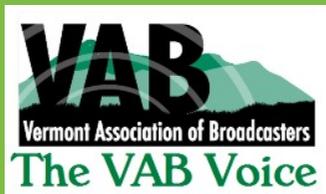


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A BRIDGE FOR GORDIE LITTLE



More than a hundred folks showed up July 29 as a bridge between the Town of Plattsburgh and Schuyler Falls was renamed the “**Gordie Little Memorial Bridge**” in honor of the longtime radio personality who died 13 months ago.

Little worked briefly at WICY and WEAV before joining WIRY in 1961. He served as both News and Program Director before departing WIRY in 1997.

He stayed busy after radio, writing weekly columns for local newspapers and producing hundreds of shows for local access TV. He was 79 when he passed away unexpectedly on June 22, 2016.

His son, Kirk Little, told the crowd, ““He was very popular in person, not popular just for celebrity sake, but because he was so good to so many people....he gave everything that he had to people, literally in terms of his stuff, but most often in terms of his time and energy and he did that very joyfully.”

BROADCASTERS RIP MICROSOFT PROPOSAL



The NAB has filed comments with the FCC in opposition to a proposal by Microsoft that it be guaranteed access to 18 MHz of unlicensed television spectrum to provide internet service to some rural areas.

Microsoft says it will be able to serve two million customers who have little or no service now. The NAB, however, is concerned the plan would pose serious interference issues and giving all the so-called “white space” to Microsoft would

stifle other uses for the spectrum. Other uses could include relief for stations who will be forced to move, or re-pack, their signals as a result of the recent spectrum auction.

“Microsoft is engaged in a regulatory bait and switch, asserting that the promises it made about the potential for white spaces can only be realized if the FCC gives Microsoft something new: a guarantee of at least three vacant channels for white spaces operation nationwide,” the NAB said, adding, “Microsoft’s proposal will cause direct and immediate harm to translators and low power television stations displaced by the broadcast television spectrum incentive auction.

NAB concluded: “If Microsoft so urgently needs guaranteed access to low-band spectrum for its business plans, it should have participated in the incentive auction and won the right to licensed spectrum that would provide the certainty Microsoft claims it needs.”

Former FEMA head Craig Fugate is also against the idea, arguing that rural areas will become less safe. “If Microsoft gets its way, a television station or translator will likely be left without a landing slot on the TV dial and forced off the air forever in many markets throughout the country. As someone who has devoted his career to emergency management, I am concerned about any proposal that forces Americans to lose access to local television stations. Local TV is one of the most reliable and trusted ways for the public

VAB AWARD NOMINATIONS DUE BY SEPTEMBER 15

The window for **nominations** for the 2017 VAB Hall of Fame Awards Banquet will close Friday, September 15. This year’s banquet will be held Saturday evening, December 2 at the Hilton Burlington. Nominations are being sought for the VAB Hall of Fame, Broadcaster of the Year, Community Service Awards, Distinguished Service Awards and the Snyder-Teffner Award for excellence behind the scenes.

To make a nomination, [click here](#). To see our previous winners, [click here](#).

PREPARE NOW FOR THE SEPTEMBER 27 NATIONAL EAS TEST



By **David Oxenford**, Wilkinson Barker Knauer LLP

We wrote **earlier** about the upcoming EAS Nationwide Test (September 27, 2017 with a back-up date of October 4, 2017 in the event of potential real emergencies) and the need for broadcasters to make sure that their EAS equipment is operating in compliance with all FCC rules. The FCC itself has now released its own **Public Notice** detailing the many things that broadcasters need to check at their facilities before the upcoming test, including the need to update their information in the ERTS EAS reporting system by August 28. The FCC also issued a **new EAS Handbook** detailing broadcaster's EAS obligations.

The Public Notice notes that the EAS test will focus on the IPAWS internet-based system through which the common alerting protocol ("CAPS") alert is sent - a system that was mandated a few years ago as an additional way for alerts to be conveyed to stations to supplement the traditional "daisy-chain" of alerts being passed from one broadcast station to another (see our articles **here**, **here** and **here**). The internet-based system will allow both English and Spanish versions of the Nationwide alert to be transmitted and will also provide text of the message that can be converted to a video crawl on TV screens.

The Public Notice provides a list of potential EAS issues that each station should review to make sure that their EAS systems are operating in compliance with the rules. The Notice also sets August 28, 2017 as the deadline for all stations to complete their "2017 ERTS Form One" setting out information about each station's EAS decoders, encoders or combined units. ERTS is the system that reports on the results of the EAS tests.

Test results will need to be filed on Form Two in ERTS on September 27 before midnight, with more detailed information about the results of the test to be submitted in a Form Three by November 13, 2017. The FCC warns stations to start looking at these forms now - particularly the one due on August 28 - to make sure that your information is updated and accurate and you are ready for the September test. As we suggested in our earlier post, this public notice makes clear that now is the time for all stations to review their EAS equipment, and the ERTS Forms, to get ready for the Nationwide Test.

LICENSING NEWS: RMLC ASKS FOR GMR INJUNCTION; NEW DATABASE ON THE WAY



The Radio Music Licensing Committee (RMLC) has asked a federal court for a preliminary injunction against Global Music Rights (GMR). RMLC filed an antitrust lawsuit against GMR last year and the case is still pending. RMLC asked the federal court in Philadelphia to prevent GMR from engaging in "overtly coercive actions" while the fate of the antitrust suit is decided. The RMLC's motion also asks the court to order GMR to continue to offer interim music performance licenses to those radio stations who elect to take one on identical terms to those interim licenses already in effect since January. GMR has been trying to muscle in on ASCAP and BMI's turf by signing popular recording artists to exclusive licensing deals and threatening

broadcasters with lawsuits if they don't pay up for licensing rights.

Meanwhile, Congress and the two largest music licensing companies are working on creating a database to help determine who holds which rights when it comes to music licensing. Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner recently introduced the Transparency in Music Licensing Ownership Act, which would establish an information database for musical works and sound recordings.

Shortly after the bill was introduced ASCAP and BMI announced they would create such a database on their own. Their database will cover musical works from the combined catalogues of the two leading performance rights organizations. It's possible other rights organizations such as SESAC and Global Music Rights (GMR), could also join the effort.

The joint project has been underway for a year and is currently analyzing, testing, and reconciling data.