

**Meeting Notice****Wednesday, July 13, Johnson County Community College**

12345 College Blvd.; Overland Park, KS  
lunch at 11:30 a.m.; meeting at noon



*ATSC DTV Transmission System Seminar.* This day-long seminar, presented by DTV transmission engineer Gary Sgrignoli, has been arranged by Greg Best Consulting and SBE59. Details of the seminar are enclosed in this newsletter. The Seminar runs from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. It will be held in room 211 of the Carlsen Center at Johnson County Community College. Registration is required. Advance registration is suggested.

The monthly meeting of SBE59 will be held during the lunch break of the seminar. You can buy your lunch at the JCCC cafeteria, which is located in the COM building on campus. Bring your lunch to room COM 156 for the meeting, which will begin at 12 noon. COM 156 is adjacent to the cafeteria. A campus map is part of the seminar information included in this issue of *The Communicator*. ☺

Certification Exam Dates		
Exam Date	Location	App. Deadline
Sep 21, 2005	NAB Radio	Aug 18, 2005
Oct 20, 2005	SBE Nat'l Mtg.	Aug 18, 2005
Nov 11 - 21, 2005	Local Chapter	Sep 23, 2005

**Last Month's Meeting**

By Ben Weiss

The June meeting of Chapter 59 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers was held June 9, 2005, at the offices of Primedia Business. Matt Kinnan, chapter chairman, presided over the business meeting.

Matt opened the business meeting at 12:02 p.m. Chriss Scherer read the minutes of the May meeting, in the absence of secretary Ben Weiss. Then Chriss made the motion to accept the minutes as read and Chris Castro the second; passed.

Matt received the annual chapter rebate from the National Office in the amount of \$417.00. The chapter rebate is calculated on chapter membership, with a fixed amount for every member assigned to the chapter and a percentage of the dues from new members to the chapter.

There was no EAS report except that the Amber (CAE) EAS test that was run on May 25 was successful.

Regarding future meetings, Mike Rogers reported that Continental Electronics program has been rescheduled for August. The annual picnic will be held at Lake Lotawana in September. A future program includes John Beck with a program on some of the station work he has done in Ecuador. In addition, Chris Kreger of RF Specialties is working on possible presentations.

The July meeting will be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> during the lunch break at the DTV seminar that will be held at Johnson County Community College. The seminar host is Greg Best of Greg Best Consulting.

Chriss Scherer remarked that the local certification exams to be given in August have a June 10 sign up deadline. He also commented that an exam opportunity has been arranged to be offered during the NAB Radio Show this September. Also, the new 8-VSB Specialist Certification should be ready for the National Meeting in October.

Matt pointed out that the Orban Tour was stopping in Kansas City in July. It was also noted that the Triveni PSIP tour was not stopping in Kansas City, but that it was recently held in St. Louis.

Chris Castro announced that he would attend the Game Day Coordinator (GDC) conference in Las Vegas. Castro is the backup GDC for Kansas City.

Matt distributed information on the RSI RF Safely training seminar to be held in in Kansas City on July 22. RSI provided a complimentary registration, which was awarded to the winner of the quiz on SBE history.

The program, entitled *40 Years of Service*, discussed the history of the Society of Broadcast Engineers, from its first meeting at the NAB convention in 1964 to 2004. The presentation was originally given at NAB2004 during the SBE membership meeting. For fun, a little quiz was given afterwards, and several people won t-shirts. The grand prize was a complimentary registration to an upcoming RF safety seminar from RSI on July 22 in Overland Park. (Information on the course is available at [rfcomply.com](http://rfcomply.com)).

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## Chairman's Chat

### New Techniques, Old Problems

By Matt Kinnan, CEV CBNT

Throughout the years we have all seen great changes in our business. Some good, some bad, and others have been just down right difficult to adjust to. The biggest difficulty is adjusting to the miniaturization of everything we work with.

This is a fact that we deal with on a daily basis. However, just because the equipment has become smaller and harder to get to, doesn't mean we can't fix it. The techniques used for troubleshooting problems with today's electronics stays the same.

I'm talking mainly about electrolytic capacitors. These little guys have always been and always will be the main cause of most electronic failures in broadcast equipment. They are a necessary component in almost every circuit we see, and they seem to fail more frequently now then ever before. Here are some of the techniques that I use to find and replace these components.

I have found that tracking down failing capacitors works best with a heat gun and freeze spray. If I can make the problem come and go just by using a little heat and then some cold, I can usually track it down to a board and sometimes the exact faulty capacitor.

If I can't find the exact capacitor failing in the circuit, I'll switch to my trusty equivalent series resistance (ESR) meter to narrow my search. The beauty of this tester is that the capacitors can be tested in-circuit, which is a big time saver. I have had a very high success rate using these techniques, and I'm sure you will too.

Replacing the new surface-mount capacitors (SMC) are a little tricky, but with some patience and practice, you will have a new skill under your belt that will save you plenty of time and money.

Most soldering irons have surface-mount tweezer attachments that are not too expensive. Also, the ESR meter can be found at Electronic Supply here in Kansas City or at this website: [www.heinc.com/index.html](http://www.heinc.com/index.html).

Learning new techniques to deal with old problems is just another way that the SBE helps. What we learn and how we use our talents matters. Showing you have pride in your profession also matters. Join the SBE and get certified today.

### Bill Sets DTV Deadline

The Save Lives Act of 2005 is new legislation introduced by Senator John McCain and Joseph Lieberman. Part of the bill includes language that will require television broadcasters to return analog spectrum to the government by Jan. 1, 2009.

The proposed deadline was included in a national security package and combined with a harsh threat that broadcasters could be blamed for communication lapses in new terrorist attacks if they don't quickly cede the spectrum.

Under the bill, first responders to acts of terrorism and disasters would use a significant block of the analog spectrum given back by broadcasters.

In a report issued last summer, the 9-11 Commission recommended that Congress pass legislation forcing broadcasters off four television channels—or 24MHz of frequencies—that had been promised to public safety officials when broadcasters vacated them. However, original DTV legislation passed as part of the Telecom Act in 1996 allows stations to operate on two channels until Dec. 31, 2006, or until 85 percent of households receive digital broadcast signals, whichever is later.

McCain said that broadcasters had reneged on earlier promises to return their analog spectrum as early as 2001. Instead, NAB lobbyists were able to add a last-minute provision to the 1996 legislation allowing them to retain their analog channels until the 85 percent threshold is met.

The bill also provides that the federal government spend \$468 million for subsidized converters that allow analog television sets to receive digital signals. The subsidy would pay for one converter for each of the 9.3 million households with incomes at or below 200 percent of the poverty line. The bill also contains a provision that would require cable operators to carry both a digital and an analog version of TV stations' signals until 2011.

There is other Congressional activity in Congress aimed at the DTV transition. In the House, Energy and Commerce Chairman Joe Barton, (R-TX), has prepared draft legislation also setting a hard date of Dec. 31, 2008. Senate Commerce Chairman Ted Stevens, (R-AK) is drafting legislation that supports a hard date of Jan. 1, 2009.

### File Sharers Lose in Supreme Court

The Supreme Court rules in favor of MGM by stating that Internet file-sharing services will be held responsible if their customers use the software primarily to swap songs and movies illegally. The file sharers warned that such a



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ruling could hamper the growth of consumer technology, such as the next generation Ipod.

The Supreme Court voted unanimously, which sends the case back to lower court, which had ruled in favor of Grokster and Streamcast Networks on the grounds that the companies couldn't be sued. The justices said there was enough evidence of unlawful intent for the case to go to trial.

Justice David H. Souter wrote for the court, "We hold that one who distributes a device with the object of promoting its use to infringe copyright, as shown by the clear expression or other affirmative steps taken to foster infringement, is liable for the resulting acts of infringement by third parties."

The file-sharing companies claim that they cannot control how their services and software are used. The music industry claims that as much as 90 percent of songs and movies copied on the file-sharing networks are downloaded illegally. The file-sharing companies will be liable to music and movie artists if they are found to have promoted illegal downloading.

Two lower courts previously sided with Grokster without

holding a trial. They each based their decisions on the 1984 Supreme Court ruling that Sony could not be sued over consumers who used its VCRs to make illegal copies of movies. The lower courts reasoned that, like VCRs, the file-sharing software can be used for legitimate purposes. It was ruled that the file-sharing services were not legally responsible because they don't have central servers pointing users to copyright material.

Justice Souter notes that lower courts could find the file-sharing services responsible if the products were marketed to promote copyright infringement or if steps were taken to reduce infringing uses.

### FCC Seeks Comments on NRSC-5

Washington - Jun 16, 2005 - In a Public Notice, the FCC has asked for comments about the National Radio Systems Committee (NRSC) initial digital audio broadcasting standard entitled In-band/On-channel Digital Radio Broadcasting Standard NRSC-5. On April 16, 2005, NRSC-5 was approved by the NRSC DAB Subcommittee. On May 18, 2005, the Consumer Electronics Association and the National Association of Broadcasters, cosponsors of the NRSC, submitted NRSC-5 to the Commission for consideration in MM Docket 99-325 A copy of NRSC-5 is available electronically from the Commission's website at [gulfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/comsrch\\_v2.cgi](http://gulfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/comsrch_v2.cgi) under MM Docket 99-325; DA 05-1661.

Comments are by July 18, 2005, and reply comments are due by August 17, 2005.

### Mobile Phones Can Now Receive Amber Alerts

The Amber Alert system is being expanded to mobile phones. The wireless industry announced May 17 that subscribers can receive text messages on their phones when an alert is issued. The service is available in every state and is free to subscribers of most major cell carriers.

Cell phone users who want such information so they can aid in searches can designate up to five Zip Codes and would receive alerts if a child is reported missing in any of them. Subscribers would also be notified of alerts issued for their state or metropolitan area.

Subscribers with phones capable of receiving text messages can register at [www.wirelessamberalerts.org](http://www.wirelessamberalerts.org) or through participating carriers' websites.

**Next EAS Required Monthly Test: July 26**  
The RMT is sent on the last Tuesday of the month

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### Conclave Awards Doug Lee Scholarships

The Conclave, an educational organization created to improve the quality of broadcasting and related industries so they may better serve the public interest through education, awards more than \$70,000 annually in scholarships to people interested in entering a career in the radio or music industry. The organization announced the recipients of the Doug Lee Memorial Scholarship, which are given annually to college students pursuing degrees in radio, TV, journalism and other communications majors.

The 2005 Doug Lee Scholarship recipients are all from the state of Kansas.

Sara Lindstad attends Wichita State University  
 Kyle Geiken attends the University of Kansas  
 Nick Arena attends Kansas State University

The scholarships are valued at \$1,500 each. More info is available at [www.theconclave.com](http://www.theconclave.com).

### Webmaster Opening for SBE59

Our SBE chapter depends on volunteer efforts to administer functions of the chapter. One of these volunteer positions is webmaster of the chapter website. Steve Epstein has handled this for the past few years, but with his new job in Columbia, he has decided to pass on this duty.

A basic understanding of HTML is all that is needed. No special software is required. If you would like to help maintain the chapter website, contact Matt Kinnan.

### The Launch of Roadcasting

Touted as collaborative, mobile radio, Roadcasting allows each listener to have his own radio station, broadcast among wireless-capable devices. The system can become aware of individual preferences and is able to choose songs and podcasts that listeners want to hear on their own devices from sources around them.

The developers state that a listener can scan and access playlists from other vehicles within a 50km range and share his audio files with the same network. The service uses a long-range peer-to-peer wireless network in which each car is its own radio station. The prototype runs on an 802.11g wireless network.

Currently a prototype, the system was designed to provide a community-driven, interactive medium. The prototype is the result of a seven-month project at the Carnegie Mellon Human Computer Interaction Institute. The project was funded by a major automaker and has a targeted release of 2010.

Roadcasting uses a listener's preferences to make decisions about what a listener might want to hear. The system can read iTunes XML and MP3 data to gather information.

For use in a car, a Roadcaster will need an in-dash interface unit and an antenna. As an added feature, drivers can share information about road conditions and emergencies through the network.

The source code for Roadcasting is available to encourage development. More information is available at [www.roadcasting.org](http://www.roadcasting.org). ☺



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**Upcoming Meetings and Events**

**July 13 - VSB Transmission Seminar**  
Johnson County Community College

**July 12 - 15 - Orban MBL Tour**  
Locations by appointment, call 480-403-8300

**July 22 - RF Site Safety Awareness**  
RSI, rfcomply.com

**August 10 - 12 - Nebraska Broadcasters Assoc.**  
Lincoln, NE

**August 11 - IBOC and Tube Transmitters**  
Continental Electronics at Zarda Barbecue

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

**Synchronized Certification**

The SBE National Certification Committee adopted an item of interest to individuals who hold multiple Certifications. In most cases, the different Certifications were awarded at different times, which results in the Certified individual having to recertify various items at various times. In many cases, the same point credits are claimed for the various Certifications.

To reduce the burden of tracking various periods concurrently, a method has been devised to allow various levels of Certification to be synchronized in their renewal cycle. Doing this is at the option of the Certification holder. It is not mandatory. Contact the SBE National Office for details on synchronizing your Certifications.



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