

**THE VERMONT
ASSOCIATION OF
BROADCASTERS**

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WJJR UP FOR MARCONI

Rutland radio station WJJR-FM is one of only two New England radio stations to be nominated for this year's prestigious Marconi Awards. The awards will be presented at the NAB Radio Show in Austin, Texas later this month.



The Catamount Radio station is up for "AC Station of the Year," competing against stations in Chicago, Miami and Des Moines.

WJJR was nominated in part because of its full-service response to the damaging windstorms that rocked the city in April, 2007. The storm was dubbed a "Nor'icane," as it seemed part hurricane and part Nor'easter. The storm left about 70,000 people without power, and caused millions of dollars in damage.

GM Debbie Grembowicz said the all-out effort by WJJR and sister station WSYB-AM to keep the public safe and informed during the storm, "was radio the way it was meant to be." She singled out Operations Manager Terry Jaye for his efforts.

The only other station in New England up for a Marconi this year is Boston's WEEI-AM, nominated as Best Sports Station. WEEI's Glenn Ordway has also been nominated as Best Sports Reporter.

The VAB Voice



The VAB VOICE

September, 2008

DTV Roadshow Set to Roll into Downtown Burlington

People visiting downtown Burlington will have a chance to see the digital TV difference up close on September 24. That's the day the NAB's DTV Roadshow is scheduled to roll onto the Church Street Marketplace.

NAB has two DTV Trekkers – moving trucks designed to resemble giant television sets – crisscrossing the country from now until transition day in 2009.

NAB's traveling road show is promoting the DTV transition and benefits of free digital broadcasting and antenna recep-



tion at 600 events in 200 markets nationwide. The road show is traveling to cities, state fairs, sporting events and other areas where thousands of people can get DTV-related information.

One of the central grassroots marketing initiatives of the NAB

(National Association of Broadcasters), the DTV Road Show is helping to increase consumer awareness of the February 17, 2009 transition to digital television (DTV) in targeted areas with high proportions of broadcast-only households.

Not only will consumers get answers to their DTV questions, they will also have a chance to win some prizes, courtesy of the NAB.

The DTV Roadshow is scheduled to be on the Marketplace from 9 a.m. til 6 p.m. Come out and join us for fun, prizes and DTV answers for the entire family!

Campaign Season Means Return of "Lowest Unit Rates"

**An important reminder from
VAB attorney David Oxenford:**

The Lowest Unit Rate "political window" opens on September 5, meaning that stations cannot charge political candidates any more than the lowest rate that is charged a commercial advertiser for the same class of time run at the same time as the candidate's spot.

We have reminded broadcasters that the Lowest Unit Rate must be available to all candidates for public office - including state & local candidates. While state and local candidates have no right of reasonable access (meaning a station can decide not to sell time to those candidates, or to restrict their purchase of time to particular limited dayparts), if the



station sells state and local candidates time, it must be at Lowest Unit Rates during the political window.

A "class" is a type of spot that has unique rights and characteristics. For instance, spots that run in different dayparts which have different rates are of a different class, e.g. morning drive is a different class from mid-day, which is different from afternoon drive. Each of those classes would have its own lowest unit rate.

Even within a given daypart, a station may have spots of many different classes. Different rotations can also be different classes with their own lowest unit rate, e.g. a spot which could run anytime between 6 a.m. and midnight could be a different class from one that can run between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. If the stations sells these rotations, and sells them with differing rates, rights of preemption, or make good privileges, then they would be of a different class and each would have a different lowest unit rate.

**For more information,
please visit the
"Political Rules"
section of our
website, www.vab.org.**

VAB TO OFFER

FREE WORKPLACE SEMINARS

If you're in a management or human resources position at your broadcasting company, keep an eye on your mailbox. You will be receiving an invitation from the VAB 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. All managers, HR personnel and EEO officers are urged to sign up for the free presentation. The seminar will be offered twice. The first is scheduled for Oct. 15 at the Burlington Hilton. The second will be Oct. 28 at the Rutland Holiday Inn. To register or request a copy of the seminar flyer, please call VAB Executive Director Jim Condon at 655-5764 or email jim at vab@together.net.

Compromise Near in Device Debate?

The FCC has been testing so-called "Unlicensed Devices" for more than a year, seeing if these internet gadgets should be allowed to use some of the unused television spectrum.

While Microsoft, Motorola and others want the FCC to okay the unlicensed use of the spectrum, many broadcasters have objected to the possible interference the devices could cause (and have caused in all tests so far).

The Washington Post reports that two groups that had been pushing for the unlicensed spectrum have proposed an alternative.

The Post reports Qualcomm, "a wireless chip maker, and CTIA, the wireless industry's lobbying association in Washington, are calling for the airwaves to be auctioned off and licensed.

Qualcomm said licensing the airwaves will ensure wider coverage and protection from interference, and auctioning the

spectrum would raise money for the government as well."

The Post notes the unlicensed spectrum is already getting crowded, with everything from Bluetooth devices, cordless phones and garage door openers.

In the TV spectrum, someone using an unlicensed device could unwittingly cause widespread interference. The National Religious Broadcasters group, for instance, is worried the devices will interfere with wireless microphone transmission in houses of worship.

The idea to license the white space devices has received positive responses from Congress and from the NAB, which has been the leading critic of the devices.

NAB Executive Vice President Dennis Wharton says the proposal is worth taking a look at.

An estimated 19 billion dollars was raised through the recent spectrum auction.



KEILLOR BRINGS "PRAIRIE HOME" TO VERMONT

The distinctions between Lake Champlain and Lake Woebegone were blurred late last month when radio humorist Garrison Keillor brought his popular "A Prairie Home Companion" program to the Champlain Valley Fair in Essex Junction on August 23.

A 1994 inductee into the National Radio Hall of Fame, Keillor has hosted the variety show, with occasional breaks, since 1974.

The program recorded in Essex Junction will be broadcast on Vermont Public Radio at 6 p.m. on September 6 and 11 p.m. on September 7.

Keillor didn't shy away from poking fun at Vermont during the show. Burlington Free Press reviewer Brent Hallenbeck noted Keillor said it made sense to host the program from Vermont, a state where so many young people grow up being forced to listen to the show.

One skit involved flying on Northeast Kingdom Airlines, where a stewardess named Conifer explained that to be politically correct, the airline only extracted its jet fuel from fields where the workers received full health benefits.

Another skit included a Vermont alternative energy festival where an attempt to produce cow flop power didn't work until Hillary Clinton arrived on the scene.

A Prairie Home Companion is produced and distributed by American Public Media, Inc.



REGULATORY FEES DUE SEPTEMBER 25

A Reminder From Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP:

FCC licensees and permittees subject to annual regulatory fees must make their Fiscal Year 2008 payments on or before 11:59 PM, EDT, on September 25, 2008.

Regulatory fees are owed for any FCC authorizations held as of October 1, 2007. In the case of a sale of a station, the full amount must be paid by the new holder of the authorization as of September 25, 2008. Parties to such transactions should have made arrangements regarding the apportionment of the fees among themselves as part of their negotiations.

This year the Commission mailed assessment notices to licensees/permittees reflecting the FCC's understanding of their required payment obligations. Those notices may not include all of your stations and do not take into account any of your auxiliary licenses for which fees are also due. Accordingly, you should not assume that the notice is correct or complete.

The Commission strongly encourages parties to utilize the FCC's online payment system, FeeFiler, found at http://www.fcc.gov/fees/feefiler.html. If you prefer not to pay online, you can mail your payment and a completed Remittance Advice Form (FCC Form 159) to: Federal Communications Commission, Regulatory Fees, P.O. Box 979084, St. Louis, Missouri 63197-9000.