

December 2015

Society of  
Broadcast Engineers  
Chapter 24  
Newsletter  
Madison, Wisconsin

 **Next Meeting**



**Thursday,  
December 17**

**SBE HOLIDAY  
CELEBRATION DINNER**

Join us for this month's meeting when we celebrate the Holidays and toast the New Year in a relaxing atmosphere at Fitzgerald's in Middleton. We'll gather in the bar area before heading to the dining area.

You can sign-up for the dinner on the Chapter 24 web site: [www.sbe24.org](http://www.sbe24.org)  
Follow the links to the December Holiday Party sign-up sheet.

Happy Hour 6:00 – 7:00 PM

Dutch Treat Dinner at 7:00PM



Fitzgerald's  
3112 Parmenter Street  
Middleton, WI

Visitors and Guests are welcome at all SBE meetings and events!

**MORE AUCTION  
INFORMATION**

>>> by Tom Smith

During November, the FCC released three actions concerning the upcoming Incentive Auction. On November 12, the FCC released a notice ([http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2015/db1112/DA-15-1296A1.pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2015/db1112/DA-15-1296A1.pdf)) and revised data ([http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2015/db1112/DA-15-1296A2.pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2015/db1112/DA-15-1296A2.pdf)) for station coverage area and population served which is used to figure interference conflicts and population numbers that determine the initial offer from the FCC. The revisions were due to the updating of seven stations information. Three stations had moved from channel 51 to another channel, three had errors in the FCC database and one Class A LPTV station had downgraded to a regular LPTV station. These changes affected the initial offers to these stations. Because this changed interference conflicts to many other stations, the opening offer ([http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2015/db1112/DA-15-1296A3.pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2015/db1112/DA-15-1296A3.pdf)) was changed to these stations also. The changes were very small for most stations. One of the stations affected was WNJU in New York City. Coverage for stations in New York City is figured from both the Empire State Building and the World Trade Center. The FCC had not included the World Trade Center in figuring WNJU's data. The result of the change raised WNJU's initial offer to \$900 million and decreased WCBS's offer from \$900 million to just under

>>> **AUCTION** continued on page 4

**NEW FCC WEBSITE  
COMING**

>>> by Tom Smith

The FCC is planning on launching their new website on December 10. According to a notice ([http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2015/db1123/DA-15-1351A1.pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2015/db1123/DA-15-1351A1.pdf)) posted on the current website, the transition will start at 8:00 PM EST on December 9 and should be completed by 12:00 AM on December 10. According to the notice, existing bookmarks will continue to work on the new website. The FCC is currently updating web pages to the new format which they hope will be easier to navigate. The updating of some sections of the website may not be completed by the transition date, but links to those pages will be retained so that the information will still be available to users. When the updating of the replacement sections is completed, they will replace the older sections. There is a link on the top of the home page of the current FCC website to a prototype of the new website.

 **Coming Up**

- Tues., Jan. 19 The future of Routing, IP and 4K
- Wed., Feb. 24 TBD & Nominations
- Thur., Mar. 24 TBD & Nominations

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# Meeting Minutes

from the November 18, 2015 Business Meeting

The November meeting of Chapter 24 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers was held Wednesday November 18 at 7:00pm at Epic Systems campus Deep Space in Verona, WI. Of 28 attendees, 15 were certified and all but nine were members.

Chair Kevin Ruppert called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.

The Treasurer's report included a positive position and one expense for post cards & postage.

There was no newsletter report or membership report.

Steve Paugh reported our next meeting will be the Holiday gathering at Fitzgerald's in Middleton and the following will be held at Token Creek Mobile TV with a program to be determined. Steve also offered that there are many openings for program ideas for next year and invites any suggestions or leads.

Certification chair Jim Hermanson reported there is a December 31 deadline for the Feb. 5-15, 2016 local testing window window. The next National test session will be in Las Vegas and the following local session next June.

Tom Smith reported only a high school wireless microphone coordination request since the last meeting.

Leonard Charles' National report included the SBE webinar, IP Network Troubleshooting, Part 2 for November 19th. The archived netcast of the SBE Annual meeting held October 14 at Broadcaster's Clinic is available at the SBE website. Of note is special guest Acting Field Director of the FCC Enforcement Bureau, Charles Cooper has been made Field Director. The national office also extended their thanks to the members of Chapter 24 for hosting the meeting and for the great job on the Clinic.

Under new business was a welcome to new member Mark Baldrige and new/old member Lloyd Berg.

There was no old business or professional and general announcements.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm and a tour of the Epic Systems Deep Space theatre was begun.

ML Deets, Sec'y.



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# Amateur Radio News

compiled by Tom Weeden, WJ9H

- The Amateur Radio Parity Act S. 1685 took an essential step forward on November 18, when the US Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation voted to report the bill favorably and without amendment. It was one of a half-dozen bills that were approved by the committee in a brief markup session. S. 1685 was approved on a voice vote, with two Senators — Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Brian Schatz (D-HI) — asked to be recorded as voting “no.”

On November 5, US Senator Al Franken (D-MN) signed on as the second cosponsor of S. 1685. That legislation and its US House twin, H.R. 1301, call on the FCC to extend the limited federal pre-emption of PRB-1 <<http://www.arrl.org/prb-1>> to cover private land-use restrictions such as deed covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CC&Rs). H.R. 1301 had 114 cosponsors as of November 18.

- In other congressional news, US Representative Steve Pearce (R-NM) has become the third Amateur Radio licensee in the Congress. Pearce recently became KG5KIQ. He joins his House colleague, Rep Daniel Benishek, KB8TOW (R-MI), and Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR). Pearce had reached out earlier this year to American Radio Relay League Rocky Mountain Division Director Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT, and New Mexico Section Manager Ed James, KA8JMW, to find out more about ham radio.

“He said he had learned of ham radio and was interested in its utility for communicating with others wirelessly, especially at long distances on HF,” Milesosky recounted.

More recently the congressman alerted Milesosky and James that he would be passing through Albuquerque and wanted to meet with them to chat further about Amateur Radio. The get-together over coffee with Pearce, an aide, James, and Milesosky lasted for “a very productive hour,” Milesosky said. On November 12, Pearce’s aide contacted James to say that the Congressman has just arrived in Albuquerque and wanted to take the Technician license examination, if possible.

“We notified Frank Warren, AB5WJ, whose Volunteer Examiner team regularly conducts on-demand licensing exams,” Milesosky said. Three hours after our first indication that he was in town, the Congressman was taking his Technician license exam.”

The FCC granted Pearce’s license on November 18.

- The 17th annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) on-the-air event was held Saturday, December 5. Cosponsored by the American Radio Relay League and the National Weather Service, SKYWARN Recognition Day pays tribute to Amateur Radio operators for the vital public service they perform. During the 24 hour event, Amateur Radio operators set up at NWS offices contact other hams across the country. This event is also aimed at strengthening the bond between Amateur Radio operators and local NWS offices.

(Excerpts from the American Radio Relay League’s <[arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)> web site)



<http://www.sbe.org/sections/SBEUniversity.php>



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>>> **AUCTION** continued from page 1  
 \$889 million. Because of these changes, the FCC moved the application period from December 1 to 18 to December 8 to January 12 to allow stations to reevaluate the FCC's opening offer. The application period for the wireless carriers forward auction was also delayed. But the FCC still plans on starting the Auction on March 29, 2016.

On November 19, the FCC released a twenty-two-page instruction manual on filling out the application for stations wishing to participate in the reverse auction. The notice has three appendixes. The first is the instruction manual for the application. The second is a copy of a channel-sharing form for full-power stations. The third is a sharing form for Class A low-power stations. The instructions tell how to fill out contact and ownership information. And the most important section of the application concerning the auction, the selection of which option a station wishes to take in return for a auction payment: either going off the air, sharing a channel, or going to lower VHF channel. The number of the stations applying to participate in the auction and the options they select will determine the amount of spectrum that FCC will set as a target to recover and how many stations they need to participate in the Auction.

The final release from the FCC was on November 25 and it announced ([http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2015/db1125/DA-15-1365A1.pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2015/db1125/DA-15-1365A1.pdf)) that auction proceeds could be paid to a third party such as a trust or a joint account between the channel-sharing stations.

Unless the FCC determines it needs to make some last-minute change, we should expect little information from the FCC other than reminders concerning the start and end of various stages of the auction.

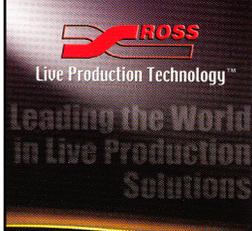
## Is January 1 Your SBE Recertification Deadline?

SBE Certifications are valid for five years and then holders can recertify for additional five-year periods. Some come due on January 1 while others are due on July 1. Be sure to check your certification card to see when you are due to recertify. If you have any questions about the process, see the recertification information on the SBE website, or contact Megan Clappe, SBE certification director, at the SBE National Office, 317-846-9000.

## Professional Liability Insurance for Members

The SBE now has available to members professional liability insurance coverage specifically designed for broadcast engineers and technicians who provide their services on a consulting and/or contract basis. The program is administered by the Hays Companies of Washington, DC. Premiums are based on the size and scope of the individual member's business. This unique professional liability policy was developed with input from many members of the SBE who operate their own businesses.

For information about the SBE Professional Liability Insurance or to get a quote, call Henry Cifuentes of Hays Insurance of Washington D.C. at 202-263-4018. The underwriter for the SBE policy is a unit of Lloyds of London.



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**WISC-TV**  
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January 2016 Chapter 24  
 Newsletter Deadline:  
 Sunday, January 3, midnight  
[paul.stoffel@wpt.org](mailto:paul.stoffel@wpt.org)  
 edited using Adobe InDesign CC

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

## Certification News

If you wish to take a certification exam, please choose a location and exam date window from the table below, complete your application (available on the SBE Web site, Certification -> Applications) and send it with the appropriate fee to the Indianapolis National SBE Office by the respective application deadline. The National Office will then contact the local chapter certification chair. The local chapter certification chair will then contact the examinees to set up a mutually agreeable exam date and location. If you have questions, please contact your local chapter chair or the SBE National Office.

### Upcoming Exam Dates

<u>Exam Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Application Deadline</u>
February 5-15, 2016	Local Chapters	<b>December 31, 2015</b>
April 19, 2016	NAB Convention Las Vegas, NV	March 18, 2016
June 3-13, 2016	Local Chapters	April 15, 2016
August 5-15, 2016	Local Chapters	June 3, 2016
November 4-20, 2016	Local Chapters	September 30, 2016

For questions, you may contact the local Chapter 24 Certification Chair:  
Jim Hermanson, CPBE, CBNT (608) 836-8340 [services@jimhermanson.com](mailto:services@jimhermanson.com)

You may mail, email or fax your applications to:

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## CHAPTER 24 SUSTAINING MEMBERS

### Recent Renewal:

WISC-TV 3

### Thanks to all our Sustaining Members:

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