



Meeting Notice

Thursday, May 14, Penton Media

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

Gather at 11:30 a.m., lunch served at noon, meeting at 12:15 p.m.

All About the Arbitron PPM. Robert Diaz, a broadcast engineer with Arbitron, will discuss the Arbitron Portable People Meter (PPM) system that is being implemented nationwide. The PPM will eventually replace the paper diary system that has been used for radio ratings for many years. With the PPM, stations will transmit an inaudible signal that will be detected by PPM devices carried by listeners.

Diaz will demonstrate how the PPM works and the rollout plans for Kansas City, followed by a Q&A session. The presenters will include Lang Sturgeon and Robert Diaz for engineering and John Budosh from Syndicated Standards to answer any policy-related questions. While this is the monthly meeting of SBE59, station personnel from other departments – sales, programming, management – are encouraged to attend, so be sure to invite them.

Arbitron will provide lunch. When you arrive at Penton, tell the receptionist that you are attending the SBE meeting. You will be escorted to the fifth floor meeting room. ○

Last Month's Meeting

By Ben Weiss, CPBE

The April meeting of Chapter 59 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers was held April 9, 2009, at Zarda Barbecue in Lenexa, KS. There were 17 in attendance. Robin Cross, chapter chairman, was in charge.

Cross opened the business meeting at 12:07 p.m. Ben Weiss read the minutes of the March meeting and provided the treasurer's report. The motion to accept the minutes and the financial report was made by Chriss Scherer and seconded by Mike Rogers. Passed.

There were no program or frequency coordination reports. It was, however mentioned that the May meeting will be presented by Arbitron.

Chriss Scherer, certification chairman, reminded us of the upcoming Certification application deadlines. Scherer also remarked that the new edition of the TV operator certification handbook is now available through the SBE national office, and he reminded us about the upcoming SBE RF Safety Seminar to be held May 21. Kansas City is one of the ports for this seminar and it will be held in the conference room at Penton Media. To attend, register with the SBE national office.

The motion to adjourn was made by Mike Rogers and seconded by Darrell Nickolaus.

The program was presented by Ellis Terry, regional sales manager for Nautel. He explained the advantages of the new Nautel line of AM and FM solid-state transmitters. He also provided lunch.

Chairman's Chat

Back from the Convention

By Robin Cross

I just got back from the NAB Show in Las Vegas. As forecast, it was a little lower attendance than in previous years [83,842 -ed.]. I only sought out radio products and manu-

facturers, so this is a little biased toward radio.

The big topic in radio is the HD Radio power increase. The discussion is complicated by the differences between FM commercial and NCE differences in co- and adjacent-channel protection. Neglecting that problem, FM stations have an additional challenge of implementing the power increase based the station's method of HD Radio implementation. Because we used a 10dB combiner at KCUR, it will be impossible to increase power. We would need to double the size of the HD Radio transmitter just to get a 3dB increase from -20dBC to -17dBC.

The big problem with this method is the power in the dummy load increases by 50 percent. If a low-level combined transmitter is employed, the FM carrier power must be reduced by about 25 percent to get the extra HD Radio power up to -10dBC. Add to the previously mentioned problems with the NCE stations and there is quite a stir. You can navigate to the NPR Labs website at [www.nprlabs.org/research/drcia\\_maps\\_index.php](http://www.nprlabs.org/research/drcia_maps_index.php) To get a better idea about possible interference. I believe the most likely outcome will be an across-the-board increase by 3 to 6dB. And the secret member number this month is 13022. Call Robin if this is your number.

I kind of got side-tracked with the HD Radio increase. The NAB Show, I believe, was optimistic about the future. In talking to many of the companies, they said that overall traffic was better than they expected. I have heard people say that there was "bowling in the aisle." From my viewpoint this was *not* the case.

Next EAS Required Monthly Test: May 26

The RMT is sent on the last Tuesday of the month. ○

Certification Exam Dates		
Exam Date	Location	App. Deadline
Jun 5 - 15, 2009	Local Chapter	closed
Aug 7 - 17, 2009	Local Chapter	Jun 5, 2009

**Ellis Terry**  
Regional Sales Manager, Western US

**5053 Dancing Lights Ave**  
Las Vegas, NV 89130-7202  
US Toll Free: 1 800 766 8817  
US Office Direct: 1 702 395 3036  
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Montréal (Québec)  
Canada - H4S 2C6

**Kurt Caruthers**  
Director of Sales, Central Region  
10842 West 156th Terrace  
Overland Park, KS 66221

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1.800.224.1772  
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www.miranda.com

Tel: 913.814.0304  
Cell: 913.558.8543  
Fax: 913.814.0516  
kcaruthe@miranda.com

Upcoming Chapter Meetings and Events	
<p><b>May 14</b> <i>All About the Arbitron PPM</i> Robert Diaz, Arbitron Penton Media, Overland Park, KS</p> <p><b>May 21</b> <i>SBE RF Safety Seminar</i> registration required Penton Media, Overland Park, KS</p>	<p><b>June 11</b> <i>AFD in the Metadata</i> Evertz location TBD</p> <p><b>July 9</b> <b>August 13</b> <b>September 10</b></p>
Do you have a suggestion for a program topic? Please share it with Kirk Chestnut.	

**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 ... 913-744-3903 ..... 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 ..... Kirk Chestnut, CPBE ..... Entercom Kansas City ... 913-744-3903 ..... kchestnut@entercom.com  
 Website ..... John Gray ..... V-Soft Communications ... 913-871-9405 ..... 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