

Meeting Notice

Thursday, June 12, Penton Media

9800 Metcalf; Overland Park, KS; 913-341-1300

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

The Pick Hits of the 2008 NAB Show. *Broadcast Engineering* and *Radio* magazines have presented the Pick Hits at the NAB convention since 1985, which makes them the original technology recognition. These are the best new products introduced at the convention, and represent a wide cross section of products, from the smallest connector to high-power transmitters. With 40 products from the TV side (*Broadcast Engineering*) and 15 from the radio side (*Radio* magazine), you could say that this really is a taste of what was shown at the NAB Show. The selections are made by an independent panel and not by the magazine editorial staffs. Chriss will provide an overview of all the products that were recognized.

Sandwiches and soft drinks will be provided for lunch. When you arrive at Penton Media, check in with the receptionist. Tell her you are with SBE59. You will be escorted to the fifth floor conference room. ●

Last Month's Meeting

By Ben Weiss, CPBE

The May meeting of Chapter 59 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers was held May 8, 2008 Don Chilito's Restaurant in Mission, KS. There were eight in attendance. Dave Buell, chapter vice chairman, led the meeting.

Ben Weiss read the minutes of the April meeting. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Greg Best and seconded by Robin Cross. Motion passed. Ben also provided the treasurer's report.

Chriss Scherer was absent but e-mailed a report. Certification exams will be given locally June 6-16 but that the application deadline has already passed. He noted that the next exam sign up deadline is June 6 for the August 8-18 local exams.

Chriss also noted that the annual SBE Membership Drive runs through May 31. Though new members are welcome 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 their 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.

If you sponsor a new member be sure to have the new recruit include your name on the sponsor line of the membership application. The online membership form is available on the SBE website at sbe.org.

Chriss will host the June chapter meeting at the offices of Penton Media. The program topic will be the Pick Hits of

the 2008 NAB Show. *Broadcast Engineering* and *Radio* magazines have presented the Pick Hits at the NAB convention since 1985, which makes them the original technology recognition. Chriss will provide an overview of all the products that were recognized.

More Inside:	
<i>National Elections</i>	
.....	2
<i>HD Radio in Mexico</i>	
.....	3
<i>DTV in NC</i>	
.....	3
<i>Ennes Workshops</i>	
.....	3
<i>Facility Documentation</i>	
.....	4
<i>Copper Theft Law</i>	
.....	5
<i>Info Wanted</i>	
.....	6
<i>Upcoming meetings</i>	
.....	6

There was no EAS or frequency coordination report as those chairmen were absent.

Robin Cross mentioned that he has applications for SBE membership for those who may be contemplating membership.

The motion to adjourn was made by John Beck and seconded by John Gray.

The program consisted of a free-form discussion about the recent NAB convention with input from those members present who were able to attend.

**Chairman's Chat
Tough on Scrap**

By Robin Cross

Missouri has passed a law that requires better recordkeeping by scrap metal dealers. Read Missouri Governor Matt Blunt's view on this law online at www.gov.mo.gov/column051608.htm.

Every Missouri broadcast station should forward its comments about this to their lawmakers in Jefferson City. I

Certification Exam Dates		
<i>Exam Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>App. Deadline</i>
Aug 8 - 18, 2008	Local Chapter	Jun 6, 2008
Nov 7 - 17, 2008	Local Chapter	Sep 19, 2008
Feb 6 - 16, 2009	Local Chapter	Dec 31, 2008




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am not providing my opinion on this so as not to influence your position. I know that some Kansas City-area stations have had losses. The real problem is that if thieves take some copper and get \$100 for it as scrap, then the station must spend thousands of dollars to replace the stolen copper, including the cost of labor repairs. With all the copper thefts, the chapter is working on a program on this topic. If you have suggestions for this program please contact any of the SBE59 officers.

Law Enforcement seems focused on catching the perpetrators, while stations focus on prevention. There have been many suggestions about this. I want to hear yours.

Nominations Committee Assembles Candidate Slate for Next SBE Election

By Chriss Scherer, CPBE CBNT

Chairman, SBE Nominations Committee

The SBE Nominations Committee has developed a slate of candidates for the next national SBE election. The election will take place later this summer with votes being counted on Aug. 28. Additional nominations from members will be accepted through July 14 at the national office. Nominees must be members in good standing and hold a current SBE engineering-level certification.

The Nominations Committee's slate of candidates for the officer positions are:

President: Barry Thomas, CPBE CBNT

Vice President: Vinny Lopez, CEV CBNT

Secretary: Ted Hand, CPBE CBNT AMD VSB

Treasurer: Ralph Hogan, CPBE CBNT AMD

The committee has also assembled a list of eight candidates who are interested in running for the six available board seats. Two of the candidates are currently completing a term as a director.

The committee's slate of candidates for directors are:

Ralph Beaver, CBT *

Jim Bernier, CPBE CBNT *

Troy Langham, CPBE

Gary Liebisch, CPBE

James Leifer, CPBE

Scott Mason, CPBE

Mark T. Simpson, CPBE CBNT AMD

Jeff Smith, CEA CBNT

* - incumbent

Officers serve one-year terms, and directors serve two-year terms. Half the directors are elected each year to stagger the terms.

Mexico's COFETEL Authorizes HD Radio Within 320km of U.S. Border

Mexico's Federal Telecommunications Commission (COFETEL) announced that it is authorizing radio stations within 320km of its border with the United States to begin transmitting with HD Radio technology. The official statement from COFETEL states:

Considering the extent of the development and implementation of the IBOC system in the United States of America, Mexico is required to take decisive action so that [the country's AM and FM radio stations] in the zone located within 320km of the northern border of Mexico can transmit at the same technological level so that they can provide the benefits of quality service to the radio listening public.

Stations that want to transmit with HD Radio technology must request authorization from COFETEL and must commit to assisting the commission in studying the technology.

DTV Transitions in Wilmington, NC

Wilmington, NC, will be the first market to test the transition to digital television in advance of the nationwide transition to DTV on Feb. 17, 2009. WWAY (ABC), WFSX (Fox), WECT (NBC), WILM-LP (CBS), and W51CW (Trinity Broadcasting) have voluntarily agreed to turn off their analog signals at noon on Sept. 8, 2008.

The FCC identified Wilmington as one of a limited number of potential test markets to test the transition because all the commercial stations in the market have already completed construction of their DTV channels and are operating at full post-transition power. The Wilmington PBS station, WUNJ, will continue broadcasting in analog and digital. One other low-power station has its digital channel assignment, but will continue broadcasting an analog signal.

SBE Plans Ennes Workshops

The Ennes Educational Foundation Trust, through the Ennes Education Foundation Committee, offers periodic workshops and seminars around the United States. Programs are typically one day in length and are designed to have an affordable cost for attendance. Presentations are non-commercial and focus on technology.

The SBE will present Ennes Workshops in Atlanta on June 6, Oklahoma City on Aug. 27, Hartford, CT, on Sept. 13, and Eugene, OR, on Oct. 24.

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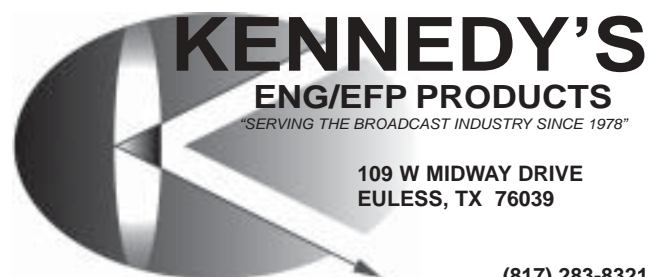
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The Georgia workshop is part of the Georgia Association of Broadcasters Annual Summer Convention and will be held at the Marietta Conference Center and Resort in Marietta, GA. Registration is available for the workshop alone and includes admission to the exhibit hall trade show.

Registration for any Ennes Workshop is available through the SBE national office by calling 317-846-9000 or through the SBE website at sbe.org.

Document, Change Control, Document

By Steve Epstein

If there is one consistent theme over all my years of experience, it is facilities and projects that fail to document and manage changes. In the days before computers, documentation required considerable resources. Today, however, the tools are readily available, and the time required is minimal.

From experience, the place to start is with the wiring, and the time to start is now. There is nothing that gets out of hand quicker than wiring, and the longer it goes, the harder it is to go back and recapture the information. There are numerous printers and labels available today, including laser-printable wraparound labels in a variety of sizes. Recently, I have had good luck with the LSL series from Zip Tape. These labels are on a sheet that can be run through the printer repeatedly, making it easy to print a small set without wasting a full sheet. However, one issue is the opacity of the white portion of the wrap-around label. It is a little thin, and on dark cable, the labels can be difficult to read. I have also have luck with a small Kroy labeler (K3000-PC) that can handle plastic wrap-around labels and heat shrink. Heat shrink is excellent for use during cable assembly, but near useless once the connectors have been installed. The wraparounds work both pre- and post-assembly.

There are numerous numbering schemes, but one of the simplest is plain English. List the cable source and destination on both ends of the cable. This makes it simple to determine where the other end of the cable is connected. In large facilities, a rack or room location is also helpful. For those who like to type, handheld labelers work fine. I prefer to let the computer automate the task and have a database that handles the equipment connections and interconnections. After that it is easy to print the labels by running the appropriate query. This keeps all labels consistent and saves me from retyping similar names over

Next EAS Required Monthly Test: June 24
The RMT is sent on the last Tuesday of the month

and over. Each piece of equipment should also be labeled. It does little good to know the cable goes to Satellite dish 1 when there are 4 dishes that are not numbered. Labels on the front and rear make it easy to find a specific device in racks that are heavily loaded with identical equipment.

Block diagrams or simple schematics can go a long way to document signal flows. It is much easier to look at one or two pages than to crawl through a facility tracing a cable. Simple templates make it easy to build new diagrams. For those on a budget, fancy CAD software is expensive and not needed. Microsoft Office includes Excel, Power Point and even Access. These programs are sufficient to do the job. Visio simplifies some of the drawing tasks. If you cannot afford MS Office, you can obtain Open Office free of charge.

As important as the initial documentation is, ongoing up-keep is required. During a project, change control must be implemented to ensure changes that occur during the buildout are folded back into the project's documentation. If done daily, it is a small task, however, if left too long, it can be nearly impossible to capture all of the incremental changes. In summary, develop a cable and equipment labeling scheme, find a way to document it through drawings and/or spreadsheets and regularly update documents to capture changes. Doing this will save you considerable time once you have accurate documentation as your reference.

Missouri Passes Copper Theft Laws

Missouri Governor Matt Blunt has signed legislation that will help police track those who sell stolen copper and aluminum to scrap metal dealers. Under the new law, metal dealers will obtain a copy of photo identification for sellers who are not regular business customers and are selling more than \$50 worth of copper, brass, bronze or aluminum. The metal dealer will keep these records for two years.

Further, for some transactions greater than \$500, scrap metal dealers must pay the seller with a check or other traceable method. The new law also increases the fine for dealers who do not keep the proper paperwork: Up to one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

The law goes into effect Aug. 28. For the metal thief, the crime is a felony punishable by up to seven years in prison to steal wire, electrical transformers or any pipe used for conducting electricity or transporting natural gas or other fuels. Dealers cannot accept certain types of metal without the owner's consent. A dealer accepting such materials without the written consent can be fined \$500. ●



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<p>Upcoming Chapter Meetings and Events</p> <p>June 12 <i>The Pick Hits of the 2008 NAB Show</i> Chriss Scherer, <i>Radio</i> magazine Penton Media in Overland Park</p> <p>July 10 <i>Audio Loudness for HDTV</i> TIm Carroll, Linear Acoustic Location TBA</p> <p>August 14 September 11</p> <p>Do you have a suggestion for a program topic? Please share it with Roy Baum.</p>
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Wanted: Your News and Information

The SBE59 newsletter, *The Communicator*, is published every month as a service to the members, sponsors and guests of SBE Chapter 59. We are always looking for information on what is happening at stations and facilities around Kansas City. Have you hired someone new? Have you received a promotion? Have you installed some new equipment? Tell us about it and share it with your engineering colleagues. Send any of your stories or ideas to a chapter officer or e-mail them to sbe59@yahoo.com. Articles published in *The Communicator* will qualify for SBE recertification points.

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