

Meeting Notice

Thursday, May 8, Don Chilito's

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

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

Impressions of the NAB Show. Join your fellow chapter members for a discussion of thoughts and impressions from the 2008 NAB Show. What was new? What were the hot topics of discussion? What were the more interesting sessions? If you didn't attend the convention, come to the meeting and find out. If you attended the convention, bring your ideas and stories.

While there is no lunch sponsor, the chapter will hold a drawing for someone to win lunch. When you arrive at the restaurant, order your lunch and save your receipt. Bring your lunch to the banquet room. ●

Last Month's Meeting

By Ben Weiss, CPBE

The April meeting of Chapter 59 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers was held April 10, 2008, at the studios and offices of KMBC-TV9 in Kansas City, MO. There were 17 in attendance. Dave Buell, chapter vice chairman, called the business meeting to order at 12:08 p.m. He thanked KMBC-TV9 for providing the meeting location. The chapter provided lunch.

Ben Weiss read the minutes of the March meeting. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Chriss Scherer and seconded by Kirk Chestnut. Motion passed. Ben also provided the treasurer's report.

Chriss Scherer again reminded us that certification exams will be given locally June 6-16 and the application deadline is April 18. He remarked that he will host the June meeting at Penton Media and the program will be a review of the *Broadcast Engineering* magazine and *Radio* magazine Pick Hits from the 2008 NAB Show. Additional monthly meeting programs are being planned.

Kirk Chestnut, Kansas City EAS chairman, reported that the Kansas monthly EAS test from WIBW scheduled for April 8 and WIBW did not go out as planned. A make-good was scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, but KCSP had no plans to forward it.

The motion to adjourn was made by Chriss Scherer and seconded by John Gray. Passed.

A tour of the new studio and office facilities of KMBC-TV9 was led by Ed King, chief engineer, and Hank Palmer. The tour began with an overview of the construction project, which included a series of photos of the construction in progress.

The 52,000 square-foot facility sits on 8.5 acres of land. Construction of the facility and installation of the equipment was completed in August 2007, although the plans to relocate the station were first considered in 1988.

In that 20 years, several remodeling projects were begun at the former downtown studio location instead of work to build a new facility. By 2000, the plans to relocate the facility were in full swing. The result is a modern facility with a server-based workflow for news and programming.

Chairman's Chat

Time Flies

By Robin Cross

I just returned from Las Vegas and the NAB Show. One of the hot topics for FM broadcasters is the possibility of increasing the HD Radio digital carriers from -20dBc to -10 dBc. This is a multiplication factor of 10. Instead of the present 1/100 ratio to the FM analog carrier, the digital carriers would be 1/10 of the FM analog carrier power.

Signal analog digital -20dBc digital -10dBc
ERP 100kW 1kW 10kW

While it may sound easy to implement, this is not the case. The change causes high-level combined systems to have unreasonably high dissipation powers. If the HD Radio signal is created with low-level common amplification, the FM power of the transmitter must be reduced dramatically. It will be determined what level will not in-

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Certification Exam Dates		
<i>Exam Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>App. Deadline</i>
Jun 6 - 16, 2008	Local Chapter	closed
Aug 8 - 18	Local Chapter	Jun 6, 2008
Nov 7 - 17	Local Chapter	Sep 19, 2008




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terfere with the first-adjacent neighbors. The times they are a-changing.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

FCC Updates Public and Broadcasting Manual

In its recent Report on Broadcast Localism and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, the Federal Communications Commission concluded that the record in the localism proceeding (MB Docket No. 04-233) revealed a substantial need for greater public understanding of broadcaster obligations, and of the procedures by which the Commission enforces those obligations. The Commission expressed its desire to better educate members of the public about the tools available to them, should they believe that their local broadcast stations are not fulfilling their service obligations. To that end, the FCC directed the Media Bureau to update *The Public and Broadcasting*, a publication that all broadcasters must maintain in their public inspection files. The Commission also stated that it would establish a contact point within the agency for public inquiries about broadcast matters.

The updated manual is now available. It includes links to places on the FCC's website that offer additional relevant information as to the matters discussed, and it provides an overview of the FCC's regulation of broadcast radio and television licensees, describes how broadcast stations are authorized, and explains the various rules and policies relating to broadcast programming and operations with which stations must comply, including the obligation to serve their local communities. It also explains how members of the public can become involved in assessing whether local broadcast stations are complying with these requirements. The publication is also intended to make the public aware of FCC procedures and the tools at their disposal, in the event that they conclude that any of their local stations do not meet these responsibilities.

FCC Rules require all broadcast stations to keep a copy of the most recent version of the document in their public inspection files. Stations must also provide a copy of the document to any member of the public that requests one. Download the latest version at www.fcc.gov/mb/audio/decdoc/public_and_broadcasting.html.

In addition, two Broadcast Information Specialists, one in the Media Bureau's Audio Division and one in its Video Division, will serve as contact points for the public, accessible via toll-free telephone numbers, by fax or by e-mail. These individuals will be available to provide information to members of the public who may wish to become in-

volved in the Commission's processes. They will answer questions about how to do so, including inquiries about FCC complaint or petitioning procedures or the filing and status of the license renewal, modification or assignment or transfer application for a particular station. Contact the Broadcast Information Specialists:

• Radio:
866-267-7202 (voice) or 877-479-1433 (TTY)
202-418-1411 (fax)
radioinfo@fcc.gov

• TV:
866-918-5777 (voice) or 866-787-6222 (TTY)
202-418-2827 (fax)
tvinfo@fcc.gov

FCC Plans EAS Summit

The FCC announced the agenda for its upcoming Summit on the nation's Emergency Alert System. The summit, called *Promoting an Effective Emergency Alert System on the Road to a Next Generation EAS*, will be held on May 19, 2008, from 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. ET at the FCC's offices.

The panel discussions will focus on the current state of the nation's EAS and what is needed to transition to a more robust, next-generation alert and warning system to help ensure accurate and timely information dissemination during emergencies.

The Summit will be open to the public, but admittance will be limited to the seating available. To attend, pre-register online at www.fcc.gov/pshs/summits/eas. The deadline to preregister is May 15, 2008. The meeting will be streamed online.

Agenda

9:00 a.m. - Welcome

• Derek Poarch, chief, FCC's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, PSHSB

9:20 a.m. - Opening Remarks

9:40 a.m. - Panel One: Examines the current state of the nation's EAS initiative. Discussions will focus on failure points within the system - breakdowns in the daisy chain - as well as ways to improve testing protocols and heighten awareness to the importance of education and training for broadcasters and other EAS participants.

• Moderator: Tom Beers, chief of the Policy Division, PSHSB

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- Panelists: Ann Arnold, chairman, Texas State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC); executive director, Texas Association of Broadcasters
- Dale Gehman, president Gehman Compliance and Consulting
- Steve Johnson, consultant, National Cable and Telecommunications Association
- Mark Manuelian, Primary Entry Point Advisory Committee director; chairman Massachusetts SECC
- C. Patrick Roberts, chairman, Florida SECC; president, Florida Broadcasters Association

11:00 a.m. - Break



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11:15 a.m. - Panel Two: Focus on Next Generation Technologies and explore what policies and protocols should be implemented to ensure compatibility between Federal implementation of the Common Alert Protocol (CAP) architecture and state government operations. Panelists will also discuss funding issues and what states are expected to do to ensure that their state, county and local emergency response systems are fully functional in a new system design.

- Moderator: William Lane, chief engineer, PSHSB
- Panelists: Malena Barzilai, senior counsel, Association of Public Television Stations
- Art Botterell, manager, Community Warning System, Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office, CA
- Lance Craver, program manager, Integrated Public Alerting and Warning System, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- Clay Freinwald, chairman, Washington SECC; chairman, Society of Broadcast Engineers EAS Committee
- Suzanne D. Goucher, chairman, Maine SECC; president, Maine Association of Broadcasters
- Mark Paese, director of Operations Division, National Weather Service



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12:35 p.m. - Closing Remarks

- Chief Derek Poarch



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FCC Releases FM Allotment Finder Tool

The Federal Communications Commission directed its Media Bureau to develop a computer program to assist potential radio applicants in identifying suitable available commercial FM spectrum. This tool is now available FCC's Audio Division website at www.fcc.gov/mb/audio/allotmentfinder.html.

Next EAS Required Monthly Test: May27
The RMT is sent on the last Tuesday of the month

The Allotment Channel Finder is designed to determine whether a Class A FM channel is available at a proposed transmitter site and whether a Class A station operating from this site would place a minimum field strength of 70dBµ over the entire principal community to be served. As explained in more detail on the site, a successful search does not guarantee the availability of a channel at a specific location.

For additional information, contact Dale Bickel of the FCC Audio Division at 202-418-2700.

FCC to Give More Public Notice on Open Meeting Agenda Topics

Federal Communications Commission Chairman Kevin J. Martin announced that topics selected for open meeting agendas will now formally be made public and posted on the Commission's website three weeks prior to the upcoming monthly meeting. This step is intended to enhance the openness and transparency of the Commission's processes and deliberations.

The Commission's practice has been to issue a public notice of the Commission Meeting Agenda one week before each meeting to announce the items that are scheduled for the agenda. The Commission will continue to issue the Commission Meeting Agenda at least one week before each meeting as a standard practice.

Synchronized Certification

The SBE National Certification Committee offers an item of interest to 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.

Member Benefit: SBE-news

At the end of 2007, the SBE launched an e-mail newsletter for SBE members called SBE-news. This twice-monthly newsletter provides updates on current SBE projects and programs, and offers a fast and direct way for SBE members to receive information. If you are an SBE member but you are not receiving SBE-news, contact the SBE national office at 317-846-9000. ●

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<p>Upcoming Chapter Meetings and Events</p> <p>May 8 <i>Impressions of the 2008 NAB Show</i> All chapter members and guests <i>Don Chilito's</i></p> <p>June 12 <i>The Pick Hits of the 2008 NAB Show</i> Chriss Scherer <i>Penton Media</i></p> <p>July 10 August 14</p> <p>Do you have a suggestion for a program topic? Please share it with Roy Baum.</p>

SBE Membership Drive May 31

The annual SBE Membership Drive runs through May 31. Though new members are welcome all throughout the year, now is a particularly good time to recruit new members for the SBE. Members who recruit new members will receive a \$5 discount for each new member (up to \$25) on his membership renewal next year. Recruiters are also eligible for the grand prize: a trip to the SBE National Meeting in Madison, WI, Oct. 14-16.

Be sure to have the new recruit include the sponsor's name on the sponsor line of the membership application. The online membership form is available on the SBE website at sbe.org.

SBE59 Officers

Chairman Robin Cross KCUR-FM ... 816- 235-2880 crossr@umkc.edu
 Vice Chairman Dave Buell, CEV University of Central Missouri ... 660-441-7421 dbuell@ucmo.edu
 Secretary/Treasurer Ben Weiss, CPBE Weiss Enterprises ... 816-353-1792 bhweiss@comcast.net
 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, CPBE 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 Roy Baum, CSRE CBNT WIBW Radio ... 785-228-7250 roy.baum@morris.com
 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