


Meeting Notice**Thursday, November 9, Adam's Mark Hotel**

9103 E. 39th Street, Kansas City, MO
(816) 737-0200



Harris Broadcast brings its Road Show to Kansas City to give us an opportunity to see and discuss the latest in equipment and developing technology. Manufacturers expected to exhibit include Gentner, Belden, MusicamUSA, Intraplex, PR&E, ENCO, Sierra Automated Systems, and Comrex. Harris also will host a seminar entitled *Solving Problems in RFI, Shielding and Grounding* by Dana Meyers of Harris, Quincy, IL. The seminar counts for SBE recertification credit. You must preregister with Steve Dinkel at 816-246-8025, or sdinke01@harris.com. The entire event is free.

Our November chapter meeting will be held after the morning session. Everyone is invited to attend the SBE59 meeting without preregistering for the Harris event. 

Harris Road Show Schedule

Seminar: Solving RFI Problems 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
SBE59 Meeting 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.
 Exhibits 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Lunch 12 noon

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

There was no meeting held in October because of some confusion concerning the date of the Harris Road Show that is this month's meeting. Sorry for any confusion.

Leader Skills Seminar

The SBE Leader Skills Seminar will be held in Atlanta, GA, with Course I, *The Framework of People Skills*, November 29 to December 1 and Course II, *Expanding Your People Skills*, February 14 to 16, 2001. The course instructor will be Richard Cupka, who has presented leader skills training to broadcast engineers for more than 30 years. Those interested in taking Course II must have completed Course I or any of the previous Leader Skills Seminars presented by SBE or NAB since 1965.

The cost for Leader Skills Course I in Atlanta is \$490, which includes instruction, materials and refreshment breaks. Transportation, hotel and meals are additional. The seminar will be held at the Courtyard Marriott Atlanta Midtown. A special room rate of \$99 has been arranged for seminar attendees. To register for either course, contact Angel Bates at the SBE National Office at (317) 253-1640 or abates@sbe.org. The registration deadline for Course I is October 31. The registration deadline for Course II is January 15.

Student Night Chapter Meeting

Each SBE chapter is encouraged to plan and hold one student night chapter meeting during the school year. High school-age students are invited to a regular meeting of the chapter where a special program is held to inform students about broadcast engineering as a career. The National Office can assist us in planning a student night meeting. If you would like to help plan a student night or have any ideas on a location or a presentation, please contact Chriss Scherer, chapter chairman, or Darrell Nickolaus, programs chairman.

Computer Connection


Keeping PC Clocks Correct

By Steve Epstein, CPBE, CBNT

As broadcasters, we are all very careful and conscious about the accuracy of our clocks. Anyone who has worked with PCs knows that the clocks found within them are less than accurate. So that everyone is on the same page, there are at least two clocks in most PCs. The first is the BIOS clock, the second is a run-time or system clock maintained by the operating system. For the most part, I have found the BIOS clocks to be fairly accurate. The system clocks, however, are another matter.

In a typical system the BIOS clock runs constantly and is the "seed" for the system clock. Upon boot, the system clock is set to the time of the BIOS clock. From that point on, the system clock is the one you see if you check the time. In MS-DOS and Windows systems, both clocks are typically set to local time. In Unix and Linux systems, the BIOS clock is normally set to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), and the system clock displays local time based on the offset. The only time the BIOS time is reset is when the system clock is adjusted. This happens randomly when done by operators and also upon network login on many network systems. That network login point provides an excellent opportunity to sync up all of your PC clocks to the network server. Ideally, the network server clock is accurate.

There are several ways to maintain accurate time on your server or on a standalone PC. These include using an accurate hardware clock on an auxiliary card, through GPS (be aware that the GPS clocks are not synced to the Naval Observatory) or through the Internet. For PCs, I have used a program called AtomTime to sync server clocks to standard time references. One server gained 36 seconds a day! Atom Time allows you to check and synchronize you PC's clock at regular intervals through an Internet connection. For a list of other time-synchronizing software, check out www.tucows.com, download.com or www.slaughterhouse.com/time.html.

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. 

Upcoming Meetings

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

December 14

January 11

February 8

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