

Meeting Notice**Thursday, January 16, *Fedora Cafe and Bar***210 West 47th Street, Kansas City, MO, (816) 561-6565

Gather at 11:15 a.m., join group for lunch at 11:30 a.m., program to follow lunch

The Mysteries of Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) Explained. Our program will be presented by Dan Rau on behalf of Comrex. Dan will cover the operational concepts behind POTS codecs, provide tips on selecting a system and integrating it into a station's remote broadcast system, and offer some tricks on getting the most reliable service possible from POTS lines.



Our lunch will be provided by Comrex. Please arrive on time so we can be seated as a group. >

Certification Dates		
Exam Date	Location	App. Deadline
February 7-17	Local Chapter	Closed
April 8	NAB, Las Vegas	March 1
June 6-16	Local Chapter	April 25
August 15-25	Local Chapter	June 13
November 7-17	Local Chapter	September 26

Last Month's Meeting

We met at the MidTech 2002 expo, which featured more than 30 exhibitors and drew broadcast engineers from around the region. MidTech was held on December 4 and 5 at the Downtown Marriott.

Our lunch was provided by Panasonic and arranged by Pro Video Supply. Following the business portion of the meeting, a representative from Yamaha spoke about digital consoles and the benefits they offer in installed and portable applications.

Chairman's Chat

By Kirk Chestnut, CSRE

New Year's Resolutions

I once made a New Year's resolution to stop making resolutions. Why make resolutions since I wind up breaking them anyway? Since then I've tempered that philosophy, and I have learned to make more realistic goals for my life. What will we resolve to do during these unstable times to help further the engineering art? I have few ideas for us to consider.

Resolution #1. Create a single bi-state relay frequency for EAS where all who monitor can receive Kansas, Missouri and metro-area civil alerts.

The EAS will certainly demand a good amount of T.L.C. this year. Implementation of this system will help solidify and simplify message routing from state or local agen-

cies to metro broadcasters. The EAS committee welcomes input from everyone to make this a reality. I want to thank to Karen Raines at the FCC for her continued enthusiasm and invaluable help on this project. The basic building blocks for an effective system are there; let's refine and use this tool for the sake of our neighbors.

Resolution #2. Convert and update the SBE 59 frequency coordination database to be user-friendly, accurate and helpful.

One tool none of us can do without is a current, accurate and user-friendly frequency coordination database. Rumblings from the SBE national office indicate that new database software is under development. This new system may incorporate the popular Access database program.

To bring our database up to speed will require more work than one person can handle. Bob Schneider will soon be presenting us with a conversion plan. If four or five members divide the data set, the conversion process could be done over the course of an evening or two. Phase two will involve every member to help update authorizations relevant to his particular station or stations.

Resolution #3. Secure discounted tuition rates at local colleges, universities and tech schools for SBE59 members.

Has time or money been holding you back from completing that degree? Perhaps you've been itching to learn to program in Java or hone those management skills. As a value-added service of the SBE to you, I would like to establish working relationships with our area educators. I am interested in pursuing group discount rates. I think it is very important to build dynamic relationships with those who are training the next generation of broadcasters. If you have contacts within the education community, please let me know. We are interested in making contact with registrars, recruiters and technical department heads.

What are your personal goals this year? Will you build a

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new studio or transmitter site, expand your knowledge of digital processing or simply strive to survive the next wave of cutbacks? Whatever your pursuit this next year, I want SBE59 to be more than just an entry on your job application form, I want it to be an indispensable service to you year round.

Change in SBE Board of Directors

During a conference-call board meeting, the Society of Broadcast Engineers board of directors ratified the appointment of Dave Hultsman, CSRE to the board. Hultsman, domestic channel manager for Continental Electronics, assumes the unexpired term of Donald Driskell, CSTE CBNT of Jackson, MS.

Driskell elected to step down from the board for personal reasons and has expressed his hope to serve on the board again in the future.

Hultsman's term will expire in the Fall of 2003.

SBE Provides BAS Tutorial to FCC

On December 17, the Society of Broadcast Engineers presented the *Broadcast News and Sports Tutorial* to more than 100 staff members of the Federal Communications Commission. The purpose of the five-hour program was to inform attendees about broadcasters' use of auxiliary spectrum regulated under 47 CFR Part 74.

Presentations were given by the SBE, CBS Sports, the National Football League, Broadcast Sports, Media Alert and the Southern California Frequency Coordination Committee. The importance of spectrum availability and coordination of its use was described using real-life examples of breaking news and sports programming. Video clips of breaking news coverage of wildfires, marine disasters and severe weather depicted how broadcasters rely on auxiliary spectrum and wireless communications to report news to the public. The wide use of wireless devices in sporting events was depicted using PGA Golf tournaments, auto races and NFL football games as examples. The important role of the SBE regional and event frequency coordinators was explained.

EAS Required Monthly Test January 28

The EAS RMT is sent on the last Tuesday of the month.

SBE Frequency Coordination Director David Otey moderated the program. Presenters included Ken Aagaard and Larry Barbatsoulis of CBS Sports, Ralph Beaver, CBT, of Media Alert, Howard Fine, CPBE, of the Southern California Frequency Coordination Committee, Jay Gerber, CBT,

and Karl Voss of the National Football League. Also making presentations were SBE General Counsel, Chris Imlay of Booth, Freret, Imlay & Tepper, P.C., Peter Larsson of Broadcast Sports and Louis Libin of Broad-Comm. Bruce Franca, Deputy Chief of the FCC Office of Engineering and Technology, Benedict and SBE Executive Director, John Poray provided opening comments.

Ennes Workshop Set For NAB Convention

The Ennes Educational Foundation Trust and SBE will once again collaborate to present an Ennes Workshop during the NAB spring 2003 convention in Las Vegas. This year's workshop will be held on Saturday, April 5 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

Workshop topics will include digital audio technology, and facility infrastructure and centralization. Session attendees can apply for SBE recertification credit following the workshop. The Ennes Workshop is open to all who hold full registration credentials for the convention.

New Handbook for Radio Operators

SBE will be releasing a new SBE Handbook for radio operators later this month. A new certification level and exam are being prepared and will be available when the book is released. The book will include sample questions to help users prepare for the optional test.

SBE to Host PSIP Remailer

At the request and suggestion of many members, the SBE will establish and host an e-mail remailer for online discussions about PSIP. To subscribe to the list, go to www.broadcast.net/mailman/listinfo/sbe-psip and follow the instructions. Tom Weber, CPBE, of WISH-TV, Indianapolis will be the initial moderator for the list.

Wanted: Your News and Information

The SBE59 newsletter, *The Communicator*, is published every month as a service to the members, sponsors and guests of SBE Chapter 59. We are always looking for information on what is happening at stations and facilities around Kansas City. Have you hired someone new? Have you received a promotion? Have you installed some new equipment? Tell us about it and share it with your engineering colleagues. Send any of your stories or ideas to a chapter officer or e-mail them to sbe59@broadcast.net

Check That Label

This newsletter is mailed to more than 100 people in the Kansas City area. Help us keep our mailing list current and accurate. Send corrections or deletions to sbe59@broadcast.net or by mail to the return address on this newsletter. >



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Upcoming Meetings

Mark the following dates on your calendar so you don't miss an upcoming meeting:

January 16

POTS Codec Technology

February 13

Inside Everest Connections

March 13

Richland Tower

April 10

Broadcast Antiques Roadshow

Coordinate Those Frequencies

One of the many services performed by the SBE is frequency coordination. Supplying your station's frequency usage information to the chapter frequency coordinator helps prevent interference situations. Take a moment to review the frequencies that your station uses and supply this information to Bob Schneider, frequency coordinator for SBE59. Accurate coordination depends on accurate records. Please help us to help you.



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