

Meeting Notices

Thursday, September 11, National Weather Service

1803 North 7 Hwy; Pleasant Hill, MO

Gather by 7 p.m. for meeting and tour

Facility tour. Andy Bailey, warning coordination meteorologist, will take us through the Pleasant Hill National Weather Service offices. We will see firsthand where regional weather forecasts, watches and warnings are generated. We will also see the WSR-88 Doppler Radar system.

While dinner will not be available at the meeting, meeting attendees can meet at Zarda Barbecue of Blue Springs, 214 N 7 Hwy at 5:45 p.m. Meet us for a casual dinner at Zarda or meet at the NWS offices at 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 20, Ed Treese's Lake House

Lot U-2; Lake Lotawana, MO; 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. Tom Presley of Northland Electric will supply several door prizes. Bring a lawn chair just in case there aren't enough chairs. RSVP by e-mail to kirk.chestnut@sbcglobal.net.

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

Last Month's Meeting

By Ben Weiss, CPBE

The August meeting of Chapter 59 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers was held Aug. 14, 2008, at Don Chilito's Restaurant; 7017 Johnson Drive; Mission, KS. There were 13 in attendance. Robin Cross, chapter chairman, was in charge.

After introductions, Ben Weiss read the minutes of the July meeting. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Chriss Scherer and seconded by Dave Buell. Motion passed. Ben also provided the treasurer's report.

Kirk Chestnut, Kansas City EAS chairman, noted that currently there is nothing new on the EAS front.

Kirk, as program chairman, reported that the September meeting will be a field trip to the National Weather Service office in Pleasant Hill. The October meeting program on HD Radio will be presented by Broadcast Electronics. The program for the November meeting will discuss DTV audio and be presented by Linear Acoustics.

Regarding certification, Chriss Scherer remarked that the next exam sign up deadline is Sept. 19 for the Nov. 7-17 local exams.

A drawing was held for someone to have his lunch expense covered by the chapter. Congratulations to John Morris.

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The motion to adjourn was made by Chriss Scherer and seconded by Robin Cross.

The program was presented by John Gray. He demonstrated one of the several brands of TV digital converter boxes available. He provided insight into the setup and operation of the unit. John also provided information about the power levels and locations of the digital transmitters in the metro.

Chairman's Chat
Tower Safety is for Everyone

By Robin Cross

I took the SBE RF Safety course last year. It is excellent particularly for any broadcast station with a tower or antenna on a tower (who doesn't?). It is also an excellent for anyone who operates a remote truck. There must be at least 30 remote trucks in the Kansas City market. It would seem

Certification Exam Dates		
Exam Date	Location	App. Deadline
Nov 7 - 17	Local Chapter	Sep 19, 2008
Feb 6 - 16, 2008	Local Chapter	Dec 31, 2008
Apr 21, 2009	2009 NAB	Apr 1, 2009




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that the KC market could fill all the classes from now on. It is well worth the tuition.

The next SBE RF Safety Course will be held on Sept. 18 from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. CDT. While these courses have access limited to a specific number of sites, SBE59 could arrange to host one again. If you would like to attend the course, contact me or any of the chapter officers to express your interest. More information on the course is available online at sbe.org/edu_seminars.php.

SBE President Thomas Diagnosed with Cancer

John Poray, executive director of the SBE, shared a message with chapter chairmen concerning a health issue that affects SBE President Barry Thomas.

After a number of months of experiencing sporadic but severe back and neck pain, Barry Thomas underwent surgery to fortify his cervical spine on Aug. 14. While in the process of receiving treatment, Thomas was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a type of cancer that attaches to the spine, ribs and other bones. The surgery to strengthen his cervical spine went well and he is now recovering at home. Barry will probably begin treatment for the cancer later this month.

With help from his employer, Lincoln Financial Media, Thomas is working from home and will also conduct SBE business in as normal a fashion as possible. He has asked SBE Vice President Vinny Lopez, with help from Immediate Past President Chriss Scherer, to fill in the gaps when necessary, which they are doing. In fact, all the national SBE board and staff have offered their help. Thomas still plans to attend and participate in the SBE National Meeting and National Webcast, Oct. 13-15 in Madison, WI.

FEMA Announces Intention to Adopt CAP

By Chriss Scherer

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced its intention to adopt an alerting protocol in line with the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) 1.1 as the standard for the Integrated Public Alert and Warnings System (IPAWS). The plan is to adopt the protocol during the first quarter of calendar year 2009.

The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System is a network of alert systems through which FEMA is upgrading the existing Emergency Alert System (EAS). CAP 1.1 is a format for exchanging emergency alerts allowing a consistent warning message to be disseminated simultaneously over many different warning systems. Participants in the EAS, including broadcasters and state and local

emergency managers, will be required to be in compliance with CAP 1.1 standard within 180 days of its formal adoption by FEMA.

FEMA's partners in developing CAP profiles include the National Weather Service, Federal Communications Commission, the DHS/Science and Technology Directorate's Command, Control and Interoperability Division; Emergency Interoperability Consortium; Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards; and the International Association of Emergency Managers.

The 180-day window is a known factor to broadcasters, but that window does not open until FEMA adopts a protocol. The announcement has little concrete meaning other than to serve as a warning that the clock will begin ticking in the first quarter of 2009.

I talked to Jerry Lebow of Sage Alerting systems about the announcement, and Lebow warns broadcasters not to wait until the last minute to order and install the required updated equipment. Lebow noted that in 1996 when EAS was adopted that broadcasters had a similar 180-day window to comply. Sage and other EAS equipment manufacturers received the bulk of their equipment orders in the final weeks of that window, and many stations had to apply for compliance waivers because units were not yet available.

SBE Elects Officers and Directors

The Society of Broadcast Engineers has tallied the results of its national elections. Re-elected as the society's president is Barry Thomas, CPBE CBNT, vice president of engineering for Radio Lincoln Financial Media, Atlanta. Following the election results, Thomas said, "I look forward to the roll-out of the first on-demand education courses. I also am hopeful for an even more successful year taking our message to engineers and gathering more support for our shared objectives."

Vincent Lopez, CEV CBNT, will serve another term as vice president. Lopez is currently director of engineering for WSYT-TV/WNYS-TV, Syracuse, NY. Ted Hand, CPBE 8-VSB AMD, chief engineer for WSOC-TV/WAXN-TV, Charlotte, NC, was re-elected as secretary, and Ralph Hogan, CPBE CBNT DRB, director of engineering of KJZZ/KBAQ, Tempe, AZ, was re-elected as treasurer.

The board of directors has 12 seats, and each director serves a two-year term. The board seats are staggered so that 6 positions are included in each annual election. Elected to the board to begin two-year terms are:

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- Ralph Beaver, CBT; President/CEO, Media Alert; Tampa
- Jim Bernier, CPBE CBNT; Director, Maintenance, Design and Engineering, Turner Entertainment Networks, TBS; Alpharetta, GA
- Gary Liebisch, CPBE; Regional Sales Manager, Nautel; Milford, OH
- Scott Mason, CPBE; Regional Director of Engineering, CBS Radio; Los Angeles
- Mark Simpson, CPBE CBNT AMD; Director of Engineering/MIS, Citadel Broadcasting - Tucson; Marana, AZ
- Jeffrey R. Smith, CEA CBNT; Supervisor Broadcast Systems, CE WWPR, Clear Channel Radio - NYC; New York

The remaining six members of the board of directors currently in the middle of their two-year terms are Cris Alexander, CPBE AMD DRB, director of engineering, Crawford Broadcasting, Denver; Andrea Cummis, CBT CTO, engineering and operations consultant, A.C. Video, Roseland, NJ; Dane Ericksen, CSRTE CBNT 8-VSB, senior engineer, Hammett and Edison, Sonoma, CA; Clay Freinwald, CPBE, RF systems engineer, Entercom-Seattle, Auburn, WA; Hal Hostetler, CPBE, senior engineer/IT director, KVOA Communications, Tucson, AZ; and Jerry Massey, CPBE CBNT 8-VSB AMD DRB, corporate regional engineer and director of engineering, Entercom Communications, Greenville, SC. Chriss Scherer, CPBE CBNT, will remain on the board as the immediate past president.

When the new directors take their offices, directors Keith Kintner, CPBE CBNT; Tom Ray, CPBE; Chris Tarr, CBRE CBT CBNT DRB; and Larry Wilkins, CPBE CBNT AMD; will step down from the board.

SBE officers serve one-year terms. Board members serve two-year terms. The new officers and board members will be sworn in at the SBE national meeting in Madison, WI, on Oct. 15.

FCC: No Wireless Mic in 700MHz After Feb. 2009

The FCC voted unanimously to ban the use of wireless microphones and other devices in the 700MHz band after the transition to digital television on Feb. 17, 2009. The FCC also wants to prohibit the manufacture, import, sale or shipment of devices that operate as low-power auxiliary stations in the 700MHz band after the transition is complete. Anticipating the decision, wireless microphone vendors such as Shure have not manufactured such mics since the end of 2007.

Next EAS Required Monthly Test: September 30
The RMT is sent on the last Tuesday of the month

Responding to consumer groups, the FCC Enforcement Bureau is investigating how manufacturers market wireless microphones. In a complaint filed in July 2008, the Public Interest Spectrum Coalition alleges that users of wireless microphones, including Broadway stage shows and churches, are unwittingly violating FCC rules that require licenses for the devices. The group accused wireless manufacturers of deceptive advertising in how they market and sell the microphones, which largely operate in the same spectrum as broadcast TV stations.

Most wireless microphone owners are unaware that FCC rules require them to obtain a license.

The FCC rarely enforces the licensing requirements on the microphones because there have been so few complaints; the microphones are programmed to avoid TV channels. However, the transition to digital broadcasting has forced the FCC to act.

The wireless microphone issue stems from the FCC's consideration of using the TV white spaces, the spectrum between TV channels, for transmitting wireless broadband signals.

FCC Ponders HD Radio for Sat Radio

In a Notice Of Inquiry from the FCC, the commission looks into the idea of requiring HD Radio or other services to be included in future Sirius XM receivers. The NPRM also reverses the idea and asks if satellite radio should be required to be included in all HD Radio receivers.

The 60-day comment period will begin after the FCC publishes the notice in the Federal Register. MB Docket No. 08-172.

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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Upcoming Chapter Meetings and Events
<p>September 11 <i>National Weather Service Facility Tour</i> Andy Bailey <i>Pleasant Hill, MO</i></p> <p><i>Meet for dinner at Zarda Barbecue Blue Springs</i> <i>Blue Springs, MO</i></p>
<p>September 20 <i>Annual Picnic</i> Ed Treese, host <i>Lake Lotawana, MO</i></p>
<p>Do you have a suggestion for a program topic? Please share it with Kirk Chestnut.</p>

SBE National Meeting Heads to Madison, WI

The SBE will hold its 2008 National Meeting in Madison, WI, on Oct. 14-15. The National Meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual Broadcasters Clinic, a three-day event that features broadcast technical presentations for radio and television engineers and a broadcast equipment expo. Madison SBE24 and the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association will host the event at the Madison Marriott West Hotel in Middleton, WI.

For information on the expo, visit www.wi-broadcasters.org.

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