

Meeting Notice**Thursday, December 14, *Susquehanna Radio***

5800 Foxridge Dr. #600, Mission, KS
(913) 514-3000



Our December meeting will feature a video presentation on mast safety titled Safety is Good News; a film produced by the Salt River Project of Phoenix. Safety is important at any time, but in cold weather, operators may not take the time necessary to ensure that the selected location is clear of overhead obstructions. Lunch will be provided by the chapter. After the meeting and video, some limited tours of the Susquehanna facility will be available. We will begin gathering in the 6th floor offices at 11:30 am. Lunch will begin at 11:45 am. The meeting will begin at 12:00 noon and the video will begin at 12:15 pm. ☺

Certification Dates		
Exam Date	Location	App. Deadline
February 9-19	Local Chapter	December 31, 2000
April 24	NAB, Las Vegas	March 23, 2001
June 8-18	Local Chapter	April 30, 2001
August 17-27	Local Chapter	July 9, 2001
November 9-19	Local Chapter	September 28, 2001

Last Month's Meeting

Last month's meeting was held at the Adam's Mark Hotel near the stadiums. No new business was discussed. Our program was the Harris Road Show, which featured a show floor with exhibitors including Gepco, 360 Systems, Sierra Automated Systems, Gentner, Symetrix, Lucid Technologies, MusicamUSA, Belden, Comrex, Harris, Harris Pacific, Enco, Orban, Audion, Logitek, Andrew and Harris Intraplex, and a morning session on RFI shielding and grounding presented by Dana Myers, manager, technical support services for Harris. Lunch was provided by Harris. Thanks to Steve Dinkel and everyone at Harris for hosting the event and providing a meeting location and lunch for Chapter 59.

Photos from the meeting are available on the chapter website. The URL is at the bottom of this page.

SBE Submits Letter to Chairman Tauzin

On October 18, SBE hand delivered a letter to the Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Billy Tauzin of Louisiana. Signed by SBE President, Andy Butler, the letter expressed concern about the lack of action by the FCC on a technical rulemaking that is critical to the timely roll-out of DTV. RM-9418, a 1998 petition for rulemaking filed by the Telecommunications Industry Association, proposed that digital modulation be allowed in all TV BAS microwave bands. The letter's entire text can be found on the SBE website at www.sbe.org.

Computer Connection

Hard drive maintenance

By Steve Epstein, CPBE, CBNT

Just because you can't (or least shouldn't) take apart a hard drive, doesn't mean you can't do some maintenance on it. Back when 40MB drives were "large" you could perform a low-level format on hard drives to accommodate mechanical wear and changing tolerances. Today, the

BIOS routines in most computers allow you to perform low-level formats, but they should only be done as a last resort, if ever.

**EAS Required Monthly Test
December 26**

The EAS RMT is sent on the last Tuesday of the month.

Formatting (high-level) a drive for specific operating systems has gotten easier over the years. One thing to watch out for is the Master Boot Record (MBR). Hard drives are arranged such that there is one MBR plus a boot area on each partition. On systems with more than one OS, a small "loader" routine boots from the MBR and has pointers to each of the OS boot routines that are stored on the respective partitions. Adding another OS to a machine can overwrite the MBR, making it difficult or impossible to get to the other operating systems.

Once an operating system is up and running, files are written and deleted continuously. Although these operations should be transparent, problems do occur. Files are typically written in small chunks. The directory entry points to the first chunk, which then points to the second chunk, which then points to the third chunk, etc. If a pointer is corrupted, the remainder of the file can be lost. Programs such as Scandisk methodically go through each file and verify that all the pointers are correct and that file sizes agree. Occasionally, file segments are orphaned, and Scandisk finds and deletes these.

Even if all the pointers are in place, there is no guarantee that the file is not scattered all across the disk. Having numerous files with their pieces scattered across you hard drive can significantly impact system performance. This is because of the extra time required to retrieve the files. Programs such as Defrag go through the hard drive, gather all the pieces of a file and write them so they can be read efficiently. Running Scandisk and Defrag regularly (daily if needed, but at least weekly), can keep your system's performance high. Scheduling them to run automatically (at 2 a.m. on Sunday for instance) can free you and your co-workers from having to wait while they run.

Upcoming Meetings

The regular meetings of SBE Chapter 59 are the second Thursday of every month.

December 14
January 11
February 8

The Computer Connection columns provide information that may help you prepare to take the SBE CBNT exam. For more information on SBE certification, contact SBE59 certification chairman Joe Snelson, go to www.sbe.org, or call (317) 253-1640.

CBNT Ennes Workshop Planned for NAB2001

In response to the interest expressed in the new Broadcast Networking Technologist certification (CBNT), a special Ennes Workshop will be held at NAB2001 with the sole topic being a five-hour program on broadcast networking technology. The Ennes Workshop will be held Saturday, April 21 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Attendees will have the opportunity to take the SBE CBNT examination at the end of the workshop. Registration for the exam will be encouraged in advance, although on-site registration will be possible. ☺

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