

**Meeting Notice****Thursday, February 10, KCP&L Service Center**

4400 E Front St.; Kansas City, MO

**Gather and lunch at 11:30 a.m., meeting at 12 noon, program to follow**

*Facility Tour.* This facility serves several functions, including storage of large materials such as pole transformers and capacitors, housing the fleet garage, radio shop and a new substation. The primary function of the service center covers an area between the river to the north, Stateline Road to the west, 39<sup>th</sup> St. to the south and about I-435 to the east.



The Hawthorn power station is located nearby, and we will learn how a substation fits into a power distribution system, including a discussion of the difference between power transmission lines versus power distribution lines.

There are two gates between N. Jackson and Chouteau Twfy. on Front St. Enter through the east gate. Tell the guard that you are with SBE59. Michael Wegner will be our host.

A large sub sandwich will be ordered. Please bring a few dollars to help cover the cost.

**Educational Seminar****Tuesday, February 22, UMKC Pierson Center**

University Center; 5000 Rockhill Rd.; Kansas City, MO 64110

**6:30 p.m.**

*How-to Surround Sound Workshop.* The Kansas City Section of the Audio Engineering Society has arranged this seminar and invited SBE59 to participate. Mike Sokol, audio engineer and author, will lead this workshop that will discuss creative multichannel mixing methods, multichannel codecs and encoding techniques, surround sound for broadcast, bass management, multichannel surround mastering considerations, and live sound multichannel techniques.

Television is already embracing surround sound, and there are four groups working on surround sound technologies for IBOC. With surround sound gaining consumer acceptance, broadcasters need to know and understand how to properly handle these systems.

**Educational Seminar****Wednesday, February 23, Electronics Supply**

4100 Main St.; Kansas City, MO 64111; 816-931-0250

**Arrive by 8:30 a.m. Registration required.**

*From Baseband to Serial Digital Transmission.* This technical presentation describes the theory and practical application of digital video technology, with an emphasis on the differences between analog and digital test instrumentation. The two-hour presentation will cover NTSC, signal quantization, bit-depth of luminance and chroma, the differences between standard definition and high-definition signals, serial digital transmission and system timing.

Certification Exam Dates		
Exam Date	Location	App. Deadline
Apr 19	NAB2005	Mar 1
Jun 3-13	Local Chapter	Apr 22
Aug 12 - 22	Local Chapter	Jun 10

The speaker is John Pierce, director of sales, Leader Instruments. He has been in the electronics industry for more than 42 years, with about half of that time spent on the technical side of the business, and the last 20 years with Leader Instruments in a sales capacity.

Register in advance by calling 816-931-0250. Lunch will be provided. ☺

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**Last Month's Meeting**

*By Ben Weiss*

The January meeting was held Jan. 13 at the Kansas City Emergency Management Operations Center. There were 17 in attendance. Steve Epstein, chapter chairman, presided over the business meeting.

In chapter business, it was noted that seven of the 13 newsletter sponsors had renewed at that time. The remainder were expected to renew as well. Chriss Scherer is still seeking assistance with creating the newsletter each month.

The National Certification Committee is about to introduce its first Specialist Certification. The first one will cover AM directional maintenance.

Bob Schneider, chapter frequency coordinator, noted that it has been quiet on the coordination front. The Nextel plan to change the 2GHz portion of the TV ENG band will go into effect 45 days after the FCC publishes it. Nextel is paying for the equipment necessary for stations to make the transition, and it will determine which markets will go first. With input from the selected market stations, the area frequency coordinator will plan the transition and Nextel can calculate the cost.

Mike Rogers provided a rundown of future programs. The RF Specialties Engineering Appreciation Barbecue lunch will be held in March. Other programs are being finalized.

By proxy, Kirk Chestnut, KC Metro EAS chairman, provided an update on EAS activity. The work continues on the Internet Broadcast Alert System (IBAS) and its interface with the Sage Endec. The last bugs in the system are being worked out, and further offline test are contemplated.

John Morris brought up a point of discussion for radio stations planning to implement IBOC. The system has a built-in system delay of six to eight seconds, which eliminates a station's ability to monitor an off-air signal for remote feeds. Real-time cue feeds will be needed for these applications, including traffic reports and remote broadcasts. Morris suggested that the local RPU band plan may need to be revisited to accommodate the increased needs.

The program was presented by Craig Watts of the Kansas City office of the FBI and dealt with security of computer and broadcast facilities. He provided tips and ideas for stations to safeguard themselves from unauthorized entry. He also discussed some of the recent efforts of the Department of Homeland Security.

**Chairman's Chat****What are you doing with your knowledge?***By Steve Epstein, CPBE CBNT*

Anyone who has worked in a profession for some length of time has acquired knowledge. Some refer to that knowledge as "on-the-job training." Others refer to it as the "school of hard knocks." Regardless, experience can be an excellent teacher. When was the last time you took the time to pass your experience on to someone else?

There are always items that pile up a facilities that are relatively easy to fix. In television, these items are often small black and white monitors or intercom headsets. Sometimes they aren't repaired because there are plenty of spares. Although they may not be needed, they items can serve as excellent teaching tools. I have found one of the best ways to learn how something works is to fix it. Repairing a half dozen B&W monitors might take an experienced tech four to eight hours (often less). However, for a junior staff member or an intern, repairing one of these could easily turn into an all-day job.

None of us really has that kind of time to spare, but taking a day and sharing your knowledge on repairs such as these can be rewarding for you and beneficial to your staff. Having multiple items that are similar and need repair allows a student to gain considerable experience in a short time and also improves his or her learning as he or she has the opportunity to immediately apply the knowledge.

Some might consider this a waste of time, as "no one does component-level repair any more," but I would argue that we all still do it. It is just that the size of the components has changed, where we used to replace a resistor or a transistor, now we replace an entire board. The skills needed to narrow the problem down to the component are the same, regardless of its size. Taking the time to teach someone how to repair a headset gives him an opportunity to learn much more, including troubleshooting skills, soldering, and the use of test instruments. This also provides him with the satisfaction of a job well done and builds his self-confidence. Take the time to be a mentor for someone in the industry, more than likely you will be glad you did—and so will he.

**KC IBAS Update***By Kirk Chestnut, CSRE*

Improvement continues on the Internet Broadcast Alert System or (IBAS) AMBER alert software interface. Because of a bug discovered in the Sage Endec, an FSK generator was added to the broadcaster's receiver software to interface with the EAS decoders. We attempted to send raw EAS data into a Sage serial port configured

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as an encoder; however, this function was never completely developed by Sage as published. The concept worked as long as we provided audio on monitor input 2 and limited the number of receiver channels to scan monitors 1 through 3. To scan sources 4, 5 or 6 produced a staccato audio that was unacceptable.

We will conduct a few offline tests at KCSP and KCMO with the revised software before conducting a real-world test of the system. Fortunately we have not had a single child abduction in the immediate KC area throughout this process. It wouldn't hurt my feelings if we never had to use this system at all. I have put in a request with the local FCC office and the Kansas/Missouri SECC chairman for permission to air a CAE in place of our regular RMT but have not yet received a reply. According to the Rules, a system activation satisfies the need for a required monthly test. In subsequent discussions with the KCMO police department, it was decided that a KC AMBER Alert Awareness Day is in order. We will conduct a live test at that time.

When the CAE airs, TV and cable text crawl will state that a "Child Abduction Emergency" has been issued by local officials similar to when the State of Kansas tests its system. Because of this, we only want to test in this

manner once. In the future, the KCPD will be able to participate in the monthly test schedule by sending RMTs directly to the system.

Once the system has had some reasonable burn-in time, the receiver software can be made available to anyone free of charge. It can be used to drive EAS equipment directly as an audio source or used as a data terminal in the studio or newsroom for real-time notifications. E-mail and text-enabled cell phones will be able to subscribe to the system for immediate notification when an alert is sent.

We are looking into ways of resolving the roadblocks encountered with the most recent abduction in NW Missouri. The IBAS system can be configured to forward Missing Persons information on a subscription basis to news personnel without triggering a full-blown, EAS-distributed AMBER alert. This may have helped get the word out on a low-profile basis while AMBER policy was being discussed in Jefferson City. We have talked with Don Hicks with the Missouri Broadcasters Association about inclusion of the IBAS system for the State of Missouri. IBAS software currently serves just the immediate Kansas City market.

#### SBE 2004 Awards Nominations Open

Every year, the SBE holds its annual awards program to recognize the outstanding efforts of SBE chapters and members. SBE members and chapters are eligible to be nominated. Some awards are based on chapter statistics such as attendance and percentage of certified members. Other categories require a nomination. The 2004 nomination form is available for download as a PDF on the SBE website.

Nominations are due in the SBE National Office by May 31, 2005.

#### SBE Assists Nextel with Pending Spectrum Relocation

The SBE has signed an agreement with Nextel to assist in planning and executing the relocation of broadcasters out of 2GHz channels one and two.

The FCC has released a Report and Order on the 2GHz band that assigns frequencies being vacated by broadcasters to Nextel. Nextel has formed a transition team that will work with broadcasters to implement the transition.

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**Next EAS Required Monthly Test: February 22**  
The RMT is sent on the last Tuesday of the month

As part of the proposed agreement, Nextel will replace virtually all of the analog, 2GHz microwave and ancillary broadcast equipment in the United States. The estimated cost of this project is slightly more than one-half billion dollars. It carries a deadline of 30 months from the time the order becomes official and targets more than 1,000 total entities in about 200 television markets.

SBE Frequency Coordination Director David Otey, CSTE, will be the SBE's point person with Nextel. SBE local volunteer frequency coordinators will play an important role in the transition too, providing guidance on how best to group markets in the overall timeline to minimize disruption to news operations and organizing meetings of local broadcasters. For more information contact David Otey at [dotey@sbe.org](mailto:dotey@sbe.org) or 303-713-0924.

#### Chapter Newsletter Help Still Needed

Submit a story, provide a news item, forward some station news. All submissions qualify for recertification points.

#### Program Set for Ennes Workshop at NAB2005

What does the next-generation broadcast master control look like? Is it an IT closet? Is it baseband or precompressed? Is it centralized, distributed, multichannel or operator-centric? These questions and more will be addressed as part of the insight to broadcast operations for radio and TV of the future.

For 2005, PBS joins the Ennes Educational Foundation Trust and the SBE in presenting this one-day program. The event will be held on Saturday April 16 at the Las Vegas Convention Center beginning at 9 a.m. The Ennes Program is a part of the Broadcast Engineering Conference, co-presented by the NAB and the SBE.

#### Nominations Open for SBE Fellow

The Fellow designation is the most distinguished recognition presented to members of the SBE by the SBE. Members may be elected to the Fellow rank through conspicuous service, valuable contributions to the advancement of broadcast engineering or its allied professions, or by disseminating their broadcasting knowledge and promoting its application in practice.

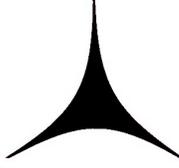
Candidates must be proposed in writing by a voting member to the Fellowship Committee. The nomination must include an appropriate and complete history of the nominee's career and written letters of endorsement from at least five SBE members. Nominees should not be made aware of their candidacy.

Submit nominations for Fellow by March 31 to Martin

Sandberg, CPBE; Chairman, SBE Fellowship Committee; 9807 Edgecove Drive, Dallas, TX 75238-1535 or to [sandytex@swbell.net](mailto:sandytex@swbell.net).

#### Leader Skills 2005 Scheduled

The SBE has scheduled Course I of the SBE Leader Skills Seminar for June 7 to 9, 2005, in Indianapolis. The SBE Leader Skills Seminar provides management and people skills training for broadcast engineers. Dick Cupka will lead the seminar. The course fee is being determined and will be announced soon. Mark the dates and make plans to attend or send someone from your station. Both the individual and the company will benefit. ☺



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**Chapter 59 list server:** sbe-kc@yahoogroups.com

**Upcoming Meetings and Events**

**February 10 - KCPL**  
 Facility Tour

**February 23 - Electronics Supply**  
 DTV Seminar

**March 10 - Taketwo Productions**  
 Engineer Appreciation Lunch w/ RF Specialties

**June 21-24 - Location TBA**  
 Orban/CRL Mobile Broadcast Lab Tour

**Upcoming meeting dates**  
 Mark your calendar now  
**April 14**  
**May 12**

**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](mailto:sbe59@broadcast.net). Articles published in *The Communicator* will qualify for SBE recertification points.



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