

**Meeting Notice****Thursday, November 13, Kansas City Emergency Management Operations Center**

635 Woodland, Suite 2107; Kansas City, MO; 816-784-9042

Gather at 11:30 a.m.; meeting at 11:45 a.m., tour at 12:00 noon, lunch to follow



*Facility tour and operational overview.* The Kansas City Office of Emergency Management (OEM) operates the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters by taking reasonable and affordable measures to save lives, prevent injuries, protect property, safeguard the environment and preserve the local economy. During an emergency, this office coordinates event-driven demands, acts as a center for policy making, manages operations, gathers information, keeps records, disseminates public information and communicates with those affected by the event. Because these functions are critical, the ability for the EOC to be flexible in its communications and equipment design is crucial.

A critical function of the EOC is to disperse public information, both to the general public and the population at risk. The media is an important partner in the comprehensive emergency management process. Our tour will include an overview of the facilities and their role during an emergency.

The KC OEM handles an important responsibility during a crisis. Broadcast stations are an important part of disseminating information to the public. This is a rare opportunity to see how the complete process works and how stations can take a more active part in the process.

A pizza lunch will be provided by Mark Widner at the OEM. Please be on time to keep the meeting on schedule. ☺

Certification Exam Dates		
<i>Exam Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>App. Deadline</i>
Feb 6-16, 2004	Local Chapter	Dec 31, 2004
Apr 20, 2004	NAB	Mar 2, 2004
Jun 4-14, 2004	Local Chapter	Apr 23, 2004
Aug 13-23, 2004	Local Chapter	Jun 11, 2004

**Last Month's Meeting**

We met at Old Town Pizza in Overland Park. Heather Nichols of Belden Wire and Cable hosted our meeting and provided lunch. The presentation featured Yohay Hahamy, seionr VP of Joseph Electronics. His presentation discussed various wire and cable properties when used to transmit digital signals, particularly video over coax.

**Chairman's Chat**

*By Kirk Chestnut, CSRE*

**No Pain, No Gain with BAS Rule Changes**

A number of years ago when working for Sinclair, I was asked to review the licenses for the Broadcast Auxiliary Service (BAS) and Remote Production Units (RPU) for our radio stations. I about lost my mind and a bit of hair in the process. How many of these were still valid? Where the heck do these signal paths go? I eventually purchased a Kansas City map, a foam core mat board and began sorting out transmitter locations. To complicate matters, receive sites were not required data on some of the older licenses.

I turned to the FCC's Universal Licensing Service (ULS) for help. Not! Most of the information in that database was either non-existent or incorrect. To my horror, I discovered that we were not alone. "Won't somebody do something to clean up this mess?" I thought.

Well, the FCC must have heard my cry. On October 15 the FCC adopted ET Docket No. 01-75.

In the Report and Order, the Commission amended the rules in Part 74 Broadcast Auxiliary Service, Part 78 Cable Television Relay Service (CARS) and Part 101 Fixed Microwave Service (FS) to permit stations in these services to use digital technology. Incidentally, the Commission wants the application process to mirror how Part 101 (FS) stations are processed with prior coordination and notification. In short the R&O will:

- permit BAS licensees to use digital modulation in all of the aural and television BAS bands;
- update and conform BAS and CARS rules with FS rules;
- simplify and streamline BAS processing via the Universal Licensing System;
- allow the operation of Wireless Assist Video Devices (WAVDs) under Part 74.

These changes include updating BAS emission masks to accommodate digital emissions and combined analog/digital emissions, allowing various power limitations, and updating coordination procedures for aural BAS and

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fixed TV BAS stations above 2110MHz.

The SBE took issue with the rule changes on several fronts and in a Petition for Reconsideration filed on April 4 asked that the FCC:

- treat composite, dual carrier analog/digital TV BAS emissions within a single BAS channel as separate emissions;
- accommodate elective registration of BAS Mobile TV Pick-up (TVPU) received sites on the ULS;
- confirm that multiple BAS emissions of reduced bandwidth are permissible on standard TV BAS channels;
- clarify that BAS RPUs may continue to operation with 20 and 25 kHz bandwidths in the 450/455 MHz RPU band.

The FCC will authorize any combination of emissions (analog and digital) within a given channel as one authorization. The SBE is concerned that failing to recognize each emission separately will result in "inaccurate frequency coordination."

In June, the SBE filed for a waiver of the application filing fees as an incentive to broadcasters to "clean up" the data inaccuracies on the ULS. The FCC denied the request stating that only individual licenses may ask for waivers and that waivers are not "granted liberally." The SBE asked the FCC to allow licensees elective registration of fixed receive sites associated with BAS TVPU stations in the ULS. The SBE states that "this information would be used to protect TVPU receive sites, especially during frequency coordination along international borders."

The SBE also sought clarification of several issues related to the use of digital links in the TV BAS bands:

- That the Commission will not routinely dismiss applications specifying narrow-band digital emissions. (only a wide-band 25MHz channel currently exists for the 7 and 13GHz bands, but newer digital equipment operates with only 6.5MHz bandwidth.)
- That a narrow-band channel may operate on a frequency offset from the channel center.
- That licensees may stack multiple narrow-band emission within a channel.

In regards to RPUs, the Commission rechannelized the RPU 450/455MHz band into 6.25kHz blocks, stackable to 50kHz maximum channel bandwidth. The rule adopted certain Part 90 technical standards including the Section 90.210 emission mask requirements, but does not limit stacking to 30kHz as stated in that Section.

SBE National's Legal Counsel Chris Imlay highly recommends that all broadcasters review their authorizations and file updated and missing information as soon as possible. It

is in everyone's best interest to do so in order to avoid possible interference issues to incumbents by new licensees.

### Court denies CEA request

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit denied a request from the CEA to overturn an FCC ruling mandating digital television tuners be built into most TVs by 2007.

The federal court upheld the FCC order, which requires manufacturers to include DTV tuners in most sets. The court also found that the CEA was incorrect in arguing that Commission lacked authority under the All Channel Receiver Act (ACRA) of 1962 to require TV sets to receive digital signals. It found the CEA argument that the FCC ran afoul of the Administrative Procedure Act's (APA) requirement of reasoned decision making in its Digital Tuner Order to be "unpersuasive."

### SignaSys TV Town Hall Tour Comes to KC

SignaSys invites the broadcast community to the TV Town Hall road tour. The presentation will be held on Monday, November 17 at 7 p.m.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP to [tvtownhall@signasys.com](mailto:tvtownhall@signasys.com) with "Kansas City" in the subject line. The event is being hosted by *Broadcast Engineering* magazine. The meeting will be held at the offices of Primedia Business (the publisher of *Broadcast Engineering* magazine), 9800 Metcalf, Overland Park, KS. Call 913-341-1300 for directions. SignaSys will provide light refreshments.

The TV Town Hall, SignaSys' first national tour, is directed at both public and commercial station personnel interested in the current state of the industry. After a brief presentation by Jim Boston, TV Town Hall provides a forum for engineering and management staff to share their views on hot topics facing broadcasters today as well as what's next in the future of broadcasting. This road tour also serves as research for a follow-up book to Jim Boston's previous bestseller, *DTV Survival Guide*.

Boston's presentation topics include multi-channel broadcasting; new facility topology, architecture and workflow; new technologies such as HD and the major strides in graphics and servers; traditional routing vs. the push towards video networks; encoding and multiplexing; automation and traffic; PSIP and other metadata; centralcasting, the new master control and other new workflow approaches; the application layer that ties the hardware into a DTV facility; and sundry emergency and other backup systems.



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After the presentation, Boston will open the floor for an in-depth discussion, covering topics such as the eventual fate of terrestrial broadcast, the good and bad points of the digital transition, the station landscape in five or 10 years, and the future of broadcast engineering and IT.

### Computer Connection

By Steve Epstein, CPBE CBNT

#### **Solutions Work Best When They Address the Real Problem**

Not all problems within a broadcast facility can be properly solved with just hardware or software. Sometimes the problems are only viewed within a historical context. Often this means the underlying causes are unaddressed. Take for instance the introduction of the hard drive as a replacement for tape. Initially people wanted disks to act like tape machines with functions such as play and record. Although the concepts of "rewind" and "fast forward" do not really apply to disk drives, most computer "transport" controls include them.

New opportunities are offered by technology. However, many of us are stuck in the ways of the past and our workflow patterns may be as well. Next time, before throwing hardware or software at a problem, step back. Look at problem from a fresh perspective. What are the requirements? Rather than quickly offering solutions make sure the problem statement is accurate and not a solution in itself. For instance, a satellite feed that comes down at 5 p.m. and needs to be put on the air at 8 a.m. the following morning defines the problem. Whereas, stating that a feed needs to be recorded offers a possible solution rather than defining the problem. Glossing over the problem and going straight to the solution can create more problems than it solves. The next time someone comes to you with a "problem" make sure he has accurately described a problem before you (or they) begin to entertain solutions.

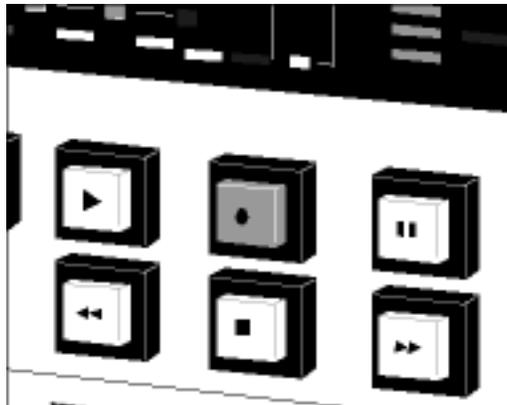
### XM Satellite Radio Tops One Million Subscribers

XM Satellite Radio recently surpassed 1 million subscribers, reaching this major milestone in less than two years since its national debut on Nov. 12, 2001. XM reports that consumers have adopted XM Satellite Radio faster than local radio, television, satellite TV, CD players, MP3 players or digital video recorders. As a mass medium, XM has reached one million subscribers in less time than cable television or online subscription services—two of the nation's most successful subscriber businesses.

### Andrew to Sell Broadcast Products Line to ERI

Andrew has received and accepted a letter of intent from Electronics Research (ERI) for the purchase of the assets of Andrew Corporation's Broadcast Products Division. ERI is currently carrying out due diligence and the deal is expected to close in early November 2003. Financial details of the transaction are not being disclosed.

Andrew Corporation's Broadcast Products Division manufactures antenna systems for all broadcast applications; filters, combiners and RF components for television and FM radio; and rigid line and components. Andrew will retain its Heliac air cable-manufacturing business and will be the main supplier of air cable to ERI. Andrew also has a Satellite Communications business that is not affected by the proposed sale of assets of the Broadcast Products Division.



### FCC to Offer Training on Electronic Filing and Licensing

The FCC will offer training sessions on several of its electronic licensing and filing systems at its Washington, DC, headquarters on Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2003. The training will begin at 9 a.m. in

the Commission Meeting Room TW-C305, 445 Twelfth Street, SW.

This training is designed for those who have experience using the FCC's electronic systems and wish to become more proficient. The primary purpose of this training is to provide an opportunity for experienced users to gain a better understanding of how to most efficiently use the FCC systems, learn how to work around common problems and increase understanding of system functions, features and limitations.

This session is not intended for new users needing an introduction to basic functions and will not provide hands-on classroom style training. Likewise, this session is not intended as a forum to discuss recommended changes or enhancements.

Pre-registration by electronic mail or phone is required. To register, provide the following information to Drew Eisenhauer (202-513-4534) at [deisenha@fcc.gov](mailto:deisenha@fcc.gov): your name, organization, telephone number, e-mail address, the sessions you wish to attend, any questions or topics you would like the training to cover, any accommodations needed or accessibility concerns.

The sessions will be recorded and made available to the public within a week or so after the event. Recordings may be viewed on the FCC website [www.fcc.gov/realaudio/workshops.html](http://www.fcc.gov/realaudio/workshops.html) or purchased from CACI Productions; 341 Victory Drive; Herndon, VA 20170; 703-834-1470 ext. 19; fax 703-834-0111.

#### Cumulus Acquires Two Stations in Kansas City

Cumulus Media has signed an Asset Purchase Agreement to purchase KCHZ-FM and KMJK-FM from Syncom Radio Corporation and Allur-Kansas City. The purchase price for the stations is \$25 million. The closing of this transaction is targeted to occur by the fourth quarter of 2003 or the first quarter of 2004.

Cumulus Media is the second-largest radio company in the United States based on station count.

#### FCC Adopts Anti-Piracy Protection For Digital TV

On Nov. 4 the Federal Communications Commission adopted an anti-piracy mechanism, also known as the broadcast flag, for digital broadcast television. The goal of the action is to foster the transition to digital TV and forestall potential harm to the viability of free, over-the-air broadcasting in the digital age. The FCC said that consumers' ability to make digital copies will not be affected; the broadcast flag seeks only to prevent mass distribution over the Internet. Finally, the FCC said implementation of the broadcast flag will not require consumers to purchase any new equipment.

The rules are targeted only at products that are capable of receiving DTV signals over-the-air. These products must comply with the broadcast flag requirements by July 1, 2005. Other products such as digital VCRs, DVD players and personal computers that are not built with digital tuners installed are not required to comply with the new rule. In addition, the FCC explained that existing televisions, VCRs, DVD players and related equipment will remain fully functional under the new broadcast flag system.

#### Wanted: Your News and Information

The SBE59 newsletter, *The Communicator*, is published every month as a service to the members, sponsors and guests 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@broadcast.net](mailto:sbe59@broadcast.net). Articles published in *The Communicator* will qualify for SBE recertification points. ☺

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**Website** ..... Steve Epstein, CPBE CBNT .... BroadcastBuyersGuide.com ..... (816) 582-4604 . steve@BroadcastBuyersGuide.com

**Chapter 59 e-mail:** sbe59@broadcast.net

**Chapter 59 list server:** sbe-kc@broadcast.net

**Upcoming Meetings and Events**

**November 13** *Kansas City EOC*  
**December 11** *RF Specialties and Wheatstone*  
**January 8** *Available*  
**February 12** *Broadcasters General Store*

**EAS Required Monthly Test**  
**November 25**

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

**October RMT Error**

The EAS Required Monthly Test for October was supposed to have been sent on Oct. 28 between 12:45 a.m. and 1 a.m. from LP-1 KCSP-AM 610. Kirk Chestnut, CSRE, chairman of the Kansas City EAS Committee and engineer for KCSP confirmed that the test was not sent as originally scheduled because of an operator's error at the station. The LP-1 station transmitted the test at 1:54 p.m. on Oct. 28 as a make-good for the missed the test.

The EAS rules dictate the RMTs must alternate between night and day hours during even- and odd-numbered months. The October test fell outside this window.

Stations are advised to make note of this in the station EAS logs. KCSP has taken steps to prevent the error in the future. Because of the format and staffing changes at KCSP, Entercom would like to relinquish its commitment as the LP-1 for the area. Any station interested in assuming the responsibility should contact Kirk Chestnut.



SBE Chapter 59  
**c/o Radio magazine** (Scherer)  
 9800 Metcalf  
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