



The

Broadcasters' Desktop Resource

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... edited by Barry Mishkind – the Eclectic Engineer

Charles Ellis

1946 - 2017

The Southeastern Broadcast Community is mourning the loss of Charles Ellis, an excellent broadcast consulting engineer and colleague. He passed away on June 16, 2017, after a short illness.



Charles Faison Ellis

November 1, 1946 – June 16, 2017

Born in Cloudland, Georgia in 1946, Charles start in radio was – while still in High School – at the age of 16, in 1963, at WLAQ Radio station in Rome, GA. His duties included maintenance of radio station audio and RF equipment and maintenance of a two-tower directional antenna system.

Ellis was a highly educated man, holding degrees in math and physics from Florida State, where he worked at WFSU-TV and as the Chief Radio Engineer at WFSU FM. Then, starting in 1970, for the next four years Charles joined the Peace Corps and taught at schools in the Fiji Islands and New Zealand.

He then returned to Lafayette, LA and began a technical services company serving LA, TX, and AR. He also attended the University of Louisiana in Lafayette, where he received his BSEE. In 1979, he passed the examination to become a Registered Professional Engineer in Louisiana.

Starting in 1983, he ventured into station ownership, starting with KFXV in Lafayette, LA. Over the years, he applied for, constructed, and sold a number of area radio stations, doing well for himself in the process. During the past 37 years, he designed antennas, specialized equipment, control system, microwave systems, cellular systems, two-way systems, subcarrier systems, and emergency power systems for his many clients.

Mike Patton noted Ellis was “... *one of the smartest engineers - and finest human beings - I have ever known. Charles Ellis, PE, of Lafayette, LA was one of my earliest mentors, and we have maintained a professional and personal friendship over the years. It was Charles who beat into my head the basics of AM DAs, as well as many other aspects of good engineering practices.*”

Off the clock, Ellis had a wide range of interests, including travelling with his family, playing the piano, critically listening to jazz and classical music, and computer networking.

Charles leaves behind a wife, Simla, two grown children, and several grandchildren. His presence in his family and community, and in our industry, will be sorely missed.

Our sincere thanks to Mike Patton and Clarence Beverage for their assistance with this piece.

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