

**THE VERMONT
ASSOCIATION OF
BROADCASTERS**

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SHVERA MOVES QUICKLY

A House subcommittee moved quickly to endorse the Satellite Home Viewer Extension and Reauthorization Act. Waiving their rights to opening statements, the unanimous action by the House Communications, Technology & Internet Subcommittee on June 26 took all of 30 minutes. A full Commerce committee markup will happen later this summer. Committee members say a deal appears to be close for satellite providers to offer local-into-local service in all 210 TV markets.

CALL CHANGE FOR NY TV

The new Saranac Lake, NY TV station, WCWF (Ch. 40), has changed call letters to WNMN. The station was on the air in analog for a short time, but is now dark while waiting for its digital upgrade to be completed. The station is owned by Channel 61 Associates, LLC. It's expected the station will become a "My Network" affiliate, which is reflected by the new call sign.

DON'T SHOOT YOUR TV!

Federal Bureau of Land Management officials are concerned that a new glut of used analog TV sets may tempt some target shooters to use the boxes for shooting practice. The BLM warns that electronic devices like TVs, computer monitors and even cell phones contain potentially toxic elements. If they're not disposed of properly, the devices pose a threat to the environment. Officials say it can cost up to seven-grand to clean-up a shot-up TV set. Just because Elvis did it doesn't mean it's a good idea!

The VAB Voice



July, 2009

FCC OKAYS FM TRANSLATORS FOR AM STATIONS

Help is on the way for AM stations that have access to FM translators.

In response to the National Association of Broadcasters' July 14, 2006 Petition for Rule Making, and after a Notice of Proposed Rule Making Proceeding released on August 15, 2007, the FCC released a Report and Order June 30 adopting the NAB's proposal that AM station be allowed to use FM translators to retransmit their AM service within their AM stations' current coverage areas.

The action was taken to "permit AM broadcasters to better serve their local communities and thus promote the Commission's bedrock goals of localism, competition and diversity in the broadcast media."



According to the Report and Order, "AM broadcast stations will be allowed to use currently authorized FM translator stations (i.e., those now licensed or authorized in construction permits that have not expired) to rebroadcast their AM signals, provided that no portion of the 60 dBu contour of any such FM translator signal extends beyond the smaller of: (a) a 25-mile radius from the AM transmitter site; or (b) the 2 mV/m daytime contour of the AM station.

In addition, AM broadcast stations with Class D facilities...will be allowed to originate programming on such FM translators during the periods when their AM station is not operating."

The new rules are scheduled to take effect on the later of: (a) thirty (30) days after publication of the text or a summary of the Report and Order in the Federal Register, or (b) announcement in the Federal Register of OMB approval of the new rules and requirements involving Paperwork Reduction Act burdens.

AM stations will also have the opportunity to use LPFM stations to broadcast their signals, if all LPFM rules (non-commercial) are met.

- With help from Dick Zaragoza

RIAA MAY HAVE LOST BY WINNING SUIT VS. MINNESOTA MOM

While the proposed performance fee appears to be dead for this year, thanks to lack of support in the House, it's sure to keep rearing its head.

However, the main group pushing the fee, the RIAA, may have suffered a public relations backlash over an unrelated lawsuit. And at least one commentator believes the backlash may make it impossible for politicians to get on board the next time the performance fee comes up for action.

At issue is the RIAA's recent victory against Minnesota mom Jamie Thomas-Rasset. Someone in her household downloaded 24 songs from a free file-sharing service. A Minnesota jury last month awarded the RIAA \$1.92 MILLION dollars, or 80-thousand per song.

New York Daily News media reporter David Hinckley recently wrote, "Radio seems to have beaten back the royalty push this year. But the battle isn't over because this is one of those cases where there are reasonable argu-

ments on both sides, which means a number of legislators could presumably go either way.

One of the key questions, then, is which side it seems more appealing to join, and that's where the \$1.92 million downloading verdict could kick in.

If the RIAA looks like a cold money-grabbing machine that is willing to crush a divorced mom for downloading 24 songs, well, that may not be the organization with which legislators will rush to be lining up."



HELP THE VAB DESIGN A NEW LOGO FIRST PRIZE IS \$1000!

There will also be two (2) winners of \$250 prizes drawn at random from all entries!

The time has come to freshen up the VAB logo that we use on our newsletters, correspondence and at VAB events. Since we know how creative the Vermont broadcast community is, we decided to make a contest out of our need for a new logo and to open the contest to employees of our member stations! If you don't consider yourself artistic, don't worry. We're looking for great concepts here, not necessarily a finished product. Plus, there's a random drawing for two \$250 prizes!

The old logo



The new logo



YOUR
DESIGN
HERE!

HOW TO ENTER

Eligibility: The VAB Logo Design Contest is open to all employees of VAB member radio and television stations.

Entries: Your logo design may be drawn freehand, computer-assisted or a combination thereof. You may enter as often as you'd like up until the entry deadline of Friday, August 28, 2009. Freehand drawings may be done in any medium (paint, ink, pencil, etc).

Entries should be no larger than 8.5" X 11" and may either be scanned and sent electronically via email to vab@together.net or mailed to: VAB Logo Contest, 500A Dalton Drive, Colchester, VT 05446. Entries will not be returned.

Each entry must include your name, address, telephone number and email address, as well as your radio or TV station affiliation.

Deadline: Email entries must be received by midnight, Aug. 28, 2009. Entries sent through the mail must be postmarked by Aug. 28, 2009.

Judging: The VAB Board of Directors shall be the sole judges for the VAB Logo Design Contest, and their decisions shall be final. The identities of the entrants shall not be revealed to the judges until the judging is completed.

Winners will be required to sign a release form relinquishing all rights to the winning logo designs. The judges shall make their decisions public no later than Nov. 7, 2009.

Prizes: One (1) grand prize winner will be selected from all entries received. The winner will be presented with a check for \$1000.00 from the VAB.

Two (2) second prize winners will be drawn at random and will each be presented with checks for \$250.00. Every person who enters the VAB Logo Design Contest will receive one entry in the random drawing, regardless of how many logo designs they have entered.

Questions? Please call Jim Condon at 802-655-5764 or email Jim at vab@together.net.