



November 2017

Society of
Broadcast Engineers
Chapter 24
Newsletter
Madison, Wisconsin

 **Next Meeting**

Wednesday, November 15

Broadcast IP Standards

IP has already found its way into broadcast transmission, content delivery, and news gathering. The next IP transition will invade in-house live production and master control HD-SDI infrastructures.



Bryan Nelson from Alpha Video will review the current state of broadcast IP protocols, and discuss the pros and cons of phasing out baseband video cabling for live studio, routing, and master control. The session will end with an overview of current and upcoming IP products while attempting to cut through the manufacturer hype.

Optional dinner beginning at 5:30
Babes Bar and Grill
5614 Schroeder Road
Madison, WI

Meeting and program at 7:00PM
WKOW TV
5727 Tokay Blvd
Madison, WI

Parking in the rear of the building.

Big Changes Are Coming

>>> by Tom Smith

At the November meeting of the Commission, they will be taking up two proposed rulemakings that will have a big impact on the broadcast industry. The two proposed rulemakings deal with the elimination of many ownership rules and the authorization of ATSC 3.0 DTV transmissions.

The proposed rulemaking on the ownership rules (http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2017/db1026/DOC-347453A1.pdf) will remove many of the current probations concerning cross-ownership between various media. The proposed rulemaking will allow the cross-ownership in a market of newspapers and broadcast stations, TV and radio stations, and TV duopolies in all markets by eliminating the eight voices test. Currently there must be eight independent stations groups in a market before a duopoly can be formed, which means that there needs to be more than eight TV stations in a market. This restriction was waved in small markets if one of the stations was failing. A waiver will still be needed to combine any of the four top stations in a market, normally the ABC, CBS, FOX and NBC stations. The proposed rules will allow Joint Sales Agreements between stations without counting against ownership limits. Stations will still have to disclose Shared Services Agreements, The FCC does not plan on changing the local market

>>> **Changes** continued on page 4

The Broadcasters Clinic

>>> by Leonard Charles

The 61st Broadcasters Clinic was held in Madison in early October. In keeping with its award-winning reputation as the country's top regional broadcast engineering conference, this year's Clinic was supported by an overwhelming number of exhibitors and set an all-time high, session attendance record.

The Broadcasters Clinic repeatedly attracts top industry speakers from around the country with sessions on the edge of broadcast technology. This year's attendees once again were able to hear about that technology in the session hall and see it in the exhibit hall.

This level of success comes from the effort of the program committee which seats members from all four Wisconsin SBE Chapters, and the commitment of Michelle and Linda with the support of the WBA Board. It's a formula that is second to none.

As this was my last Clinic as its Chair, I sincerely thank everyone involved in making this conference what it has grown to be over the years, simply the best! I am in deep gratitude to the attendees who have kept the show growing no matter what the national trends and have become my extended family, you warm my heart. I know with this same level of support the Clinic will continue in its success under new Chair, Kent Aschenbrenner. Save the dates, October 16th thru 18th 2018 at the Madison Marriott West.

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the program committee!*

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Meeting Minutes

from the October 2017 Business Meeting

The Society of Broadcast Engineers Chapter 24 meeting coincided with the 2017 Broadcasters Clinic held at the Madison Marriott West on Wednesday, October 11, 2017. It also served as an Upper Midwest SBE Regional Meeting. There were 13 Chapter 24 members present, including 8 who were certified. In total there were 42 people present, with 33 SBE members representing 10 chapters, along with 9 guests.

After a taco bar and beverages were enjoyed, Chapter 24 Chair Rich Wood thanked everyone for gathering together, then recognized the various SBE Chapters present. There was no formal business meeting held.

For the evening program, Rich introduced Peter Rafferty from the Wisconsin Automated Vehicle Proving Grounds at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. During the course of the presentation on automated vehicle testing, there were many questions from the audience that ranged from technology to policy and ethics.

Submitted by Mike Norton, Secretary

Main Studio Rule Repealed

>>> by Tom Smith

At the October meeting of the FCC Commissioners, they approved two actions to change regulations concerning the maintenance of the main studio for all broadcast stations and the yearly filing of DTV stations supplementary services payments form.

In the action concerning the main studio rules (http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2017/db1024/FCC-17-137A1.pdf), the Commission removed the requirement that a station maintain its main studio in its city of license or within the city grade contour. With the removal of the main studio requirement a number of other rules were affected and modified. Stations will no longer be required to: have two people present at the main studio during business hours, and maintain the capability to broadcast from the main studio even if no programs are broadcast from it. Previously, stations were required to be able to broadcast

live programming, even if no local programming was produced. Other rules affected include the location of a station's remote control point, how equipment tests are performed, notifying the FCC of changes in studio location and the location of public file.

Stations will still have to either maintain a local or toll-free phone number. Radio stations that have not gone to online public files, will still have to maintain the files locally at the library or have them kept at some other business in the community. Class A LPTV stations will still have to produce three hours of local programming a week, which could be produced by a third party. Before anyone closes their local studios, they should contact their attorneys or at least read the rule changes in the notice.

The action will have an effect on the local stations programming that

>>> **Studio** continued on page 4



Amateur Radio News

compiled by Tom Weeden, WJ9H

- Twenty-two radio amateurs, part of the Red Cross "Force of 50" volunteers who deployed to Puerto Rico in October, have ended their mission and are back on the US mainland after serving for about 3 weeks.

"The Force of 50 volunteers demonstrated an extraordinary range of skills possessed by this accomplished team," said American Radio Relay League CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF. "There was no task that they wouldn't tackle. It also demonstrated the generosity of these volunteers, who not only performed their roles as communicators, but also engaged the population with their many acts of personal kindness."

Val Hotzfeld, NV9L, who filed situation reports documenting the team's activities, said the volunteers accomplished everything they went to Puerto Rico to do, "and then some." She said that the Red Cross felt they had exceeded all expectations.

Hotzfeld said the volunteers' initial mission was to provide a way to gather outbound health and welfare messages and put them into the Red Cross's Safe and Well System using Winlink, an amateur radio text-based mode. However, the mission changed once they were on the ground, when they discovered the needs were much greater.

"No one had any communications, so the mission morphed to communications," she said. "But, we did both." She said the Red Cross recognized the value of ensuring communication for hospitals, and other volunteers handled Safe and Well messages.

She said the volunteers possessed a wide range of talents, from medical to mechanical, not just communications. For example, Andy Anderson, KE0AYJ, set up the helicopter landing pad at Guajataca Dam, Hotzfeld said, and provided communication where there was none.

Ten SHARES (Shared Resources) HF Radio Program operators were to replace the Amateur Radio volunteers who had worked on behalf of the Red Cross. These

SHARES operators are federal employees who happen to be radio amateurs and volunteered for the duty in Puerto Rico.

- To help facilitate communications out of the US territories hard hit by Hurricane Maria, on October 5th the FCC granted an ARRL request to waive current Amateur Radio rules to permit data transmissions at a higher symbol rate than currently permitted, in order to facilitate hurricane relief communications. The temporary waiver is limited to Amateur Radio operators in Puerto Rico using PACTOR 3 and PACTOR 4 emissions, and to those radio amateurs in the continental US who are directly involved with HF hurricane relief communications involving Puerto Rico or the US Virgin Islands, the Commission said.

"We conclude that granting the requested waiver is in the public interest," the FCC said in its October 5 Order. "Hurricane Maria caused massive destruction in Puerto Rico, and communication services continue to be disrupted. Thus, to accommodate Amateur Radio operators assisting in the recovery efforts, we grant the ARRL's waiver request for the period of 60 days from the date of this Order."

ARRL explained in its waiver petition that it was shipping five PACTOR radio modems to Puerto Rico for use in connection with Hurricane Maria disaster relief communications. The League asked the FCC to temporarily allow PACTOR 3 and PACTOR 4 transmissions at up to 1800 baud that exceed the current symbol rate limitations (300 or 1200 baud) under §97.307(f), enacted in 1980.

- The FCC has affirmed a huge fine of more than \$400,000 on Jay Peralta, a Queens, New York, man who has admitted to making unauthorized transmissions on New York City Police Department radio frequencies, maliciously interfering with officers' communications. The FCC had sent Peralta a Notice of Apparent Liability last April 14. Peralta, 20, is

alleged to have transmitted false bomb threats, false claims of criminal activity involving firearms, false distress calls from purported NYPD officers, and threats against individual NYPD officers. The unauthorized transmissions began in 2016, according to the FCC.

"Mr. Peralta has not filed a response to the NAL," the FCC said in an October 10 Forfeiture Order (FO). "Based on the information before us, we find no reason to cancel, withdraw, or reduce the proposed penalty, and we therefore assess the \$404,166 forfeiture the Commission previously proposed in the NAL."

The FCC said the transmissions occurred from April through August 2016. The NYPD subsequently provided the FCC with a written statement by Peralta, who is currently in custody pending trial for related charges, in which he acknowledged making nine unauthorized transmissions on the NYPD radio system, the FCC said.

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



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ownership limits for radio stations. There was no discussion of repealing the UHF discount rule, which counts UHF stations as servicing half the population in a market, which allows a group to double the number of UHF stations that count against the national ownership cap.

In this proposed rulemaking, the FCC asks also for comment on the creation of an incubator program to increase diversity in the ownership of broadcast stations. The possibility of increasing opportunities would seem limited, as the proposed ownership rules would decrease the number of available stations for purchase, as increased consolidation is allowed.

This rulemaking will have a 30-day comment period and a 30-day reply period.

The second Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2017/db1026/DOC-347455A1.pdf) takes the first steps in authorizing DTV stations to transition from ATSC 1.0 to ATSC 3.0 transmissions. The transition to Next Gen TV (ATSC 3.0) will be voluntary by TV stations. Stations that elect to transition to Next Gen TV will be required to simulcast their ATSC 1.0 channel on another station in the market, and that the ATSC 3.0 signal be the same as the ATSC 1.0 channel, except for special feature programming that requires the capability of ATSC 3.0. Low-power TV stations are exempt from simulcast and full-power stations can seek a waiver if there is no viable simulcast station. Next Gen TV transmissions are exempt from mandatory cable carriage, but ATSC 1.0 signals still must be carried by cable systems. Stations that convert to ATSC 3.0 must meet current public interest requirements and provide the public advanced on-the-air notification of the transition. Stations must incorporate specific parts of ATSC 3.0 standards

A/321 and A/322, but there will be no mandatory Next Gen tuner requirement for TV receivers.

The FCC is also seeking comment on what issues would be of concern in granting waivers and exceptions to requiring stations to simulcast their ATSC 1.0 signal and if stations could use vacant channels in the TV band to further the adoption of Next Gen TV. The FCC is also tentatively concluding the use of the simulcasting ATSC 1.0 signal should not change the significantly viewed status for cable and satellite carriage of a Next Gen DTV station.

This proposed rulemaking will have a 60-day comment period followed by a 30-day reply period after being published in the Federal Register.

>>> **Studio** continued from page 2

elect to close their local studios and combine their operations in one location. A station could exist with a satellite or Internet connection at the transmitter and an EAS unit. Stations could be programmed from hundreds or thousands of miles away. The only local operation could be sales operations, with the salespersons working from home or just taking orders via e-mail or even only carrying national spots. This rule change could eliminate more jobs in a business where many jobs have already been lost due to cost-cutting or changes in technology.

In the second action, the FCC adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2017/db1024/FCC-17-138A1.pdf) to eliminate the yearly filing of the Auxiliary or Supplementary Services Reporting Form for DTV stations that do not provide

data or other subscription services with their digital bandwidth. When the FCC authorized DTV service, they made a requirement that stations that use their DTV signal to provide data or other subscription services to pay 5% of the proceeds to the FCC. This was to appease those who objected to the use of a second channel during the transition without an auction. The few stations that do provide these services will still have to file the form and make the payment.

The second part of this notice asks if the FCC should allow licenses to post public notices on their websites or other Internet-based media in place of publishing the notice in the local newspaper and if some applications even need to be published. One of the FCC's answers to publishing public notices is that people subscribe to FCC news feeds such as the Daily Digest, which announces each days applications and actions. Few people except public interest groups even know that government agencies publish these notices or even care.

WORT Seeks Technical Director

The Technology & Facilities Maintenance Director is responsible for supporting the technical and facilities needs of WORT FM, a non-commercial community radio station located in Madison, Wisconsin. The position requires accountability for the uninterrupted broadcast and digital operations of the station, as well as for our physical plant and IT.

For more information, please review the [position description](#). This is a full-time salaried position with benefits, located in Madison. Please apply online at wortfm.org/jobs.

Laura Gutknecht is staying on as our Chief Operator; this is for someone to manage the daily operations.

SBE Chapter 24 Certification and Education News

Well done!

Congratulations to Michael Norton of the Educational Communications Board, on being newly recertified as a Certified Senior Television Engineer (CSTE) and Certified Broadcast Networking Engineer (CBNE)!

The Open 2017-2018 Exam Schedule

Exam Dates	Location	Application Deadline (to SBE National Office)
February 2-12, 2018	Local Chapters (Madison Area)	December 31, 2017
April 10, 2018	Exams during the NAB show	March 2, 2018
June 1-11, 2018	Local Chapters (Madison Area)	April 20, 2018
August 3-13, 2018	Local Chapters (Madison Area)	June 5, 2018
November 2-12, 2018	Local Chapters (Madison Area)	September 24, 2018

For questions about applying for an exam, please contact Jim Hermanson at services@jimhermanson.com or Megan Clappe at mclappe@sbe.org. Also, see the SBE National Web site at www.sbe.org.

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.

You may mail, email or fax your applications to:

Megan E. Clappe, Certification Director
 9102 N. Meridian St. Suite 150
 Indianapolis, IN 46260
 317-846-9120 Fax



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



Newsletter Editor Needed
 Will Train.
 Current editing software is
 Adobe InDesign CC.
 Contact Rich Wood
 or Paul Stoffel.



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 SUSTAINING
 MEMBERS**

Recent Renewal:

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- Joseph Electronics
- WMSN-TV 47

**Thanks to all our
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- Alpha Video
- AVI Systems
- Belden, Inc.
- Clark Wire and Cable
- Heartland Video Systems
- The Mink Company
- Resonant Results, Ltd.
- Ross Video
- Sound Devices, LLC
- Token Creek Productions
- WISC-TV 3
- WMTV-TV 15
- WKOW-TV 27

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