

Meeting Notice

Thursday, November 13, Don Chilito's

7017 Johnson Drive; Mission, KS; 913-432-4615

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

*Audio Loudness for HDTV.* With the transition to digital TV comes lots of new terms relating to audio: dialnorm, upmixing, AC-3 encoding, metadata management and more. With these new aspects come viewer complaints, loud commercials and FCC compliance. Hal Buttermore, midwest sales engineer for Linear Acoustic, will discuss the challenges of audio level control and include information about the newly introduced Commercial Advertisement Loudness Mitigation Act (CALM Act, H.R. 6209) that would extend the reach of FCC regulations. The act would require the FCC to enact rules within a year that would require TV advertisements to not be overly loud. If the CALM Act is passed into law, broadcasters will need to implement audio-processing systems that limit the loudness of advertisements.

Buttermore's presentation will include a demonstration of the Linear Acoustics Aero processor and Lambda monitor. He will also be available for individual station visits around the meeting date.

Go through the cafeteria line and order your lunch. Tell the cashier that you are with SBE59. Linear Acoustic is covering lunch for the meeting. Join the meeting in the banquet room. O

Last Month's Meeting

By Ben Weiss, CPBE

The July meeting of SBE59 was held Oct. 9, 2008, at Zarda Barbecue in Lenexa. There were 12 in attendance. Dave Buell, chapter vice chairman, was in charge.

After introductions, Ben Weiss read the minutes of the September meeting as provided by Chriss Scherer. Ben then provided the treasurer's report. The motion to approve the minutes and the treasurer's report was made by Chriss Scherer and seconded by Darrell Nickolaus. Motion passed.

There was no frequency coordination report, but Brad Gilliland of the FCC commented on the use of wireless microphones in the 700MHz frequency band after the shut down of analog TV. They will not be legal and he did not speculate about how the FCC would police the possible continued use by broadcasters.

There was a short discussion about interference to area RPU units during the last NASCAR race at the Kansas Speedway. The interference was caused by some uncoordinated use of the RPU spectrum by ESPN news crews.

Regarding certification, Chriss Scherer remarked that the next local exam dates are Nov. 7-17, but the deadline to sign up has already passed. The deadline for signing up for the Feb. 6-16 exams is December 31.

In programs, Kirk Chestnut indicated that the November meeting program would be provided by Linear Acoustics

and deal with audio for DTV with emphasis on controlling loud commercials. Kirk also suggested that the February meeting could be a wake in memory of analog TV to include a viewing and burial.

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The motion to adjourn the business meeting was made by Chriss Scherer and seconded by Kirk Cestnut. Motion passed.

James Shultz, representing Sentry Security Systems, presented a program on remote site security. Shultz noted the shortcomings of many common systems with false triggering, especially with unmanned monitoring systems. He demonstrated a

completely wireless video/motion security system that is particularly suitable to unattended transmitters sites.

Chairman's Chat

Better Times Ahead

By Robin Cross

Today, as I am writing this, is Election Day. The economy affects advertising expenditures enormously. All of us employed in broadcasting can be affected by these times. We (SBE members) can all hope that this slump in the economy is a temporary one. Only time will tell. At least

Certification Exam Dates		
<i>Exam Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>App. Deadline</i>
Feb 6 - 16, 2008	Local Chapter	Dec 31, 2008
Apr 21, 2009	2009 NAB	Apr 1, 2009
Jun 5 - 15, 2009	Local Chapter	Apr 17, 2009




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the political advertising has helped boost the last few weeks. We will soon see what this holiday season brings.

**SBE Takes New Direction in Regulatory and Legislative Advocacy Efforts**

*Reprinted from the Oct. 29 issue of SBE-news, the e-mail newsletter for SBE members.*

The SBE has begun to chart a new course for the Society's government relations efforts and refocused its advocacy program to become more effective and member-focused. The SBE Board of Directors decided that a fundamental change in how the SBE participates in industry regulatory issues was needed in order to be more effective. The new direction will depend on collaboration with strategic partners in addition to the SBE's own FCC comment filings.



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Presently, the SBE works with many partners including the National Association of Broadcasters, National Alliance of State Broadcast Associations, Maximum Service Television, U.S. Departments of Defense, Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and has consulted with members and staff of Senate and House committees. The SBE is capable of providing technical support and information to allied organizations with equal or greater political influence and thereby become more effective in achieving its legislative goals.




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At its Oct. 14, 2008, meeting, the SBE Board of Directors voted to amend the SBE By-Laws to change the name of the committee that works on regulatory and legislative efforts from the FCC Liaison Committee to the Government Relations Committee to better describe the work the committee was actually doing. The Board also voted to abolish a set of internal guidelines that had been used in that committee's work.



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Also during that meeting, the Board of Directors ratified the appointment of SBE Past President Richard Rudman, CPBE, as chairman of this important committee. During 2008, the preceding FCC Liaison Committee was directed by Interim Chairman and SBE General Counsel Chris Imlay.

The newly renamed Government Relations Committee has been charged with the development of an annual legislative agenda. This will be a board-approved, annual outline of the SBE's legislative goals. The board instructed that, "Committee actions should be directed, as much as possible, toward the interest and greatest impact of and to our members. Great care is to be taken to insure these issues are specifically related to our members and their concerns, possibly to the de-emphasis of 'industry' con-

cerns as they may not have a close enough relationship to our membership's concerns."

Watch *SBE-news* and *The SBE Signal* for more information about the SBE's legislative agenda. If there are issues in which you feel the Society should be active, please contact Richard Rudman. Also, you're encouraged to discuss and debate issues like this on the SBE Roundtable. The national leaders of the SBE read and participate in this forum and will appreciate member insights when determining issues for which the SBE will advocate.

**FCC Allows Unlicensed Use of TV White Spaces**

*By Chriss Scherer*

On Nov. 4, the FCC adopted a second report and order that establishes rules to allow new wireless devices to operate in broadcast television spectrum on a secondary basis at locations where that spectrum is considered to be open. This TV spectrum is commonly referred to as television white spaces. The adopted rules will allow for the use of these new unlicensed devices in the unused spectrum to provide broadband data and other services for consumers and businesses.

According to the FCC's press release, the ruling is part of the FCC's "continuing efforts to promote efficient use of spectrum and to extend the benefits of such use to the public." The release went on to add:


"The rules represent a careful first step to permit the operation of unlicensed devices in the TV white spaces and include numerous safeguards to protect incumbent services against harmful interference. The rules will allow for both fixed and personal/portable unlicensed devices. Such devices must include a geolocation capability and provisions to access over the Internet a data base of the incumbent services, such as full power and low power TV stations and cable system headends, in addition to spectrum-sensing technology. The database will tell the white space device what spectrum may be used at that location."

The FCC states that wireless microphones—the most common use of these so-called white spaces—will be protected in a variety of ways. The locations where wireless microphones are used, such as sporting venues and event and production facilities, can be registered in the database and will be protected in the same way as other services. The Commission also has required that devices include the ability to listen to the airwaves to sense wireless microphones as an additional measure of protection for these devices.

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All white space devices are subject to equipment certification by the FCC Laboratory. The Laboratory will request samples of the devices for testing to ensure that they meet all the pertinent requirements.

The Commission also will permit certification of devices that do not include the geolocation and database access capabilities, and instead rely solely on spectrum-sensing to avoid causing harmful interference, subject to a much more rigorous approval process.

In a process that will be open to the public, applications will be released for public comment prior to agency action. Such devices will be tested by the FCC Laboratory to a proof of performance standard both in the lab and in a variety of real-world environments to ensure they do not cause interference to licensed services when in use. The staff report and recommendation will also be released for public comment. For now, certification of any such device will require approval by the full Commission.

Manufacturers may continue to provide additional information to the commission to support the use of higher power devices in adjacent channels. In addition, the commission will explore in a separate notice of inquiry whether higher-powered unlicensed operations might be permitted in TV white spaces in rural areas.

The Commission will closely oversee and monitor the introduction of TV white space devices. The Commission will act promptly to remove from the market any equipment found to be causing harmful interference and will require the responsible parties to take appropriate actions to remedy any interference that may occur.

All five commissioners issued statements on the ruling. Chairman Kevin Martin said that allowing new users into the spectrum will create a "Wi-fi on steroids." He added that the technology being allowed in the spectrum builds on a "proven concept" of "safe deployment of new, intelligent devices in the unused spectrum that exists between television channels."

Martin also added, "We do so without disrupting TV services, wireless microphones, or other permitted uses of this spectrum. I have always said that opening the white spaces must be conditioned on protecting primary spectrum users from interference."

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

The other commissioners had similar remarks, and all except Commissioner Taylor Tate fully support the action. Taylor Tate dissented in part.

Deborah Taylor Tate’s statement noted her disappointment that the action does not take more specific steps to address higher-power fixed operations in rural areas, noting that the appended notice of inquiry is just too little, too late. She also notes that the ruling makes it difficult if not impossible to allow anything other than unlicensed use in the white spaces of the roughly 300MHz spectrum. She is not convinced that all of the spectrum in channels 2 to 51 needed to be made available for unlicensed use.

The commission has placed a great deal of faith in the auto-sensing technology and geological database. The auto-sensing tests previously conducted were a complete failure, and a database function will only be as good as the data, which will likely not be well maintained. The FCC has also placed a great deal of faith in the enforcement bureau to police the ruling. While the enforcement bureau is competent, it has been shown many times that the bureau does not have the resources to handle all the duties that it is supposed to cover.

**Radio History: War of the Worlds 70 Years Later**

The 70th anniversary of the Mercury Theatre On the Air’s presentation of War of the Worlds, the groundbreaking radio broadcast that terrified millions of Americans who thought that the fictional audio play was real and Martians were actually landing in Grover’s Mill, NJ, is being remembered by the Radio Heard Here campaign. The original hour-long broadcast aired on the eve of Halloween, Oct. 30, 1938. During the CBS Mercury Theatre On the Air, the program was directed and narrated by Orson Welles, adapted from the H.G. Wells novel *The War of the Worlds*. It simulated a live news report of a Martian invasion with a series of realistic newscasts seeming to interrupt regularly scheduled programming.

The broadcast is said to have been heard by more than 6 million people that night, which ignited a reaction of fear and confusion among listeners across the country. News reports cited people fleeing their homes, and police phone lines were flooded with listeners trying to determine the validity of the Martian invasion.

The broadcast continues to live-on through re-airings, live re-enactments and adaptations all over the world, introducing a new generation to the power of radio. Listen to the original broadcast at [www.radioheardhere.com/waroftheworlds](http://www.radioheardhere.com/waroftheworlds).



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Upcoming Chapter Meetings and Events

November 13

Audio for HDTV
Hal Buttermore, Linear Acoustic
Don Chilito's

December 11

DTV and 5.1 Audio for TV Broadcast
SSL, Dolby and Wohler
Zarda Barbecue

January 8

Topic TBA
Allegiant Networks
location TBA

February 12

Goodbye to NTSC
KSHB-TV

March 12

Chapter Elections; Engineer Appreciation Luncheon
location TBA

April 9

May 14

June 11

July 9

August 13

Do you have a suggestion for a program topic? Please share it with Kirk Chestnut.

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