



CHAPTER TWENTY NEWS

society of broadcast engineers
pittsburgh chapter

Certification	2
FCC EAS Tones	2
FCC EAS Deadline	3
Last Meeting	3
Chairman's Corner	4
Inside Outside	4

December 2010

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Luff Engineer of the Year *Congratulations, John!*

John Humphrey
SBE Chapter 20 Vice Chairman
Digital Television Solutions
www.digitaltelevisionsolutions.com

As most of you know, the winner of the 2010 SBE Broadcast Engineer of the Year Award was SBE 20 Chairman, John Luff.

I was proud to nominate John for this prestigious award for the work he has done in broadcast engineering and our SBE chapter. It is fair to say the membership, participation, and meeting attendance



have been declining over the last decade. After 34 years, the Pittsburgh SBE Expo was laid to rest. Things were not looking up for our chapter.

John became chapter chairman last year. I was impressed with his plan to change how meetings were conducted and, most importantly, the quality of the presentations. John used his considerable industry connections to get high quality presenters, discussing today's most important topics in the television industry.

John is conference vice president at SMPTE and he worked with SMPTE to allow western PA SMPTE television members to be attached to the Pittsburgh SBE chapter.

Our meetings have gone from about a dozen in attendance to more than seventy for the NEP 3D and recent "media formats" meetings, involving a larger television community in our chapter.

Mobile delivery (M/H) is planned for the New Year along with a SBE/ Ennis Workshop. We also hope to have a new fall event that will have both presentations and vendor displays.

John's energy and leadership have been a great asset to this SBE chapter. He changed the meetings from a monthly format to meetings whenever an important topic and expert presenters were available. To increase participation, John set up a Yahoo Groups site to provide quick communications to local members.

John typifies recipients of the SBE Broadcast Engineer of the Year Award who are recognized for making significant contributions to the field of broadcast engineering and for furthering the goals and objectives of the SBE.

Certification Quickies

Feb Exam Deadline

December 31st is the deadline if you would like to take certification exams during the February exam schedule. Please fill out the appropriate application and mail/fax or email it into the National office ASAP.

Re-certification Deadline

December 31 is the deadline for those of you who have a certification expiring on January 1, 2011. Recertification applications are available www.sbe.org. You can mail, fax or email your recertification application to the National office.

Certification fee increase

Effective January 1, 2011, fees for SBE certification and recertification will increase for SBE members \$2 to \$3, depending on the level of certification, The non-member rates will also be increasing.

Next Meeting

RSVP Deadline: Friday, Dec. 17 at noon

Annual SBE Christmas Party and Business Meeting

Monday, December 20, 2010

Free hors d'oeuvres and cash bar begin at 6:30 PM

Dinner is served at 7:00 PM

Willow Restaurant
634 Camp Horne Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

RSVP www.sbe20.org



SBE Certification

New Networking Certification - COMING SOON!

Tom Skubel
WTAE
tskubel@hearst.com

The National Certification Committee recently announced that they are working on a new networking certification. The Certified Broadcast Networking Engineer should debut around April or May 2011. The CBNE will require 5 years of broadcast engineering or related technology experience. The exam will model itself after the senior SBE certifications. There will be 50 multiple-choice questions and then a choice of essay.

This is a list of all SBE certification programs

Operator Level Certifications

- Certified Radio Operator® (CRO™)
- Certified Television Operator® (CTO®)

Broadcast Networking Certification

- Certified Broadcast Networking Technologist® (CBNT®)

Engineering Level Certifications

- Certified Broadcast Technologist® (CBT™)
- Certified Audio Engineer® (CEA®)
- Certified Video Engineer® (CEV®)
- Certified Broadcast Radio Engineer™ (CBRE®)
- Certified Broadcast Television Engineer™ (CBTE®)
- Certified Senior Broadcast Radio Engineer™ (CSRE®)
- Certified Senior Broadcast Television Engineer™ (CSTE®)
- Certified Professional Broadcast Engineer® (CPBE®)

Specialist Certifications

- Certified 8-VSB Specialist™ (8-VSB™)
- Certified AM Directional Specialist™ (AMD™)
- Certified Digital Radio Broadcast Specialist™ (DRB™)

The most recent local exams were given November 12. Two people took exams, one for Broadcast Television Engineer and one for Television Operator.

Upcoming Certification Exam Dates

Date	Location	Deadline
February 4-14, 2011	Local Chapters	December 31, 2010
April 12, 2011	NAB Convention	March 25, 2011
June 3-13, 2011	Local Chapters	April 15, 2011
August 5-15, 2011	Local Chapters	June 3, 2011



FCC

EAS Tones Found in TV Commercials

Paul Byers
Executive Director of Engineering
WQED
pbyers@wqed.org

Members of the SBE EAS Committee and participants in SBE's EAS Exchange have identified a radio commercial being aired for the oil company, ARCO, a subsidiary of BP, which uses simulated EAS header tones at the front of the message. The message contains the spoken phrase, "This is a test" and then the simulated eight second tone. It has been reported that the header tones are played faster than 1100 baud but have tripped some EAS units monitoring stations that air the commercial.

Although the problem will only affect stations that both are being monitored and play this specific commercial, the SBE recommends stations check the affected commercial material. The existence of this audio may be considered an FCC violation.

For more information and to listen to the commercial, visit the [SBE website](#).

There is also another commercial that uses EAS tones in the body of that commercial. According to SBE Chapter 15 chairman Tom Ray, the spot is a TV commercial for the movie *Skyline* with the ISCI code UPSU3132H. Midway through the spot you can clearly hear EAS alert tones repeated 6 times which, when decoded, appear to be a Required Monthly Test (RMT) in Central Pennsylvania. There is no EOM signal transmitted.

FCC Rules prohibit stations from broadcasting false EAS signals (CFR 47.11.45 Prohibition of false or deceptive EAS transmissions and 73.1217 Broadcast Hoaxes). SBE suggests that stations check their inventories for this spot and take whatever action they deem appropriate to ensure false EAS tones are not transmitted. For more information, visit www.sbe.org

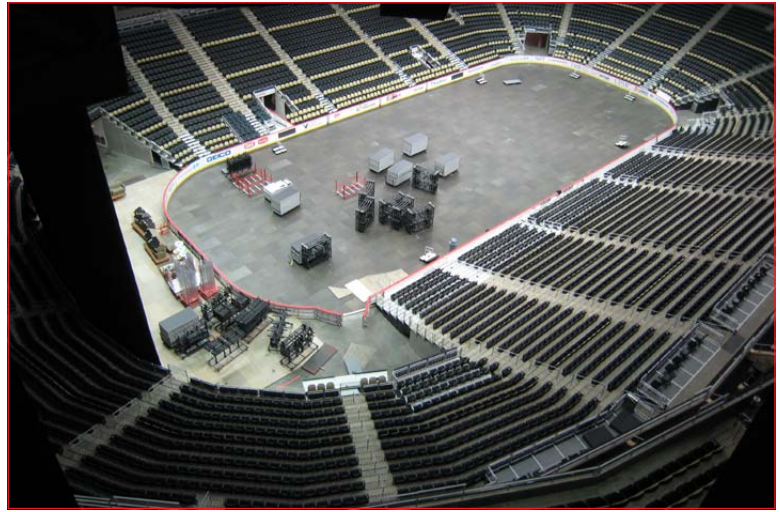
Continued on Page 3

FCC Extends Next Generation EAS Compliance Deadline

On November 23rd, the Commission announced extension until September 30, 2011 of the deadline for various telecom stakeholders, including broadcasters, to implement the new federal common messaging protocol adopted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and incorporated into the FCC's rules in 2007.

This action acknowledges that the industry, for various reasons, is not ready to comply with the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) standard for EAS messages by the current deadline of March 29, 2011. That deadline was effectively set by FEMA's adoption of the CAP standard on September 29, 2010.

In particular, the FCC agreed that more time was needed to develop, test and certify viable, affordable new equipment and clarify issues arising from the interplay between FEMA and FCC regulatory requirements. Toward that end, the agency will issue a rulemaking proposal to review the impact of CAP on its EAS rules.



Consol Energy Center ... A view from the top

Last Meeting Report:

John Luff

Our last meeting on October 20th was held at the brand new Consol Energy Center. In addition to the great technical presentations, we were treated to an in-depth tour of the entire building, especially the media control room where the score board video and arena information ribbons are controlled. Our host, Chris Devivo, graciously opened up the entire place, and provided a good description of their extensive use of file-based workflow in producing content.

Our speakers illuminated the complex topic of file-based workflow. Tom Pflaum from Telestream/Anystream went into great and useful detail on file formats, converting between formats, and the use of metadata. Your Chairman du jour, myself, gave a brief introduction to the topic, including how metadata and essence are structured in files, and the general topic of wrappers (MXF in particular). Karl Paulsen of Diversified Systems (who built the facilities at Consol Energy Center) gave an in depth look at the systems at Consol Energy Center and how they process files.

Bob Hoffman recorded the meeting and we hope to post it to the SBE20 website soon.

This meeting is the first half of a two part thrust SBE and SMPTE locally have planned. In January, we will be hosting a "File Summit" with broadcasters, cable operators, production professionals, agencies, and other interested parties to see if we can help simplify interchange of files between local producers and media outlets. The main part of that meeting is not open to general attendance, but will be reported on in depth at a future meeting.



Consol Energy Center control racks.



Bob Hoffman mans the camera



Chairman's Corner

Report from the National SBE Meeting in Wisconsin

John Luff
SBE Chapter 20 Chairman
Television Technology Consultant
john.luff@HDCConsulting.tv

I had the pleasure of attending the National SBE Meeting in October in Madison, Wisconsin. The Annual Meeting was held at the Wisconsin Broadcasters Clinic, an annual affair which is well attended and full of great content.

The WBC lasts two days, has a nice sized exhibit area, and a full set of papers on topics. The first day was largely drawn from RF topics (Antennas, transmission line, translators, composite radio transmissions, tower failures). The second day included great information on ATSC M/H, including a paper by Sterling Davis on test results from Washington DC trials. Other Thursday topics included spectrum reclaim plans (broadband re-allocations), and 3D for broadcast. Vendors set up shop to show a wide variety of baseband and RF related products.

On Wednesday night at the Awards banquet, Sterling Davis and Robert Locke were awarded SBE's highest grade of membership, that of Fellow. Other awards included Educator of the Year (Charles "Buc" Fitch), Outstanding Service (Jim Bernier), and Engineer of the Year (John Luff...whoever he is...). The evening included a reception where a band named "Sticks and Bones" played, which included many of the officers of SBE and Executive Director John Poray. Who knew engineers were such good musicians?!

It was good to reacquaint with many of the national officers, including President Vinney Lopez, who I know from dealings with Sinclair Broadcast Group. There was a great opportunity to chat with other chapter officers as well.

Next year the National Meeting will be held at the Ohio Broadcast Engineering Clinic in Columbus, close enough for us to caravan to the meeting.



InsideOutsideBroadcasts

Holiday Point to Ponder- What is a Television?

George Hoover
Chief Technology Officer
NEP Broadcasting
george.hoover@nepinc.com

As we move closer and closer to the day when consumers will have the ability to watch any content, anywhere, at any time, on any device, a question arises. *What exactly is a television?*

If I watch XYZ network's coverage of the Steeler's game on a 42" LCD set in my living room, we all agree that's a television. A 12" CRT in the kitchen is a television. Is an I-PAD watching the same game on the network's web site a television? On a laptop? What about the same network's mobile application on a handset- like an I-Phone or Droid? What about a different network on any of these devices?

If I take my computer, tablet or handset's HDMI output and connect it to my 42" LCD set, am I watching the Steelers on television?

The consumer really doesn't give a load of hooey that there is a difference. Why not watch the game on your handset waiting for the train, the tablet on the train, and the 42" when you get home?

HOWEVER- the league who sold the TV rights to the Steelers game to XYZ network, may have sold the web rights to another organization, and the handset rights to the phone company. You, the viewer, might actually be violating the rights agreement if you display content licensed for handsets on your 42" LCD set. And XYZ network might just be a bit upset to have paid for the TV rights to find out they didn't really get exclusive TV rights.

If you party hearty on New Year's Eve, you might not want to ponder what this all means on New Year's day, unless you want a bigger headache.

2011 will be another interesting year in the evolving media landscape.

All the best to you and yours.

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Society of Broadcast Engineers
Chapter 20
P.O. Box 16312
Pittsburgh, PA 15242-0312

Web page <http://www.sbe20.org>

Chairman- John Luff	724-318-9240
Vice Chair- John Humphrey	412-741-1903
Secretary- Sean Ryan	412-726-9849
Treasurer- Stephen Zelenko	412-519-3323
Frequency Coordinator- Otto Schellin	412-237-1184
Certification- Tom Skubel	412-244-4435
FCC Committee- Paul Byers	412-622-1530
Newsletter Editor- Gary Stewart	412-824-3930
Newsletter DTP- Jean Stewart	412-678-9211

