

Meeting Notice**Thursday, March 11, KMXV/KSRC****508 Westport Rd.; Westport, MO; 816-756-5698****Gather at 11:30 a.m.; meeting at 12:00 noon**

Broadcast Engineers Appreciation Luncheon. RF Specialties will provide the fun and food for this third-annual tradition. The highlight of the lunch will be John Sims' award-winning, slow-smoked backyard gourmet brisket. RF Specialties will also provide door prizes for everyone in addition to a grand prize. As a special treat, RF Specialties has arranged to display the Broadcast Electronics Traveling HD Radio Rack. This demonstration features a Broadcast Electronics FXi-60 digital transmitter feeding a dummy load with a Kenwood IBOC receiver for pickup. The rack allows for A/B comparisons between analog and IBOC signals.

RF Specialties needs your help in planning the event to provide enough food. Please RSVP to RF Specialties at 816-628-5959 or rfmo@uniteone.net. Include your name and the names of those who will attend with you.

Parking is available in the lot across from the studio building, in the lot in front of Chili's restaurant or in the parking garage behind the studio building. The parking garage entrance is off Mill Street or Pennsylvania. A map to the station is available at the SBE59 website. ☺

Certification Exam Dates		
Exam Date	Location	App. Deadline
Apr 20, 2004	NAB	CLOSED
Jun 4-14, 2004	Local Chapter	Apr 23, 2004
Aug 13-23, 2004	Local Chapter	Jun 11, 2004
Nov 12-22, 2004	Local Chapter	Sep 24, 2004

Last Month's Meeting

The February meeting was held at Denny's Restaurant in Merriam. The program was arranged by Gary Tibbot of Broadcasters General Store and featured Art Constantine of Musicam USA. Art's presentation focused on digital audio transmission systems and ways to connect different types of telephone codecs. The presentation included a discussion of the new products supporting high quality real-time bi-directional audio over IP transmission systems.

Broadcasters General Store provided lunch.

Chairman's Chat

By Kirk Chestnut, CSRE

What Does IT All Mean?

Just before I entered broadcasting in 1983, my father sold the family piano for \$400 so we could buy a Radio Shack Color Computer (CoCo). IT ran Extended Color Basic and contained a whopping 16KB of memory. I learned a lot about Basic programming on that little computer, and I had a lot of fun in the process. There is no telling what landfill my CoCo sits in now, but the piano is probably bringing someone enjoyment!

My latest craze has been Visual Basic. IT has grown out of my fascination with Microsoft Access and the many VB-based functions that Access calls upon. But my ultimate coup will be the linking of my Davis Weather station with my computer at home to have audible temperature and wind speed announcements on command. More importantly, IT is my goal to become a Certified Broadcast Networking Technologist (CBNT) by year's end.

Can you remember the last computer-less day you had? How about the last time you sent a colleague a note on one of those pink memo pads? Just about every aspect of our industry is dependent on some form of digital storage and retrieval. What started out as an expensive hobby in someone's garage has permeated every aspect of our society. IT goes without saying that computers, and the networks that tie them together, are here to stay.

Acquiring, installing and maintaining these systems demand from us a never-ending cycle of learning. My guess is that broadcast engineers who plan to be in this business five years from now will need to know computer network basics. Automation systems cannot share audio without a well-maintained network. IT is because of the crowded STL bands that new and yet-to-be created data pipelines will probably be network-based. Even ISDN and POTS codecs require care and feeding using telnet sessions and their own Internet connection. Computerization of our industry is happening right before our very eyes.

IT should come as no surprise that the engineering and I.T. departments are becoming one in the same. You owe it to yourself to become familiar with every aspect of the

Audio Test & Measurement Systems

Kansas & Oklahoma representative:

Ron Fisher & Associates, Inc.
9802 East 37th Place, Tulsa, OK 74146
Tel: (918) 665-8899 Fax: (425) 930-9128
E-mail: rfai@swbell.net

**Audio
precision**

5750 SW Arctic Drive
Beaverton, OR 97005
US Toll Free: 1-800-231-7350
(503) 627-0832 Fax: (503) 641-8906
Web site: www.audioprecision.com

**Richardson
Electronics**
Engineered Solutions

Christine Chinchilla
Broadcast Sales Specialist

40W267 Keslinger Road
P.O. Box 393
LaFox, IL 60147-0393

BROADCAST
RICHARDSON
A DIVISION OF RICHARDSON ELECTRONICS

Toll Free: (800) 882-3872
Phone: (630) 208-2401
Fax: (630) 208-2450
E-Mail: chrisc@rell.com

broadcast.rell.com

Comet **GENERAC**
Industrial Products, Inc. POWER SYSTEMS, INC.

Rick Jennings
Power Systems Manager

4800 Deramus, Kansas City, MO 64120-1186 • 816-245-5400 • Fax 816-245-5435
www.cometind.com • rjennings@cometind.com

Stand-by, Special Application & Prime Power Systems
Mobile, RV, Marine & Portable Generators
24 Hour Generator Service & Maintenance

EVS
**ELECTRONIC
VIDEO SYSTEMS**



- BROADCAST
- INDUSTRIAL
- CCTV
- AUDIO VISUAL

STEVEN R. METZGER

Broadcast and A/V Sales Engineer
1222 Fisk Ave. - Moberly, MO 65270
Phone: Toll Free 877-263-1226
Fax: 660-263-6511
e-mail: srmEVS@missvalley.com

CORPORATE OFFICE

1-800-299-4387
www.evsinc.com
e-mail: evs@evsinc.com

I.T. department. Maybe you are both departments already. The Society of Broadcast Engineers believes this to be of such importance that it has created a curriculum specifically for the upcoming Ennes Workshop sessions at NAB2004.

In the December 2003 *SBE Signal*, Fred Baumgartner, CPBE CBNT, said, "On April 17, 2004, otherwise know as 'NAB Saturday,' the Ennes Education Foundation Trust in cooperation with the SBE will present its annual day-long workshop. This year's topic for the tutorial is 'Converting the Broadcast Operation to an I.T. Base.'" Still quoting from the *Signal*: "Some engineers now look at broadcasting as an application—more software than hardware. Somewhere along the line, programs have turned into files, essence, metadata and assets. FTP is more common than dubs, and shoe shining, bit rot and SNMP are more important than tape interchange and head gap."

Presenters this year will be Clyde Smith from Turner, Mike DeClue from Clear Channel and Tom Schomburg, CBNT, of Comcast Media Center along with several others. The material will cover various storage platforms, architecture, and reliability. Additional topics of discussion will include various storage media types, server standardization, bandwidth, security and digital asset management as well as rights administration.

If you are planning to install IBOC or are already HDTV, you need to know how to plan for the future. Not only will we be trading our soldering irons for online tools, but we also need to readjust our thinking on how workflow will be handled. In 2004 the SBE is making a special emphasis on I.T. knowledge. Let's make IT our emphasis to get I.T. savvy in 2004. I hope we can bring you some great I.T. training sessions in the year to come.

The Chairman's Comments on Officer Elections

We will seek nominations and vote for officers at our March meeting. I thank you for allowing me to be your chairman for the past two years. It has been my pleasure to serve the Society in this capacity. I will be stepping down as chairman of SBE59 in order to focus my energies on the KC-area EAS and AMBER programs. Being chairman placed me in a wonderful position to learn so much from so many. I look forward to assisting our next chairman as he or she leads us in the coming year.

As you consider who will fulfill these vital office roles, take a moment to think of the individuals that will keep our momentum going. Don't hesitate to say yes if you are nominated. I'll be the first to tell you that a busy life will be a bit busier, but not that much. It is always the harder things in

life that are the most meaningful. On a personal level, it has been very good for me to stretch and grow into the role. You will not be alone nor will you have the whole load thrown on your shoulders. As chairman, vice chairman and secretary/treasurer, you provide the direction and the platform for the membership to shine. I believe that if we each give a little to the cause, our collective effort can move mountains. —KC

SBE59 Meets with AES and IEEE

On April 15, 2004 the Kansas City Chapter of the IEEE Computer Society and the Kansas City Section of the Audio Engineering Society have arranged a joint meeting and tour. A social hour and dinner will be held at the Wyndham Garden Hotel at I-435 and Metcalf in Overland Park. The social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 and feature sirloin kabobs with bell peppers, onions and mushrooms with oven-roasted new potatoes.

At 7:30 the group will head to the Sprint Visual Communications Center for a tour and mini-presentations related to video and audio technologies. The Sprint VCC is at 6300 Sprint Pkwy. The building is also called Carver B. Park in Garage P in the spaces marked Sprint Experience. Enter the campus by taking Lamar off 119th Street, then turn right to the garage.

An RSVP is required to april@ieee-kc.org. Include your name, daytime phone number and the names of those in your party. If you register by April 12 dinner costs \$18 for members and guests, and \$10 for students. After April 12, dinner costs \$20 for members and guests, and \$12 for students.

Troje Joins DRS Broadcast Technology

DRS Broadcast Technology, formerly Continental Electronics, has hired Michael Troje as a regional and vendor sales manager. Troje has sponsored *The Communicator* for more than a year.

As owner of TDM Broadcast Services, Troje has represented the Continental Electronics transmitter line to clients throughout the upper Midwest. During his 25 years of experience he has served the broadcast industry as a broadcast engineer, domestic sales manager for Broadcast Electronics and national sales manager for Shively Labs television products division.

Next EAS Required Monthly Test
March 30



www.belden.com

Belden Electronics Division
P.O. Box 686
Lee's Summit, MO 64063

Telephone: 816 524 0073
Facsimilie: 816 524 6295
heather.nichols@belden.com

Heather Nichols
Sales Representative



BURST
COMMUNICATIONS

JIM SHAW
SALES ENGINEER

12012 W. 100 TERRACE
LENEXA, KANSAS 66215

PHONE 913-492-2877 • FAX 913-492-2877

www.burstvideo.com
jshaw@everestkc.net



Continental ElectronicsTM
Professional Broadcast Products

Michael Troje

Regional Sales Manager

DRS BROADCAST TECHNOLOGY

PH: 214.275.2319
FX: 214.381.3250
mtroje@drs-bt.com



www.TheTapeGuys.com

**Your local source for ALL
your audio/video/data media
needs. And now offering
DVD/CD duplication service.
Call us today or drop by.**

8405 MELROSE DRIVE
LENEXA, KS 66214
913-438-1878



PREMIER MAGNETICS
"If You Can Record On It, We Sell It!"

BROADCAST AUDIO, VIDEO & DATA MEDIA DISTRIBUTORS

Computer Connection

By Steve Epstein, CPBE CBNT

Engineering Haphazards

When was the last time you looked at a typical signal's path through your facility? Does it come in on a digital satellite link and get recorded on an analog deck? Or maybe it is played back digitally through an analog console. Along the path to the (probably analog) transmitter does it go through a codec that not only does both an analog-to-digital conversion and a digital-to-analog conversion, but also includes a good measure of lossy compression? With today's signals, all the above and many more are possible and likely. Some are unavoidable, but most can be ironed out with a little forethought and planning.

It is safe to say that components that interface with the real world will remain analog for sometime to come. Items such as microphones and speakers must interface with the physical world and either produce an electrical signal based on real-world inputs, or provide a real-world output based on an electrical signal. In both these cases, regardless of I/O signals, the electrical signals at the real-world conversion point are *analogous* to the physical reality they represent.

Because they have a longer history, and also because advances made on the digital side tend to provide benefits, first-generation analog signals are usually better than their digital counterparts. However, as we all are familiar, as we add generations, those once pristine analog signals quickly fall victim to noise and other artifacts. It is in those successive generations that digital signals really shine.

Returning to the problem at hand, is the signal path through your facility as conversion-free as possible? Do you immediately convert all analog signals to the digital house format and keep them there until they leave the facility? Do you have a designated house format? Conversions from one signal type to another typically result in artifacts. These artifacts are cumulative. Each conversion from analog to digital or vice versa, each lossy compression-decompression, and each video component-composite conversion is costly

in terms of equipment costs and signal quality. Are you wasting both unnecessarily?

To address this, first, document the system. Because all our facilities are fully documented, it won't take more than a few minutes to pull out that documentation binder or file and lay it out. Pick a color for each signal type and add that to your documentation. If you have neatly defined blocks of color that are confined to small areas, or just one or two colors, then you are in good shape. If on the other hand you have run out of colors and you are only halfway finished, the problem should be obvious.

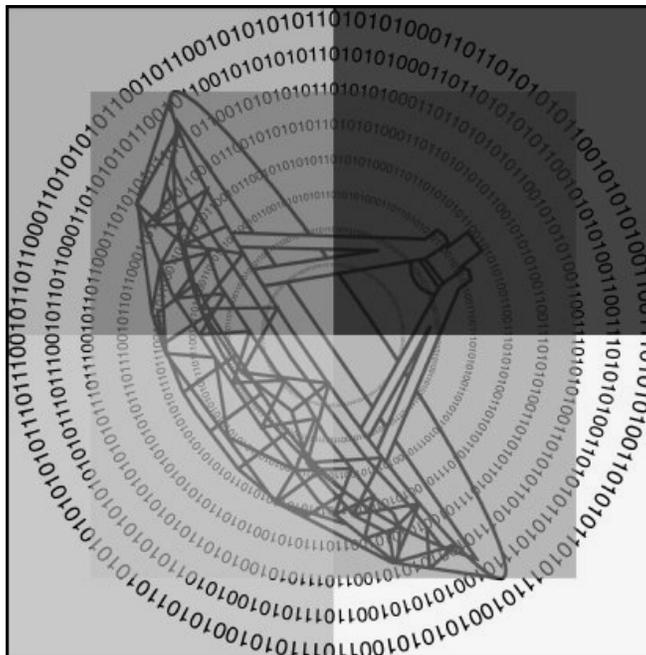
Pick a house standard, preferably something you can migrate to over the next one to five years. Gear your budgets and purchases toward that standard. If that is not possible, work toward those neatly defined blocks. If your consoles are 48kHz set that as a house standard and try to convert everything to that. Purchase a few high-quality converters and use them. Avoid adding the latest gadget at an inappropriate point in the signal path. Find the point in the system where it makes sense from a *system* perspective.

Along these same lines, are you getting the most from the control side of the facility? Is

the automation system central to the operation or is it just there for emergencies? Do you convert serial control signals to GPI/Os? As engineers, we operate in a world that few others in our facilities understand. It is up to us to make sure that we are utilizing our budgets, time and equipment to the fullest. Purchasing extra equipment to do unnecessary conversions is in no one's best interest. The next time you need to add some equipment, do so in a way that fits both your present and future goals.

Management Training for Broadcast Engineers

The dates have been established for the 2004 SBE Leader Skills Seminars. The SBE will present this outstanding opportunity for broadcast engineers to receive management training—people skills training—for the 8th consecutive year. Course I will be held June 2 to 4 and Course II will be held August 11 to 13. Both courses will be held at the Marten House hotel and Conference Center in India-



napolis. Participants in Course II must have already attended Course 1 this year or in the past. The seminar leader will be Dick Cupka, who has taught leader skills for more than 35 years across the USA and in several other countries. More than 1,000 broadcast engineers have taken part in this program since its inception. For more information, contact Angel Bates at the SBE National office at 317-846-9000 or abates@sbe.org.

New Certification Sample Test Software

The SBE will introduce newly designed certification sample-test software at NAB2004. The new software runs on Windows and will replace the current DOS-based software. New sample tests will be available for Broadcast Technologist, Audio Engineer, Video Engineer, Broadcast Networking Technologist, Broadcast Engineer and Senior Broadcast Engineer.

The software can be purchased through the National Office or bought at the convention.

SBE Celebrates 40th Anniversary

The SBE membership meeting, held on Tuesday, April 20 at 5 p.m. will celebrate 40 years of the Society's growth and service to broadcast engineering. A commemorative souvenir will be given to the first 100 members attending the meeting and a digital camera will be awarded to one lucky winner. Other door prizes will also be given. The meeting will take place in Room N110 of the Las Vegas Convention Center.

Membership Renewals Are Due April 1

Membership renewals for regular, associate and student members are due by April 1. Renewal information was mailed in February. If you did not receive yours, contact Angel Bates at the SBE National Office at 317-846-9000 or abates@sbe.org. The chapter receives a rebate for each current member, so help the chapter and please pay your dues on time.

SBE Members Can Save on NAB2004 Registration

To take advantage of the SBE's partner registration discount—a savings of \$200 from the non-member NAB convention rate—SBE members must use the special SBE Partner registration form. Access the form at www.sbe.org/NAB04_RegForm_6B_SBE.pdf. A link to the form is also available on the SBE59 website. While the NAB member rate is the least expensive, the SBE partner rate provides a cost savings for individuals whose stations are not NAB members. 

PROFESSIONAL VIDEO SUPPLY INC

Ned Soseman
Sales Engineer



9201 Cody
Overland Park, KS 66214
Cell: (913) 558-4870

(913) 492-1787
FAX (913) 859-0787
E-mail: neds@pvskc.com



RF Specialties[®]
OF MISSOURI

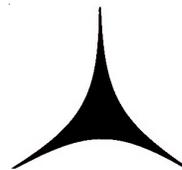
Christopher L. Kreger
Vice President & Secretary

22406 NE 159th Street
Kearney, MO 64060

'RF IS GOOD FOR YOU!'

FAX# (816) 628-4508
1-(800) 467-RFRF
rfmo@uniteone.net
www.rfspec.com

Part Of The C.L. Kreger Companies, Inc.



RICHLAND
T O W E R S

The Location. The Tower. The Technology.

Two Urban Centre
4890 W. Kennedy Blvd.
Suite 920
Tampa, FL 33609

Phone 800.827.4349
Fax 813.286.4130
Info@rtowers.com

www.richlandtowers.com



Kurt Caruthers
Director of Sales
Central Region

Sundance Digital, Inc.
4500 Fuller Drive, Suite 205
Irving, TX 75038

www.SundanceDigital.com
kcaruthers@sundig.com

(913) 307-0333
(972) 444-8450 fax

BROADCAST AUTOMATION SOLUTIONS

SBE59 Officers

Chairman Kirk Chestnut, CSRE Entercom Kansas City (913) 677-6462 kchestnut@entercom.com
Vice Chairman Michael Douthat KCUR-FM (816) 235-2880 douthatm@umkc.edu
Secretary/Treasurer Ben Weiss, CPBE KMXV-FM/KSRC-FM (816) 931-5506 x546 benw@cbsradiokc.com
Past Chairman Chriss Scherer, CSRE CBNT ... *Radio magazine* (913) 967-7201 chriss@broadcast.net

SBE59 Committees

Programs Michael Douthat KCUR-FM (816) 235-2880 douthatm@umkc.edu
EAS K.C. Operational Area .. Kirk Chestnut, CSRE Entercom Kansas City (913) 677-6462 kchestnut@entercom.com
Certification, Newsletter Chriss Scherer, CSRE CBNT ... *Radio magazine* (913) 967-7201 chriss@broadcast.net
Frequency Coordination Bob Schneider KSMO-TV62 (913) 621-6262 bschneid@ksmo.sbgnet.com
Website Steve Epstein, CPBE CBNT BroadcastBuyersGuide.com (816) 582-4604 . steve@BroadcastBuyersGuide.com

Chapter 59 e-mail: sbe59@broadcast.net

Chapter 59 list server: sbe-kc@broadcast.net

Upcoming Meetings and Events

March 11 *RF Specialties Barbecue*
 Chapter Officer Elections

April 8 *Focus Enhancements - Digital*
 Video Direct to Edit

April 15 - Sprint Voice and
Communications Center Tour
 Joint meeting with the KC IEEE Computer Society
 and the KC Audio Engineering Society.

Wanted: Your News and Information

The SBE59 newsletter, *The Communicator*, is published every month as a service to the members, sponsors and guests 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. Articles published in *The Communicator* will qualify for SBE recertification points.



SBE Chapter 59
 c/o **Radio magazine** (Scherer)
 9800 Metcalf
 Overland Park, KS 66212