



April 2012

Society of Broadcast Engineers Chapter 24 Newsletter Madison, Wisconsin



Next Meeting

TUESDAY, APRIL 10

Elections & USING THE AVID MEDIA COMPOSER FOR BROADCAST FILE-BASED CONTENT CREATION

Tom Micksch, an experienced Avid Media Composer editor for WHA-TV will lead a discussion on the proper setup of Media Composer software to ensure that content created will air correctly. He will discuss field order, ingest and output file formats. He will have a copy of Media Composer on his laptop to show real world examples. We will have an open discussion of typical issues. Bring your questions and problems for an interactive discussion. This will be informative to anyone who uses Media Composer or has to deal with content created on a Media Composer.

We will also collect ballots for the SBE Chapter 24 election of officers, ballots will be available or you can vote online at sbe24.org.

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

Meeting and Program at 7:00PM
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!

Cast Your Ballot!

>>> Submitted by Steve Paugh,
Nominations Chair

This year you may cast your ballot on-line! To cast your ballot on-line simply visit www.sbe24.org and follow the links to on-line voting. You simply enter your last name and your SBE Membership number. The official ballot for the SBE Chapter 24, 2012 election of officers is also being published in this month's newsletter. If you prefer to mail in your ballot you can print out the ballot and mail it to:

Steve Paugh- c/o WISC-TV
Ballot
7025 Raymond Road
Madison, WI 53719

Please indicate "Ballot" on the envelope and we will hold your ballot unopened until the official counting process. Your ballot must be in our possession before we begin the counting on April 25th. Remember that your membership must be current to be eligible to vote. Your membership number must be entered on the printed ballot for it to be valid, on-line voting will automatically verify your membership number.

The deadline for getting your ballot to the nomination chair or completing the on-line ballot is at noon on Wednesday, April 25th, 2012. The nominations committee will count and certify the ballots on the afternoon of Wednesday, April 25th, 2012 at WISC-TV.

You may turn in your ballot in person during the April 10th, 2012 chapter meeting. I will have additional ballots available at the April 10th business meeting. A big thanks goes to Leonard Charles for writing the program that allows on-line balloting, to Mike Kulis for serving on the nominations committee and to all the members of SBE Chapter 24 who have volunteered their services to Chapter 24.

FCC CRACKS DOWN ON WISCONSIN FM TRANSLATOR

>>> by Tom Smith

The FCC has raised concerns about the use of the "minor change" rules concerning the moving of FM translator transmitter sites being abused as a way to get around a number of FCC rules. The two main rules that are being abused are translator stations that are making multiple moves in order to move a translator to a larger market and the changing of the translator's channel from the non-reserved FM band to the reserved FM band by non-commercial operators in order to take advantage of the rules that allow translators operated by non-commercial stations to feed them by satellite or microwave in order to increase their service area. This has lead to national networks of translators relaying stations from other parts of the nation. Commercial stations are limited to

>>> FCC continued on page 4



Coming Up

- Wed., May 16 Tektronix — MPEG Analyzer Demonstration
- Thurs., June 14 SBE Summer Picnic — Badger Prairie Park
- Tues., July 17 Dane County EAS Plan — IPAWS & CMAS Implications



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Chapter Contacts

Chapter Leadership

Chair

Bill Hamilton, Wisconsin Eye
W: 608-316-6850 Ext. 305
Bill.Hamilton@wiseye.org

Vice Chair

Kevin Trueblood
Wisconsin Public Radio
kevin.trueblood@wpr.org

Secretary

Mike Norton, WPT
W: 608-264-9807
mnorton@ecb.state.wi.us

Treasurer

Matthew Glissendorf, AT&T
608-252-7815
mg4512@att.com

Past Chair

Fred Sperry, ECB-OC
W: 608-264-9806
fred.sperry@ecb.org

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
608-837-2729
tcsmith100@frontier.com

National SBE Chapter Liaison

Leonard Charles
W: 608-271-4321
F: 608-271-1709
lcharles@wisctv.com



Meeting Minutes

from the March 2012 Business Meeting

On Tuesday, March 13, 2012, members of Chapter 24 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers gathered for a monthly meeting at Token Creek Mobile Television in Waunakee, WI. There were 14 members present, 8 who were certified, and six guests. Pizza and soda, provided by Token Creek Mobile Television, were enjoyed prior to the meeting.

Chapter Chair Bill Hamilton called the meeting to order at 6:59pm, and then had everyone give brief introductions. The February meeting minutes as published in the March *Newsletter* were approved on a motion by Steve Paugh and a second by Cliff Groth.

There was no treasurer's report, membership report, or newsletter report. A sustaining membership report was forwarded which noted WMTV, WPT, and Geppo were recent renewals, with the total number of sustaining members holding at 21.

Program Committee Chair, Steve Paugh, announced the next meeting on Tuesday, April 10th at WISC would feature a discussion with Tom Micksch, Avid editor at WHA-TV. He plans to cover details of file-based editing, specifically for broadcast. The May 18th meeting will be a presentation by Tektronix on MPEG analyzers, with the June 14 meeting featuring the Chapter summer picnic.

Frequency Coordinator Tom Smith noted there was no recent coordination activity, but mentioned that legislation covering the television spectrum incentive auction had passed.

For the National Liaison report, Leonard Charles reminded everyone that a free SBE webinar on springtime maintenance will be presented on Thursday, March 15th. He mentioned that an ENG Safety course is also available from SBE, and that the National has a new blog site at blog.sbe.org. Also, the deadline for membership renewal is April 1st, and the National is holding an SBE Membership Meeting on Tuesday April 17th at the NAB Show in Las Vegas.

In old business, a question was asked about a stipend for Chapter elected officers. In new business, Elections Chair Steve Paugh opened the floor to nominations for officers, and then reminded everyone that Chapter elections would happen next month. Voting would again be done electronically with ballot information in the next Newsletter; however paper ballots would be available at the April meeting for those wishing to vote in that manner. In other new business, Chair Bill Hamilton asked those present to start thinking about Chapter submissions for SBE National awards.

There were no tech tips or professional announcements, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:08pm. Steve Paugh introduced John Salzwedel from Token Creek Mobile Television who thanked everyone for attending. John then turned things over to Gordon Kapes from Studio Technologies, Inc., who gave a presentation on their integrated fiber optic solutions for remote productions. Following the equipment demonstrations, John Salzwedel and Brendan Clark from Token Creek Mobile Television offered tours of the 53' HD production truck, *Varsity*.

Submitted by Mike Norton, Secretary



WKOW
Madison

5727 Tokay Boulevard
Madison, Wisconsin 53719

(608) 274-1234
Fax: (608) 274-9514



Don Heinzen
Account Manager
Enterprise Solutions Division

Direct: 608.848.2001
don.heinzen@belden.com

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Cell: 608.235.7539
Fax: 608.848.2001

www.belden.com



FCC Rulemakings

compiled by Tom Smith

MM Docket No. 99-25
Creation of a Low Power Radio Service

MB Docket No. 07-172 RM-11338
Amendment of Service and Eligibility Rules for FM Broadcast Translator Stations

On March 19th the FCC adopted and released two items concerning Low Power FM. The first was the Fourth Report and Order and the Third Order of Reconsideration (http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2012/db0319/FCC-12-28A1.pdf). In this action the FCC changed a rule concerning FM translators used to rebroadcast AM radio stations. AM stations may not apply for a new FM translator, but must currently purchase an licensed translator or a construction permit that was granted before May 1, 2009. The new rule will allow an AM station to also purchase an FM translator license or construction permit whose application was pending, but not granted by May 1, 2009. This is to prevent trafficking of FM translator construction permits. The Reconsideration order was that the FCC will revisit this rule after the next auction of translator construction permits.

The rest of the Fourth Report and Order and the Third Order of Reconsideration deals with backlog of FM translator applications and their effect on the availability of FM spectrum for LPFM stations. In many markets, if all of the pending FM translator frequencies that were applied for were granted, there would be little or no available frequencies for new LPFM stations. There are currently 6,500 applications pending. These applications have been pending since 2003 while the FCC has tried to figure what to do with them, particularly after Congress adopted a law to further the growth of LPFM radio. The FCC is setting a policy in which they will limit any one entity to apply for one translator per market with a limit of 50 applications for translators

nationally. Only four of the current entities with pending applications exceed that limit and all applications above the 50 selected by the those applicants will be dismissed. This action was taken to provide a balance between translators and LPFM applications which are required by Congress.

In the final action of the Fourth Report and Order and the Third Order of Reconsideration, the FCC did a study in which they identified the number of possible LPFM station available in each of the top 150 radio markets. Their goal is to provide 8 stations in the top 20 markets, 7 in markets 21-50, 6 in markets 51-100 and 5 in markets 101-150 and in markets smaller than 150 with more than 4 pending translator applications. To that end, the FCC published two spread sheets listing the available number of channels and locations in each market for LPFM stations with the pending translator applications considered. They use both a 30 x 30 minute grid and a 20 x 20 minute grid to search for open channels. In Madison, there are 24 possible channels available at 49 locations with two existing LPFM and 7 translator's applications pending using the 30 x 30 minutes grid. With the 20 x 20 minute grid there are 17 channels with 27 locations available with same 2 LPFM's and 7 translators's applications pending.

In the second action the FCC adopted, the Fifth Report and Order, Fourth Further Notice and Proposed Rulemaking and Fourth Order on Reconsideration (http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2012/db0320/FCC-12-29A1.pdf), the FCC proposed a number of new rules concerning LPFM stations. The first rule was the elimination of third adjacent protection to full power FM station and a process for handling interference complaints from the LPFM station to those listening to the a full power station. The rule change is dictated by Congress. The FCC also proposes to entertain waivers for LPFM station for providing second adjacent protection to full power station, if there is not a channel available that meets the required spacing and they can show minimal interference. This is already allowed for FM translators. LPFM stations operating in the reserved band 88.1-91.9 MHz will have to maintain second adjacent spacing if they could

interfere with reading services to the blind which operate on FM subcarriers of some educational FM stations. The FCC is also proposing to eliminate the spacing requirements for a LPFM station operating with less than 100 watts to a full power station located 53 or 54 channels away (IF frequency protection).

Another proposal is to create a 250 watt LPFM station to operate in rural areas. They would be limited to 30 meters of antenna height above average terrain just like the existing classes of LPFM stations. A LP 250 Watt station must be located 18.75 miles from the reference coordinates of a top 100 market and its one milli-volt contour would be 4.5 miles. An LP 100-watt station that meets the distance requirements to a top 100 market may upgrade to 250 watts if they meet all co-channel and adjacent channel separation requirements.

New rules pertaining to the eligibility of applicants were proposed. They include extending eligibility to Native American tribes and increasing the length of time for an eligible non-profit group to have been in existence from two years to four years. The notice also asks if Native American tribes should be allowed to own more than the currently allowed one station in order to provide coverage over their lands and if community LPFM stations should be able to operate translators to rebroadcast their station and what restrictions they should have.

The comment period for the rulemaking will last for 30 days after publication in the Federal Register with replies due 15 days after comments are due.



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Suite 567
Milwaukee, WI 53202

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mbart@hvs-inc.com
www.hvs-inc.com

Mark Bartolotta

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Amateur Radio News

compiled by Tom Weeden, WJ9H

- In response to the Congressional directive to prepare a study to assess Amateur Radio's role in emergency and disaster communications and the impact of private land use regulations on the amateur community's ability to provide such communications, the FCC this week issued DA 12-523 soliciting comments from the public. The period for public comment runs until May 17, 2012.

The FCC Public Notice focuses on two specific areas for comments. The first is the role that Amateur Radio has played and continues to play to support emergency and disaster relief organizations, such as FEMA and local/state emergency management agencies. The second is to determine impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications. This would include the impact that private land-use regulations -- such as deed restrictions and homeowner association covenants -- have on the ability of licensed amateurs to fully participate in providing support communications to the served agencies.

"This study is not about zoning ordinances or regulations adopted by the local or state governments," American Radio Relay League Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND explained. "Amateurs already have the limited protection of PRB-1 to assist them with those situations. The areas of concern here are the limitations that are placed on a property when it is purchased, either as part of the deed of sale or by restrictions imposed by the neighborhood/homeowner's association. Those restrictions — sometimes referred to as CC&Rs — are not currently covered by the FCC's PRB-1 decision from 1985."

To allow the ARRL to quickly collect and collate relevant information from the amateur community to help support the filing it will make with the FCC on this issue, a website has been set up. The site — www.arrl.org/ccr-study-information — provides details about what kind of information is needed by the ARRL.

"Time is of the essence in this

matter," Henderson said. "This is the best opportunity that amateurs have had to address the impact of overly burdensome private land use restrictions. If Amateur Radio is to succeed in this effort, it is going to take all of us working together."

- Grammy Award winning rock-and-roll legend Joe Walsh, also known as amateur licensee WB6ACU, returns with Analog Man, set to be released June 5. This is Walsh's first solo album since 1992's Songs for a Dying Planet.



According to Walsh's website, Analog Man is both modern and timelessly soulful, packed with Walsh's wit, charm and chops; it delivers an incredibly raw and intimate sound. "It's been 20 years and I have a lot to say," Walsh explained. "These songs [on Analog Man] come from the heart."

No stranger to the analog way of life, Walsh — an ARRL Life Member — enjoys operating on 75 meters AM. Amplitude modulation has been around the amateur bands since the 1930s. Its advocates say that AM offers a warm, rich audio quality that provides for more personal interaction and that AM's simplicity circuit design encourages hands-on restoration, modification and homebrew construction to an extent no longer found among contemporary radios.

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

>>> **FCC** continued from page 1

owning translators within their one millivolt contour and third-party operators carrying commercial stations are limited to off-air reception only.

The FCC sent a letter (http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2012/db0210/DA-12-185A1.pdf) to Radio Power One, Inc. on February 10th asking for information on a number of moves made of the transmitter site for station W250BN. The station was originally licensed to the Beloit area and is currently licensed to West Allis in the Milwaukee area which is about 65 miles from the original Beloit site. The translator was moved five times in order to move the station from Beloit to West Allis under the minor change rules. In order for a move to be considered a minor change, coverage from the new site must overlap a portion of the old coverage area from the previous site. What Radio Power One, Inc. did in order to move their translator was to apply for a new site overlapping the previous sites coverage and after receiving the construction permit for the new site, they then applied for another site that overlapped coverage with the newly-granted transmitter site. They skipped across the Southeast part of the state until they got to the final transmitter site.

The FCC is questioning if the moves were made in good faith or if the rules were being abused. They are asking for Radio Power One to provide them with documents showing that they had secured transmitter sites in each of the locations, include copies of leases, bills, copies of checks or credit card charges pertaining to the construction, information on the operation of the translator including when operation started and ceased at each site, the station that was rebroadcast from each site with evidence of the stations consent, all engineering documents and information on any period that the station was silent.

This action may be the first of many the FCC takes to curtail the abuse of the translator rules.

TV INCENTIVE AUCTION SIGNED INTO LAW

>>> by Tom Smith

Congress passed into law the use of Incentive Auctions to persuade TV stations to give up their UHF channels in order for the FCC to clear 120 MHz of TV spectrum for broadband use. The Incentive Auction law was part of the Extension of the Payroll Reduction Act who's official name is MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2012 (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-112publ96/pdf/PLAW-112publ96.pdf>). The proceeds from the auction of spectrum for broadband use is to help pay for the payroll tax reduction and the construction of the national first responder network. The bill also authorizes the FCC to auction 15 MHz spectrum in the 1675-1710 MHz band and spectrum in the 1915-1920, 1995-2000 and 2155-2180 MHz band, as well as 15 MHz in a continuous band that is to be identified by the FCC. The Law also provides for the establishment of a first responder network in the 700 MHz D band. In order for the FCC to clear enough spectrum to get the 120 MHz from the TV band, they must convince stations in the UHF band to cease operation or move to the VHF band or share a channel with another station. In order for the FCC to have a station cease operation or move, Congress gave them authority to conduct a reverse action to determine a payout to the licensee to make such a move. Two stations in a market must participate in order for the FCC to conduct the reverse auction. Congress allocated \$1.75 billion for the payout to participating stations.

Stations that participate must either cease operating rights without receiving the right to another channel, be willing to move from a UHF channel to a VHF channel, or give up their channel and share a channel with another station. The identity of any station participating will be withheld by the FCC. Stations that share a channel will retain their cable carriage rights. No station shall be moved from a UHF to a High Band VHF or from a High Band VHF to a Low Band VHF

involuntarily. Any station moving from a UHF channel to another UHF channel because of band repacking or for an UHF to VHF channel shall be reimbursed for reasonable costs. This also includes the possibility of someone moving from a VHF to UHF channel due to another VHF move. This auction also affects the radio astronomy users on Channel 37 with each user receiving up to \$300 million for relocation to other spectrum, if relocation is possible. The Commission may only hold one reverse auction in order to reclaim TV spectrum. Until the auctions are held, the FCC may not reallocate a station's channel from VHF to UHF or involuntarily move a station to another channel. Applications pending before May 31, 2011 may still be considered for a channel move. Full power TV stations as well as Class A LPTV stations are protected by this law. Non-class A LPTV stations and TV translators are secondary and could be involuntarily forced to change channels or cease operation. This and other actions' communication issues took over half of the 102 pages of a bill that primarily was to deal with tax relief and government spending.

In other actions concerning LPTV stations, the FCC took a number of actions concerning Class A LPTV stations. Starting on February 28th, the FCC issued notices informing 16 LPTV stations that they were to lose their Class A status and protections for failure to file their Children's Programming Report. This is normally a fineable action. On March 7th, a 17th station received a notice for the same offense. On March 12th, 15 stations received notices concerning the loss of their Class A status for being off the air for lengthy periods of time. This included a group of 13 LPTV stations owned by a single owner. On March 14th, 23rd and 29th, two more stations on each date were notified about the possible loss of the Class A status for long periods of being off the air. Also on March 29th, a Class A LPTV station received a notice of a fine of \$13,000 for failure to file a Children's Programming Report. A number of articles in a trade website and in communication law blogs suggest that this was action the FCC was taking in order to convert the protected status of

LPTV stations to the secondary status of non Class A LPTV stations, making it easier for the FCC to revoke the license or force them to change channels. In order for a LPTV station to get Class A status, they must be on the air 18 hours a day, do three hours a week of locally originated programming, have studio facilities and air three hours a week of children's programming.

On February 27th, FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski gave a speech (http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2012/db0227/DOC-312667A1.pdf) before the GSMA Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain. He suggested that incentive auctions could become a tool to be used by other nations to free spectrum, after he described them having just been approved in the United States. Also speaking at the Barcelona conference was FCC Commissioner Robert McDowell, who also described the introduction of the incentive auctions, but in his comments (http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2012/db0228/DOC-312679A1.pdf), he noted the failures of the auctions in the 700 MHz band that was formally allocated for TV use, stating: there were few opportunities for small business; the auction rules were overly complex; few new entrants; and loss of revenue because of the failure to auction the D block which was to also provide services to the public safety community. Commissioner McDowell also stated in his comments that the incentive auction would provide 80 MHz of TV spectrum for broadband, which is less than 120 MHz that the Broadband plan is seeking.

On March 27th, the FCC announced (http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2012/db0327/DOC-313242A1.pdf) that it had retained three firms to help implement the auctions authorized in the Payroll Reduction Extension Act. They are Auctionomics, Power Auctions, LLC and Microtech. Auctionomics and Power Auctions, LLC are both operated by professors of economics from a number universities and Microtech is a technology and systems integrator that provides security, systems development and implementation tied to their cloud computing systems.

TV LICENSE RENEWAL CHANGES

>>> by Tom Smith

On March 12th, the FCC released a notice (http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2012/db0312/DA-12-380A1.pdf) outlining some changes for TV stations when license renewal comes up the next time. The first change is that the FCC will no longer mail a notice to the station notifying them of the upcoming license renewal. Instead the FCC will e-mail the courtesy notice to the station and its contact representative. They will use the information in the Commission's Consolidated Database System (CBDS) to send the e-mail to a designed person at the station. If a station does not have an account for accessing the CDBS, there are instructions in the notice on how to create it. Stations with an account should make sure their contact information is up to date.

The second change is that Form 303-S for license renewals has been updated with a question that requires stations to certify that they do not discriminate in the sale of advertising time on the basis of race or ethnicity and that all agreements held by the licensee for the sale of advertising time contains a nondiscrimination clause.

All full-power TV stations, both commercial and non-commercial educational, TV translators, low-power and class-A TV stations must now file their renewal application electronically. The notice also has reminders about filing their station's Equal Opportunity Program Report and the ownership report requirements for non-commercial stations, as well as a reminder about meeting filing deadlines and how to find them on the FCC website for your state. These changes go into effect for all stations beginning on May 1st of this year.



http://www.sbe.org/sections/cert_index.php



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Canon

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Cell 630.215.9233 Fax 630.250.6200

AVI SYSTEMS

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System Sales Specialist

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bryan@alphavideo.com / www.alphavideo.com

Wisconsin Public Television

821 University Ave.
Madison WI 53706

www.wpt.org
Phone 608.263.2121
Fax 608.263.9763

CLARK WIRE & CABLE

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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 2nd 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.

Kevin Ruppert – Candidate for Secretary

I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications Arts (Radio, TV, Film) from the University of Wisconsin. From 1977 to 1979 I worked at WNNO radio in Wisconsin Dells where I was a staff announcer, news reporter, and part time engineer. Since 1979, I have been employed at WISC-TV, where I began as a Master Control operator. I later became a maintenance engineer there and am presently Engineering Maintenance Supervisor.

My other experiences in broadcasting include 12 years as a part time employee at WORT-FM in Madison, four of which were as Chief Engineer.

I have served as Chapter 24 Program Chair, Special Events Chair, Chapter Vice-Chair and Chapter Chair.

My wife and I have two sons. We enjoy camping and other outdoor activities around the state.

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.

**2012 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

_____ Kevin Ruppert

(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 25, 2012.

TV REMOTE BAND UNDER FIRE AGAIN

>>> by Tom Smith

The 2 GHz Broadcast Auxiliary Service (BAS) band is being threatened again by two government actions. The first is by the FCC (http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2012/db0327/FCC-12-32A1.pdf) which would like to allocate the 2000-2020 and 2180-2200 MHz band for terrestrial broadband use. The bands are currently allocated for Mobile Satellite Service. The 2 GHz BAS band operates from 2025-2110 MHz which puts the 2000-2020 MHz band just 5 MHz below the BAS band. The 2020-2025 MHz band is used by Sprint/Nextel and was the reason for the reduction of spectrum for the BAS band several years ago. Because of the power that terrestrial base station transmitters use to provide service, the change from satellite use to terrestrial use in the 2000-2020 MHz band could cause additional interference to BAS users. Currently interference from Sprint/Nextel operations and other cellular installations in the 1900 MHz region are taken care of with filters on the inputs to BAS receivers. With more terrestrial transmitters, would the current filtering remain adequate?

The second government action that could affect the 2 GHz BAS band is a proposed plan (http://www.ntia.doc.gov/files/ntia/publications/ntia_1755_1850_mhz_report_march2012.pdf) by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). They have proposed the reallocation of the 1755-1850 MHz band for wireless broadband use as part of the National broadband plan to find 500 MHz of new spectrum for wireless broadband usage. The NTIA is responsible for allocating spectrum set aside for government use. The 1755-1850 MHz spectrum is currently allocated for government usage for a number of Defense uses, as well as for fixed point-to-point microwave. Most of the use of this spectrum is for military purposes, but the fixed point-to-point microwave is used by a number of agencies including the Defense Department, as well as the FAA. Other government law enforcement

agencies use some of this spectrum for surveillance systems. The impact on the 2 GHz BAS spectrum is that the Defense Department says that they may have to move most of their operations to the 2 GHz BAS band. According to a chart listing possible frequencies for all of the government users, a move to the BAS band is the preferred band for the Defense Department for their operations. They currently do share the BAS band with broadcasters by operating some satellite uplinks on the band which are coordinated with broadcasters. A number of users of the 1755-1850 MHz band recently had to move from other previously government held bands that were reallocated for wireless broadband use. The proposed transition for the government to move to different bands would be over a 5-10 year period. Considering some of the uses the government, particularly the Defense Department, is using this spectrum for, the reallocation of this spectrum so that a person can download a video or check their Facebook page could be considered trivial in comparison.



SBE NEWS

Use SBE discounts to register for NAB Show

The NAB Show in Las Vegas begins in just ten days. If you haven't registered yet, there is still time. If your station is not a member of the NAB, you can take advantage of the NAB Partner Rate discount available to members of the SBE. Register at the NAB Show website and use the SBE partner rate code, EP09 (e p zero 9) to get \$100 off the Smart Pass or Conference Flex Pass non-member rates, or use code EP18 for a free exhibits-only pass. Prices go up after April 12 so register soon.

The NAB Show includes the world's largest exhibition of broadcast and media equipment and services. It also includes seven industry conferences. The oldest and largest of these is the NAB Broadcast Engineering Conference (BEC). This world-class, six-day conference featuring technical papers addresses the most recent developments in

broadcast technology and focuses on the opportunities and challenges that face broadcast engineering professionals around the world.

The SBE is proud to be an organizing partner of the BEC for the 18th consecutive year. The BEC begins Saturday, April 14 with the SBE/Ennes Workshop and runs through Thursday, April 19. The Ennes Workshop also serves as the final day of the PBS Technical Conference and the Public Radio Engineering Conference.

Stop by the SBE Booth, L-29 located on the second floor lobby area of the Las Vegas Convention Center South Hall; daily booth prizes provided by sponsors Ross Video, Trilithic and DSI RF Systems. Plan to attend the SBE Membership Meeting on Tuesday, April 17 from 5 to 6 p.m.; more prizes and giveaways, thanks to the support provided by Vislink Broadcast.

SBE webinar covers TV White Spaces use

The SBE will present a special webinar, free to members, titled "TV White Space Devices and Wireless Microphones" on Wednesday, May 2 from 1 to 2 p.m. CDT. The webinar is being made possible through financial support from Shure, manufacturer of microphones and other professional audio products.

For a long time broadcasters and others have used "vacant" TV channels for wireless microphone, IFB and intercom operations. Up to now, this usage has been limited to those mentioned above on a licensed basis, which means channel availability and interference mitigation has been easily manageable. The FCC now allows unlicensed wireless devices to operate in these vacant, or TV White Space, channels as well as accommodating unlicensed microphone use. This is not something for the future. It is happening today and this webinar will provide clarity on how it impacts broadcasters and other users of wireless microphones such as churches, theaters and schools.

Presenting the webinar is Joe Snelson, CPBE, 8-VSB, the vice president of engineering for the Meredith Local Media Group. Snelson serves as vice president for the SBE and chairs the National Frequency Coordination Committee.

As mentioned, the webinar is free to members of the SBE. The cost for non-members is \$39. Online registration can be made at the SBE website.

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PRO AUDIO VIDEO A/V LIGHTING

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

May 2012 Chapter 24 Newsletter Deadline:
Thursday, May 3
paul.stoffel@wpt.org
edited using Adobe InDesign CS4

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CHAPTER 24
SUSTAINING
MEMBERS

New Member
AVI Systems

Recent Renewals

maney-logic
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
- GEPCO International, Inc.
- Heartland Video Systems
- Joseph Electronics
- JVC Professional Products Company
- Midwest Media Group
- Resonant Results, Ltd.

- Ross Video
- Scharch Electronics
- Sound Devices, LLC
- Token Creek Productions

- WISC-TV 3
- WMTV-TV 15
- 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
June 1-11, 2012	Local Chapters	April 13, 2012
August 3-13, 2012	Local Chapters	June 1, 2012
November 2-16, 2012	Local Chapters	September 14, 2012