



IEEE Broadcast Technology

The technologies to deliver information and entertainment
to audiences worldwide, at home and on the go

*C-Band Satellite Repack Clears
Spectrum For 5G – See p. 5*

BTS Pulse Events Continue – See p. 12

President's Message

Ralph Hogan, BTS President



As the pandemic continues worldwide and more of the population is getting vaccinated, face-to-face meetings are slowly starting up again. It has been a rough two years for meetings and conferences. The new normal may be hybrid events for the foreseeable future, and some events may stay virtual as others return to in-person gatherings.

I was fortunate to attend the first face-to-face ATSC membership and general meeting in 18 months in Washington, D.C. held Aug. 25-26, 2021. Safety protocols were in place, and everyone wore a mask. The event had a surprisingly large turnout for this meeting. The number of NexGen TV facilities continues to grow in the United States as we go into 2022.

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The U.S. October NAB Show was canceled for October due to safety concerns and has been rescheduled for April 2022 in Las Vegas. BTS leadership watched world conditions for our participation in the NAB Show as an exhibitor and presenter during the Broadcast Engineering and Information Technology (BEIT) conference. The decision not to participate for safety reasons happened just days before NAB announced the cancellation of the event.

The IBC show, initially scheduled for September this year, was rescheduled to December due to the pandemic, as the Netherland government relaxed its pandemic protocol for visitors to come to the Netherlands. However, shortly before the IBC event, the Netherlands tightened up entry into the country again because of increased coronavirus cases. A couple of weeks before IBC was scheduled to open in late November, the IBC board met and canceled the 2021 event due to safety reasons.

We look forward to IBC returning in 2022.

As reported previously, Broadcast Technology is undergoing a five-year society review by IEEE Technical Activities. BTS received comments from the SCRC and filed reply comments to the Society Review Committee report with the SCRC committee of TAB on Oct. 8, 2021. Since the last review, our most significant error was not having timely updates to the BTS Constitution and By-laws. Since last May, an ad hoc committee chaired by Samina Husain has been working on revising our governance documents, Constitution and By-laws, to bring them into compliance with the TAB Operations manual and IEEE governance. They have gone through a couple of revisions and approval of the AdCom, and then were submitted to TAB governance for review and comment. We received several minor comments for changes that had to be again approved by the AdCom. The vice president of TAB approved our final document language on Nov. 2, and it is now published on the BTS website and distributed to the membership via the BTS newsletter.

Amanda Temple, Broadcast Technology Society Operations manager, resigned from her BTS position on Nov. 1, 2021. Amanda worked for IEEE for 22+ years, and BTS for nine years; during that time, she provided guidance and knowledge to numerous volunteers and leaders working in support of BTS. Anyone who worked with Amanda knows that she was quick to answer questions and find answers to difficult situations. BTS leadership will miss Amanda's knowledge of the internal workings of IEEE. Amanda has accepted a position with IEEE Industry Standards and Technology Organization (ISTO), and her title will be senior alliance program membership manager. This position will allow

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From The Editor

Still Waiting For Those Lights To Go Back On

By James E. O'Neal, Editor-in-Chief,
BTS Life Member



As I write this in mid-October, it's difficult to believe that our world has been upended by the pandemic for nearly two years. As I recall, some early reports of infections began to appear in December of 2019, with most of us dismissing them as a minor event that was occurring "in someone else's back yard." However, with the arrival of the new year that began to

change. My last travel to an industry event was in February of 2020, and not long after that "the bottom dropped out," with cancellations of conferences, trade shows and similar events becoming the norm rather than the exception. I was quite upbeat early this past summer as new Coronavirus cases and fatalities began to fall, thinking that we had turned the corner and surely these industry events would be resuming in the fall. I was especially looking forward to attending the NAB Show that this year was pushed to October, but that didn't happen, and similar industry events have had to once again go virtual or try for a limited attendance hybrid approach, or, in some cases, be cancelled altogether.

Hopefully, with vaccines now readily available (my wife and I were able to get our third of "booster" dose of the Pfizer vaccine a couple of months ago without an appointment just by asking at the pharmacy department in a supermarket), we can soon achieve the "herd immunity" that has been touted early on in the pandemic and we can once again resume where we left off in terms of in-person events.

A Farewell To One Of Our Own

I imagine that by now all of our membership has received word of the departure of one of our Society's administrative personnel, Amanda Temple. Just in case you didn't hear, she is leaving the BTS for another position within the IEEE organization. Without Amanda's assistance and intervention during the past several years, our organization would not have functioned nearly as smoothly as it has. She will be missed, but we wish her well in her new endeavor.

'To Serve The Public Interest, Convenience, And Necessity,' Huh?

On several occasions I have used this space to praise the operations of a number of radio stations that, in my opinion, were exemplary and deserved mention. This time, I have a different, and rather shameful, experience to report.

I listen to the radio a lot both at home and while traveling cross-country by car. While the pandemic has greatly limited my long-distance jaunts, I did have to travel to a home I own in Arkansas during October to oversee the installation of a new roof. My experience with such projects is that even with the best planning they tend to run longer than promised or expected (this one certainly did), and thought it best to travel by personal vehicle than to try to arrange air travel with an uncertain return date. The travel distance involved is close to 1,200 miles (1,900 km) and requires the crossing of three states. The early morning weather on my departure date was not exactly ideal—light rain and some fog early in the trip, but conditions improved as the day wore on. I made an enroute stop about 70 miles (112 km) before the planned end of my first day of travel to meet briefly with an amateur radio friend near his home in eastern Tennessee.

After we parted ways, I once again took to the Interstate highway, looking forward to reaching my hotel room and a good night's rest after being on the road for 10 hours or so. Traffic wasn't bad, and I figured on arriving at the hotel in about an hour. However, it wasn't long before what had been fair weather I'd been experiencing for the last several hours abruptly changed. The sky was getting darker by the minute and my minivan began to be buffeted by some very strong winds. Pretty soon, I was hit with a deluge of rain so heavy that it became difficult to see traffic in front of me, and I made the decision to take the next exit off the controlled-access road and wait out the sudden storm there. It was just about at this time that my cell phone came to life with verbal emergency weather messages. This warning that a tornado had been sighted in the area in which I was located and that those in the area should immediately take cover. By that time, I was off the highway and had parked my vehicle in the large (and mostly empty) parking lot of a restaurant some distance from the main road, as there were really no other options available. I watched as things went from bad to worse, with the sky turning to a premature nighttime black and trees bending over from the force of the wind. Less than a minute after I'd stopped, my phone rang again. This time it was my ham radio friend calling from his home some 30 or so miles away. He wanted to alert me to the fact that the EAS system had been activated and the local television stations were broadcasting radar information that put the center of the storm about where he thought I might be located. I reported that I was very much aware of the conditions and was waiting out the situation as best as I could.

It then occurred to me to switch on the minivan's radio to get information about the storm's track from local