

Chapter 38 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers

SBE

EL PASO - LAS CRUCES - JUÁREZ

NOVEMBER  
2016

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

# NEWS

# DRONES

Discharging a fleet of mini-choppers Nov. 3, 2016



## BALTIMORE AND WASHINGTON—

Sinclair was flight ready when rules for commercial use of unmanned aerial systems went into effect in late August. It had drone news teams in six of its 81 markets within weeks of the long-awaited Federal Aviation Administration **directive**, when the company laid out its plan to have 80 trained, FAA-certified UAS pilots in 40 markets by the end of next year, including Ed Beran (l) and Dre Dabars (r) of KTUL ABC8 in Tulsa, Okla., pictured here.

The deployment was revealed on Capitol Hill Sept. 27 at a science and technology fair, where Sinclair shared its concept for drone-based newsgathering with lawmakers and regulators,

using **footage** of the rising river in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, from two

days before. In addition to Beran and Dabars and the Cedar Rapids team comprising Brian Emfinger and Barry Deer, Sinclair had teams in Green Bay, Wis.; Columbus, Ohio; Little Rock, Ark.; Washington, D.C. and its home turf, Baltimore. (WRGB, CBS 6 in Albany, N.Y. has **since launched** a drone news team.)

Sinclair **already had launched** a public service campaign—"Know Before You Fly"—emphasizing safety and letting people in 81 of their markets know that these things are coming. Drones have been an object of controversy because of both **careless use** and **privacy concerns**, which the FAA **had to consider** when crafting the rules, and which Sinclair will have to navigate.

*TV Technology* queried Sinclair's chief drone pilot, Jeff Rose, about the broadcaster's drone strategy as well as its approach to privacy. He is joined here by Rebecca Hanson, Sinclair's senior vice president of strategy and policy.

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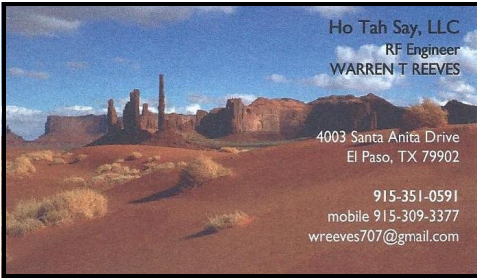
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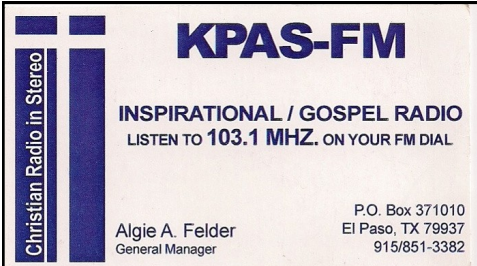
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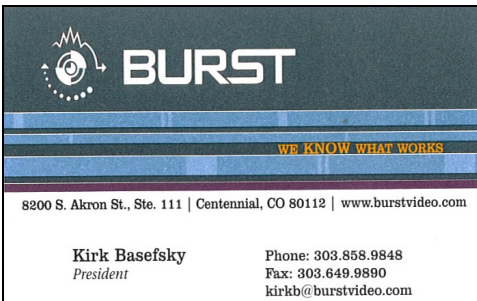


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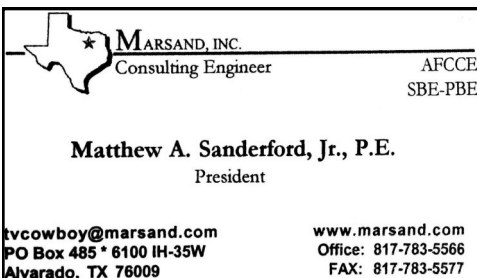
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**TVT:** How is this much video going to be incorporated into the news workflow on both the individual and connected station level?

**Rose:** There's no set mandate on incorporation. Once our photographers are trained it is up to their newsroom to decide when to utilize drone footage to enhance their newscasts. In many cases, drone footage will be used to supplement stories by giving an overview of the scene.

On a multi-station level, whenever there is a major news event such as a flood, that footage can be offered to all of our stations and carried live. One of the benefits of our network of stations has been our ability to send trained drone teams to stations who are not yet equipped. This enables us to bring this technology to our markets nationwide, even as our program grows.

**TVT:** What kind of camera and resolution?

**Rose:** We operate with a Zenmuse X5 with a micro four-thirds sensor 1920/1080, with interchangeable lens capability and optical zoom lenses.

**TVT:** Are you shooting in 4K 60p with the Zenmuse?

**Rose:** Sometimes we shoot in 4K for productions shoots such as a news promotions. Normally, we shoot in 1920x1080 for live streaming. We also record video onboard the aircraft for downloading post-flight.

**TVT:** Will the signal be IP-based?

**Rose:** We currently use the cellphone network for transmission back to the station for incorporation into our newscast.

**TVT:** Is Sinclair using any specific cell-bonding technology?

**Rose:** We use common newsgathering cellphone equipment called LiveU. It simply connects by HDMI to the video output from the aircraft. It uses multiple cellphone paths simultaneously and combines them back at the station for broadcast. This is all done automatically.

**TVT:** Is Sinclair flying DJI's exclusively, or some other type of drones as well?

**Rose:** At this time Sinclair is flying DJI Inspire 1 Pro aircraft only. (Pictured right.)

**TVT:** What type of privacy rules and parameters will Sinclair impose and abide by?

**Rebecca Hanson:** Sinclair participated in and supports the "[Voluntary Best Practices for UAS Privacy](#)," published by NTIA, and all of our pilots follow these best practices as part of their training. Since we are training veteran local journalists from our stations, they also bring years of experience with, and understanding of, the privacy law regimes that govern traditional photography.

More Q and A on demand.

## SBE CHAPTER 38 OFFICERS

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### NEWSLETTER:

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### EAS CHAIRMAN:

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EL PASO, TX      SBE CHAPTER 38      MEETING MINUTE

DATE 10/12/2016 LOCATION: RIO CHINA BUFFET .

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** 12:16 PM, BY ANTONIO CASTRO.  
THERE WERE 14 ATTENDANTS.

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY:** MINUTES IN THE OCTOBER NEWS-LETTER. ACCEPTED BY DAVID GRICE, SECONDED BY LAWRENCE MONTENEGRO

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER:** \$ 3,904.04 IN THE BANK. ACCEPTED BY NORBERT MILES, SECONDED BY DAVID GRICE.

**REPORT OF THE CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE:** FOR NOVEMBER, SEVEN TO TEST FOR CTO (FROM KFOX14/CBS4).

**REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:** NO REPORT.

**REPORT OF THE FREQUENCY COORDINATOR COMMITTEE:** OWEN SMITH MENTIONED THAT UTEP REQUESTED FREQUENCIES FOR THE FOOTBALL IN GAME STAFF.

**REPORT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:** NO REPORT.

**REPORT OF THE WEBSITE COMMITTEE:** 2098 HITS LAST TIME, NOW 2108. ( 10 ). TO INCLUDE WEBINAR INFORMATION FOR ACCESS.

**REPORT OF THE EAS CHAIRMAN:** TEXAS AND NEW MEXICO MONTHLY TEST WERE RECEIVED AND RE-BROADCASTED. NATIONAL TEST RECEIVED SEPT.28.

**REPORT OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE:** JERRY DELGADO TO DO A PRESENTATION IN THE NOVEMBER MEETING

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** WILL UPDATE THE LIST OF E-MAILS AND PHONE NUMBERS OF THE CHAPTER MEMBERS.

**NEW BUSINESS OR ANY ITEMS FOR THE CHAPTER INTERES:** CHAPTER "PAID" FOR A WEBINAR. WILL SEND ACCESS CODES TO CHAPTER MEMBERS. CHAPTER VOTED "YES" TO HAVE ENNES WORKSHOP IN MAY 25 2017.

**NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION:** NO MEETING FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** AT 12:58 PM.

**LATE NOTICE: THERE IS NO CHAPTER MEETING FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER. FOR DECEMBER WE MEET ON THE 12TH AT THE OLIVE GARDEN.**

# NOVEMBER PROGRAM



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