

Meeting Notice**Thursday, March 9, Hereford House Downtown**2 E 20th Street Kansas City, MO 64108

Our next meeting will be held at the Hereford House downtown. Harris will provide a presentation on implementing HD Radio. Part of the discussion will cover the Split Level Combining method.

Lunch begins promptly at 11:30. Lunch will be provided for the group.

**Certification Exam Dates**

<i>Exam Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>App. Deadline</i>
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, 2006	Local Chapter	September 22, 2006

Last Month's Meeting

By Ben Weiss, CPBE

The February meeting of Chapter 59 was held Feb. 9 at the studios and offices of Taketwo Productions, 300 West 19th Terrace, Kansas City, MO. There were 27 in attendance. The event was the annual barbecue lunch provided by RF Specialties of Missouri.

Chapter Chairman Matt Kinnan called the business meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. and expressed all our appreciation to John Sims for his exceptional duties as chef for the occasion.

Ben Weiss read the minutes of the January meeting and gave the treasurer's report. Mike Rogers made the motion to accept the minutes and treasurer's reports as read. Ken Cox seconded. Motion passed.

Kirk Chestnut, Kansas City EAS chairman, remarked that we now sit and wait on the FCC to process the numerous comments filed by the SBE and other telecommunications trade groups regarding changes to the EAS Part 11 rules. This second round of comments focuses primarily on wireless carriage of EAS messages. The SBE's primary concern is that the new open data protocol (CAP) Common Alerting Protocol should be officially recognized by the FCC as the new communications method of choice for new alerting equipment and message distribution.

Locally, LP-2 KCMO-FM experienced an equipment problem during the Jan. 29 RMT and issued an RMT of its own in order to remain in compliance. This is the reason two RMTs were issued that day.

Software development group iBAS (Internet Broadcast Alert System) continues to pursue Federal funding to support the Kansas City AMBER/Alerting program. It appears that the KDOT/MDOT cooperative Scout highway sign system will adopt the iBAS system as its preferred method for receiving AMBER Alerts from KCPD. The software package will be marketed to local municipalities under the name XComAlert.

The next order of business was the Annual election of officers. After some open discussion Darrell Nickolaus made a motion to vote for second terms for all the current officers. Jack McCain made the second. Motion passed. By acclamation Matt Kinnan was elected to a second term as chairman, Ken Cox was elected to a second term as vice chairman, and Ben Weiss was elected as secretary/treasurer.

The motion to adjourn was made at by Mike Rogers.

Chairman's Chat***Another Great Year***

By Matt Kinnan, CEV CBNT

Well, another year has passed and so have our chapter elections. Looks like I have another year as the chairman. I would like to thank everyone for voting for me, and showing their trust in my leadership. I must be doing something right.

I also would like to thank everyone who was able to make it to our yearly Engineers Appreciation Lunch. John and Chris from RF Specialties put on a great lunch with lots of fine barbecue and plenty of door prizes for all.

I'm asking everyone who was able to make it to the luncheon to keep up his or her good attendance by joining us at the Hereford House. We will have another great program in store. Our sponsor will be Harris, who will cover broadcasting techniques for HD Radio. I look forward to seeing you there.

As always, we are looking for quality educational programs for our chapter meetings, so if you have an idea for a program, please let Mike Rogers or me know. Thanks, and I look forward to another great year.

— Matt

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To The Editor

Tom Casey, KSHB-TV engineer

In your January newsletters there was an article written by Chris Castro on Laptop Care. We just experienced the effect of not knowing the importance of care to all laptops. We were on a live shot and the temperature was below freezing and the Editor laptop was turned on before warming up the live unit. The result was that the screen was damaged and had to be replaced. This of course was no fault of the photog, only to us not spreading the importance of laptop care. I hope that through this experience others may avoid experiences like this one. We have to remember that with changing technology there is so much we still don't know.

Nominations Being Accepted for the 2005 SBE National Awards

Chris Castro, CBT

Some SBE Members go above and beyond the call of duty to do their jobs and serve SBE and the broadcast industry, and some local SBE chapters do an excellent job of serving their members. But often these efforts can go unrecognized. Don't let that happen this year. I know there are plenty of members in Chapter 59 who go above and beyond. Make your nomination for those who deserve such an honor.

There are five chapter and five individual award categories from which to choose when making a nomination. Three chapter awards are determined by using statistical information on record at the SBE National Office. In addition, five of the chapter awards are divided into two classes so that chapters with vastly different membership sizes are not competing with each other. This means that up to 18 awards could be presented. I encourage all those in our Chapter 59 to nominate as many to show our active and supportive group.

Award winners will be notified in July and invited to attend the 2006 SBE National Meeting, which will be held September 26-27 in conjunction with the 34th Annual SBE22 Broadcast & Technology Expo sponsored by Central New York Chapter 22 in Verona, NY. Winners will be presented with either a certificate or a plaque at the SBE National Awards Dinner held September 27. Those nominated will be notify of all details.

Nominations are due to the SBE National Office no later than May 31, 2006. For additional information, please contact Angel Bates at abates@seb.org or 317-846-9000 or Larry Wilkins, awards committee chairman, at larry.wilkins@cumulus.com or 334-303-2525, or please visit the SBE website. You can also go to our website listed on the bottom of each page for the information.

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SBE EAS Exchange

From Chris Castro, CBT

The SBE, reaction to related discussion on the EAS came up with form called the SBE-EAS Exchange. The SBE and EAS Committee Chairman Clay Freirwald, CPBE will observe this. Everyone is encouraged to join the discussion on related topics. With these discussions can help resolve issue on equipment to procedures dealing with EAS. Participate is encourage but not required.

Participants can discuss equipment issues, the latest related FCC activity, share EAS failures or success stories and a lot more issues.

To subscribe to the SBE-EAS Exchange, go to <http://seven.pairlist.net/mailman/listinfo/sbe-eas>, ore go to our website listed on the bottom page.

NAB, SBE Seek EAS Changes

From Chris Castro, CBT

With the FCC rulemaking on EAS back in January has brought about many changes for the good. There is no longer service to be delivered to the public by the NAB regarding EAS. For most part TV, Radio and other media outlets provide information to the public. It seems this method is more reliable. With the digital changes it seems easy to monitor the data with little loss and be able to rely such data to other organizations.

With Spanish be the second language for translation to the public NAB opposes to be transmitted at the same time to avoid information being sent at specific time. This has caused many of the Spanish Broadcasters Association at odds with the NAB. Which I think the Spanish Broadcasters Association should be allowed to do so having majority of their audience Spanish speaking.

With some of the disasters we have seen it has become a importance to make the EAS a priority and a solid working system. With the SBE heading the way I hope once again that the FCC will look upon the SBE to set the standard across the country. We can no longer rely on short vision plans and put a permanent plan together and make it the standard.

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Senate Bills Would Open TV Channels for Unlicensed Devices

From Chris Castro, CBT

Bill has been made in February to open TV "white space" for use by unlicensed devices. Senator George Allen (R-VA) and Senator John Kerry (D-MA) introduced the Wireless Innovation Act of 2006 (WINN Act). This allowed unlicensed users use unassigned broadcast spectrum from 54 MHz and 698 MHz within 180 days of enactment. There has been support for this bill by other senators.

Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) introduced the ABC Act of 2006. This act would allow unused TV spectrum between 72 and 698 MHz, excluding channel 37 (reserved for low power medical devices and radio astronomy), to be used for unlicensed devices. This has made the manufactures to design within that spectrum. Hoping this will remedy actual harmful interference.

Lighting Hit

By Ed Jurich

KKJO St. Joseph experienced a lightning hit at about the third bay on its antenna, which was later followed over a period of time by further damage about every wavelength down to the input of the matching section. The transmitter VSWR did not see any of this going on until the connector bullet at the input matching section burned open.

Seven bays were brought down, the burned sections were repaired, and then it was all put back up. We were still unsure of the overall condition of the feed line. What could be seen of the feed line at the connector looked okay, but to be sure, we cut the line at the bottom and placed a bag at the bottom of the opening. Then, Jerry Case (what a great guy to work with) started at the top and beat on the line with a rubber mallet all the way down the tower. We retrieved several pieces of metal droppings after the exercise.

Are there more pieces in the line? If there are, we figure that over time the wind will shake them to the bottom. I'll open the bottom connectors installed at the cut every so often to clean out any metal pieces.

The insurance company is aware of what we're doing so if the line fails in the next few months it will be attached to the original lightning hit.

Next EAS Required Monthly Test: March 28
The RMT is sent on the last Tuesday of the month



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EAS Struggles to Stay Alert

By John Merli

"This is a test of the Emergency Alert System. This is only a test. Had this been an actual emergency, we'd like to say that we know exactly what to do, but it's all a bit too confusing at the moment, and so much of this is purely voluntary, so please stand by. We'll be right back."

While it's unlikely the public will ever hear that sort of message except perhaps on Comedy Central, the Emergency Alert System's future role remains in flux as the FCC considers fresh industry input on how EAS should evolve, if at all, in the digital era.

Amid a dramatic run of natural and man-made catastrophes in recent years, notably Katrina and Sept. 11, it's perhaps easy to overlook the fact that despite any major emergency's dramatic emotional effect on tens of millions of people via the media; even the most horrific disasters in the United States have been local or regional in nature. That's significant because current EAS "rules" for local emergencies (including Amber Alerts for missing children, although tornado warnings are the most prevalent) are strictly voluntary, and can vary widely from state to state.

SBE Roundtable debuts

By Chris Castro, CBT

SBE president, Chriss Scherer, CPBE CBNT has announced a new benefit for members who would like to have a forum for discussing issues related to the broadcast engineering field or SBE. The Society has created the "SBE Roundtable," an e-mail discussion group open to SBE members only.

Any member may discuss any topic or issue dealing with broadcast. Other topics may include local chapter events to national events and organizations. Through this forum members should benefit from the information received and given. This should reduce costly research and time.

Chriss Schere will serve as the moderator for the list. If you wish to participant please visit the SBE national website ant www.sbe.org and go to publications under short Circuit.

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Upcoming Meeting and Events

March 9

Hereford House Downtown
HD Radio for AM and FM stations

Upcoming Meeting dates

Mark your calendar now

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@yahoo.com. Articles published in *The Communicator* will qualify for SBE recertification points.



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