

Meeting Notice

Thursday, April 10, *Don Chilito's Restaurant*

7017 Johnson Drive, Mission, KS, (913) 432-4615

Gather at 11:30 am, Lunch and Meeting at 12:00 noon.



Care and Feeding of Windows PCs. Trent Douthat, an information analyst for electronic data systems, will present tips and tricks that hopefully will make life easier when dealing with the popular operating system, which is complex and sometimes frustrating.

Officer Elections. The annual election of officers will take place at the April meeting. Additional nominations can be made before the final vote is taken. Take an active role in the future of Chapter 59 and vote. ☺

Certification Dates		
Exam Date	Location	App. Deadline
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 studios of Susquehanna Radio in Mission. Our business meeting included a discussion of several projects that have been initiated, including efforts to revise the frequency coordination database and the method used to store and access the data. The *Chairman's Chat* has more on this.

Nominations also opened for the officer elections that will be held at the April meeting. The first round of nominations resulted in a slate of candidates as follows:
 Chairman Kirk Chestnut, CSRE
 Vice chairman Chris Castro
 Secretary/treasurer Ben Weiss, CPBE

Additional nominations can be made at the April meeting.

Our program was an engineers appreciation lunch. John Sims and Chris Kreger of RF Specialties provided a home-made barbecue lunch of brisket, turkey breast and spare ribs slow-smoked over native Missouri hickory and fruit woods. Slaw, beans, corn casserole, bread and drinks rounded the meal. RF Specialties also provided drawings for door prizes and logo wear from several of the manufacturers that RF Specialties represents. The top prizes were a Bird Model 43 wattmeter, a DBX 166XL compressor/limiter and gift certificates from Moseley and Tieline. Susquehanna provided facility tours after the meeting.

Chapter Meeting Webcast Opportunities

Through a donation from Tieline America and with cooperation of Bnet Radio at Broadcast.net, SBE chapters can

webcast chapter meetings or other events for free. Tieline has donated a POTS codec to Bnet Radio for chapters to borrow as needed. Events will be streamed through Broadcast.net. Two events at NAB2003, the SBE EAS meeting and the SBE Membership Meeting, will be webcast live from Las Vegas. The webcasts will also be archived for later playback on demand.

Chairman's Chat

By Kirk Chestnut, CSRE

Research, Report and Relay with Reliability

What do electronic news gathering, IBOC digital radio and frequency coordination have in common? They all rely on the Broadcast Auxiliary Services (BAS). Unless your studios are co-located at the transmitter, you depend on field-to-studio and studio-to-transmitter BAS links to deliver programming. By the looks of the 950MHz band in Kansas City, we need help.

Traditional composite FM technology is pre-emphasized and is limited to 15kHz audio bandwidth; two very good reasons to move to digital STLs. Right now there are nearly 80 radio stations stretching from Topeka to Lexington and St. Joseph to Ottawa that share the 16 channels that span 500kHz each in the 950 band. Fortunately, many of the AMs that could use these frequencies have studios co-located at the their transmitter sites or they depend on landlines for program delivery—but this will change.

Digital STL equipment has been on the market for a number of years, and it has been well received in the metro. As audio compression algorithms improve and the price of equipment drops, many more stations will be looking to the BAS 950MHz band. Leasing T1s from the telephone company is an option, albeit an expensive one. Others have utilized methods such as fiber, spread spectrum and 2GHz. It is, however, the 950MHz band that remains the backbone of radio broadcast STL service.

If we are to maximize the use of the 950MHz band to accommodate the largest number of digital users some-

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**EAS Required Monthly Test
 April 29**

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



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thing has to give. Stations in larger markets such as Dallas and Seattle have all agreed to install 8' to 10' dishes in an effort to clean up pathways by narrowing beam spread. Optimization by reassignment of frequencies across the band could certainly help as well.

Before corrective measures can be taken we need to re-evaluate the usage of our BAS bands, especially the RPU bands. A little planning now will yield dividends in the future for all of us.

Working to that end we need to accomplish the following:

1. Migrate the current Kansas City area frequency database to a user-friendly format. Done. Steve Epstein has graciously donated his time and resources in converting the database to Access.
2. Gather information. We need several volunteers willing to assist in documenting changes through e-mail and telephone calls. The work will be divided by service band. This work will be eligible for recertification credit and should only take a nominal amount of personal time to complete.
3. Publish the database online for all to examine. Mark Leaver has volunteered to help us publish the work online.
4. Discuss and implement changes. Look for upcoming roundtable discussions at an SBE meeting near you.

Frequency coordination is more than a one-man show; it's a responsibility that we all share. I am grateful to Bob Schneider for his continued commitment to the job as frequency coordinator. Holding down a full-time management position, building a new digital transmission site and serving as the NFL game-day coordinator is a monumental undertaking. Thanks Bob.

Let's now stand behind Bob in this group effort to update and maintain our portion of the radio spectrum. In time to come, we will ask that you e-mail your requests to the appropriate information gatherers. As a result, we can then develop a comprehensive plan to deal with the bandwidth issues that will have direct bearing on IBOC and electronic news gathering.

Job Opening: Northwest Missouri State University
 TV/video engineer, Department of Mass Communication. Responsible for design and engineering of academic television facilities and maintenance of all Macintosh com-

puters in the Multimedia Lab. Performs other duties as needed and assigned. Additional responsibilities include working cooperatively with engineer for KXCV-FM and KZLX-LP radio stations. For more detailed information see Northwest's website at www.nwmissouri.edu or call 660-562-1361. Start date: June 1, 2003. Northwest is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

SBE Dues Notices Mailed

Current members received their renewal notices in February. Renewals were due April 1. Please renew immediately so the chapter can receive full credit for members assigned to our chapter.

Radio Operators Handbook Now Available

The new SBE *Certification Handbook for Radio Operators* is printed and available through the SBE National Office. The book, written by Ron Bartlebaugh, CBNT, was a project of the SBE Certification Committee. The cover photo, taken by Chriss Scherer, may look familiar. It was taken in the control room of KMXV.

FCC Issues New IBOC Notification Procedures

On March 20, the FCC's Media Bureau (MB) announced that AM and FM radio stations must notify the Commission by letter within 10 days of the commencement of in-band, on-channel (IBOC) digital transmissions. This new notification procedure is effective immediately and replaces the requirement that radio stations obtain special temporary authority (STA) prior to the initiation of IBOC transmissions. The digital notification letter should provide the information shown on the FCC's website at www.fcc.gov/mb/audio/digital.

SBE Schedule of Events at NAB2003

The SBE will exhibit in lobby booth 21 in the Las Vegas Convention Center. The booth is located next to the entrance to the NAB Broadcast Engineering Conference rooms N109 and N111.

Several events are scheduled to be held during the convention: the Board of Directors meeting will be held Sunday, April 6 at 8:30 a.m. in the Continental Salon in the LV Hilton; the National Tower Consortium meeting will be held on April 6 at 6 p.m. in Ballroom G of the LV Hilton; the Frequency Coordination meeting will be held on April 7 at 10 a.m. in Conference Rooms 1-3 in the LV Hilton; The EAS meeting will be held on April 7 at 2 p.m. in the LV Convention Center (LVCC) room N242; the 2GHz Transition meeting will be held April 8 at 2 p.m. in Grand Salon in the LV Hilton; the SBE Membership meeting will be held April 8 at 5 p.m. in LVCC room N239. Be sure to include these events in your NAB2003 schedule. ☺



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Upcoming Meetings

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

May 1

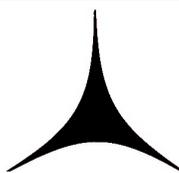
Euphonix Max Air Tour, KSMO-TV

May 8

IBOC for Medium Wave, Broadcast Richardson

June 12

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