

Meeting Notice**Thursday, October 14, *Chez Treese sur le Lac***

Lot U-2; Lake Lotawana, MO; 913-484-4134 or 913-522-1543
Gather at 6:00 p.m. See page 5 for directions.

Annual Picnic. Our annual social gathering takes us to Lake Lotawana for a light evening of fun and food. Ed Treese has graciously invited us to his lake house for our annual social event. The chapter will handle the burgers, dogs, drinks and chips.

There will be some games of chance and skill to compete for prizes donated by our newsletter sponsors. Chapter members and guests are invited, as are their significant others. And in case your French is no good, *Chez Treese sur le lac* means House of Treese on the Lake. ☺

**Meeting Event****Monday, October 11, *Kansas Association of Broadcasters Convention, Engineering Sessions***

Overland Park Sheraton; 6100 College Blvd.; Overland Park, KS
Sessions begin at 9:30 a.m.

A full day of engineering sessions are part of the annual KAB convention. The morning sessions cover topics of interest to radio and TV, including EAS and back up power. There are two tracks in the afternoon for radio and TV.

Registration for the convention is required. More info is available at www.kab.net. ☺

Certification Exam Dates		
Exam Date	Location	App. Deadline
Nov 12-22, 2004	Local Chapter	CLOSED
Feb 4-14, 2005	Local Chapter	Dec 27, 2004
Apr 19, 2005	NAB	Mar 1, 2005

Last Month's Meeting

The October 14 meeting was held at the offices of Primedia Business in Overland Park. Primedia publishes nearly 80 trade publications including *Radio* magazine, *Broadcast Engineering*, *Video Systems* and *Mix*. Steve Epstein presided over the meeting.

Matt Kinnan and Mike Rogers provided a preview of upcoming meetings, which are listed on page 6 of this newsletter. Chriss Scherer gave a brief update on the next exam dates and also congratulated Glenn Williams on passing his CBNT exam. Bob Schneider discussed several frequency coordination issues, mainly noting that his activities as NFL game-day coordinator have begun with the start of the new football season. Schneider also mentioned the latest news on the 2GHz transition for TV. He has received little cooperation from the area television stations in developing a plan to accommodate the new band plan. See Schneider's article in this newsletter on page 3.

A discussion of receiving required weekly tests (RWT) was begun for EAS. The way the EAS rules are written, a station does not need to transmit a weekly test if it activates an EAS message during that week. The problem that some receiving stations have noted is that their manual logging of EAS does not track weather-related activations. Consequently, there are times when no record of an EAS message is received from an LP station. A suggestion was made for the LP stations to transmit a RWT regardless of any other EAS activity, except a required monthly test (RMT). Representatives from the LP-1 and LP-2 stations did not attend the meeting, so an on-the-spot reply was not available.

The program was presented by Chriss Scherer, chairman of the chapter 59 certification committee and chairman of the SBE National Certification Committee. The SBE has offered a program of certification since 1975 as a service to the broadcast industry. By obtaining SBE certification, an individual can demonstrate his understanding of broadcast engineering with an industry-accepted benchmark. Several levels of certification exist. Scherer outlined the various levels and their prerequisites, discussed the requirements to renew SBE certification after its five-year term and encouraged everyone to obtain his certification. Membership in the SBE is not required to hold SBE certification. Steve Epstein, SBE59 chapter chairman, has set

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a goal for every chapter member to obtain SBE certification in the coming year.

The pizza and pop lunch was provided by the chapter.

Chairman's Chat

*By Steve Epstein, CPBE CBNT
 Hats Off!*

Congratulations are in order for our newsletter editor and former chairman, Chriss Scherer. The SBE election results were announced several weeks ago and Chriss has been elected to be the vice president of the SBE. Chriss has been a driving force behind Chapter 59 and has served in a variety of positions at the national level. I am sure we will all benefit as a result of his work as vice president.

On another topic, our next meeting is the annual picnic. This is an opportunity to get together in a slightly more relaxed setting than the afternoon lunch meetings. As it is in the evening, no one will need to worry about returning to work afterward, so I hope that many who find it difficult or impossible to attend the afternoon meetings will take the time to stop in and enjoy some time with the group. Don't forget, it is an easy way to earn some of those much-needed points for recertification.

On the subject of recertification, another way to earn points is by writing articles. Whether they appear in this newsletter or in a national magazine, they are worth some points. Many engineers find a blank sheet of paper rather daunting, unless of course they are going to draw a block diagram or schematic. Think of an article for the newsletter as simply a block diagram using words rather than symbols.

Nearly every day, each of us solves problems that require thought and some resourcefulness. Those solutions make excellent articles. Some are short and take the form of a technical tip or a monthly column. Larger ones can be turned into feature articles. Start small. About a year ago I took a test for an electrician position at a local factory. The breadth of that test amazed me. It covered everything from three-phase power to control ladder logic to digital electronics. One question stood out, in part due to its simplicity and in part because it bridged two distant worlds. Years ago a standard control system utilized a 4-20mA current loop. Varying the current in the loop conveyed control information to connected devices. The question was: "What resistor should be connected across a 4-20mA current loop to provide for a 1 to 5Vdc signal for use with a digital logic device?"

The answer is on page 5.

These kinds of problems are normal in the world of broadcast engineering (which is probably why I did well enough on the test to be called in for a second interview). When they happen to you, or in your facility, take a few minutes to write them up and share them with your fellow engineers. If you need help getting the words or the grammar correct, sent it to me. I spend significant time each day editing articles and would be happy to help you smooth out the words.

In the meantime, I hope to see you at the picnic.

The Cents and Sense of the 2GHz Consensus Plan

By Bob Schneider

Free Digital COFDM 2GHz Equipment for Current TV Licensees

Now that I have your attention, I can confirm that it is true. The Fourth Memorandum Opinion and Order, issued Aug. 6, 2004, in ET Docket 95-18, will change the 2GHz implementation plan considerably. To accomplish this, a Consensus Plan has been developed.

There are four main points of the Consensus Plan.

1.) Nextel, who is financially solvent, will relocate the broadcasters out of A1 and A2. Nextel will replace broadcasters' analog equipment with digital equipment at no expense to the broadcaster. This replacement will also include any 2GHz fixed links that the broadcaster may have licensed.

2.) Because Nextel's operation will be terrestrial and market-based, there will not be a single, nationwide turn-off date for broadcasters to stop using A1/A2. It will happen instead market-by-market, as stations convert from analog FM to COFDM in narrower channels.

3.) Broadcasters will go from seven channels spanning 1990 to 2110MHz directly to seven channels spanning 2025 to 2110MHz. Thus, broadcasters will not lose any channels in the transition.

4.) Nextel has committed to transition all markets within a 30-month period. Nextel will pick the markets based on where it wants to initiate the new 2GHz service. These Stage One markets must be converted in 18 months. The remaining 210 markets will be called Stage Two, but must be completed by the end of the 30-month period.

Next EAS Required Monthly Test: October 26
The RMT is sent on the last Tuesday of the month


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Once the plan is in place, Nextel will release its Stage One markets list. If Kansas City is included in Stage One, all licensees of 2GHz equipment will be contacted by Nextel in a timely fashion. If Kansas City is a Stage Two market, all licensees of 2GHz will be contacted by March of 2006. This date is when mandatory negotiations for Stage Two Markets will expire.

At some point, SBE59 will arrange a meeting with local licensees, SBE National Frequency Coordinator David Otey and Nextel. This group will collectively decide the implementation of the Kansas City transition.

The Consensus Plan is not official at this time, but the SBE is committed to helping Nextel make it work as written. The FCC's Order must first be published in the Federal Register, followed by a 30-day wait for final approval.

Finally, let me thank the National SBE and chastise the KC TV engineering community. The National SBE has been instrumental in the adoption of the Consensus Plan and is to be lauded for its efforts.

Most Kansas City television management and engineers will breathe a sigh of relief. Many will say, "We dodged another bullet!" Unfortunately, most of them will use the

word "we" incorrectly. Why? Because they do not support SBE59 by their membership or their involvement. Chapter 59 is supported sporadically at best by most KC TV stations. The benefits of the Consensus Plan should show how important your support of SBE is to both management and engineers. The chapter needs your membership and involvement so we can speak with strength at the national level.

Join the discussion at the next SBE meeting.

Results of SBE Election Announced

The Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE) Officers and Board of Directors election is complete. Each year, the officers and six of the 12 directors of the board are elected by voting members of the SBE. The 2004-2005 elected officials are as follows:

- President- Raymond Benedict, CPBE, Director, Spectrum Management Viacom
- Vice President- Chriss Scherer, CSRE CBNT, Editor, *Radio* magazine
- Secretary- Ralph Hogan, CPBE CBNT, Assistant General Manager, Engineering Services, Washington State University
- Treasurer- Robert J. Russell, CSTE CBNT

Elected to the Board of Directors were:

- James Bernier Jr., CPBE CBNT, Director, Maintenance, Design and Engineering, Turner Entertainment Networks
- Keith Kintner, CPBE CBNT, Radio-TV-Film Engineer, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh
- Vincent Lopez, CEV CBNT, Systems Technician, WSYT/WNYS TV
- Thomas Ray, CPBE, Corporate Director of Engineering, Buckley Broadcasting/WOR Radio
- Barry Thomas, CBPE CBNT, Vice President of Engineering, Westwood One
- Larry Wilkins, CPBE CBNT, Assistant Director of Engineering, Cumulus Broadcasting

Officers' terms are one year. Directors' terms are two years.

Six board members are in the middle of their two-year terms. They are Andrea Cummis, CBT; Dane Ericksen, P.E., CSRTE; Clay Freinwald, CPBE; David Hultsman, CSRE; Mark Olkowski, CPBE; and Henry Ruhwiedel, CPBE. The Immediate Past President is Troy Pennington, CSRE CBNT.

The officers and board members will take office at the SBE National Meeting.

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SBE 2004 National Meeting Oct. 26 and 27

The SBE National Meeting will be held October 26 and 27 in conjunction with the Bos-Con Regional Convention, sponsored by Chapter 11 of Boston. The event will take place at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel and Trade Center in Marlborough, MA.

The SBE National Meeting includes the fall Board of Directors Meeting, annual Fellows Breakfast, Annual Membership Meeting and the National Awards Reception and Dinner. The Regional Convention includes an Ennes Workshop on Tuesday, which costs \$25 to attend and includes lunch and dinner, and a broadcast equipment trade show Tuesday evening and all day Wednesday.

For more information about the SBE National Meeting and the Bos-Con SBE Regional Convention, see www.sbe.org and www.bos-con.com.

FCC Report: U.S. Lags in High-speed Access

An FCC report has found that despite growth, the United States is falling further behind other countries in rolling out high-speed Internet services. The study determined that U.S. high-speed Internet lines had tripled to 28.2 million by the end of 2003 from June 2001, but the country at best was in 10th place in international rankings, down from fourth, behind nations such as Canada and South Korea.

President Bush has pushed for universal broadband access by 2007 while Democrat challenger Sen. John Kerry has pledged tax breaks to boost broadband deployment.

FCC Commissioner Michael Copps, a Democrat, said the agency had failed to establish a coherent policy for broadband, sacrificing the nation's rank. He also noted that service was as cheap as \$10 a month in Japan for 8Mb/s versus \$30 to \$50 for 1Mb/s to 3Mb/s in the United States. Copps thinks that current efforts to deploy broadband services across the country are insufficient.

Still, the report showed the increase was three-fold over the 9.6 million lines as of June 2001. About 26 million of the subscribers were residential or small businesses.

Directions to the Picnic

From the Grandview Triangle follow I-470 East. Pass MO 50 to the Douglas Rd./Colbern Rd. exit. Turn left (north) at the end of the ramp onto Douglas Rd. Turn right (east) at the next light onto Colbern Rd. Drive about 6 miles to MO 7. Turn right (south) onto MO 7 to the first street on the left. There is no street name, but there are two white pillars marked Lake Lotawana Gate 3. Enter through the gate, and then go straight. You will be in T block. Con-

tinue around the bend to the left to U block. The Treese house is on the right. It's a light gray house with vinyl siding and two white garage doors. There is a sign over the the garage doors with the address U-2 and the Treese's name. Park in the driveway, the grass directly above the driveway or the parking area up at the street with the empty boat trailer. Ed notes that the neighbor on the right is especially touchy about people parking on his property, so avoid that at all costs. Ed estimates that it should take 30 minutes from I-435.

Solve Steve's Equation

The answer is 250 ohms. Apply Ohm's Law.




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Upcoming Meetings and Events

October 10 to 12 - KAB Convention
Overland Park Sheraton

October 14 - Annual Picnic
The chapter's annual social gathering

November 11 - Wireless Remotes
Comrex

December 9 - Media Asset Management
EMC

January 13 - Topic TBA
Call Mike or Matt today

Do you have a suggestion for a program topic?
Please share it with Matt Kinnan or Mike Rogers.

Prepare to be Certified

The SBE introduced newly designed certification sample-test software at NAB2004. The new software runs on Windows and replaces the previous DOS-based software.



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Sample tests are available for all levels of Certification except the Operator levels, which have their own study material. The software can be purchased through the National Office. Order your copy today and prepare to be Certified.



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