

**THE VERMONT
ASSOCIATION OF
BROADCASTERS**

500A DALTON DRIVE
COLCHESTER, VT 05446
(802) 655-5764
VAB@TOGETHER.NET

AM TRANSLATORS ON HOLD

A proposal to give AM stations the permanent ability to use FM translators was abruptly taken off the FCC's September agenda.

Currently, AM stations may be granted temporary authority to broadcast on an FM translator that corresponds to the AM station's contours. About 150 such STA permissions have been granted by the FCC. Most broadcast companies, however, are looking for permanent authority before investing in the licensing and operation of a translator.

Observers believe the issue was taken off the agenda at the behest of LPFM advocates who fear fewer frequencies will be available for their clients.

HD MUST CARRY FOR SATRAD?

Any satellite radio receiver that is equipped to carry AM or FM signals would also have to carry HD radio signals, under a bill introduced by Massachusetts Rep. Ed Markey.

Markey said in a press statement, "Millions of Americans today rely on local broadcast radio for news, public safety bulletins, sports, weather, traffic, and other information. As the broadcast radio industry migrates to digital broadcasting technology, this legislation will ensure that consumers are able to readily receive free service through consumer electronics systems that are otherwise receiving satellite digital audio radio and traditional AM or FM stations."

If passed, the bill would be a major boost for HD radio, especially in the new car market.

The VAB Voice



The VAB VOICE

October, 2008

Hundreds See the Digital Difference in Downtown Burlington

The NAB's DTV Road Show paid a visit to Burlington September 24, and a steady stream of consumers kept the staff busy all day with questions about the digital transition.

The NAB has sponsored two



DTV Trekkers to go visit the 48 continental United States to help spread the word about the February 18 switchover.

Those who stopped by during the visit to the Church Street Marketplace were able to see a live comparison of analog and

digital signals at the display.

People also had the chance to win hats, pens and water bottles by spinning a prize wheel. Three digital converter boxes were also given away in a random drawing.

During the course of the day, hundreds of interested shoppers and residents were able to have their DTV questions answered by the two DTV staffers, assisted by some local helpers from VPT and the VAB.

Special thanks go to WPTZ-TV for their decision to broadcast the 6 p.m. news from the DTV display area on the Marketplace.

Vermont's Fallen Heroes To Be Remembered Always

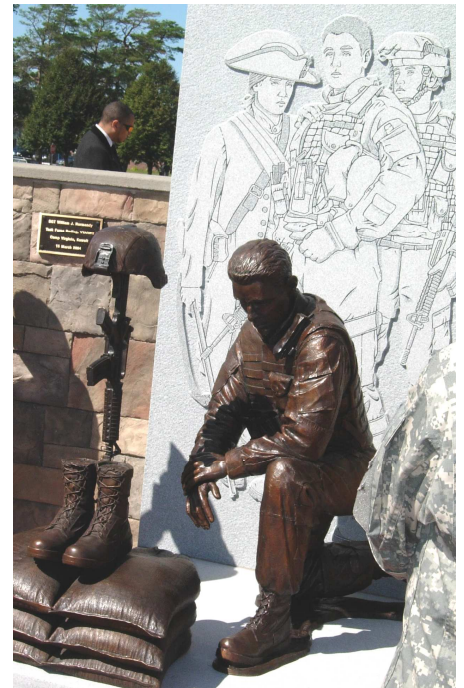
Sunny skies mixed with a somber mood at Camp Johnson September 11th as the Vermont National Guard unveiled a lasting tribute to those Guard members who made the ultimate sacrifice in the war on terrorism.

The unveiling of the sculpture and memorial wall at the Colchester base came on the seventh anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Present guard members and local dignitaries welcomed the families of the eleven Vermont guard members who gave their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Sculptor Terry Jones of Newton Square, Pennsylvania says he was trying to design a space where visitors can find solace and enjoy quiet reflection.

The project took 18 months to design and construct. The National Guard Charitable Foundation is helping to raise the \$300,000 needed to complete the project. Large donors include Revision Eyewear, Inc., the Tarrant family and Hall Communications.

Personalized bricks are also being sold to raise money for the memorial. For more information, please visit www.vermontremembers.com.



FREE WORKPLACE SEMINARS FROM

THE VAB

If you're in a management or human resources position at your broadcasting company, you're encouraged to sign up for an important seminar concerning appropriate practices in the workplace.

"Creating Respectful Work Environments & Preventing Unlawful Harassment" will be presented by Mark Heyman of Cope Consulting, Inc. of Burlington on Oct. 15 in Burlington and Oct. 28 in Rutland.

Understanding the laws regarding workplace behavior will help you and your station avoid costly legal battles. The seminar is being underwritten by the VAB, and there is NO CHARGE for personnel from VAB member stations.

The seminar will begin at 9 a.m. on both dates. Coffee and snacks will be provided. To register, call Jim Condon at 655-5764 or email Jim at vab@together.net.

Webcaster Settlement Act - What Does It Mean?

By David Oxenford

Both the House and the Senate have approved the Webcaster Settlement Act of 2008. Just what does this bill do? It does not announce a settlement of the Internet Radio royalty dispute. It does not change the standard for judging Internet radio royalties, as had been proposed in the Internet Radio Equality Act.. It seems to only adopt a simplified process for the approval of settlements that may be reached by the parties on or before February 15, 2009.

Under current law, any settlement between any group of webcasters and SoundExchange could only be binding on the entire universe of copyright holders if that settlement was approved by the Copyright Royalty Board.

In 2002, faced with a similar issue when the RIAA and a group of small webcasters

with which I worked tried to reach a deal, Congress stepped in and passed the Small Webcaster Settlement Act. SWSA allowed a settlement to bypass CRB and go into effect simply upon submission of the settlement to the Library of Congress by a set deadline, and the Copyright Office publishing it in the Federal Register.

The Webcasting Settlement Act adopts that same system. If any group reaches a settlement with SoundExchange by February 15, 2009, they need only submit it to the CRB, which will then publish it in the Federal Register, and it will become effective and binding on all copyright holders.

The Webcaster Settlement Act makes it easy for settlements to go into effect - now we need to see if the hard part, actually entering into settlements, will occur.

DTV ATTENTION TURNS TO ANTENNAS

Thanks to the efforts of the broadcast community, the vast majority of Americans now knows that Digital TV will replace analog TV, and that the switchover will be completed on Feb. 18, 2009.



The challenge now is to make sure those viewers who rely on over-the-air reception get their converter boxes set up now, so they can make any needed adjustments to their rooftop antennas before all the roofs in Vermont are covered with snow and ice.

The digital signal provides a much better picture than analog, but doesn't travel quite as far. Some people will need to tinker with their antenna setups to maximize their DTV experience.

U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont recently wrote the FCC to urge that more attention be paid to the antenna issue.

Sanders also suggested a program similar to the converter box coupon could be established to help people pay for new antennas. Sanders said some people will have to invest more than \$400 on new antenna equipment.

Meanwhile, the NAB has just released two new TV PSA's that focus on the antenna issue.

THURSTON "NABS" RARE HOF DOUBLE; KNIGHT, LOBEL ALSO FETED BY MAB



Don Thurston

Three broadcasters with strong ties to Vermont were among a group of 16 inducted into the Massachusetts Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame last month in Boston. One of the inductees, Don Thurston of North Adams, is also a member of the VAB Hall of Fame.

Thurston began his career at WTVN in St. Johnsbury in 1949, and helped put three stations on the air in Vermont, including WIKE, named in honor of Dwight Eisenhower. He later started Berkshire Broadcasting in Massachusetts, and besides being a former officer for the VAB, has also served as NAB Chairman and Chairman of the Board for BMI.



Norman Knight

Also inducted in the MAB Hall of Fame was Norman Knight of Knight Quality Stations, the longtime operator of WEZF-FM in Colchester. Born in St. Louis in 1924, Knight became President of RKO General in 1953. He founded Knight Quality Stations in 1959, and at one point operated 20 stations. The group still operates stations in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Knight is perhaps best known for his wide-ranging philanthropic work.



Bob Lobel

One other inductee with direct ties to Vermont was sportscaster Bob Lobel. In the late 1970's, Lobel honed his broadcasting talents at WJOY radio in Burlington, where he covered sporting events and co-hosted the morning show. He later moved to WGIR in Manchester, NH and then on to WBZ in Boston. After nearly three decades at WBZ-TV, Lobel is back in radio at oldies station WODS-FM.