

Meeting Notice

Thursday, October 11, Zarda Barbecue

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

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

Digital audio processors. Wheatstone has entered the audio processing field by introducing the Vorsis family of digital audio processors. The flagship of the family is the AP100, which processes audio for analog and digital transmission in one unit. The Vorsis design is based on the belief that more DSP processing power was required to support an audio processing platform. The processor has 31 bands of limiting.

Jay Tyler of Wheatstone will discuss audio processing in general and provide insight into the design concept of using 31 bands. Wheatstone will provide lunch. Join us in the banquet room.

Last Month's Meeting

By Ben Weiss, CPBE

The September meeting of Chapter 59 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers was held Sept. 13, 2007 at Zarda Barbecue in Lenexa. There were 18 in attendance. Robin Cross, chairman, called the business meeting to order at 12 noon.

Ben Weiss read the minutes of the August meeting. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Chriss Scherer and seconded by Chris Castro; passed.

Kirk Chestnut, chapter EAS chairman, stated that there was nothing new on the EAS front. Chris Castro, chapter frequency coordinator, remarked that he had attended a frequency coordination training seminar in Denver in July. Also, he has been having help with the NFL game-day frequency effort from Jack McCain and Chris Taylor. So far this year, all is going well with game-day coordination. Castro also mentioned that the local TV stations are about ready to complete the change to the new 2GHz digital ENG band as provided by Sprint Nextel.

Chriss Scherer, chapter certification chairman, told us the deadline to register for the November certification exams is Sept. 21. Also, the exams for the new Digital Radio Broadcast Specialist certification will be available for the next exam window.

In Mike Rogers' absence, Ed Treese indicated that the October meeting program will be presented by Jay Tyler of Wheatstone and the topic will be digital audio processing.

A discussion followed about lunch vs. evening meetings. As a way to possibly attract more of our TV members, it was suggested to try a few evening meetings. Robin Cross will suggest this to Mike Rogers as Rogers arranges future programs.

John Gray, SBE59 webmaster, stated that there have been many changes to the look and utility of the website. He invited us to check it out at sbe59.org.

One item of new business: Greg Best discussed the idea of the chapter once again hosting an 8-VSB seminar led by Gary Sgrignoli. Sgrignoli now offers three seminars, and because the meeting attendees were mostly from the radio side, it was decided to poll some TV members to determine the best topic. A location for the seminar must also be determined. A tentative date of mid-November was discussed. Best and Cross will work with others in the chapter to determine the specifics and make this happen.

The motion to adjourn was made by Chriss Scherer and the second by Chris Castro.

Gerardo Vargas of AEQ presented the program. Vargas provided an overview of router and console systems and how the technology is implemented in the AEQ Arena console and the BC 2000 router. Vargas also provided an overview of the other AEQ products including analog consoles, codecs, phone interfaces, phone hybrids, wireless IFB links and handheld recorders. Lunch was provided by AEQ.

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Chairman's Chat

The Chapter is Here for You

By Robin Cross

I've been a member of several SBE chapters. Each one has a definite personality. Some skew to TV, some skew

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

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toward radio. The Kansas City chapter more than skews to radio; there is almost an exclusion of TV. Even so, we try to bring TV-centered programs to Kansas City. The upcoming seminar on 8-VSB is an effort in this direction. The RF Radiation seminar sponsored by the SBE last summer was ideal for TV and radio ENG/SNG truck operators, but it was only attended by radio personnel.

At the September SBE meeting we discussed scheduling some upcoming meetings in the evening. That discussion also included that the meetings should avoid the 6 p.m. TV newscast. For at least one TV station, it gets tighter with a 9 p.m. and 10 p.m. newscast, but we'll figure something out. We are open to trying different things that will be of interest and help to TV SBE members.

Everyone has a busy schedule, and it is becoming a challenge to come up with a program each month. I commend Mike Rogers on the excellent job he is doing. That said, I want more for you than what has become the recent dog-and-pony show theme. We need your input. I take time each month to do a certain amount of SBE stuff. There seems to be a few dedicated engineers that are carrying the weight. The more who join the effort, the lighter the load is for all. I know about burn-out. Instead of one person who schedules *all* the programs, Chapter 59 needs two TV and two radio members to seek out programs. It actually gets to be fun at this level of participation.

One of the most memorable programs I ever attended was the tour of the FAA facility in Olathe. Unfortunately after 9-11, that will never happen again. I still remember my shock when I discovered that the headset I had on to listen to the planes had a hot mic. I could join in and talk to them. I didn't, but I could have.

Ideas and suggestions can be submitted and I promise they won't come back to bite you. I won't coerce you into some level of participation unless you volunteer. Is that a money-back guarantee or what?

SBE National Webcast Set for Oct. 9

The Society of Broadcast Engineers will present a special webcast, *The SBE and You*, on Tuesday, Oct. 9 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. CT. The webcast will offer members and chapters an opportunity to hear directly from the SBE's national leaders on current issues and projects. Hosted by President Chriss Scherer and President-elect Barry Thomas, the program will begin with an update on activities and a review of the SBE leadership structure. It will then cover a review of the current strategic planning process underway, provide insight into the latest educational

efforts of the Society and deliver additional updates on ongoing projects and programs. The majority of the program will be devoted to an open question-and-answer session, when members can e-mail, call or instant message questions to the webcast to be answered live by the SBE officers, board members or national staff.

Individual members and SBE chapters are encouraged to participate. A link will be available to the webcast at the SBE website activated shortly before the program begins.

The program will originate from the Azcar training studios in Pittsburgh, where that company produces broadcast engineer training programs for the Sprint/Nextel 2GHz conversion.

SBE Elects Barry Thomas 25th National President

Barry Thomas, CPBE CBNT, of Atlanta, has been elected the 25th president of the Society of Broadcast Engineers.



Thomas

Thomas serves as vice president of engineering - radio for Lincoln Financial Media. Results of the election were announced Aug. 31.

Thomas has been in the broadcast engineering field for more than 25 years and is a Senior member of the SBE. He has most recently served the SBE as treasurer and chairs the Society's strategic planning committee.

He has served at the chapter level in several markets and currently is active with Chapter 5 in Atlanta. Thomas has been a member of the Society since 1986. Thomas' one-year term will begin Oct. 11, during the SBE's National Meeting in Pittsburgh.

Elected as the Society's vice president was Vincent Lopez, CEV CBNT, of Syracuse, NY. Lopez is director of engineering for WSYT/WNYS-TV/Sinclair Broadcast Group in Syracuse. He is a member and past chairman of Chapter 22 of Central New York and has been a member of the national SBE board of directors since 2000, most recently serving as national secretary. He has been a member of the SBE since 1991. Lopez was elected an SBE Fellow in 2004.

Ted Hand, CPBE 8-VSB, of Charlotte, NC, was elected SBE secretary. Hand is chief engineer of WSOC-TV and WAXN-TV in Charlotte. He is a Senior member of the SBE, joining in 1982 and has served as a member of the board of directors for four years and as a member of the Executive Committee. He currently serves as chairman of the Society's education committee.

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Elected treasurer is Ralph Hogan, CPBE CBNT, of Pullman, WA. Hogan is assistant general manager, engineering services, Washington State University in Pullman. He's been a member of SBE since 1990 and is a Senior member. He has served six years on the SBE board, including two as national secretary and has been a member of the SBE's Certification Committee since 1996.

Six members were elected to two-year terms on the board of directors. They include:

- Chris Alexander, CPBE AMD; director of engineering; Crawford Broadcasting; Denver
- Andrea Cummis, CBT CTO; sr. vice president, engineering and technology; American Desi TV; Roseland, NJ
- Dane E. Ericksen, P.E., CSRTE 8-VSB CBNT; senior engineer; Hammett and Edison; San Francisco
- Hal H. Hostetler, CPBE; senior engineer/IT director; KVOA-TV; Tucson
- Jerry Massey, CPBE CBNT 8-VSB AMD; corporate regional engineer and director of engineering; Entercom Communications; Greenville, SC



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They will be joined by six returning members of the board and Chriss Scherer, CPBE CBNT, who, as immediate past president, will also serve on the board. The six returning directors include:

- Ralph Beaver, CBT; president and CEO; Media Alert; Tampa
- Jim Bernier, CPBE CBNT; director, maintenance, design and engineering; Turner Entertainment Networks; TBS, Atlanta
- Keith Kintner, CPBE CBNT; radio-TV-film engineer; University of Wisconsin Oshkosh; Oshkosh, WI
- Tom Ray, CPBE, vice president, corporate director of engineering; Buckley Broadcasting/WOR Radio; New York
- Chris Tarr, CBRE CBT CBNT; director of engineering, Entercom Milwaukee/Madison; Delafield, WI
- Larry Wilkins, CPBE AMD CBNT; formerly assistant director of engineering; Cumulus Broadcasting; Prattville, AL



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The Network is Growing

By Steve Epstein, CPBE
steve@broadcastbuyersguide.com

If you cut your teeth on analog audio and/or video, and haven't quite got used to moving files or streaming assets around your facility, I have some bad news for you. The network is growing. AT&T, Verizon and Century Tel—three of the top four telcos in the US—are building DSL networks to the home for IPTV that were unimaginable a few years ago.



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Next EAS Required Monthly Test: October 30
The RMT is sent on the last Tuesday of the month

Verizon is building its network with fiber, but AT&T and Century Tel are utilizing existing copper and delivering 25Mb/s over (typically) 4,000' of 24 gauge twisted pair. Within the Century Tel facility, I have more than enough fingers to count all the analog audio and video sources. Our digital video (with embedded audio) signal path is less than 100' per signal. All signals are converted to IP multicast, aggregated then served to customers using about 50 frontline Windows servers with another 50 or so for backend management including conditional access. The facility's output is through a network router on a single (redundant) Gigabit Ethernet fiber.

Granted, this is more like a cable headend than a broadcast facility, but the truth is, we are distributing broadcast-quality media over IP in real time. Most recall the early DAWs and non-linear editors, and how poorly they performed when compared to traditional tools. Today, computer editors are commonplace, and many of today's operators could not edit without them. In the middle 90's, I toured Bell Atlantic's video-on-demand trials in Reston, VA. At the time, the PR person stated that with a single TV in a household, if the switch was fast enough, channels could be switched at the telco and the user would never know he was getting only a single stream. Today at Century Tel we are doing just that. And, instead of delivering just one stream we are delivering four, one of which can be HD. We have more than 150 standard definition channels, a dozen HD channels and more than 45 music channels. All of which are switched on the network and will be distributed to up to 75,000 homes as the system grows.

Few of us remember the transition from tubes to transistors, more the switch from transistors to ICs, and even more are experiencing the conversion from analog to digital. It is time to pick up new tools such as network analyzers and Ethereal (www.ethereal.com) and learn what it takes to move packets through a network. Software such as Microsoft's Active Directory, SMS and MOM will all be needed to troubleshoot the systems used in the near future. Are you ready?

Sandies Acquires Dynamax

LPB Communications has sold the Dynamax MX series of consoles to Sandies, which will now handles sales and service of the products. Sandies is operated by Dave Strode, who has worked with Fidelipac and LPB for a number of years and has stayed with the product line through its various ownership changes. Contact Sandies in Fairless Hills, PA, at 215-547-2570, service@sandiesusa.com or www.sandiesusa.com.

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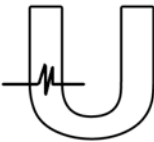
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Upcoming Chapter Meetings and Events

October 11
Digital Audio Processors
 Jay Tyler, Wheatstone
 Location TBA

November 8
Sales, Traffic and Accounting Software
 VCI
 Location TBA

December 13

January 10

February 14

Do you have a suggestion for a program topic?
 Please share it with Mike Rogers.

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. We are always looking for information on what is happening at stations and facilities around Kansas City. Have you hired someone new? Have you received a promotion? Have you installed some new equipment? Tell us about it and share it with your engineering colleagues. Send any of your stories or ideas to a chapter officer or e-mail them to *sbe59@yahoo.com*. Articles published in *The Communicator* will qualify for SBE recertification points.

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