

Meeting Notices**Thursday, June 12, *Richland Towers site***

6309 E. 56 Street, Kansas City, MO

Gather at 12:00 noon, Lunch and Meeting to follow.

Facility Tour and Overview of Construction Project. The tower site has been the existing location of KPXE-TV for several years. When the station began its transition to DTV operations, the former tower needed to be replaced to support the additional load. Richland Towers was brought in to build a new tower, capable of supporting several broadcast antennas, and then remove the old tower. In addition, the existing transmitter building was completely remodeled and partitioned to accommodate the new tower tenants.

Richland will provide a catered barbecue lunch and door prizes. Please RSVP to Teresa West at 813-286-4140 x6929 or twest@rtowers.com by June 5. ☺



Certification Dates		
Exam Date	Location	App. Deadline
August 15-25	Local Chapter	June 13
November 7-17	Local Chapter	September 26

Last Month's Meeting

We had two gatherings in May with one formal business meeting. The first gathering was held at the studios of KSMO-TV in Kansas City, KS, in early May. Euphonix brought its Max Air Tour to us. This nationwide featured a specially commissioned truck outfitted with a 96-channel Max Air mixing system set up to simulate a local TV station digital audio control room. The setup included playback of 48 channels of digital audio and eight video streams.

Our second gathering also featured the monthly meeting of SBE59. We met at Old Chicago Pizza in Overland Park. The program topic covered several points relating to the AM radio transition to IBOC, highlighting transmitter design issues that can adversely affect performance. Pablo Phillips, engineering director of Sender S.A., presented the program. Broadcast Richardson arranged the presentation and provided the lunch buffet.

Chairman's Chat

By Kirk Chestnut, CSRE

Safe and Secure

On May 28 the Media Security and Reliability Committee (MRSC) presented its biannual report before the FCC. The MSRC is a Federal Advisory Committee that reports to FCC Chairman Powell. Chairman Powell formed the MSRC following the events of September 11, 2001, in order to study, develop and report on best practices designed to assure the optimal reliability, robustness and security of the broadcast and multichannel video programming distribution industries.

At the heart of the report was the need for vast improvements to the national emergency messaging system (EAS). Two separate sub-committees reported on the best practices working now in several states and communities. These recommendations form the framework for a new system dubbed the Media Common Alert Protocol (MCAP). This protocol is designed to work in conjunction with current and emerging digital transmission media such as DTV and IBOC.

According to an FCC press release, Dennis J. Fitzsimons, MSRC chairman and president and chief executive officer of Tribune Company said, "September 11 was a wake-up call for all concerned—media, interest groups, government. We have to review what works and what doesn't. We simply have to communicate in a timely and accurate fashion. The public depends on us and we must come through."

According to the FCC report, "The Public Communications and Safety working group presented to the Council its interim report and offered for consideration 26 best practices recommendations aimed at ensuring the effective delivery of emergency information and warnings to the public.

Public Communications and Safety best practices recommendations include:

- A single federal entity should be responsible for public warning and all hazard-risk communication.
- Effective emergency communications should be achieved through a public/private partnership.
- Local and state governments should coordinate with the media to create, review and update emergency communications procedures.
- Local media should form emergency jurisdiction/market cooperatives to assure coordinated delivery of local emergency messages to all constituencies.

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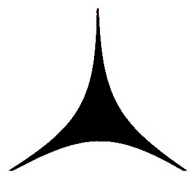
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**EAS Required Monthly Test
 June 24**

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



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- The Emergency Alert System should be periodically tested, upgraded as necessary and implemented and maintained at local, state and national levels.
- Research into development of alternative, redundant and/or supplemental means of communicating emergency information to the public should be accelerated.
- Local jurisdiction/market cooperatives should share their locally developed best practices for coordination, delivering risk communications and continuity planning under crisis conditions.

The Communication Infrastructure Security, Access and Restoration working group also presented its initial recommendations that will be further refined at the November 6, 2003, MSRC meeting.

Communications Infrastructure Security, Access and Restoration best practices recommendations include:

- National media companies should reassess their vulnerabilities and take appropriate measures to prevent loss of service and expedite rapid recovery.
- News media should consider agreements to allow flexibility in local use and retransmission of content under government declared emergencies.
- Local media facilities should conduct vulnerability assessments and have disaster recovery plans that are periodically reviewed, updated and practiced.
- Local media outlets should assess their collective vulnerabilities and develop cooperative agreements and plans to ensure some media remains in service under extreme conditions.
- Government should coordinate the creation of a Media Common Alert Protocol to deliver emergency messages via digital networks.

The 41-member Federal Advisory Committee will complete voting on these recommendations by June 18, 2003.

FCC Chairman Michael Powell said, "The most important responsibility the government and media share during times of crisis is to ensure the safety and well-being of our citizens.

"Making sure that people receive urgent information that is timely and accurate is truly a life-saving service that warrants our utmost attention and support. The recommendations we have seen today address some of the biggest challenges we must face regarding the delivery of a reliable public warning system."

Three Members Honored with Fellow Awards

The SBE Board of Directors recently elected three members to the membership grade of Fellow. The Fellow Award is the highest award bestowed by the SBE. The Board elected Ellis Feinstein, who is former president and CEO of Scala Electronic Corporation and a 50-year broadcast engineering veteran; SBE charter member Peter K. Onnigian, founder of Jampro Antenna Company and a 50-plus year veteran of the industry; and John L. Poray, CAE, who has served as executive director of the Society of Broadcast Engineers since 1992. Poray's career in non-profit organization management spans 26 years. A more detailed report on the newest SBE Fellows will be published in the June issue of the *SBE Signal*.

SBE59 CPR Training Postponed

SBE59 had scheduled a first aid/CPR training session for June 7. Because of the Missouri Broadcasters Association convention being held the same day, the chapter decided to postpone the training. New dates are being considered. Details on the rescheduled date will appear in next month's issue of *The Communicator* and will be posted on the SBE59 website and distributed via the chapter e-mail list server.

Tornado Hits Girard, KS Radio Station

A tornado ripped through Girard, KS, on May 4 and destroyed KSEK-FM's tower, turned the transmitter building into rubble and carried the transmitter across a field some 70 yards before dumping it in a ditch. To get the station back on the air, Jerry Tibbetts, contract engineer for the station, rented a Marti 1kW transmitter and connected it to a single-bay ERI antenna. The station will use this system until a new tower is built. The station's new transmitter will be a Broadcast Electronics FM-5T (5kW) transmitter.

NYC Tower Project Begins

Electronics Research (ERI) has been awarded a contract to design, manufacture and deliver a 385ft. tower to be mounted on the 4 Times Square building in New York City. The building is a 48-story office tower located at the corner of 42 Street and Broadway.

Shively Labs will provide the FM antenna and coaxial transmission line for the expansion of the broadcast facility. The facility is already home to eight New York-area FM stations.

The new 4 Times Square FM antenna will be the first major multistation facility designed from inception to handle both IBOC and analog signals. ☺



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Upcoming Meetings and Events

June 12

Richland Tower Tour

July 10

Broadcast Antiques Roadshow

August 14

SBE59 Annual Picnic

September

Kansas City Speedway and the Motor Racing Network



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