

## Meeting Notice

### Thursday, March 13, Cumulus Media

5800 Foxridge Dr.; Mission, KS. 913-514-3000

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

*Facility Tour.* Cumulus recently expanded its studios to accommodate its continuing growth. The studio space was first occupied in 1997 when Sinclair moved into the building. When Susquehanna purchased the facility, most of the studios were rebuilt between 2000 and 2002. This included the addition of one studio for the Chiefs Radio Network. When 105.1 was added in 2004, two studios were rebuilt and three more were added. When Cumulus purchased Susquehanna in 2006, additional room was needed to allow for consolidation of the two Cumulus stations with the existing four Susquehanna properties.

An additional 2,500 square feet on the fifth floor was acquired, and after relocating several departments, two new control rooms and a production room were built. KMJK and KCHZ moved into the new studios in January 2007. The facility is now a mix of Wheatstone consoles and routers and an SAS router.

A pizza lunch, courtesy of Cumulus, will be served.

### Last Month's Meeting

By Ben Weiss, CPBE

The February meeting of Chapter 59 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers was held Feb. 14, 2008, at the Entercom Broadcast Center in Mission, KS. There were 38 in attendance. The occasion was the annual RF Specialties barbecue lunch. Robin Cross, chapter chairman, called the business meeting to order at 12:11 p.m. He initiated a special word of thanks and applause to Chris Kreger and John Sims for providing the awesome lunch. It was noted that, as in the past, Sims did his usual excellent barbecue smoking job.

Cross asked all members present to introduce themselves. Then Ben Weiss read the minutes of the January meeting and provided the treasurer's report. The motion to approve both was made by Chriss Scherer and seconded by Chris Castro. The motion passed.

John Gray, chapter webmaster, remarked that he had included some new updates and the website is looking good. He would like to update the entire chapter member's contact information.

Chriss Scherer brought us up to date on certification exams. He told us that the next local exam opportunity is the week of June 6-16 and the application deadline is April 18. He also noted that he can be available for special proctoring at almost any time. On the newsletter side, Scherer stated there is still an opening for one

more sponsor. That spot will be prorated for the taker of the space.

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Chris Castro, chapter frequency coordinator, told us that progress is being made in compiling the data for the update of the coordination database. He remarked that coordination of wireless frequencies for area events, churches, networks; tournaments, etc. are a special challenge. Scherer voiced his opinion that when a large, commercial event comes to town that the coordination effort crosses the line from a volunteer effort to a paid job. The paid coordinator should work with the local volunteer coordinator to protect the in-town users.

Kirk Chestnut, Kansas City EAS chairman, reported that the FCC EAS Handbook is now available in Spanish.

Lloyd Collins, Missouri state EAS coordinator, remarked that the old state plan will still be used until a new one can be developed. The new plan will not be formulated until Washington can come up with details of the new enhanced EAS system that is being developed.

Certification Exam Dates		
Exam Date	Location	App. Deadline
Jun 6 - 16, 2008	Local Chapter	Apr 18, 2008
Aug 8 - 18	Local Chapter	Jun 6, 2008
Nov 7 - 17	Local Chapter	Sep 19, 2008




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Cross turned our attention to the annual election of officers. He mentioned that all the past year's officers had agreed to continue in the same offices for another year. He stated that he would like to form a program committee consisting of two representatives from radio two from TV. Then he asked Chris Kreger to conduct the election.

To simplify the election, Chriss Scherer made the motion that all officers be nominated to their positions for one more year. The motion was seconded by Mike Rogers. Kreger opened the floor for discussion but there was none. By a show of hands, the decision was unanimous and the current slate of officers was returned to office for one more year. The officers are:

Chairman: Robin Cross  
Vice Chairman: Dave Buell  
Secretary/Treasurer: Ben Weiss

Finally, there was a brief discussion about having evening meetings. There was a straw poll and while most present were in favor of having an occasional evening meeting most were not in favor of evening meetings exclusively.

The motion to adjourn was made by Chriss Scherer and seconded by Mike Rogers.

The program consisted of the annual RF Specialties barbecue lunch and entertainment by Kreger and Sims. Many door prizes were given and fun was had by all.

### Chairman's Chat

#### *This n' That*

*By Robin Cross*

We had a great turnout for the annual RF Specialties Engineers' Appreciation Lunch. The next time you see or talk to Chris Kreger or John Sims please thank them for sponsoring this meeting.

I asked for volunteers for the Program Committee and some stepped forward. It sounds like they have new energy and ideas for programs. Great thanks to them! Roy Baum has stepped up to take on the duties of chairman of that committee. If you have an idea that would help you in your position, tell Roy or any of the chapter officers.

On a show of hands there were several that indicated that they would not attend evening meetings. There were several other show of hands about evening meetings but none with that much support or lack thereof. With this we will continue to hold meetings at lunchtime unless circumstances require an evening meeting.



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The NAB convention is coming up next month and with it the manufacturers usually introduce new products. There is now less than a year before the NTSC transmitters are turned off. HD Radio is starting to show some support from the general public. We are all being asked to do more with less time, money or manpower. It seems like it is time to roll up our sleeves and get back to work.

#### **SBE Meetings during 2008 NAB Show**

The SBE will have a full slate of meeting and activities during the 2008 NAB Show April 12-17. The SBE booth, L27, is in the Las Vegas Convention Center at the South Hall on the second floor concourse near the entrance to the exhibit floor and the Broadcast Engineering Conference rooms.

The SBE will hold a number of meetings during the convention including these:

*April 12* - Certification Committee, 6:30 p.m. - 11 p.m., Hilton Conference Room 7

*April 13* - Board of Directors Meeting, 8:30 a.m. to noon; Hilton Conference Rooms 1-2

*April 15* - SBE Frequency Coordinators Meeting, 10 a.m. to noon, Hilton Conference Room 7-8

*April 15* - SBE Membership Meeting, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., in one of the BEC session rooms. Door prizes will be awarded at the meeting, so be sure to attend.

SBE members can register for the convention at a partner rate and save \$200 off the NAB non-member rate. When registering online, check the partner box on the profile page and select SBE from the pull-down menu.

#### **NAB Broadcast Engineering Conference**

The SBE is partnering again with the NAB to produce the NAB Broadcast Engineering Conference (BEC). The BEC features a special Saturday Ennes Workshop on file-based workflow, plus more than 20 informative sessions covering the latest in broadcast technology beginning Sunday and running through Thursday morning.

#### **Nominate a Deserving Member for SBE Fellow**

Nominations for potential membership fellows are being accepted. The rank of fellow recognizes deserving members who have made a difference in the local chapter over a period of time, someone who has exhibited a dedication to the advancement of the broadcast engineer, the field of broadcast engineering and the SBE itself.

Nominations for 2008 must be received by March 31, 2008, for consideration. To date, 69 members have been recognized with the fellow honor in the SBE's 44 years of

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existence. Submit nominations for fellow to Fellowship Committee Chairman Troy Pennington, CSRE CBNT; 6156 Hampton Hall Way; Hermitage, TN 37076 or to [troy.pennington@cumulus.com](mailto:troy.pennington@cumulus.com).

### 2008 Leader Skills Dates Announced

Dates for the SBE Leader Skills courses for 2008 have been set. Course I will be held June 3-5. Course II will be August 5-7. Both courses will be held in Indianapolis, IN. This management training for broadcast engineers will be team-taught by Richard Cupka and Rodney Vandever. Details are available at the SBE website, [sbe.org](http://sbe.org).



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### Membership Renewals Due by April 1

Membership renewal letters and cards were sent to members in early February. The SBE national office encourages members to complete the return card and submit it with payment to the national office by April 1. The chapter receives a rebate for all the active members assigned to it by this time, so by returning your renewal you can help the chapter.

### Membership Drive Begins March 1

The annual SBE membership drive began March 1 and runs through May 31. By joining the SBE during the membership drive, the new member and the sponsor become eligible to win prizes as part of the drive. The recruiting member can also earn \$5 off his renewal dues next year for each new member he recruits (up to \$25).

The grand prize in the drive is a trip to the SBE national meeting in Madison, WI, Oct. 14 – 16.

### SBE Awards Nominations Open

Nominations for the 2007 SBE National Awards are now being accepted. Details on the awards program and an entry form are published in the February issue of the *SBE Signal*. Questions about the awards can be directed to Awards Committee Chairman Larry Wilkins at [larrywilkins@charter.net](mailto:larrywilkins@charter.net).

### Heiland Leaves MBA

Conny Heiland has resigned from her employment at the Missouri Broadcasters Association for personal reasons. This information was released by Don Hicks, president of the MBA. Heiland began working for the MBA in May 1994. During her tenure she was responsible for a variety of functions dealing with the day-to-day operations of the MBA.

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Next EAS Required Monthly Test: March 25  
The RMT is sent on the last Tuesday of the month

### MRC Rejects PPM in Philly and NYC

In January, the Media Ratings Council (MRC) denied accreditation of the Arbitron Portable People Meter (PPM) system in Philadelphia and New York. The notice was revealed in Arbitron's annual filing with the SEC.

Arbitron attributes the decision to old field tests, and the ratings company is hopeful that data gathered from he field trials currently underway will convince the MRC to change its mind. Arbitron's current test has increased the sample size, which was one of the MRC's concerns. The MRC was created following a Congressional call in 1964 to establish standards for media ratings.

Arbitron had already delayed the PPM rollout in all the planned markets before making the announcement.

### FCC's Martin and Copps Agree on DTV Tests

FCC commissioner Michael Copps sent a public letter to Commissioner Kevin Martin suggesting that field tests of digital television to fully understand potential problems should be conducted before next year's transition.

Copps noted that his preference is to actually switch some markets to fully digital operation before the national transition date, likening the action to a Broadway show opening on the road first to work out the kinks. Copps added that a "single transition date does not afford us the luxury of a built-in learning curve. We have one chance to get this right—one opening night."

Copps acknowledges that completing his plan would require the participation of the stations and sufficient notification to the affected viewers in those markets.

Short of the early market switches, Copps would like to see at least some field tests to better prepare for any problems that might arise. Copps noted, "These tests would not raise the logistical concerns of a full-scale trial because the analog signals in these markets would remain on throughout the community. Individual households would volunteer to switch to digital reception early and participate in the testing process."

On the same day, Martin, in a reply letter to Copps, said that he would ask the DTV Task Force to coordinate DTV field tests to identify those potential problems. Martin went on to say that he agreed with Copps and that everything the FCC can do must be done to ensure a smooth transition. ●



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<p>Upcoming Chapter Meetings and Events</p> <p><b>March 13</b>  <i>Facility Tour</i>  <i>Cumulus Media</i></p> <p><b>April 10</b>  <b>May 8</b></p> <p><b>June 12</b>  <i>The Pick Hits of the 2008 NAB Show</i>            Chriss Scherer  <i>Location TBA</i></p>
<p>Do you have a suggestion for a program topic?            Please share it with Roy Baum.</p>

**Newsletter Sponsorships Available**

*The Communicator*, the SBE Chapter 59 newsletter, is mailed to more than 120 broadcast engineering professionals in the Kansas City area every month. Let your message be seen. Contact Chriss Scherer for more information on the benefits of sponsoring this newsletter.

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