

## Meeting Notice

**Thursday, February 9, Take 2 Studio**

300 W 19th Terrace, Kansas City, 64108

You are invited to the: 2006 R F Specialties Engineer's Appreciation BBQ Lunch

Lunch menu features: Smoked Beef Brisket, Smoked Turkey Breast, Smoked Pork Spare Ribs, BBQ Beans, Cole Slaw, and all the fixins! We have some great door prizes this year, including gift certificates to Outback Steakhouse, Lands End, and Giftcertificates.com and more! Lunch begins promptly at 11:30.

Come for the lunch, but also to participate in the Chapter elections. **We would appreciate an RSVP to our office by 2/7/06. Either call 816-628-5959 or 800-467-7373 or send an e-mail to: [rmo@uniteone.net](mailto:rmo@uniteone.net)**



Certification Exam Dates		
Exam Date	Location	App. Deadline
February 10-20, 2006	Local Chapters	Closed
April 25, 2006	NAB Las Vegas	June 2-12, 2006
June 2-12, 2006	Local Chapter	April 21, 2006
August 11-21, 2006	Local Chapter	June 9, 2006
November 10-20,	Local Chapter	September 22, 2006

### Last Month's Meeting

By Ben Weiss

The January meeting of Chapter 59 was held January 12, 2006 at Don Chilitos restaurant in Mission, Kansas. There were 10 in attendance. Chapter chairman, Matt Kinnan, called the business meeting to order at 12:15pm.

Ed Treese read the minutes of the last meeting and gave the treasurers report in secretary/treasurer Ben Weiss's absence. Chriss Scherer made the motion to accept the minutes as read. Mike Rogers seconded. Motion passed.

Mike Rogers, program chairman, reported that next months meeting would be the annual R.F. Specialties appreciation BBQ lunch at Take Two Productions. He is working on splitting the program topics during the year to be half for radio engineers and half for TV engineers.

There was no EAS report.

Chris Castro reported that the football season is over and there were no major problems with frequency coordination.

Chriss Scherer said that the issue of using the title engineer has resurfaced in the state of Missouri. Right now it would be OK if you insert "broadcast" before engineer and it does not look like the bill is close to passing. SBE council Chris Imlay is looking into the issue.

The motion to adjourn was made at 12:25pm by Mike Rogers. Chriss Scherer seconded.

Raun Hamilton of Electronic Video Systems presented the program on surround sound monitoring.

Minutes taken by Ed Treese.

### Chairman's Chat Understanding Cat6

By Matt Kinnan, CEV CBNT

Just when you thought you understood Cat5 and 5E, now comes Cat6. Understanding the differences in this networking wire may help with your next install. First off, Cat 6 can handle frequencies up to 550 MHz, while Cat 5E is rated for up to 350 MHz. As you can imagine at speeds of 550 MHz, the utmost attention to details needs to be taken when installing this wire.

Consistency is king. Make sure every connector and punch down is the same. Don't strip some cables one-way and others another. Try not to untwist the pairs when terminating, keep it under a half twist. Try to keep the jackets as close to the connector, free from kinks, nicks, and tight bends as possible. If a wire is kinked during installation, bending it back won't make it better. It will need to be replaced, so please be careful. Pulling this wire is also not a good idea. Placing the wire into wire trays, and keeping the wires spread out and not tied down or covered with lots of other wires, is a much better practice.

At 250Mhz the wire radiates the signal it's passing, making it act like an aerial, and the jacket of the cable becomes an actual wave-guide. This is the main reason why the jacket must not be stripped back far from the connector. Also, make sure you don't run neat long bundles of wire with ty-raps every two feet. This is a big no-no, as the ty-raps can change the size of the dielectric of the wire, which changes the impedance, meaning loss of dBs, signal quality, and the speed of the network.

Since the wires are radiating crosstalk can be a problem, so try to keep wires that are run in conduit to as few as possible. Lastly, make sure that your wires have good clearance, when installing into wall outlets. Everything might look great when you've punched the wire down, but once you place the

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connector back into the wall outlet, the wires can kink or come loose. This can mean hours of frustration when tracking down network errors, so always take extreme care when terminating wires at both ends.

Following these practices are just some of the very basics when dealing with high-speed network wire. Your dealer can be a big help if you have questions. New tools and connectors are on the market to make your next installation a success.

See you at the next meeting. Matt

### NAB News

*I want to reprint this article for those who have not made their plans to attend the NAB in Las Vegas.*

NAB Says Hotels are Going Fast for NAB2006 Las Vegas, Dec 14, 2005. The NAB reports that its reserved room block for preferred hotels at NAB2006 in Las Vegas is now booked at 53 percent capacity, and reservations are running 30 percent ahead of last year. Because the demand is higher, the NAB suggests making hotel reservations sooner those attendees might have normally done in the past.

NAB2006 travel and hotel reservation information is available online at [www.nabshow.com](http://www.nabshow.com) or at 888-622-8830.

### AVOIDING AUTOMATIC TERMINATION OF BROADCAST AUXILIARY LICENSES ON 2/1/06

A special report by Chris Imlay, SBE General Counsel

(Revised 1/23/06)

A number of issues were raised by the FCC almost a year ago in a January 21, 2005 Declaratory Ruling ("DR") regarding automatic terminations of wireless radio service authorizations in the Universal Licensing System (ULS). SBE has since that time attempted to clarify the applicability of this DR to broadcast Auxiliary (BAS) facilities. We received the necessary clarifications orally from FCC staff long ago, but FCC has been unwilling to clarify for broadcasters generally (by a revised public notice) the means necessary to protect Broadcast Auxiliary Service (BAS) licenses from cancellation. This is a basic "primer" For those of you who have limited experience with the FCC's ULS, there are some issues you *must* know about *right now, to avoid automatic cancellations starting February 1, 2006*

*For more information please visit the <http://www.sbe.org>*

**Next EAS Required Monthly Test: February 28**

**The RMT is sent on the last Tuesday of the month**

**WB, UPN plan to merge networks for fall as the CW.**

It will be called the CW. C for CBS, and W for Warner Brothers, very simple.

Warner and CBS will close down their struggling networks. The WB and UPN, respectively, but CW will draw on programming from both.

The WB and UPN, which have for years been floundering in fifth and sixth place, will shut down and become one network come fall, the companies announced Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> of January.

The WB is 11 years old, and UPN is 10. No word on how this will affect locally programming.

**Vivendi Universal SA Signs French Pay-TV Merger Deal Announced Last Month**

TERENCE SMITH: And the big continue to get bigger. With General Electric's announcement today that it had finalized a deal to merge Universal Studios and other properties from the French media concern Vivendi with its NBC television network, the ranks of giant media firms have swelled again.

The new company will be called NBC Universal. It will couple NBC, owned by GE, and Universal Studios, consolidating in one company the No. 1 broadcast television network in terms of viewership and a powerhouse Hollywood studio. In addition, the new company will control the U.S.A. Network and the Trio and Sci-Fi cable channels.

NBC will control an 80 percent stake in the company; Vivendi will retain 20 percent. The two companies valued the deal at \$43 billion. It is expected to generate annual revenues of \$13 billion. NBC Universal becomes the newest media mega-company, joining the recently rechristened Time Warner, owner of the WB Network, CNN, and Warner Brothers Studios; NewsCorp, which owns the Fox broadcast network and news channel, and 20th century Fox Studios; Viacom, which owns CBS, MTV, and Paramount Studios; and Disney, which runs ABC and its own namesake studios.

Universal and the cable networks merged with NBC are the latest and largest properties to be unloaded by Vivendi, a once-provincial French water bottler that had ambitions of being a global media giant. After a series of major acquisitions in the late '90s, Vivendi's fortunes drowned amid corporate mismanagement and the worldwide economic slump. It is now selling, or merging, many of the businesses it bought during headier times in hopes of paying down debt.

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## Tech Corner

## One on One Chat with Bob Schnieder

-Chris Castro, CBT

I had the privilege to sit down and talk to a friend and mentor of mine; this is how that conversation went...

**Bob, how long have you been in broadcasting?**

Some would say I've been in radio since Marconi, but the answer is since Edwin Armstrong...about 1959, while I was in high school, when I got my first phone.

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**What made you join the team?**

After getting out of the Navy in late 69', the space race was over; we had put a man on the moon. I got into radio because I could get a job as an engineer and had the pipes for being a radio announcer. My first job was doing mornings in Tallahassee. They needed someone to do the air work, and the old 5KW AM Collins often needed the tender touch of an engineer most mornings to get on the air.

**Has there been one person that has helped you or influences you in your career?**

Consultant Ambrose Kramer and the US Navy. When I enlisted, I wanted to be a photographer. During High School I fixed TVs and radios for spending cash and built many Heath-Kit Dual Trace Oscilloscope for my uncles employer. Scoring high on my entrance into the Navy, they put me into electronics and said I couldn't work as a photog. Knowing what I know now, it was the right decision. I was eventually assigned to Office of Naval Research and worked much of my 9 years on development of antennas and special projects. Upon my serving in the Navy, I only planned to work in radio for a couple of years and then get a job with a big company after the glut of engineers returned to work on another space project... but Ambrose introduced me to the world of directional AM antennas and that started my career in earnest.

**Having the opportunity to work in TV and Radio, how do the two compare?**

Radio was really more fun.... but TV paid a heck of a lot more.

**What was one of the most memorable events working with Radio?**

There were many, but one that comes to mind. I was hired by a company to repossess a transmitter and associated equipment from a small Georgia radio station in the early 70's. With the local sheriff present and the station on the air, I cut the power and hauled off the transmitter, audio console, cart machines and all. It took about an hour to load the truck and leave. The announcer feverishly tried to call the owner, but he knew it was going to happen and wouldn't come to the station. It gave a different meaning to the words Off Air.

**What was one of the most memorable events working in TV?**

Working on a RCA Television TTU 110 one night when the 480 400 Amp circuit breaker decided to short internally. It was a few seconds of loud hum before the biggest flash of light, thundering noise and explosion. This was about 5AM and yet we had the station on at 6AM.

**With the big companies buying out smaller stations, what might you foresee in the coming years as technology changes?**

I see more consolidation just so stations can survive financially. Unfortunately, we are not training many RF engineers and there is a critical shortage not only in broadcasting but many other trades are also feeling the pinch. Even the Kansas Highway Patrol is looking for RF people. The 24/7/365 on call is causing many RF guys to forsake broadcasting for more reasonable hours and better pay.

**You just recently retired, how has this change affected you?**

For months I was reaching to see if I had my pager on. That has subsided... then when storms were in the area I would be mentally keeping up with the transmitter...that has subsided also. Now I just have concern for Bev's and my safety during storms and sleep through most of them.

**What advice might you have for others who are looking to retire soon?**

Keep yourself busy doing things that you have a passion for and enjoy. Helping others and building lasting relationships with others are most important.

**What might you contribute to the success you have accomplished?**

That's easy... God's blessings. He was with me even when I wasn't with Him.

**What advice do you have for the younger generation wanting to experience a career in broadcasting?**

It is so easy to concentrate on your job and neglect other areas of your life. Keep your life in balance. God, family, job all need to be in balance. Keep everything in balance and enjoy the years.

**What is your view and thoughts about the SBE?**

The SBE has brought professionalism to our industry. For years it has been a struggle to get management to even recognize the need for paying the dues of SBE members. There seems to be a better awareness of the strength of the SBE in working with the FCC to help stations. It was not the NAB who got all the BAS transition done, at no cost to the Broadcasters, It was the SBE.

**Is there anything you want to add?**

I have not rolled up my blanket and left. I am still looking for RF challenges in the industry.



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**Upcoming Meeting and Events**

**February 9**

2006 R F **Specialties** Engineer's Appreciation BBQ  
Lunch at Take Two Production

**Upcoming Meeting dates**

Mark your calendar now

**March 9**

**April 13**

**May 11**

**June 8**

**July 13**

Do you have a suggestion for a program topic?  
Please Share it with Mike Rogers

**Wanted: Your News and Information**

The SBE newsletter, The Communicator, is published every month as a service to the members, sponsors and guest 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@broadcast.net](mailto:sbe59@broadcast.net). Articles published in The Communicator will qualify for SBE recertification points.



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