

Meeting Notices

Saturday, September 8, Ed Treese's Lake House

Lot U-2; Lake Lotawana, MO; 913-484-4134 or 913-522-1543

The grilling begins at 12 noon. See page 5 for directions.

Annual picnic. Our annual social gathering takes us to Lake Lotawana for a light afternoon of fun and food. Ed Treese has graciously invited us to his lake house for our annual social event. The chapter will handle the burgers, dogs, drinks and chips. Bring a lawn chair just in case there aren't enough chairs.

Chapter members and guests are invited, as are their significant others. There will not be a formal meeting.

Thursday, September 13, Zarda Barbecue

11931 W 87th St., Lenexa, KS; 913-492-2330

Gather at 11:30 a.m., lunch served at 11:45 a.m., meeting and program begin at 12:15 p.m.

Digital consoles and routers. Gerardo Vargas of AEQ will discuss the architecture and design of a digital console and routing system with an emphasis on the approach used by AEQ in its Arena digital console and BC-2000D router. He will cover console setup and operational aspects of the system as well.

Vargas will also have information on other AEQ equipment including telephone hybrids, ISDN codecs and RPUs. ©

Last Month's Meeting

By Ben Weiss, CPBE

The August meeting of SBE59 was held Aug. 9, 2007 at Don Chilitos Restaurant. There were five in attendance. Robin Cross, chairman, called the business meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

Ben Weiss read the minutes of the July meeting. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Cross and seconded by Darrell Nickolaus; motion passed.

Because of the low turnout, there were few committee reports.

There was a lengthy discussion about the chapter website. John Gray has agreed to take on the duties of the chapter webmaster. He has spent considerable time revising and updating the look and utility of the website. Gray remarked that it would be best if the website was moved to a new server and he offered to provide space on his server. Also, he recommended that the chapter secure the domain sbe59.org as the new website address. Gray expects the cost to secure the domain to be about \$100. Darrell Nickolaus made the motion to proceed with securing the domain and Dave Buell seconded it. The motion carried unanimously. [This effort has begun, and you can read more about it later in this newsletter.]

There was a brief discussion about the date and place to hold the RF Specialties barbecue appreciation lunch for

2008. It seems that January or February are the best months for the company to do it. A location for the event will be determined and the date set soon.

There was no other business, so Darrel Nickolaus moved to adjourn and John Gray seconded the motion.

While not a formal program, the remainder of the meeting time was devoted to a general discussion of various station projects underway.

**Chairman's Chat
Digital Conversions**

By Robin Cross

I have been extremely busy with the conversion to Content Depot from NPR. What is Content Depot?

Content Depot is changing the way audio is delivered to NPR stations. Many of the live shows such as *Morning Edition*, *Day-to-Day*, *Talk of the Nation*, and *All things Considered* are still delivered as a live digital audio stream. Almost all of the prerecorded programs are delivered in program segments. The number of segments can vary from two to 11 depending on the producer's choice. The files are auto-

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

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matically ingested into almost any of the various automation systems. This has helped many of the small-market NPR stations automate their air schedules and reduce personnel costs. The conversion also alters how live announcers produce their shows and involves some training for those involved. This is mostly done in the AES audio format using MP2 compression.

While this is my station's current conversion, there's a larger conversion taking place.

More than two years ago, KCUR put an HD Radio transmitter on the air. Have you converted to HD Radio or HDTV? Are you willing to share your story about the conversion? Is your station considering installing digital? What method are you considering? Let us know. How do you feel about the looming deadline for analog TV? Are there any stations that can revert to their analog channel? What does this process entail? What are you going to do with your analog transmitter? Can it be converted to digital? Inquiring minds want to know and you are the source. I look forward to hearing from you.

Website News

By John Gray

The SBE59 website has a new look and a new URL. The website can now be accessed by directing a Web browser to www.sbe59.org.

The new website has been setup using the Drupal content management system (more information about it can be found at www.drupal.org). This system will make adding and updating content easier and gives the site a more modern look and feel.

Most of the essential content from the old site has been moved to the new site. If you notice any omissions or errors please let me know at jgray@v-soft.com. I would like the website to be as useful as possible for chapter members, so if there is something we could add to the site that you feel would be a benefit to you and others, please let me know.

FCC Announces Final DTV Channel Assignments

The FCC has released a new DTV table that provides TV stations across the country with their final channel assignments for broadcasting following the DTV transition on Feb. 17, 2009. The new DTV table specifies channels for more than 1,800 stations.

The new DTV table is based on the tentative channel designations (TCDs) proposed in the seventh further

notice for eligible TV stations, which, in turn, resulted from the channels that stations selected during the channel election process.

The table of assignments are available at fjallfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-07-138A2.xls.

FCC Issues NPRM on AM Use of FM Translators

On July 14, 2006, the National Association of Broadcasters filed a petition for rulemaking proposing an amendment to the FCC Rules to allow AM broadcast stations to operate FM translator stations. The NAB Petition proposed that AM stations be permitted to license and/or use FM translator stations to retransmit their AM service as a fill-in service to rebroadcast the AM signal, provided that no portion of the 60dBu contour of any such FM translator station extends beyond the smaller of a 25-mile radius from the AM transmitter site, or the 2mV/m daytime contour of the AM station. The FCC received more than 500 comments on the NAB petition, with the majority supporting the proposal.

The FCC has issued a notice of proposed rule making (NPRM) to enact rules to permit the use of FM translators by AM stations. The FCC will also examine the issues related to such a rule change, including the issue of program origination at night over FM translators by AM daytime-only stations.

Comments are due 60 days after the public notice appears in the Federal Register. Reply comments are due 90 days after publication of the notice in the Federal Register. (MB Docket No. 07-172)

IBOC Rules Published in Federal Register

The FCC's final rules on IBOC have been published in the Federal Register. With this publication, the details of the second report and order from May 2007 will go into effect. There are three items in those rules that now have time lines. These all take effect on Sept. 14, 2007:

- AM stations can commence night-time IBOC operations.
- FM stations can multicast without obtaining special temporary authority from the FCC.
- FM stations can use separate antennas for hybrid IBOC operation without obtaining special temporary authority from the FCC.

The FCC is still seeking some comments on various aspects, and Mexico has recently made some protests about IBOC, so more information will likely be released by the FCC at a later time.

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SBE Election Ballots Due August 30

By Chriss Scherer

The ballots for the SBE national elections were sent to all members at the beginning of August. Elections are held every year in the late summer. National officers serve one-year terms, and board members serve two-year terms. The board member elections are staggered so that only half the board is elected at any given time.

This year, there is one person running for each of the four officer positions. There are 11 people running for the six board positions. Each ballot included information about each of the candidates, including a bio and some insight to the views of each candidate.

When you mail your ballot to the national office, the envelopes are held unopened until the board of tellers meets to count the ballots. Each year, the SBE board of directors appoints a board of tellers to handle this task. Because the SBE national office is located in Indianapolis, the members of Indianapolis SBE chapter 25 are appointed to serve as the tellers.

While the SBE has about 5,500 members, it's disappointing to me that each election only garners about 1,000 ballots. It's easy to put the ballot to the side and forget about it until after the deadline, which is why it's a good idea to return it as soon as you can.

I also hear the argument that because someone does not know anything about the candidates that it's not important for him to vote. Every vote counts, and as a member of the Society, you have a voice in its future. Read the included materials. Contact the candidates to learn more about them. They are also members, so get their contact info from the SBE website. If you don't receive a reply, consider this as part of your selection process when you cast your vote.

The ballots will be counted the evening of Aug. 30, and the candidates will be informed of the election results by noon the next day. The SBE national office will then publish a press release with the official results.

I'm concluding my second term as president, so I cannot run for the office again because of term limits. I am eligible to run for another officer or a board position, but the immediate past president is also a member of the board, so I will continue in a national role at least for one year.

Next EAS Required Monthly Test: September 25
The RMT is sent on the last Tuesday of the month

Temporary Transmitter Site for KTPK-FM

By Roy Baum

I just finished installing a temporary transmitter site for KTPK-FM (106.9) at the WIBW studios at Huntoon and Wanamaker in Topeka. KTPK needed an alternate transmitter site while KTKA-TV (49 ABC) performs some structural maintenance on its tower west of Topeka. The extensive project will be complete in about six weeks.

KTPK operates from the temporary transmitter site when the tower climbers work between 1,077 and 1,230 feet. Since the project started on Aug. 6, I've switched KTPK to the auxiliary transmitter nearly every weekday. Operating times have ranged from 30 minutes to more than six hours.

The transmission system consists of a single-bay antenna we purchased from RF Specialties mounted at the 100 ft. level on WIBW's STL tower, 7/8" heliax to the antenna, a Marti PNP1000 FM transmitter (borrowed from Steve Hendrix at KSAL in Salina), an STL receiver (the STL transmitter at KTPK's studio feeds a receiver at KTKA's tower and the WIBW studio) and a Gentner VRC2000 dialup remote control.

One problem I've experienced is that the Marti PNP composite input is not broadband and will only pass the composite signal. It will not pass any SCAs or the RBDS signal.

Another problem is the coverage: there is a "slight" listening radius change when switching from 100kW at 1,100 ft. to 1kW at 100 ft. Listening tests show that 1kW covers Topeka okay, but the TSA suffers when on low power. One other small obstacle was that I had to install 220Vac single-phase service to the rack room where the Marti PNP lives.

Directions to Picnic

Ed Treese's lake house; U-2, Lake Lotawana, MO

From the Grandview Triangle follow I-470 East to the exit for US 50 East. Follow US 50 to MO 7 North. Follow MO 7 to the Gate 3 entrance for Lake Lotawana on the east side of the road. Enter through the gate, and then go straight. You will be in T block. Continue around the bend to the left to U block. The Treese house is on the right. There is a sign over the the garage doors with the address U-2 and the Treese's name.

Park in the driveway, the grass directly above the driveway or the parking area at the street.

If you come from I-70, take the exit for MO 7 South. Follow the directions above once you come to Gate 3.

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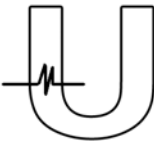
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Upcoming Chapter Meetings and Events

September 8

Annual Picnic

Treese's Lake House, Lake Lotawana

September 13

Networked audio and Codecs

Gerardo Vargas, AEQ

Zarda Barbecue, Lenexa

October 11

Digital Audio Processors

Jay Tyler, Wheatstone

Location TBA

Do you have a suggestion for a program topic? Please share it with Mike Rogers.

NTIA Awards TV Converter Box Coupon Program Contract

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration has awarded IBM a contract to provide services for the Digital-to-Analog Converter Box Coupon Program. The Coupon Program provides for distribution and redemption of coupons that consumers may apply toward the purchase of digital-to-analog converter boxes. Between Jan. 1, 2008, and March 31, 2009, all U.S. households may request up to two coupons, worth \$40 each, to be used toward the purchase of up to two digital-to-analog converter boxes until the initial \$990 million allocated for the program has been exhausted.

Additional information about the award may be found online at www.fbo.gov, and for information about the Coupon Program, go to www.ntia.doc.gov/dtvcoupon.

SBE59 Officers

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