



Meeting Notice

Thursday, November 8, Zarda Barbecue

11931 W. 87th St.; Lenexa; 913-492-2330

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

A Checklist for Improving Automation Efficiency. Most broadcast automation systems now have the ability to execute a schedule with little or no operator intervention. Automating a playlist schedule is only part of the solution for achieving overall high efficiency in originating channels. Maintaining an accurate, up-to-date schedule and preparing and organizing content for playout still involves many manual processes. Doug Wynn, regional sales manager of VCI, will discuss the expanded role of facility automation and offer methods to improve its efficiency.

Lunch will be provided by VCI.

Last Month's Meeting

By Ed Treese

The October meeting of Chapter 59 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers was held Oct. 11, 2007 at Zarda Barbecue in Lenexa. There were 14 in attendance. Robin Cross, chairman, called the business meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

Ed Treese read the minutes of the September meeting in the absence of secretary/treasurer Ben Weiss. Ed Treese also provided the treasurer's report. The motion to approve the minutes and accept the treasurer's report was made by Kirk Chestnut and seconded by Ken Cox. Passed.

Lloyd Collins, Missouri EAS coordinator, provided an update on the status of an Internet-based alert system that is currently being tested. Soon the Missouri State EAS Plan will be posted on the Missouri Broadcasters Association website. He said it is the old version and will not be updated until the FCC changes under review have been approved. The bad news is these changes may require new equipment.

Kirk Chestnut, Kansas City EAS coordinator, reported some TV stations have had trouble setting the correct time on TFT EAS equipment. No one present responded with any problems.

Robin asked if anyone listened to the national SBE meeting webcast on Oct. 11. No one had.

Greg Best is working on the DTV seminar. He is working with Robin to determine a suitable location.

Robin reported that Mike Rogers has resigned as program chairman. Robin would like a committee to be formed of two radio personnel and two TV personnel to serve as the program committee. No one volunteered.

There were no other committee chairmen present to provide reports.

Brad Gilliland, FCC investigative agent, presented the attendees with packets of information to use for informing the public about the pending end of analog television transmission, which will occur on Feb. 17, 2009. The FCC is offering presentations to groups concerning this transition. Expect announcements soon about set-top converters.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Jay Tyler of Wheatstone discussed audio processing in general and provided insight into the design concept of using 31 bands, which is the foundation of the Vorsis digital audio processor, a new processing line from Wheatstone.

Lunch was provided by Wheatstone.

Chairman's Chat

Volunteer and Make a Difference

By Robin Cross

You will notice with this issue that there is a change to the Program Committee. Mike Rogers has stepped down as chairman of that committee. What happened? There used to be two cochairmen for the Programs Committee, and when one person left, he was not replaced. Mike has a heavy workload now, and can't dedicate the time that he would like to the position. Thank you Mike for all you have done for the chapter over the past few years.

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Certification Exam Dates		
<i>Exam Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>App. Deadline</i>
Nov 9 -19, 2007	Local Chapter	<i>closed</i>
Feb 8 - 18, 2008	Local Chapter	Dec 31, 2007
Apr 15, 2008	NAB2008	Feb 29, 2008

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Now I'll ask you to help serve on the Programs Committee. If you have a few extra minutes a month, then here is a way to show how much you value the SBE. As I envision it, there would be at least four people on the committee: two from radio and two from TV. Having a committee shares the workload, and we should never let it get down to one person; ever. This causes burnout and that I understand. Having a group working on it can make fun if you let it. Being from radio I know nothing about what is going on in TV currently. (I worked in TV 20 years ago, but that doesn't mean I know what current developments are.)

I'm asking for your help. *Please step forward.* You will network with other people, which could improve your career.

Broadcasters, Federal Agencies Discuss Next-generation Public Alerting

On Oct. 17, the Society of Broadcast Engineers chaired a meeting in Washington, DC, to discuss the next generation of public alerting. Attending the meeting with the SBE were representatives of the FCC, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Association of Broadcasters and the National Alliance of State Broadcast Associations (NASBA). The purpose of the meeting was to bring together federal agencies responsible for developing and implementing an improved emergency notification system with representatives of the broadcast industry. Representing the SBE at the meeting were Clay Freinwald, national SBE Emergency Alert System Committee chairman, who led the meeting, Richard Rudman, a member of the SBE's EAS Committee, and John Poray, executive director.

Based on comments from the representatives of the federal agencies in attendance, there is much work to be done before any firm plan for the next-generation alerting plan will be known. The agencies all said that input from the broadcast industry is needed and will be solicited to help design the system. FEMA, which has primary responsibility for system architecture, anticipates a system that will provide redundancy and resiliency. FEMA said its Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) plan will essentially be a "system of systems" and that a next generation of EAS would constitute one of those systems. NASBA representatives made it clear that funding for any required equipment should come from the federal government.

FEMA is preparing a first assessment of architecture for the White House, due by Dec. 31, 2007. SBE representatives came away from the meeting feeling that there will likely be no action required of local broadcasters for at

least a year and possibly longer. The group anticipates another meeting in January 2008 to hear updates from the federal agencies and continue the dialog.

Audio and Video Aren't What They Used to Be

By Steve Epstein, CPBE

steve@broadcastbuyersguide.com

Last month I stated that the network was growing. This month, there are even more changes heading our way. I had already seen a prototype 8-VSB receiver that output MPEG 4 as an IP multicast. At Telco TV, I have seen several ready-to-ship versions from several vendors. These units have no composite video output and no audio output. In some cases there are only two connectors on the back, an F connector for RF in and an RJ-45 for communication/output. Nowhere inside will you find anything other than digital signals.

Websites such as Youtube, Ipods, podcasts and a host of enabling technology have brought media to our viewers/listeners. Along the way, many of these viewers/listeners have become knowledgeable in the basics of audio and video. Many more have more become experts in .WAV, .M2T, .TS and many more file types. As the change continues from linear media to on-demand streaming are you upgrading your skill set?

When I was the assistant chief at KSMO, one of the maintenance engineers was skilled on tape machines, but little else. One day I asked him what he would do if all the tape machines disappeared tomorrow. His response was, "I will learn something new when they all disappear."

Not a very proactive response.

We have no tape machines at Century Tel, and quite honestly, at KMIZ we sent the machines out due to the complexity and tools required. The writing is on the wall, and it won't be long before analog audio and video are the exception rather than the rule. If you are not prepared for that, now is the time to prepare, or get started on your retirement plans.

Reporting Tower Light Outages

By Chriss Scherer

I shared this information with the chapter several months ago, but based on reactions I have heard from around the country, it appears that the information has not been widely acknowledged.

The FAA has established a single, nationwide phone number to log NOTAMS. Call 877-487-6867 and the call will

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be routed to the appropriate flight service center.

In the past, tower owners would often call a local FAA flight service center to report the outage. Some flight centers continue to accept calls, but many stations and tower owners are finding that the phone number for a local flight service center has changed after the outage occurs.

When you call, be prepared to provide the tower registration number (also called an ASR number). This is the seven-digit number that is assigned to all FCC-registered towers. The person taking the information, called a briefer, will provide a file number to reference the report. The tower owner should keep this number on file in the station log.

A NOTAM is valid for 15 days. It will automatically expire at that time, and the FAA will notify the FCC that the out-

2008 Kansas City RMT EAS Schedule

This schedule will be followed for the required monthly tests for 2008. The station indicated will originate the test. The RMT is always sent on the last Tuesday of the month.

<i>January 29</i> 1:45 to 2:00 p.m. KCSP-AM	<i>July 29</i> 1:45 to 2:00 p.m. KCSP-AM
<i>February 26</i> 12:45 to 1:00 a.m. KCMO-FM	<i>August 26</i> 12:45 to 1:00 a.m. KCMO-FM
<i>March 25</i> 1:45 to 2:00 p.m. KCSP-AM	<i>September 30</i> 1:45 to 2:00 p.m. KCSP-AM
<i>April 29</i> 12:45 to 1:00 a.m. KCMO-FM	<i>October 28</i> 12:45 to 1:00 a.m. KCMO-FM
<i>May 27</i> 1:45 to 2:00 p.m. KCSP-AM	<i>November 25</i> 1:45 to 2:00 p.m. KCSP-AM
<i>June 24</i> 12:45 to 1:00 a.m. KCMO-FM	<i>December 30</i> 12:45 to 1:00 a.m. KCMO-FM

Next EAS Required Monthly Test: November 27
The RMT is sent on the last Tuesday of the month

age has been corrected. If the outage is not corrected within 15 days, the station should call the NOTAM office and file a new NOTAM. This will delete the old one and create a new one.

When a tower is not properly lit because of a light outage, the tower owner is required to notify the FAA. Doing so creates a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) that is available to all pilot in regularly published notices and also through the FAA's NOTAM phone service at 800-WX-BRIEF.

The change is the result of an FAA study that showed that it economically practical to contract the function to a private company. The company that won the contract is Lockheed Martin.

The service, called Flight Service 21 (FS21), will consist of hubs located in Fort Worth, TX; Leesburg, VA; and Prescott, AZ. All three hubs went into operational testing mode in January 2007. Other FS21 facilities will be established in Albuquerque, NM; Columbia, MO; Denver, CO; Honolulu; Islip, NY; Kankakee, IL; Lansing, MI; Macon, GA; Miami; Nashville, TN; Oakland, CA; Princeton, MN; Raleigh, NC; St. Petersburg, FL; San Diego, CA; San Juan, PR; and Seattle, WA. These facilities were due to be retrofitted with the new FS21 system during 2007. All the FS21 facilities will be tied together in a super network, sharing a common database. Every briefer will have access to all information.

Unidentified Interference Update

By Dave Buell

From time to time over the last year or so, the subject of unidentified interference to satellite feeds has been discussed at several SBE59 meetings. The interference is a brief, very strong pulse, broad in spectrum, occurring approximately every 50 seconds. Brad Gilliland at the FCC received a DVD of analog satellite video exhibiting the interference from a chapter member, and the FCC concurs with the chapter's feeling that the source is military in nature.

Gilliland asks anyone observing this interference in the future to log it and send that information to him. His contact info:

Brad Gilliland, Investigative Agent
Enforcement Bureau, FCC
520 NE Cobern Road, 2nd Floor
Lee's Summit, MO 64086
816-316-1248
Brad.Gilliland@fcc.gov

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Kurt Caruthers
Director of Sales, Central Region

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Upcoming Chapter Meetings and Events
<p>November 8 <i>Improving Automation Efficiency</i> Doug Wynn, VCI <i>Zarda Barbecue, Lenexa</i></p>
<p>December 6 <i>VSB Measurement Seminar</i> Gary Sgrignoli <i>Location TBA</i></p>
<p>December 13 <i>Capacitor Troubleshooting</i> Doug Jones, Midwest Devices <i>Location TBA</i></p>
<p>Do you have a suggestion for a program topic? Please share it with Dave Buell.</p>

SBE59 Plans to Host VSB Seminar

Greg Best is working with the chapter to arrange another VSB seminar conducted by Gary Sgrignoli of MSW. The chapter hosted Sgrignoli's VSB Fundamentals seminar in July 2005. This time, the topic will be VSB Measurements, which will cover the tools used and methods used to ensure that a digital TV signal is performing at its peak.

The seminar will be held on Dec. 6. Specific details of the location and cost will be distributed shortly. Be sure to hold the date open on your calendar.

SBE59 Officers

Chairman Robin Cross KCUR-FM ... 816- 235-2880 crossr@umkc.edu
 Vice Chairman Dave Buell, CEV University of Central Missouri ... 660-441-7421 dbuell@ucmo.edu
 Secretary/Treasurer Ben Weiss, CPBE KMXV-FM/KCKC-FM/KFKF-FM/KBEQ-FM ... 816-753-4000 bweiss@wilkskc.com
 Past Chairman Matt Kinnan, CEV CBNT Taketwo Productions ... 816-471-6554 mkinnan@taketwo.tv

SBE59 Committees

Certification Chriss Scherer, CPBE CBNT Radio magazine ... 913-967-7201 cscherer@sbe.org
 EAS K.C. Operational Area Kirk Chestnut, CSRE Entercom Kansas City ... 913-677-6462 kchestnut@entercom.com
 Frequency Coordination Chris Castro, CBT KSHB-TV ... 816-932-4304 castro@kshb.com
 Newsletter Chriss Scherer, CPBE CBNT Radio magazine ... 913-967-7201 cscherer@sbe.org
 Programs (pro tem) Dave Buell, CEV University of Central Missouri ... 660-441-7421 dbuell@ucmo.edu
 Website John Gray V-Soft Communications ... 913-693-7744 jgray@v-soft.com

Chapter 59 e-mail: sbe59@yahoo.com

Chapter 59 list server: sbe-kc@yahoogroups.com



SBE Chapter 59
 c/o Radio magazine (Scherer)
 9800 Metcalf
 Overland Park, KS 66212