

**Meeting Notice**

**Thursday, October 9, Zarda Barbecue**

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

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

*HD Radio and the 10dB power increase.* Ted Lantz, HD Radio product manager for Broadcast Electronics, will discuss the proposed 10dB power increase for the digital sidebands in the hybrid HD Radio signal. His presentation will explore how this change may effect implementation for broadcasters, overview the benefits and issues involved in the change, and detail the effect on transmitter equipment. The primary topic of discussion will be based on how the 10dB power increase will affect broadcasters when implementing an HD Radio system from both a technical and financial standpoint. ○

**Last Month's Meeting**

*By Chriss Scherer, CPBE CBNT*

The September 2008 meeting of the Society of Broadcast Engineers Chapter 59 was held Sept. 11, 2008, at the facilities of the National Weather Service in Pleasant Hill, MO. There were 10 people in attendance. Dave Buell, chapter vice chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

After a round of introductions from the attendees, Chriss Scherer, acting as secretary pro tem for Ben Weiss, read the minutes from the August meeting. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Kirk Chestnut and seconded by Chris Castro. Motion passed.

Scherer then provided the treasurer's report on behalf of Weiss. There was one disbursement in August for the lunch drawing at the August meeting. The motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Chriss Scherer and seconded by Kirk Chestnut. Motion passed.

Chris Castro, frequency coordination committee chairman, noted the recent FCC announcement that wireless mic usage in 700MHz will likely be disallowed after Feb. 2009. Many stations will be affected and they are making plans to retune those mic transmitters now. Castro noted concern that it is unclear how this policy will be policed by the FCC.

Castro said that he continues to receive many coordination requests. With football season starting, his GDC work takes a great deal of time. He has also received coordination requests from NASCAR for the race to be held in late September. The number of coordination requests from non-broadcast users (particularly churches) continues to increase as well.

Kirk Chestnut, EAS Committee chairman, reported no activity per se, but broadcasters are watching the clock for the official adoption of CAP from FEMA. It was noted

that manufacturers suggest getting new EAS encoders/decoders now before the rush sets in so we do not repeat the frenzy that was created when EAS was first initiated in 1996.

Programs Chairman Kirk Chestnut reviewed the upcoming programs through November. He also previewed the program being planned for February 2009, which will be a wake for analog TV.

Certification Committee Chairman Chriss Scherer noted the upcoming deadline to apply for the November exams. He also repeated his offer to provide private proctoring if the official exam schedule is not convenient.

While not really a chapter business item, Kirk Chestnut reported that the Wallace Road transmitter site was the victim of vandalism and metal theft for the 8th time. The

site tenants are working with Entercom, the site owner, as it continues to step up its efforts to improve security. One piece of good news (from the stations' point of view) is that a suspect was arrested for stealing copper and brass from the site and selling it to a scrap dealer.

The motion to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. was made by Kirk Chestnut and seconded by John Gray. Motion passed.

The program was a facility tour of the National Weather Service office. Andy Bailey, warning coordination meteorologist, was our host. The tour began outside at the base of the Doppler radar antenna where Bailey dis-

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| Certification Exam Dates |                 |                      |
|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| <i>Exam Date</i>         | <i>Location</i> | <i>App. Deadline</i> |
| Feb 6 - 16, 2008         | Local Chapter   | Dec 31, 2008         |
| Apr 21, 2009             | 2009 NAB        | Apr 1, 2009          |
| Jun 5 - 15, 2009         | Local Chapter   | Apr 17, 2009         |




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cussed the technical aspects of the facility and explained how the radar works, including its limitations. The tour then moved back inside where we were shown the various tools that are available to track atmospheric conditions. This data is then analyzed and used in various models to predict weather.

### Chairman's Chat

#### Going Digital

By Robin Cross

Being on the radio side of things, I am not privy to details of what is going on in TV. I recently got one of the DTV converter boxes. Now it sounds like there is a move to change the encoding/decoding method used in DTV. I am not sure how this will affect all the legacy DTVs and converters that have already been sold. It is interesting that with a dipole antenna that I can receive all but one of the DTV channels in town. I live in Raytown and my antenna is one that wraps around my satellite dish. It is mounted about 2 feet from the ground. The pictures look very good on my NTSC TV using the video out. I'm not sure about the video but I can hear the difference between the video/audio outs and the modulator out. I am sure that the HD picture would look fabulous.

Recently I have fielded several calls from listeners who were asking about HD Radio. There is no set date for a cutover like for TV, but if there were it would be much easier to answer the questions. Yes, there are many "hidden" channels that can be received when using an HD Radio. With about eight or so stations in the Kansas City metro transmitting an HD Radio signal, it is not a compelling reason to purchase a radio. It is particularly not a good idea to suggest an HD Radio to someone who lives in the FM fringe area of reception. They would be past the digital "cliff."

With this in mind, the suggestion of increasing the power of the digital sideband signals in the FM channel sounds very good. This may work in the commercial part of the FM band. In the reserved or educational part of the band, since stations are protected only to their signal contour, many stations are nestled much closer than in the FM commercial sub-band. This is just on the receiving side. On the transmitting side it is a much more complicated situation. Of the four methods of transmitting HD Radio, only one or two are practical from an efficiency standpoint. Where this goes and how much of an increase can be allowed without interference to first and second adjacent allocations is the big question. The study and investigation goes on as well as the debate.

How soon to retirement?

### SBE59 Holds Annual Picnic

Our annual social gathering was held at Ed Treese's house on Lake Lotawana. The chapter provided hamburgers and several varieties of sausages from Werner's Specialty Foods in Mission. Tom Presley of Northland Electric supplied several door prizes:

- two \$25 Gift Certificates to Chili's
- two \$25 Gift Certificates to Applebee's
- one \$50 Gift Certificate to Outback Steak House
- two cooler/tote bags
- four sports bottles
- a set of two beer glasses
- numerous pens

The prizes were awarded through a random drawing, and everyone who attended received at least one prize. Thanks to Ed and Barbara Treese for hosting the event. Thanks to Kirk Chestnut for playing grillmaster.

Because of an oversight, there was no hidden member number in the September issue of *The Communicator*, so there are two member numbers in this issue: 24500 and 21480. Contact Robin Cross to claim your prize.

### EAS Manufacturers Develop CAP Profile

The EAS-CAP Industry Group, a coalition of equipment, software and service providers to the Emergency Alert System, have released a draft profile for the effective use and translation of the open, non-proprietary Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) for the next generation of broadcast EAS. The profile is an important step towards improving interoperability across agencies, jurisdictions, systems and vendors, helping to ensure that the public benefits from improved capabilities to communicate weather, civil, AMBER and other alerts via broadcast media.

The industry group will provide this profile as a recommendation to U.S. governmental agencies and industry associations on the use of CAP for EAS purposes, including the FCC, FEMA, National Weather Service and other organizations. Group members intend to rapidly implement the EAS-CAP profile within their own systems and equipment.

The EAS-CAP profile provides developers and manufacturers guidelines as to which elements in a CAP message are required for an EAS message, identifies how a mandatory alert from a state/territorial governor would be identified, describes basic authentication and security features, recommends accepted formats for audio messages, and other features.

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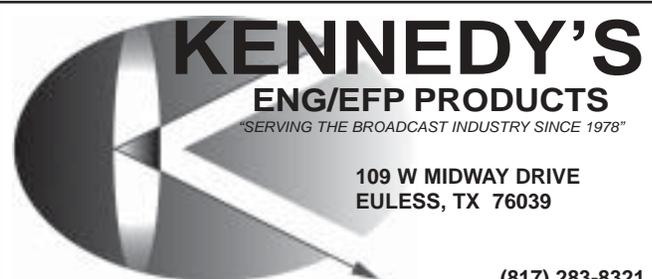
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The group's work is accessible on its website ([www.eascap.org](http://www.eascap.org)), and the group will offer a mechanism for public comment on that site. The group plans to continue its work to solicit feedback and provide recommendations to EAS stakeholders.

The group was established in response to the July 2007 decision by the FCC to maintain EAS and have all U.S. EAS participants adopt an ability to receive messages using the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) within 180 days after FEMA formally adopts CAP version 1.1 as a standard for EAS. FEMA's announcement on CAP adoption is expected in the first quarter of 2009.

The Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) is a simple but general format for exchanging all-hazard emergency alerts and public warnings over all kinds of networks. CAP allows a consistent warning message to be disseminated simultaneously over many different warning systems, such as computers, wireless communications, alarms, and television, radio and cable via broadcast EAS.

Group members supporting the EAS-CAP Profile include Digital Alert Systems, Hormann America, Ibiqity Digital, Monroe Electronics, My State USA, Sage Alerting Systems, Spectrarep, TFT, Trilithic and Warning Systems.

#### SBE Statement on Wireless Mics at 944-952MHz

The reallocation of television channels 52-69 (698-806MHz, commonly called the 700MHz band) for public safety and commercial broadband use has resulted in a severe reduction in available spectrum for Part 74 Low Power Auxiliary (LPA) operation. This has created a scramble for spectrum on which licensed wireless microphones (WMs) and other LPA facilities can operate.

The SBE is aware that manufacturers are producing and selling WMs that operate in the 944-952 MHz Aural Broadcast Auxiliary Services (BAS) band. Section 74.802 of the FCC Rules permits broadcast licensees and networks to operate LPA devices in the 950MHz Aural BAS band. Cable television operators, motion picture producers and television program producers are not eligible to use any BAS band for LPA operation except unoccupied television channels. Retailers and dealers of equipment have actively marketed these products to ineligible entities, and their marketing has been accompanied by misrepresentations and lack of candor regarding the obligations of users of the devices.

**Next EAS Required Monthly Test: October 28**  
**The RMT is sent on the last Tuesday of the month**

The SBE advocates the interests of licensed users of BAS spectrum and provides volunteer BAS spectrum frequency coordination. The active marketing, sale, or leasing to ineligible or unlicensed persons, or the operation by those persons of LPA WMs is wrong and unlawful, and endangers reliable broadcast and BAS operation.

The SBE asks SBE-affiliated frequency coordinators to continue to work with eligible entities that wish to obtain LPA licenses or to operate licensed stations in the 950MHz Aural BAS band where possible without disruption of aural STLs and ICRs. However, the SBE will provide assistance and serve as a resource to the FCC Enforcement Bureau in locating entities whom illegally operate Part 74 wireless microphones without benefit of the required FCC license, especially where interference is caused.

Wireless microphones with powers of 100 to 250mW (20 to 24dBm) have field strengths far too high to operate as unlicensed, Part 15 devices; these are certified by FCC for use under Part 74, not Part 15. They must be operated only by a Part 74 licensee.

#### **SBE National Webcast Set for Oct. 13**

For a second consecutive year, the SBE will produce a one-hour national Web conference on Oct. 13. The program will begin at 7 p.m. CDT and emanate from the facilities of Wisconsin Public Television in Madison, WI. The program will feature SBE President Barry Thomas, Vice President Vinny Lopez and other SBE national leaders. Viewers will be able to ask questions during the program.

The program will also be available via satellite. Login information and satellite coordinates will be available after Oct. 1 at the SBE website, [www.sbe.org](http://www.sbe.org).

#### **FM Tagging Comes to Zune**

Nine radio broadcast groups have committed to provide song tags via RBDS for song tagging on new Zune media players. Zune media players have a built-in FM tuner and users can use this tuner to tag and then retrieve songs broadcast from any tagging-enabled FM radio station. Beasley, Bonneville, CBS Radio, Citadel, Clear Channel Radio, Cox Radio, Emmis, Entercom and Greater Media will broadcast the FM song tags via RBDS.

Newer Zune devices also have Wi-fi connectivity built-in, so a user can purchase tagged songs when he enters a Wi-fi hotspot directly from the player. Shortly after the tagging capability was announced, Microsoft entered an agreement with McDonalds so Zune users can access the Wi-fi at participating restaurants for free. ○



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Upcoming Chapter Meetings and Events

October 9

HD Radio and 10dB Power Increase
Ted Lantz, Broadcast Electronics
Zarda Barbecue, Lenexa

November 13

Audio for HDTV
Linear Acoustic
Location needed. Will you volunteer?

December 11

DTV and 5.1
SSL, Wohler, Dolby
Zarda Barbecue, Lenexa

January 8

Agilent Networks

February 12

An NTSC Wake

March 12

Engineer Appreciation Lunch
RF Specialties

April 9

Transmitter Site Security
Glenn Williams, Jim Schultz
Wallace Rd. Tower

Share your program ideas with Kirk Chestnut.

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