



# CHAPTER TWENTY NEWS

society of broadcast engineers  
pittsburgh chapter

April 2008

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Last Meeting ...

## Round Table

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Our March meeting was held at Alexander's Restaurant in Bloomfield. Paul Byers was the presiding officer. We had eight attendees. The program was a round table discussion lead by Dave Kasperek. We touched on several topics including issues regarding the DTV transition. We also brainstormed about the theme for the Expo. Also, a vote was taken to move the April meeting back a week to April 24 so it would not be in conflict with NAB.



## FCC Report

Paul Byers  
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The FCC announced that Monday, March 31st was the effective date of the Consumer DTV Education Rules and also announced that a report (Form 388) should be filed by every television licensee or permittee on or before April 10, 2008. For stations that simulcast their analog channel in their digital stream, you need file only one report. If however, your digital stream carries different programming than your analog channel, you must file two separate reports. The reports must also be placed in your public file and posted on your web site.

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Next Meeting ...

## NAB Review

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Due to the NAB Convention April 12-17, we will hold our April meeting on the 4th Thursday of the month instead of our usual 3rd Thursday routine. By delaying a week those of us who get to attend the confab in sin city get the opportunity to come back and share our observations with our members who cannot attend.

Alexander's made us a wonderful and generous dinner last month, come on out and join us for this annual NAB review meeting.

Alexander's is located at 5104 Liberty Avenue, 3 blocks north-west from the corner of Baum Boulevard and Liberty Avenue.

Coming from the east you would take Fifth Avenue to S. Aiken Avenue. South Aiken becomes Liberty Avenue after you cross Baum Boulevard. Proceed three blocks on Liberty Avenue. Alexander's will be on your left.

Coming from the west you would take Bigelow Boulevard to the Bloomfield Bridge. Turn right onto Liberty Avenue after crossing the bridge and proceed approximately 1/2 mile. Alexander's will be on your right. Phone number for the restaurant is 412-687-8741. There is on street parking, as well as a pay parking garage immediately adjacent to the restaurant.

The FCC will allow broadcasters to choose from among three education and reporting options. Option One calls for shorter PSAs of greater frequency and specified content, Option Two entails longer PSAs of lesser frequency without content specifications and Option Three (available to public broadcasters only) allows for the same total amount of air time devoted to education with less restriction on length, again without content specifications. All three options require quarterly reporting of both mandatory and voluntary education efforts. Broadcasters are free to use industry-provided material or produce their own. Be sure to maintain an internal record of the dates and times educational information was aired.

## SBE Certification Exam Dates

Exam Dates	Location	Application Deadline
April 15, 2008	NAB	CLOSED
June 6-16, 2008	Local Chapters	April 18, 2008
August 8-18, 2008	Loca Chapters	June 6, 2008
November 7-17, 2008	Local Chapters	September 19, 2008



## Chairman's Corner

Paul Byers  
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Don't forget that, due to a conflict with the NAB Convention, this month's meeting date has been changed to Thursday, April 24th. The meeting will still be held at 7:00 PM at Alexander's Pasta Express on Liberty Avenue in Bloomfield. The program will include presentations of NAB highlights by those members who attended the show. Please mark the date on your calendar and be sure to attend. Remember that dinner is provided courtesy of Chapter 20.

For you radio engineers out there, here is some information that you may find interesting. In October of 2007, Mullaney Engineering of Gaithersburg, Maryland, filed a petition with the FCC to re-allocate VHF channels 5 (76-82 MHz.) and 6 (82-88 MHz.) for use in the FM band after February 17, 2009. Their reasoning was that since there were only 38 potential digital television allotments for those channels nationwide (and only 8 of those on channel 6), the Commission could consider a shared use of the channels, but limit the sharing to just those full service digital TV allotments currently under consideration.

Since one TV channel is capable of creating 30 additional FM channels and the existing FM band consists of only 100 channels, the use of either one or two TV channels would be a "staggering expansion of the existing FM band." Basically, this could increase the number of FM stations by 60%!

In a somewhat surprising move, the FCC, on March 5, released a NPRM that mentioned the petition saying: "In its Supplemental Comments, DCS urges the Commission to give a "hard look" to a proposal advanced by Mullaney Engineering, Inc. Mullaney proposes that the Commission reallocate TV Channels 5 and 6 for FM broadcasting, thereby creating a "staggering expansion of the existing FM band." We agree with DCS that this proposal could yield tremendous opportunities for new entrants, and we seek comment on it."

For the full text of the Mullaney petition go to [http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native\\_or\\_pdf=pdf&id\\_document=6519744377](http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6519744377) (all characters contiguous, no spaces).



## Musings of a Consultant - April 2008

John Luff  
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"It is upon us again, the annual trek to Lost Wages, commonly found (lost) in Nevada. NAB has been there so long most people cannot remember when the President addressed the convention in Dallas, or the years it was held in the Shoreham and Sheraton Park in Washington DC, or the infamous one year experiment at McCormick Place in Chicago (the exhibitors vowed THEY would NEVER return...). Is this gathering of the clans still a useful way to spend the Spring? This year AVID and Apple have both taken a pass at the craps tables. The assumption, which is not hard to understand in some respects, is that the cost cannot be justified in new business that comes as a direct result of the millions in exhibition costs and tying up their people for weeks planning and executing strategy. Some say that by being absent they will be deemed a more risky business partner, or somehow a company in decline. But since the two of them represent the lion's share of the editing business it is hard to see why either would attend unless they are both there. Where else are we going to buy systems? Does this represent a trend that others will follow? Time will tell. I have seen many predictions of the decline of NAB, but the Sony booth seems to always be crowded... Personal impressions of my 39th NAB at our monthly meeting."

Need a new position?

Don't mind relocating?

Check out SBE JobsOnline!

[http://www.sbe.org/career\\_jobsonline.php](http://www.sbe.org/career_jobsonline.php)



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# Be Part of a Winning Team

## Annual SBE Membership Drive

March 1 to May 31.

Earn a \$5 credit toward your annual dues for each new member you sign up, and entry in a drawing for prizes.

### GRAND PRIZE

**Trip** to the 2008 SBE National Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin from October 14 – 16

**Airfare** (from within Continental US)

**Two nights** hotel accommodations at the **Madison Marriott West.**

**Free registration and National Awards Dinner Ticket**

### OTHER PRIZES

(2) **Eton E1XM AM/FM/Shortwave/XM-Ready Radio** *Courtesy of Westwood One*

**Apple IPOD Nano** *Courtesy of ADC*

**Antenna Engineering Handbook** *courtesy of McGraw-Hill*

**Digital Signage Broadcasting** by Lundstrom *Courtesy of Elsevier*

**HD Radio Implementation** by Thomas Ray *Courtesy of Elsevier*

**Basic NEC with Broadcast Applications** by JL Smith *Courtesy of Elsevier*

**Directional Antennas Made Simple** by Jack Layton

**The Public Inspection File** by Jack Layton

**NAB Engineering Handbook** *Courtesy of National Association of Broadcasters*

**Telos ProFiler Automated Program Archiver software** *Courtesy of Telos Systems / Omnia / Axia*

**Heil Sound Fin** *Courtesy of Broadcast Supply Worldwide*

**Yamaha AV Receiver RX-V661** *Courtesy of Neural Audio*

**\$100 Gift Certificate to L.L. Bean** *Courtesy of Shively Labs*

**\$100 Gift Certificate to Amazon.com** *Courtesy of Dielectric*

**\$75 Gift Certificate to Powell.com** *Courtesy of du Treil, Lundin & Rackley, Inc.*

(2) **Logo Polo shirts** *Courtesy of Kathrein Scala*

**Logo pull over fleece** *Courtesy of Kathrein Scala*

**Logo Golf Shirt** *Courtesy of Continental Electronics*

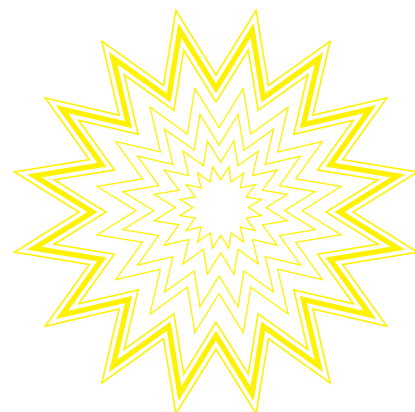
(2) **1 GB USB Drive** *Courtesy of Broadcast Electronics*

(5) **White ball cap** *Courtesy of Broadcast Electronics*

(5) **Logo T-shirt** *Courtesy of Broadcast Electronics*

(25) **Adjustment Tweaking Tools** *Courtesy of Continental Electronics*

MORE TO COME!



# BAS Transition, Is There Any Good News?

Dave Kasperek  
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For all of us users of the 2 GHz BAS band, the news from the Commission recently is sobering. The Commission has granted additional time for the industry and Sprint to transition until next March, but it's clearly not an open ended offer.

Furthermore what I am hearing is that the new incumbents to the band in the top 25 DMAs will likely be operating in many markets before the transition is complete.

For those of us using channels 1 and 2 this may mean interfer-

ence for an unspecified period of time until the transition is complete. This could seriously impact normal daily news operations in this market. Broadcast users need to continue talking and cooperating now to make sure our market is not harmed in the transition. The monthly SBE meeting is good place to touch base and find out what's happening.

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## Next Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, April 24 (Postponed for one week due to NAB Convention)

## NAB Review

**Location:** Alexander's Pasta Express, 5104 Liberty Ave., Pittsburgh  
Phone: 412-687-8741

**Time:** 6:30 PM Gather and shoot the breeze  
7:00 PM Dinner

**Directions:** See the Next Meeting article on page one

