

**Meeting Notice****Thursday, November 14, Don Chilito's Restaurant**

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

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

*Meet, greet and eat.* We have no formal program this month, so take advantage of the social setting, network with your fellow engineers and enjoy lunch. We will hold a quick business meeting to cover some chapter business.

We will meet in the banquet room. When you arrive at the restaurant, order your lunch and bring it to the banquet room. The meeting will begin promptly at 12:00 noon. ☺



Certification Dates		
Exam Date	Location	App. Deadline
February 7-17	Local Chapter	December 31
April 8	NAB, Las Vegas	March 1
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 on October 10. Bob Schneider has stepped down as EAS chairman of the Kansas City area, and Kirk Chestnut has taken over the duties of this position. Joe Snelson would like to pass the chapter certification committee chairman's duties. Ideally, his replacement will hold Senior Engineer certification or higher. If you are interested in serving, contact Joe or Kirk Chestnut. Serving as a committee chairman or chapter officer helps you earn SBE recertification points.

An upcoming meeting is being planned to visit the facilities of Commercial Radio Monitoring. Our January meeting will feature a presentation from Dan Rau of Comrex.

The program was a discussion of potential improvements in the Kansas City EAS plan. Kirk Chestnut prepared a summary of the original plan proposals, the current plan implementation and some suggestions on enhancements and improvements that involve municipal governments and the National Weather Service. Several ideas are being developed and with hope will result in improvements.

**Chairman's Chat**

*By Kirk Chestnut, CSRE*

**Extraordinary Inspirations**

Do you remember that moment when the radio bug bit you? Some of you were bitten twice as hard with "radio times two," that thing we call TV. Perhaps you remember a story about an innovative engineer who successfully

returned his station to the air with nothing more than a Brillo pad and duct tape.

I'd like to hear what inspired you to take up a career in broadcasting. No doubt you've had an engineering epiphany of your own that would inspire others. Maybe it involves an unorthodox means to get back on the air or solve a difficult problem.

For me it was the wonder of seeing something I made appear on that magic box in the corner of the living room. Yes, my broadcasting career began at the tender age of five. My mother and I constructed a felt pennant celebrating my status as the Number 1 fan of Major Astro, my daily companion for truth, justice and all the Warner Brothers cartoons a child could watch in one hour.

My masterpiece was carefully wrapped, boxed and mailed to the "address on the bottom of the screen." Two weeks later, I watched with glee as my hero, Major Astro, held my pennant up to the camera and mentioned my name. I was hooked! Ever since I have sought to understand how a picture and sound could come from so far away.

Innovation happens. Everyday miracles big and small take place in engineering shops around Kansas City. Maybe you've had an experience like this:

Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles – Trans World Radio engineer David Arthurs and staff were down to their last tube. Replacements had been ordered but had not yet arrived. Much to their dismay, the tube they had would not tune. Apparently two elements were shorted together, perhaps a grid and cathode. Wiring a high voltage source to the grid, Arthurs successfully burned the portion of the errant grid section apart. The station was able to continue broadcasting until its replacement arrived.

Lincoln, NE; KOLN-TV – In the days before character generators and cost-effective cameras, staff engineers needed a way to air a "Technical Difficulties" graphic from

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the transmitter site when the STL failed. The solution was brilliantly simple. The appropriate message was die-cut from poster board and pasted to the front of a black-and-white-monitor. A tapered rectangular cardboard tube (painted black on the inside) was attached to the face of the monitor. This tube tapered to be just large enough to attach a photocell to the end. Since the monitor was synched with the transmitter it would be relatively easy to track the intensity level of the beam as it shown through the voids in the card. The varying voltage across the photocell when amplified created a crude but reasonable luminance signal.

Colombia, South America – Radio engineer Ray Reising and two other American missionaries were captured by armed guerrillas in the mid '90s. For months the only link Reising and the others had to the outside world was a small tabletop radio. Reception was poor in the jungles of Colombia so Reising created a long-wire antenna out of a copper scrub pad. The friendships he formed with his captors with his innovations probably led to his safe return to his family.

Hopefully your job will not put you into such death-defying situations. Even if you've not been in this business for long you too have a story to tell. Please drop me a line and a story about yourself or someone you know. Address your **Extraordinary Inspirations** to [kchestnut@entercom.com](mailto:kchestnut@entercom.com) and I will try to get your story into print as time and paper hold out.

### SBE Board Approves 2003 Dues Increase

On October 16, the SBE board of directors approved the national organization's budget for 2003. Citing increasing costs, the board unanimously approved

an increase in membership dues for regular, senior, associate and student members effective January 1, 2003.

There has not been a dues increase for 11 years for most SBE members. The SBE board of directors agreed with a recommendation from the finance and executive committees and determined that an increase was necessary at this time to keep SBE on a firm financial footing. The SBE has operated with a deficit budget in both 2001 and 2002, using cash from reserves to make up the difference. Expenses have been kept as low as possible while still providing the resources to carryout the programs and services of the Society.

**EAS Required Monthly Test  
November 26**

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

The rate for regular, senior and associate members will rise by \$5 to \$60 per year. This is the first dues increase for these membership categories since April 1992. Dues for student Members will rise by \$3 to \$18 per year, which will be the first increase for this member category since 1996.

The new rates will apply to new members that join on or after January 1, 2003 and for current members who are due to renew April 1, 2003. Membership dues for youth members will remain at \$10 while dues for sustaining members will stay at \$550 per year.

Life membership remains free. There is a one-time \$35 application fee for those applying for life membership. Members who are retired and have held membership in SBE for at least 10 consecutive years at the time of application for life membership can qualify.

Chapters will also share in the increased revenues from the dues increase. Rebates to qualifying chapters will go up since they are determined by the amount of dues paid by Regular, Senior and Associate members. The overall increase will bring the total rebates earned by qualifying chapters to more than \$36,000 beginning in 2003.

#### **SBE *Signal* to Become Bi-monthly**

The SBE board of directors has approved the expansion of the Society's primary publication, the *Signal*. Currently a quarterly publication, the *Signal* will be published five times in 2003—in the months of March, June, August, October and December—and six times in 2004.

The *Signal* has also become self-sustaining for the first time in the last year, a point attributed to in part because of its recently revised look and content. The support of the publication's advertisers made this growth possible.

#### **SBE to Host PSIP Remailer**

SBE will establish and host an e-mail remailer to serve as a discussion forum on the subject of PSIP. To subscribe, go to [www.broadcast.net/mailman/listinfo/sbe-psip](http://www.broadcast.net/mailman/listinfo/sbe-psip) and follow the instructions. Tom Weber, CPBE of WISH-TV, Indianapolis, will be the initial moderator for the list.

#### **Kansas City AES Section Gets New Start**

The Audio Engineering Society's Kansas City section has reorganized after a long period of inactivity. Steve Owens, who has attended some SBE59 meetings, has been elected to serve as the section's chairman. Additional area AES members were elected to other officer and committeeman positions. To learn more about AES meetings in the area, contact Chriss Scherer. ☺



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**Upcoming Meetings**

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

November 14

*Meet, greet and eat*

December 10

*Program TBA*

January 16

*POTS Codec Technology*