



CHAPTER 122

October 2023 AD

SOCIETY OF BROADCAST ENGINEERS

*Serving the Public through
Quality Broadcast Engineering*

(Eff ya' sees any typer graphic errorz, please notify da editor of dis newsletter !)

Monthly Meeting

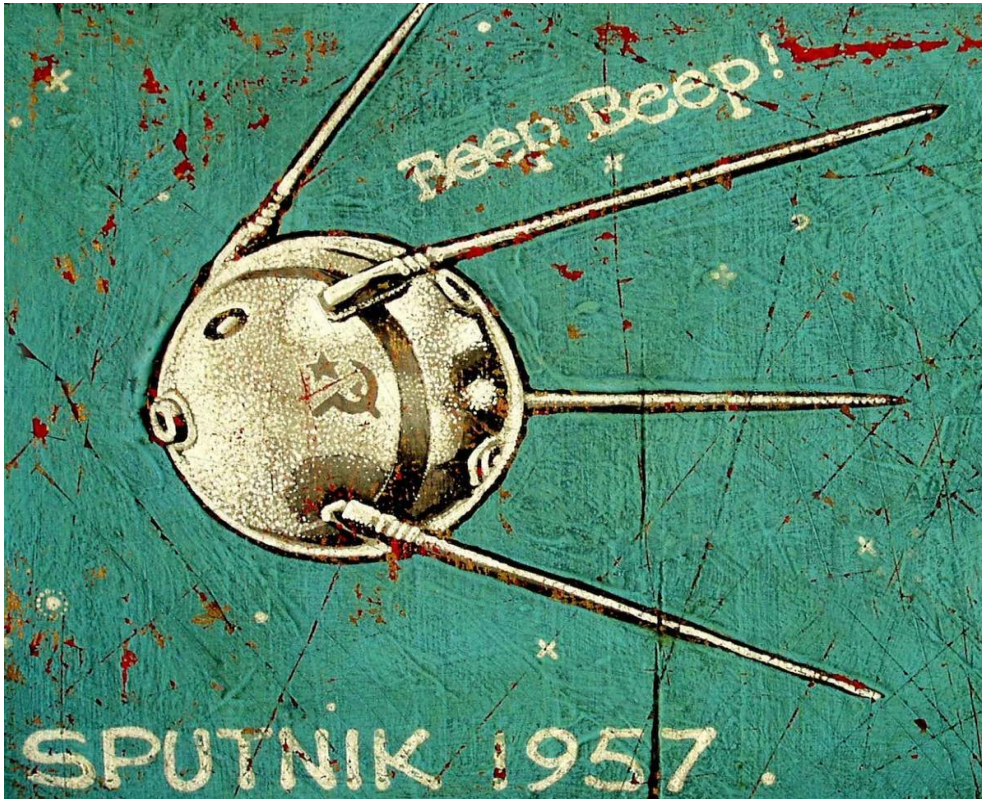
Join us for our regular meeting at noon October 12 , 2023

Address: 7463 South Ave, Boardman, OH 44512-5720 Phone: 330 629 2667



SBE Chapter 122 Meeting Minutes

- Date 9/14/23
- Start 12:35 PM
- End 12:47 PM
- Number of Attendees: 6 SBE Certified: 2
- Presiding Officer: Bob Flis, President
- Motion to accept minutes from last meeting: Ben Slagle, Seconded Melissa Limpose
- Treasurer Report: Treasurer not present
- EAS Report by John Clarke: Reminder that NPT test scheduled for Wednesday 10/4. Sage still has not released new firmware updating Certificate.
- Frequency Report < 1 GHz: Wes Boyd, nothing to report.
- Frequency Report > 1 GHz: Bob Flis: nothing to report.
- Certification: nothing to report.
- Old Business: None
- New Business: Reminder that MBMTC is set for September 28 in Columbus, SBE national meeting will also be held.
- Program Speaker: None
- Motion to Adjourn: Wes Boyd/ Seconded: Bill King

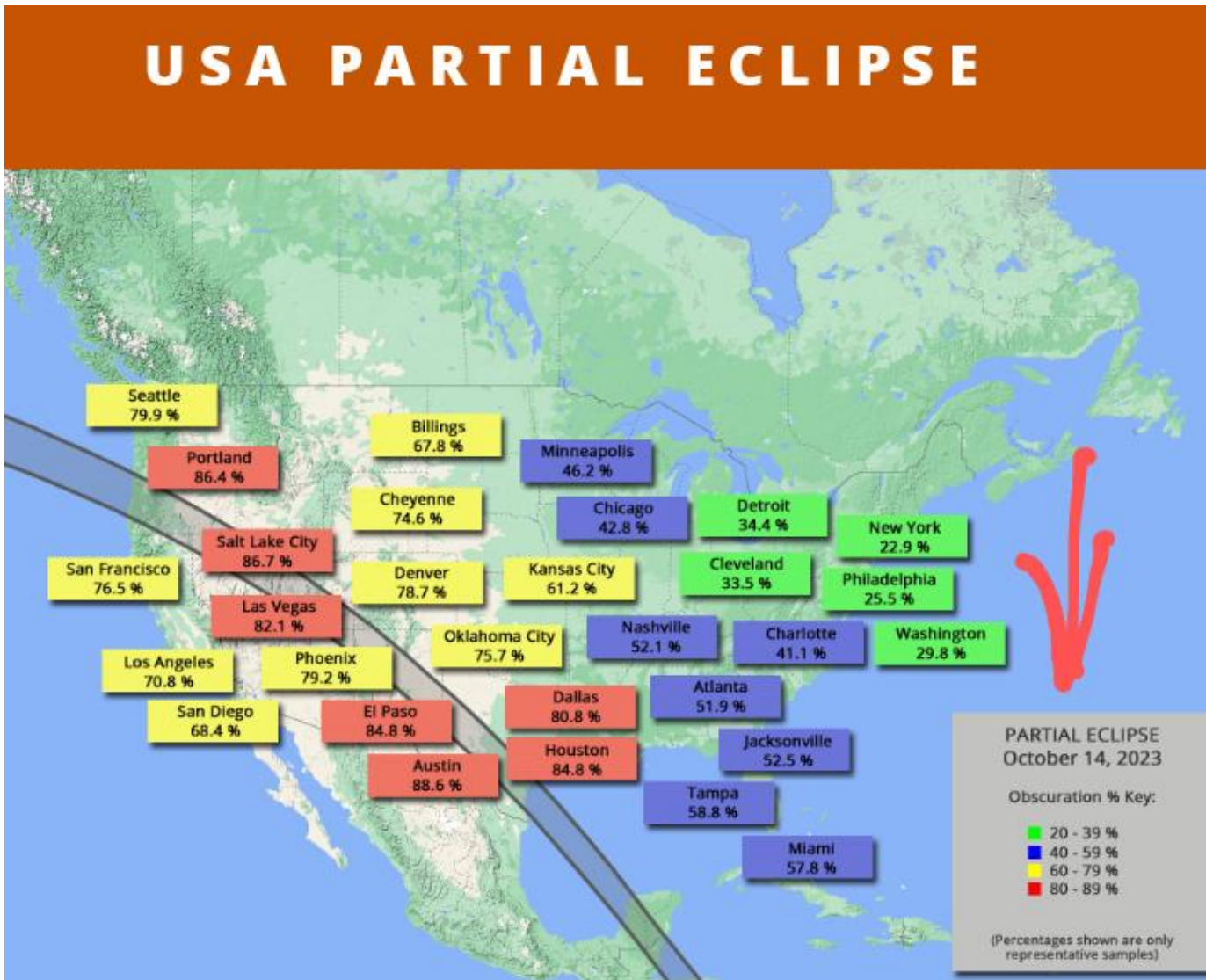


FCC TAKES FIRST SPACE DEBRIS ENFORCEMENT ACTION Settles Investigation of DISH for Failing to Comply with Deorbiting Plan -- WASHINGTON, October 2, 2023—The FCC’s Enforcement Bureau today announced a settlement of its investigation into DISH for failure to properly deorbit its EchoStar-7 satellite. This marks a first in space debris enforcement by the Commission, which has stepped up its satellite policy efforts, including establishing the Space Bureau and implementing its Space Innovation Agenda. The settlement includes an admission of liability from the company and an agreement to adhere to a compliance plan and pay a penalty of \$150,000. The FCC’s investigation found that the company violated the Communications Act, the FCC rules, and the terms of the company’s license by relocating its direct broadcast satellite (“DBS”) service EchoStar-7 satellite at the satellite’s end-of-mission to a disposal orbit well below the elevation required by the terms of its license. At this lower altitude, it could pose orbital debris concerns. “As satellite operations become more prevalent and the space economy accelerates, we must be certain that operators comply with their commitments,” said Enforcement Bureau Chief Loyaan A. Egal. “This is a breakthrough settlement, making very clear the FCC has strong enforcement authority and capability to enforce its vitally important space debris rules.” FCC rules prohibit the use or operation of any apparatus for the transmission of energy or communications or signals by a space or earth station except under and in accordance with a Commission-granted authorization. This vital rule prevents interference in satellite operations and allows the Commission to coordinate and evaluate those operations, including minimizing the creation of space debris and ensuring responsible end-of-mission satellite disposal. DISH launched its EchoStar-7 satellite in 2002. In an orbital debris mitigation plan later filed by DISH, and approved by the Commission in 2012, the company committed to bring the satellite at the end of its mission to an altitude of 300 kilometers (km) above its operational geostationary arc. In subsequent filings with the FCC, DISH estimated that, based on the remaining fuel and projected operational parameters, the satellite’s end-of-mission deorbit maneuvers would take place in May 2022. However, in February 2022, DISH determined that the satellite had very little propellant left, which meant it could not follow the original orbital debris mitigation plan in its license. DISH ultimately retired the satellite at a disposal orbit approximately 122 km above the geostationary arc, well short of the disposal orbit of 300 km specified in its orbital debris mitigation plan. The Consent Decree is available at: <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-23-888A1.pdf>.

Youngstown Area EAS Test Schedule

Both the Ohio AND Western Pennsylvania schedules are posted: WWW.SBE122.US

The 2023 regional information on EAS testing schedules are posted on our website.



From: **Broadcasters' Desktop Resource**



by Barry Mishkind

8/3/23 – The FEMA has announced the date for the 2023 NPT, now known as the “Nationwide Test of the Emergency Alert System.”

The date chosen is October 4th at 2:20 PM Eastern, with a backup date of October 11.

The plan is to test EAS and WEA systems. The FormTwo will be granted an extra day, requiring it to be filed by October 5th. Form Three will be due no later than November 20th.

9/26/23 – Several Part 17 violations – **If your tower has lights and they do not come on at dusk, you have a problem – aircraft safety is at risk. You can hold off some problems by calling the FAA and having an NOTAM filed.** Birach Broadcasting’s WGOP in Pocomoke City, MD did not do that when lights went out on their tower. The FCC contacted the FAA several times over the next 10 months, only to learn Birach had not contacted the FAA, nor had they taken care of a faded and flaking paint situation on the tower itself. Not having the correct street address on the ASR did not help things.

9/22/23 – The FCC has been fining stations for missing uploads to the OPIF. This one, to KVUE(TV), Austin TX, concerns late filings. The EB issued a Memorandum and Order, and an [NALF for \\$6k](#).

9/21/23 – Consent Decrees have been agreed between the FCC and Gendreau Broadcast for OPIF violations for two Clinton, IA stations: KMCN (FM) and KCLN. Clinton. In addition, KCLN had failed to operate according to its license. Civil Penalties of [\\$3k](#) and [\\$6k](#) have been added to the Consent Decrees, [a reduction from the original amounts noted](#), for failing to reduce power at night.

8/31/23 – It is not always easy to repair problems instantly, but the FCC does expect to be kept up to date on any issue that lasts longer than 10 days.

WorthRome, LLC’s KVHZ(AM), Wasilla, AK (and K296FP, Willow Creek, AK) reduced power and hours of operation, and ran silent without telling the FCC. the \$7k [fine was reduced](#) due to true financial hardship.

8/16/23 – Most broadcasters are now aware that the FCC is monitoring the Online Public Information File each station is to update. Especially, each quarter, the EB is looking for stations that failed to upload.

The Virtual Lunch Gathering!

Each Thursday at 2 PM Eastern, 11 AM Pacific, we get together to discuss topics of interest to broadcasters and learn things.

The meeting is held using Zoom to prevent Zoombombing the URL is not published on the web.

Broadcasters Are Invited, (Go to Barry’s site) To Get An Invite.

Recordings of the meetings are usually posted a day or so afterward.

At this time, they are being posted at Youtube on [theBDRnet channel](#).

(So you can leave the local SBE 122 meeting, and then check into Barry's meeting for the latest info.)

Thanks to Barry and the BDR, a great source for the latest news of the industry.

A weekly e-mail report.. and it's FREE

SBE NEWS

The Society of Broadcast Engineers, the association for broadcast and multimedia technology professionals, announces the results of the 2023 election for the national board of directors. Ted D. Hand, CPBE, 8-VSB, AMD, ATSC3, DRB, was elected to his first one-year term as president, which will commence on Sept. 28, 2023. Ted is a member of SBE Chapter 45 Charlotte (North Carolina), and an SBE Fellow Member.

On his election, Ted said, "I look forward to working with the officers, board and SBE membership to further the goals of the Society, including the SBE education and mentoring efforts, which are important to me. I also want to keep the SBE on the forefront of RF spectrum protection." Ted has been an SBE member since 1981. He is currently serving his second one-year term as SBE vice president. He has served as SBE secretary from 2007 to 2011 and in 2015, and SBE treasurer from 2019 to 2021. He has served on the SBE Board of Directors several times: 2002-2004, 2005-2007, 2013-2015, and in 2018.

Elected to vice president is Kevin Trueblood, CBRE, CBNT, of Chapter 90 Southwest FL. Kevin currently serves as SBE treasurer. Kevin has also served as SBE secretary and served one year on the Board of Directors.

Jason Ornellas, CBRE (Chapter 43 Sacramento), was elected treasurer, a position he also held in 2021. He served on the Board of Directors from 2017 to 2021. Geary S. Morrill, CPBE, AMD, CBNE (Chapter 91 Central Michigan) has been elected secretary. Geary has served on the SBE Board of Directors since 2019.

- [Membership](#)
- [Chapters](#)
- [Certification](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Frequency Coordination](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Legislative/Regulatory](#)
- [News & Headlines](#)

Ted Hand Elected President of the Society of Broadcast Engineers

August 16, 2023

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Serving two-year terms on the board of directors, which also begin Sept. 28 are:

- Terry Douds, CPBE; Chapter 52 Central Ohio; Lancaster, OH
 - Brad Humphries, CBT; Chapter 45 Charlotte; Charlotte, NC
 - Zhulieta Ibisheva, CBTE; Chapter 50 Hawaii; Honolulu, HI
 - Charles “Ched” Keiler, CPBE, 8-VSB, ATSC3, CBNE; Chapter 53 South Florida; Deerfield Beach, FL
 - David Ratener, CPBE, CBNT; Chapter 16 Seattle; Kent, WA
 - Jeff Welton, CBRE; Chester, NS
- Ibisheva, Keiler and Ratener were incumbents and were re-elected.

The national board of directors of the SBE is responsible for the development of policy and determines the programs and services the society provides to its more than 4,500 members. Those elected will begin their terms on Sept. 28, 2023, during the SBE Membership Meeting. They will join the other six directors who have another year remaining in their terms:

- David Antoine, CBRE, CBNT; Chapter 15 New York City; Bronx, NY
- Greg Dahl, CPBE; Chapter 96 Rockford; Rockford, IL
- Mark Heller, CPBE; Chapter 80 Fox Valley; Two Rivers, WI
- Tom McGinley, CPBE, AMD, CBNT; Chapter 16 Seattle; Missoula, MT
- Shane Toven, CPBE, DRB, CBNE; Chapter 43 Sacramento; Antelope, CA
- Fred Willard, CPBE, 8-VSB, ATSC3, CBNT; Chapter 37 District of Columbia; Washington, DC

Andrea Cummis, CBT (Chapter 15 New York City), having served two terms as president, becomes the immediate past president.





AM Radio Stations in New Castle, Pa. WKST 1200 and WUZZ 1280 will be swapping call signs within the next few weeks.

The 1280 signal will most likely continue the "OLDIES" format while it appears the 1200 signal may be rebroadcasting WYLE (FM) 95.1.



WWW.SBE.ORG

Don't forget to check out the SBE website. WWW.SBE.ORG

Some of the info available..

[2023 SBE RF Safety Course](#)

[Job Security and What to Do If You Are Fired](#)

[Last-Mile Solutions for Cloud-Based Broadcasting: Part 2](#)

SBE National Headquarters

Society of Broadcast Engineers Inc.

9102 North Meridian Street, Suite 150

Indianapolis, IN 46260 **[317-846-9000](tel:317-846-9000)**



Broadcasters are giving full-throated support to a proposal under consideration at the Federal Communications Commission that would give digital FM stations the ability to increase their power.

“Before consumers fully embrace HD Radio technology, they must be able to hear their local digital stations consistently and reliably, without dropouts and signal impairments, whether inside buildings or while mobile,” says a joint filing from six radio groups, including Audacy, Beasley Media Group, and Spanish Broadcasting System.

Across more than a dozen comments filed with the FCC, radio operators say that fears of potential interference that put limits on digital radio signals a decade ago have not come to fruition. As a result, they argue that broadcasters and listeners will benefit, as will the FCC itself since it will not be required to analyze each request for an increase, including tracking technical exhibits and contour studies.

The proposal ([MB Docket No. 22-405](#)) would change the methodology used to determine if FM stations broadcasting digitally are eligible to increase their digital FM power up to 10% of their analog power. The proposed rule change would also grant blanket authorization to originate digital broadcasts at different power levels on the upper and lower digital sidebands without having to request experimental authorization. Again, they would simply need to file a notification with the FCC.

The idea of raising power is based on engineering work done by the National Association of Broadcasters and Xperi. They [petitioned the FCC](#) last October to reformulate the level of protection analog stations require, saying the current formula overstates the potential for digital interference.

“The Commission’s proposed change to the digital FM power increase methodology will further the already-impressive penetration of the digital FM radio service without creating any unacceptable risk of interference,” NAB and Xperi say in joint comments. Although HD Radio is “thriving,” they say the proposal will finally allow broadcasters to take full advantage of the flexibility provided by the technology.

The industry has made the request to the FCC twice, first in 2019 by NPR and then again by NAB and Xperi after it [conducted two field tests in the New York metro](#). Backing their findings, iHeartMedia says the proposals are “grounded in hard data from comprehensive engineering analyses, field studies, and years of real-world digital operations” and should be allowed to move forward. And iHeart notes that the plan would maintain the Commission’s interference remediation process for the rare case where operational FM digital adjustments would be needed.

Cox Media Group is also onboard with the HD Radio power boost and tells the FCC that interference is unlikely to be much of an issue.

Proposal For Higher-Power Database

While Cumulus Media backs the higher power, the company thinks the FCC needs to recognize that a lot of interference complaints may go underreported because listeners may not recognize the audible, low-pitched “hiss” as interference. “By its nature, digital FM does not provide audible clues that help listeners identify which station in particular is causing interference,” it says.

To address the problem, Cumulus suggests the FCC maintain a database of every station that has increased power that listeners could use to help them decide whether to lodge a complaint. Cumulus says stations working to fix a signal issue could also use the information to help identify the potential source of interference. "This would facilitate remediation and, over time, improve the accuracy of data used to inform future policy regarding FM digital power levels," it says.

Broadcasters Work To Include Superpower FMs

While broadcasters are generally happy with the idea of more power, some think the FCC could go even further. Mount Wilson FM Broadcasters says the proposed approach for superpowered FM stations "is far too restrictive." Mt. Wilson says the FCC got it wrong when it tentatively concluded not to allow superpowered FMs like its "Go Country 105" KKGQ Los Angeles to get an increase.

Superpower FMs are those grandfathered FMs licensed to operate at a higher power than the usual limit for their particular FM class.

"The record demonstrates that the risk of harmful interference by digital FM stations to incumbent services is minimal," Mt. Wilson says, suggesting the FCC could apply the same approach to interference complaints that it does to any other class of station.

Also in favor of more power for superpower stations is iHeartMedia, which says upgrades for those FMs have not shown to be problematic to date. "The record establishes that the proposed power formula will ensure that both class-standard and superpowered stations will not cause objectionable interference," iHeart argues.

It is not just commercial broadcasters that would like more power. Several public radio operators from around the country have also submitted comments saying more power for HD signals would be advantageous.

2023 Elected Officers and Committees

President:	Robert Flis	WFMJ TV
Vice President:	Wes Boyd	Retired/ Semi Homeless, and happy !
Treasurer:	Mike Orto	WYSU / Youngstown State Univ.
Secretary :	John Clarke	iHeart Media Youngstown
Financial Manager:	Melissa Rogers	WYSU 88.5 FM Youngstown State Univ.
Certification:	Wes Boyd	
Frequency Co-ordination:		
1 Ghz and UP	Robert Flis	Under 1 Ghz Wes Boyd
Newsletter:	Wes Boyd	