



January 2012

Society of Broadcast Engineers Chapter 24 Newsletter Madison, Wisconsin



Next Meeting

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

3D-TV ESSENTIALS

*WHAT YOU NEED TO
KNOW BEFORE
GETTING STARTED*

James Daniels, Jr., District Sales Manager for JVC Professional Products, will give a



brief presentation on 3D signal formats, the role stereoscopic image processors have on circular polarization (passive) technology and the choices in displaying 3D which includes dual waveform/vectorscopes for a variety of advanced 3D measurements and monitoring. There will be hands on demonstrations of the new JVC camcorder and 3D broadcast monitor.

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



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

FCC PROCEEDS WITH TVBD DATABASES

>>> by Tom Smith

The FCC is proceeding with the rollout of database systems for TV broadband devices. These databases are for the coordination of unlicensed broadband devices that are to share spectrum with TV broadcasters on channels 2-51.

On December 22nd, the FCC authorized (http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2012/db0103/DA-11-2044A1.pdf) Spectrum Bridge, Inc. to begin



operation of its database system (<http://whitespaces.spectrumbridge.com/Main.aspx>) in the Wilmington, NC TV market.

They also authorized the production by Koos Technical Services, Inc. (KTS)



of a TV broadband device that will use the Spectrum bridge database.

On December 2nd, the FCC authorized (http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2011/db1202/DA-11-1956A1.pdf) the 45-day test period for the database system from Telcordia Technologies, Inc.'s (Telcordia's).

That test period



began on December 7th and will end on January 20th. The test site for the database can be found at <https://prism.telcordia.com/tvws/home/trial>.

SBE Chapter 24 Member to present SBE National Webinar

SBE Webinar, "Chief Operator Responsibilities - What should I be doing?", takes place January 12. According to the FCC, the licensee of each AM, FM, TV or Class A TV broadcast station must designate a person to serve as the station's chief operator (FCC Rules 73.1870). Depending on the type of facilities, there are varying requirements as to who this person may be and their responsibilities.

This Webinar, presented by Dennis Baldrige, SBE Chapter 24 member, covers the responsibilities of the Designated Chief Operator and the duties necessary to fulfill this position. This will be his second National Webinar presented for the SBE. Dennis is also a part of the SBE Technical Presenters Group which is available nationally to speak at groups such as state broadcasters associations, broadcasting companies, SBE chapters and others, or as a trainer for their engineering staff. For more information, see: <http://www.sbe.org/sections/ChiefOperatorRespons.php>



Coming Up

- Wed., Feb. 15 Harris on Video Compression & WMTV Tour — Nominations
- Tues., Mar 13 Token Creek HD Truck Tour — Nominations
- Tues., Apr. 10 TBD— Elections



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Meeting Minutes

from the December 2011 Business Meeting

On Wednesday, December 14, 2011, members of Chapter 24 gathered at Fitzgerald's in Middleton for the annual SBE holiday celebration dinner. There were 10 members present, 8 who were certified, and three guests. There was no formal meeting or program. The evening consisted of enjoyable conversation and socializing along with drinks and dinner.

Submitted by Mike Norton, Secretary



Local Legals

compiled by Tom Smith

PROPOSED

WBUW (TV) Janesville, WI
Channel 32 DT Virtual Channel
57, 200kw at 387 meters

Acme Television Licenses of Madison, LLC has applied (https://licensing.fcc.gov/cgi-bin/ws.exe/prod/cdbs/forms/prod/cdbsmenu.hts?context=25&appn=101480099&formid=314&fac_num=26025) to the FCC to transfer the license of WBUW (TV) to Byrne Acquisition Group, LLC. Acme Television Licenses of Madison, LLC parent, Acme Communications, Inc., holds licenses for three other stations in New Mexico. They are KASY-TV Albuquerque, KRWB-TV Roswell and KWBQ (TV) Santa Fe. They had recently sold a number of stations including the sale of WBWI (now WCWF-TV) in Green Bay to Lin Television Corporation which also owns WLUK-TV in Green Bay. Byrne Acquisition Group, LLC owns a low power TV station in Hilton Head South Carolina. Acme also produces the Daily Buzz, a morning news and life style program that airs on WBUW. According to a press release (http://www.acmecomunications.com/pages/news_releases.html?d=240611) from Acme Communications, Inc., the sale price is \$1.8 million.

James D. Daniels, Jr. (J.D.)

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FINAL RULEMAKINGS

MB Docket No. 09-52; RM-11528

Policies to Promote Rural Radio Service and to Streamline Allotment and Assignment Procedures

On December 28th, the FCC adopted rules (http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2011/db1229/FCC-11-190A1.pdf) to streamline the rules to allow the quicker granting of applications for FM radio stations in the non-reserved (commercial) FM Band by Native American Tribes. The FCC is trying to promote the Native American tribes to have better communication services within tribal lands and that includes broadcast services. The new rules will allow the FCC to open a filing window for qualifying tribal applicants only for a new FM allocation that was filed for a Native American tribe. The proposed allocation must include tribal lands within 50% or more of its coverage area. If more than one tribe applies for the license, then the license is subject to auction between the competing tribes only. If the allocation is not used or the construction permit expires, the allocation can then be applied for by any interested applicant. The order was released on December 29th.

WT Docket No. 08-61; WT Docket No. 03-187
National Environmental Policy Act Compliance for Proposed Tower Registrations Effects of Communications Towers on Migratory Birds

On December 6th, the FCC released an Order on Remand (http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2011/db1209/FCC-11-181A1.pdf) requiring an additional environmental study on

the impact of birds. The FCC will place a notice on the Antenna Structure Registration (ASR) website concerning the new or modified tower and the applicant for the new tower must place a notice in the local paper such as that required for a zoning change. There will be a 30-day comment period from the public. The application for the ASR can be filed with the FAA and FCC after the comments have been received. The new rules require an environmental study for any tower that changes its tower lighting from a preferred lighting system or is over 450 feet. There are other environmental studies that may be needed even if the tower is less than 450 feet or has lighting that is not according to FAA/FCC preferred standards. The current rules require environmental studies for most antenna structures if building in a sensitive area such as wetlands, potentially disturbing Native American or historic sites or other natural areas. With the additional rules, more time will be required to site a tower and get approvals. These rules further complicate an already complicated process and will require additional cost and expertise to navigate the process. One note, the 450-foot requirement for triggering environmental studies may change as the FCC is studying changes to tower lighting that may reduce issues with birds and towers.

In the list of commenters, there were few broadcast or other wireless companies listed, as they mostly relied on their trade associations. There were a large number of nature and environmental groups and individuals listed.

The Order was released on December 9th.

MB Docket No. 11-93
Implementation of the Commercial Advertisement Loudness Mitigation (CALM) Act

On December 13th the FCC adopted and release rules (http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2011/db1214/FCC-11-182A1.pdf) on the implementation of the CALM Act. These rules were required by an Act of Congress ordering the FCC to take steps to regulate the audio loudness levels between program and commercial material. The

rules become effective on December 13, 2012 which gives broadcasters a year to prepare. All broadcast, cable and satellite television program providers will be required to comply with "Advanced Television Systems Committee (ATSC) A/85: "ATSC Recommended Practice: Techniques for Establishing and Maintaining Audio Loudness for Digital Television" (July 25, 2011) ("ATSC A/85 RP") (incorporated by reference, see §73.8000), insofar as it concerns the transmission of commercial advertisements". There are rules concerning periodic spot checking of loudness compliance, certification of compliance by program suppliers, and use of audio processing by stations. Enforcement of the rules will be in response to a pattern of complaints and not normally due to a single complaint. The rules will be more difficult for cable and satellite video providers as they have to deal with compliance on a large number of channels. For most broadcasters, good audio practices, according to ATSC A/85 and a current audio processor, should be keep the station in compliance. Much has been and will be written about the rules concerning the Calm Act rules in the coming months and that should give stations a better idea of how to implement the rules.

PROPOSED RULEMAKINGS

MB Docket No. 09-182
2010 Quadrennial Regulatory Review – Review of the Commission’s Broadcast Ownership Rules and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996

MB Docket No. 07-294
Promoting Diversification of Ownership in the Broadcasting Services

On December 22nd, the FCC adopted and released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (<http://transition.fcc.gov/>)

Proposed Rulemakings
 >>> continued on page 5



Amateur Radio News

compiled by Tom Weeden, WJ9H

Ham Radio in Primetime

Tim Allen — star of *Home Improvement*, *Toy Story*, *The Santa Clause* and *Galaxy Quest*, just to name a few — stars in *Last Man Standing*, an ABC comedy airing at 7 PM (CST) on Tuesday nights. Allen plays Mike Baxter, KA0XTT, a married father of three and the director of marketing at an outdoor sporting goods store in Colorado whose life is dominated by women. While Amateur Radio has not been prominently featured in the first episodes, according to John Amodeo, NN6JA — the producer of *Last Man Standing* — it is a part of the show and an important part of Mike's character. The episode that will establish Mike as a radio amateur is currently scheduled to air on January 17th.

Together with the American Radio Relay League's Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, and with input from Tim Allen, Amodeo created a call sign for Mike Baxter: KA0XTT. Since the show is set in Colorado, they wanted Mike to have a call sign with a 0 in it. "We wanted a call sign that sounded real, but was not valid," Amodeo said. "The call sign is a 2x3 format with an X suffix. A call sign in this format is an experimental call sign and is not assignable to a radio amateur except in special circumstances. We especially liked the suffix, as it is a play on Tim's character from his former show, *Home Improvement*: 'ex-Tim Taylor.'"

"Because we've had so much talk about Amateur Radio here on the show," said Amodeo, "a few of my production assistants took their Technician exam."

Amateur radio equipment manufacturers ICOM America and NCG/Comet donated transceivers and antennas to add authenticity to the set. "The radio equipment was originally intended to be used as props and set dressing items," Amodeo told the ARRL. "But since eight of the show's staff members are radio amateurs, it didn't take long before we made the radio equipment 'practical,'

which is to say, actually capable of making radio calls live from the stage when we're not shooting." He said that radios will always be on and lit whenever they are shooting scenes in the office. "The ultimate goal is to have the hams on our staff make contacts from our stage during down times."

Amateur Radio Balloon Flight Crosses Atlantic, Sets Records

Ron Meadows, K6RPT, and his son Lee — leaders of the California Near Space Project — successfully launched an Amateur Radio high altitude balloon on Sunday, December 11 at 4:43 PM PST. The balloon reached a cruise altitude between 105,000 and 115,000 feet, where it continued its travel across the United States, the Atlantic Ocean and Spain and into the Mediterranean Sea. For most of its trip, the balloon traveled at about 150 miles per hour and eventually covered 6236 great circle miles in just 57 hours 2 minutes. According to the CNSP, this is a new Amateur Radio balloon flight record for both distance and duration.

The balloon, which bore the call sign K6RPT-11, traveled through California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey. "When the balloon left the New Jersey shore behind, it was received by coastal stations as far away as Nova Scotia," explained CNSP Team Member Don Ferguson, KD6IRE. "When it exceeded the range of these stations, we lost track of it and feared that we would not hear from the balloon again."

Ferguson told the ARRL that when they woke up the next morning, the CNSP Team learned that K6RPT-11 was still in the air and transmitting. CU2ARA

-- the club station of the Amateur Radio Association of the Azores, located on the island of St Miguel -- reported that they had successfully copied K6RPT-11's signal. That morning, the balloon reached a height of 111,503 feet and was traveling in excess of 160 miles per hour, headed east at 92 degrees. "The rest of the day on Tuesday was exciting, as more stations around the world took note of the little balloon from Silicon Valley that was heading for the European mainland," Ferguson said.

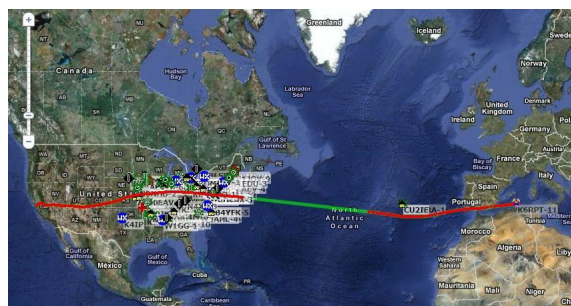
"The APRS system of digital radio repeaters maintained reception of the data traffic from the balloon transmitter, which transmitted its location from the onboard GPS," Ferguson noted. "In the US, this network is established on 144.39 MHz, but is on a different frequency in Europe. Radio amateurs across the world were able to quickly adjust the European receivers to the balloon's frequency and provided continued tracking worldwide. This is yet another example of the response and flexibility of ham radio operators to meet a sudden challenge and provide communications when needed."

According to the CNSP's Twitter feed, the balloon burst on Wednesday, December 14 at 0946 UTC, off the coast of Algeria.



Ron Meadows, K6RPT (left) and his son Lee fill the K6RPT-11 balloon before launch on Sunday afternoon.

[Don Ferguson, KD6IRE, Photo]



Path of balloon flight

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

Proposed Rulemakings

>>> continued from page 3

Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2011/db1222/FCC-11-186A1.pdf) on broadcast station ownership. The FCC is required by Congress to review the broadcast ownership rules every four years. The FCC is not proposing large changes to the ownership rules, but asks for comments on current rules, as well as proposed changes. The rulemaking runs 99 pages and has lengthy discussions of the various rules. The primary change the FCC is proposing is changes to the TV and radio cross-ownership rules and the newspaper-broadcast cross-ownership rules. Most of the current limits on the number of stations one can own nationally for television and the number of stations one can own in a market would remain the same. The top four networks would still be prohibited from acquiring each other.

The FCC is proposing that Grade B overlap restrictions for TV stations would be eliminated, cross-ownership of TV and radio stations be allowed in the same market, and that in the top 20 markets ownership of a newspaper and one radio or TV station be allowed. The TV station could not be one of the top 4 ranked stations in a market which would mean in most cases, one could not own a newspaper and an ABC, CBS, Fox or NBC station with the newspaper. Other issues that the FCC is looking at are shared station operating agreements as well as joint news operation between stations. Diversity of ownership among minority and females is also addressed, as is the possibility of fraud in claiming minority or female ownership in FCC applications when none exists.

The comment period will be 45 days after publication in the Federal Register with a 30 day reply period after that.



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

**GC Docket No. 10-44; DA 11-1950
Benefits and Burdens of Requiring Commenter's To File Cited Materials in Rulemaking Proceedings as Further Reform To Enhance Record-Based Decision-making**

On December 8th, the FCC published in the Federal Register a notice of proposed rulemaking (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-12-08/pdf/2011-31545.pdf>) pertaining to the filing of comments before the Commission. The FCC is proposing that persons making comments to the Commission attach any materials that they cite in their comments. This material could be studies, news articles or other data that the commenter may refer to in their comments. One of the issues that the FCC is concerned with is copyright issues when using news articles or materials from other than the commenter. They also ask if a link to an article on the Internet is sufficient, if applicable.

Comments are due on January 9th with replies due on January 23rd.




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

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WISC-TV
MADISON

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

February 2012 Chapter 24
Newsletter Deadline:
Friday, February 3
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edited using Adobe InDesign CS4

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- 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, 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 17, 2012	NAB convention	March 23, 2012
June 1-11, 2012	Local Chapters	April 13, 2012
August 3-13, 2012	Loca; Chapters	June 1, 2012
November 2-16, 2012	Local Chapters	September 14, 2012