



# CHAPTER TWENTY NEWS

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## Last Meeting 2GHz Band Planning on March Agenda

Chapter 20 met at Gaetano's on the 19th. There were about 15 members and friends present and a couple more via telephone conference. Business discussion focused on the subject of having a hired facilitator for the annual convention. The consensus was positive, depending on cost. Bob Jordan is to look further into it.

Eric McCauley from Microwave Radio Corp. gave a presentation on the 2GHz BAS problem. He gave a complete overview of the history, technical and legal considerations including all the options open to broadcasters. When he finished Glen Romsos of WPXI led a discussion on the need to create a 2GHz band plan for our market. It was decided that we need to keep meeting to form a plan.

A follow up meeting was held on April first at WPXI. Local stations were represented either in person or by phone conference. Several stations from the Altoona and Youngstown markets were in attendance. The next scheduled 2GHz band plan meeting will be on May 5. Glenn Romsos has offered the WPXI-TV Executive Conference Room again as the venue.



*Eric covered technical and legal ramifications of 2GHz band planning at the March meeting of Chapter 20.*

## Next Meeting

No meeting this month. NAB was too close and made it impossible to find a presentation and attendance would probably have been difficult also. So, the next meeting will be in May.

## Membership Drive Continues

The 2004 annual membership drive continues through May. There is the usual \$5 off your annual dues for each new member you recruit. But this year the chapter can win a prize for having the largest percentage of members bringing in a new member. And there are \$10,000 in prizes for recruiters, donated by a long list of manufacturers and service providers. There is even a prize for one of the new recruits this year.

We have included a membership form with this newsletter. Qualifying applications must arrive at the SBE National Office between March 1st and May 31st. and show the name of a member sponsor on the front page.

## *Next Meeting*

### April Meeting cancelled

Because of the  
closeness to NAB

See you on May 20.



## Chairman's Corner

### April Potpourri

Bob Jordan, CPBE  
bjordan@wpxi.com

First of all, due to the closeness of our regular meeting date to the NAB convention, and the resulting inability to secure an April speaker, the officers have agreed to cancel the April meeting. My apologies to those who enjoy our regular conclave. But that's not to say nothing's been happening. Here's a summary:

**2 GHz BAS** – As a follow-up to the March meeting, the Chief Engineers of all Pittsburgh TV stations and at least three adjoining markets met again on April 1 to discuss their mutual concerns and begin hammering out a transition plan. Since that time, there has been a lot happening, and the progressive folks in Phoenix already have a plan in place with a firm transition date. But the most notable thing that has not been happening is negotiations. So far the potential MSS providers have been universally silent around the country. Our next greater Pittsburgh 2 GHz BAS meeting is planned for May 5.

**Newsgroup** – To facilitate a continuing dialogue on the 2GHz issues, frequency coordinator Otto Schellin has established a group discussion board on "Yahoo! Groups" called "Pittsburgh TV Tech." To keep down the clutter, the list is set up as a private list that may only be viewed by members approved by the moderator (who, at this time, is Otto). This will allow us to discuss our issues in private. But by all means, you can access this board by navigating to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PittsburghTVTech/>. One caveat - you will need to establish a Yahoo! user account if you do not already have one. The good news is that it is free and easy to set up. Once you setup with a user account, navigate to the above URL and click on "Join This Group!". Your request to join will then be emailed to Otto, who will add you to the group. You may then choose to have board messages emailed to you in plain text or HTML format, or elect to not have any messages emailed and simply refer to the web site for the messages. We can also post files, photos, links, databases, calendars, and conduct polls. Please feel free to pass this information along to anyone you feel should be included in this group. Although this group was originally conceived for discussing the 2 GHz BAS band plan, any technical issue affecting the Pittsburgh Area TV Broadcasters is fair game. Feel free to explore the possibilities.

**Radio** – What's happening in radio? I need to apologize to our radio oriented members for the fact that TV issues seem to be dominating Chapter news. To be honest, I don't know what's happening in radio, but

maybe some of you could help to fill that information void. Roy? Cy? I'm sure Gary would love to have articles, or if you have some tidbit, perhaps you could post it to the above mentioned newsgroup. After all, as a very wise person once told me, "Television is just radio with a light to read by."

**Convention** – The date for our annual convention is tentatively set for October 5, 2004. Additional volunteers have not materialized and it's way too much for Kim to do again by herself, so we're talking to professional facilitators about unloading the bulk of the grunt work, with the probable exception of soliciting and selecting presenters. More later.



*What would a 2 GHz band meeting be without our Frequency Coordinator Otto Schellin?*



*Damian Hess (left) of WTAJ, Altoona, explains the situation in his market.*



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**Chapter 20**

**P.O. Box 16312**

**Pittsburgh, PA 15242-0312**

Web page <http://www.broadcast.net/~sbe20>

#### Chapter 20 Officers

Chairman Bob Jordan	412-237-1174
Vice Chair Blake Richert	412-824-3930
Secretary Paul Byers	412-622-1530
Treasurer Paul Mastorakis	724-348-6681
Frequency Coordination Otto Schellin	412-237-1184
Convention Chair Kim Cannon	412-374-1700
Certification Tom Skubel	412-244-4435
FCC Committee vacant	
Newsletter Editor Gary Stewart	412-824-3930