

Vermont Association of
Broadcasters
500A Dalton Drive
Colchester, VT 05446
(802) 655-5764
vab@vab.org
www.vab.org

The VAB Voice



STUART HALL



1921—2011

Legendary TV weatherman Stuart Hall passed away September 25 at his residence in South Burlington. He was 90.

A charter member of the VAB Hall of Fame, Hall was born February 26, 1921 in Taunton, Mass. to William and Pauline Hallahan.

He served in the Navy in World War II and after the war studied broadcasting at Northeastern. His first broadcasting job was at WJDA radio in Quincy. He also led a local big band and as a singer was a winner on Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts program in 1949.

In 1954, he was offered a job as Assistant Production Director at WCAX-TV (then WVMT-TV). He also became the station's weatherman, a job he held and loved for 45 years.

His kind demeanor, smooth delivery and natural curiosity about the weather made him extraordinarily popular with viewers. The evening news team of Hall, Mickey Gallagher and Tony Adams was one of the longest-serving news teams in broadcasting history.

Donations in his memory may be made to the VT Alzheimer's Assoc., 300 Cornerstone Drive, Williston, VT 05495.

October, 2011

EAS DEADLINE EXTENDED TO JUNE 30

The FCC has moved the deadline for all CAP-compliant EAS units from September 30, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

The commission's order acknowledged the fact that they have yet to establish rules regarding so-called "intermediary" devices, equipment that be used to upgrade an existing encoder to make it CAP-compliant. The FCC says they have not yet determined if such devices meet the criteria established under previous orders.

The delay was requested by the NAB, the VAB and other groups. This marks the second extension granted by the FCC.

While the CAP deadline has been extended, there will be no delay for the first-ever National EAS test, scheduled for Nov. 9, 2011 at 2 p.m. More information

about the test, including access to a FEMA National EAS Test Toolkit, is available on our website, www.vab.org.



Last week, FEMA conducted a statewide test in Nevada as a warm-up for the national test. A Required Monthly Test message was sent to stations in Reno and Las Vegas and then re-broadcast on a total of about 200 radio and TV stations. Some stations say they did not receive the test for one reason or another. Overall, though, officials say they were pleased.

VPR AND VPT PITCH IN FOR VERMONT FLOOD RELIEF



Add VPR and VPT to the long list of Vermont stations that have gone above and beyond the call of duty to assist the flood relief effort in Vermont.

A September 13 fundraiser by VPR brought in more than \$600,000 in donations from listeners who wanted to help those hurt by Tropical Storm Irene.

The money was raised in a 16-hour period, and station WVTI (106.9 MHz) in Bright- on has switched to VPR's as much as they've ever raised in a one-day event.

VPR General Manager Robin Turnau told the Burlington Free Press the fundraiser "went beyond anything we could have imagined."

VPR has also signed on a new station in the flood zone. WVNK (91.1 MHz) has recently gone on the air, broadcasting from Manchester, VT. The new station is carrying

VPT, meanwhile, has teamed up with Peoples United Bank to raise cash for flood aid. Contributions made by VPT viewers during three nights of a live fundraising campaign were matched by the bank. No word yet on how much was raised.



TWO VT FM'S APPEAR ON NEW AUCTION LIST



David Oxenford

Looking for opportunities for a new FM station? The FCC has just released a list of new FM channels to be auctioned in the next FM auction, scheduled to begin on March 27, 2012, along with the proposed rules for that auction. On the list of channels, the proposed minimum bid for each channel is also set out. If the Commission follows the schedule used in prior auctions, we should expect that the deadline for

the "short-form" application to participate in the auction (which basically contains information about the ownership of the applicant and a list of the channels in which they are interested) will be due in early 2012, likely sometime between January 1 and January 15, 2012. The upfront payment of the necessary minimum bids would then likely be due around February 20, 2012 or so.

In Vermont, there are two frequencies on the auction list. The first is a Class C3 FM (up to 6KW) at 94.1 MHz proposed for Canaan, with a starting bid of \$5000. The other is a Class A (up to 25KW) at 92.5 MHz proposed for Poultney with a starting bid of \$25,000.

If you are interested, you need to start your due diligence on each channel now, as the bidder is responsible for insuring that the channel for which they are bidding can be built and will serve the audience that the applicant expects. If you win the auction and decide that you can't really find a transmitter site, then you may well be on the hook for the full amount of the bid even if you don't build the station. For more information, visit the FCC's website at www.fcc.gov.

IS THERE REALLY A SPECTRUM SHORTAGE?

As Congress tries to find money to keep Uncle Sam afloat, it's likely they'll consider the possible auction of 40 percent of current TV spectrum to wireless carriers. Stations above Channel 30 may have to leave their channel and find or share a lower frequency.

Agreements with Canada mean there wouldn't be any room at all for many stations along the Northern Border, including some in Vermont according to a study by the NAB. Stations that *can* find a space may have to trim their coverage areas. Either way, millions of over-the-air viewers will be denied access to their favorite programs. Detroit, for instance, would lose over-the-air coverage of all three major networks! The Canadian agreements have to be renegotiated, at the very least.

Meanwhile, a new study by Citigroup Global finds that the wireless folks have plenty of spectrum right now. The study notes that wireless carriers have 538 MHz of spectrum and another 300MHz waiting in the wings. Right now, however, they're only using 192 MHz. To quote the study's bottom line: "We do not believe the US faces a spectrum shortage." Go figure! - Jim Condon

HALL OF FAME BANQUET NOV. 19



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

The red carpet will be rolled out in grand style the evening of Nov. 19 at the Burlington Hilton when the VAB presents the annual Hall of Fame Banquet!

We've received dozens of excellent nominations for our prestigious awards, including Broadcaster of the Year, Community Service Awards, Distinguished Service Awards and, of course, the VAB Hall of Fame. We expect to announce this year's honorees in early October, so keep an eye on our website at www.vab.org.

The evening will begin with a cocktail hour and continue with a delicious dinner served up by the award-winning chefs at the Hilton. The awards ceremony will follow.

Full details, including special room rates, ticket prices and the evening schedule will be sent to you soon. We hope to see you there!

NAB SEEKS DC INTERNSHIPS

The NAB's education foundation has asked all state associations if they would be interested in sharing the costs of setting up a 50 state news internship. Under the plan, each state would select at least one college junior or senior to go work as a credentialed reporter at a new NAB Capitol Hill newsroom. The interns, after training sessions, would be sent into the field to cover the White House, Congress and more. Their radio and TV stories would be available to all VAB members. They're looking for a \$5000 a year commitment for three years. The VAB board would like to get member input on this idea. Please send your thoughts to vab@vab.org. Thank you!

HELP US SAVE POSTAGE AND PAPER!

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