Meeting Notice

Thursday, December 5, *Downtown Marriott*

200 West 12th Street, Kansas City, MO, (816) 421-6800
Gather at 11:30 am, then join group for lunch.

MidTech 2002. We are taking advantage of the first MidTech expo that will feature more than 30 exhibitors and draw broadcast engineers from around the region. The event is being held on December 4 and 5 at the Marriott. Please register for the expo by e-mailing *jdhuffman@hearst.com*. Include your name, company, mailing address, phone number and e-mail address.

Our lunch is generously provided by Panasonic and Grass Valley and arranged by Pro Video Supply. We will meet at the expo registration booth on the first floor and then move to the area where we will have lunch and hold our business meeting. Please RSVP by December 3 for lunch so we can plan accordingly. E-mail your RSVP to *sbe59@broadcast.net* or call Kirk Chestnut at (913) 677-6462. Details on MidTech 2002 are available at *www.MidTech.us*.

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 November 14. After hearing the minutes of the October meeting and receiving the treasurer's report, general news and committee updates were given. There was one change made to the committee lineup. Darrell Nickolaus, who has served as programs committee chairman for a few years, indicated that he is even busier now in his retirement than when he was working and would like to relinquish his duties. Michael Douthat of KCUR volunteered to become the programs committee chairman. Kirk Chestnut made the formal appointment.

The January meeting will feature a presentation about POTS and ISDN codecs from Dan Rau of Comrex.

Chairman's Chat

By Kirk Chestnut, CSRE

On Board for the Expo

Wow! Would you believe it? A little over a month ago we had no idea we'd be planning for a trade show. Jerry Dixon and company at KMBC-TV9 were planning to host a regional, in-house DTV workshop with just a few vendors. Someone suggested that there might be others interested in attending, so Jerry approached me to see if SBE would like to come. Early on we decided that this would be the best time to get the chapter together for the monthly meeting, especially considering how busy the holiday season becomes for most of us.

Word spread and suddenly Jerry was fielding requests from a number of broadcast suppliers and vendors who wanted to come to the show. Soon Midtech 2002 had a life of it's own, even sporting a show website (*www.MidTech.us*). The event now has more than 200 registered attendees. It is estimated that the roster will double by opening day December 4.

Brad Bartholomew with Professional Video Supply in Overland Park has stepped up to the plate to arrange box luncheons for our chapter meeting on Thursday, December 5. Thanks go to Grass Valley and Panasonic for their contribution. For those in radio don't despair, a number of vendors will be on hand with products applicable to radio including Wheatstone, Audio Precision, Dielectric, Harris and Shure.

Don't you just love a free market economy? This recent downturn in the economy has discouraged attendance to national trade shows while increasing the demand for regional ones. Midtech 2002 will be the third such show for Kansas City this year alone. There is already talk of making this an annual event, but for now, Jerry will be happy just to get through this year's event. Stay tuned.

It doesn't get much more convenient that this, and the icing on the cake is that admission is free. I'm big on continuing education, and an event like this one is just another way to stay informed on the changes in our industry. After all, you've been looking for an excuse to get out of the office. Don't forget to register for the expo and RSVP for lunch. See you there.

FCC Amends Part 74 BAS Rules for Digital

The FCC adopted a *Report and Order* updating the Broadcast Auxiliary Service (BAS) rules to enable BAS licensees to take advantage of the latest digital technology, something in which broadcasters have shown a great interest.

The order conforms certain technical rules, such as transmitter power and emission limits, for the BAS, Cable Television Relay Service (CARS) and Fixed Microwave Services (FS), and allows certain additional users of wireless-assist video devices on unused TV channels. The Commission further adopted rule changes designed to increase spectrum efficiency by ensuring that similar services operating on shared spectrum are regulated in a consistent manner. The BAS, CARS and FS share several frequency bands, but in some cases have operated under different technical rules.

This action also adopts modifications to simplify and streamline the BAS rules. These include extending to all BAS licenses the ability to operate under temporary conditional authority, implementing common coordination procedures for BAS bands, and ensuring that BAS licensees can take full advantage of the Commission's Universal Licensing System. These rule changes will expedite the time it takes for an applicant to begin providing service.

FCC Establishes New EEO Rules

In a *Second Report and Order*, the FCC established new equal employment opportunity (EEO) rules and policies for broadcasters, and revised its EEO rules for multichannel video programming distributors (MVPDs), such as cable and satellite TV operators. The rules prohibit discrimination by broadcasters and MVPDs. They also require these entities to provide notice of job vacancies and to undertake additional outreach measures, such as job fairs and scholarship programs, while at the same time affording them enough flexibility to create the programs most effective for their communities.

EAS Required Monthly Test
December 31

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

Specifically, the Second Report and Order adopts a three-pronged outreach recruitment requirements, as they relate to broadcasters. Prong 1 requires entities to widely disseminate information concerning each full-time (30 hours or more) job vacancy, except for vacancies filled in exigent circumstances. Prong 2 provides notice of each full-time job vacancy to recruitment organizations that have requested such notice. Prong 3 requires that entities complete two (for broadcast employment units with five to 10 full-time employees or that are located in smaller markets) or four (for employment units with more than 10 full-time employees located in larger markets) longer-term recruitment initiatives within a two-year period. These include job fairs, scholarship and internship programs, and other community events designed to inform the public.

What's Behind Dorrough's AMS?
excerpted from Radio *magazine* Currents Online
A new addition to the discussion of radio's future holds promise for improving the performance of AM. The Advanced Modulation System (AMS), a project currently under patent review, is headed by Mike Dorrough, president of Dorrough Electronics. Dorrough has been involved in audio and broadcasting for many years and is recognized as an innovator in his field. He is currently making rounds to various SBE chapters to talk about his proposed improvement for AM service.

In an interview with *Radio* magazine technical editor John Battison, Dorrough stated that he could not comment on the specifics of the hardware involved until the patent process was finalized. He is, however, able to talk about the enabling scientific principles and intended results.

Following is an excerpt from the discussion between Dorrough and Battison.

Dorrough: We know that inter-modulation-prone asymmetrical processing schemes are capable of substantial increases in apparent loudness, but the penalty in fidelity can be quite jarring to the listener. Digital technology allows the manipulation of time and phase relationships to unleash the full potential of the AM carrier as a natural platform to support fully modulated, "interlaced" sidebands. AMS circuitry allows full, 200% sinusoidal undistorted modulation of the AM carrier without the need for negative peak clipping or hard processing. With AMS, far greater loudness is achieved than possible with even the most aggressive negative peak clipping without distorting the audio wave. The system is fully backward- and forward-compatible.

Dorrough sees AMS as having an enormous benefit to normal, stereo and IBOC broadcasting modes.

With the increased modulation, the carrier level does not change because the additional modulation power is provided by the new side bands. As might be expected, the power supply to the final has to be able to handle the increased load of the new side bands. The transmitter will require a 20kHz passband. Although the peak power increases, current FCC rules are based on carrier power, so there is no conflict.

With AMS, Dorrough feels that far greater loudness can be achieved, surpassing the loudness obtained with the hardest negative peak clipping. In addition, there is no distortion of the audio signal, and the harsh sound of asymetrical modulation is eliminated.

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Upcoming Meetings

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

December 5
MidTech 2002

January 16
POTS Codec Technology

February 13
Inside Everest Connections