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January 1, 1988

Volume 12, Number 1

## Rau New Head of NAB S&T

by David Hughes

Washington DC ... NAB Director of Spectrum Engineering and Regulatory Affairs Michael Rau has been named VP and acting head of the association's Science and Technology (S&T) Department.

Meanwhile, former S&T Director Tom Keller will become the NAB's chief scientist, working out of the association's planned high-definition TV (HDTV) lab.

The 4 December announcement from NAB President Eddie Fritts took some by surprise. While changes were brewing in the S&T Department, few expected that Keller would become chief scientist of the HDTV lab instead of the head of the lab.

In September, Fritts indicated at an HDTV conference in Washington that Keller would become head of the lab. He also said that a replacement for him would have to be found as head of the S&T Department.

However, as late as the end of November, Keller indicated that he was still in line for the lab position, and that a decision had not been made on who would head the S&T Department.

### "Outstanding scientist"

Following the 4 December 1987 announcement of the job changes, Fritts said: "Tom Keller is an outstanding

## Capitol Deal In Progress

Hollywood CA ... An eleventh-hour agreement may salvage Capitol Magnetics products from a retrenchment by parent company Capitol Industries.

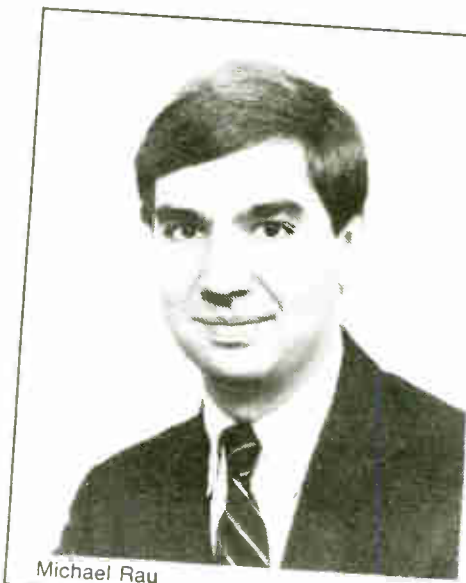
Capitol Industries, which also owns Capitol Records, announced in December that it would withdraw its Capital Magnetic Products Division from the magnetic base tape business, and close its Winchester, VA tape duplicating facility in 1988, in favor of a consolidated plant in Jacksonville, IL.

However, at press time, negotiations were ongoing with several parties to arrange a sale of the broadcast cartridge business, according to the company.

At least two groups were said to be interested in the broadcast cartridge business, which has supplied Audio-pak carts to radio stations for many years.

A source confirmed that current negotiations were "well underway," although

(continued on page 3)



Michael Rau



Tom Keller

scientist who will make a vital contribution to the development of HDTV."

At a 2 December press conference, NAB VP/Operations John Abel did not

want to discuss the reason for Keller's job change.

On Rau, Fritts said his "experience and talents equip him superbly to manage

the Science and Technology Department as Tom's successor."

Rau, who joined the NAB in 1981, has been active in AM improvement work, including the NRSC, and in the policy and technical aspects of TV spectrum allocations. He also owns WKLV-AM and WBBC-FM in Blackstone, VA. Earlier this year he was named director of Spectrum Engineering and Regulatory Affairs.

### More new people

While Rau will head the S&T Department, a decision on who will manage the new HDTV lab—dubbed the Broadcast Technology Center—will come "later," according to an NAB official.

At press time, Fritts said the NAB was still "looking at outside space for the lab," which will be located within walking distance of the NAB's Washington DC headquarters.

Keller, who became the VP of the S&T

(continued on page 8)

## Biby Antenna On Hold For Now

by Alex Zavistovich

Washington DC ... After months of delays in implementing its AM antiskew antenna project, the NAB is getting ready to defer work on one of the antennas, in favor of time-sharing of a single site.

That arrangement was proposed following preliminary word that the NAB had placed "on hiatus" the AM monopole design of Richard Biby.

The hiatus originally came as an apparent surprise to Biby, head of the Arlington, VA-based Communications Engineering Services, who maintained

he had not been told about plans to suspend the project.

The action was the latest in a series of complications in implementing the Biby design. Difficulties in obtaining a Loudoun County VA test site held the project in stasis for 19 months.

There were problems internal to the project, as well. Biby had maintained that the project—which had a two-year zoning grant for a test site—seemed to be rushed into an "irrationally short timetable."

Despite these and similar disagreements, the NAB is apparently still committed to the Biby antenna.

NAB VP/Science and Technology Mike Rau assured that the NAB "had faith" in Biby's design and underscored the association's intent to accommodate the inventor in a schedule for the project.

### Intense pressure

However, in November, after a series of problems and delays, the NAB appeared to be uncertain of the status of the project.

Biby said that in mid-November he was contacted by Rau, who told him the AM antenna project was coming under "intense pressure" because of "lack of progress." There was talk of cancelling the project entirely, Biby added.

In response to the conversation, Biby on 4 December sent a letter to Rau at the NAB. In it, he said the antenna project would require "at least five years" of development.

Biby urged the NAB to consider his antenna to be "a long term development." He suggested that the project might ad-

(continued on page 12)

## Fidelipac captures two Olympic gold medals



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Circle Reader Service 32 on Page 22

## REGULATORY NEWS

## FCC's AM Deadline Extended

by David Hughes

Washington DC ... The FCC has extended the comment deadlines in its review of AM technical assignment criteria.

The action follows a request from the NAB to extend the comment deadlines on the "comprehensive review," which was unveiled last July.

The FCC is examining a wide range of issues including interference protection, technical assignment principles, ground and skywave propagation curves, improved receivers, as well as the concept of negotiated interference.

In response to the NAB, on 11 Decem-

*NAB said it needed more time for two studies.*

ber the Commission reset the 17 December comment deadline and the 17 February reply comment deadline using a staggered schedule, according to FCC Policy and Rules Division Assistant Chief Wilson LaFollette.

Comments on sections II and III of the Notice of Inquiry, which deal with assignment criteria, emission limits and the examination of the National Radio Systems Committee (NRSC) pre/deemphasis curve, are due 1 February, with reply comments due 1 March, he said.

Comments on parts I and IV, which look at antenna issues and more subjective audio listening studies, are due 17 June, with reply comments due 17 August, La Follette added.

"We decided that we wanted to put the (separate) issues on a different track,"

he said.

In a 1 December request asking for an extension of the comment deadlines, the NAB said it needed more time for two studies being conducted.

"Recognizing the import of this proceeding and the effect it will have on the future of AM broadcasting, (the) NAB is dedicating substantial resources to analyses of the matters at issue," the association said.

"Also, the NRSC is continuing its own analysis of AM technical rules and its efforts to adopt additional industry positions on matters addressed in the notice," the NAB maintained.

The two technical studies include an analysis of the listening public's expectations of audio quality. The NAB said it would take "several months" to complete the test, which would "entail significant numbers of audio tests with public volunteers."

The NAB is also conducting an investigation into AM technical standards overall, including the relationship between allocations standards and receiver performance. The results of this and the other study must also be reviewed by the NRSC and the Radio Advisory Committee.

In asking for an extension, the NAB added that the NRSC will be receiving comments in March on the RF mask issue. "These comments will be useful in the development—by the NRSC and the NAB—of comments dealing with, among other things, spurious emissions."

The NAB had asked the FCC not to extend the comment deadline as much on the part of the docket dealing with the adoption of "the transmission portions of the NRSC standard for AM broadcasting."

In November, the NAB asked the Commission to adopt the AM preemphasis curve and the 10 kHz audio band-

width characteristics embodied in the NRSC's recommended standard.

"Indeed," the NAB added, "the Commission's Notice acknowledges the NRSC standard and encourages such technical efforts."

"In our petition, (the) NAB strongly urged that the NRSC Standard issue be elevated to rulemaking status at the earliest practicable time. However, we recognize that the Commission may desire to elicit some initial public comment on the NAB petition prior to instituting a rulemaking proceeding on its proposals," the NAB said.

NAB VP/Science and Technology Mike Rau said he was satisfied that the new deadlines would allow enough time for the completion of the NAB's studies.

The FCC docket is MM 87-267. Contact Wilson LaFollette at 202-632-5414.

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## FCC Clips

### Carroll Doctrine eliminated

At its 24 November meeting, the FCC abolished the Carroll Doctrine, and announced it would no longer consider the doctrine in broadcast licensing or allotment proceedings.

The Carroll Doctrine required the FCC to conduct hearings on allegations of economically "ruinous competition" from proposed broadcasting facilities.

These new facilities, the doctrine held, would compete for the same advertising revenues as existing stations, resulting in a net loss of service to the public.

However, in eliminating the doctrine, FCC Chairman Dennis Patrick commented, "If competition is fair, then the notion of 'ruinous competition' is an oxymoron." New facilities are more likely to find alternative advertising revenues than to compete for those of existing stations, he indicated.

Both Patrick and Commissioner Mimi Dawson noted the Carroll Doctrine had never been the basis for denying an application to a new station.

The Commission also noted that petitions invoking the doctrine in proceedings have resulted only in delays in new service initiation and costly legal proceedings.

FCC docket number is MM 87-68. For more information, contact Douglas Minster at the Mass Media Bureau, 202-632-7792.

### Review Board member resigns

Jerold L. Jacobs, a senior member of the FCC's Review Board, announced his resignation in early December.

Jacobs was scheduled to move to the job of special counsel for the Washington DC law firm of Fly, Shuebruk, Gaguine, Boros and Braun.

Jacobs had been with the FCC since 1968 and spent 10 years in the Cable Television Bureau, rising to deputy bureau chief.

In 1978, he took on the role of chief of the Mass Media Bureau's former Broadcast Facilities Division, where he led a program to increase the speed of application processing and to reduce backlogs.

In November, 1980, he was appointed to the Review Board, the FCC's appellate panel for adjudicatory matters.

Contact the news media information office at 202-632-5050.

### Broadcast station totals

As of 30 November, the Commission reported a total of 10,230 licensed AM and FM broadcasting stations.

Of this total, 4,900 were AM stations and 4,033 were commercial FM facilities. The remaining 1,297 broadcasters were non-commercial FMs.

Contact the FCC news media information office at 202-632-5050.

# No Compromise on Class A's

by David Hughes

Washington DC ... A group of New Jersey broadcasters may continue to campaign for a Class A FM blanket power hike without the NAB's backing.

The NAB FM Transmission Subcommittee failed in December to reach a final compromise with the Class A forces on a blanket power hike for Class A FMers. At press time in mid-December, NAB officials said that a decision will be made in January as to the association's formal position on the proposal.

The New Jersey Class A FM Broadcasters Association, which last September submitted a proposal to the FCC for a blanket power hike to 6 kW at 100 m (or the equivalent), was hoping the NAB subcommittee would recommend that the NAB support its plan.

Class A's, which now operate with a 3 kW (or the equivalent) maximum power limit, claim that with rapid growth in many areas they need more than 3 kW to cover their entire markets.

FM Transmission Subcommittee Chairman John Marino, of NewCity Communications, said in mid-December that his group "cannot endorse a compromise with the New Jersey broadcasters to the degree they want."

Last October, the subcommittee was reportedly close to an agreement to support a blanket power hike for Class A FMers. However, even after a 17 November meeting, the group still had not decided on the plan.

There had been questions about whether the NAB would support the plan since its FM radio members also consist of Class B and Class C owners, some of whom fear increased congestion from the Class A blanket hike.

Marino stressed that while the FM subgroup supported the concept of a Class A hike, it did not want to increase interference to existing stations, especially Class Bs.

The NAB's VP/Science and Technology

Mike Rau said the transmission subcommittee has submitted its report to the NAB board, which will determine at a 19 January meeting whether to file comments on the Class A plan.

While he would not discuss specifics, Rau confirmed that the subcommittee had developed a "compromise proposal" in a new mileage table for Class A's but that it was "somewhat different" in its protection levels for Class B's than the New Jersey plan.

Ken Keane, the Washington DC-based

attorney representing the New Jersey Class A group, said the Class A petition was in the process of being modified and would be resubmitted to the Commission by mid-December. He said he did not want to discuss any changes until the filing was completed.

Bob McAllan, president of Asbury Park, NJ-based Press Broadcasting, one of the Class A owners behind the NJ petition, said, as of press time, the petition was scheduled to be refiled by about 18 December.

## Agreement May Save Capitol Products

(continued from page 1)

though it appeared too early to tell how close interested parties were to a deal.

### Fidelipac interested

One of the companies talking with Capitol is Fidelipac, which has been successfully producing high quality audio tape for many years.

"We were contacted by Capitol at about the time the company announced the closing of its facility, and have been in negotiations since then," confirmed Art Constantine, VP marketing for Fidelipac.

He added "we are hoping for an agreement whereby Fidelipac would purchase the rights and certain manufacturing assets to manufacture Audiopak cartridges and quarter-inch back lubricated tape."

Although he was optimistic about the ongoing discussions, Constantine stressed it was too early to predict their outcome at this time.

### Continued availability

One of the benefits of a deal between Capitol and Fidelipac would be the continued availability of Audiopak carts.

Capitol confirmed that it would continue to produce its products in Winchester, and a source said the manufacturing was slated to continue at least through mid-February or March.

Constantine said that an agreement

between Fidelipac and Capitol would allay stations' concerns about the availability of Audiopak products.

"Our intention would be to continue to make Audiopak products available in their original form," Constantine said, "our plan would be no surprises, no changes, complete availability of the product."

Fidelipac would also continue to manufacture its own cartridge products, in the interest of providing "a multiplicity of choices for radio stations, to give them the selection of outstanding products they've had in the past," Constantine maintained.

"Fierce overseas competition" from Asian and European tape companies

"We reran some tables" in response to previous talks with Mass Media Bureau Chief Alex Felker and deputy chief William Hassinger, he said.

Regardless of whether the NAB will formally support the petition, McAllan said that the New Jersey group will proceed with its request for rulemaking. He said the question remains open as to whether the NAB will decide to comment on the Class A petition at all.

For more information on the FM Transmission Subcommittee contact John Marino at 203-333-4800, or Mike Rau at the NAB, 202-429-5346. The Class A group contact is Ken Keane at 202-861-7800.

had been cited by Capitol Industries when it announced the withdrawal. However, a source confirmed that the dollar losses were primarily in the cassette part of the business, and not in the tape loop and broadcast products.

Sue Satriano, a Capitol Industries spokesperson, said overseas companies have flooded the magnetic tape market with "excess manufacturing capacity."

To remain competitive, Capitol said it would have had to invest "extraordinarily high" amounts into continued research and development, which the company was apparently unwilling to do.

For additional information, contact Sue Satriano at 213-462-6252.

## Another Success Story



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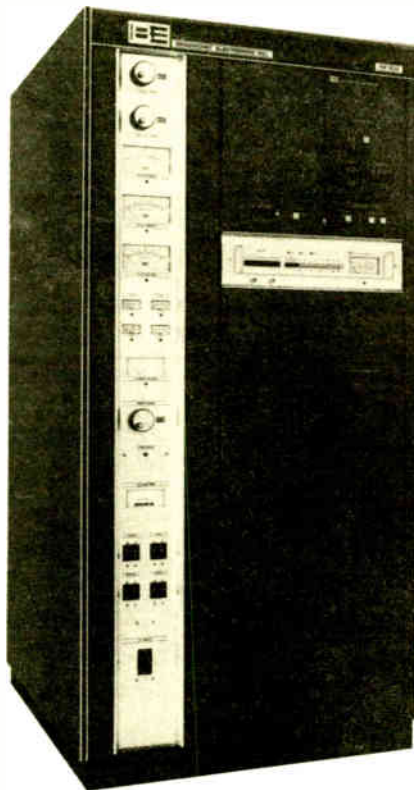
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# Dubious and Real Achievements

by Judith Gross

Falls Church VA ... With the start of a brand new year, it's time to present *Earwaves'* own **Dubious Achievement Awards** ... along with some that can be considered **Real Achievements**.

Most dubious of all has to be the NTIA's efforts to "clarify" the AM stereo situation. NTIA muddied the picture with not one, but two studies which all but contradicted each other.

Study number one straddled the fence by suggesting that multimode receivers were an answer to the standards controversy. Study number two admitted the fact that nobody is interested in making multimode, and recommended pilot tone protection for C-QUAM. Which left us right back where we started.

A close second is the continuous scheduling and tabling of the AM stereo issue from the FCC's agenda. The industry holds its breath for The Big Word, and then is told to "wait a little longer" on a question which has been dragging on for way too long.

Next on the dubious list is the Voice of America's renovation of 19 radio stu-

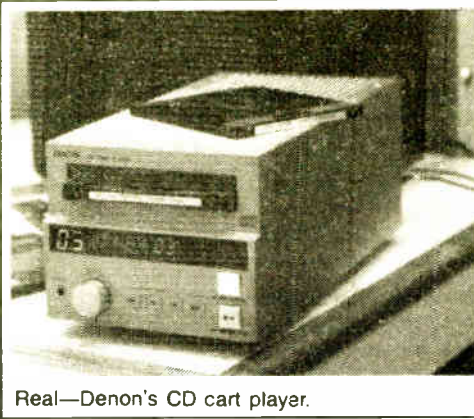


dios. VOA shunned qualified broadcast companies in favor of a general contractor with a string of government contracts under its belt.

That contractor hired an electrical subcontractor which had been previously charged with defrauding a local government which in turn hired another subcontractor to install studio equipment which had never actually built a broadcast radio studio.



Dubious—Al Sikes releases NTIA report.



Real—Denon's CD cart player.



Most dubious—KLOL's buxom contest.

Next on the list is the FCC's new indecency policy. Treading awfully close to the First Amendment, the Commission cited three stations for airing blue material which included the pre-pubescent humor of Infinity's Howard Stern, a song called "Makin' Bacon" and a graphic play about homosexuality called "Jerker" broadcast on a Pacifica station.

The FCC included actual transcripts of each broadcast in written details of its action, making it the hottest reading in town.

☆☆☆

Also of a dubious nature are the record companies' efforts to put anti-copy devices into R-DAT players, and a triggering tone to set off the anti-copy device on recorded music of all kinds.

Not only does the audible tone threaten to destroy the musical integrity of recordings, but pending action by Congress has delayed this new technology from introduction to radio stations and consumers in the US.

Another award goes to the NAB's Eddie Fritts for his idea to fund public broadcasting with a tax on radio and TV receivers and VCRs.

This idea comes at a time when AM broadcasters are trying to convince receiver makers that there really is a good reason to spend more money to design and market new AM radios.

Then there is the series of incidents that can only be called **The Ray McMartin Capers**.

This creative entrepreneur's original company in Omaha went into bankruptcy (it has since been revived by new owners), then left the state.

He was wooed by a consortium of banks in Gunnison CO, and started another company, leaving another trail of financial devastation.

Gunnison employees went without being paid for a month before tax agents closed the place down when McMartin was nowhere to be found.

Then an equipment manufacturer hired McMartin as a consultant for a brief stint, but lately he's been keeping a very low profile amid rumors that he's about to start yet another company. (Some people never give up).

Another dubious achievement award goes to the NAB 1987 spring convention, for no other reason than it was held the second year in Dallas. Ugh!

And a final award has to go to the dumbest station promotion to ever cross my desk. Houston's KLOL, apparently having run out of truly worthy ideas, held a contest with a \$5000 award.

The money was given to a female listener for (of all things) a **breast enlargement operation**. Thousands of women wrote in saying they wanted the operation, and the contest was promoted all over town with a 40 foot brassiere.

And KLOL was actually proud enough to seek out publicity on the contest, which blew \$5000 on the ridiculous at a time when there are thousands of women dying of things like breast cancer every year. You guys couldn't think of a better way to spend it?

☆☆☆

Now for the **Real Achievements**.

High on the list is the NRSC standard, which not only is helping to clean up the AM band, but may be just the catalyst needed to get new, high-fidelity radios for AM. Congrats to the NAB and EIA for their efforts.

As a corollary, an award goes to all those processing companies providing NRSC kits and new processors with the filters.

While we're at it, how about an award to all those AM stations who switched to NRSC and the ones who went stereo, especially if they've told their listeners. You're helping to educate the public.

And an award to any FM station which did not crank up its processing to the point where all that can be heard is massive, ear-killing distortion. (We know the station across town is doing it, but really!)

☆☆☆

There are several product innovations which rate a special mention. These include the Denon CD cart player, the Harris digital AM transmitter, the adaptation of Dolby SR for broadcast cart use by Pacific Recorders & Engineering, and all innovations brave enough to make use of new technologies such as R-DAT.

Another award goes to Allied Broadcast for starting up 24-hour emergency service for some of its line.

An award to the NAB for taking the advice of its advisory committee and hiring a new person to set up what seems to be a vastly improved booth assignment system for the NAB convention. (The gold chain guys are finally out this year!)

Kudos to the FCC for recognizing the need to take a look at AM allocations in its NOI.

Cheers for all those daytimers who have been able to go to night power because of changes in the rules.

And finally, a real achievement award to every company that shipped a new piece of gear that arrived when promised, at the cost quoted and performed the way it was supposed to.

Heard something interesting? Spill your guts to *Earwaves*. Write PO Box 1214, Falls Church VA 22041, or call me at 703-998-7600. Best tidbit of the month wins a coveted *Radio World* mug.

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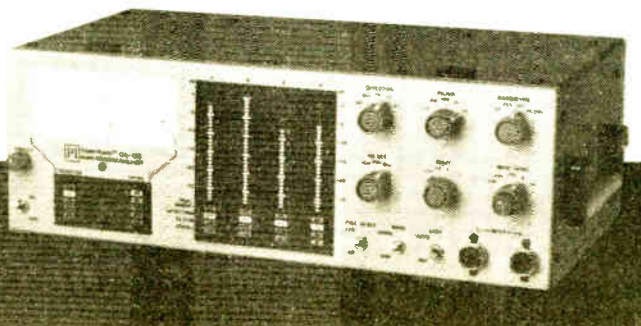
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# Readers' Forum

Got something to say about *Radio World*? Any comments on articles? Call us at 800-336-3045 or send a letter to Readers' Forum (*Radio World*, Box 1214, Falls Church VA 22041 or MCI Mailbox #302-7776).

## IGM replies

Dear RW:

Your 1 November article on IGM's new service policies may have left some readers with a couple of misconceptions that should be corrected.

IGM is not charging new customers for service. New customers are covered by their warranty agreement for one year. This warranty covers all parts and labor.

At the customer's option, the warranty can be extended for a second year. Customers who are not covered by the equipment warranty have the option of purchasing a one-year service agreement.

The service agreement provides access to IGM's 800 WATS service (reachable from all 50 states), a discount on IGM parts and repair labor, software updates without charge and a guaranteed trade-in value on IGM equipment.

Customers who do not choose the service agreement may be charged for extended telephone service support. In general, we are talking about customers who need 1-3 hours of assistance, not customers who want a quick question answered.

Your article quoted one of our competitors with regard to the satisfaction of our customer base. He characterized the reaction to our new programs as negative.

I don't know who he was referring to—those customers who have contacted us with questions have been satisfied with our answers.

We can only judge our program by the customers who have chosen the extended warranty and the service agree-

ment programs.

One of our customers felt positively enough about our programs to write an editorial for another magazine.

Your article would lead the reader to believe that IGM had been interviewed. This is not the case.

The quotations shown in the article are from a letter that we mailed to our customers and are accurate.

However, I would have expected an opportunity to expand on the goals of our programs or to respond to a competitor's representation of our customer's satisfaction.

The recent improvements in *Radio World's* editorial content have been appreciated, but in this case it appears that RW dropped the ball.

Thomas R. Ransom, Director  
Sales and Marketing  
IGM Communications  
Bellingham, WA

*Editor's reply: RW's news department tried several times to get through to IGM spokespersons but phone calls placed were not returned in time for deadline, so we let the letter speak for itself.*

*In retrospect this was a mistake. We regret any misconceptions that resulted.*

## Phone fees a bad idea

Dear RW:

I am "peevéd" (to put it nicely) about IGM's decision to charge a fee for technical service phone calls.

Recently, while making an outboard modification to our Go-Cart 24's, I discovered an error on IGM's schematics.

Being grateful for the technical support that I have received from other companies, I decided to extend a favor and notify IGM of its mistake.

IGM's service person acknowledged the oversight and I felt good about returning some help (free of charge no less!)

A few months passed and another Go-Cart 24 arrived at our station. I quickly opened the service manual and found my revision penned in.

Knowing that the free phone service had helped both me and IGM, I now feel betrayed (and uncompensated) by IGM's decision to charge a fee for its phone support.

I cannot believe that a broadcast manufacturer would not recognize that part of the high cost of broadcast gear always includes telephone service help.

In the future, I will recommend for purchase solely those equipment manufacturers who provide free telephone support.

Bill Bobich, Asst. CE  
WCOL  
Columbus, OH

## Phone service should cost

Dear RW:

In regard to the article "Service Phone Calls Now Cost" in the 1 November issue, I applaud IGM's decision to begin

charging for telephone support of their products.

As the former service manager for Broadcast Electronics and the now defunct Cetec Broadcast Group, I had lobbied to begin charging for service as IGM is now doing.

I was always told "we can't charge since no other manufacturer is charging!"

I do understand that the cost of the service support is built into the product however, since the broadcaster never "sees" the cost on any invoice, he "thinks" the service is free!

The broadcast equipment manufacturers have been their own worst enemies in this area.

These types of charges have always been the "norm" in the computer industry, including computers used in broadcast traffic systems.

Much of the problems associated with charging for service originated with the mistaken idea that if a piece of broadcast equipment was microprocessor based it could not be promoted that way, or "the broadcaster will not buy it!"

Happily, this archaic idea is a thing of the past and the manufacturers of broadcast equipment go to great extremes to advertise the fact that their equipment is micro processor based.

W. Dow Jones, CE  
EVEN Broadcasting Corp.  
Ventura, CA

## No charge, IGM

Dear RW:

I was very interested in your story (1 November) on IGM charging for telephone service/support.

Let me say I have never bought a new piece of gear from IGM except for some

parts to keep my "used" IGM gear rolling ... some of it 15 years and older! And even though this gear is old it works GREAT!

Others agree that IGM had made and still makes great quality gear, so it seems to me that if there is a lot of second- and third-hand, 15 year old gear running around then IGM ought to be proud of their record of quality instead of complaining about having to offer service information on it.

It's like IGM wants to penalize stations (prospective new equipment buyers) for buying their used gear ... which appears to have some resale value which would be incentive to buy new IGM gear when the time comes.

When I buy new equipment, one factor I look at more closely than price is the customer service/support.

If a manufacturer is going to start charging me for telephone support after the warranty ... then that manufacturer is not going to get my business!

I feel that these new support charges will put undue pressure on engineering personnel.

It's bad enough to have a vital piece of gear down (especially automation equipment).

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## Radio World

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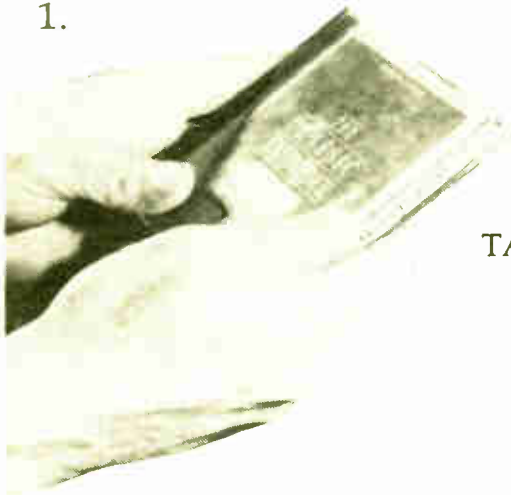
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# Translator Abuse is FCC Focus

by David Hughes

Washington DC ... The FCC is planning to tackle the thorny question of FM translator "abuse"—a problem that is particularly evident in the southwest.

In a November meeting with NAB officials, FCC Chairman Dennis Patrick instructed his staff to undertake a rulemaking effort that will address the problems associated with using FM translators to extend a station's coverage well beyond its 1 mV/m coverage area.

The NAB also wants the FCC to stop the use of "third party" ownership of translators, in which a party not related to the station signs a contract for the use of its translator.

Owners of stations in markets like Tucson, AZ, where translators relay stations from Phoenix, almost 100 miles away, complain that these extra services do not serve the local community and unfairly siphon off listeners and advertising revenue.

## Meeting with Patrick

In a 20 November meeting with Patrick and Commissioner James Quello, the NAB board members discussed what has come to be known as translator "abuse."

Robert Fox, CEO of KVEN/KHAY, Ventura, CA, and a member of the NAB Executive Board, said that following the meeting, Patrick directed his staff to prepare a rulemaking on translator "use problems."

Former NAB Joint Board Chairman Ted Snider, of KARN/KKYK, Little Rock, AR, said the board was concerned about the financing of translators, technical abuses and who is operating them.

"I'd say it is the single most important issue in the southwest," said Lindy Williams, VP/director of engineering with Lotus Communications, which owns two stations in Tucson. "The local stations are being crucified."

Williams maintained that four translators operate in Tucson, two of which relay Phoenix stations. The 10 W translators, perched atop an 8,000' mountain, put out more power than area Class A facilities and cause interference to other area stations, he said.

While Patrick, Williams added, made a "verbal commitment" to begin a rulemaking to address the problems of translator abuse, he did not specify a time frame for it.

Critics say the Commission's translator rules are not specific enough to prohibit translator abuse in portions of the country like the southwest where the population is concentrated in small and mid-size cities widely separated by open space.

According to Larry Eads, head of the FCC's Audio Services Department, an FM station can "construct and support" translators within its 1 mV/m contour level. It cannot construct and support translators beyond the 1 mV/m contour level if the location is within another station's 1 mV/m contour.

However, the FCC does not prohibit a station from providing "operating support"—but not ownership—to a translator owned by a third party located outside the originating station's 1 mV/m contour and within another station's 1 mV/m contour, he said.

This is how Los Angeles signals get relayed to Palm Springs, and how Phoe-

nix stations get relayed to Tucson, despite the fact that Palm Springs and Tucson both have their own local stations.

Eads added that the FCC considers an "open question" the practice of the originating station entering into a contract with a third party translator owner.

He confirmed that no timetable has been set when the FCC will address the issues with a rulemaking proposal. "It will be sometime in 1988," Eads said.

## Loopholes

"There is a tremendous distortion of the translator rules in the southwest—in Southern California and Arizona," said NAB Deputy General Counsel Barry Umansky.

In previous translator related issues, such as the FCC's examination of whether translators can be fed by microwave and satellite, the NAB has filed comments calling for a wholesale review of the rules, he added.

"Translators owned by third party entrepreneurs devastate local markets," Umansky added. "We want more effective rules to deal with the interference caused by translators and on their funding."

"There are so many loopholes (in the FCC's translator rules) that you could drive a Mack truck through," Umansky added.

"It boils down to people taking advantage of the rules," Fox responded.

The rules were written to allow the use of translators to fill in coverage area gaps for stations. However, Fox said that many translators are being used to extend a station's coverage area way beyond its own market. "And, translators do not have to serve their community."

## Money for carriage

Fox indicated that this use of contracted, third party translators is occurring in Santa Barbara and Riverside, CA. Stations can pay between \$200 and \$500 per month for carriage on a translator.

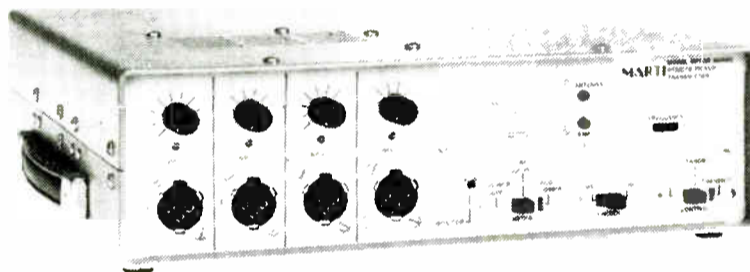
Williams maintained that the Phoenix stations pay upwards of \$1000 per month for carriage on Tucson translators.

One source indicated that at least one translator operator in the southwest actually inserts advertising spots into the programming of the station his transla-

(continued on page 9)

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# US, Cuba Discussing Interference

by David Hughes

Washington DC ... While the lines of communication between the US and Cuba are opening up, sources say there is a long way to go to resolve all of the AM band interference disputes between the two nations.

In November, the US and Cuba held talks in Mexico City to "delink" the communications issues from other issues, the most pressing involving immigration, according to Wilson LaFollette, assistant chief of the FCC's Policy and Rules Division.

The resulting immigration agreement, in which Cuba will be allowed to send more of its people to the US and the US will send some of the immigrants from the 1980 "boat lift" back to Cuba, had sparked riots from some of those immigrants who had been incarcerated in Georgia and Louisiana.

The delinking procedure, LaFollette said, allowed Cuba to go ahead with a new immigration agreement with the US despite the continued radio interference issues.

## No dates set

"Future meetings are scheduled in order to discuss the Cuban/US radio issues," LaFollette said. However, no dates had been set at press time in mid-

December.

"All kinds of discussions are going on," said NAB Deputy General Counsel Barry Umansky.

Fears that a TV version of the Voice of America's Cuban oriented Radio Marti, dubbed "TV Marti," is brewing in Congress could result in retaliatory AM interference, Umansky said.

"We just want to sit down with the Cuban government and resolve the interference."

"Nothing is going on per se," regard-

ing specific talks between the two nations, apart from the delinking procedure, according to Bill Haratunian, a consultant the NAB has hired to study the Cuban interference situation.

## Cuba wants US channel

While the US wants a reduction in AM band interference that has severely plagued south Florida stations for almost three decades, as well as some clear channel stations across the country at night, Haratunian said that Cuba wants

the US government to allow it to use a clear channel AM frequency to respond to Radio Marti.

"While these are the basis for future discussions, no date has been set for future meetings," he said.

Haratunian stressed that the NAB wants to make sure that US broadcasters have a voice in any negotiations that take place with Cuban authorities.

He added that the TV Marti issue is just an "idea that is being floated" in Congress and any discussion about it is still very preliminary.

For more information on the Cuban interference problem, contact Wilson LaFollette at the FCC: 202-632-5414.

## NAB Names Rau Acting Head of S&T

(continued from page 1)

Department in October 1981, said the move to chief scientist will free him of the administrative bureaucracy that goes with the S&T position.

"I will be able to do more technical work, rather than having to focus on rulemakings," he said. "I will be able to devote almost all of my time to HDTV and to FMX."

Keller, co-developer of the FMX FM stereo extension system, is also a member of Broadcast Technology Partners, which is continuing its research and development.

"Now, I will be able to concentrate on a single thing. It will free me up from the

bureaucratic stuff," he said.

Rau indicated that no immediate changes are planned at the S&T Department under his leadership.

"We have a great deal of work to do," he said. "The department has an ambitious agenda and trying to keep all of our projects on track will be a big challenge."

## Replacing staff

He did say that his immediate task is to find a replacement for himself on the S&T staff. And, in the near future, he will have to replace two other S&T engineers who will make the move over to the HDTV lab.

While staff engineers Ben Crutchfield

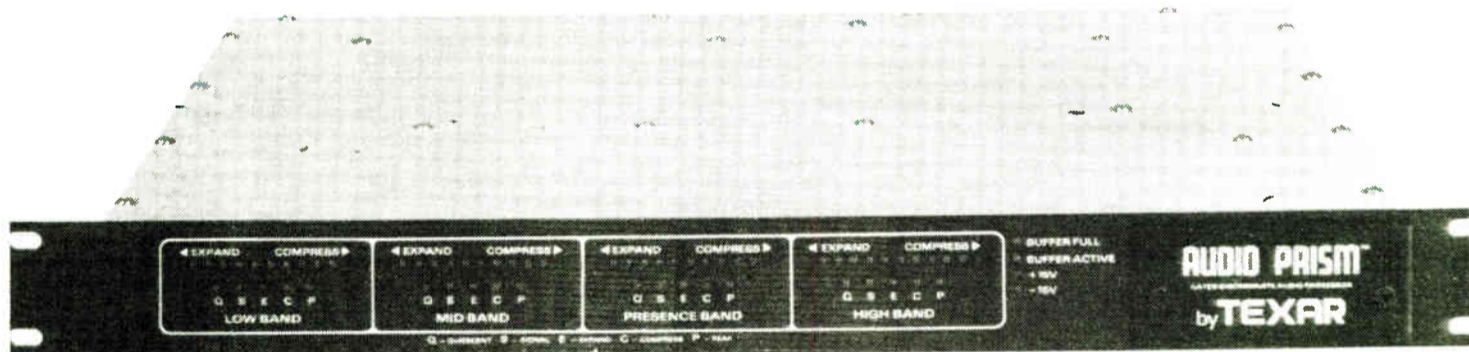
and Ed Williams have been working on HDTV-related projects, Rau would not confirm that they are the two that will be moving to the lab.

On Keller's shift to become the lab's chief scientist, Rau commented that "Tom Keller is one of the best engineers I have encountered and there is no one more qualified to work on HDTV on behalf of the US."

While Rau is technically the "acting" director of S&T, NAB sources indicate that he stands a good chance of becoming the permanent head of the department.

For more information, contact the NAB S&T Department at 202-429-5346.

## ALL NRSC PROCESSORS ARE NOT CREATED EQUAL!



On January 10, 1987, The National Radio Systems Committee (NRSC) approved a standard for high-fidelity AM transmission. When implemented by both broadcasters and receiver manufacturers, the standard will bring near-FM quality to the AM band. Many people are not aware however, that all NRSC processors do not sound alike.

The standard established a maximum audio response for frequencies at or above 10 kHz. In the common language of filter design, this is called the "stopband specification" but the NRSC elected not to establish a minimum "passband specification," electing instead to let the passband performance be dictated by competitive market pressures. The passband specification is the performance of the filter below 10 kHz.

Simply stated, while the NRSC standard requires response to be at least 15 dB down at 10 kHz, there is no minimum response requirement for frequencies below 10 kHz. One other NRSC processor begins its rolloff early so that its response is already down several dB at 9 kHz. The Texar Phoenix™ maintains flat frequency response to

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# NAB Plans New "Super" Radio

by Alex Zavistovich

Washington DC ... Member stations of the NAB may soon have the opportunity to sample much of the radio industry's emerging technology in a single package.

In early December, the NAB's executive committee gave the association permission to develop a proposal for a "high quality" multi-function AM-FM receiver, according to Mike Rau, NAB's VP/Science and Technology.

The proposed tabletop receiver will be designed by a consultant and marketed through the NAB to its member stations, Rau said.

Design elements would include many of the recent advances proposed for both AM and FM receiver technology, including National Radio Systems Committee (NRSC) deemphasis and FMX decoding.

In addition, the radio would have continuous tuning through the AM and FM bands, without the need to switch from AM to FM.

Rau added the design would also incorporate "some type of multisystem method" of decoding Motorola's C-QUAM and Kahn Communications' ISB AM stereo systems. However, Rau acknowledged that this latter feature "may not be possible."

Circuitry to decode more than one system of AM stereo is currently not being mass marketed.

The proposed receiver was heralded as a "great idea" by consulting engineer John F.X. Browne. Browne is a managing partner in Broadcast Technology Partners, which promotes FMX technology in a joint agreement with NAB.

"A problem with FMX has been that no one could buy a receiver—there has been none built yet," Browne commented. Although he noted that Sanyo will soon be promoting an FMX chip, Browne said it

would "still be several months" before the technology would be available.

Everyone was not as enthusiastic about the receiver concept, however. Motorola's AM Stereo Manager Frank Hilbert said he had some "reservations" about the planned high-performance radio.

The experimental nature of some of the technology to be incorporated is "incompatible with the concept of high performance," he commented.

Without citing specifics, Hilbert noted that the performance of the receiver would "only be as strong as its weakest link."

Hilbert was also skeptical about a multisystem approach to decoding the two AM stereo systems. He admitted, however, that a separate decoder could be used for each system.

Still, Hilbert cautioned that the problem of "falsing"—improper detection of the transmission system—is an additive condition. A radio with two AM stereo

systems would be likely to generate more falsing than a single system receiver, he maintained.

Kahn Communications President Leonard Kahn declined to comment on the proposed receiver.

At press time, a more defined proposal for the high-performance radio was expected by the end of December, according to Rau. There was no timetable for completion of a receiver prototype.

For more information, contact Mike Rau at 202-429-5340.

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Receiver manufacturers have stated their willingness to replace their current AM receiver designs (with their telephone-quality fidelity) with AM receivers having full 10kHz frequency response—but *only* if and when the NRSC standard is fully adopted by broadcasters. For the NRSC standards to be successful, broadcasters must change over *quickly*. If the new high-fidelity receivers generate complaints of interference caused by stations not complying with the new standard, the receiver manufacturers will revert back to the present low fidelity 3kHz designs! *Everyone* will lose.

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Circle Reader Service 46 on Page 22

## Translator Abuse Cited

(continued from page 7)  
tor is carrying.

Some small towns with only a handful of stations, Fox added, can have a dozen translators from a neighboring market.

Translators outnumber local broadcasters in several southwestern towns such as Flagstaff, AZ, which he said sports 14 translators, relaying stations from Phoenix and Las Vegas, according to Williams. Flagstaff has six full-service stations licensed to it.

On the other side of the issue, some owners of the less powerful Class A FM stations, which have a 1 mV/m contour that does not cover the whole metro area, claim that by utilizing third party owned translators they can more effectively compete with the 100 kW FMers in their markets.

One broadcaster said that listeners have difficulty hearing his Class A signal because of a neighboring 100 kW operation. The translator, he said, makes his station, which serves the local market, more competitive.

The FCC contact on the translator issue is Larry Eads: 202-632-6485.

# Plans For FMX Are Progressing

by David Hughes

Greenwich CT ... With increasing interest from Japanese receiver manufacturers, as well as chip development reaching the final stages and news of additional on-air tests, FMX Co-developer Emil Torick says he is optimistic about the future of his FM stereo extension system.

Torick says his firm, Broadcast Technology Partners (BTP), which handles the development of FMX, has opened a liaison office in Tokyo in order to "coordinate with the consumer electronics in-

dustry."

During a November visit, Torick said he visited 20 Japanese firms that manufacture receivers and noted "renewed interest from a number of manufacturers."

The latest developments follow news last spring that Torick and co-developer, Tom Keller, now the chief scientist at the NAB's high-definition TV lab, modified the FMX system to reduce multipath interference complaints.

The interest from the manufacturers, Torick maintained, will be highlighted at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES),

to be held in Las Vegas in early January.

According to Torick, by mid-December Sanyo Semiconductor had delivered the first engineering sample of the decoder chip. While it "looks promising," he said the chip must still be evaluated.

Sprague Electric Co., Torick said, plans to have its first engineering sample ready for evaluation by late January.

He maintained that chips could be ready for the mass production of receivers about four months after BTP gives the go-ahead.

On the generator side, Torick said that

things are "moving farther along," but did not give specifics about when gear would be ready for broadcasters.

Two manufacturers have either conducted or plan on-air tests of the modified FMX system.

Inovonics President Jim Wood said his firm conducted tests of the modified FMX system on a "Monterrey Bay area" classical music station. The test involved two NAD Electronics prototype receivers.

Wood said the test performed "quite well" with no increase in multipath reported on the NAD receiver in or out of the FMX mode. On older receivers, only in one location out of 50 was an increase in multipath interference noted, he said.

Wood said Inovonics has its Model 705 generator ready with a plug-in FMX module that is available now. While he has received inquiries, to date, no FMX modules have been ordered.

"It's a chicken and egg situation," Wood added. "We will have to have FMX receivers out there before stations will want to add it."

Orban Associates Marketing and Sales Manager Howard Mullinack said his firm will conduct on-air tests in the "Bay Area" in January. So far, it has conducted lab tests of a prototype box which has delivered results that look "somewhat promising."

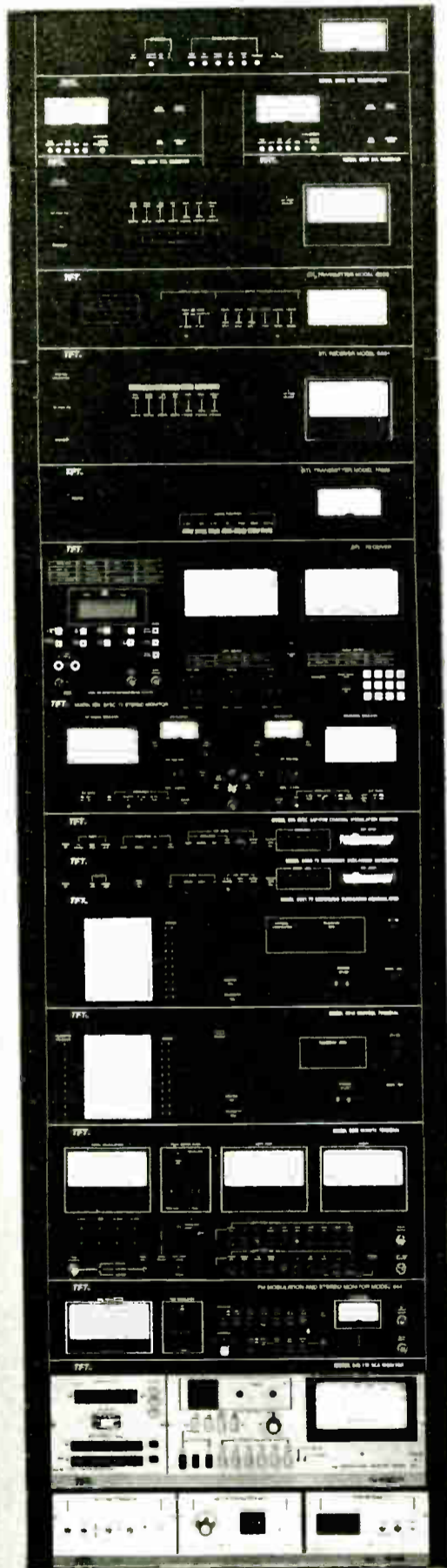
"In fact, it is a vast improvement over the previous (FMX) incarnation," Mullinack said.

CRL Sales and Marketing Director Ray Updike said his firm has nothing new on FMX. The firm's SG-800A generator has room for an FMX adaptable card. But the firm's original plans to market a specific FMX generator remain on the back burner for now.

Aphex Systems Product Manager Jon Sanserino said his firm's position on FMX has not changed from its previous "wait and see" position.

"We're still waiting until the bugs are worked out, but we haven't written it off, either," he said.

For more information on FMX development, contact Emil Torick at BTP: 203-622-2643.



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# NRSC Radios: Are They Coming?

*Editor's note: In Part I of this special report, RW looked at potential obstacles to the introduction of new, higher fidelity NRSC AM radios. Part II looks at the manufacturers' design considerations, and whether the current AM stereo controversy will play a role.*

by Alex Zavistovich

Washington DC . . . AM stations can expect to see receivers incorporating the NRSC standard by the end of next year at the earliest.

Some manufacturers are working on such a receiver design, but many are taking a "wait and see" attitude to determine if enough stations will implement the standard before committing themselves.

## Special Report

A recent push to make the voluntary NRSC standard a mandatory FCC rule may have an effect on the timetable for manufacturer's commitment.

But an as yet unknown factor is the link between building NRSC compliant radios and the continuing controversy over an AM stereo standard.

### Steady conversions

Since its adoption of the 75  $\mu$ S preemphasis standard, the NRSC has reported steady increases in the number of AM stations which have made the conversion. Despite this, the earliest date cited

recently by manufacturers for availability of receivers with complementary NRSC deemphasis was "late 1988."

With the possibility of a gap between conversion to NRSC preemphasis and the commercial availability of broadbanded, deemphasizing receivers, some in the broadcast industry are concerned that receiver manufacturers may be losing interest in the AM transmission standard.

Others speculate NRSC-compliant receivers are in some way tied to the selection of an AM stereo standard. Manufacturers, some observers suggest, may wait for an AM stereo standard and then introduce components with both stereo and NRSC preemphasis.

Motorola, a competitor in the AM stereo market, has predicted "mono radios will not be improved" with NRSC deemphasis, and Delco has admitted that much of its NRSC design work has been with AM stereo receivers.

Still, many manufacturers have stated there is no intended connection between AM stereo and NRSC-compliant receivers. For these companies, determining consumer interest is the only obstacle remaining in building the receivers.

The enthusiastic campaign by NRSC proponents to convince stations to make the conversion may have unintentionally clouded the issue of receiver design.

At October's NRSC subgroup meeting, several members wondered if receiver manufacturers were concurrently working on bringing an NRSC product to market as the number of NRSC compliant stations steadily grows.

"I feel misled," said Harry Simons, CE of WAEB, Allentown, PA. Simons, an NRSC member, expressed frustration that receiver manufacturers have not yet produced NRSC receivers for the consumer market.

In early NRSC meetings, according to



Simons, radio manufacturers on the committee said that the NRSC curve would be included in mono and stereo radios.

These companies generally estimated that the NRSC standard would be implemented in receiver design "about six months" after the standard was approved, he maintained.

However, the standard was adopted in its draft voluntary form in 1986, and took

effect in January, 1987. Yet the industry has seen the development of only a few prototype receivers, Simons said.

"There have been no radios built yet that are available to the public," he indicated.

### Complete reversal

In light of what he called "a complete reversal" of manufacturers' initial support for the curve, Simons said he was opposed to a recent proposal by the NAB to have the NRSC standard made mandatory.

On 6 November, the NAB petitioned the FCC to have the NRSC standard incorporated in the Commission's rules. Carrying the FCC mandate, the NRSC standard would "justify . . . voluntary conversion to the standard in receiver design," the NAB wrote.

However, Simons objected that a mandatory guideline would "twist broadcasters' arms to conform to a standard, just to twist manufacturers' arms to make receivers which comply with that standard."

NAB VP/Science and Technology Mike Rau, NRSC coordinator, maintained there was no reversal from manufacturers' original attitude regarding implementation of the NRSC standard.

The companies have indicated their continued interest in the NRSC standard, Rau said. The curve will be included in the designs for future receivers from all the AM radio manufacturers

*(continued on page 18)*

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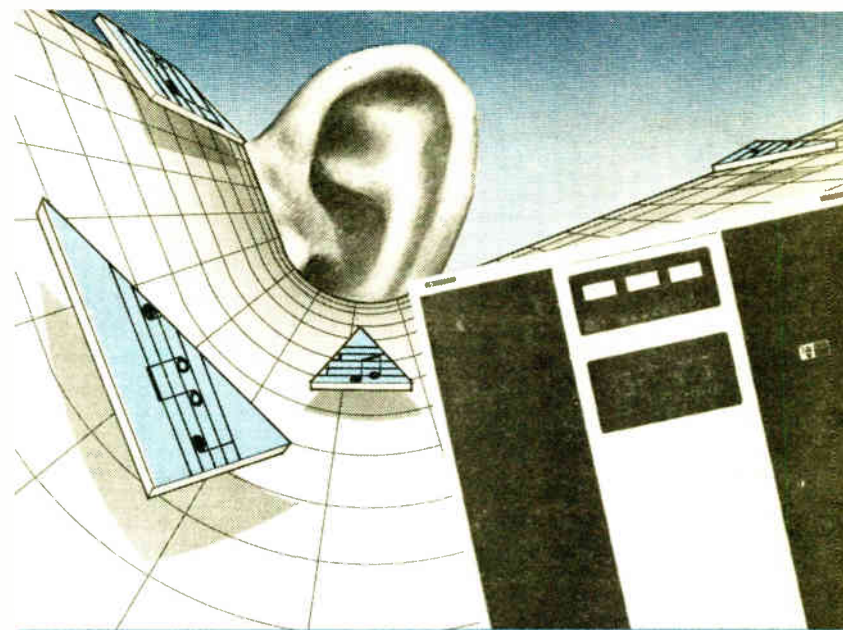
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# New Timetables for Antennas

(continued from page 1)

versely affect the time he needed to spend with his own consulting practice.

Rau had told RW that work on the Biby monopole design was "temporarily suspended" because of the "availability of the inventor." He added that the NAB felt the project would require greater coordination with Biby than the antenna designer's schedule would permit.

Rau said later that a formal response to the Biby letter was being drafted. The NAB had decided it could move the Biby antenna to the site of the second antenna in the project, after tests on that antenna were finished, Rau proposed.

## Beltsville, MD

The NAB's second antenna—designed by Ogden Prestholdt, a consultant to Washington DC-based AD Ring and Associates—is to be built on a site in Beltsville, MD belonging to Howard University.

Although building Biby's antenna on the Prestholdt site would mean a still longer delay for the project, it would relieve some difficulties that have beset the NAB in its search for a site for the antenna.

In November 1986, the NAB was refused a waiver of zoning ordinances for the Biby antenna's test site in Loudoun County, a rural Virginia area some 40 miles west of Washington DC. The decision, made by the Loudoun County Planning Commission, was subsequently overturned by the county's board of supervisors.

But it was mid-November 1987 before any further progress was made in obtaining a test site. At that time, according to Rau, a lease was being drafted between the NAB and the property owners.

Biby said that he had spoken with Rau about time-sharing a test site with the other antenna over a year ago. At the time, he said, the idea was not pursued.

While the adoption of a new test site

may solve some of the administrative problems in the project, it does not address the most recent communication problems which have cropped up between Biby and the NAB.

## Timetable concerns

One disagreement centered on a timetable for research of the antenna.

The antenna design is "an idea," stressed Biby, and would require a number of years to develop.

"I don't think that even RCA in its day could have completed such a feat in two years, even with unlimited time and money," Biby said of the NAB's antenna project.

Biby maintained that completing the project within the period estimated by the NAB would be "more than a full time job" regardless of when the project was begun.

He commented that the experiment would take "at least five years."

According to Rau, part of the NAB's motive in setting any timetable at all was "in response to strong interest in the industry to have an antiskywave antenna developed" expeditiously.

He also said that the time frame selected by the NAB was part of the negotiating process the NAB accepted "as a tradeoff for having the Loudoun County board of supervisors change an otherwise rigid provision in their zoning laws."

Biby, however, said he was not in attendance at any of the Loudoun County meetings.

## Not the salvation

While the project's short deadline may have been a direct response to industry interest, Biby suggested that the NAB might have begun its tackling of the antenna project somewhat over-zealously.

He commented that the antiskywave AM antenna project was "never intended to be the salvation of the AM band," and that reduction of power line noise and improved receiver signal

processing technology should be pursued first.

However, he added that the antenna could play an important role in the "re-emergence of the AM band." He said the antenna's role in that reemergence could be adversely affected if insufficient time was allowed for study of the design.

Rau said that the previously set schedule "doesn't have to be put on the project" now, especially in light of the timesharing arrangement.

"Any research we can have on the project will be helpful," he said. He stressed that the decision to defer the Biby project did not mean to imply a preference of one antenna over the other.

## More receptive

Although the AM antenna project has been bogged down in administrative problems, most recent indications are that the NAB will make itself more receptive to Biby's concerns.

Although at press time the NAB had not formally responded to Biby's 4 December letter, Rau stressed that such a response was in the works, and that the particulars of the letter had already been discussed with Biby by phone, including the proposal for use of the Beltsville site.

Also, Rau noted, while the Prestholdt

antenna is being studied, the NAB would provide Biby's project with other support.

"If Dick wants, we will provide him with funding, or obtain equipment for him, subject to our own budgetary and staff resources," Rau said. He added that the NAB has faith in the antenna and commented, "Whatever Dick wants is OK with the NAB."

Biby, for his part, was satisfied with the proposed relocation to the Beltsville site, a move which would make Loudoun County-based time constraints on the antenna project moot.

"At least they (NAB) have begun to understand my position," he said.

With the dispute over the Biby project apparently finished, work will soon begin on the Prestholdt design.

According to Rau, an agreement was recently reached between the NAB and Howard University, owners of the Beltsville site. There had been some problems in authorizing the site, because Howard University had been concerned that the experimental tower might interfere with astronomy classes conducted in an observatory adjacent to the test site.

The university gave its consent to the NAB project after the association agreed to move the tower to another part of the test site. Rau estimated the antenna would be built in the spring.

For additional information, contact Mike Rau at 202-429-5346, or Dick Biby at 703-522-5722.

# Wing Named For FCC

by Alex Zavistovich

Washington DC ... The FCC may finally be on its way to a full Commission panel again, with the White House's nomination of Washington DC communications attorney Susan Wing.

According to a White House source, Wing, an attorney with the Washington, DC-based firm of Hogan & Hartson, was nominated for the Commission job by President Reagan on 11 December.

Wing was picked to replace former

FCC Commissioner Mimi Dawson, who in early December moved on to the role of deputy secretary of transportation. Dawson's last Commission meeting was 24 November.

At press time, no date had been set for Wing's Senate confirmation hearing.

Wing's appointment marks the first time since April 1987 that the FCC stands to have a full five-member panel.

In November, FCC lawyer Bradley Holmes was tapped by the White House to fill the vacancy left by Mark Fowler's departure. Holmes had served at the FCC first as Chairman Dennis Patrick's legal aide, then as chief of the Mass Media Bureau's Policy and Rules division.

A confirmation hearing for Holmes was also unscheduled at press time.

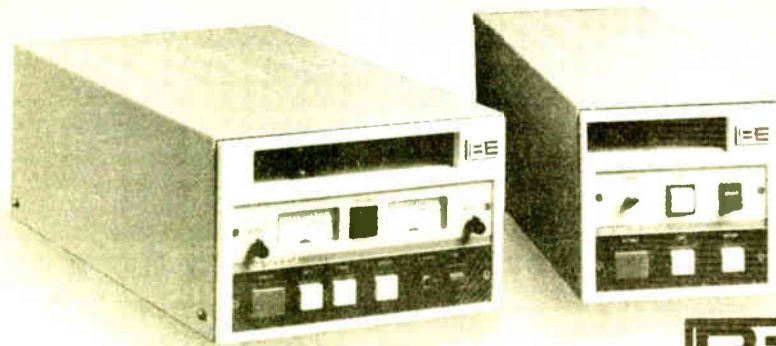
FCC spokesperson John Kamp said no decisions have been made yet at the FCC for Holmes' successor in the Policy and Rules Division.

For more details, contact the White House Publications Office at 202-395-7332.

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ECE 11/1

# More Daytimers Extend Hours

by David Hughes

Washington DC ... After an initial delay, the FCC has approved a plan that allows "qualifying" daytimers operating on regional channels and on 940 and 1550 kHz to add nighttime operations.

The ruling, which was announced 19 November and took effect 1 December, permits affected daytimers to operate at night with a maximum power of 500 W, "reduced as necessary to avoid interference to existing full-time stations."

While the plan, one of several recent FCC actions that provide night operations for daytimers, was issued in May, some daytimers at the September Radio '87 show were disappointed that they could not add night hours by early fall.

However, because of a requirement that the FCC get approval from both Canada and Mexico, the implementation was delayed until December.

Despite the delay, many daytimers are happy with it. "It was a good move by the FCC," said Jim Wychor, owner of a daytimer, KWOA in Worthington, MN, and past president of the Daytimer Broadcasters Association, which became the NAB Daytimers Committee.

"This will effect 1300 Class III daytimers who, for the first time, will be able to operate at night," Wychor said.

The regional channel ruling is the latest in a string of rule changes allowing increased night operations for daytimers. In October, the Commission adopted rules allowing daytimers on the 14 Class I-A foreign clear channels to operate at night.

In its latest ruling, the FCC stressed that the regional channel night powers—which affect stations on Class I and Class III channels—are contingent on the station's "applicable interference protection requirements."

Show cause orders specifying each station's night power levels were issued in November, according to the Commission.

The FCC said it "calculated the power the station can use based on protection to existing full-time stations, but not to the proposed nighttime operation of the

other former daytime-only stations."

The former daytimers, the Commission added, will be reclassified as unlimited-time Class III stations and will be exempt from the principal city signal requirement. The FCC indicated that this exemption will not be granted to daytimers that apply to use nighttime powers greater than their initial authorization.

In addition, the FCC said it also reduced the "generally applicable" minimum power for unlimited-time Class III stations on regional channels from 500 W to 250 W.

The Commission had said the change would "permit these stations to obtain nighttime protection from subsequently

authorized stations."

It also said that the former daytimers operating under the authority of their show cause orders will not have to meet city coverage requirements, or the requirement that full-time stations operate two-thirds of the hours between 6 PM and midnight each day of the week except Sunday.

"Almost all the reaction I've heard has been extremely positive," said Wychor, who has been a long-time advocate of increased operations for daytimers. "Several stations started running night operations the first night they were able to."

Wychor indicated that he has heard "a few" complaints about low power levels,

"but I advise the complain." In most night levels are similar hour post-sunset authorizations.

Dean Sorenson, head of the Broadcast Group, said he will be adding night operations to KCUE in Wing, MN. The 1 kW operation on 1200 kHz, will be adding a 110 W nighttime service.

Sorenson said the AM station, which is owned with an FM facility, will focus on "local" events such as sports, while the FMer will take a more "regional" stance.

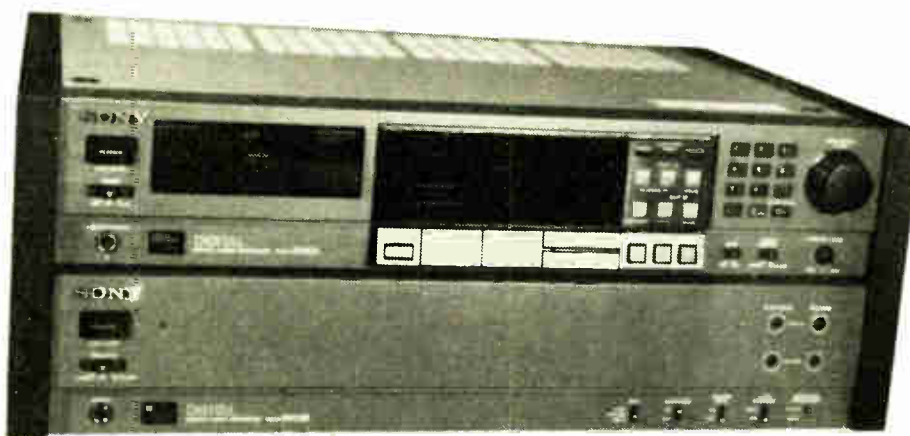
"We're very excited about it," he added. "We're going to take our 110 W and do some local services and make some money."

Betty Baudler, president/GM of KASI, a 1 kW daytimer on 1430 kHz in Ames, (continued on page 15)

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# The Other Side of the Interview

by Tim McCartney

**Boise ID . . .** Engineers who are advancing to management positions need to plan for and learn how to conduct successful job interviews.

The more traditional approach of hiring on "gut level" instincts has proven far too costly and troublesome in recent years. There is a definite process involved in making the right match between job and candidate.

The model suggested here is typical of those being presented by management consultants at seminars on effective interviewing skills.

The first task is to establish qualification standards. Decide on your mini-

mum and desired requirements.

You might require a prospective candidate to have two years electronics education required, with three or more preferred.

The requirements might also include three years full-time broadcast engineering experience with five or more preferred, and FCC General License and SBE Broadcast Engineer certification required with a higher level preferred.

Don't forget to include things like the ability to diagnose problems to the component level, as well as interpersonal communication skills required.

Then go back and determine your priorities among these standards. It is im-

portant to frequently review and stick with these through the entire hiring process.

## Preparing the interview

Plan the major topics to be covered, such as responsibilities, expectations, future plans, advancement opportunities, working conditions, hours, wages and evaluation procedures.

Organize these into a logical order for discussion during the interview. Then, prepare final notes for the interview.

Decide when and where the interview will take place. Pay attention to environmental factors such as privacy, noise level, lighting, comfort, room temperature and placement of furniture.

Plan your opening and closing, which I will describe later in the article.

Review basic communications techniques such as creating a comfortable atmosphere, avoiding barriers to communication, listening to your candidate, avoiding distracting mannerisms, and being aware of your own prejudices.

## Establishing rapport

The objective here is to overcome the candidate's natural anxiety. It's your responsibility to establish the tone of the meeting.

A warm greeting, handshake and smile goes a long way in helping to relax both of you.

Be sure to use the candidate's name in the greeting, and thank him/her for coming.

Try for agreement on something early in the interview. This paves the way for agreement later on more difficult matters.

State the purpose of the interview and what accomplishments are expected.

Motivate the candidate to play an active role in the interview by remembering that the candidate sees you as an agent of change for a particular goal.

And, keep the opening psychological tone consistent with the rest of the interview.

## Gather information

This stage is completed before the candidate is given information about the position and the organization. It helps avoid "answers aimed to please."

Emphasize the use of open-ended questions to allow the candidate considerable freedom to structure the answers. Such questions might include:

- How have your past job experiences prepared you for this position?
- What methods do you use to make decisions?
- How would you describe your previous supervisor? In what ways were you alike—and different?

Using the job application as a basis explore areas such as attitude toward the job being sought, reasons for leaving past employment, likes and dislikes of past jobs, detailed information on educational background.

You can also explore specific qualifications not reflected on the application, but stay away from intangibles such as appearance, manner, speech, character, gut reactions and the like.

And, be very careful of areas of inquiry  
(continued on next page)

# RADIO Classics

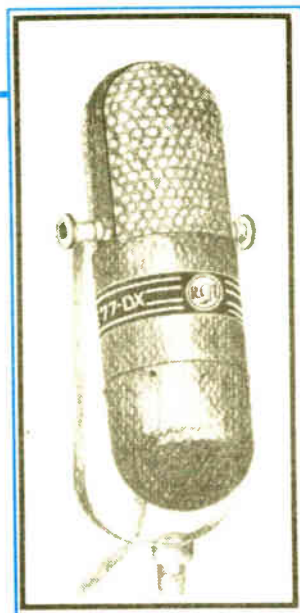
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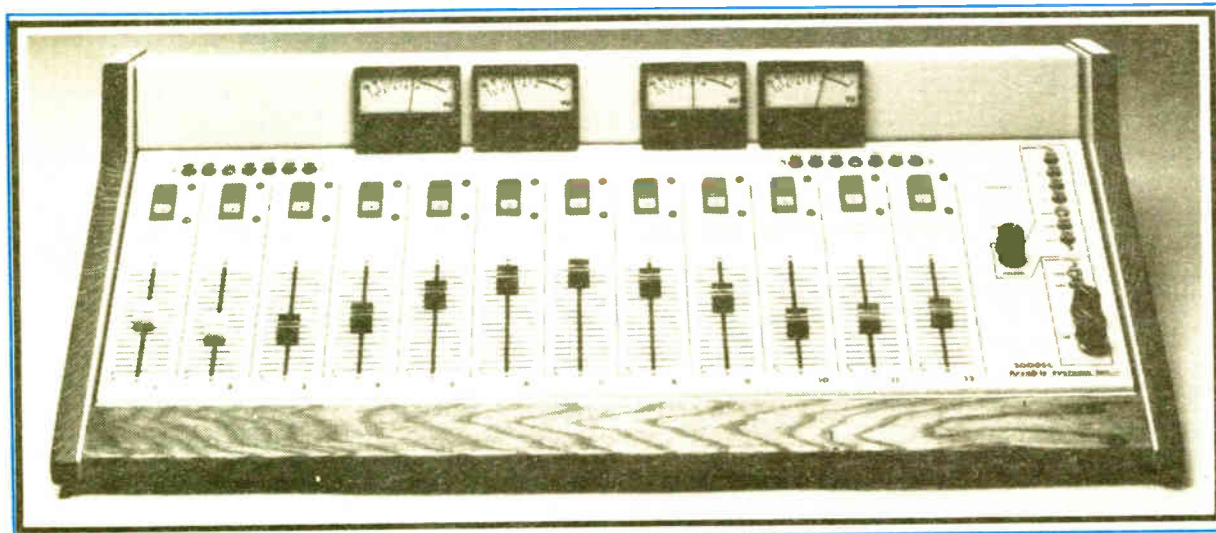


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# Developing Effective Job Interview Skills

(continued from previous page) which are inappropriate and may be unlawful, such as those summarized in Figure 1.

## Job description

This is the time for detailing the qualifications for the job and the organization's expectations for its performance.

Also, advise the candidate of general information about the organization and the department in which the job opening is located. You might want to take the applicant on a brief tour.

Review and summarize the major points of the interview, and orient the candidate toward the next step, such as when and how the next communication will take place.

Keep the psychological tone consistent with the rest of the interview.

Make any permanent notes and evaluate the results of the interview right away.

## Evaluation

Compare the candidate's qualifications to the established, prioritized qualifications standards. An interviewer's worksheet, such as shown in Figure 2, may be helpful.

Complete any required follow-up memos.

Take action or implement any agreement that was reached with the candidate as a result of the interview.

Review your own performance by asking yourself some fundamental questions.

Did you come prepared with a thorough advance analysis of the job and the job requirements and an advance list of interview questions developed?

Were you able to establish a rapport? Were you listening rather than talking?

Did you get the applicant to open up and talk freely? Did you correct for your own preconceptions and biases?

If this model asks more of you than time allows consider the unappealing alternative: a poorly matched, disgruntled, unproductive employee under your daily supervision.

As a manager, you are needed to match jobs and people. This difficult responsibility must be carried out deliberately and carefully.

A model such as the one described here provides a useful outline of the necessary procedures to make the match needed. The time is far better spent up front than later.

*Tim McCartney is director of engineering and operations at KBSU, Boise State University. He is an SBE broadcast engineer, a former GM and has a masters degree in human resources development. He can be reached at 208-385-3760.*

Figure 1. Inappropriate and/or Unlawful Inquiries

Age	Maiden Name or Prior Married Name
Arrests	Marital Status
Bonding (only when necessary)	National Origin
Child Care Arrangements	Number and Ages of Children
Citizenship	Ownership of Home/Vehicle/Furniture
Convictions (only if directly related to job performance)	Photograph
Credit Record	Pregnancy and Future Plans To Have Children
Dress and Appearance	Race
English Language Requirement (only if speaking English is not necessary)	Religion
Garnishment Records	Fidelity Bond Status
Hair and Eye Color	Sex
Handicaps*	Spouse's Background
Height and Weight	Spouse's Name or Work
	Weekend Availability (unless essential to the business)

\*except in the context of seeking to make reasonable accommodation or where clearly related to staff or satisfactory job performance

Figure 2. Interviewer's Worksheet

JOB REQUIREMENTS	CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS											
	Poor					Excellent						
Electronics Education	0	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5
Engineering Experience	0	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5
FCC License	0					5	0					5
SBE Certification	0	1		3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5
Diagnosis Abilities	0	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5
Interpersonal Skills	0	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5

# Latest Daytimer Relief Takes Effect

(continued from page 13)

Iowa, said her station began running 32 W at night on 1 December.

"It doesn't seem like much, but the signal gets about 10 miles—five miles really good," she said. "We're more than delighted. We've waited long enough."

Like Sorenson, Baudler's station will use its night operations to focus on "local" events—news, information and sports.

"We plan to add some local high school basketball games, as well as some university sports that haven't been carried before such as women's basketball," she added.

Lewis Latto, president of 1 kW daytimer KXTP, Superior, WI, said he is glad his station can now operate at night, but he would like to have 50 to 100 W instead of the 26 W his station was given. He also started night broadcasts 1 December.

KXTP's nighttime coverage, which includes "local Superior high school sports—which has never been done before," depends on the "atmosphere," Latto said.

"We plan to stay on the air until 10 PM or until the sports event ends, whichever is later," he added.

Even though the FCC has granted this latest extension of daytimers' hours, the battle is not over.

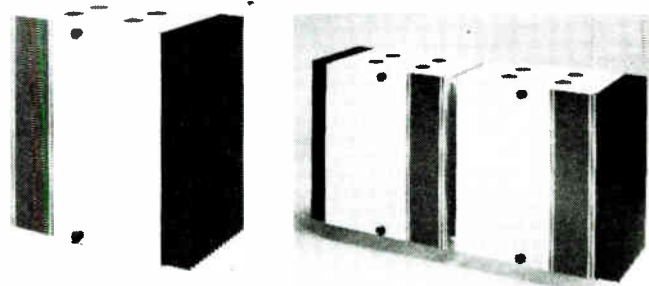
Wychor said that the FCC still has to address another issue of concern to

many daytimers—allowing nighttime operations for daytimers on US Class I-A clear channels.

"The US clear channels are protected out to 700 miles," he said. "We'd like to see that reduced to 300 miles. Studies have shown that very few people depend on a clear channel (signal) for their primary radio service."

For more information contact Louis Stephens at the FCC: 202-254-3394. The item is contained in docket MM 87-131. Contact Jim Wychor at 507-376-6165.

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# Getting Control Of Your Time

by John "Q" Shepler

Rockford IL ... Welcome to 1988! It's the top of the calendar ... a brand new year. Now, the big question. What will you do with this year?

All new years begin with promise. There's time to take a breather now that the crush of the holidays is over. A lot of things seem possible when you look at a whole year stretched out at once.

Maybe that's part of the problem. There seems to be so much time available that there is little incentive to get started now. Tomorrow or next month

will be plenty soon enough.

Unfortunately, we quickly get lulled into that false feeling of endless time. Weeks and then months slip quietly by. Before you know it, October has come and gone with nothing really special to show for 10 months effort.

If you are tired of letting good years slip through your fingers, then it's time to grab that calendar with both hands and put it under your control. There will be no better time than right now to take this control.

The way to keep that calendar under control is to manage it. This means that

you have to make conscious decisions about how the days and weeks are going to be used. The tighter you manage the calendar, the more you'll get out of it.

This might be a good time to gather up some calendars. The little paper desk calendars are free from banks and insurance companies. They have monthly sheets that you tear off.

They are too small to write notes on, but you can circle or color in special dates. They take up very little room on your desk and can be glanced at quickly when you're on the phone.

Another freebie is the plastic pocket

yearly calendar. Hallmark shops give these away. They even include a list of holidays for easy reference. Put one in your wallet.

You may even luck out and get a nice wall or desk scheduling calendar for free. Many churches give these away at Christmas. They are also popular as gifts from suppliers.

I like the standard 8½×11" monthly format divided into daily squares big enough to write notes in.

Now that you have the tool, you need to decide on the projects. Those 365 (366 in '88!) little boxes are your opportunities for accomplishments this year.

## Good scheduling

It's probably easiest to start by making several lists. The first lists are all the routine chores that you have to do on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis. These lists will contain more detail that you will enter on the calendar.

## Q-Tips

In fact, make typed charts of the lists, enclose them in plastic protectors and fasten them to the wall. They become the routine instructions for yourself and anyone who might be filling in for you.

Depending on personal preference, you may choose to set aside whole days to get the mundane cleaning and adjusting chores out of the way or spread them out a few hours a day for the entire week.

Say Monday is maintenance day. Write a big "M" in every Monday block to indicate that this time is already allocated.

If you spend half a day once a month checking the antenna system, pick the appropriate day for each month, divide the block in two and write "ANT" in half of the block. Do this for every routine procedure for the year.

The next order of business is to mark off holidays, vacation—if you can schedule it this soon—conventions, seminars and other times that you will be away from the station.

The remaining empty blocks are project opportunity blocks. Certainly, many of these will get eaten up by unexpected equipment breakdowns, meetings or even illness.

You can't predict when these will happen, but they can be provided for by adding extra days to every project.

## Picking projects

Looking at the number of open days, it's hard to believe that they'll all get used up, but they will. Your goal is to use them productively and deliberately to achieve what you want to this year. Now, what do you want to achieve?

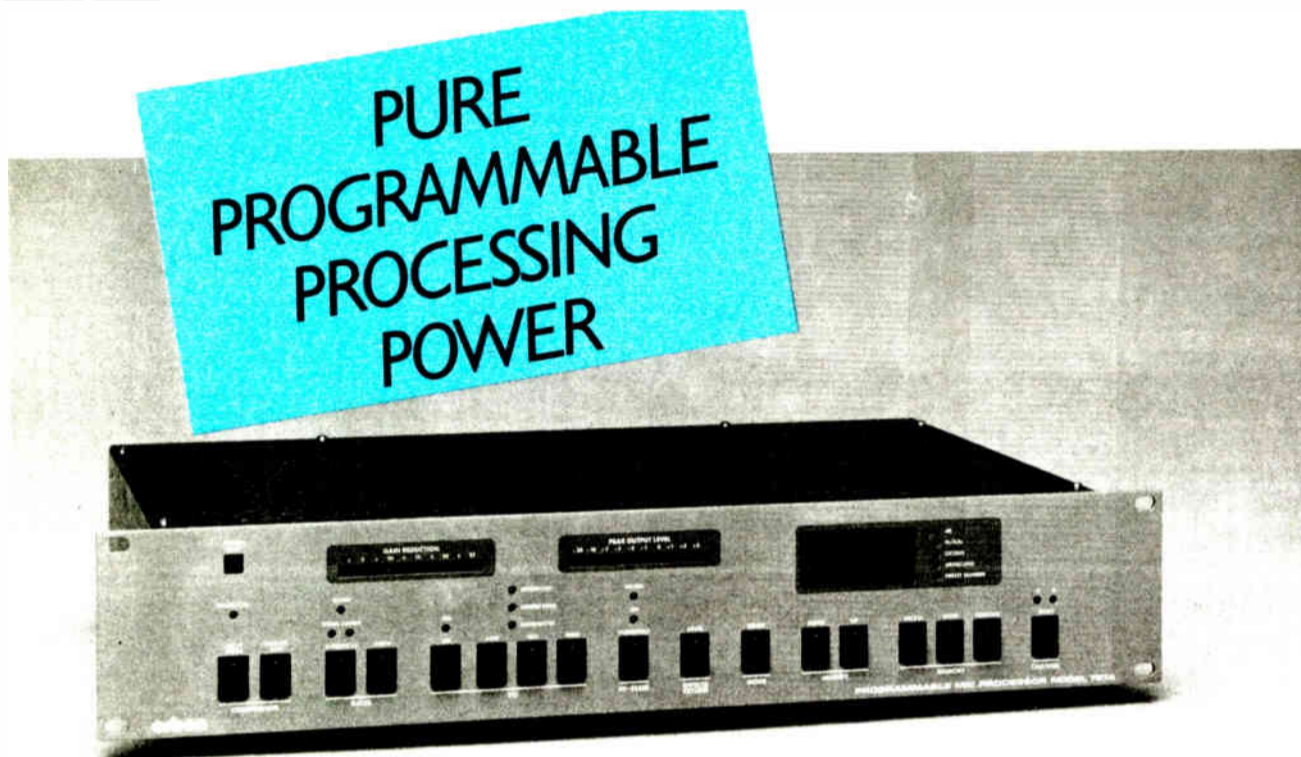
This stage is really a brainstorming session. Find some peace and quiet for a few hours and start writing down whatever projects come into your mind.

This is not a final list. Just write down whatever projects come to mind, even if they don't seem practical or may be beyond the expected station budget.

You can easily cross off the impractical ideas later. Right now you want quantity, not quality.

After listing a few dozen or a few hundred projects, go through and weed out the ridiculous ones. Now, rank the remaining projects from most important to least important.

Some of these might be things like re-wiring the control studio, adding battery  
(continued on next page)



## Introducing the new Orban Programmable Mic Processor

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# Time Planning Tips To Start a New Year

*(continued from previous page)*

backup to the automation, putting up a new tower, installing a backup transmitter, or maybe converting the station to stereo.

This list of major projects may have to be divided into two lists: those projects that you can decide on and schedule yourself, and those that will require management approval.

Anything that involves spending more than just the cost of repair parts will probably need approval.

## Timetable

If your ambitions are high, the list of major projects will be long. Try to estimate how many days each project will take and see how many projects you will be able to squeeze in this year.

In fact, you may wind up scheduling the rest of this month for the purpose of estimating and proposing projects for the remaining 11 months.

In some stations, this process is exactly as described except that the planning is done in the last quarter of the year rather than the first.

This is because capital expenditures, those projects costing more than some expense limit such as \$100 or \$500, have to be approved and budgeted before the

**“**  
*Don't forget to schedule some goals for yourself.*  
**”**

end of the previous year. The thought process is the same. You just have to start earlier.

Once the list of projects is generally agreed on, you can start spreading the time throughout the year.

You can start building a tentative schedule anytime. However, mark the blocks lightly until you at least have a nod from the boss that the project will probably be approved.

Some of the scheduling will be determined by season. Obviously, you're not going to bury new heliax during January in Maine.

Other scheduling will depend on the lead time to have equipment delivered. Most transmitters aren't sold with next day delivery. Be sure to consider these factors when laying out the year.

## Personal projects

Don't forget to schedule some goals for yourself. These should be above and beyond directly improving the station facilities. You need to put in some time devoted to improving your skills and advancing your career.

What type of projects are appropriate? Learning new technology should be high on the list, even if the particular technology is only new to you.

An example would be a course in AM antenna maintenance. It's only new technology if you aren't familiar with vacuum capacitors and phasors.

Some projects should be chosen as much for learning as for building something the station really needs.

Designing and constructing a digital timer for the production studio may seem like a waste of time since you can easily buy one of these.

However, even if you don't save money, you will certainly learn something about digital circuits that will come in handy for future troubleshooting.

Factory training courses on your particular transmitter or automation system are often worthwhile.

Once you get the GM to agree, you need to get into the next available class and block off that time on your calendar.

Other courses may be taught at a lo-

cal college or vocational center. These usually only require a few hours a week, probably in the evening.

Good choices might be an introduction to microprocessors, solid state electronics theory, equipment fabrication, welding, HVAC servicing or whatever else would come in handy.

One thing to consider is how much of your personal time you want to devote to career development or earning extra income.

You set aside a few hours a week, if for nothing else than reading electronics magazines.

Another approach is to allocate an hour or two a day for building a business or advancing to the next level of responsibility.

Maybe you'll have business cards printed and talk to two-way shops about handling some overflow work. Or,

maybe you'll just use that u. friends around the country to see know of a better job that's opening u.

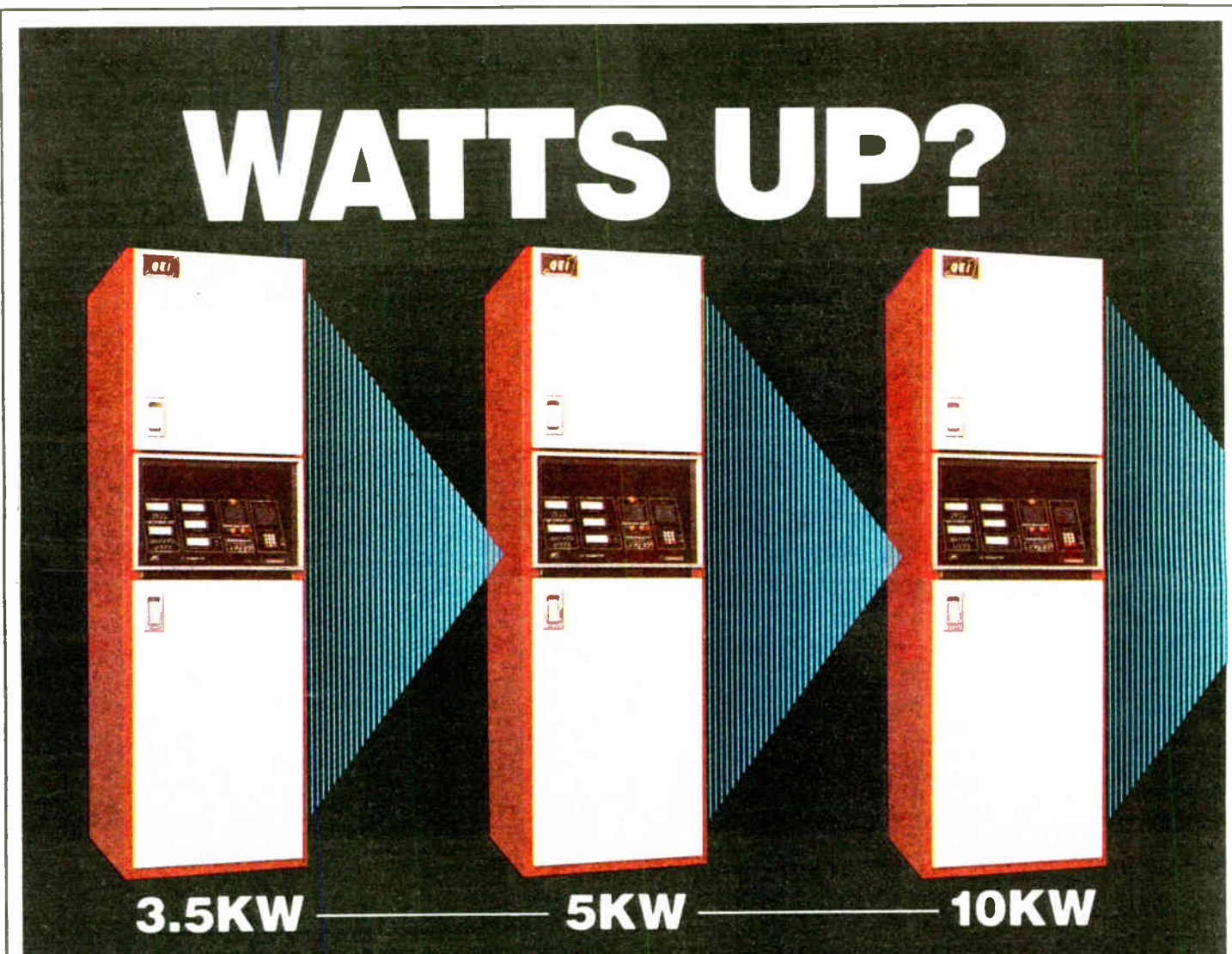
The amount of time you'll devote to business and career is strictly a personal decision. However, don't forget to provide a good portion of your time for family and just plain fun.

Good scheduling will actually give you more time for fun. That's because you're making better use of the hours that are mandatory.

When you structure those mandatory hours, you'll get as much done in 40 hours as most people accomplish in 50.

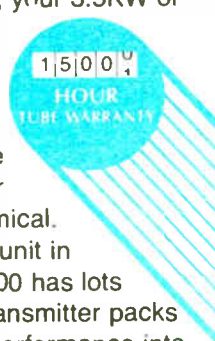
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*John Shepler is an engineering manager, broadcast consultant, writer and regular RW columnist. He can be reached at 815-654-0145.*



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Circle Reader Service 45 on Page 22

# Are NRSC Radios On The Way?

(continued from page 11)

contacted by the NRSC, according to Rau.

However, Rau could not fix a date that the receivers could be expected in the marketplace. Delco, he said, has speculated the radios may be ready by late 1988 or 1989.

Although Rau maintains there is no lack of interest in the NRSC standard, questions have been raised about whether the curve will be built into monophonic receivers or whether radio manufacturers will wait for an AM stereo standard and release both improvements in a single unit.

During a 12 November NRSC meeting in St. Louis, Delco engineer Bill Gilbert was asked whether his firm would build mono NRSC receivers.

Gilbert said Delco believes the future of AM is stereo, and that the NRSC standard was being incorporated into the company's C-QUAM radios with no intentions to date of manufacturing a mono NRSC receiver.

When asked whether an AM stereo de facto standard, coupled with the NRSC standard, would expedite production of new AM radios, Gilbert acknowledged that compliant receivers might appear more quickly on the market "if the NRSC standard was tied to AM stereo."

Gilbert assured RW in late November that there was "no lack of commitment" at Delco regarding NRSC receivers.

"We will be implementing the NRSC standard in our AM stereo models," said Gilbert, noting that the company is "not that far off" from the NRSC specifications in its wideband receivers already.

Delco was not actively working on monophonic NRSC-compliant receivers because "there are so many different models of mono radio" in the marketplace. Further, he said, because "AM is disappearing from cars as a standalone format," Delco would concentrate on FM stereo-AM stereo models, which would include the NRSC curve.

Despite Delco's stated commitment to the NRSC, Gilbert acknowledged that the company had no timetable for making the receivers available to the public.

## Downplaying mono

Delco's downplaying of monophonic AM NRSC-compliant receivers was typical of some engineers' design concerns. Although a number of companies denied a link between NRSC radios and the resolution of the AM stereo issue, some admitted that incorporating the NRSC curve into an existing mono design is more difficult than introducing both NRSC and AM stereo at once.

John Marino, an NRSC board member and VP/engineering of NewCity Communications, conceded "it would be easier (for manufacturers) to implement a design change all in one shot." He added, however, that no radio manufacturers he has spoken with are waiting for an AM stereo standard before implementing NRSC.

Motorola's AM Stereo Manager Frank Hilbert maintained that monophonic radios would likely not include the NRSC curve.

"Mono won't be improved," predicted Hilbert, adding that, "like monophonic FM, monophonic AM will gradually be-

gin to disappear." Design considerations were among the problems Hilbert cited in support of the statement.

"You can't just go to the third IF in a mono radio and stick in the curve," he explained. "You have to change the whole radio design."

Still, Hilbert noted the technology is being adapted by Motorola in its integrated circuits and decoder units. The company's medium voltage and low voltage decoder design notes specifically address the NRSC curve, he said.

Eventually, Hilbert maintained, all receivers will be NRSC compliant.

What increasingly appears to be the

“ “

*'like monophonic FM, monophonic AM will gradually begin to disappear.'*

” ”

case among receiver manufacturers is that, although their interest in NRSC deemphasis is high, the technology will still follow the same developmental channels as any other technology.

Among those channels is a determination of consumer interest. Delco's Gilbert warned against releasing NRSC radios before a majority of stations had converted to the standard. Consumers would be skeptical about the standard if they listened and heard no change because their local AM had not yet converted, he pointed out.

However, Gilbert could give no target number of converted AM stations needed for receivers to become more available.

Officials with some prominent Japanese electronic component companies revealed that, although the NRSC specifications have been sent to their design centers in Japan, work on radios compliant with the curve has not progressed much beyond the research stage.

At Sansui, a target date for NRSC receivers was undetermined. Sansui spokesperson Arnold Singer commented that, although there are currently no NRSC radios available from Sansui, the designs are "under development."

"The NRSC standards were forwarded to our design center in Japan a few months ago," said Singer. He could not comment on the company's progress in implementing the specifications.

However, Singer denied any connection between the availability of NRSC radios and the resolution of the AM stereo question.

Although he acknowledged that the lack of a stereo standard has resulted in a "marketplace deterrent" in producing AM stereo receivers, he said Sansui would implement the NRSC standard in its AM radios "under any circumstances."

Perry Tamura, spokesperson for Sanyo, said that before the company begins building NRSC radios a determination of "consumer interest" must be made.

A similar attitude was found at Sony, where VP/engineering Sabura Oniki maintained that Sony "has not decided" whether to build NRSC receivers. Oniki said Sony was "studying interest among customers" for the product.

Sony's design group in Japan has the NRSC's deemphasis specification, Oniki said, and has produced some experimental models. However, he admitted that he "did not know" the timetable for introduction of the receivers on the market.

Although he did not comment on whether such radios would be built in mono, Oniki denied any connection between the unavailability of NRSC radios and the lack of an AM stereo standard.

Interestingly, some executives in Sony and Sanyo had never heard of the NRSC or its guidelines for receiver deemphasis.

At Sanyo in Los Angeles, Chuck Davis, the company's sales promotion manager for marketing, was unaware of any work Sanyo may be doing with NRSC deemphasis. Likewise, Ira Diamond, a Sony design engineer for marketing and aesthetic design, said he had not heard of the standard.

However, neither the NRSC nor the Electronic Industries Association (EIA) was concerned about awareness of the specification.

The NRSC's Rau pointed out, "Consumer electronics is a big industry. There are still some people in the AM broadcasting industry who don't know what the NRSC is or what it does."

"You just can't hope to get the information to everyone who arguably has any interest whatever in the standard," Rau said. "It's just impossible."

EIA Director of Engineering Tom Mock added that NRSC deemphasis is not an advertising gimmick, therefore marketing people may not have heard of the standard. He added, however, that "a majority of receiver manufacturers" are involved in applying the NRSC's efforts.

For additional information, contact Mike Rau at 202-429-5340. Bill Gilbert at 317-451-7275 or Arnold Singer at 212-302-5500. Contact Sabura Oniki at 201-930-6370 or Perry Tamura at 201-641-2333. Contact Harry Simons at 215-434-4424.



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# Network Control of Transmitters

by Harold Hallikainen

San Luis Obispo CA . . . Radio World correctly reprinted an error in my article in the 1 November 1987 issue.

The erroneous sentence should have read: "Use of a control point where routine metering is accomplished over a dial-up circuit but where some continuous circuit to the transmitter is available does appear to meet the requirements of FCC policy."

Thanks to those who phoned to point out the error.

Last time we looked at transmitter control from a couple of non-typical locations (answering services or the manager's home). This time we'll look at transmitter control by a program network.

At least two radio networks, Skylight and Family Stations, are controlling remote transmitters of co-owned and affiliate (or subscriber) stations.

This is similar to the use of an answering service for transmitter control, with a couple of exceptions.

Routine control and monitoring is typically done over dial-up phone lines, as discussed in previous columns. The Commission is notified of this additional control point, satisfying 73.1400(c).

Continuous carrier control is provided through the satellite network data or program channel.

Should the operator need to shut down a station (due to an interference causing condition) but is unable to do so through the dial-up network, individual stations can possibly be shut down through the network data channel.

Or all network stations could be shut

down by interruption of the data or program channel, similar to using silence sense for fail safe or continuous carrier control.

Since the network operator has control over these circuits, the continuous carrier control requirement of FCC policy is met.

But in such cases, EBS raises interesting problems. Rule 73.932(a) requires the station operator to monitor a local EBS assignment.

Since the monitoring assignments of the affiliates are generally not audible at the network control point, it is difficult to meet this requirement.

## Insight on Rules

I imagine with adequate hardware and software, the monitoring could be done over a dial-up circuit.

But does this need to be as continuous as "continuous carrier control," making dial-up unacceptable?

The monitoring requirement provides a backup link, to wire services and networks, between stations for national emergencies.

In some stations this may be the only link for national emergencies.

In local or state emergencies, the EBS monitor receiver is often the only link to emergency programming.

Should a state or local emergency message be received, the station may, at the discretion of management, rebroadcast the state or local emergency programming [73.936(d), 73.937(d)].

Since national emergency program-

ming is the only mandatory emergency programming for a station, the Commission has issued individual waivers to stations to reduce the local EBS monitoring requirement.

A letter granting a waiver of 73.933 to specified stations while under control of the network was sent to the Skylight Satellite Network (call me for a copy).

Under the waiver, the network is to use an FCC type accepted EBS encoder to send the EBS tone, followed by Presidential programming in a national emergency.

The network should be affiliated with other networks and wire services, providing a source of national emergency programming.

The network must conduct its own on-air EBS tests during the time it is controlling subscriber stations.

The network operator should be properly trained in EBS equipment and procedures.

The network must keep logs of EBS activities, and should be equipped with an EBS receiver/decoder as a backup means of receiving national emergency programming.

The EBS receiver at a subscriber station must automatically alert the network operator and a local "on-call" person.

The local on-call person then decides what action to take due to the local EBS

activation.

During times that the der control of the network comply with the normal elements (monitoring, tests, etc.).

It would appear that similar s could be set up by the various satellite program services to provide transmitter operators for that difficult to fill "after midnight" shift.

This does, however, bring up some interesting questions regarding broadcasting in general.

After the 1985 NAB Radio New Technologies session, an audience member commented to me that all the schemes to go "unattended almost" made it unclear as to whether the station was indeed providing a public service for the local community.

I asked if it would be better for the station to be forced off the air after midnight because of economics. He thought that would be better than each station turning into a background music service.

As stations turn to more network programming with local inserts, the result approaches the proposed satellite distribution of programming to FM translators.

This has been suggested by the Moody Bible Institute in a filing to the Commission and is still under consideration.

I believe Moody originally suggested that 74.1231(b) be changed from "... only for the purpose of transmitting the signals of an FM broadcast station or another FM translator station

(continued on page 23)

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## CONTRACT ENGINEERING

# Reaping the Benefits of NRSC

by Mark W. Persons

**Brainerd MN . . .** Now that a number of AM stations are converting to the new NRSC (National Radio Systems Committee) AM audio preemphasis and bandpass standard, it's becoming clear that the voluntary standard is an excellent improvement for AM.

The immediate and long term benefits are very good at very low cost. Implementing the standard is voluntary, but definitely in the best interest of all AM broadcasters.

The recommended transmitted audio preemphasis (high frequency boost) is a little less than some stations have been running, but complements many existing AM receiver deemphasis curves well.

It is also a standard by which receiver manufacturers will be building new AM radios. Up until now, there has been no standard and, as you know, the sound of receivers has varied greatly.

When transmitter audio processor and receiver frequency response curves complement each other under the new standard, AM can sound like FM.

However, it can only work when bandpass filters are also used in transmitter audio processing to keep preemphasized audio from getting into adjacent channels causing interference to other stations, especially at night.

Right now, stations on second adjacent channels (20 kHz away) suffer severe

monkey chatter interference from stations without bandpass filters.

This problem can be almost completely eliminated by using the NRSC standard 10 kHz low pass filter.

The filter has an extremely sharp skirt to keep audio on channel where it belongs.

The sharp skirts limit unwanted and unneeded sidebands. I don't know of any AM receivers with response past 10 kHz. The filter keeps transmitter power in the audio range where it is needed.

Preemphasis and filter modules are available for Orban's audio processors at up to \$450 depending on the model.

CRL (Circuit Research Labs) has a unit called the SPF-300 that can be used in conjunction with its monaural Peak Modulation Controller or other manufacturer's processing.

The SPF (standard preemphasis/filter) adds preemphasis before the processing system's peak clipper and puts a 10 kHz low pass filter between the clipper and the transmitter input. List price is \$495.

CRL offers a circuit card to modify existing CRL SMP-900 AM Stereo Matrix Processors. It is \$195 and takes about an hour to install.

This is a small price to pay for standardization and cleaning up the AM band. Failure of broadcasters to act will, in the future, result in customer complaints about new NRSC standard wide-band radios and the danger of a return to low quality narrowband receivers.

Broadcasters *must* act in their own best interest to adopt the standard and clean up the AM band. I have absolutely no sympathy for a broadcaster who doesn't.

Circuit Research Labs also has an audio deemphasis filter to be put at the output of modulation monitors. This also has a 10 kHz notch filter to get rid of adjacent channel 10 kHz whistle.

No longer will control room operators have to listen to preemphasized unnatural sounding air audio straight from a modulation monitor. The monaural MFD-400 version lists for \$295, while the stereo MDF-800 lists for \$395. Both are rack mounted. Other manufacturers have similar gear as well.

The NRSC standard audio preemphasis and bandpass filter standards have the potential of saving AM from doom. There can be no stragglers.

Equipment manufacturers are making the new equipment. It is inexpensive and available almost right away. There is no reason why every AM station couldn't and shouldn't be converted to the new standard in the next 12 months.

We have 34 regular AM clients, and 22 of them are now converted to the NRSC standard. That's 65%. Equipment is on

order now for two more.

I ran into high frequency distortion, due to restricted antenna bandwidth, in only one case. We are in the process of resolving that problem now.

On an even more positive note, most stations I installed NRSC adapters on sound *better* after the modification.

After thinking about it, I realized that intermodulation distortion is worse at high frequencies in transmitters. Preemphasized audio can have a significant level above 10 kHz.

If 12 kHz and 13 kHz audio intermodulates, one of the distortion products is at 1 kHz where it is easily heard by all listeners. 10 kHz is a well-chosen low pass filter frequency for AM because I have found most transmitters do well up to 10 kHz, but absolutely fall apart in their audio specifications above 10 kHz.

Another good by-product of the filter is that the station is easier to tune on the dial.

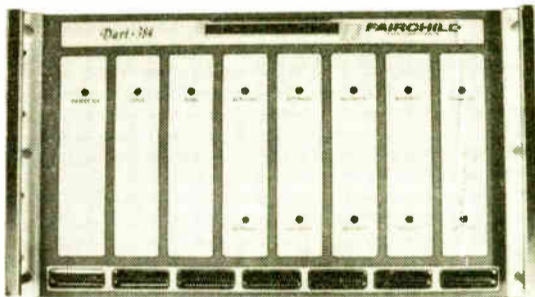
I am glad the NRSC is finally here to help clean up the band for everyone. I am also glad to hear the NAB has recommended the FCC adopt and require the standard at all stations.

*Mark Persons is president of M.W. Persons and Associates engineering consultants. He can be reached at 218-829-1326.*

## GROUND RULES

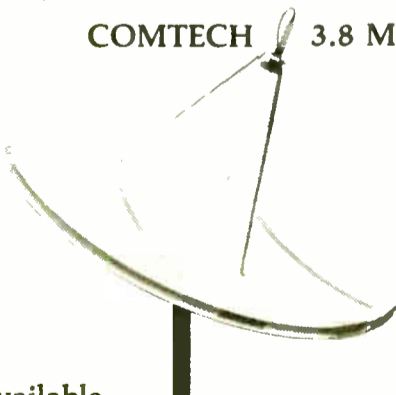
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**STUDER REVOX**

Circle Reader Service 33 on Page 22

# A Second Look At FM Antennas

by W.C. Alexander

Dallas TX ... Such a tremendous response was generated by my four-part series on FM antennas and so many specific questions were raised that perhaps a follow-up series addressing these questions is appropriate.

The series touched on such topics as terrain effects, Brewster angle, Fresnel zone, multipath causes and cures, transmitter power versus antenna gain, beam tilt and null fill.

Some of these discussions hit home with station owners and engineers, and in this series, I'll take a practical approach to answer some of the most often asked questions.

## Multipath

Multipath problems seem to be on everyone's mind these days. The sad fact is that urban sprawl and FM radio don't mix, at least signal-wise.

In many situations, multipath is unavoidable. Wherever conductive objects protrude into the path of an FM signal, some of that signal will be reflected back toward the source, much as a mirror will reflect a light beam.

It is good to think in terms of visible light when discussing FM propagation.

In fact, some of the physical laws that govern the propagation of radio waves were discovered by using visible-light models in the laboratory.

Much as the reflective glass high-rise buildings that are so much the part of 1980's American architecture reflect sunlight, blinding the drivers on the streets below, buildings of all types and other

obstructions reflect, to varying degrees, the RF fields of FM stations.

In such cases, not all of the signal is reflected, but those that strike the obstruction will be reflected and very little will pass through the object.

In the lee of the obstruction will be a shadow area where the signals will be greatly reduced.

In the area between the obstruction and the antenna, reflected signals will mix with direct signals from the antenna and cause multipath.

“  
*Urban sprawl  
and FM radio  
don't mix.*  
”

How much and how severe will depend on the signal level at the point where the obstruction cuts the RF path, the angle of incidence and the conductivity of the obstruction's surface.

In the lee of the obstruction, the attenuated direct-path signals will mix with other reflected signals and produce another area of multipath.

The size of this area and the severity of the multipath are dependent on the amount of attenuation caused by the obstruction and on whether or not there are other obstructions beyond.

Urban areas with large clusters of high-rise buildings are perhaps the hardest hit.

There will inevitably be a large multipath area on the antenna side of the cluster, and an even larger area of multipath in the shadow area beyond.

Little can be done from the broadcaster's end to alleviate this type of multipath in the shadow area, but improvements can be made in the multipath area on the antenna side of the obstructions.

Of course, tearing down all the buildings would go a long way to cure these ills, but such is nearly always beyond the means and capabilities of the broadcaster.

Locating the antenna on top of one of the buildings would also solve some of the multipath problems, but channel spacings, space availability, building height and EMI concerns often rule this out as an option.

In addition, other near-field problems can be of concern and make such an option less attractive.

## Beam tilt

Beam-tilting can many times solve a number of obstruction-induced multipath problems.

As calls started coming in from all over the US as a result of the antenna series, it became apparent that there are many stations in situations where proper application of beam-tilt can go a long way toward alleviating multipath.

The typical scenario is a Class B or C station located 20 to 30 miles outside the target city or cities, using a relatively tall tower and a high-gain antenna.

A large multipath area exists between the downtown area of the target city and the antenna, but relatively close-in to the buildings. A shadow area also exists in the lee of the buildings.

Other multipath areas exist within a few miles of the tower in locations that are invariably over either a target suburb or a heavily travelled artery.

Consider that with no beam-tilt, half of the power being radiated from the antenna is at angles above the horizon and therefore wasted.

Also consider that the downtown buildings, which are often 500 feet tall or more, will intersect the path of the signal at an angle with respect to the antenna where a much higher radiated

field exists than is present on the ground.

Depending on the angle of incidence, the reflections can be of an equal or greater intensity than the signal from the direct path. How strong the reflected signal is will directly affect the amount and severity of the resulting multipath.

Many times, the direct-path signal in the multipath area can be increased considerably with proper use of beam-tilt.

We can kill two birds with one stone by tilting the beam by an amount that puts the multipath area more in the main lobe in the vertical plane, and at the same time reduce the amount of radiation that strikes the buildings near the top.

How much change can be made depends on the size (number of bays and gain) of the transmitting antenna, the height of the center of radiation and the distance between the buildings and the antenna.

## Class A considerations

I cannot ignore the fact that several operators of Class A stations have raised the question of what beam-tilt can do for them. Generally speaking, Class A stations utilize near-unity gain antennas with two or fewer bays on relatively short towers.

As a rule the main lobe in the vertical plane of such antennas is so broad that there is little to be gained with beam tilt.

In several specific cases that I studied in detail, less than a 2% increase in signal level in the target area was obtainable by tilting the beam of the antenna.

With the antenna so close to the ground, beyond a very near distance from the antenna, the surface is well inside the main lobe in the vertical plane.

This is not to say that beam tilt is of entirely no value to Class A stations.

Indeed, some western Class A facilities in mountainous areas use high antenna elevations with respect to the community to be served. Beam-tilt can be essential in such situations.

In Part II, we will examine the effects of antenna nulls on multipath and what techniques can be used to overcome them.

W.C. Alexander is Director of Engineering for Crawford Broadcasting Company, and a horror fiction novelist. He can be reached at 214-445-1713.

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World Radio History

# Resolutions for 1988

by Dave Hebert

**Pasco WA . . .** At the Society of Broadcast Engineers convention recently held in St. Louis there was talk of reintroducing a Canon of Ethics.

I realized that we are now trying to tame this crazy business and overcome the new breed of "buyer-speculators" that are, in some cases, taking the very character out of the industry we respect so much.

These may also be our way of preventing broadcast engineering from becoming an endangered species.

But, I hasten to add, the real canons come from us.

This is the time of year we reserve for new beginnings.

Maybe it's a good time to program some New Year's resolutions of our own and compare how our previous year stacks up against the one we are starting.

Be it resolved to try to start each day anew. The frustrations of yesterday don't belong in today.

That disagreement we had before can't be allowed to poison the goals I have set for myself.

Since operating a radio station demands teamwork, I must surrender part of myself to something that is bigger.

Since the sales department, programmers, department heads and I are all working for the same goal, it's imperative that divergent points of view that separated us yesterday don't impede the growth we need for this new day.

Our common goal is like a thread that weaves us together in a way that we really can't ignore.

I want to pull my share since my work is a reflection of who I am and the integrity I stand for.

I will promise to be a better listener this year.

I want to encourage operations and on-air staff to provide me with the information I need to do my job more effectively.

Opinions, observations, concerns and complaints about equipment problems come with the territory.

But no operator should feel uncomfortable in coming to me with a problem.

I will try to become a skillful interrogator to build a large information base about a problem so I can efficiently diagnose and solve a problem as quickly as possible.

As I want to be a better listener, I also want to communicate better with others.

Complimenting an operator for a particular job well done is a good way of making a friend.

Since we deal with people in the course of our business, we can't forget to take time to find a small reason to be reassuring, or supportive of the team member that may need that special skill.

Part of my job is that of a diplomat, and this skill is every bit as important as my technical expertise.

People, like equipment, need attention. I will try harder to improve my skill level and knowledge of my profession, and resist complacency in myself.

I instinctively want to give to the industry to make it better. I can only do that when I have more of something worth giving.

I will study technical material, learn from other engineers, attend seminars and whatever else it takes to improve my own technical talent.

In the final analysis, I must be better to myself.

I will try to watch out for the fatigue that looms just over the next hill.

It is most important, to be sure, that the production room cart machine gets

fixed, or the final be replaced, not to mention that cranky automation and the clogged bathroom sink.

But I must learn to prioritize these things and not let them run my life. The most important machine is me.

I have to learn there are times when I simply have to walk away for a spell and regroup for a more frontal assault.

I realize that out of exhaustion comes mistakes, frustration and negativism that only makes matters worse.

I must hang up my cape once in a while and get in touch with the ones I love as well as myself.

Without this all my previous resolutions will be impossible to achieve.

*Dave Hebert is president of Dave Hebert Engineering. He is an occasional contributor to RW and can be reached at 509-545-9672.*

## Rules Differ For Program Networks

(continued from page 19)

which have been received directly through space . . . " to a wording similar to the wording of 74.731(b).

This allows the link between the primary station and a television translator to be "directly through space" or through almost any other means, including remodulation of video and audio signals coming in by microwave.

It was only a short step from the FCC's revision of the TV translator rules from "frequency conversion and amplification only" to "any video/audio feed that results in simultaneous broadcast of the programming of the primary TV station" to allowing full local origination by TV translators, which we now call Low Power TV.

The Commission rejected Moody's original petition to allow FM translators to be fed by any which way.

Moody has applied again, this time limiting the new freedom to FM translators being fed programming by non-commercial educational (NCE) stations.

While the Commission hasn't taken any action on it as yet, many commercial broadcasters appear to be concerned about "FM translator abuses" and are asking the Commission to place further

restrictions on them.

I see a great deal of similarity between an FM translator and a centrally programmed full power FM station.

An advantage that FM translators have over full power FM stations is the lack of an operator requirement (unattended operation authorized by 74.1234).

This rule is based on section 318 of the Communications Act of 1934, which specifically requires licensed operators for all broadcast stations except those merely rebroadcasting another broadcast station.

The Act does not limit this operator-free operation to low power rebroadcasting of other stations.

It'd be interesting to know the intent of Congress when they wrote this section.

Was their concern that a licensed oper-

ator have control over the programming of the station rather than the technical operation of the transmitter (interference prevention)?

Radio is changing. The days of the local station hiring a high school student to spin records is going or gone.

Instead, a disc jockey in Los Angeles plays records for the whole country.

Many stations are trying to work within the FCC requirements to offer their listeners higher quality programming at lower cost. I'll look forward to your comments.

*Harold Hallikainen is president of Hallikainen & Friends, a broadcast equipment design, manufacture, sales and installation firm. He can be reached at 805-541-0200.*

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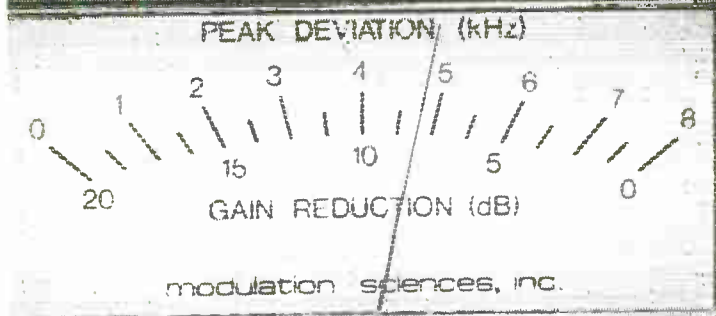








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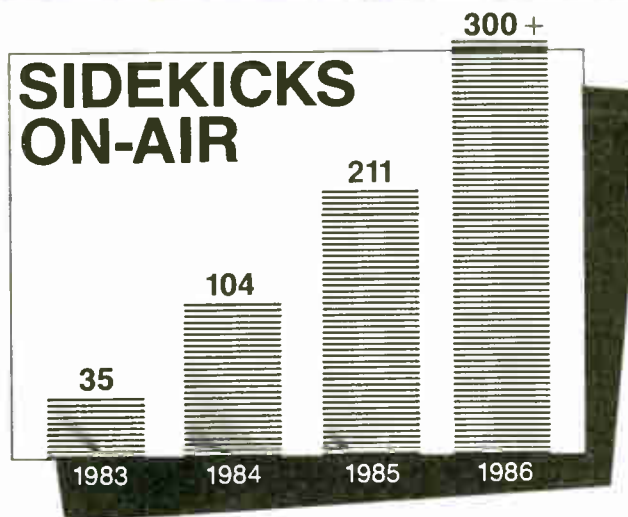
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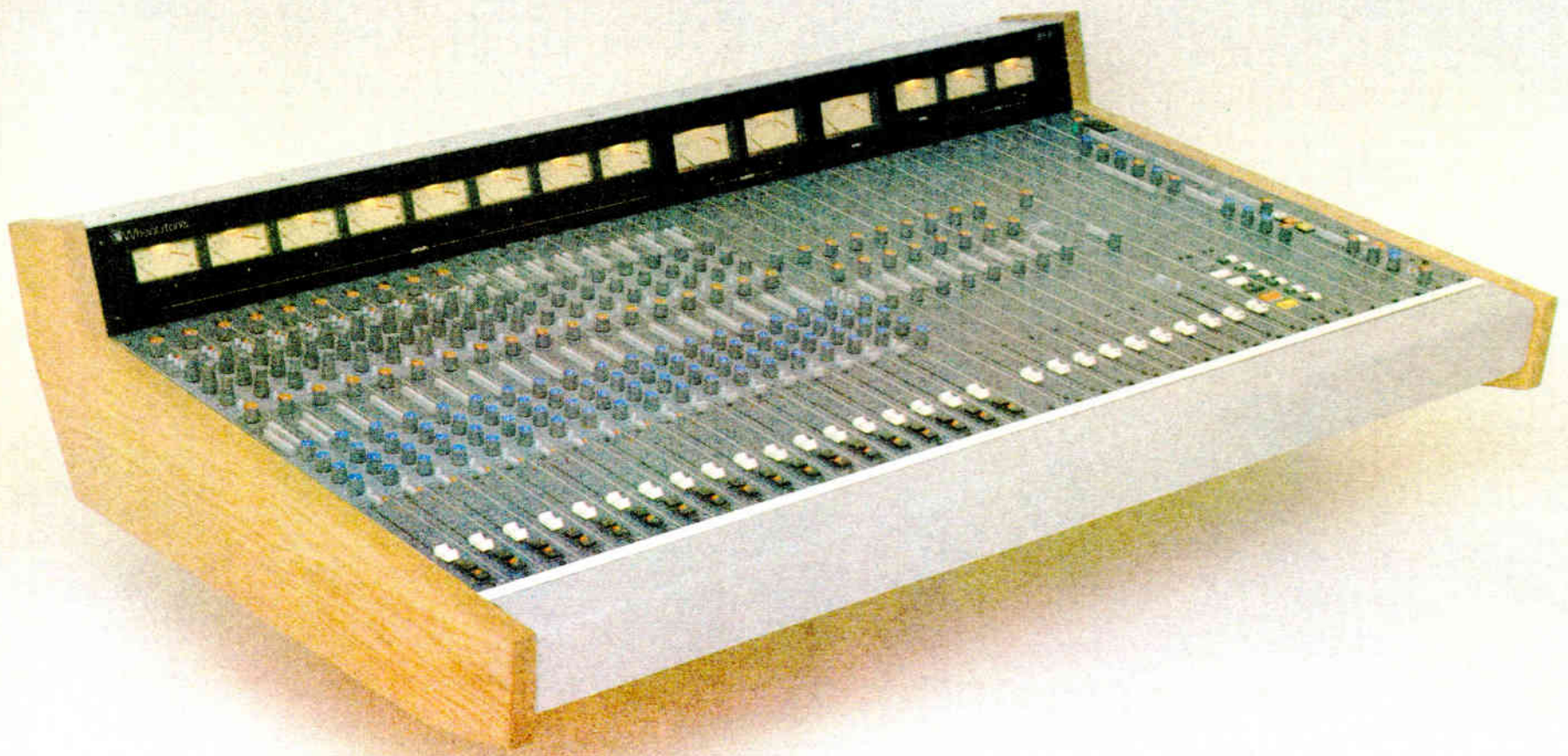
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