

Meeting Notice

Thursday, June 8, Don Chilitos Mexican Restaurant**7017 Johnson Drive, Mission, KS 66202**

Our June meeting will be a forum to discuss ideas to help steer the path of the Society for the future. This will be a chance to present ideas that can be applied to goals of the Society, possible programs and projects, and other aspects of the Society's role in the career of a broadcast engineer. Bring your ideas and an open and help to plan the future of the SBE.

Lunch begins promptly at 11:30. Save your receipts and we'll draw a name at the end of the meeting. Name that is drawn will have their lunch pay for.

**Certification Exam Dates**

<i>Exam Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>App. Deadline</i>
June 2-12, 2006	Local Chapter	Closed
August 11-21, 2006	Local Chapter	June 9, 2006
November 10-20, 2006	Local Chapter	September 22, 2006

Last Month's Meeting*By Ben Weiss, CPBE*

The May meeting of Chapter 59 of the Society Of Broadcast Engineers was held May 11, 2006 at the offices of Prism Business Media, 9800 Metcalf, Overland Park, Kansas. There were 14 in attendance. Chriss Scherer, national SBE president, presided over the business meeting.

Chriss opened the meeting at 12:15PM. After introductions, Ben read the minutes of the April meeting. Darrell Nickolaus made the motion to accept the minutes as read and Mike Rogers the second, passed.

Chriss Scherer told us that certification exams would be given locally in August and the deadline for signing up is June 9th. Chriss mentioned the SBE Executive committee meeting that would be held in KC in July. As a part of the event there will also be a strategic planning meeting. He suggested that our local chapter have its own planning session and then send a representative to the national meeting.

The national SBE office is now accepting nominations for the national awards program. Just some of the categories include engineer of the year, best chapter newsletter, best attended chapter, etc.

Finally, Chriss remarked that the annual dues for membership in SBE would increase effective July 1st.

Mike Rogers, program chairman stated that he is working on several ideas for future programs. Nothing is firm yet. The motion to adjourn was by Mike and the second by Darrell.

The program was a closed circuit video seminar on VidCad the computer software for studio wiring project documentation. Chriss

moderated the seminar and the VidCad presenter was John Weadock, VP Technical Services for VidCad.

**Chairman's Chat
Future of SBE***By Matt Kinnan, CEV CBNT*

On July 8th of 2006, there will be an all day conference composed of each SBE chapter chairman and the National Board of Directors. Each chapter chairman has been asked to attend this meeting and to bring forward their chapter's concerns for the future of the SBE.

Discussions will range in topic, however, the main points will be: How should the SBE play a part in our industry? How can it keep its growth and strength during the changes?

I have been sent a list of suggested questions for our chapter meeting. Your feedback is necessary in order for me to attend this meeting as a representative of our chapter. I would urge everyone to please review the questions below, and then try to make our monthly meeting on June 8th at Don Chilito's. Doing so will assure that our local chapter is getting full representation at this national meeting.

Here are some of the questions we will need to cover:

What are the SBE's most important/least important functions?

What services should the SBE provide? What services should be discontinued?

What role does/should the SBE play in the Broadcast industry?

What can the SBE do to increase the value of the membership and certification?

What is the skill set of the current broadcast engineer?

What skills are needed but lacking?

What would the future broadcast engineer be like?

What would the SBE do to increase awareness and interest in broadcast engineering?

What can the SBE do to attract more participation from members in local chapters and national level?

How can SBE National better support and work with local chapters?

If you don't think you can make our meeting, please answer one or two questions in an email to me. I encourage everyone to take the time to attend, so that your valuable feedback and suggestions can be heard. *mkinnan@t2.tv*

Matt

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Shop At Home to Close Its Doors

Chris Castro, CBT

Media company E.W. Scripps is giving up the struggle to make its money-losing Shop At Home television and online retailing subsidiary profitable and will close the business by June 30.

"This is not the outcome we had hoped for when we acquired Shop At Home nearly four years ago," Kenneth Lowe, Scripps' president and CEO, said in a statement.

Shop At Home, based in Nashville, Tenn., is the nation's fourth-largest TV shopping outlet with a reach of 57 million households.

While Scripps has enjoyed success with its Food Network, Home & Garden Television and other cable networks and its online comparison shopping business that includes Shopzilla, Shop At Home has lagged behind QVC, HomeShopping Network and ShopNBC.

"I think the primary constraint was our inability to secure high-quality channel positions on cable systems around the country," said Tim Stautberg, a company spokesman.

He said Shop At Home, which sells goods to television viewers and visitors to its Web site, also found it difficult to acquire unique merchandise to put it ahead of its competitors.

Scripps bought 70 percent of Shop At Home's share for \$49.5 million four years ago from Shop At Home Inc. and gained full control two years later when it acquired the remaining portion and five Shop At Home-affiliated broadcast television stations. The total value of the two transactions was about \$285 million.

Shop At Home's 650 full-time employees were notified on Tuesday that the business would be closing.

Job Opening

Chriss Scherer, CPBE CBNT

Field Maintenance Supervisor

REQUIREMENTS: Five years full-time experience in maintaining and repairing television and FM radio broadcast transmitters, audio/video distribution systems, satellite transmit and receive equipment, control and telemetry systems, and ancillary building and site systems required. Supervisory skills are essential. Graduation from a recognized vocational technical school in electronics may be substituted for one year experience. A FCC Radiotelephone Operator's License and a valid driver's license or ability to provide independent transportation required.

Must complete State application on or before postmarked closing date:6/14/06.

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**Vice President & General Manager
KSHB/KMCI Retires**

Chris Castro, CBT

For eleven years KSHB has made such great strides and accomplishments that our competitors are running scared. Those triumphs came under the leadership of KSHB General Manager, Jim Swinehart. But his era of leadership is coming to an end. Swinehart announced he is retiring, effective June 30th. Craig Allison will become the next GM of KSHB/KMCI.

Swinehart told employees, "It has been my privilege to be part of KSHB, then KSHB/KMCI. For nearly 11 years at the end of June. My career has taken me to many cities during my nearly 40 years in broadcasting; but I can say with complete honesty, that not a single stop along the way has created a better feeling for me than Kansas City and KSHB/KMCI. It's about the people, after all, and this is the most dedicated and talented staff anyone could ever ask for."

Jim will soon enjoy more time with family. In 2 month, Jim and his wife, Joyce will celebrate their 35th anniversary. They're doing it in grand style, with a river cruise in Europe. Keeping up with their children will also keep them busy. Jim and Joyce have a daughter attending The University of Kansas. Their son was married on New Year's Eve.

As for his KSHB/KMCI family, Jim said, "The stations are in excellent hands and I know they will continue to grow and become even more successful as you all usher in the bold new world of digital broadcasting. "

"Someone much smarter than me said to my face nearly 11 years ago that growing an affiliate switch station was a marathon, not a sprint. I didn't know then how true that statement was, but now we are seeing the real result of that patience and I know it will continue in the future."

"Thanks for all the hard work through the years."



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Benedict, Hartman, Pennington Named SBE Fellows
Short Circuit

Three members of the Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE) were recently elected to the membership grade of Fellow by the SBE Board of Directors. The nominations of Raymond C. Benedict, CPBE, Gary S. Hartman, CPBE and Troy D. Pennington, CPBE were acted on by the Board at their April 23 meeting in Las Vegas.

The recipients will be recognized during the SBE National Awards Dinner, held as a part of the SBE National Meeting, September 27 in Verona, New York. The annual meeting is being held in conjunction with the Broadcast & Technology Expo, sponsored by SBE Chapter 22 of Central New York.

Ray Benedict is Director of Spectrum Engineering for CBS Corporation and is responsible for the FCC licensing and engineering regulatory compliance matters for all of the CBS owned entities. Benedict has almost 50 years of service to the broadcast industry, beginning in his home state of Vermont.

Benedict is an active member of SBE, serving as a member of the Board of Directors in the early 1980's and again from 1996 through 1999. He then served as Secretary from 2000 through 2001, vice president from 2001 through 2003 and then as national president for two terms from 2003 through 2005. He is currently serving on the Board as Immediate Past President. He has been SBE Life Certified at the CPBE level since 1998.

Gary Hartman holds SBE member number 974, having joined SBE on February 3, 1969. His career in broadcast engineering has spanned six decades and has been an active member of SBE Chapter 22 for the last 37 years.

As a charter member of Chapter 22, Hartman held several positions over an eight year period beginning in 1971, including the chairman's post from January 1976 to March 1978.

Hartman served as chairman for the highly successful Chapter 22 SBE regional convention during the early 1980's. About that time, he became involved in the chapter's frequency coordination committee and has served as volunteer Frequency Coordinator for his region for many years.

The third recipient of the rank of SBE Fellow is Troy Pennington, a veteran of more than 35 years in broadcasting. Pennington is Regional Director of Engineering for Cumulus Broadcasting, serving the Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Tennessee areas and is based in Nashville.

Pennington served Chapter 68 in Birmingham as its chapter chairman for two terms and also vice chairman, newsletter editor, secretary/treasurer for three terms and program chairman. He was active in the formation of the chapter in Montgomery and the reorganization of the Huntsville chapter. He is active now with Chapter 103 in Nashville.

He has served the National SBE as President for two terms, vice president, treasurer and twice as a national Director. Additionally, he has served as chairman of the Executive Committee, as a member of the Certification Committee, represented SBE on the NAB Broadcast Engineering Conference planning committee.

The Society of Broadcast Engineers, Inc. is the professional organization devoted to the advancement of the broadcast engineer and the field of broadcast engineering. With more than 5,700 members and 111 local chapters, SBE provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and the sharing of information to help members keep pace with the rapidly changing broadcast industry. SBE provides certification and education services and represents its membership's

Next EAS Required Monthly Test: June 27
The RMT is sent on the last Tuesday of the month

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Tower Workers Killed

Chris Castro, CBT

Three Deters Tower Service employees were killed Wednesday when their safety equipment failed while climbing an Iowa Public Television tower near Oakland. The failure caused the men to fall more than 1,000 feet to the ground.

The Pottawattamie County Sheriff said he's working with a local man who has tower climbing experience.

Sheriff Jeff Danker wouldn't release the man's name. But, said he's hoping the man will be able to tell if something is wrong with the climbing gear recovered from the scene of the fall.

Autopsies completed Friday indicate the men died of trauma resulting from the fall. Danker said there were no other medical conditions present in any of the men that may have caused the fall.

Leo Deters, 57, of Norwalk died along with Jason Galles, 27, of Des Moines and Jon McWilliams, 19, of Cumming.

Deters' visitation is planned for Friday at St. Johns Catholic Church in Norwalk from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

His funeral will be Saturday morning at 11 a.m.

Apple Cutting Edge News

Joe Cellini

On the set of the 5:00 News at Clear Channel-owned ABC affiliate KTVX in Salt Lake City, it's easy to see why the show is leading slot. An anchor gleams polished sports clips and and the



its time attractive team on a set, the guy requisite quips, weather

presenter, Prospero-like, waves virtual storms across a magically responsive map. It's news business as usual, brought off unusually well.

But off camera, long before the evening show airs, a more potent news advantage plays out in the KTVX ENG (electronic news gathering) vans, where lightweight DV cameras and PowerBook-anchored Final Cut Pro editing stations let reporters and photographers shape their stories where they break.

For KTVX director of engineering David Bird, who made the decision to swap out the station's legacy cuts-only editing systems for a fleet of flexible Power Macs, the change has extended and strengthened his fundamental news capabilities. "Pushing editing out to the edge of our story coverage with Final Cut and the laptops was huge," he says, "but equally big was the transformation of our in-house workflow."

Also extended was the station's concept of local coverage, which suddenly reached into Iraq and Guatemala, not only because local soldiers or Mormon missionaries were making news there, but because the inexpensive, transportable editing stations made remote coverage viable. "Gulf War Greetings" and other news stories filed by a freelance news reporter carrying a consumer-level Sony DV camera, PowerBook and satellite modem were global hits with the local audience — at a total equipment cost of only \$3,500.

Although Bird, until recently a dedicated Windows user, speaks ardently of the benefits delivered by the new system, he confesses that his decision to supplant an accepted traditional fixed editing system with Final Cut Pro flexed editing suites was made more for money than for love.

Instead, Bird added several CinéWave-based Final Cut suites in his production and promotions departments to handle special reports, commercials and effects. The new systems yielded highly-produced sweeps segments and an Emmy Award-winning new on-air look that was completed faster and for considerably less cost than under the old system.

Then — after a year of test-editing news on Final Cut — in just two weeks KTVX replaced their four legacy editing suites with nine Final Cut Pro fixed editing bays (two in sports, seven in news), anchored by dual-processor Power Macs and extended by nine field-friendly PowerBooks.

"Moving the edit process out to the edge meant that photographers who in their tape-to-tape lives never used computers now could edit their own stories," says Bird. "And reporters who never carried a piece of gear were sitting down to work with laptops. They do it because they want to own the story. If they edit the story until it's close to finished, nobody's going to re-do it. The editors just touch it up."

SBE59 Officers

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Upcoming Meeting and Events

June 8

Don Chilitos Mexican Restaurant
7017 Johnson Drive, Mission, KS

Upcoming Meeting dates

Mark your calendar now

July 13

August 10

September 14

October 12

Do you have a suggestion for a program topic?
Please share it with Mike Rogers.

Wanted: Your News and Information

The SBE newsletter, *The Communicator*, is published every month as a service to the members, sponsors and guest 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@yahoo.com. Articles published in *The Communicator* will qualify for SBE recertification points.



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