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We're Listening More



Jacobs Media is out with the results of its 12th annual survey of nearly 40,000 radio listeners.

The survey found almost one in five report spending more time with radio than a year ago, while only one in ten reported spending less time.

A whopping 93% of those surveyed said they spend at least some time listening to the radio while driving. 43% said they spend at least some time listening to personal music. Only 23% reported listening to satellite radio.

The survey revealed that more than eight in ten respondents now own a Smartphone and two-thirds now have a tablet. The survey was conducted Jan. 19 - Feb. 22. The results were released last week.

Comcast buys DreamWorks

Comcast last week bought out DreamWorks Animation for \$3.8 billion.

The move puts Comcast into direct competition with Disney Studios. The deal also padded the pockets of DreamWorks co-founders Stephen Spielberg and Jeffrey Katzenberg. Spielberg made a reported \$187 million, while CEO Katzenberg collected more than \$400 million.

MULTIPLE MURROW AWARDS FOR WPTZ AND VPR



Congratulations to WPTZ-TV and Vermont Public Radio for winning multiple New England region Edward R. Murrow Awards from the Radio Television Digital News Association.

The regional winners were announced April 19. The awards are intended to recognize outstanding achievements in electronic journalism.

WPTZ won top awards in the categories of Continuing Coverage and News Documentary for the station's reporting on the Dannemora prison escapes.

VPR hauled in five awards, including the Overall Excellence award for small market radio. Their other awards were in the categories of Breaking News, News Documentary, Use of Sound and Best Website.

The national winners will be announced in June. To see a list of the regional winners with links to their winning entries, [click here](#).

STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR 61ST VAB CONVENTION

You still have time to register for the Wednesday, May 25 VAB Convention. But don't wait too long!

The convention will be held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in downtown Montpelier. It will feature informative sales, programming and regulatory seminars in the morning, followed by the annual Commercial of the Year Awards luncheon.

NAB President and CEO Gordon Smith is scheduled to address the convention during the luncheon.

Morning seminars will include sales training with Sean Luce, programming insights from Sean Ross, a workplace law refresher from Burlington attorney Kerin Stackpole and a political broadcasting refresher with Washington, D.C. Attorney David Oxenford. Click the poster above to see the full schedule of events.

Tickets are only \$25 each, but you must register in advance, before Friday, May 20. Special thanks to our sponsors: Nielsen and BMI.



[Click here to register today!](#)



SPECTRUM AUCTION TO START MAY 31

By David Oxenford, Wilkinson Barker Knauer LLP

Last week, the FCC announced the spectrum clearing target for the initial stage of the Incentive Auction will be 126 MHz. That means, that if the Incentive Auction is completed in the initial stage with the 126 MHz spectrum clearing target, channels 30-36 and 38-51 will be reallocated for mobile broadband and unlicensed wireless services, leaving UHF channels 14-29 for broadcast TV stations. (Channel 37 will remain allocated for wireless medical telemetry and radio astronomy services.)

The Public Notice also announces the actual bidding in the reverse auction will begin May 31, 2016 and that the FCC will be sending the Final Confidential Status Letter to inform each applicant that was permitted to make an initial commitment in the Reverse Auction of its status with respect to the clock phase of the Reverse Auction. The FCC warns that stations that don't receive this notice by this Wednesday should call the FCC to ask about their distribution of this notice.

FCC FINES PHILLY TV STATION

The FCC imposed a fine of \$89,200 against a Philadelphia Class A TV licensee for failing to make its station available for inspection by FCC agents on multiple occasions, failing to maintain a fully staffed main studio, and failing to operate the station's transmitter from its authorized location.

In August 2011, FCC agents attempted to inspect the station's main studio. After observing that the main studio was inaccessible due to a locked gate, the agents called the station manager who informed the agents he could not facilitate the inspection because he was leaving for a medical appointment.

In September 2011, the agents returned to the station to inspect the main studio. The station manager appeared at the locked gate, and asked the agents to wait as he returned to the building. After waiting for ten minutes, the agents left. In addition, FCC agents found in March 2012 that the station's antenna was actually 0.2 miles from the site listed in the station's license. The agents determined that the station had operated from the unauthorized location for approximately eight years.

- From Pillsbury Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP's [FCC Enforcement Monitor](#)

NEXT GEN TV A STEP CLOSER?

By Scott R. Flick, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP



Fulfilling Chairman Wheeler's promise at the NAB Show to launch a proceeding before the end of the month commencing the process of

authorizing use of ATSC 3.0 by TV broadcasters, the FCC last week released a Public Notice on the subject. The Public Notice seeks comments on an April 13, 2016 Petition filed by a consortium that includes America's Public Television Stations, the AWARN Alliance, the Consumer Technology Association, and the National Association of Broadcasters.

The Public Notice summarizes the petitioners' request for the FCC to: "amend its rules to allow broadcasters to use the signaling portion of the physical layer of the new ATSC 3.0 ('Next Generation TV') broadcast standard, while they continue to deliver current-generation DTV broadcast service to their communities."

More specifically, the Petition asks the Commission to (1) "approve the Next Generation TV transmission standard as a new, optional standard for television broadcasting;" (2) "approve certain rule changes to permit local simulcasting to enable Next Generation TV to be deployed while ensuring that broadcasts in the current DTV standard remain available to viewers."

Moving from the filing of the Petition to releasing the Public Notice in less than two weeks is an impressive feat for the FCC. Readers may recall that the Chairman, speaking at the 2015 NAB Show, announced to broadcasters that the Commission would be voting on an AM Revitalization order "in the coming weeks." A few weeks ultimately stretched out to more than six months, finally leading to the release of an AM Revitalization order in late October.

Those interested in having their say on that future should be aware that the deadline for filing comments is May 26, 2016, with reply comments due June 27, 2016. As a variety of parties make their views known to the FCC in this proceeding, we'll soon know whether the path to ATSC 3.0 leads to a steep climb, or a walk in the digital park.