



January 2015

Society of  
Broadcast Engineers  
Chapter 24  
Newsletter  
Madison, Wisconsin

 **Next Meeting**

Tuesday, January 13

**KSJB REBUILD IN  
NORTH DAKOTA**



SBE member Richard Wood will review his latest project: the rebuild of a 60-year-old installation for KSJB-AM in North Dakota.

The site created a number of unique challenges for the participants.

Richard will describe the scope and techniques used to complete this project from conception to final test.

**RESONANT RESULTS, LTD.**

Dutch Treat Dinner 5:30 PM  
Culvers Frozen Custard  
2102 W. Beltline (North frontage road)  
Madison, WI  
(no reservation - just gather together)

Meeting and Program at 7:00PM  
Wisconsin Public Broadcasting Center  
3319 W. Beltline Hwy  
Madison, WI

Visitors & Guests are welcome at all Chapter 24 events!

**More Incentive Auction  
Information Released**

>>> by Tom Smith

On December 11th, the FCC released a 167-page notice ([http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2014/db1217/FCC-14-191A1.pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2014/db1217/FCC-14-191A1.pdf)) asking for comment on more details concerning the Incentive Auction of existing TV spectrum. The notice makes some information clearer and may also add some confusion to the process, as there were some surprises relating to the repacking of stations in the new band. The notice discussed both the reverse auction that TV stations will participate in, the forward auction that the wireless companies will participate in, and the reassignment of stations after the auction is completed. The confusion in the auction may come from the number of options and variations of outcomes because of changes in participation in the auction or in the bidding results. Some additional clarity in how the opening offers to stations will be made, even though the final figures depend on the number of stations involved in the auction.

While the Commission is still interested in getting as much of the 120 MHz of spectrum as desired in the original proposal for the incentive auction, in paragraphs 47 to 57 of the notice, the Commission discussed setting a benchmark of \$1.25 per MHz, per pop or person for 84 MHz of spectrum in the top 40 marketing areas, which are geographic areas called Partial Economic Areas (PEA). This would cover TV channels 38 to 51 and, after allowing for guard bands, would allow 70 MHz to be auctioned in 10 MHz blocks divided into two separate 5 MHz groups for use in up-linking or down-linking information to mobile devices. Because

of this discussion in the notice, it would seem that the Commission may think that getting the 120 MHz or more of the desired spectrum would be difficult to get in most of the large markets and that 84 MHz is more realistic. There were options on extending the wireless band for auction to as much as 144 MHz, which would have meant the TV broadcasters would have to give up or share spectrum starting on channel 27. There was one question the Commission asked that if they should even try to extend the wireless band in one option to 108 MHz, which would put a 3 and 11 MHz guard bands and two 5 MHz downlink channels below the channel 37 radio astronomy channel, because of the limited spectrum that would be recovered from TV usage. Using the open channel 37 radio astronomy channel would seem to make a natural guard band as it is used in limited areas for radio astronomy and for medical telemetry within hospitals.

For stations participating in the incentive auction, the opening offer they will receive is computed on the population within its coverage area and

**AUCTION** >>> continued on page 6

 **Coming Up**

- Wed., Feb. 11 Repairable Fiber Splicing & Nominations
- Thur., Mar. 12 WMSN Master Control Hubbing Project & Nominations
- Tues., April 7 IPv6 Tutorial & Elections

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## Chapter Contacts

### Chair

Kevin Trueblood, CBNT  
Wisconsin Public Radio  
608-345-3248  
kevin.trueblood@wpr.org

### Vice Chair

Kevin Ruppert, CPBE, CBNT  
WISC-TV  
W: 608-271-4321  
kruppert@wisctv.com

### Secretary

Pete Deets, CBT  
WMTV  
W: 608-274-1515  
mldeets@nbc15.com

### Treasurer & Webmaster

Leonard Charles, CPBE  
WISC-TV  
608-271-4321  
lcharles@wisctv.com

### Past Chair

Bill Hamilton, CBT  
CW57 (WBUW)  
608.957.2449  
bill@cw57.tv

## Committee Appointees

### Program Committee

Steve Paugh, CPBE, CBNT  
608-277-5139  
spaugh@wisctv.com  
*Volunteer for the program committee!*

### Membership / Newsletter Editor

Paul Stoffel, CPBE  
608-263-2175  
paul.stoffel@wpt.org

### Sustaining Membership

Fred Sperry, CPBE  
608-264-9806  
fred.sperry@ecb.org

### Certification & Education

Jim Hermanson, CPBE, CBNT  
services@jimhermanson.com

### Frequency Coordination

Tom Smith, CPBE  
608-837-2729  
tcsmith100@frontier.com



# Meeting Minutes

from the December 2014 Business Meeting

SBE Chapter 24 met for their annual holiday party at Fitzgerald's Restaurant on December 18, 2014. Thirteen members and guests attended.

## Record AWS-3 Auction Continues

>>> by Tom Smith

The auction for spectrum in the AWS-3 spectrum band that started on November 13th took a pause for the holidays after going 139 rounds. The total that has been bid on the auction to this point is just under \$44.536 billion which is nearly as high as the totals of the next three highest auctions combined. The C and F block PCS auction which ended on January 26, 2001 raised at total of \$16.857 billion, the AWS-1 auction that ended on September 18, 2006 raised \$13.7 billion and the auction for the 700 MHz band that was cleared when TV stations were removed from Channels 52 to 69 went for just over \$18.957 billion. The auction was to resume on January 5th.

## SBE.org Forwarding Addresses Available

Beginning in February of 2015, members of the SBE will be able to request a "sbe.org" domain email forwarding address for their own use. The address format will be "first initial, last name @ sbe.org". Messages to the member's sbe.org address will be forwarded automatically to the member's primary email box of their choosing.

The sbe.org forwarding address is available only to members of the SBE and is free. Requests for a sbe.org address will be made at renewal time in February. SBE Life Members will receive a letter this winter that will include information on how to request a sbe.org address.

## Chief Operator Responsibilities Webinar January 15

"Chief Operator Responsibilities: What should I be doing?" will be presented live on Thursday, January 15, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. CST. 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). This training covers the responsibilities of the Designated Chief Operator.

Our presenter is Dennis Baldrige, CPBE, 8-VSB, AMD, DRB, CBNT, 30-year veteran of the broadcasting industry and Senior Member of the SBE. The discounted fee for SBE members is \$49. The fee for non-members is \$80. [Register on-line](#) or for more information, visit the SBE website.



Dennis Baldrige

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**MB Docket No. 14-261  
Promoting Innovation and  
Competition in the Provision  
of Multichannel Video  
Programming Distribution  
Services**

**PROPOSED RULEMAKINGS  
CG Docket No. 05-231  
Closed Captioning of  
Video Programming;  
Telecommunications for the  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc.  
Petition for Rulemaking**

The FCC adopted a Further Notice of Rulemaking ([http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2014/db1215/FCC-14-206A1.pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2014/db1215/FCC-14-206A1.pdf)) on December 12th proposing that video program providers be required to file to the Commission contact information and certification of closed caption compliance, as well to video program distributors which would be TV stations, cable systems and direct satellite services. The cable industry has noted to the Commission that compliance to the captioning rules is not within the control of any one entity and requires cooperation of all those in the program production and distribution system.

The FCC is making a number of proposals including having the program supplier, which includes program producers, owners, syndicators and networks, certify the captioning of their programs and make contact information available to the program distributors and to the FCC. If the Commission requires certification to be filed with the Commission, the video program distributor could be required to ask if a programmer has certified the program with the FCC. Under this requirement, both the program supplier and the distributor could be responsible for meeting for the captioning rules including notification of certification, or with the some of the burden being moved to the programmer, the distributor may only be liable for captioning issues if the program supplier fails to file notice of certification. Comments are due on January 20th with replies due on January 30th

On December 17th, the Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ([http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2014/db1219/FCC-14-210A1.pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2014/db1219/FCC-14-210A1.pdf)) in order to update the rules concerning video services over the internet. They wish to better interpret what constitutes a multichannel video program distributor to include any subscription service that provides multiple linear program streams regardless of the method of distribution. These proposed rules will include both current multi-channel video programming distributors, such as cable systems as they move to IP or Internet-enabled technologies, and new providers that use the Internet for delivery of their services. This action is in response to questions raised with the operation of the now defunct Aereo video service.

Much of the notice discusses a long list of rules that the current multi-video programming distributors are subject to and whether an Internet-based system such as Aereo should be subject to which of those rules. Would an Internet-based provider be subject to rules covering closed captioning, loudness, equal employment, programming access, EAS and a number of other rules. The discussion of rules concerning Internet-based systems asks whether such a system would be required to carry local broadcast stations and be subject to retransmission consent and must carry or could a system be national in nature and just carry programming that is distributed nationally, without local stations.

Another important point is what would make an Internet-based service a multichannel video programming distributor. Would they have to provide programming from a number of program providers or would a program supplier such as Disney, Discovery or other

**Rulemakings**

>>> continued on page 4



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# Amateur Radio News

compiled by Tom Weeden, WJ9H

• Largely as the result of a grassroots campaign, “The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014” (H.R. 4969) attracted the support of 69 members of the US House of Representatives in addition to that of its sponsor, Rep Adam Kinzinger (R-IL). While the just-adjourned 113th Congress did not enact the bill, the effort to gain passage of the legislation will begin anew as the 114th Congress convenes. Introduced with bipartisan support last June, H.R. 4969 called on the FCC to apply the “reasonable accommodation” three-part test of the PRB-1 <<http://www.arrl.org/prb-1>> federal pre-emption policy to private land-use restrictions regarding antennas. The limited PRB-1 pre-emption currently applies only to state and municipal land-use ordinances. The FCC has indicated its reluctance to provide the same legal protections from private land-use agreements -- often called covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CC&Rs) -- without direction from Congress. American Radio Relay League CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the objective for 2015 is to continue the momentum, gathering enough support to move the bill through the Energy and Commerce Committee. “We have received expressions of interest from the Senate side and are hoping to have the bill introduced there as well,” he added.

• Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) is continuing to explore the possibility of establishing a network of ground stations to enable the use of the “Ham TV” video system during ARISS school contacts. NASA Astronaut Mike Hopkins, KF5LJG, successfully installed and commissioned the ARISS Ham Video

system last March. The system can transmit video of the crew and the interior of the Columbus module on the 2.4 GHz S-band.

The Ericsson Ham Video digital amateur television (DATV) transmitter will downlink on 2.422 and 2.437 GHz using the DVB-S standard (QPSK modulation) with symbol rates of 1.3 Ms/s and 2.0 Ms/s and an FEC of 1/2. RF effective radiated power will be approximately 10 watts EIRP. The video source will be a Canon XF-305 camera provided by NASA.

ARISS has a document under development to describe just what is required to build a ground station. A preliminary study of the link budget, conducted by Piero Tognolatti, I0KPT, shows that DATV decoding should be possible for a ground station equipped with a 1.2 meter dish when the ISS is within a range of about 800-1000 km. This would limit the time of DATV reception to about 3-4 minutes during a favorable pass.

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



## SBE Bookstore

Browse books by title at:  
[http://www.sbe.org/sections/store\\_books\\_listings.php](http://www.sbe.org/sections/store_books_listings.php)



## Rulemakings

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networks or the NFL or other sports leagues be considered a multichannel video programming distributor if they only provide their own programming. Would services such as Netflix, Amazon Prime, Hulu, YouTube or on-demand services also meet the definition of a multichannel video program distributor.

With the fast pace of growth in Over-the-Top video services, such as on-demand services and TV anywhere and the ever present issue of copyright, the Commission will be under pressure to complete some form of rulemaking on this issue. Comments are due 30 days after publication in the Federal Register, with replies due 15 days after the comments period.

## MB Docket No. 14-127 Expansion of Online Public File Obligations To Cable and Satellite TV Operators and Broadcast and Satellite Radio Licensees

The commission adopted on December 17th, a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ([http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2014/db1218/FCC-14-209A1.pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2014/db1218/FCC-14-209A1.pdf)) on extending the requirement that broadcast radio stations as well as cable systems and radio and TV satellite operators post their public and political files on the FCC website. The proposal follows the same process that TV broadcasters currently are required to do.

Radio stations in the top 50 markets, except those with fewer than five full-time employees, would be required to place copies of their public files on the FCC website by a deadline the Commission would set. Like with the move to online posting of their public files, there would be a period for stations to upload the material before the deadline. Stations in smaller markets would have filing deadlines that would be two years after the initial deadline. Non-commercial stations with less than five employees may be exempt

## Rulemakings

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**Rulemakings**

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from placing copies of their public file on the FCC website.

There may also be an exemption for commercial stations from posting their public file on the FCC website. There was a discussion in the rulemaking noting that some small stations in rural areas have little or no Internet access, particularly those serving Native Americans. Cable systems with less than 1000 subscribers would also be exempt and systems with 1001-5000 subscribers would have the additional two years before having to file their materials. The proposed exemptions follow the Equal Employment Opportunities filling exemptions for stations or cable systems with five or fewer full time employees.

Like with television, the FCC would post all material they have on file — whatever is required in the public file, such as applications and coverage maps. Stations would have to file their Issues and Programming reports and political files. Political file information would only have to be filed for election periods after the requirements go into effect. Older political files would only need to be retained locally. Letters and emails from the public would be retained locally and would not be posted on the website to protect privacy.

Comments are due 30 days after publication in the Federal Register with an additional 30 days for replies.

**ATSC 3.0 SBE Webinar**

ATSC 3.0 is a suite of new standards and practices for the next generation of broadcast television - a system that will provide even more services to viewers, but will also require a clean break from the technologies of earlier-generation DTV systems.

Dr. Richard Chernock, chief science officer at Triveni Digital, will present an SBE webinar about ATSC 3.0 on Thursday, February 19 at 1 pm CST. The presentation will provide an overview of the status of the ATSC 3.0 activity from a technical point of view as well as the anticipated time schedule.

The system requirements include a call for a flexible and more efficient physical layer, mobility, Ultra-High Definition (UHD) images, new solutions for audio, incorporation of new user technologies such as second screen, and incorporation of broadband connectivity. ATSC 3.0 represents a cooperative effort between all segments of the industry and many parts of the world.

Cost for the webinar is \$49 for members of the SBE. The fee for non-members is \$80.

**Registration** may be made online or by calling the SBE national office at 317-846-9000. Completion of this webinar qualifies for one credit, identified under Category I of the Recertification Schedule for SBE Certifications.

**HD Radio Advancement and Trends Webinar**

The HD Radio Advancement and Trends webinar is free to SBE members.

Alan Jurison, CSRE, AMD, DRB will discuss some of the newest HD Radio features (Artist Experience, Data Services via HD) and implementation of HD Radio in the automotive space, in a special SBE webinar, Wednesday,



Alan Jurison

Feb. 4 from 1 to 2 pm CST. Jurison is a senior operations engineer for the corporate Engineering and Systems Integration group of iHeart Media.

The webinar is being made available free to members of the SBE through financial support from SBE Sustaining Member, iBiquity Digital.

Most automotive manufacturers are including HD Radio in their latest vehicles. Jurison will discuss the receivers that are already supporting this technology to give background on what support is out there, and what is on the horizon. This presentation will include an overview (high level discussion) for non-engineering managers and a brief lower-level technical discussion for engineers as well.

Pre-registration is required. To **register**, visit the SBE website.



**Society of Broadcast Engineers**



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**AUCTION** >>> continued from page 1

the interference constraints to stations that are either on nearby or adjacent channels.

The opening offer will not be based on the value of the station if sold as a business, but on the value of the spectrum it occupies. Stations wishing to go off the air will be offered the full opening bid. UHF stations wishing to move to high-band VHF will be given 33-50% of the opening offer. UHF and high-band VHF stations that wish to move to a low band VHF channel will be given 67-80% of the full opening offer. Stations would have to give their first option, and may give a second and third option. An option for a UHF station could be to go off the air, move to high-band VHF or move to low-band VHF. A high-band VHF stations would have the option of going off the air or moving to low-band VHF and a low band VHF would only have the option of going off the air. If a UHF or high-band VHF station did not wish to go off the air, their first option could be to go to a lower band. Once the bidding starts, a station may drop out of their first option if the offer is not enough and go then to a lower option, if there is a channel available in a lower band. So an UHF station deciding not to go off the air after rejecting an offer, may choose to go to a high-band channel if the FCC determines that there is an open channel. If there is no VHF channel open, the station would stay on the UHF band either on its existing channel or a newly-assigned channel at the end of the auction. No station that selects one of the lower options of moving to a lower-band will be able to go to a higher option, such as going off the air or moving to the upper-VHF band from the lower-VHF band. An opening offer will be made to all stations 60 days before the application period to participate in the auction occurs.

In one surprise, the notice said that stations could be assigned anywhere in the 600 MHz band if there was not enough spectrum available for all the stations not participating in the auction or not taking an offer from the FCC. The common belief was that stations would be assigned in the same spectrum as occupied by the wireless downlinks (tower to phone). TV stations could be on either up- or down-

link bands, which would complicate interference issues. The wireless systems may not cause interference to TV stations and have to accept some co-channel interference from TV stations. Because of the interference concerns, the FCC will plan TV allocations to limit interference zones to wireless from TV stations to 20 percent of any one of a wireless companies service areas, which would be based on the each PEA that a wireless provider bids on for spectrum. The reserve price the Commission sets for each affected PEA will reflect a discount for the lost of service area caused by TV signal overlap. Stations could affect more than one wireless channel as wireless users are assigned 5 MHz channels and TV uses a 6 MHz channel. TV stations could also occupy or overlap the guard band between the wireless up- and down-link channels.

The auction will be done with the reverse auction for TV stations being held first and the forward auction for the wireless companies second. The reverse auction will determine the amount of spectrum that will be made available and then the wireless companies will bid for that spectrum. In the reverse auction, the Commission will make an opening offer and stations will then decide if they wish to accept it. If there are more stations making spectrum available than the FCC requires, the Commission will make a lower offer and sees who will reject the offer and drop out. If a station wishes to move to a lower band and there are no openings in that band, they will exit and remain in their current band. This will continue until the FCC has the required spectrum. Then the wireless companies will bid on the open spectrum with the highest bidders winning the newly opened spectrum. If the winning bids do not cover: the payments to the TV stations; the relocation costs to the non-participating stations in the repack; and the auction costs, then the FCC will start a stage of auctions for a lesser amount of spectrum with the stations deciding if they will take lower offers or drop out, and the wireless companies then bid on the remaining spectrum. The auction could go through several stages.

After the auctions conclude, the FCC

will repack the stations into a smaller band of spectrum and those remaining stations that do not fit in the new TV band will be placed in the same spectrum as the wireless companies on channels that cause the least interference. As both the reverse and forward auctions proceed, the Commission will constantly analyze the TV band for open channels to determine if a station can move to a lower TV band or what spectrum will be available after a station decides to drop out of the incentive auction or is unable to move to the lower TV bands. In order to minimize costs of relocating stations to new channels during the repacking, the Commission plans on make an effort to keep as many non-participating stations and stations that decide to reject the Commission offers in the auction on their existing channels as possible.

Everything about this auction seems to be complex and at times confusing, but failing to have an understanding of the ramifications by those in the both the TV broadcasting industry and the wireless industry may have results that neither industry can tolerate.

The FCC released a fact sheet that can be found at: ([http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2014/db1211/DOC-330994A2.pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2014/db1211/DOC-330994A2.pdf)) On December 22nd and 23rd the Federal Register released notices with the abbreviated versions of the repacking and interference discussions from the larger FCC release, which may be easier to understand. They can be found at: (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-22/pdf/2014-29688.pdf>) and (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-23/pdf/2014-29687.pdf>).

A spreadsheet was released with the original notice that gives the proposed reserved prices the FCC will ask for in the forward auction with the wireless companies. That can be found at: ([http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2014/db1217/FCC-14-191A2.pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2014/db1217/FCC-14-191A2.pdf)).

Comments are due on this notice on January 30th and replies are due on February 27th.

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

February 2015 Chapter 24  
Newsletter Deadline:  
Tuesday, February 3, midnight  
paul.stoffel@wpt.org  
*edited using Adobe InDesign 2014*



## CHAPTER 24 SUSTAINING MEMBERS

## SBE Certification

The SBE Certification Committee has established the following exam dates. Choose the exam period that is best for you.

<u>Exam Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Application Deadline</u>
April 14, 2015	Exams at the NAB Show	March 20, 2015
June 5-15, 2015	Local Chapters	April 10, 2015
August 7-17, 2015	Local Chapters	June 5, 2015
November 6-16, 2015	Local Chapters	October 2, 2015

When you are ready to take an SBE exam, please fill out the appropriate application and send it into the SBE National office (see address below). You will be notified once your application has been approved. Approximately 3 weeks before the exam time, your local certification chairman will receive a list of applicants in his/her area. He/she will then contact those applicants to schedule a date, time and place for the exams. The exams will be mailed back to the National office for grading. The pass/fail grades will then be mailed directly to the applicants.

Jim Hermanson, CPBE, CBNT  
SBE Chapter 24 Certification/Education Chair

You may mail, email or fax your applications to:

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### Recent Renewal:

WKOW-TV 27

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