



**Meeting Notice**

**Thursday, July 12, Network Integration Services**

**17795 W 106 Street; Olathe, KS; 913-339-2300**

**Gather at 11:30 a.m., lunch served at 11:45, meeting at noon**

*Data center power and cooling.* Broadcast facilities have always depended on reliable power and proper cooling, and as more businesses rely on data, they, too, are realizing the importance of maintaining the technical facilities.

Obie Dixon and Reid Graham of Network Integration Services, an IT engineering and consulting firm, will discuss methods of ensuring data and hardware reliability and provide a tour of the company's facility.

Lunch from Jack Stack will be provided. The facility is located near the intersection of Ridgeview and K-10. The address is a new location, and some online maps may not provide accurate directions. Google Maps has the correct location.

**Last Month's Meeting**

*By Ben Weiss, CPBE*

The June meeting of Chapter 59 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers was held June 15, 2007 at Penton in Overland Park. There were 10 in attendance. Robin Cross, chairman, called the business meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.

Ben Weiss read the minutes of the May meeting. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Chriss Scherer and the second by Dave Buell; passed.

Chriss Scherer, chapter certification chairman, noted that he proctored one certification exam in June. He reminded us that the next certification exams would be given in August but that the deadline to register had already passed. Registration for the November exams is still open.

According to Mike Rogers, chapter program chairman, the July meeting program will be provided by Network Integration Services. The August meeting may be an on-site tour of the Richland Kansas City tower. Mike indicated that he is always open for suggestions for future meeting locations and program topics.

There was no frequency coordination report and no EAS report.

There was a discussion about meeting programs and the content vs. purpose of them. Is it OK to have a program presented by an equipment vendor with less educational value or should programs only be presented that have educational value? The consensus was that vendors would be welcome to present programs that have both sales pitches and educational information.

Robin proposed that the chapter consider a seasonal dinner outing that would include spouses or significant others. The occasion could be held at a restaurant and be somewhat more formal. The dinner event would be in addition to the regularly scheduled monthly meeting during December. Also discussed was the chapter's annual picnic. Ed Treese will set a date that he can host it, once again, at his Lake Lotawana home.

The chapter webmaster position was again discussed. John Gray has helped Chris Castro update the site. John indicated that the look and features of the website need to be refreshed. It was suggested that John take on the complete website responsibility to reduce Chris Castro's chapter workload. Robin made the appointment and named John as the chapter webmaster.

Chriss Scherer mentioned that the SBE-sponsored RF Safety seminar is scheduled for June 27 at 1 p.m. It will be a webcast, and it will be hosted at the Kansas City Emergency Operations Center. Advance registration to attend the event is required through the national SBE office and the cost is \$75 per person, part of which will be reimbursed by chapter 59.

The motion to adjourn was by Darrell Nickolaus and the second by Chriss.

The meeting program was given by John Gray, director

More Inside:

- Chairman's Chat* ..... 2
- RF Safety Seminar* ..... 3
- TV Coverage Website* ..... 4
- HTML and CMS* ..... 4
- EAS Opps in Illinois* ..... 5
- Internet Day of Silence* ..... 6
- Upcoming meetings* ..... 6

Certification Exam Dates		
<i>Exam Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>App. Deadline</i>
Aug 10 - 20, 2007	Local Chapter	Closed
Nov 9 - 19, 2007	Local Chapter	Sep 21, 2007

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of research and development for V-Soft Communications. He provided an overview of RF mapping software by contrasting legacy methods vs. grid-based, Longley-Rice and other methods. His presentation also included an overview of terrain data sets and a discussion of the differences between NAD27, NAD83 and WGS84 mapping. He concluded his presentation by providing examples of various maps made with V-Soft programs.

The pizza lunch was provided by V-Soft Communications.

### Chairman's Chat *Be an Active Part*

*By Robin Cross*

Last month I mentioned that I would share some thoughts about goals for the chapter. I've had some time to consider some ideas, and here's what I came up with.

- Increase attendance at meetings

It seems that the same small core of about eight people attend every meeting. While it's good to see the regulars every month, there are more than 50 people attached to chapter 59. I hope to see more of our chapter members at upcoming meetings.

What can we do to encourage you to attend a meeting? We often hold meetings at lunch. Should we hold some evening meetings? If so, how many?

The broader question to ask is what would make the SBE more valuable to you? How much do you value the SBE?

Chriss Scherer tries to ensure that at least one newsletter is sent to every station. Is a copy of the newsletter posted in a common area at your facility for everyone to see? If not, post yours.

- Encourage more TV participation

The regular group leans heavily toward radio. Even when we arrange a TV-related program, the attendance favors radio. You can help the chapter help you. Suggest some TV and video-related programs, and then come to the meeting.

- Arrange more tour-based programs

I'm not originally from this area, so I enjoy visiting other stations. Even if you have lived here all your life, I'm sure that you enjoy visiting other stations.

Let's not limit ourselves just to broadcast facilities. There are plenty of possibilities for technical tours that are not necessarily media outlets. Some of the more interesting

and well attended tours have not been broadcast facilities: the FAA flight center, the movie theater, the KCPL power facility. Help us identify more tour sites. Be sure to share your ideas for meeting tours with Mike Rogers or me.

We're all a part of the chapter, and we can all help to keep it strong and active. Help the chapter grow and remain active.

Last month I also mentioned that I would like to begin a column in this newsletter that provides you with a voice to the chapter. The column will be called Local Broadcast, and your opinion is important. Take a moment and prepare some comments. Send them to Chriss Scherer or to me. You can be a part of the localism of this newsletter.

I'll see you at the next meeting.

### **SBE RF Safety Seminar**

*By Ben Weiss, CPBE*

I attended the first SBE RF Safety Seminar on June 27. SBE59 arranged to host one of the host sites, and we met at the Kansas City EOC. Overall, I thought that the seminar was most worthwhile. There were a couple of times when the presentation was sidetracked, but the information presented was very informative. Because this was the first presentation, I expect that it will be streamlined as it develops.

The handout included the Power Point presentation. There's plenty of good information contained within it.

Chad Brown and I have attended another company's RF Site Safety Awareness training last September in Kansas City. I believe that the SBE session was better targeted to broadcast engineers. It also took less time and was considerably cheaper.

There was one interesting fact presented during the session. A rat's resonate frequency is about 300MHz, while an average man's resonate frequency is about 100MHz. That's why subjecting one's body to the strong field of a radiating FM antenna can be detrimental over time.

I was disappointed that the Kansas City seminar venue was not full of attendees. It was a great opportunity to learn valuable information by attending the seminar here in our own market. The next seminars probably won't be so convenient, although I am told that Kansas Chapter 3 is hosting one of the next events.

Two more RF Safety Seminar dates have been set: July 25 and August 2. Contact the SBE national office for information on attending.

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## New Online Resource for TV Coverage Determination

By John Gray

A new website was recently brought to my attention that may be of interest to some in the group. It is the TV Fool website, found online at [www.tvfool.com](http://www.tvfool.com).

This website has two main features.

1. It provides access to data files that can be used with Google Earth to show Longley/Rice based coverage maps for TV stations. These files must be downloaded by TV market as torrents (so you must have a Bit Torrent client to get them).

2. Its second and more interesting feature is the ability to take a street address (or latitude/longitude coordinates) and produce a display of the signal levels of all the nearby stations. It also shows the azimuth to each station, the actual channel being used for broadcast, the 'virtual' channel, and network each station is affiliated with. The site uses information from the FCC's station database for its calculations. It appears to be in somewhat of a work in progress state, however as it is now it gives some information that is very useful when trying to determine what stations should be received at a given location.



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## Content Management Systems

By John Gray

Chapter 59 is about to get a new website. As part of the site redesign, we will likely move the site to a new hosting server. While the actual hosted location is transparent to a site user, the discussion of this among some of the chapter members prompted some questions about websites. That discussion was the catalyst for creating this article.

The site that the chapter has maintained for many years is a series of stand-alone HTML pages. The new site is being designed to work with a content management system. In the beginning, HTML was developed as a way to tell the computer viewing a website what it should look like. In essence, the main purpose of a Web server is to send HTML descriptions and graphics files to the end user.

The first websites were generally just one long page of information. Before long it was discovered that cramming all the information for a website into one page had some usability issues, so people started breaking sites up into several different pages. This is still the most common



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Next EAS Required Monthly Test: July 31  
The RMT is sent on the last Tuesday of the month

method used today.

This, however, presents a problem. Because of the way HTML is designed, the content for the page and the overall layout and navigation information for the site must be included with each page. This means that if each page has a common navigation menu, a change on one page must be made to every other page on the site. This quickly becomes a development nightmare if there are more than a few pages.

One early solution to this problem is to use frames. This aspect of the HTML specification allows a browser to display multiple pages at once. This is how the existing SBE59 website is created. In our case, the content is on the right and the navigation is on the left. These are separate Web pages. By doing this, a single Web page is maintained to handle the entire site's navigation.

While this method has administration advantages, the main drawbacks are that the site is not properly indexed by search engines, and it is difficult to send a link to specific page of the site.

Another method is to manage a site with a software program such as Dreamweaver. The main drawback to this program is the cost.

Other approaches involve the PHP scripting language, with which the server evaluates or runs scripts to generate the HTML for the pages as needed. The downside of a pure PHP site is that not only does the administrator need to be familiar with HTML, but he also needs to understand programming and the Perl syntax.

The latest method is a content management system (CMS), which is a software layer that exists between the content/design of the site and the final HTML that is sent to the end user. I am currently developing a redesign of the chapter website with a CMS.

#### Accidental EAN Message Sent in Illinois

During morning drive on June 26, an accidental Emergency Activation Notification (EAN) was sent through the Emergency Alert System. According to reports, an emergency management office was testing the system, which was supposed to be offline, but instead was distributed through the EAS network. No explanation has yet been given as to why an alert code was used instead of a test code. The EAS responded as it should have and distributed the message to stations throughout Illinois and in the St. Louis area.

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Upcoming Chapter Meetings and Events
<p><b>July 12</b>  <i>Data Center Power and Cooling</i>            Obie Dixon and Reid Graham  <i>Network Integration Services</i></p>
<p><b>August 9</b>  <i>Program TBD - Call Mike Rogers with ideas</i>            Location TBA</p>
<p><b>September 13</b>  <i>Networked audio and Codecs</i>            Gerardo Vargas, AEQ            Location TBA</p>
<p>Do you have a suggestion for a program topic?            Please share it with Mike Rogers.</p>

**June 26: Internet Radio Day of Silence**

As part of a protest for the retroactive increase in streaming royalty rates, Internet radio observed a day of silence.

The Copyright Royalty Board sets the fees that webcasters pay, and in March 2007 the CRB increased the royalty payment rate by 300% from about 1/19 of a cent to 1/7 of a cent. When the new rate was set, it was made retroactive to cover the previous 15 months.

SaveNetRadio.org organized the protest, and according to online reports, Live365, Yahoo, Pandora and nearly every major online streaming provider observed the protest.

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Chairman ..... Robin Cross ..... KCUR-FM ... 816- 235-2880 ..... crossr@umkc.edu  
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 Website ..... John Gray ..... V-Soft Communications ... 913-693-7744 ..... jgray@v-soft.com

Chapter 59 e-mail: [sbe59@yahoo.com](mailto:sbe59@yahoo.com)

Chapter 59 list server: [sbe-kc@yahoogroups.com](mailto:sbe-kc@yahoogroups.com)



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