



## Meeting Notice

**Thursday, July 13, Prism Media, Overland Park**  
 9800 Metcalf Overland Park, KS 66212

Our next meeting will be held at the Prism Media conference room July the 13th at 11:30. Christian Holbrook President of WireCAD design tools and selected members of his staff will show at our meeting how with WireCAD's automated tools can produce accurate, detailed single-line drawings, rack layouts, cable labels and other reports. Also they will focus on how the new Version 4 offers reverse engineering tools to create drawings directly from your imported data.

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>
August 11-21, 2006	Local Chapter	Closed
November 10-20, 2006	Local Chapter	September 22, 2006

## Last Month's Meeting

*By Ben Weiss, CPBE*

The **June** meeting of Chapter 59 of the **Society of Broadcast Engineers** was held June 8, 2006 at Don Chilitos Restaurant. There were 13 in attendance. Matt Kinnan, chapter chairman, presided over the business meeting.

Matt opened the meeting at 12:10PM. Ben read the minutes of the May meeting. Chriss Scherer made the motion to accept the minutes as read and Chris Castro the second, passed.

Kirk Chestnut, Kansas City EAS chairman, reported that the recent EAS activation for an amber alert was broadcast only in the Springfield area even though the e-mail with details was received by all of Missouri.

Chris Castro remarked that Bob Schneider, chapter frequency coordinator, is stepping down from that position. Mike made a motion that Chris becomes the permanent chapter coordinator. The motion carried. Chris will also be NFL game day coordinator. There was considerable discussion about frequency coordination not the least of which is the need for updating the database.

Chriss Scherer reminded us that certification exams would be given locally in August and the deadline for signing up is June 9<sup>th</sup>.

Ben told us that he had experienced the theft of the copper ground strap from the American Tower 63<sup>rd</sup> street tower. Copper theft at tower sites is becoming a nation wide problem because the salvage price for copper has risen to unprecedented amounts. Ed Treese told us that the Harris Broadcast web site now has several valuable down loads regarding service information on broadcast equipment. Service parts are also available on the web site.

Lee Reisinger won the drawing for the free lunch.

The motion to adjourn was by Mike and the second by Chris Castro.

Since the SBE Executive committee meeting, to be held in KC in July, will include a strategic planning session it was requested by the national office that our chapter have its own planning session and then send a representative to the national meeting. Therefore the program was, indeed, a buzz session to come up with some suggested answers to questions that were previously submitted by the national office to Matt Kinnan.

## Chairman's Chat

### Ebay Saves the Day

*By Matt Kinnan, CEV CBNT*

How many times have you been in this situation; you have an older piece of equipment that has been working for years, so many years that you have forgotten that you even own it? Then one day the little power light that has always stayed on, is no longer on. Oh No! After some quick trouble-shooting you find it's the power supply. You then realize the manufacturer, of your now dead piece of equipment, is no longer in business, now what? If you're like most, you are running on a tight budget, so replacing the unit might be out of the question, so what's the solution? For many it has become the Internet, and the power of auction web sites.

Thanks to the Internet there are plenty of ways to find that power supply, even if the manufacture has been out of business for the last five years. One of the best ways is Ebay. For years now used parts, maintenance manuals, and hard to find tape stock have been selling on this site. Ebay has been a fantastic source for needed broadcast parts and equipment; it's even a great way to sell your overstock items that you'll never use. Like everything on the Internet, there are some risks when buying or selling, so be careful. I have found checking the seller's feedback rating is a great way to know who you will be dealing with. Also, E-mailing specific questions about the item to the seller before making a bid can be helpful. This will insure you know exactly what you are bidding on. If you're lucky, many sellers will have a "Buy it now" price, so if you're in a big rush to get your power supply, you can skip the bidding and go straight to shipping. This is a nice feature if you don't want to bother with bidding.

It's not easy keeping older equipment up and running, especially on a tight budget, so make the best of your resources. You might even be lucky enough to find a deal on a slightly used replacement unit if that power supply can't be found. Finally, if you feel unsure about the process, jump on a computer and take a look at what's out there. Set-up an account and before you know it you will be on the fast road to a whole new way to keep your facility running.

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## Bush Orders Update of Emergency Alert System

By Spencer S. Hsu  
Washington Post Staff Writer  
Tuesday, June 27, 2006

President Bush yesterday ordered Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff to overhaul the nation's hodgepodge of public warning systems, acknowledging a critical weakness unaddressed since the 2001 terrorist attacks and exposed again last year by Hurricane Katrina.

The Emergency Alert System, best known for weather bulletins and Amber Alerts for missing children, should be upgraded to explore communicating by cellphones, personal digital assistants and text pagers targeted to geographic areas or specific groups, U.S. officials said.

In a 30-paragraph executive order issued by the White House without comment, Bush assigned Chertoff to implement a freshly stated U.S. policy "to ensure that under all conditions the President can communicate with the American people," including in cases of war, terrorist attack, natural disaster or other public danger.

The move follows mounting criticism that the nation's alert systems are outmoded relics of the Cold War. The first was set up in 1951 to enable the president to address the public in the event of nuclear attack through a chain of television and radio broadcasters.

Under existing rules, for example, participation of broadcasters in state and local alerts is voluntary. The Federal Communications Commission limits messages to two minutes, and the system's technology is outdated.

The Emergency Alert System was never used during the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, but the independent commission that investigated them concluded that "adequate communications" are central to government and private-sector preparedness. Legislation that overhauled U.S. intelligence activities in 2004 required a study of using telecommunications networks in an all-hazards warning system, but the report has not been done.

In February, the White House again called for an update of the Emergency Alert System in its report on the flawed response to Hurricane Katrina, noting that state and local officials failed to use it to warn the public before the storm.

"The fact that the president has said something is a positive step in the right direction," said Kenneth H. Allen, who was head of the nonprofit Partnership for Public Warning, a consortium of state, local and private-sector officials that urged upgrading alert systems after the 2001

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attacks but disbanded in 2004 because of lack of funding. "It's time for all parties to work together to implement it."

A spokesman for the Department of Homeland Security said Congress has set aside \$25 million over three years for pilot studies of public notification efforts such as reverse 911 calling programs or text messages sent to personal pagers, similar to those in the District and Arlington County.

But the White House order calls for "an integrated alert and warning system that reaches as many Americans as possible through as many forms of communication as possible -- television, radios, PDAs, cellphones, et cetera," said Homeland Security Department spokesman Russ Knocke. "We're talking about a quantum leap forward."

The program would be managed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Analysts have said that bureaucratic inertia and turf fighting among government agencies and resistance from industry to new mandates have stymied changes since 2001.

Yesterday, Dennis Wharton, spokesman for the National Association of Broadcasters, said, "We support strengthening the EAS system, to the extent that it's flexible, reasonable and works within the constraints of the existing system."

Bush ordered federal agencies to help as requested. The directive includes the Pentagon, the Commerce Department and the FCC, which must adopt rules requiring that communications systems be able to transmit alerts.

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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## Excelsior College Offers Credit for SBE Certifications

### From Short Circuits

The Society of Broadcast Engineers has joined with Excelsior College of Albany, New York to offer individuals who hold qualifying SBE certifications the opportunity to earn college credit. The credit may be used toward associate and baccalaureate degree study through Excelsior's School of Business and Technology, or banked in an official Excelsior transcript to be used at another accredited college or university. This is a great opportunity to finish up that degree you started years ago or begin a degree program while continuing to work.

#### The SBE certifications qualifying for credit include:

**Certified Broadcast Radio Engineer - CBRE®**

**Certified Broadcast Television Engineer - CBTE®**

**Certified Senior Radio Engineer - CSRE®**

**Certified Senior Television Engineer - CSTE®**

**Certified Professional Broadcast Engineer - CPBE®**

Individuals successfully completing the qualifying SBE certifications have several options for applying the earned credit:

Apply to Excelsior College for associate or baccalaureate degree study. The earned credit will automatically be applied to the appropriate degree desired.

Bank the earned credit in an official transcript. The Excelsior College Credit Bank Transcript will list SBE awarded credit and consolidate other credit earned from previous study at regionally accredited colleges and universities, military and ACE approved examinations.

SBE members at any certification level, with documented learning and work experiences, can apply for Portfolio Assessment Review to determine the potential for additional credit.

The CBRE certification will earn 2 elective credits toward an Associate or Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering technology. It can also worth two elective credits towards an Associate or bachelor's degree in Electronics.

The CBTE is worth four elective credits toward an Associate or Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering technology. It is also worth four elective credits toward an Associate or Bachelor's degree in Electronics.

The CSRE will earn three elective credits toward an Associate or Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering Technology. It can also worth six core credits and three elective credits towards an Associate or Bachelor's degree in Electronics.

The CSTE will earn five elective credits toward an Associate or Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering Technology. It is also worth six core credits and five elective credits towards an Associate or Bachelor's degree in Electronics.

The highest level of SBE Certification, the Certified Professional Broadcast Engineer (CPBE) level, is also eligible for college credit. With its requirement of 20 years relevant industrial experience, prior senior level certification or a Professional Engineering Registration, and other evidence of a high degree of accomplishment in the field, the individual holding the CPBE will be eligible for all the credit value of the senior level plus additional credit that can be earned through "Portfolio Assessment" in areas of the program as determined by a subcommittee of faculty members on a case-by-case basis.

So, if you are interested in using your SBE certification to help achieve your college degree objectives, you have the opportunity to do so either through a degree from Excelsior College or by using the Excelsior College credit awarded for your SBE certification to complete a degree program you may have on-going (or started years ago) at another college.

Excelsior College has no residency requirement. Courses are completed on-line or via CD-Rom. You may also take Excelsior exams to "test out" and earn credits towards your degree in subjects that you are already proficient in.

For more information about degree programs, transcript services and fees, contact the Admissions counselors at Excelsior College at 888-647-2388. Press 2-7 at the prompt



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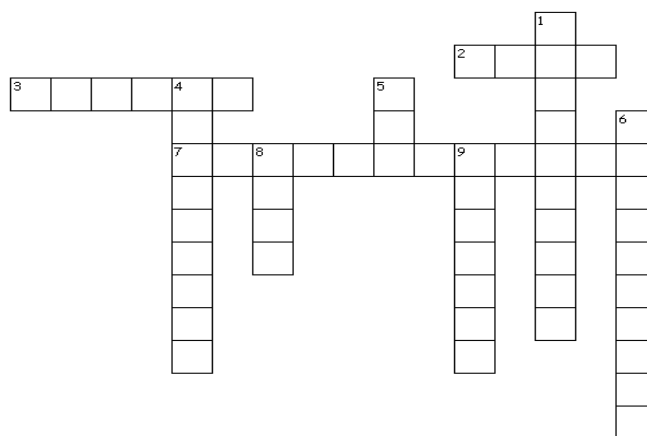


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**Next EAS Required Monthly Test: July 25**  
The RMT is sent on the last Tuesday of the month

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**Upcoming Meeting and Events**

**July 13**

**Prism Media  
WireCAD Design**

**Upcoming Meeting dates**

Mark your calendar now

**August 10**

**September 14**

**October 12**

**November 9**

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](mailto:sbe59@yahoo.com). Articles published in *The Communicator* will qualify for SBE recertification points.



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