

James K. Thorusen

Capsule Biography

James (Jim) Thorusen is a native of Santa Barbara, California. He obtained his Novice class amateur radio license at the age of 13, and has held a valid amateur radio license ever since. After obtaining an Associate in Science degree in Computer Science from Santa Barbara City College and acquiring an FCC First Class Radiotelephone license, Mr. Thorusen worked briefly for General Telephone and Valley Telecom (a GE two-way radio dealer) before coming to work for KCBS TV (then KNXT) in 1981. *

At KCBS, Mr. Thorusen maintained Harris-Gates BT-18L TV transmitters, responsible for repair and swept measurement tuning. He also maintained Harris-Farion and Microwave Radio Corporation microwave STL equipment. In addition, he maintained Tektronix and Hewlett-Packard test equipment and Sony and Conrac video monitors. *

Mr. Thorusen also was responsible for maintaining Collins 830 and 831 transmitters, as well as a BE FM-30A transmitter for the KCBS-FM plant which was co-located with the KCBS TV transmitter plant on Mt. Wilson. *

While at KCBS, Mr. Thorusen, together with Mr. Paul Gordon designed an interlock system for the RF switching for the KCBS plant. This logic was implemented as part of a conversion from the Harris BT-18L transmitters to Larcan solid-state transmitters. According to Larcan, this switching system was the most complex of any Larcan installation at that time anywhere in the world.

Mr. Thorusen did considerable construction work at the KCBS transmitter plant and maintained a data base wire list of all the video and audio wiring in the plant.

Mr. Thorusen, together with Mr. David DeGregorio, also designed and built the remote control interface system to allow the Larcan transmitters to be controlled by a Statmon Technologies Axess remote control and monitoring system. Mr. Thorusen subsequently

programmed the Axess custom interfaces for both KCBS and KCAL TV after the latter was acquired by CBS Corp. *

Mr. Thorusen was instrumental in the construction of the additional UHF plant at KCBS to facilitate the transition to HDTV. He acquired experience in servicing Harris transmitters employing IOT tubes, having done several change-outs of IOT-D2100B tubes.

Mr. Thorusen currently holds three FCC licenses:

- General Radiotelephone Operator License with Ship Radar Endorsement
- GMDSS (Global Maritime Distress and Safety System) Maintainers License
- Amateur Extra Class License; call sign KB6GM

After 32 years of service with CBS, Mr. Thorusen retired to Lincoln City, Oregon, where he lives with his wife Doreen, a semi-professional violinist. They have three cats and a dog.

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