SBE Chapter Engineer of the Year Nomination -- 2018

SBE Chapter 17 is pleased to nominate Mark Persons, (member number 6931) as our Chapter Engineer of the Year because of his long-standing dedication to the engineering profession and SBE.

 Mark was born in Duluth, Minnesota in 1947. His father, Charlie Persons, was a radio broadcast engineer starting in the 1920s. Mark followed in his footsteps with the exception of serving in the U.S. Army 1967 to 1969. Mark was Sergeant in charge of an avionics repair shop for the OV-1 Mohawk high-tech surveillance aircraft in Vietnam. He is a member of the American Legion, VFW and DAV. Mark enjoys amateur radio (W0MH) and photography.

 Mark married his wife Paula in 1978. Paula was instrumental in running the business side of things out of Brainerd, Minnesota, their home town in the good old USA. Paula is a fourth generation Brainerd girl. Referred to as Deep Diver Paula, she has 650 SCUBA dives to her credit. Paula worked as a legal secretary before meeting Mark. That experience made her an ideal candidate to run the business, from which she and Mark are now retired.

Over Mark’s career, they built 12 new commercial AM and FM radio broadcast stations for clients, mostly in the Midwest. Countless others were rebuilt or upgraded along the way. Now retired, Mark and Paula are mentoring four broadcast engineers and selling off their used equipment.

Mark officially retired on Friday, December 29, 2017. Mark was out one last time, on the job, with Jim and Joe Offerdahl at the KLIZ transmitter site in Brainerd (the temperature that day reached 0 degrees Fahrenheit with four inches of snow on the ground). Mark is mentoring them, along with one other, in the art and science of building and repairing radio broadcast facilities.

It is Mark's way of giving back to the industry that kept him employed for over 50 years, including 40 years in his own business.

Mark was born into a broadcasting family and started turning transmitter knobs more than 60 years ago. Now at age 70, it was time for Mark to do a little traveling to see more of this great country.

Below are lists of articles Mark has written over his Broadcast Engineering career, and a list of speeches he has given. Mark has been a respected engineer in Minnesota for his entire career and has endeavored to share his knowledge and experience to others in the field as his lists of articles and speeches will atteste to.

This nomination is supported by the following SBE Chapter 17 Executive Committee members:

Joe Conlon, CSTE – Chair & Past Secretary

Nathan Hart - Vice-Chair & Past Chair

Michael Ostlund, CBT, CBNT – Treasurer & Past Chair

Mike Hendrickson, Secretary, Past Chair and Past SBE National Board Member

George Werl, Jr., CPBE – Certification Coordinator

Taylor Robert Baker, CTO - Program Coordinator

Bruce Browning – Past Program Coordinator

List of Articles

April 25, 2018: "Look Sharp, Be Sharp" article, published in Radio World Magazine.

January 17, 2018: "Repair it Correctly the First Time" article, published in Radio World Magazine.

January 1, 2018: "Mohawk Memories" article, published in the Mohawker Newsletter.

November 22, 2017: "You Can Still Build Your Own" article on the how and why of station grounding, published in Radio World Magazine.

October 31, 2017: "Field Service Tips: Grounding" article on the how and why of station grounding, published in Radio World Magazine.

September 1, 2017: "Consider These Field Service Tips" article for making repairs in the field, published in Radio World Magazine.

April 26, 2017: "Understanding Arc Gaps for AM Systems" article about building and installing arc gaps, published in Radio World Magazine.

March 1, 2017: "Lessons of a Major Guy Line Project" article about replacing tower guy lines, published in Radio World Magazine.

November 9, 2016: "Calibrate Analog Audio Consoles" article about setting levels inside audio consoles, published in Radio World Magazine.

July 6, 2016: "Take Pride in Your Workmanship" article about doing a good, clean, and safe job, published in Radio World Magazine.

April 27, 2016: "Testing and Using Power Transformers" article about testing and reviving high voltage transformers, published in Radio World Magazine.

February 17, 2016: "RF Spectrum Analyzers: Not Just for Consultants" article about spectrum analyzers for every engineer, published in Radio World Magazine.

December 16, 2015: "Bench Techniques and Tools of the Trade" article about repairing electronic equipment, published in Radio World Magazine.

September 14, 2015: "Get Your Stuff There in One Piece" article about packaging equipment for shipping, published in Radio World Magazine.

September 3, 2015: "The Ocean is Cruel to Broadcasters" Part II of Dick Witkovski and offshore broadcasting, published in Radio World Magazine.

April 8, 2015: "58-Plus Years of Broadcast Adventure" article about Dick Witkovski's life in radio, published in Radio World Magazine.

March 1, 2015: "Going Tubing? Find the Sweet Spot" article about using transmitter tubes published in Radio World Magazine.

February 1, 2015: "Stay Tuned for More" article about transmitter tubes published in Radio World Magazine.

December 3, 2014: "Repair a High-Voltage Blocking Capacitor" article published in Radio World Magazine.

October 8, 2014: "Pavek Museum Celebrates Broadcast Legends" article published in Radio World Magazine.

August 13, 2014: "Capture the Sporting Spirit, Get in the Game!" article published in Radio World Magazine. 160

May 7, 2014: "What Is That Irritating Sound?" article published in Radio World Magazine.

February 1, 2014: "Adjust Rules for NRSC Measurements" published in Radio World Magazine.

December 18, 2013: "Fix a Transmitter Tube Socket" published in Radio World Magazine.

November 6, 2013: "Digi-Key, Success By the Numbers" published in Radio World Magazine.

August 1, 2013: "Four AM Stations Sharing One Site" published in Radio World Magazine.

May 22, 2013: "Prevent Transistor Failures with Science" published in Radio World Magazine.

April 10, 2013: "Repairs Extend Lives of FM Exciters" published in Radio World Magazine.

January 16, 2013: "Your Scope Is a Tool for All Seasons" published in Radio World Magazine.

November 21, 2012: "Avoid Hall of Shame: Don't Take Shortcuts" published in Radio World Magazine.

October 10, 2012: "Installing Connectors the Right Way" published in Radio World Magazine.

June 20, 2012: "Keep That Transmitter Building Cool" published in Radio World Magazine.

May 9, 2012: "Where Have All the Engineers Gone?" published in Radio World Magazine.

March 14, 2012: "Better Living Through Tower Welding" published in Radio World Magazine.

February 1, 2012: "FM Exciter Modifications and Repairs" published in Radio World Magazine.

October 19, 2011: "Rebuild That Relic of an AM Transmitter" published in Radio World Magazine.

October 5, 2011: "Hey, What's This at 1300 KHz?" published in Radio World Magazine.

September 1, 2011: "How Did That Wireless Tower Get There?" published in Radio World Magazine.

June 15, 2011: "A Mod Solves Transmitter Troubles" published in Radio World Magazine.

May 13, 2011: "A Water Tower With No Adverse Effect" published in Radio World Magazine.

March 23, 2011: "All-Station Audio Take-Over" published in Radio World Magazine.

March 14, 2011: "Solving the Case of Tower vs. Tower" published in Radio World Magazine.

January 12, 2011: "What's in Your Toolbox?" published in Radio World Magazine.

December 1, 2010: "He's the Man in the Van" published in Radio World Magazine.

October 15, 2010: Generator Maintenance "Will it work when called upon?" published in Radio World Magazine.

September 8, 2010: "Overcome the Tyranny of Power" published in Radio World Magazine.

July 1, 2010: "A Case of 1900 MHz Intrerference" in Radio World Magazine

March, 2009: "State Callsigns Clearly" published in QST Magazine.

October 2008: "Thank you to SBE" published in the SBE Signal newsletter.

July, 2008: "OV-1 Mohawk Memories" published in the OV-1 Mohawk Association Mohawker newsletter.

April, 2008: "Conelrad - What Is/Was That?" in the Pavek Museum Newsletter

April 1, 2008: "Coaxial Cable Loss" in the BAARCer newsletter

April 1, 2007: "Condenser to Capacitor Conversion" in the BAARCer newsletter

October 22, 2003: "A Satellite Downconverter Tool" in Radio World Magazine

April 1, 2004: "Negative Electricity Discovered" in the BAARCer newsletter

October 22, 2003: "A Satellite Downconverter Tool" in Radio World Magazine

August 24, 2003: "Tips for a Better Ham Webpage" for the ARRL

June 4, 2003: "Mark's Two-Hour AM Micro-Proof" in Radio World Magazine

April 23, 2003: "Check for RF Mixing Products" in Radio World Magazine

April 2003: "Field Intensity Meter Repair" in Radio Guide Magazine

April 7, 2003: "AM NRSC Measurements" in Radio World Magazine

March 12, 2003: "Summer Storms Take Their Toll" in Radio World Magazine

September 11, 2002: "AM Expanded-Band Success Story in Fargo" in Radio World Magazine

May 8, 2002: "Hands-On FM Antenna Repair" in Radio World Magazine

October 24, 2001: "Radio Systems Console Line Gains Following" in Radio World Magazine

April 11, 2001: "Low-Voltage, High-Hassle Licensing" in Radio World Magazine

March 2000: "Engineer Licensing" in the Minnesota Broadcasters' Association Broadcaster Newsletter

February 16, 2000: "Sine Has Things Under Control" in Radio World Magazine

December 22, 1999: "Cortana Stati-Cats Protect and Serve" in Radio World Magazine

August 1999: "FM Interference" in the Minnesota Broadcasters' Association Broadcaster Newsletter

February 1998: "Basic Engineering 101" in the Minnesota Broadcasters' Association Broadcaster Newsletter

July 1997: "AM NRSC Measurements" in the Minnesota Broadcasters' Association Broadcaster Newsletter

March 1997: "Internet 101" in the Minnesota Broadcasters' Association Broadcaster Newsletter

April 1994: "Digital STL Systems" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

November 19, 1994: "Good Contractors Need Efficient Structure" in Radio World Magazine

April 1994: "NAB 94 Convention" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

December 8, 1993: "Madison Clinic Showcases Digital and NRSC AM" in Radio World Magazine

November 10, 1993: "Contractor Amasses Years of Wisdom" in Radio World Magazine

June 1993: "Electrolytic Capacitors" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

February 1993: "Winter Engineering Problems" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

November 1992: "Replacement Switches" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

September 1992: "Nautel Ampfet Transmitters" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

July 1992: "Broadcast Engineering" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

June 1992: "NAB Review" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

May 20, 1992: "Belden Offers Two New Wire Options" in Radio World Magazine

April 22, 1992: "Delta Ushers in New AM Stereo Era" in Radio World Magazine

February 1992: "Dial-Up Remote Controls" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

November 1991: "SBE Convention" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

November 1991: "SEDAT Stories" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

May 22, 1991: "Nott Unipole Kit an Ally for AM" in Radio World Magazine

February 1991: "Sine Remote Control" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

August 1990: "Hiring and Firing Contract Engineers" in the Minnesota Broadcasters' Association Broadcaster Newsletter

July 1989: "NRSC Win-Win Situation" in the Minnesota Broadcasters' Association Broadcaster Newsletter

July 1989: "NRSC Required" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

October 1988: "SBE Convention at Denver" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

September 24, 1988: Chaired Panel "State of Contract Radio Engineering" at SBE National Convention

June 1988: "NRSC" in SBE Chapter 56 Newsletter

June 1, 1988: "RF Power Reduction Schemes" in Radio World Magazine

January 1, 1988: "Reaping the Benefits of NRSC" in Radio World Magazine

December 1987: "SBE Convention Successful" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

December 15, 1987: "Omega Boasts High Speed Cue" in Radio World Magazine

August 15, 1987: "Arrakis Cuts Costs, Not Corners" in Radio World Magazine

July 1, 1987: "Bismarck AM's Thrive in Stereo" in Radio World Magazine

May 1987: "NRSC AM Improvements" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

May 15, 1987: "Problems Come Three at a Time" in Radio World Magazine

April 1987: "SMC Cartridge Machines" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

January 1987: "AM Stereo Standard" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

November 1986: "Madison Seminar Great Success" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

August 1986: "NAB Convention in Dallas" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

April 15, 1986: "New Florida AM Picks Delta System" in Radio World Magazine

February 15, 1986: "Digital Multimeters Win Admirer" in Radio World Magazine

February 15, 1986: "Take Time And Care When Shipping" in Radio World Magazine by Paula Persons

January 1, 1986: "Pioneer's Car Radio A Winner" in Radio World Magazine

January 1986: "Interchangeability Is The Key" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

December 15, 1985: "ITC/3M Omega Aces Bench Test" in Radio World Magazine

November 1985: "Class IV AM Night Operation" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

August 1, 1985: "Most Recent PSSA's Add Considerations" in Radio World Magazine

July 1, 1985: "NAB Show Should Divide" in Radio World Magazine

March 15, 1985: "Examine Cable An Easier Way" in Radio World Magazine

February 15, 1984: "25 Hz Tone Processor" in Radio World Magazine

February 1985: "C-QUAM AM Stereo" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

January 15, 1985: "Proofs Are Necessary Function" in Radio World Magazine

December 1984: "Class IV 1kW Fulltime" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

November 1, 1984: "Rearranging The Hole Theory" in Radio World Magazine

October 1984: "Harris MW-1/1A Repairs" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

August 15, 1984: "Correct Power Supply Failure" in Radio World Magazine

September 1984: "Fuses" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

August 1984: "FM Transmitter Repair" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

July 1, 1984: "Storms Cause Phone Problems" in Radio World Magazine

July 1984: "It Happened Again" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

June 1984: "NAB Convention" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

April 15, 1984: "Use Eyes And Common Sense" in Radio World Magazine

April 15, 1984: "PSSA Box Set-Up Is Simple" in Radio World Magazine

April 1984: "Small Town Radio" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

March 1984: "Gates RDC-10 Remote Controls" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

April 1, 1984: "Cold Interferes With Patterns" in Radio World Magazine

March 1984: "AM Stereo" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

February 1984: "Industry Changes" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

January 1984: "PSSA For AM's" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

December 1983: "SBE Certified" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

November 1983: "Wisconsin Broadcasters' Clinic" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

October 15, 1983: "Look Out For Those Lemons" in Radio World Magazine

September 1983: "OSHA" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

September 1983: "Live Assist Programming" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

September 15, 1983: "Programmer Live Assist Controller" in Radio World Magazine

July 1983: "EBS Alert" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

July 1983: "De-soldering Tool" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

June 1983: "NAB Convention" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

May 15, 1983: "Voltage Regulation" in Radio World Magazine

April 15, 1983: "The Harris SX-1 Satisfies KKIN" in Radio World Magazine

April 1, 1983: "Uses Of A Good Oscilloscope" in Radio World Magazine

January 1983: "Field Service Engineering" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

December 1982: "Safe Transmitter Ventilation" in Radio World Magazine

November 1982: "The Value of Redundancy" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

October 1982: "Warning Light Circuit" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

May 1982: "Field Service Engineering" in Radio World Magazine

June 1982: "NAB Convention in Dallas" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

May 1982: "New Harris SX-1 Transmitter" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

April 1982: "The Sandbox For Turntables" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

March 1982: "Arcing On New FM Tower" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

February 1982: "Substitute Iron" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

January 1982: "Live Assist Music Controller" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

December 1981: "NAB AM Directional Antenna Seminar" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

November 1981: "Gates BC-1 Series Transmitter Repairs" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

October 1981: "Audio Consoles (Part 11)" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

September 1981: "Audio Consoles (Part 1)" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

August 1981: "Hotline Engineer" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

July 1981: "Hints and Kinks" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

June 1981: "59th NAB Convention in Las Vegas" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

May 1981: "Area Broadcast Electronic Servicemen" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

April 1981: "Badmouth The Previous Engineer" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

March 1981: "Potpourri" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

February 1981: "Digital Talking Clocks" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

January 1981: "Part Time Engineers" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

October 1980: "Harold Allen, Remembering a great FCC Field Inspector" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

November 1980: "Affordable Headsets" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

October 1980: "Oh Where Oh Where Has My Line Impedance Gone?" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

September 1980: "It Works, But It Doesn't Work" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

August 1980: "Troubleshooting RPU Antennas" in the Electronic Industries Commonpoint Magazine

List of Speeches

April 5, 2014: Speech on engineering to the Society of Broadcast Engineers in Las Vegas. Details

April 4, 2014: Speech on engineering to the Association of Public Radio Engineers in Las Vegas. Details

January 20, 2009: Spectrum analyzers for the field engineers at a Chapter 17 SBE meeting in Minneapolis.

April 29, 2006: HD/Digital Radio to the Minnesota News Network.

January 4, 2005: What to do with old computers or You can never have too many computers. Details

September 5, 2000: "Microsoft Beta Testing" at the Lakes Country Computer Club in Pequot Lakes, MN.

February 1, 1999: "How to Assemble a Computer from Parts" at the Lakes Country Computer Club in Pequot Lakes, MN.

January 27, 1998: Chaired Panel "Basic Engineering 101" at the Minnesota Broadcasters' Association Convention

January 27, 1997: "Internet 101: Everything you ever wanted to know about the web, but were afraid to ask." at the Minnesota Broadcasters' Association Convention

August 29, 1996: "RF Spectrum Analyzers" at the Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club, Brainerd, MN.

July 12, 1996: "Unattended transmitter walk-away" at the South Dakota Broadcasters' Association Convention

January 30, 1996: Chaired Panel "Unattended Station Operation" at the Minnesota Broadcasters' Association Convention

January 31, 1995: Panelist "Digital Audio Technologies" at the Minnesota Broadcasters' Association Convention

March 22, 1994: NAB "Being a Good Contract Engineering Business Person"

November 10, 1993: "Computer Applications for Broadcast" at the Broadcasters' Clinic in Madison, WI

November 10, 1992: Contract Engineering: "Questions and Answers for the Contractor and the Employer" at the Broadcasters' Clinic in Madison, WI

April 16, 1992: NAB Engineering Panelist "Contract Engineers Workshop"

November 6, 1991: "Does Anyone Know How to Tune AM and FM Transmitters?" at the Broadcasters' Clinic in Madison, WI

November 14, 1990: "Field Experiences: Solutions Through Measurement Techniques" at the Broadcasters' Clinic in Madison, WI

January 15, 1990: "Hiring and Firing Contract Engineers" at the Minnesota Broadcasters' Association Convention

September 24, 1988: Chaired a panel on Contract Broadcast Engineering at the Annual SBE Convention.

April 10, 1988: NAB Engineering Panelist "Contract Engineers Workshop"

November 10, 1987: "Station Maintenance" at the SBE Convention in St. Louis, MO

September 16, 1987: "Roll Your Own: Do's And Don'ts Of Building Custom Chassis Projects" at the Broadcast Engineering and Management Seminar in Madison, WI

March 29, 1987: Panelist in NAB Engineering Workshop on "Contract Engineers"

October 15, 1981: "How Use An AM RF Bridge" at Chapter 17 meeting of the SBE in St. Paul

October 15, 1981: "How to Live Assist" at the Broadcasters' Clinic in Madison, WI