

**Meeting Notice****Thursday, May 12, Majestic Steak House**

931 Broadway; Kansas City, MO 64105; 816-471-8484

Gather and lunch at 11:30 a.m.; meeting at noon; program to follow

*COFDM in ENG Transmissions.* Tish Boyles from Morrow Technologies will discuss monitoring digital transmissions. The transition to digital ENG necessitates changes not only to transmit and receive hardware, but also to the tools and methods utilized to monitor and maintain signal quality. Historically, the TV/monitor approach has been the *de facto* industry-standard for analog transmissions. The remote spectrum analyzer will become the new standard for monitoring and control in the digital domain.

Morrow Technologies will provide lunch. Please RSVP to Matt Kinnan at 816-471-6554 or [mkinnan64108@yahoo.com](mailto:mkinnan64108@yahoo.com) by May 11 so an appropriate reservation can be made. ☺



Certification Exam Dates		
Exam Date	Location	App. Deadline
Jun 3-13	Local Chapter	CLOSED
Aug 12 - 22	Local Chapter	Jun 10
Nov 11 - 21	Local Chapter	Sep 23

**Last Month's Meeting***By Ben Weiss*

The April meeting was held April 14 at the studios of KCUR-FM. There were eight in attendance. Matt Kinnan, chapter chairman, presided over the business meeting. The meeting was hosted by Mike Douthat, director of technical services of KCUR-FM.

Kirk Chestnut, Kansas City area EAS chairman, reported that the KAB was having several training sessions regarding Amber alerts for station management, news and engineering personnel. The first one is scheduled to be in Salina on April 15.

There was a brief discussion regarding the future of the chapter newsletter. It was noted that the newsletter, in printed and mailed form, has value for several reasons, among them:

1. Members who can't attend the meetings can keep up on chapter activity, past and present.
2. Articles written by chapter members count toward recertification.
3. Outlet for technical information.
4. The sponsors get visual ad space for their commitment to sponsor the newsletter.

It was noted that Chriss Scherer still needs help in writing articles and preparing the layout for the newsletter.

The program was a tour of the facilities of KCUR-FM.

**Chairman's Chat****Facility Documentation***By Matt Kinnan, CEV CBNT*

The other day I had the opportunity to tour a local video production company in town. I was excited to see how the facility was laid out, and how it dealt with the various audio, video and data signals. The facility is so new I figured I would see colored wires denoting signals and bar-coded labels for identification, however, I found quite the opposite.

Not only were wires unlabeled, I saw no evidence of wire identification or signal type codes. Some wires draped out of the back of racks, some were lying on the floor, and some were cut short so the wires looked forced in place. For such a new facility, I wondered what caused this lack of attention to such an important part of a facility. My guess: money, time and the lack of a good engineer.

As an engineer of a facility, it's your duty to make sure the facility has full documentation of every wire and signal path throughout. If it doesn't, you should make sure that someone above you knows just how costly of a mistake this could be.

Documentation of a facility, even after it has been installed, might seem hard and time consuming, but the alternative could cost you more than just money.

Starting off, label wires as soon as you can. Document that label information in a simple spreadsheet, no matter how basic it is. Draw rough diagrams and flow charts of signal paths. You can always go back and use these diagrams to help you refine your documentation later on. The sooner this is done, the closer you'll be to avoiding disaster and lengthy down time.

Once you have a facility diagram, make sure you place it

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where it can be found on short notice. Behind the rack or taped to the rack door is a good location and a logical place for an engineer to find it. This all seems basic, but does your facility have good wire documentation?

Don't stop there. Your career also needs documentation. Join the SBE and get certified today.

### NRSC Approves Digital Radio Standard

In a meeting held during the NAB2005 Convention, the National Radio Systems Committee (NRSC) approved an in-band on-channel (IBOC) digital radio broadcasting standard for the United States. NRSC-5 will allow the radio industry to accelerate its transition to digital broadcasting.

The technology specified by the NRSC-5 standard was developed by Ibiqity and has undergone extensive testing and evaluation under the guidance of the NRSC. The FCC has given broadcasters interim authority to implement Ibiqity's HD Radio system, which is a specific implementation of NRSC-5. The FCC is expected to use this NRSC standard as it crafts final rules for digital radio broadcasting for the AM and FM broadcast bands.

"AM broadcasters and their listeners will be amazed by the quality improvement. AM broadcasts minus the noise and static that typically plague the band is an astounding technological breakthrough for listeners," said Milford Smith, NRSC DAB subcommittee co-chairman.

### SBE Introduces SBE Toolbox Frequency Coordination Software

The Society of Broadcast Engineers has developed a new software tool for use by local, regional and event frequency coordinators. SBE Toolbox will be provided free of charge to SBE and affiliated frequency coordinators. The new software uses a runtime version of Filemaker Pro so no additional software is required.

The software was released at the annual meeting of SBE frequency coordinators held during NAB2005. SBE National Football League Game Day Coordinators also received a copy during the convention.

SBE Toolbox allows users to import records used in the SBE's previous DOS-based software. It automatically calculates distance and bearing from latitude and longitude, has automatic e-mail and letter writing features and wireless mic and IFB tables built in. SBE Toolbox can be used for regular day-to-day local coordination and event coordination purposes.

**SBE Awards Lifetime Achievement Award to Burden**

With 200 members looking on, Richard W. Burden, CPBE, of Canoga Park, CA, was presented with the Society of Broadcast Engineer's Lifetime Achievement Award at the SBE annual spring membership meeting on April 19 during NAB2005.

The occasion marks only the seventh time in the society's 41-year history that its Lifetime Achievement Award had been presented. The award was a surprise to Burden, who was even more surprised when his daughter Nanuet from Oregon greeted him as he walked to the podium to accept the award.

Burden became SBE member #450 in 1966 and was an original member of SBE Chapter 1 in Binghamton, NY. Later, he would help organize Chapter 47 in Los Angeles, serving as its second chairman and as program chairman from 1979 to 1981. He is a senior member of the SBE and was elected an SBE Fellow in 1999. He earned his SBE Certified Professional Broadcast Engineer designation in 1990 and he continues to serve Chapter 47 as certification chairman.

Burden received the award in recognition of his 55 years of significant contributions to the broadcast engineering industry. His career started while in a student at Lafayette College in Easton, PA, where he was appointed chief engineer of college radio station WJRH in 1950. He transferred to RCA Institute to study radio broadcast engineering and graduated in 1952, holding a First Class Radiotelephone License.

In 1952, he was appointed to the Signal School in Fort Monmouth, NJ, as a civilian instructor. He was instrumental in the instructional revision of the Radio and Radar Course material and teaching technique. He returned as an Army Reservist to the Signal School Radar Division as chief military instructor in 1953. Burden was assigned to the Armed Forces Radio Service in New York as staff engineer and released from active duty with citations as a staff sergeant in 1955.

Later that year, he joined the engineering staff of General Precision Laboratory. He was employed there for five years designing circuits for audio-video and pulse modules, writing technical elements for video systems, and engineering the air traffic control system for the Federal Aviation Administration.

In 1960 he formed Burden Associates in Mount Kisco, NY, and in 1972 opened an office in Canoga Park, CA. Burden Associates still operates in Canoga Park. He has

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Burden

rendered technical services to numerous radio stations and networks in the field of radio and TV, and has consulted for many manufacturers throughout the years.

In 1958, Burden worked on the development of a system of stereo broadcasting in conjunction with Multiplex Development Corporation and is a holder of a patent in that field. He served on the National Stereophonic Radio Committee, Audio Engineering Society Standards Committee and as an AES representative to the Joint Committee of Intersociety Coordination. He also served on the ad hoc committee for the Study of Television Sound, as a member of the Broadcast Transmission Systems Committee on the study of stereophonic sound of TV and as a member of the National Radio Systems Committee, working toward improvements in radio broadcasting, from 1990 to 1994.

He served as AES Los Angeles section chairman from 1989 to 1990 and as Western Region vice president of AES from 1992 to 1993. He has authored numerous papers and chaired several AES sessions on audio in broadcasting in his career. He became a Fellow of the Audio Engineering Society in the 70s, having been selected as

one of 25 people who had made significant contributions to the industry over the last 50 years.

### FCC's Martin Appoints New Staff

FCC Chairman Kevin Martin has begun putting his signature on the Commission. Daniel Gonzalez will be Commission's chief of staff, Michelle Carey will join Martin's personal staff as a legal advisor for wireline issues. Martin will also appoint Monica Desai as the chief of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Kris Monteith as the chief of the Enforcement Bureau, and Tom Navin as chief of the Wireline Competition Bureau.

Gonzalez has served as Martin's senior legal advisor and wireline advisor since February 2002. Gonzalez previously served as an attorney in the Common Carrier Bureau's Policy and Program Planning Division and the Accounting and Audits Division and as a legal advisor to the Common Carrier Bureau Chief and Commissioner Rachele Chong.

Since September 2004, Michelle Carey served as deputy chief of the Wireline Competition Bureau. Prior to that, she was the chief of the Competition Policy Division for nearly five years.

Monica Desai has worked at the Commission since 1999 in a variety of capacities, including interim legal advisor to Martin on spectrum and international issues and various common carrier and media issues, and as an attorney-advisor in the Pricing Policy Division of the Wireline Competition Bureau.

Monteith most recently served as deputy bureau chief for outreach and intergovernmental affairs in the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau. Monteith previously served as chief of the Policy Division of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

Navin most recently served as the chief of the Wireline Competition Bureau's Competition Policy Division.

### SBE Announces Next Specialist Certification

At NAB2005, the first Specialist Certification exams were administered. Specialist Certifications were created as a way to identify skill and knowledge in a specific element of broadcasting. The first topic to be covered was announced last year. The AM Directional Specialist Certifi-

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**Next EAS Required Monthly Test: May 31**  
The RMT is sent on the last Tuesday of the month



cation was created to evaluate the unique skills and knowledge required to operate and maintain an AM directional antenna array. This mature technology has become something of a fading art, and the AM Directional Specialist Certification is designed to demonstrate an individual's skill in this discipline.

The Certification Committee has identified other topics to cover with Specialist Certification, and at the April meeting chose the one to develop next. With digital television moving ahead, the knowledge of the 8-VSB modulation system is an important topic to understand. Because of this, the next Specialist Certification will cover 8-VSB. A subcommittee was formed to evaluate the skills and develop the core competencies for this Certification. It is the goal of the Certification Committee to have this available in time for the SBE National Meeting in October in Dallas.

### Synchronized Certification

The SBE National Certification Committee also considered an item of interest to individuals who hold multiple Certifications. In most cases, the different Certifications were awarded at different times, which results in the Certified individual having to recertify various items at various times. In many cases, the same point credits are claimed for the various Certifications.

To reduce the burden of tracking various levels concurrently, a method has been devised to allow various levels of Certification to be synchronized in their renewal cycle. Doing this is the option of the Certification holder. It is not mandatory.


The specific details will be featured in the June issue of the SBE Signal. You can also contact the SBE National Office or Chriss Scherer, SBE59 certification committee chairman for details.

### Two Members Elected Fellows of the SBE

The Board of Directors of the Society of Broadcast Engineers has elected two members to the rank of Fellow. Andy Butler, CPBE of PBS in Alexandria, VA, and Clay Freinwald, CPBE of Entercom in Seattle, WA, were elected during the Board's regular spring meeting.

Butler is a past president of the Society, having served in that position for two terms from 1999 through 2001. Prior to being elected president, he served on the Board beginning in 1995. Butler has been a member of chapters in St. Louis; New York; Baltimore; Springfield, IL; and Washington, DC; and was instrumental in the Society's first national conventions held in the mid-80's. He has represented the SBE with a number of industry groups.

Freinwald is currently in his sixth year as a member of the SBE Board of Directors and chairs the national SBE EAS Committee. He also serves on the FCC Liaison and Frequency Coordination committees and the Executive Committee. Freinwald has been a member of SBE since 1968. He has been an active leader in SBE Chapter 16 in Seattle for many years and is currently a member of that chapter's board.

Both men will formally receive their recognition as SBE Fellows during the SBE National Meeting this October in Grapevine, TX. 



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**Upcoming Meetings and Events**

**May 12 - Measuring Digital Signals**  
 Morrow Technologies

**June 21-24 - Location TBA**  
 Orban/CRL Mobile Broadcast Lab Tour

**Upcoming meeting dates**

Mark your calendar now

- June 9**
- July 14**
- August 11**
- September 8**
- October 13**
- November 10**
- December 8**

**Be an All-star: Recruit a new SBE Member**

The SBE 2005 Membership Drive is underway. The goal is to increase awareness and SBE membership. All current SBE members can participate, and are eligible to win part of the \$7,000 worth of prizes. In addition, for each member you recruit, you will earn \$5 off your 2006 membership dues (up to \$25). New members will also be entered into a drawing for the New Member Prize.

To earn credit for recruiting a new member, be sure the member applicant includes your name on his membership application on the "sponsor's name" line. A Membership Application is available on the SBE website.



Eligible applications must be received at the SBE National Office by May 31, 2005.



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