WBA will provide complimentary registration. In this way the program committee felt the name Don Borchert would remain associated with the conference he so dearly guided for over 30 years.

2011 is the kick off year for the Don Borchert Broadcasters Clinic Fellowship. If you or someone you know might benefit from this Fellowship please go to <http://www.sbe24.org> and click on the "Broadcast Clinic" button. There you will find an application form.



## MORE BROADCAST SPECTRUM THREATENED

>>> by Tom Smith

On February 10th, Representative Peter King R-NY introduced a Bill titled Broadband for First Responders Act of 2011 ([http://www.vdh.state.va.us/OEMS/news\\_page/HR607.pdf](http://www.vdh.state.va.us/OEMS/news_page/HR607.pdf)). The bill would allocate the band of 758-763 and 788-793 MHz exclusively for the use of public safety. The band is now allocated for public safety, but is also to be shared by commercial broadband providers with the caveat that commercial use would be secondary to public safety needs and that the revenue from the auction would help finance the public safety network. The FCC tried to auction the spectrum, but no one was willing to pay the minimum bid. Rep. King's bill would finance the public safety network by moving all of the

**SPECTRUM >>> continued on page 3**



## Coming Up

Weds., Apr 20 Low Cost Condenser  
Microphones –  
Chapter Nominations  
Tues., May 17 TBD / Elections  
Thurs., June 16 SBE Summer Picnic



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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



# Meeting Minutes

from the February 2011 Business Meeting

On Thursday, February 17, 2011, Chapter 24 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers held their monthly meeting at WISC-TV in Madison, Wisconsin. There were 11 members present, 9 who were certified, and 3 guests.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Chairman Fred Sperry who started by having everyone provide introductions. The meeting minutes from January were approved as published in the February newsletter.

The chapter balance was presented by Treasurer Kevin Trueblood, who reported a continued positive balance. Reporting as Sustaining Membership Chair, Fred Sperry noted the chapter has 21 sustaining members, with recent renewals by Ross Video and WMTV.

As Program Committee Chair, Steve Paugh reviewed upcoming meeting dates and program topics. Tuesday, March 15th will be on the broadband plan and cover information for wireless microphones. The Wednesday April 20th program will be presented by Kevin Peckham of Full Compass, and will focus on microphone technology with some demonstrations. Looking ahead to Tuesday, May 17th, the program is still to be determined, but the meeting is to include the annual election results. There was no membership report or certification/education report available.

For Frequency Coordination, Tom Smith noted that the comment period deadline for the FCC spectrum proposal is March 18th. There was no national liaison report, and no old business to discuss.

In new business, Leonard Charles announced that the application form for the Don Borchert Broadcasters Clinic Fellowship was now available on the chapter website. The Don Borchert Broadcasters Clinic Fellowship provides financial support to attend the Broadcasters Clinic when that attendance would not otherwise have been possible. To retrieve the application go to [www.sbe24.org](http://www.sbe24.org), then click on the Broadcast Clinic button on the left side.

For other new business, Steve Paugh opened nominations for chapter officers, and noted that the deadline is March 28th. Ballots are planned to be mailed with the April Newsletter or possibly a system will be developed to allow electronic voting to be done online. Look for further information on this at the next meeting or in the Newsletter. Additional nominations can be sent to Steve Paugh, or contact him if you have questions.

In professional or general announcements, two items were mentioned. Wisconsin Public Radio is looking for a broadcast engineer; details can be found at [www.wpr.org](http://www.wpr.org). Additionally, UW-Platteville is looking for an engineer for classroom technology. There were no tech tips.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23pm. Leonard Charles introduced Jillian Perry and Matt Arnold of Sincbak, Inc. They gave a presentation on the technology being developed by Sincbak to authenticate internet users who are located in the coverage area of a DTV station. The system provides authorized users the ability to stream media content, while ensuring exclusivity rights.

Submitted by Mike Norton, Secretary



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# FCC OK'S New LPTV Stations

>>> by Tom Smith

On February 25th, the FCC released a list of 309 construction permits that it granted for new digital LPTV and TV translator stations. There were 10 construction permits granted in Wisconsin. DTV America II, LLC was granted channel 33 in La Crosse, channels 19, 21 and 38 in Wausau and channels 33 and 50 in Eau Claire. EICB-TV East Inc. was granted channel 19 in La Crosse.

DTV America II, LLC, EICB-TV East, Inc. and CTB Spectrum Services Two, LLC applied for several hundred construction permits across the country. On their website, CTB Spectrum Services Two, LLC is promoting a plan to provide video and internet services using multiple directional antennas to increase frequency reuse at each transmitter site.

EICB-TV East and West is a Christian TV broadcaster which owns LPTV stations across the country. DTV America is a Florida marketing company. There is one Wisconsin broadcaster that received construction permits. Baraboo Broadcasting Corporation received 3 permits for channels 43, 45 and 47 in Baraboo. Baraboo Broadcasting operates WRPQ (AM) in Baraboo. The three transmitters are to be located a little southeast of Sparta with a directional antenna point toward Baraboo. The stations will operate with 3.15 KW ERP at 55 meters above ground. The location would put it outside of the 75 mile restriction from a top 100 market.

The FCC limited new LPTV stations to the 75 mile restriction from top 100 markets while they were considering the Broadband Plan's use of TV spectrum. Baraboo Broadcasting has operated a LPTV station on channel 43 in the past. The transmitter was located south of Baraboo with a directional antenna aimed toward Baraboo and the Wisconsin Dells.

# SPECTRUM

>>> continued from page 1

public safety users for the 700 MHz band and auctioning off the entire spectrum they currently use between 174 and 516 MHz with the move being completed 8 years after the bill's enactment.

One year after the enactment of the bill, the FCC would be required to reallocate the 1755-1780 MHz band and 6 months later pair it with the 2155-2180 MHz band which would also be auctioned with the proceeds aiding in the deployment of the new public safety system. After ten years, the FCC would be required to auction all of the 420-440 and 450-470 MHz band.

On February 21st, the SBE issued a legislative alert ([http://www.sbe.org/sections/gov\\_issues.php](http://www.sbe.org/sections/gov_issues.php)) about the potential auction of the 450-470 MHz band. This auction would affect broadcasters as they use paired 1 MHz bands at 450 and 455 MHz for remote pickup of radio programming and for cuing proposes. A number of other users of the 450-470 band include railroads, trucking, construction and personal users in the General Radio Mobile Service and the Family Radio Service. Broadcasters could also be affected in 13 large markets as public safety shares TV channels 14-20. A minimum of \$2billion and up to \$5.5billion would be set aside from the auction to build the public safety network.

The bill is 27 pages and most of it on the deployment of the network, with 5 pages addressing the reallocation and auction of the various spectrum bands.



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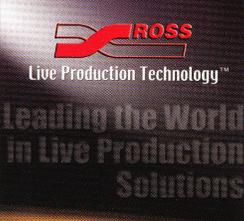
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Web Page: www.tokencreek.com E-Mail: john@tokencreek.com



**Wisconsin Public Television**  
821 University Ave.  
Madison WI 53706

www.wpt.org  
Phone 608.263.2121  
Fax 608.263.9763



**WISC-TV**  
MADISON 5



# Amateur Radio News

compiled by Tom Weeden, WJ9H

- A proposed bill in the US House of Representatives has alarmed broadcast auxiliary users and amateur UHF operators due to proposed reallocations of their frequencies. On February 10, Representative Peter King (R-NY-3), Chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, introduced HR 607, the Broadband for First Responders Act of 2011. The bill has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which handles telecommunications legislation. HR 607 addresses certain spectrum management issues, including the creation and maintenance of a nationwide Public Safety broadband network. As part of that network, the bill provides for the allocation of the so-called "D-Block" of spectrum in the 700 MHz range for Public Safety use.

The D-Block consists of two, 5-megahertz-wide segments of spectrum (758-763 and 788-793 MHz) that became available when the FCC ended analog television broadcasts in June 2009 and reallocated the 698-806 MHz band for Public Safety and commercial broadband. It was anticipated that the D-Block would be auctioned for commercial use. There are several bills in Congress providing for the allocation of the D-Block for Public Safety use, and HR 607 is one of those. But HR 607 uniquely provides for the reallocation of other spectrum for auction to commercial users, in order to offset the loss of revenue that would occur as the result of the allocation of the D-Block to Public Safety instead of commercial auction. HR 607 lists the paired bands of 420-440 MHz and 450-470 MHz among the bands to be reallocated for commercial auction within 10 years of its passage.

"Of serious concern to the ARRL is the inclusion of the 420-440 MHz amateur allocation in the list of frequencies to be cleared for auction," said American Radio Relay League Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "The ARRL and the Amateur Radio community

certainly support the work of public safety agencies and understand their desire for an interoperable network; however, the inclusion of most of the amateur 70 cm spectrum as one of the replacement bands is illogical and unacceptable. The 420-440 MHz band is not Public Safety spectrum and should never have been included in any spectrum swap of Public Safety allocations."

Saying that the ARRL Washington team has already begun meeting with key Congressional staff on Capitol Hill, Henderson noted that Amateur Radio already shares the 70 cm band on a secondary basis with the governmental radiolocation services. "To be sure, the ARRL will vigorously oppose this legislation in its present form."

- Amateur Radio has moved a step closer to a medium frequency (MF) allocation below the AM broadcast band. During the first week of the Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) for the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-12) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), held in Geneva February 14-25, delegates completed the drafting of nine pages of analysis of the technical and regulatory issues related to WRC-12 Agenda Item 1.23: consideration of a possible secondary allocation to the Amateur Service of about 15 kHz somewhere between 415 and 526.5 kHz. Two possible methods of satisfying the agenda item, along with the possibility of there being no change (and therefore no allocation), are set out in the CPM Report, along with the advantages and disadvantages of each. WRC-12 will be held in Geneva next year from January 23 to February 17.

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



## Extra \$100 discount available to members of SBE for NAB Show

SBE is a co-producing partner with the NAB on this year's NAB Broadcast Engineering Conference (BEC) in Las Vegas and now SBE members can get \$100 off the registration fee for either the Conference Flex Pass or SmartPass. This offer is available on the NAB Member, NAB Partner or NAB Non-member conference rates!

The BEC is the oldest and largest of all the conferences held as part of the annual NAB Show. Beginning on Saturday, April 9 with the SBE/Ennes Workshop and running through Thursday, April 14, the BEC is packed with dozens of technical sessions for television and radio engineers. Come for all or part. Conference registration includes admittance to the largest broadcast and media trade show in the world.

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# Notice of Elections



By Steve Paugh, Nominations Chair

**In April** we will hold elections for Chapter 24 offices of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer for the 2011-2012 term. All interested members of Chapter 24 who are current in their dues are eligible to run for elected office. The nominations committee is now accepting nominations for all four offices. Our current nominations for officers are:

- Candidate for Chair- Bill Hamilton
- Candidate for Vice Chair- Kevin Trueblood
- Candidate for Treasurer- Matthew Glissendorf
- Candidate for Secretary- Mike Norton

## Call For Nominations

During the March 15th meeting, the nominations committee will solicit the members present for additional nominations. If you would like to run for an office, or know someone who wishes to run, please bring it to the attention of the nominations committee. All nominees are requested to submit a short biography for publishing with the ballot. The nominations committee consists of Steve Paugh (Chair), Mike Kulis and Leonard Charles.

## Appointed Officers

The appointed offices do not fall under the jurisdiction of the nominations committee and are appointed by the Chair of Chapter 24. Traditionally, the existing appointed officers continue for another term automatically. If you are a current appointed officer and would like to step down, please contact the current Chair Fred Sperry. If you would like to serve as an appointed officer please make your desire known to the Chair.

The current appointed offices are Program Committee Chair and postcard meeting reminders- Steve Paugh, Program Committee Members- Steve Zimmerman & one vacancy, Newsletter Editor- Paul Stoffel, Webmaster- Leonard Charles, Membership- Paul Stoffel, Sustaining Membership- Fred Sperry, Certification and Education- Jim Hermanson, Frequency Coordination- Tom Smith and National Liaison- Leonard Charles.

## Voting

This year, thanks to the efforts of nominations committee member Leonard Charles, we will introduce on-line voting! The procedure will be discussed at the March chapter meeting.

The election ballot will also be published in the April on-line newsletter. You can either vote on-line or print the on-line ballot and mail it in to the Nominations Chair. Ballots will also be available at the April meeting for on-site voting. The deadline for nominations and the submission of biographies will be March 28th, 2011.



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**Rick Thompson**  
 Central Regional Manager

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 Mobile: 847-942-7990  
 Fax: 847-795-8770  
 E-mail: rick.thompson@gepco.com  
 www.gepco.com

UW-Platteville Television Services is looking for a camera donation to replace some aging DXC-637 cameras used in their studio. If you can help, contact Dave Meinhardt, meinhard@uwplatt.edu



April 2011 Chapter 24 Newsletter Deadline: Saturday, April 2 paul.stoffel@wpt.org  
*edited using Adobe InDesign CS4*

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)



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## CHAPTER 24 SUSTAINING MEMBERS

### Recent Renewals

maney-logic  
WMTV-TV 15  
Wisconsin Public Television

### Thanks to all our Sustaining Members

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

## Certification Exam Session Dates

For more information about SBE Certification, 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	LOCATION	APPLICATION DEADLINE
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