

Meeting Notice

Thursday, June 14, Penton Media

9800 Metcalf; Overland Park, KS; 913-341-1300

Gather at 11:30 a.m., lunch served at 11:45, meeting at noon

RF mapping software. John Gray, director of research and development for V-Soft Communications, will discuss the methods of evaluating signal coverage and predicting RF interference through the use of RF mapping software. His discussion will include an overview of the V-Soft Probe 3 software for FM and TV. Gray will also have examples of the company's AM and FM allocation tools.

Pizza will be served for lunch courtesy of V-Soft Communications. Upon entering the building, tell the receptionist that you are attending the SBE meeting. You will sign in and be directed to the fifth floor.

Last Month's Meeting

By Ben Weiss, CPBE

The May meeting of SBE59 was held May 10, 2007 at Zarda Barbecue in Lenexa. There were 15 in attendance. Chriss Scherer, national SBE president, called the business meeting to order.

Following the election of chapter officers at the March meeting and the re-election of both the current chairman Matt Kinnan and vice chairman Ken Cox, Matt announced that he would not be able to accept another term. Others spoke on Ken's behalf to note that he is likely in the same situation. Neither were able to attend the May meeting. At the April meeting Chriss Scherer, who, in the absence of Matt Kinnan, led the business meeting, nominated Robin Cross for chairman, Dave Buell for vice chairman, and Ben Weiss for secretary/treasurer, to be voted upon at the May meeting.

Chriss opened the floor for additional nominations, but there were none. Chriss called for a voice vote and the result was unanimous for all three elected positions. Then Chriss turned the business meeting over to the chapter's newly elected chairman, Robin Cross.

Ben Weiss read the minutes of the April meeting. After a minor correction, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Chriss and seconded by Mike Rogers; motion passed.

Kirk Chestnut, Kansas City metro EAS chairman, told us all was quiet on the EAS front. He remarked that ham radio operators have been helping to provide communications in the tornado-ravaged area of Greensburg, KS.

There was no frequency coordination report.

Regarding certification, Chriss Scherer remarked that he

will proctor an exam in June. Also, the deadline to register for the August exams is June 8. Finally, he stated that the national SBE is creating a new Specialist certification called the Digital Radio Broadcast Specialist (DRB). Testing will start in the fall.

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Chapter Program Chairman Mike Rogers stated that the June meeting will feature John Gray of V-Soft Communications to be held at the offices of Penton Media. The July meeting program will be presented by Network Integration Services at its facility in Olathe.

Both Robin and Chriss gave brief reports on the NAB2007 convention in Las Vegas, including highlights of the SBE meetings that were held. Chriss noted that the EAS meeting and the SBE membership meeting are available as podcasts.

Finally, Ben presented Chriss Scherer with a plaque from the chapter recognizing his many years of service developing and editing the chapter's monthly newsletter.

The motion to adjourn was by Chriss and the second by Kirk Chestnut.

The meeting presentation was organized by Ginger Routh of Roscor. The presentation provided an overview of several technologies that were displayed at NAB2007, and included video routing, cameras and storage. Lunch was provided by Roscor.

Certification Exam Dates		
<i>Exam Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>App. Deadline</i>
Jun 1 - 11, 2007	Local Chapter	Closed
Aug 10 - 20, 2007	Local Chapter	Jun 8, 2007
Nov 9 - 19, 2007	Local Chapter	Sep 21, 2007

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Chairman's Chat Hello and Thanks

By Robin Cross

As you just read in the meeting review from last month, the chapter held officer elections once again, and I was elected to be the chairman of SBE59. I'm honored that the chapter has placed its trust in me to lead. The chapter also selected Dave Buell to serve as the vice chairman, and I look forward to working with him over the coming year. I'm acquainting myself with the responsibilities of this elected office, and in next month's column I'll share some ideas on goals and objectives for the chapter. Until then I welcome your input and ideas.

I also want to express thanks to Matt Kinnan and Ken Cox for their service as chairman and vice chairman of the chapter over the past two years. I recall that they were both reluctant to take on the responsibilities when they were elected, but they have both made worthy contributions to the chapter. I hope that you'll extend your own personal thanks the next time you see them.

At the May meeting I mentioned that I would like to offer space in the Communicator to any member in the market to voice his or her opinion on a relevant topic. Think of it as your own personal soap box if you like. I know that there is something about which you have an opinion, so share it with your peers. We'll start that in the July issue of the Communicator. Send your ideas to me or to Chriss Scherer.

Speaking of ideas, Mike Rogers work diligently to arrange interesting and informative monthly programs for the chapter, and he has several in place for the coming months. He can always use additional ideas. If there is a topic that interests you but a program has not been offered to cover it, let him know. Likewise, as you talk to manufacturers and dealers for your own station and facility needs, keep the chapter in mind. Share the information with Mike for a possible meeting topic.

Kansas City Hosts SBE RF Safety Course

The Society of Broadcast Engineers will present the SBE RF Safety Course on June 27. The course will be presented via webcast from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. CDT. The course is designed for broadcast station personnel such as chief and assistant chief engineers, transmitter site engineers, ENG and SNG maintenance personnel and management that need to have an understanding of RF safety issues and regulations. Instructing the course will be noted RF safety expert, Richard Strickland of RF Safety Solutions.

A limited number of sites are available to host the presentation stream, and Kansas City has reserved one of the sites. The chapter has arranged to meet at the Kansas City Emergency Operations Center and use its facilities.

Registration for the course is required. Register through the SBE national office (317-846-9000). The chapter expects that we will have at least four attendees, so the individual cost should be \$75. Individuals must register with the SBE national office by June 26.

Course details and the registration form are online at www.sbe.org/documents/RFSafetyCourse.pdf.

This is the first time that the course is being offered, and Kansas City was fortunate to reserve one of the nine available host sites.

SBE Posts Podcasts from NAB2007 Meetings

The SBE holds several meetings during the NAB convention, and even if you attend the convention it's not always easy to attend every one. Two of them were recorded this year and have been posted to the SBE website. The annual membership meeting and the annual EAS meeting are available.

A link to the audio files is currently on the SBE home page. When a permanent section link is available, that information will be distributed in *The Communicator*.

FCC Presents DIRS Training

In May, the Federal Communications Commission conducted training on its Disaster Information Reporting System (DIRS) for various communications services. A conference call for broadcasters to learn how the system works was held on May 23. The system is designed to help the government respond to disasters by providing the necessary materials and supplies for communications needs where they are needed most. The program was established following the lessons learned after Hurricane Katrina. The new system will serve as a focal point for information on the condition of communications infrastructure in affected areas. DIRS will only be activated for catastrophic situations.

John Healy of the FCC led the training. He provided an overview of the system and its function to coordinate the planning for and provision of national security and emergency preparedness communications. One function of the system will be to collect and update information about communications networks (including broadcast stations) in affected areas during and after an emergency.

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The FCC asks all broadcasters to register with the site to build the database. The online system is currently in its final beta form, and the final production site should be unveiled in mid-June. For now, the system can be accessed at <https://selafoss.fcc.gov/nors/disaster/> (the final slash is needed for the link to function). Once there, stations can create a profile and provide the requested information.

If a disaster is declared and the system is activated, an e-message will be sent to all the active contacts in the DIRS. That message will contain the URL of the production version of DIRS, and it will include a method to retrieve the password to access the system. Once logged in, stations will be provided with information about the reporting schedule to provide station status updates to the FCC through the DIRS. Stations will be asked to provide updates daily.

Once the final DIRS site is activated, the actual link will be forwarded to the chapter.

ATSC Seeks Proposals for Mobile Spec

The Advanced Television Systems Committee (ATSC) Technology and Standards Group (TSG) has issued a request for proposals to identify potential specifications to be used for its mobile and handheld standard (ATSC-M/H). The ATSC-M/H standard will enable delivery of TV content and data to mobile and handheld devices via broadcast DTV signals. Services based on ATSC-M/H will not preclude or prevent operation of current ATSC services or have any adverse impact on legacy receiving equipment. ATSC-M/H will support a variety of services including free (advertiser-supported) television content and other services delivered in real-time; mobile and handheld subscription-based TV; non-real-time content download, to playback later; datacasting; interactive television and real-time navigation data for in-vehicle use.

The RFP can be accessed at www.atsc.org. Preliminary responses including an overview of the proposal are due on June 21, 2007. Detailed descriptions of the proposal are due on July 6, 2007.

Disaster Recovery Center Opens in Edwards County KS

A third federal-state Disaster Recovery Center is now available to help Kansans affected by the severe storms, tornadoes and flooding that occurred in May. The mobile center operated by the Federal Emergency Management

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

Agency (FEMA) is located in Trousdale City Park, at Cooper and Main Streets. The facility will be open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.

The center is staffed by representatives from FEMA, who can answer questions about registering for disaster assistance and hazard mitigation, and from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to help with disaster loan applications.

Other Disaster Recovery Centers are open seven days a week in Greensburg's Court House Square and in Haviland at Barclay Community College.

Passing the Baton

By Chriss Scherer

If you look at the contacts list on page 6, you'll see several changes have been made since last month. The top two are our chapter chairman, Robin Cross, and vice chairman, Dave Buell. Both have been active with the chapter for some time, and both have already made contributions to the chapter. Now they will do so in an official capacity.

Stepping down from those positions are Matt Kinnan and Ken Cox. They, too, have made significant contributions to the chapter, and they must also be recognized and congratulated for what they have done over the past two years.

I hope that you have also noticed the overall change in the look of the newsletter this month. At the end of 2005, Chris Castro took over the newsletter duties from me so that I could focus on my duties with the SBE on the national level. While I still have a few months left as the national president, Chris needed to reduce his chapter workload, and I offered to return to the newsletter duties.

So while some things have changed, some have stayed the same. Ben Weiss, the chapter's long-time secretary/treasurer and unofficial anchor for the chapter, continues with his duties in his expected reliable fashion, Mike Rogers keeps lining up monthly programs and meeting locations for us, Kirk Chestnut still minds the store on EAS, and Chris Castro is the man to call for frequency coordination issues.

But there are more people involved in the chapter's ongoing success. Each of you reading this newsletter has a part in maintaining the chapter's health. You can contribute in many ways. Suggest a program idea to Mike Rogers. Offer to host a meeting. Contribute something to this newsletter. We're here to help each other. ☺

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<p>Upcoming Chapter Meetings and Events</p> <p>June 14 <i>RF Mapping Software</i> John Gray, V-Soft <i>Penton Media</i></p> <p>July 12 <i>Computer Networking</i> Obie Dixon and Reid Graham <i>Network Integration Services</i></p> <p>August 9 September 13</p> <p>Do you have a suggestion for a program topic? Please share it with Mike Rogers.</p>
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Newest SBE Chapter 142 Puerto Rico

During a conference call in May, the SBE board of directors unanimously voted in favor of approving the application for the creation of chapter 142 in Puerto Rico. Of all the SBE chapters that exist, only two others are based outside the contiguous 48 states: 89 Alaska and 126 Saipan.

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. Information is always welcomed from Kansas City stations. Send the information to a chapter officer or sbe59@yahoo.com

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