

# SBE 70

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## MINUTES

<b>WKSU Broadcast Center</b>	<b>Gather at 7pm Meeting at 7:30pm</b>	<b>Next Meeting February 12</b>	<b>January 2008 Vol. XVI Number 1</b>
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## MEETING DETAILS

This month's meeting will be held at the WKSU Broadcast Center at 1613 East Summit Street, Kent, OH 44242. Driving directions can be found at <http://www.wksu.org/about/directions/> We'll do the usual 7:00 gathering, 7:30 business meeting, and program thereafter. Folks can begin gathering as early as 6:30 if they wish.

### A Checklist for Automation Efficiency

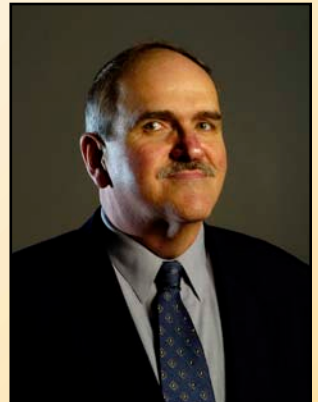
As the television business evolves into the digital era the scope and requirements of station operations continues to expand. Multi-channel master control, new methods of transmission, alternate screens and the internet all add complexity to operations. As usual, station engineering is asked to do more with less. In this new, metadata rich environment automation must do more than just control devices. For those who are planning to install, expand or upgrade station automation this program presents a number of specific topics to address when selecting an automation system.

VCI Solutions has been provider of business, traffic and automation systems for television and multi-channel operations for over 15 years. The automation division of VCI Solutions has its roots in the technology of Odetics and DTG,

We may be able to have some folks see the system at WNEO after the meeting, if time etc. allows.

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

by Ron Bartlebaugh



We have all expectantly gained back common sense and direction following the recent holidays. I trust everyone had a great time and that Santa left many nice toys in every engineer's toolbox. We greatly appreciate the folks at WOIO/WUAB who hosted our November meeting and impressive facility tour. Meeting hosts are vital to our Chapter. Technical program presentations and facility tours provide valuable information to our members and affiliates.

Our next meeting will be held the evening of January 8<sup>th</sup> at the WKSU-FM Broadcast Center located on the main campus of Kent State University. Ron Caird of VCI Solutions will present a program about automation system efficiencies in a complex multi-tasking television environment. This promises to be an educational program that will share commonality with multifaceted radio automation needs.

Congratulations go out to Chapter member and local Game Day (frequency) Coordinator Dave Bobco. Dave and his wife Donna are lucky winners of an all expenses paid trip to the NFL Pro Bowl where Dave will serve as the frequency coordinator for the event. The February 10<sup>th</sup> game will be played at Aloha Stadium in Honolulu. Take pleasure in wishing Dave and Donna a safe trip and a great tan!

It has been wonderful seeing Ed Miller's grandson at our recent meetings. Jeff Miller is a junior at Valley Forge High School in Parma

*(continued on page 2)*

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## Chairman's Chat (continued from page 1)

Heights and attends TV broadcasting/media classes at Normandy High School. He is a serious student and often references SBE and his grandfather's history in broadcasting. Jeff is interested in becoming SBE certified and will likely pursue college and his interest in broadcasting. Please be sure to offer your encouragement to Jeff.

In other local news, broadcast engineer John Hovanec is on the move from the Canton Clear Channel cluster to assume responsibilities at CBS radio stations in Cleveland. Let us unite in wishing John all the best at his new position.

Having returned in November from a Chicago trip, recovering from having been seriously ill during that trip, and otherwise facing critical deadlines at work I was not able to attend the annual OAB Engineering Conference this year. I am disappointed with not being able to attend and look forward to reading Blake's convention review in this edition. (See page 3)

There has been an alarming increase in tower collapses across the country of late. With tower maintenance ignored and structure load increasing the formula for failure is obvious. Always have towers inspected and maintained at regular intervals with vital repairs completed each time and undergo a professionally certified structural study prior to increasing tower loading.

It is a challenge staying well informed about our respective industries. Excellent informational resources can be located on the Internet at the below listed links. Please let us know of links that you find beneficial.

<http://subscribe.radiomagonline.com/subscribe.cfm?tc=NLSUB>

[http://www.radioworld.com/newsletter\\_subscribe.html](http://www.radioworld.com/newsletter_subscribe.html)

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Take good care and best wishes for a great 2008!

Ron



## 5th Annual OAB/SBE/ SMPTE Engineering Conference Review

- Blake Thompson

We had a fine conference this year and got good feedback from the vendors and attendees. There were well over 100 in attendance visiting over 60 vendors and reps. The Doubletree was a nice location on the north side of Columbus, less than 2 hours from Akron, it is in the middle of a large area of strip malls, restaurants and other hotels. They had 3 meeting rooms available for the many sessions presented. We had at least 3 going on all the time. I learned a great deal from the sessions I attended on HD link reliability by Nautel, Digital mpeg stream testing from Sencore, Multi-station playout by ENCO, and ERI's methods for implementing HD via antennas systems. All in all it was a very good and informative time.

The conference committee is already starting plans for next year, and of course I'll be trying to get it closer to us but we'll have to see how that goes. If you have any ideas or questions about this show, or next years, just drop me a line.

I also got a chance to talk to a few folks I don't see much of like... John Bisset at dinner, Phil Alexander during the vendor time, Terry Baun and others. Those of you looking for an excuse to go next year remember you could really learn a lot, maybe enough to save your station MORE than they spend sending you there, I know I did. Plans for next year still have at least 2.5 hours of time just for seeing all the exhibits and meeting the vendors. We are also planning on having the triple track again with something for radio, TV, and a more general group running all morning and afternoon.

A special thanks has to go out to Patti Geary and Chris Merritt of the OAB for all their hard work putting this together. I'll bring the book on the show to the meeting at WKSU so you can check it out then. See you all next year.

## For your information...

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## November Meeting at WOIO/WUAB

Photos courtesy of Robert Leskovec



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## SBE CERTIFICATION EXAM DATES

2008 Exam Dates	Location	Application Deadline
February 8-18	Local Chapters	Dec 31, 2007
April 15	NAB-Las Vegas	Feb 29, 2008
June 6-16	Local Chapters	Apr 18, 2008
August 8-18	Local Chapters	Jun 6, 2008
November 7-17	Local Chapters	Sep 19, 2008

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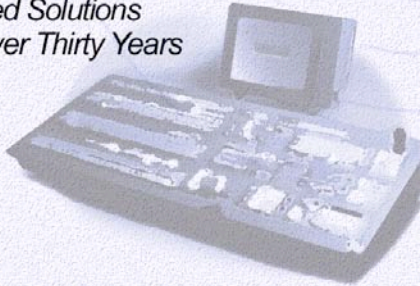
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