

Meeting Notices

Thursday, May 1, KSMO-TV

10 E. Cambridge Circle, Kansas City, KS, (913) 621-6262
 Tours and demonstrations from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Euphonix Max Air Tour. Euphonix is making a nationwide tour with a specially commissioned truck that is outfitted with a 96-channel Max Air mixing system set up to simulate a local TV station digital audio control room. The setup includes playback of 48 channels of digital audio and eight video streams, which include program, preview and six camera/OB sources. The demonstrations and tours will discuss the advantages to using digital consoles for TV audio and cover other considerations in the transition from analog to digital. While this is an SBE-endorsed event there will not be a formal meeting.



Thursday, May 8, Old Chicago Pizza

11721 Metcalf, Overland Park, KS, (913) 345-1552
 Gather at 11:30 a.m., Lunch and Meeting at 12:00 noon.

IBOC Compatibility for Medium Wave Transmitters. The advent of the new digital broadcast technologies for the AM/MW and FM bands present new challenges to broadcasters and transmitter manufacturers. IBOC (branded HD Radio by Ibiqity Digital) systems designed to operate in the medium-wave frequency band require transmitters with certain specific characteristics that are not usually found in standard AM transmitters designed for analog transmission. Pablo Phillips, engineering director of Sender S.A., will present a discussion that focuses on the transmitter equipment requirements for HD AM broadcasting and will highlight the essential design elements for a high-efficiency, reliable product. Broadcast Richardson, who arranged the presentation, is sponsoring the lunch buffet. This will be the official monthly meeting for May for SBE59. ☺

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 Don Chilito's Restaurant in Mission. The main order of business was the annual election of officers. The results of the election are:

Chairman Kirk Chestnut, CSRE
 Vice chairman Chris Castro
 Secretary/treasurer Ben Weiss, CPBE

Meeting business included an update on the efforts to improve the frequency coordination database. This will be done in several steps, including updating the information in the database, creating an Access database form to store the data, and converting the data into a format that can be accessed through the chapter website.

The SBE National Certification Committee has released the *SBE Certification Handbook for Radio Operators*. This book provides a basic understanding of station operations and procedures. Chriss Scherer, CSRE CBNT, National

Certification Committee Chairman served as the editor of the handbook.

The program, a tips and tricks for Windows tutorial, was presented by Trent Douthat. Douthat provided useful information for keeping the popular operating system software running smoothly.

Chairman's Chat

By Kirk Chestnut, CSRE

Amber Waves of Gain

Last fall I took my bride to visit New Bern, NC; my boyhood home. I could not believe how much this sleepy little fishing town had transformed into a vibrant, prosperous community. Shopping centers had sprung up where my buddies and I used to hunt. Highways widened where narrow streets once existed. The one feature that intrigued me most on the trip was the plethora of electronic highway signs all along the eastern seaboard. Now those signs have made their entrance into Kansas City.

This fall the KDOT/MDOT joint venture called K.C. Scout makes it's inaugural run. We will be viewing traffic info from overhead electronic signs to inform us of hazardous conditions, alternative routes or abducted child information. In addition, more than 350 cameras and inductive-loop sensors connected by fiber optics will be watching for distressed motorists or traffic congestion. Never be-

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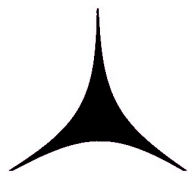


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fore has information been so prevalent and available in human history. Where do we as broadcasters fit into this ever-changing information age?

For starters, Kansas and Missouri have and currently are developing statewide alerting systems. Missouri Governor Bob Holden unveiled Missouri Alert during a press conference on Oct. 28, 2002. This system is designed to disseminate more than just the famed AMBER alert. Emergency messages can be spread across Missouri in a matter of minutes using the State Police two-way radio network. Each troop headquarters maintains a radio repeater that will relay the familiar EAS data bursts and audio. Stay tuned for monitoring details in days to come.

Why has EAS faltered as a system? First, if a station is unattended, who relays the message? Some have questioned the relevance of statewide alerts especially if they pertain to the opposite side of the state, thus many have chosen not to automatically relay alerts except for an EAN.

How about TV stations that need text crawl? Currently, the EAS message is transmitted as voice, requiring someone on the station side to transcribe the information. What happens if the transmission is garbled or the operator transposes a character or two?

Our answers to these questions came when we discovered KC Alert. A local minister, Reverend Steve Grey, concerned with the safety and welfare of metro-area kids developed a website that provides real-time notification in the event of a child abduction. With a full-time Internet connection and special software, KC Alert opens a screen on a computer's desktop and in the case of a local AMBER Alert, sounds an alarm. All of this is provided free of charge sponsored by the World Revival Church.

**EAS Required Monthly Test
 May 27**

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

A few weeks ago, I met with Reverend Grey, Karen Raines of the FCC and Drew Dimmel of Everest Communications to learn more about KC Alert. From that meeting came an idea to develop an Internet-based message system that could expedite message generation and distribution to not only broadcasters, but the highway signs I mentioned earlier.

The Local Emergency Communication Committee (LECC) has submitted a proposal to the FCC for permission to

FCC Makes Interim DTV Rules Permanent

In finalizing the interim rules governing DTV construction, the FCC is preparing for the day it must deal with the hard-core laggards. The FCC has stated that it feels that the DTV rollout at stations is continuing at an acceptable rate, it must be prepared to deal with stations that do not meet their DTV-construction obligation.

About 93 percent of television stations have already been granted DTV construction permits. Of those, 794 stations are now on-the-air and 772 have received extensions of permits under the May 1, 2002 deadline.

Items for Sale

The following are for sale from Chriss Scherer. Contact him directly at chriss@broadcast.net if you are interested.

Digigram VX222, PCI bus sound card. Perfect condition in original box. Installed and used for a very short time in an existing system until a newer, larger system was built. Analog stereo in, analog stereo out, digital stereo in, digital stereo out. Drivers available for Windows, Mac and Linux. Asking \$300.

Sennheiser MZS-100 (quantity: 4), mic shock mount. Excellent condition; still in original boxes; never used. Uses standard mic screw mount, installs between mic clip or holder and stand. Adjustable tension to adjust for weight of mic. Asking \$50 each or take all four for \$180.

Sioux City, IA, Job Opening

Waitt Radio has an opening in Sioux City, IA for an engineer. The qualified applicant will ensure the integrity of the broadcast signal and technical equipment and build and maintain technical systems to meet long-term objectives. Three years of broadcast engineering experience, FCC General Radiotelephone and/or SBE certification preferred. Previous electronics training, ability to travel and an understanding of computer network operations required. Send a cover letter and resume to Mike Hendrickson; Waitt Radio; fax 402-330-2445.

Lincoln, NE, Job Opening

Citadel Communications Company of Lincoln, NE, seeks a chief engineer. Requires sound knowledge of VHF and UHF transmitters, analog and digital environments, studios, remote facilities, and computer maintenance skills. Five or more years in engineering and a college degree preferred. Send a cover letter, resume and references to Dan Ackerman, vice president of engineering; Citadel Communications Company; 3240 South Tenth Street, Lincoln, NE 68502. E-mail dackerman@klkntv.com. ☺



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Upcoming Meetings and Events

June 7

CPR and First Aid Training

Contact Chriss Scherer to register; attendance is limited

June 12

Richland Tower Tour

July 10

Broadcast Antiques Roadshow

August 14

SBE59 Annual Picnic



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test and implement TCP/IP-based message distribution to broadcasters. This system will be free of charge to broadcasters. Let me repeat that, this will be free of charge to all radio, TV and cable systems. The broadcaster would need to supply a PC with sound card and a full-time Internet connection. The software supplied to the broadcaster will take care of processing incoming data and executing the alert using the existing EAS equipment owned by the station.

Upon approval, the plan calls for two possible methods of message generation: direct encoding and indirect encoding. Direct encoding would require law enforcement to purchase EAS equipment. The EAS message would be recorded in its entirety, including AFSK data and audible message, as a .WAV file. This file would be uploaded to a secure server. All end users subscribing to the system would receive the message nearly simultaneously. A special software package at the station end would automatically play the .WAV file upon receipt. Audio from the computer sound card would be routed to one of the monitor inputs on the station's EAS decoder. This computer-based feed would be the equivalent of an LP-3 or LP-4.

Indirect encoding will be a bit more sophisticated. An authorized law-enforcement officer with a laptop computer, Internet connection and password would log onto the secure server, download audio, video, text messages and designated target-area information. On the station end, software drivers interpret the raw data and generate the EAS message anew through the RS-232 port.

Whether the alert is aired or simply logged will be left to the discretion of station personnel. Will this system be mandated? No, under current Part 11 rules participation is voluntary. This system will, however, provide the degree of flexibility broadcasters need and demand today. Legislation is pending in Congress to make carriage of AMBER Alerts mandatory. I say that we strike preemptively in creating a system before the Federal government requires one.

What have we to gain by developing an improved EAS system? Everything! Stations will look good if they can supply real-time data to their listeners 24/7, whether they are manned or automated. And as to those highway signs, message space is limited. My guess is that they will direct motorist to tune to a local radio station for details. Will that station be yours?

That sleepy little fishing town I grew up in embraced change and became a vibrant, prosperous community.

They did what was necessary to make progress happen. The results of their work are literally heard around the world, because a proud product of that community may reside at the audio center of your facility. You see, New Bern, NC, is also the home of Wheatstone, the audio console manufacturer.

FCC Delays Coordination Deadline

On April 15 the FCC released an order granting the request for a temporary stay to delay the effective date of prior coordination procedures adopted by the FCC's *Report and Order* in the proceeding for most fixed point-to-point aural and TV Broadcast Auxiliary Service (BAS) stations.

The SBE requested the stay to allow BAS licensees time to provide and to correct BAS receive site information in the FCC licensing database, the Universal Licensing System (ULS), to ensure that the new procedures effectively avert interference to existing systems. The FCC has granted the request relief for six months, delaying the effective date to October 16, 2003. The original effective date was April 16, 2003.

The complete Order can be viewed online at this link: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-03-1141A1.pdf

The original *Report and Order* required that fixed aural BAS stations above 944MHz and fixed television BAS stations above 2.11GHz begin using the same methods that currently apply to Part 101 users.

The SBE requested a one-year stay. The commission noted that the database issues raised by the SBE are valid and have merit, which shows high praise for the SBE from the FCC.

Following the FCC ruling, Dane Ericksen, P.E., CS RTE, chairman of the SBE's FCC Liaison Committee, released information for stations urging them to take advantage of the time extension by verifying that their license information is accurate. An excerpt of Ericksen's letter follows:

The new Prior Coordination Notice (PCN) frequency coordination protocol is coming to Broadcast Auxiliary Service (BAS) 950MHz aural links and 2.5GHz, 7GHz and 13GHz TV links. The stay order did not address how broadcasters are supposed to go about correcting any ULS errors or omissions that may exist. The procedure spelled out in the Commission's May 7, 1999, Public Notice offered the following instructions.

How to submit corrections. Licensees may notify the Bureau of database errors informally. In those instances where there is no record of the license in the database, or where site, frequency or technical data is missing or incorrect, licensees should submit a copy of the station authorization or a copy of the original application for authorization and any subsequent applications for modification of the license. Any documentation should clearly indicate the data that is missing from the licensing database or the corrections that are required. Wherever possible, copies of applications should reflect the FCC stamped receipt date.

Where to submit corrections. Corrections should be mailed to the Federal Communications Commission; Wireless Telecommunications Bureau; Information Technology Division; 1270 Fairfield Road; Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245; ATTN: Broadcast Auxiliary Database Corrections.

Questions may be directed to Melissa Hower at 717-338-2544 or mhower@fcc.gov.

MBA Announces 2003 Convention Plans

The Missouri Broadcasters Association (MBA) will hold its 2003 convention June 5 to 7, 2003 at the Lodge of the Four Seasons in Lake Ozark, MO. Registration is required. See www.mbaweb.org for details.

The engineering session will be presented as an SBE Ennes Regional Workshop. The morning session will feature Bob McKinney of the FCC's Kansas City Field Office. Following the joint morning session, the Workshop will break into radio and TV tracks.

The radio track topics include Pattern Optimization for Side-Mounted FM Antennas (Keith Pelletier, Dielectric Communications), A Planning Guide: Determining the Best IBOC Migration Path for Your AM or FM Radio Station (Jay Adrick, Harris Corporation, Broadcast Division), IBOC Implementation Options for the Short and Long Term (Henry Downs, Dielectric Communications) and Care and Feeding of FM Multichannel Antennas (William Kerkhoff, Dielectric Communications).

The TV track topics include DTV Status Report: Overview of Current ATSC Activities (Jerry Whitaker, Advanced Television Systems Committee), Basics of ATSC DTV Transport (Dr. Richard Chernock, Triveni Digital), RF Measurements for a New Era from Z Technology (Dan Rau, Radio Applications Unlimited), Next Steps in DTV Transmission Implementation (Dave Glidden, Harris Corporation, Broadcast Division) and Control Room Automation: Altering the Workflow of Television News while Relieving

the Stress on Engineering (Matt Danilowicz, ParkerVision).

If your station has registered to attend the convention, you can attend the Ennes Workshop at no charge. If you or your station is not registered for the convention, you can register for the Ennes Workshop alone for \$35. Contact the MBA to register.

Nominations Open for SBE National Awards

The SBE Awards Committee is accepting nominations for the 2002 National Awards program. There are chapter awards and individual awards including Best Chapter Newsletter, Most Interactive Chapter, Best Chapter Website, Broadcast Engineer of the Year, Educator of the Year and Best Technical Article.

The nomination form is available on the SBE website at www.sbe.org. Nominations are due May 31.

SBE59 Holds CPR and First Aid Course

While there is always a chance that injury can occur during the most routine activities, the chances of injury increase for most engineers because of the equipment and situations that are the centerpiece of our work. Even with the most stringent safety practices, accidents happen. If your coworker were injured, would you know what to do to help him and perhaps even save his life?

Broadcast engineers face risks from equipment and situations. Potential dangers include high-voltage power supplies, falling from a ladder, injury from heavy lifting or from a heavy object falling. In most cases, basic first aid can make prevent a potentially serious injury from becoming life-threatening.

Chapter 59 has arranged for a one-day class in first aid and CPR. The class will be held on June 7, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at Johnson County Community College. Kansas City First Aid is providing the class. Upon completion of the course, attendees will be certified in first aid and CPR for two years.

Class enrollment is limited to 24 people. Enrollment will be set on a first-come basis. The deadline to enroll is May 30.

The cost of the class is \$26 per person for SBE members assigned to chapter 59 and \$41 per person for SBE non-members. If you would like attend, please contact Chriss Scherer at 913-967-7201 or chriss@broadcast.net. Payment is due in advance. Contact Chriss Scherer for payment information. If we exceed the 24-person enrollment limit, we will schedule another class for a later date.