

Chapter 38 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers

SBE

EL PASO - LAS CRUCES - JUÁREZ

AUGUST 2017

PO Box 3561 El Paso, TX 79923-3561 www.kint98.com

NEWS

IS IT TIME TO BRING BACK THE TV ANTENNA?

Over 80% of us subscribe to some form of pay TV service, whether cable- or-satellite based. We get hundreds of channels, most of which we do not watch. And while the service is generally good, the monthly cost continues to go up. According to research firm [Parks Associates](#), the average U.S. monthly pay TV bill is \$84, but many pay more. With premium channels and high-speed internet service bundled in, monthly bills are often ballooning to over \$200 per month (too much even for the generally affluent).

On top of that, Parks Associates says that about 63% of consumers also subscribe to one or more of the over the top (OTT) streaming services like Netflix or Hulu. 31% have multiple OTT subscriptions. This leads me to wonder our video viewing habit is growing out of control. Most people today sit in front of a screen all day,

be it a computer, smartphone, tablet, or TV set. Is that a good thing?

The increasing cost is causing subscribers to downgrade their service to save money. Some consumers have “cut the cord” completely in favor of an internet service subscription only plus some OTT for movies and TV series. The outcome of these trends has essentially stopped the growth of pay TV services. The appeal of OTT is that you can watch it on your smartphone, tablet, or oversized 4K TV thanks to Wi-Fi.

Perhaps the most interesting revelation by Parks Associates research is that many consumers have dropped pay TV completely and opted for over the air (OTA) TV. The percentage of U.S. households that use antenna-only TV has grown from about 9% in 2013 to 15% today, and that number continues to grow. Even the Consumer Technology Association

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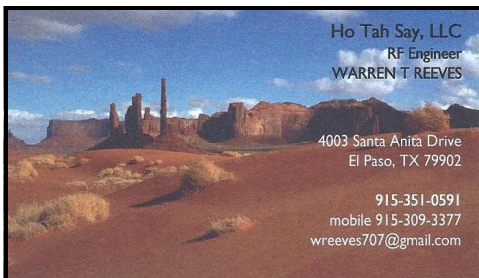
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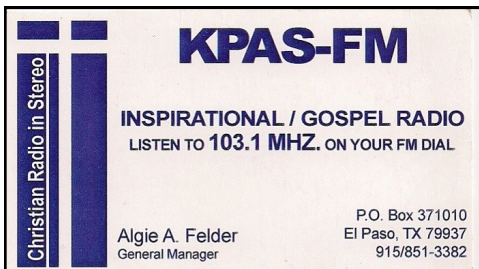
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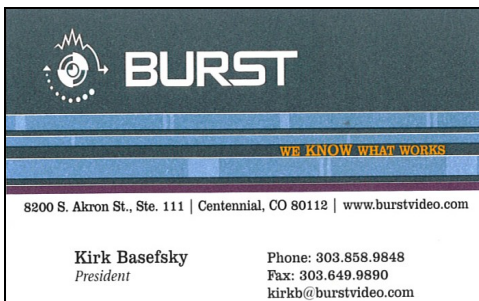
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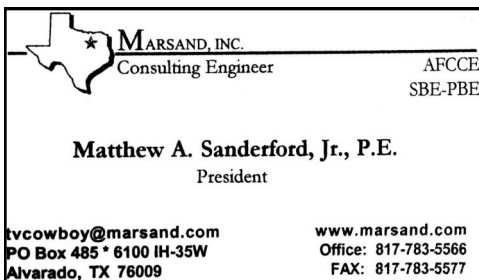
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My daughter and son-in-law recently cut the TV cord in favor of OTA TV. They kept the high-speed DSL line. After analyzing their TV consumption they concluded they could get all the news, sports, and entertainment they wanted from local TV channels. My two grand-kids mostly watch movies on their smartphones or tablets, so they did retain their modestly priced Netflix subscription. The outcome is a radically lower TV bill. As for antennas, they tried several indoor types on their two sets, with mixed results. My son-in-law eventually put up a small outdoor antenna that gets the channels for ABC, CBS, CW, Fox, ION, NBC, PBS, TBN, Telemundo, Univision and a few other independents. He used a splitter and the house cable wiring to distribute the signal. Picture quality is excellent. A few years ago, I cut costs by dropping our second cable box in the guest bedroom, hoping for a good OTA experience. I tried two indoor antennas, with pitiful results—I got only one channel when many are available.

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EL PASO, TX SBE CHAPTER 38 MEETING MINUTE

DATE **07/25/2017** LOCATION: **KVIA TV 7, EL PASO, TX .**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 12:15 PM, BY ANTONIO CASTRO.
THERE WERE 20 ATTENDANTS.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY: MINUTES IN THE JULY NEWSLETTER
ACCEPTED BY LAWRENCE MONTENEGRO, SECONDED BY OWEN SMITH.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER: \$ 3,076.61 IN THE BANK. ACCEPTED
BY NORBERT MILES, SECONDED BY DAVID HALPERIN.

REPORT OF THE CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE: NO REPORT .

REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: SENDING SECOND NO-
TICE TO SOME SUSTAINING MEMBERS.

REPORT OF THE FREQUENCY COORDINATOR COMMITTEE: FACING
ACQUISITION OF NEW WIRELESS MICS FQCIES WHEN REPACK.

REPORT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: NO REPORT.

REPORT OF THE WEBSITE COMMITTEE: 2190 HITS LAST TIME, NOW
2215. (25).

REPORT OF THE EAS CHAIRMAN: NEW MEXICO RMT RECEIVED
FINE.. TX NO RECEPTION DUE TO EQUIPMENT MALFUNCTION.

REPORT OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE: SENCORE TO PRESENT IN
AUGUST 15.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: OWEN SMITH TO PROVIDE LINE UP EL
PASO-LAS CRUCES-JUAREZ TV STATIONS FOR WEB SITE..

NEW BUSINESS OR ANY ITEMS FOR THE CHAPTER INTERES: SBE
NATIONAL ELECTION BALLOTS ON LINE

NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION: AUGUST 15, 2017, TIME AND
PLACE TO BE DETERMINED.

MEETING ADJOURNED: AT 12:58 PM.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2017
CHAPTER ENGINEER OF THE YEAR,
ANTONIO CASTRO, CHAIRMAN.
AWARD WAS PRESENTED BY ELIAS
VENTANILLA, KVIA TV CHIEF ENGI-
NEER AT THE JULY MEETING.

AUGUST PROGRAM

OUR PRESENTATION IN JULY WAS JUST PERFECT, THANKS TO **ELIAS VENTANILLA AND KVIA-TV**, GIVING AN UPDATE IN ATSC 3.0. THE LUNCH WAS GREAT, THE ENCHILADAS WERE DELICIOUS.

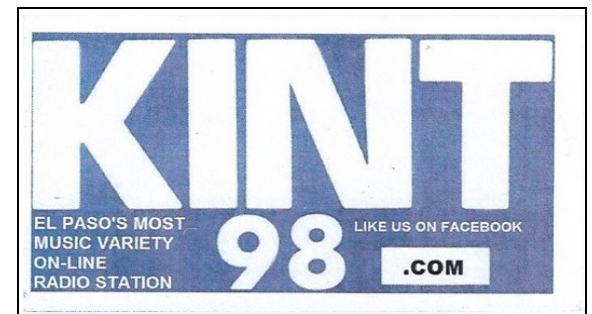
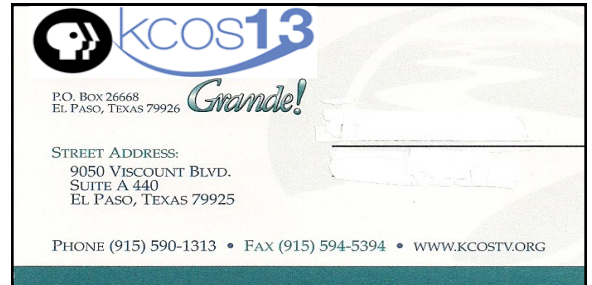
WE HAD AS WELL THE VISIT OF OUR FRIEND FROM BURST COMMUNICATIONS, **KEVIN HILDEBRAND**, WHO BROUGHT GIFTS FOR EVERYBODY. THANKS KEVIN.

AUGUST MEETING WILL BE ON THE 15th, AND THIS IS BECAUSE SOME MEMBERS ARE ATTENDING THE "TAB" AT AUSTIN.

WE DON'T HAVE CONFIRMATION OF THE PRESENTER, THAT IS WHY THE TIME AND PLACE WILL BE ANOUNCED NEXT WEEK.

IN THE MEAN TIME, HERE IS THE PICTURE OF ELIAS VENTANILLA PRESENTING THE AWARD OF THE 2017 CHAPTER ENGINNER OF THE YEAR TO

ANTONIO CASTRO....!!



As it turns out, I am basically too far out in the suburbs to get good reception. An outdoor antenna is only the way to go. I did not have the physical arrangement to do that, and I never got around to trying the attic. Part of the problem is that my homeowner's association covenants forbid outdoor antennas. However, Dish and DirecTV dishes are allowed. I assume a modest outdoor OTA antenna would also be permitted. No Yagi on a 50-ft. crank up tower.

The OTA TV option is a good one. It is free except for the antenna expense. Just be sure you are in a location where the signal strength is sufficient. The FCC has some great information at the website indicated below. It includes their DTV Reception Maps Tool. You plug in your zip code and it gives you a list of the TV stations available to you with a signal strength estimate. You can also access their [guide on TV antennas](#)—a great resource.

Another resource is [Antennas Direct](#) with their Transmitter Locator tool that also gives you a map of the TV stations nearby and an estimate of potential reception.

One more good source of info is [Antenna Web](#). It provides station data, and you can choose and buy an antenna online.

Also try the [NoCable](#) site.

There are many other such resources and TV antennas are still available at places like Best Buy, Walmart, Radio Shack, Fry's, and others. If you are looking for a way to save a few bucks this year, give this a try. I think you will be surprised at what you find.

But that's not all. That trend could continue once OTA 4k TV is available. The Advanced Television Systems Committee (ATSC) is working on a new U.S. standard to cover 4k, including high dynamic range (HDR) and other advanced features. ATSC 3.0 standard, as it is called, will use OFDM and LDPC error correction to make this happen. That is not compatible with the existing ATSC 8VSB standard now in use, so during any transition, TV sets will need to cover the current and 3.0 standards.

No availability date has been given for 3.0, but this is surely in our future thanks to support from the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB). It's just one more reason to consider cutting the cord and getting an antenna.