



Meeting Notice

Thursday, December 11, Zarda Barbecue

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

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

DTV and 5.1 Audio for TV Broadcast. One of the features of DTV is the ability to transmit 5.1 surround audio, which is completely new territory for some stations. Stations must consider format compatibility with mono, stereo and 5.1. The presentation will cover metadata, Dialnorm, loudness and downmixing. Jim Hilson, application engineer live sound and broadcast for Dolby Laboratories, and Katy Templeman-Holmes, broadcast sales manager for Solid State Logic will provide the presentation.

Lunch will be provided by Solid State Logic. Join us in the banquet room at the back of the restaurant. All attendees will also receive a goodie bag.

In addition, Katy Templeman-Holmes will be available for TV metro station visits all week. Contact her at 323-633-3344 or katyth@solidstatellogic.com. O

Last Month's Meeting

By Ben Weiss, CPBE

The November meeting of SBE59 was held Nov. 13, 2008 at Don Chilito's Restaurant in Mission, KS. There were 13 in attendance. Robin Cross, chapter chairman, was in charge.

Robin opened the business meeting at 12:06 p.m. Ben Weiss read the minutes of the October meeting and provided the treasurer's report. Chriss Scherer made the motion to approve both. The second was by Darrell Nickolaus; passed.

Chriss Scherer reminded us that the next local certification exam dates are Feb. 6-16 and the deadline to register is Dec. 31.

Kirk Chestnut, EAS committee chairman, remarked that there was nothing new on the EAS front in the Kansas City area. He added that St Louis-area stations are testing CAP for EAS. He also told us that SBE national is working on a credential system for station engineers that would allow them passage beyond barricades that block access to studio and transmitting facilities during times of disaster.

Regarding the future of the chapter's monthly newsletter, Chriss showed a sample format that he will use beginning January 2009. The new format will have room for six sponsor ads. Preparation time for the new format will be much less than the six-page format that has been used through December 2008.

Once again there was a brief discussion about interference to area C-band satellite dishes. Speculation is that the interference is coming from Whiteman Air Force base.

The motion to adjourn was made by Chriss and seconded by Mike Rogers. Passed.

Hal Buttermore, midwest sales engineer of Linear Acoustics, presented the program. He discussed aspects and challenges of the Dialnorm function in the DTV standard, and provided insight on how to accommodate varying audio program levels, which included a demonstration of the Aero.air transmission loudness manager.

National Webcast Available Online

The SBE national webcast that was held on Oct. 13 can be replayed on demand at sbe.org. The one-hour program is divided into four segments encoded as Windows Media Video (WMV) files.

The program was cohosted by SBE President Barry Thomas and SBE Vice President Vinny Lopez. They and other national leaders provide an update of SBE activities and goals, and answer questions submitted by viewers.

IAAIS Develops Accessibility Standards for HD Radio Receivers

The International Association of Audio Information Services (IAAIS) has announced standards for HD Radio receivers for people who are visually and physically

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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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handicapped. The group says these universal design standards are the first of their kind for radios and other electronic devices.

The IAAIS notes that radios and other electronic devices have deployed increasingly advanced features that prevented senior citizens and people who are visually or physically impaired from using them. Because the HD Radio systems are new, there are relatively few HD Radio receivers in homes. The IAAIS wishes to generate early adoption of the standards by many manufacturers so that many different units will be accessible and simple to use for all radio users.


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Once units are available, the IAAIS will promote the purchase and use of accessible HD Radio receivers to provide reading services for blind or otherwise print-disabled people. Manufacturers of radios or other consumer electronic devices must utilize the standards to create products for people who are visually and physically handicapped can buy and use independently. The IAAIS will not recommend or endorse any product that fails to meet the newly published standards.

The IAAIS breaks down radio functions and design into required, desirable and unacceptable in the categories of controls, displays and feedback, documentation, other considerations, operation/ functions, and infrared remotes. The standards call for speech feedback, tactile controls and larger buttons, and at least 18-point print fonts, among other requirements. Specifically unacceptable functions include touch screens, soft keys and hard-to-find recessed buttons. The details of the standard are available at the IAAIS website at www.iaais.org.


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New Certified Members of SBE59
By Chriss Scherer, CPBE CBNT

Several SBE exams were administered locally in October and November. Congratulations to these newly certified SBE members:

Continental Electronics™

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Sales Manager


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Thomas Campbell, CBNT, Associated Press
R. Scott Green, CBNT, Associated Press
Jack Hansen, CBNT, Associated Press
Daniel Juric, CBNT, Associated Press
Mark Steers, CBNT, Associated Press
Monte Wachter, CBNT, Associated Press
Reginald Wallace, CBNT, Associated Press
John Beck, CBRE, Bott Radio

These exams were administered through the SBE's private proctoring provision. There are several fixed exam

windows throughout the year, but if an exam applicant can coordinate with a private proctor, exams can be administered at other times.

Private proctoring was originally established for potential applicants who are not located near a chapter. Often a librarian, minister, superior officer or other responsible person is asked to proctor the exam under private proctoring. Private proctoring has also been applied to provide an additional level of confidentiality to the examinee. While the local certification committee chairman (that's me in Kansas City) does not disclose any information about examinees, there are cases where the examinee does not want the local certification chairman to know that he, the examinee, is taking the exam.

I would like to see all members of SBE59 obtain some level of SBE certification, and to encourage this I have made myself available for private proctoring at almost any time. I'm happy that these people took advantage of the opportunity. Be sure to congratulate them when you see them.

HD Radio Receivers Just in Time for Christmas

By John Gray

While poking around Amazon.com and Christmas shopping, I decided to take a peek at what was available in the way of HD Radio-capable hardware. This is a quick summary of two radios in each category: component, table-top, and car radios. This list is in no way intended to show all of the options out there or be an endorsement of any of these products (I haven't actually used any of them, I've just looked at the info that was available online). I tried to identify the best selling/most popular and also include a low price option in each category.

Component Radios:

- Sony XDRF1HD HD Radio tuner (\$87.05)
This looks to be a reasonable component HD Radio tuner. Most of the customer reviews were good, it is a top seller, and it caught my eye because of the below \$100 price tag.

- Sangean HDT-1 HD Radio component tuner (\$166.94)
This appears to be the second best-selling HD Radio tuner. It also received a number of favorable reviews, however the interface looks fairly sparse to me.

Table-top Radios:

- Sony XDR-S10HDiP HD Radio with dock for Ipod/Iphone (\$149.95)

This could be a good solution for someone who is an Ipod

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enthusiast. It is basically an Ipod dock (it works with the new Iphone and Ipod touch) with built-in speakers that also has an HD Radio tuner.

- Jensen Universal Docking Digital HD Radio system for Ipod and MP3 players (\$65.22)

This is the lowest price HD Radio receiver that I saw. It also has Ipod functions, however it appears that it doesn't work correctly with some of the newer Ipod models. The reviews on this one were not great; what I took from it was this is a 'you get what you pay for' product.

Car Radios:

- JVC Car KDHDR30 in-dash CD receiver with HD Radio tuner (\$122.71)

This was indicated as the 'best selling' car radio with a built-in HD Radio tuner. Overall the reviews seemed favorable.

- Dual XHD6420 4X50 watt HD Radio and MP3/WMA player (\$85.99)

This is another lower price point radio. The few reviews that existed for it were mostly positive.

I think this list gives a fairly decent representation of what people are buying. Overall I'm somewhat encouraged to see a sub-\$100 product available in each category.

FCC Extends Sat Radio Third-party Access Deadline

In a public notice, the FCC has granted on its own motion an extension of the deadline for Sirius and XM to implement their voluntary commitment to enter into long-term leases or other agreements to provide a qualified entity or entities rights to four percent of the full-time audio channels on the satellite radio providers' services until Feb. 27, 2009.

On Aug. 5, 2008, the Commission released a memorandum opinion and order and report and order conditionally approving the merger of the two services based on the fulfillment of several voluntary commitments. One of these commitments was to provide third-party access within four months of the consummation of the merger. The merger was consummated on July 28, 2008. The four-month implementation deadline was Nov. 28, 2008.

As the merger idea was discussed, several commenters raised concerns about the mechanics of the channel lease

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

administration and allocation, and the commission committed to determine the implementation details for use of the leased channels at a later date. The FCC cites the complexities of the commitment necessitating the extended deadline while it is determined how to accommodate the condition. (MB Docket No. 07-57)

Housing Registration Opens for 2009 NAB Show

The 2009 NAB Show will be held in Las Vegas, with the conferences running from April 18-23 and the exhibits open April 20-23. Convention hotel registration is now open. Visit the NAB Show website (www.nabshow.com) for a link to the convention housing page. Also, because the November newsletter did not include a hidden member number, this issue has two: 7925 and 11752. Contact Robin Cross to claim your prizes.

ATSC Approves Candidate Standard for Mobile TV

The Advanced Television Systems Committee (ATSC) has elevated its specification for mobile digital television to candidate standard status. The new mobile DTV candidate standard provides the technical capabilities necessary for broadcasters to provide new services to mobile and handheld devices using digital television transmissions. ATSC mobile DTV includes a robust transmission system based on VSB modulation coupled with a flexible and extensible IP-based transport, MPEG AVC (H.264) video and HE AAC v2 audio (ISO/IEC 14496-3) coding.

The standard also provides an application framework for running software on receivers. Receivers that make use of an optional Internet connection will enable new interactive television services. The candidate standard also enables new data broadcasting services.

The candidate standard consists of eight parts:

- Part 1 – Mobile/Handheld Digital Television System
- Part 2 – RF/Transmission System Characteristics
- Part 3 – Service Multiplex and Transport Subsystem Characteristics
- Part 4 – Announcement
- Part 5 – Presentation Framework
- Part 6 – Service Protection
- Part 7 – Video System Characteristics
- Part 8 – Audio System Characteristics

Bring Someone to the Meeting

SBE59 meets the second Thursday of each month, so it's easy to know the date of each meeting. Make an effort to attend the next meeting, and make it a point to bring someone with you. Members and non-members are welcome. We're counting on your support of SBE59. ○



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Upcoming Chapter Meetings and Events	
<p style="text-align: center;">December 11 <i>DTV and 5.1 Audio for TV Broadcast</i> SSL and Dolby <i>Zarda Barbecue</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">January 8 <i>Topic TBA</i> Allegiant Networks <i>location TBA</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">February 12 <i>Goodbye to NTSC</i> KSHB-TV</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">March 12 <i>Chapter Elections; Engineer Appreciation Luncheon</i> location TBA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">April 9 <i>Transmitter Site Security</i> Wallace Rd. transmitter site</p> <p style="text-align: center;">May 14</p> <p style="text-align: center;">June 11</p> <p style="text-align: center;">July 9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">August 13</p>
<p>Do you have a suggestion for a program topic? Please share it with Kirk Chestnut.</p>	

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