

Meeting Notice**Thursday, February 13, Everest Connections**

9669 Lackman, Lenexa, KS, (816) 268-3000

Tour begins at 1:00 p.m.; lunch at 12 noon, meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Facility tour and operational overview. Everest Connections is relatively new to the Kansas City metro. The company provides cable television, Internet access and local telephone service to a customer base in the AREA AREA. Our tour will include an explanation of the duties of the people and function of the equipment housed at the facility, including the Network Operations Center (NOC) and headend/central office. The facility houses about \$30 million in equipment.



Lunch details: We will meet at 12 noon across the street at Schmack Daddy's Sports Bar at 9562 Lackman in the Kansas Commerce Center. The sign over the restaurant says Sports Bar. Because we are ordering from the menu, it will help if you are on time or even a little early. >

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

After a last-minute location change, we were treated to lunch at Fedora's on the Plaza. Our program was presented by Dan Rau, who represented Comrex. His presentation included an overview of the Comrex product line, a demonstration of POTS codec technology and some insight into getting the best performance from any dial-up telephone service.

Chairman's Chat

By Kirk Chestnut, CSRE

Thanks for Everything

This month I want to highlight one of SBE59's finest members. Joe Snelson, CPBE, VP and director of engineering for Meredith Corporation (KCTV-TV), will soon leave Kansas City and relocate to Meredith's corporate offices in Las Vegas. He has had a long and distinguished career in Kansas City and is an important player in Kansas City's broadcast history. I had the privilege to sit with Joe and talk about the time he has spent here.

Joe has been a part of SBE59 since the very first meetings held in the fall of 1978. He was the chapter's first frequency coordinator, a post he held until 1992. He has also served as the chapter's secretary/treasurer. Joe presently serves as the chapter's certification committee chairman.

You might say that Kansas City broadcasting is in Joe's blood. While he was born here, he grew up in Los Angeles. His career began at KHOF-TV Channel 30 in San Bernardino, CA. While still in California he received an associate's degree and was well on his way to a successful career in television.

In June 1977, Joe moved to Kansas City to build KYFC-TV Channel 50 at 47th Street and Rainbow. Construction began in October 1977 on a new tower at East 56th Street in Kansas City, MO. The tower was completed in the summer of 1978. Channel 50 did not sign on the air from the new facility until December of that same year. Incidentally, this is the site of the new Richland tower. He served as the chief engineer at KYFC until Dec. 1, 1980 when he took a job at what was then KCMO-TV5.

Joe's responsibilities included not only television but also oversight of KCEZ-FM (94.9) and KCMO-AM (810). He worked for Jack McKain, CPBE, as his assistant until the radio stations were sold to Fairbanks in 1983. Jack took a position as the director of engineering for the Kansas State Network that year, leaving the top position at channel 5 to Joe.



Snelson

As an interesting sidebar, the sale of the radio stations necessitated a change in call sign for Channel 5. The station's general manager, Phil Jones, negotiated with a station in San Angelo, TX, to bring the KCTV call letters to Kansas City.

In January 1990 Joe was offered the top technical position for Meredith as its VP of engineering. He continued as both corporate VP and KCTV chief engineer until 1998 when a new stations chief was named, allowing Joe to devote all of his attention to corporate affairs.

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When I asked Joe to tell me about the scariest event in his career, he said, "Without a doubt—the fire at KCMO-AM."

Renovations had been done in late 1980 to the 810 AM transmitter site. A passing thunderstorm in March 1982 struck a tower, creating an arc inside the transmitter building and igniting the black jacket on the transmission lines. Joe had been the assistant engineer for just three weeks when the call came that the station was off the air. Even the standby transmitter didn't work. Joe drove up to the building to the sounds of the fire horn blowing. "Oh No! Not a fire—not what I need," he thought.

He felt the door but it was not hot. When he opened door, heavy black smoke belched out. Much to his frustration all he could find were *chemical* extinguishers instead of Halon or carbon dioxide.

Joe received his AM baptism literally by fire that week.

KCMO was still running under test authority at the time. According to Joe, prior to the fire "we couldn't get three weeks of consistent readings out of the array." With the help of a consulting engineer, Joe took every dial reading imaginable. After a lot of tweaking of the array, Fred Frank and Joe took off to take field readings and got every one of them in, and kept them stable for the prerequisite three weeks. Subsequently, the station got its authorization.

Joe leaves now to focus his attention on the 11 stations in the Meredith group in Atlanta, Phoenix, Portland, Hartford, CT, Nashville, Kansas City, Greenville/Asheville, Las Vegas, Saginaw, MI, and Bend, OR. Joe, thanks from all of us at SBE59 for all you have done. We wish you the very best in your endeavors at Las Vegas. You will be missed greatly. Godspeed!

SBE Reviewing Part 74 Ruling

The SBE Frequency Coordination and FCC Liaison committees have been discussing a course of action regarding the recent FCC decision affecting Part 74 frequency coordination. The SBE Executive Committee discussed this at length during its last meeting on January 11. Included in the discussion was how the FCC ruling affects the responsibilities of SBE regional frequency coordinators. After establishing what changes are necessary, SBE will provide guidance to frequency coordinators on how to proceed.

EAS Required Monthly Test February 25

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

SBE Assists in Winning New Hampshire Case

The SBE submitted an *amicus curiae* brief in a recent case heard by the New Hampshire Supreme Court that will be instructive to courts in other states with similar circumstances. In *Koor Communications, Inc. v. City of Lebanon, NH*, the Court ruled the decision establishes that, where compliance with the terms of an FCC construction permit or license and compliance with land use regulations are mutually exclusive, the FCC's authority is preemptive. In other words, under some circumstances, the FCC's assignment of a construction permit to serve a particular community preempts that community's preclusion of broadcast service through unreasonable land use regulation.

While not controlling in other states, the case may set an example in similar cases to courts in other states. One instance is the Lookout Mountain case in Colorado, which seeks to replace four towers with one in an area that is protected by local zoning ordinances. The Colorado restriction affects the DTV roll-out for that area.

Details will be made available in the March issue of the *SBE Signal*. The SBE's general counsel, Chris Imlay, drafted and submitted the brief.

New SBE Dues Rates in Effect

As announced in October of last year, the SBE raised membership dues on January 1, 2003. The increase will affect most members. The rate for Regular, Senior and Associate members is now \$60 per year, an increase of \$5. This is the first dues increase for these membership categories since April 1992. Dues for Student Members are now \$18 per year, up from \$15. This is the first increase in this category since 1996.

The new rates will apply to new members that join on or after January 1, 2003 and for current members who are due to renew April 1, 2003. Membership dues for Youth Members will remain at \$10 while dues for Sustaining Members will stay at \$550 per year.

Chapters will share in the increased revenues from the dues increase. Chapter rebates will increase because they are determined by the amount of dues paid by Regular, Senior and Associate members.

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. >



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Upcoming Meetings

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

February 13

Inside Everest Connections

March 13

RF Specialties Barbecue, Susquehanna Radio

April 10

Windows Tips and Tricks

May 1

Euphonix Max Air Tour, KSMO-TV

May 8

Transmitter Services, Broadcast Richardson

June 12

Richland Tower Tour

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 is the initial moderator for the list.

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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