

Meeting Notice

Thursday, August 9, Don Chilito's

7017 Johnson Dr.; Mission, KS; 913-432-4615

Gather at 11:30 a.m., meeting at noon

What I Did This Summer. You are an important part of this month's meeting. Everyone says that he is busy with work, so this is your chance to share your experience with the chapter. Have you rebuilt a studio? Moved a transmitter site? Upgraded a transmitter facility to digital? Refitted the remote or ENG truck? Upgraded the network? Bring the details of your projects and share them with us.

When you arrive at the restaurant, order your lunch and then bring it the banquet room on the east side of the building. ☺

Last Month's Meeting

By Ben Weiss, CPBE

The July meeting of Chapter 59 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers was held July 12, 2007 at the offices and technical center of Network Integration Services in Olathe. There were 16 in attendance. Robin Cross, chairman, called the business meeting to order at 11:58 p.m.

Robin initiated a moment of silence in memory of Jerry Case and Kevin Keeling. Mention was made that visitation for Case would be July 13 from 5 to 7 p.m. with a memorial service to follow. It was decided to have a flower spray sent to the funeral home on behalf of the chapter. Ben Weiss agreed to take care of the details.

Ben Weiss read the minutes of the June meeting. The motion to approve the minutes was by Chriss Scherer and the second by Ken Cox, passed.

Chriss Scherer, chapter certification chairman, noted that the deadline to register for the November certification exams is September 21.

There were no frequency coordination or EAS reports.

The annual chapter picnic was discussed and the date was set for Sept. 8. It will again be held at the Lake Lotawana home of Ed and Barbara Treese.

The motion to adjourn was made by Scherer and seconded by Kirk Chestnut.

Network Integration Services was the gracious host for the meeting and provided Jack Stack barbecue for lunch. Prior to a tour of the new facility, Obie Dixon and Bob Jewell discussed methods of ensuring data and hardware reliability in networked systems. NIS is a data services

company that provides data storage, disaster recovery and information management services. The working facility is still seeing expansion to house the network equipment of new clients.

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The tour included a discussion of the physical installation practices and the measures taken to ensure data integrity at all times, despite power outages or natural or man-made disasters.

Chairman's Chat *Something to Say*

By Robin Cross

Hello again. Is this mic live? Can you hear me? Thump...thump...thump. In a previous issue I stated that I was open to others writing nearly anything they wanted in a column titled *Local Broadcast*. I was initially looking for directors of engineering or chief engineers, but I will gladly accept input from any Chapter 59 member. Please contact Chriss Scherer or me. So far, I am unaware of anyone with the desire to share some thoughts in writing.

If the idea of writing something is the impediment let me assure you that help is available to edit it and turn it into something to be proud of. If you desire to be anonymous, that can be accommodated as well. (Chriss probably needs to know, but he can keep a secret very well.) My desire is that you as a member of the SBE are able to make this chapter what you want. Contact me at 816-235-2880 or crossr@umkc.edu. You understand how busy chief engineers are, so expect to leave a detailed message or explain it fully in your e-mail.

Chapter 59 recently hosted the SBE RF Safety seminar.

Certification Exam Dates		
Exam Date	Location	App. Deadline
Nov 9 - 19, 2007	Local Chapter	Sep 21, 2007

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There were four attendees. As an added incentive to attend, the chapter offered a \$10 rebate for each chapter member who attended, which brought the cost down to \$65 instead of \$75. I had hoped that more people would have taken advantage of this educational opportunity. There was a great deal of information about remote vehicles using microwave and satellite transmitters as well, so there was something for just about anyone involved in technical operations at a station.

I will keep the chapter informed about events like this in the future. If there is enough lead time it will be included here in *The Communicator*, but it will always be available through the e-mail list server or posted on the chapter website. Speaking of which, are you subscribed to the e-mail list server? It is simple and easy. Contact Chriss or me, or follow the link on the chapter website to subscribe.

Until I see you at the meeting, may your electrons keep flowing in the correct directions.

Jerry Case: 1953 – 2007

By Chriss Scherer

Jerry Allen Case passed away on July 10, 2007, while working at a tower site near Eudora, KS. Memorial contributions can be made to your charity of choice in his name.

Case was born in Independence, MO, and attended Blue Springs High School. He was a 34-year member of Iron Workers Local #10. He operated Structural Inspections, a company that specialized in communications tower work. Anyone involved with any tower structure in the area knew Jerry and knew his work.

Jerry and his employee, Kevin Keeling, were ascending a 1,000' tower via a lift bucket on July 10. As the men were lifted past the 500' point at about 9:30 a.m., the new steel cable snapped. Case and Keeling were working on equipment for KSHB-TV that was being upgraded for the nationwide 2GHz transition that is currently underway.

Not being responsible for a tower installation, I only met Jerry on two occasions when visiting a tower site. After talking to the many broadcasters he knew in the Kansas City area, I learned that he was an honest, hard worker who took pride in his work. Several people noted that Jerry always made himself available for an emergency call, which is a rare luxury for any broadcaster. I am also told that Jerry's work was always top-notch, and that he never took any shortcuts when it came to safety.

This photo of Jerry was taken by Ben Weiss in June 2006.

Ben brought this photo to the July meeting, and everyone who looked at it nodded his head and said with a smile, "That's Jerry."



Jerry Case. Photo by Ben Weiss.

FCC Issues EAS Order

The FCC's update to the Emergency Alert System rules, which has been stalled for some time, has been released. From the broadcaster's point of view, the most significant change is the addition of the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) as a key component to EAS. The protocol will be required for use once FEMA formally adopts it.

Participation in the EAS has been expanded to include wireline video service providers. It also expands the required participation beyond Presidential messages. EAS participants must now receive and retransmit state-level alerts triggered by a state governor. In addition, EAS participants are required to transmit geo-targeted alerts to areas smaller than a state.

Included in the action is a further notice of proposed rulemaking to include distribution to non-English speakers and people with disabilities.

Read the complete text of the order at hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-07-109A1.doc or look for EB Docket No. 04-296

SBE Adds Two Additional RF Safety Course Dates

Following the high demand of the first Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE) Web-based RF Safety Course, two more course dates have been set, and additional course dates are being planned. The first course, held June 27, was attended by more than 80 participants across nine different sites in the U.S.

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The two additional dates for the course were July 25 and August 2.

The SBE RF Safety Course is designed for broadcast station personnel such as chief and assistant chief engineers, transmitter site engineers, ENG and SNG maintenance personnel and management that need to have an understanding of RF safety issues and regulations. Recent FCC statements that call for RF hazardous areas to be "controlled environments" and fines levied by the Commission on several broadcast stations that have not complied, have broadcasters looking for quality training from RF safety experts. Instructing the SBE course is noted RF safety authority Richard Strickland of RF Safety Solutions.

The SBE RF Safety Course covers the biological effects of RF radiation and the distinct differences between RF radiation and ionizing radiation. It explains FCC and OSHA regulations and what broadcasters need to do to comply. Strickland also covers workplace hazard sites including transmitter sites, SNG and ENG trucks, remote operations such as rooftops and the unique issues at AM stations. He also covers RF hazard protection equipment and signage.

Richard Strickland founded RF Safety Solutions in 2001 after ten years as director of business development for Narda Safety Test Solutions.

The SBE has created a waiting list for those who wish to participate in future courses. If interested, contact the SBE at rfsafety@sbe.org.

FCC Opens Comment Window on PSRA/PSSA Rulemaking

A petition from Ed Schober of Radiotechniques Engineering to modify the pre-sunrise and post-sunset authority rules for AM broadcast stations has been opened for comment with the FCC. Listed under RM-11384, the petition seeks to loosen the rules for stations operating during these periods. In particular, the petition proposes several points.

- PSRA and PSSA power need not be limited to 500W if no interference would be caused.
- Secondary (skywave) service areas of Class A stations expand and contract from east to west with the transit of the sun. There is no need to protect a service area that either does not exist yet on the western edge of the area,

Next EAS Required Monthly Test: August 28
The RMT is sent on the last Tuesday of the month

or has ceased to exist because the sun is rising on the eastern edge of the area.

- Stations should be able to use their day, night, auxiliary or one tower of the array—whatever works best for PSRA and PSSA. Class B and D stations should be able to operate with any power, up to the maximum of day or night station power during PSRA and PSSA as long as no interference is caused.

The petition can be read and comments can be filed through the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System. Reference RM-11384.

FCC to Hold Media Ownership Hearing in Chicago

The Federal Communications Commission will hold its fifth public hearing on media ownership issues in Chicago on Sept. 20. Hearing details will be released later. Previous FCC public hearings were held in Los Angeles; Nashville; Harrisburg, PA; and Tampa.

FCC to Hold DTV Consumer Education Workshop

The Federal Communications Commission will hold a day-long Digital Television Consumer Education Workshop at its Washington headquarters on Sept. 26. The purpose of the workshop is to provide a forum to discuss the challenges associated with the upcoming transition and explore ways to develop coordinated consumer education activities.

Organizations representing a broad range of consumers and other stakeholders will be represented, including senior citizens, low-income consumers, non-English speakers, people with disabilities, tribes and public interest organizations. A live audio cast of the hearing will be available at www.fcc.gov. A recording of the event will be made available.

Synchronized Certification

The SBE National Certification Committee offers a recertification option for 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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<p>Upcoming Chapter Meetings and Events</p> <p>August 9 <i>What Did You do This Summer?</i> Don Chilito's</p> <p>September 8 <i>Annual Picnic</i> Ed Treese's residence, Lake Lotawana</p> <p>September 13 <i>Networked audio and Codecs</i> Gerardo Vargas, AEQ</p> <p>October 11 <i>Digital Audio Processors</i> Jay Tyler, Wheatstone</p> <p>Share your meeting ideas with with Mike Rogers.</p>

Prepare to be Certified

The SBE offers certification sample-test software for all levels of Certification except the Operator levels, which



have their own study material. The software can be purchased through the National Office. Order your copy today and prepare to be Certified.

SBE59 Officers

Chairman Robin Cross KCUR-FM ... 816- 235-2880 crossr@umkc.edu
 Vice Chairman Dave Buell University of Central Missouri ... 660-441-7421 dbuell@ucmo.edu
 Secretary/Treasurer Ben Weiss, CPBE KMXV-FM/KCKC-FM/KFKF-FM/KBEQ-FM ... 816-753-4000 bweiss@wilkskc.com
 Past Chairman Matt Kinnan, CEV CBNT Taketwo Productions ... 816-471-6554 mkinnan@taketwo.tv

SBE59 Committees

Certification Chriss Scherer, CPBE CBNT Radio magazine ... 913-967-7201 cscherer@sbe.org
 EAS K.C. Operational Area Kirk Chestnut, CSRE Entercom Kansas City ... 913-677-6462 kchestnut@entercom.com
 Frequency Coordination Chris Castro, CBT KSHB-TV ... 816-932-4304 castro@kshb.com
 Newsletter Chriss Scherer, CPBE CBNT Radio magazine ... 913-967-7201 cscherer@sbe.org
 Programs Michael Rogers Rogers Broadcast Service ... 913-486-6122 mrogers@everestkc.net
 Website John Gray V-Soft Communications ... 913-693-7744 jgray@v-soft.com

Chapter 59 e-mail: sbe59@yahoo.com

Chapter 59 list server: sbe-kc@yahoogroups.com



SBE Chapter 59
 c/o Radio magazine (Scherer)
 9800 Metcalf
 Overland Park, KS 66212