



JANUARY
2015

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NEWS

UPDATE ON DRONECAM AND SBE.ORG

SIoux FALLS, S.D.—Drone footage continues to break new ground even as feds grapple with how to regulate the unmanned aerial vehicles.

This time, some tower techs in South Dakota have created a viral drone phenomenon with footage of climber Kevin Schmidt changing a light bulb at 1,500 feet above ground. The footage depicts surreal perspectives of Schmidt from close-in, overhead, and right next to him.

It was captured by Todd Thorin and his sons Joseph and Michael , who run Prairie Aerial, “the premier professional aerial photography and videography outfit in the Great Plains region of the United States,” according to their [website](#). They posted a two-minute edit of Schmidt climbing “to the very top of the now inactive KDLT-TV analog broadcast antenna near Salem, S.D.,” on YouTube last November.

“Somebody has to change out that light bulb at the top of those tall TV towers!” they said.

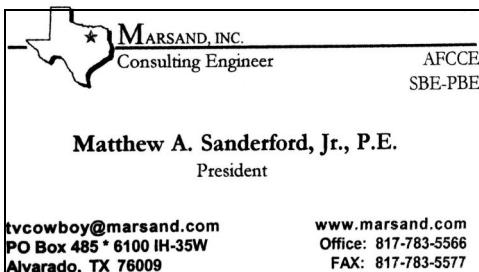
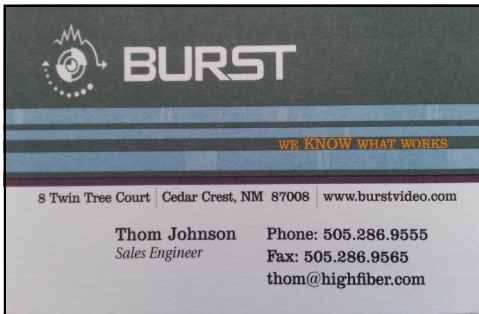
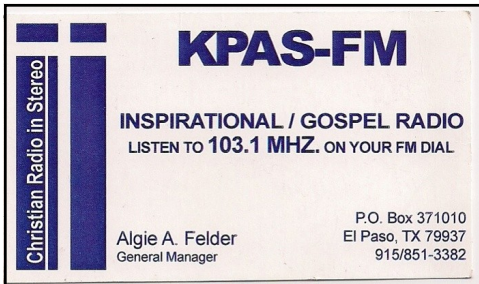
The video is available in 1080p on YouTube. *TV Technology* queried the Thorins about their rigs and cameras and has yet to hear back, quite possibly because commercial drone flight is not yet legal.

Update: Todd Thorin replied after publication; *TV Technology* has follow-up questions pending with him. Regarding a gear query: “The UAV we used is a DJI Phantom 2 that has been modified for higher performance. It has more powerful motors (AntiGravity) than the stock motors and balanced carbon fiber props. We control it with a Futaba T8FGS transmitter that gives us more flexibility and functions. We have five batteries and two chargers for the Phantom so we can fly all day.

The camera used is a GoPro 3+Black also modified with a 5.4mm rectilinear flat lens with IR filter. We fly it with a three-stop Polar-pro ND filter. The gimbal is a zenmuse h3-3d, we do not counter-balance for the weight of the ND filter and it works great. Recording at 2.7k, 30 fps ProTune on. FPV is a 5.8Ghz SD system, with dual diversity 9”HD monitor and Goggles on the ground.”

The Prairie Aerial video had around quarter of a million views as of last Sunday, and nearly four times that today after a pirate posted it on Facebook and *CNN Money* caught up with the story. The elder Thorin, who edited the footage, told *CNN Money* the traffic spike caught them off guard, and they hired London firm Viral Spiral to manage it. feet. The civil penalty for unauthorized commercial drone flight is \$10,000.

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The Thorins are hardly alone, however. The national appetite for camera-equipped drones has exploded in recent years as the reduction in camera and drone size intersected with an increase in Wi-Fi efficacy. Drones were a prominent feature at the 2014 National Association of Broadcasters Show in Las Vegas last April. TV news organizations have been looking into drone journalism for several years as an **alternative** to the use of helicopters, particularly since the deadly crash of a KOMO-TV news chipper in Seattle last March.

Drones are also a highlight at this week's Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas. Nixie, a five-person start-up with a self-launching **wearable drone** the size of a wristwatch and winner of last November's \$500,000 Make It Wearable Challenge said they have "big—and we really mean big—things planned" for CES in Las Vegas this week.

CEA President and CEO Gary Shapiro also held a presser on Wednesday with an FAA official and drone lobbyists on safety and regulations. Drones are considered model aircraft under FAA rules and limited to not more than 55 pounds unless otherwise certified. They cannot be flown within five miles of an airport without prior notification, and must remain within visual contact of the operator

Continues in page 5

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EL PASO, TX CHAPTER 38 MEETING MINUTE

DATE 12/8/2014 LOCATION: OLIVE GARDEN REST.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:00 PM, BY ANTONIO CASTRO, THERE WERE 8 MEMBERS, ONE HOST AND 12 GUESTS

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY: NO REPORT

REPORT OF THE TREASURER: NO REPORT

REPORT OF THE CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE: NO REPORT

REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: NO REPORT.

REPORT OF THE FREQUENCY COORDINATOR COMMITTEE: NO REPORT.

REPORT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: NO REPORT.

REPORT OF THE WEBSITE COMMITTEE: NO REPORT

REPORT OF THE EAS CHAIRMAN: NO REPORT

REPORT OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE: NO REPORT

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS OR ANY ITEMS FOR THE CHAPTER INTERES: NONE

NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION: JANUARY 13, 2015, AT THE GRAND CHINA BUFFET, SUNLAND PARK @ NOON, (12:00 PM)

MEETING ADJOURNED: AT 9:00 PM.

Note from the treasurer:

NEW YEAR AND SAME MEMBERSHIP FEES !!! PLEASE BRING AN ENVELOPE WITH YOUR NAME AND \$ 12.00 BUCKS, EITHER CASH OR CHECK. INVOICES WILL BE READY FOR THE MEETING

JANUARY PROGRAM

Last month, December 2014, we had a perfect closing at the Olive Garden restaurant: **The Christmas party** hosted by our friends: GBS; Tim/Dan Giesler. RF Specialties of Texas; Dan Sessler, Wray Reed, Don Jones & Jim Schoedler. ORBAN; John Schaab. NAUTEL; Ellis Terry. ANYWAVE COMMUNICATION; Perry Priestly and Paul Dadian.

For This month, a presentation & meeting will be held next Tuesday January 13th at the Grand China Buffet, Sunland Park, at 12:00 PM.

EDDY VANDERKERKEN, general Manager of **SOURCERER** will host this time.

Let's be there and start this new year 2015 with no excuses...and Enjoy the food !!!



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Congress has mandated that the FAA issue drone-operation rules by this September. In the meantime, the agency is doing one-offs. The first commercial drone flight over land was approved [last June](#) for BP to survey its pipelines in Alaska.

More recently, six production companies were cleared for using drones in video shoots, including Pictorvision. The company's president, Tom Hallman, recently told *BE Extra* that the rules governing drone cinematography are similar to those for manned flight.

"For instance, the pilot-in-command, the individual controlling the flight of the UAV, must be a licensed private pilot with a current third-class medical certificate, and have a certain minimum amount of flight experience flying UAVs" he said.

The movie industry managed to get a pass through its lobby in Washington, the Motion Picture Association of America. The TV news lobby, the Radio Television Digital News Association, followed up the MPAA's win by calling on stations to send in drone footage to take to use as ammunition for FAA waivers. Networks and station groups generally are holding back for FAA clarification, though some are forging ahead. KEZI-TV, the Heartland Media-owned ABC affiliate in Eugene, Ore., deployed its first drone last November. Dubbed "Sky9," it was used to capture [overhead footage](#) of a local high school football game.

And finally, next month, in near defiance of federal regulators, the First Annual New York City Drone Film Festival will debut in the Big Apple. It promises to showcase some of the "most famous viral drone videos," and give awards for various aspects of drone filmmaking.

The event is scheduled for Feb. 21.

- See more at: <http://www.tvtechnology.com/news/0086/update-dronecam-captures-tech-changing-bulb-at--feet-/273995#sthash.jMxtC9En.dpuf> WATCH THE VIDEO IN YOU-TUBE !!

SBE to make sbe.org forwarding addresses available to members

Beginning in February of 2015, members of the SBE will be able to request a "sbe.org" domain email forwarding address for their own use. The address format will be "first initial, last name @ sbe.org." Messages to the member's sbe.org address will be forwarded automatically to the member's primary email box of his or her choosing.

The sbe.org forwarding address is available only to members of the SBE and is free. Requests for a sbe.org address will be made at renewal time in February. SBE Life Members will receive a letter this winter that will include information on how to request a sbe.org address.

Show your pride of membership by using a sbe.org email address in 2015!