



May 2011

# Society of Broadcast Engineers Chapter 24 Newsletter Madison, Wisconsin

## Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 17

### Wisconsin Public Television HD TRUCK TOUR



Come tour WPT's new high definition remote truck and equipment that includes: Freightliner straight truck; Sony cameras, Ross switcher, Evertz router, Calrec audio console, RTS intercom and more. Remote truck supervisor Russ Awe will be on hand to answer questions and guide tours.

Recommended parking:  
State Street Campus Garage (aka the Lake Street ramp) or Grainger Hall off Brooks Street or Southeast Campus Ramp off Lake and Frances Streets.

Dutch Treat Dinner at 5:30pm  
Nitty Gritty Restaurant and Bar  
223 N. Frances Street  
Madison, WI

Meeting and Program at 7:00PM  
Wisconsin Public Television  
Vilas Hall loading dock  
821 University Avenue (Park Street between University and Johnson)  
Madison, WI

## From the Chair... A Final Thank You

>>> by Fred Sperry

Congratulations to the newly elected slate of Chapter 24 Officers – Chair Bill Hamilton; Vice Chair Kevin Trueblood; Secretary Mike Norton and our new Treasurer Matt Glissendorf. I know you will give them the same great support you provided me the past two years of my term.

This same support has allowed us to accomplish a number of things the past couple of years. From hosting a National Meeting as part of the Broadcaster's Clinic, updating the Chapter's by-laws and implementing several new initiatives, I'm pleased with what we have accomplished. This wouldn't have been possible without the team effort put forth by the entire Chapter.

A special thanks to my fellow officers the past two years along with the committee appointees who I'm afraid sometimes get overlooked for the contributions they bring to the Chapter. Many of the committee appointees have been in these positions for ten plus years. I know firsthand the work that goes into these different committee offices, so please thank these members for their contributions when you see them.

I look forward to continuing my involvement in Chapter 24 and again thank you to everyone for their past support. See you at the May meeting!

## 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 workshop agenda is shown on page 6. Also look for full details coming soon to a mailbox or in-box near you. Register at: <http://www.wi-broadcasters.org/wba/index.php/events/summer-conference-2/registration-form/>

Questions? Contact WBA Vice President Linda Baun.  
Email: [lbaun@wi-broadcasters.org](mailto:lbaun@wi-broadcasters.org)



WISCONSIN BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

## Coming Up

Thurs., June 16 SBE Summer Picnic  
Wed., July 20 Mobile Handheld Solutions  
Thurs., Aug. 18 TBD

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volunteers needed for  
program committee

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# Meeting Minutes

from the April 2011 Business Meeting

On Wednesday, April 20, 2011, Chapter 24 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers held their monthly meeting at Full Compass Systems in Madison, Wisconsin. There were 13 members present, 12 who were certified, and one guest.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm by Chairman Fred Sperry. After brief introductions, the meeting minutes from March as published in the April *Newsletter* were approved on a motion by Bill Hamilton and a second by Kevin Ruppert.

Fred Sperry relayed information from Treasurer Kevin Trueblood that the chapter account remains stable. Reporting as Sustaining Membership Chair, Fred Sperry announced that Joseph Electronics has become the newest sustaining member. With recent renewals by Alpha Video and Gepco International, that brings the Chapter to 22 sustaining members.

Program Committee Chair Steve Paugh reviewed the program topics for upcoming meetings. The May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting will be a tour of the new WHA-TV HD production truck. The June meeting will include the annual Summer Picnic, while July is planned to be a program on ATSC M/H (mobile/handheld).

There was no certification and education report, and no recent local frequency coordination to update the group about.

For the national liaison report, Leonard Charles covered a number of items. The SBE National board of directors has approved that the annual national board elections will be conducted electronically starting in 2012. Paper ballots for voting by mail will still be available, as well as the ability to opt-out of electronic voting. The process will be reviewed to determine if paper voting will be retained for 2013. The board elected three members to the rank of SBE Fellow: Art Lebermann, Chuck Kelly, and Barry Thomas. The board also approved a recommendation to rename the SBE Lifetime Achievement

Award to be the John H. Battison Lifetime Achievement Award, after SBE's founder. Additionally, the National Board is planning to hold another strategic planning event in 2012; local chapters will be invited to have their chairman or other representative attend.

Covering old business, submissions for the National awards are due at the SBE National by the end of May. Current Chair Fred Sperry and the new chair will work on submissions for Chapter 24 awards. To submit an item for an individual award, send your completed information to Fred to have it included with the submissions. Steve Paugh reminded everyone that the Chapter election window was currently open, and paper ballots were available for those present who had not already voted electronically.

There was no new business brought up during the meeting. For professional or general announcements, Steve Paugh offered a free 1 year membership certificate to the Four Lakes Amateur Radio Club to anyone interested. There were no tech tips, and the meeting adjourned at 7:16pm. Kevin Peckham of Full Compass Systems then gave a presentation and demonstration of low cost Chinese-manufactured microphones.

*Submitted by Mike Norton, Secretary*

June 2011 Chapter 24  
Newsletter Deadline:  
Wednesday, June 1  
paul.stoffel@wpt.org

*edited using Adobe InDesign CS4*

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**NOTICE OF INFORMATION COLLECTION**

The FCC is asking for information pertaining to the maintenance of the Public File by both commercial and non-commercial broadcasters. The notice (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-04-18/pdf/2011-9251.pdf>), asking for comment, was published in the Federal Register on Monday, April 18th. The FCC did not release any other notice concerning the inquiry. The Commission is asking for information concerning the FCC's estimate of the time burden on stations to maintain the Public File including ways to reduce the burden on stations particularly on smaller stations, the practical utility of the collection of the information and ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collected. This review is required by the Office of Management and Budget from time to time to meet the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

The Notice is two pages in the Federal Register with one page listing all of the items in the rules that are required in the Public File. From the format of this notice, the Commission is not looking for the regular formal comments. This time the filing method is to an e-mail box only, instead of the FCC's regular comment filing system. Comments are due on June 17th.

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

**WT Docket Nos. 08-61 and 03-187, DA 11-558**

Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Invites Comment on Draft Environmental Notice

**Requirements and Interim Procedures Affecting the Antenna Structure Registration Program**

On April 5th, the FCC released a notice (<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2011/pdf/2011-7785.pdf>) in the Federal Register concerning the filing of an environmental impact statement on new towers that exceed 450 feet in height. The applicant must provide notice to the public and collect comments before it files for an Antenna Structure Registration for the new tower. Notice must be given to the local community and the FCC will publish a notice on its website. The proposed rules are in response to a ruling by the Court of Appeals in Washington D.C. from a lawsuit against the FCC by the American Bird Conservatory. Comments were due on May 5th.

**Rulemakings**

>>> continued on page 5



**Election Results**

>>> submitted by Steve Paugh, Elections Chair

The Chapter 24 election ballots were counted and certified on April 27th, 2011. There are 63 voting members in Chapter 24. A total of 19 ballots were cast, eighteen ballots were cast electronically and one was received at the April 20th chapter meeting. All ballots were certified as valid. We thank everyone who took part in the election process.

Congratulations to all of our newly elected officers.

- Chairperson- Bill Hamilton**
- Vice Chair- Kevin Trueblood**
- Secretary- Mike Norton**
- Treasurer- Matthew Glissendorf**

The nomination committee members were Steve Paugh, Mike Kulis and Leonard Charles.

**Tom Sibenthaler**  
Sales Representative

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# Amateur Radio News

compiled by Tom Weeden, WJ9H

- As violent storms swept through Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas and North Carolina on April 27th, served agencies called upon Amateur Radio operators to help provide communications support and real-time weather observations. The storms and flooding were the latest in the severe weather that has pummeled much of the mid-South in April.

According to American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Alabama Section Manager Dave Drummond, W4MD, “things are bad here in Tuscaloosa. I was at the repeater site working on the CAT WX radio when the tornado warning was issued. I had just come from a site west of Tuscaloosa that had a tornado this morning. An 800 foot tower for a local FM station was blown away completely. We hiked into the site — it looked like a war zone — and the only thing left was the running generator. It took the whole tower and dumped it into the woods.”

As Drummond made his way back into town, his path took him within mere feet of the mile-wide path that the tornado made. “It was total devastation, a war zone,” he told the ARRL. “We lost all the three repeaters in town at one time. The Emergency Management Agency offices were blown away, and I was on location instantly. There are many, many, walking wounded. I saw a family of four adults and one child trapped under a house; they left in body bags. There are many situations like this, it’s just unbelievable. From that point on, we have had no communications from the EMA. We had to work simplex as a result, but we managed to communicate quite well.”

Drummond said that the Tuscaloosa Police Department was hit by the tornado, leaving them without communications: “We dispatched personnel to their location, so our

reports could get to them. Many of my first reports were the only communication from the affected area that described the magnitude and devastation, as there were no communications otherwise left. I am still in shock.”

Drummond told the ARRL that he, with some assistance from three other amateurs — finally got our 146.820 repeater site back on the air, “so we do at least have some repeater coverage. It’s amazing that it is still there. The generator back-up did not start, so we are currently running on an extension cord from the Comcast generators! The question, how do you plan for this when:

- \* You lose your EMA, your weather net and your EOC — all at the same time?
- \* You lose the three repeaters that you depend on in an emergency — all at one time?
- \* You lose your command structure and your coordination?

“I can say this — the hams of Tuscaloosa County stepped up to the challenge and did it well. Also the Tuscaloosa County Sheriff’s Office dumped all of their resources into this and they delivered. My hat is off to these folks!”

As of April 30, news reports had 248 deaths in Alabama and 345 total across seven states.

- Project Blue Horizon, an amateur radio high-altitude balloon group, recently attempted a transatlantic balloon flight to break records for distance and duration. According to reports, the Project Blue Horizon 5 high-altitude transatlantic balloon flight which began Thursday, April 28 from Owego, New York, was aborted. The balloon envelope apparently ruptured

above 100,000 feet late Friday morning. The payload descended for landing in an area approximately 10 miles northeast of Warsaw, New York.

The Project Blue Horizon team was attempting to break current Amateur Radio high-altitude balloon records for distance (3,361.81 miles) and duration (49 hours, 45 minutes). The payload was carried beneath a 54,000 cubic foot capacity helium-filled balloon designed to cruise between 85,000 and 100,000 feet. During the flight amateurs worldwide were encouraged to monitor the N2XE CW telemetry beacons on 40 and 30 meters.

More information about the program is at the Project Blue Horizon website: <http://www.projectbluehorizon.com>

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

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## Rulemakings

>>> continued from page 3

### WT Docket 10-40

## Amendment of Parts 1, 2, 22, 24, 27, 90 and 95 of the Commission's Rules to Improve Wireless Coverage Through the Use of Signal Boosters

On April 5th, the Commission adopted a Notice of Rulemaking concerning the use of signal boosters for wireless devices. The Commission released the notice on April 6th. In the notice ([http://www.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2011/db0406/FCC-11-53A1.pdf](http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2011/db0406/FCC-11-53A1.pdf)), the Commission is proposing to allow individuals to use fixed and mobile signal boosters by rule under Part 95 of the FCC rules. The proposed rules will not apply to use of femocells. The Commission is seeking comment on: whether the boosters should receive clearance through a national clearing house; how existing boosters should be handled; require that all devices meet the new standards when applying for certification within 30 days of the rules going into effect; and that they meet the new technical rules when sold within 6 months of the rules going into effect. The Commission will also revise the technical standards for licensed boosters by service providers under Part 90 of the rules to better prevent interference.

Signal boosters are currently being sold, but their use has been challenged by cellphone carriers. The units do have Part 15 approval. The rulemaking is the result of petition for clarification by dealers and manufacturers of these devices.

Comments are due 45 days after publication in the Federal Register with replies due 30 days later.

## ANOTHER DATABASE MANAGER

>>> by Tom Smith

On April 18th, Microsoft applied to the FCC for permission to become a TV White Space database administrator. On April 29th, the FCC released a notice ([http://www.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2011/db0429/DA-11-803A1.pdf](http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2011/db0429/DA-11-803A1.pdf)) asking for comment on Microsoft getting permission to become a database administrator. The Commission is considering approving Microsoft's request, but is seeking comment as it did with the other nine database administrators already approved. Microsoft has already met the same requirements that the other nine administrators have had to meet so far as they have attended the two database administrator workshops that the Commission had held. Comments are due on May 20th, with replies due on May 31st.

## Join SBE

You may qualify as a member if at least one of the following applies to you:

1) You are actively engaged in broadcast engineering or its allied fields. 2) You hold an academic degree in electrical engineering or its equivalent. 3) You have scientific or professional experience in the communications field, including the design or marketing of broadcast related products; have at least four years of active participation in broadcast engineering or its allied fields and have demonstrated acceptable technical proficiency.

Apply Online Now! at [SBE.org](http://SBE.org) or download a PDF Application.



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## 2011 WBA Summer Conference

### ENGINEERING DAY AGENDA

Wednesday, June 22



The 2011 WBA-SBE Summer Engineering Workshop is set for June 22nd at the Grand Geneva Resort & Spa in Lake Geneva, WI. The day's sessions are loaded with current and relevant topics in the career of today's Broadcast Engineer.

#### 8:00 AM – 6:30 PM: Registration Location: Grand Geneva Lobby Hallway

(OUTSIDE OF HILLCROFT'S GIFT SHOP IN MAIN HALL AND ONE DOWN NEAR THE EXHIBIT AREA)

Breakfast Sponsored By:   
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

#### Engineering Sessions Location: Linwood A

- 8:40 AM: Opening Remarks – Michelle Vetterkind, WBA President & CEO
- 8:45 AM: All Things "G" We'll hear from a wireless carrier on just what 3G, 4G, and the new IPv6 is all about and how extensive their deployment.
- 9:30 AM: Network Security We will continue our theme over the last couple of years in exploring all things bad that can happen on your computer network and how you can prepare for and avoid them.
- 10:15 AM: Break
- 10:30 AM: The Alternative FCC Inspection What are the common issues that arise out of the Inspection and how you can prepare your station for a passing grade.
- 11:15 AM: Being Green: Responsible Disposal of Broadcast Electronic Equipment
- 12:00 PM: Lunch Location: BRISSAGO Restaurant

Lunch Sponsored By:



- 1:15 PM: Wisconsin EAS-CAP Update September 30th is the FCC mandate for stations to deploy CAP enabled EAS equipment. We'll explore the latest State of Wisconsin Plan for CAP.
- 2:00 PM: Windmill Interference to Broadcast Signal Reception We'll look at an extensive consultant study of the Fond du Lac area Wind Farms and their affect on off air reception in the area.
- 2:45 PM: Break
- 3:00 PM: Disaster Recovery We'll hear from an equipment manufacturer on how to prepare your station for a disaster. We'll also hear how this manufacturer has helped stations recover from actual disasters.
- 3:45 PM: Disaster Recovery Panel We'll convene a panel of recent disaster victims and hear firsthand what happened and how their station recovered.
- 4:30 PM: End of Sessions

#### 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM: Exhibit Reception Location: Maple Lawn Ballroom

Exhibit Reception Sponsored By:



#### 7:30 PM – 10:00 PM: Dinner & Entertainment Location: Geneva Chophouse and Embers Terrace

Dinner Sponsored By: 



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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**

***New Sustaining Member***

Joseph Electronics

***Recent Renewals***

Alpha Video

***Thanks to all our Sustaining Members***

- Belden, Inc.
- Canon U.S.A., Inc.
- Clark Wire and Cable
- Full Compass Systems
- GEPSCO International, Inc.
- Heartland Video Systems
- JVC Professional Products Company
- maney-logic
- Midwest Media Group
- Resonant Results, Ltd.
- Roscor Wisconsin
- Ross Video
- Scharch Electronics
- 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
August 5-15, 2011	Local Chapters	June 3, 2011
November 4-14, 2011	Local Chapters	September 16, 2011