

# SBE 70

## MINUTES

<b>Bird Electronics</b> 30303 Aurora Road Solon, OH	<b>Gather at 7pm</b> <b>Meeting at 7:30pm</b>	<b>Next meeting date</b> <b>August 14th</b>	<b>July 2007</b> <b>Vol. XV Number 6</b>
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### MEETING DETAILS

The July 10th meeting will be at Bird Electronics in Solon. We will have an engineering roundtable, anything you'd like to discuss. Plus we will learn a bit more about digital power measuring techniques and we can inspect their new Continental 816HD high-power HD FM tube transmitter.

Meeting time is the usual 7 pm gather and 7:30 meeting, refreshments will be provided. Bird is located at 30303 Aurora Rd. Solon, OH. (Map on Page 2)



### CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

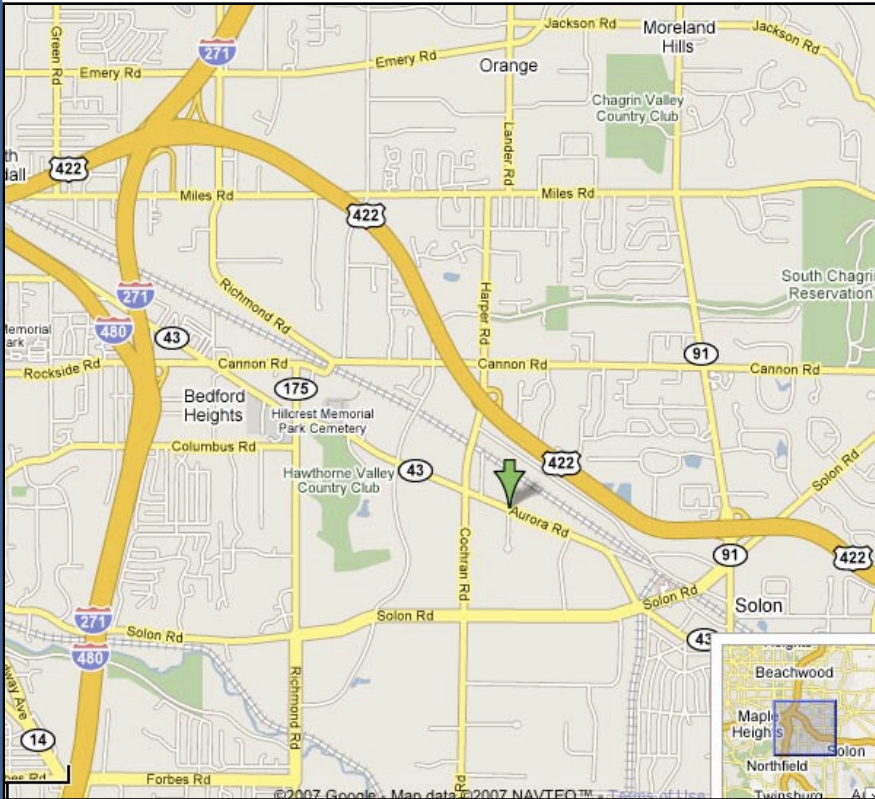
Blake Thompson



Hello all. I don't need to thank anyone for last month's meeting, since there wasn't one. I would like to thank Bill Tobin and the whole crew at Bird Electronics for helping us out with a meeting site and program this month. We are still asking for someone to step up as Program Chair for the Chapter as evidenced by our cancellation in June. Until then any ideas on topics or offers of sites are encouraged. PLEASE help out the Chapter by attending these meetings or helping with programs. You can drop me a line at [blake@uakron.edu](mailto:blake@uakron.edu) or call me 330-972-6221 with anything.

Remember we will be having the elections in August for Chapter officers. Any member is eligible, you just have to want to help out your fellow engineers and the Chapter. The nominations start at the July meeting but we can add folks right up to the actual vote. Just let somebody know you would be willing to serve if you want to be nominated, most of us won't  
*(continued on page 2)*

## Map to Bird Electronics - 30303 Aurora Road - Solon, OH



### Chairman's Chat (continued)

'volunteer' someone. This is my next to last chat, for a while at least, as I am not up for Chairman this year.

I attended the planning meeting for our fifth annual Broadcast Engineering Conference in Columbus last week. We have the date of Thursday November 29<sup>th</sup> at the Doubletree, the old Holiday Inn, on the north side of Columbus near I-270. That's a week after Thanksgiving so you should be all Turkey'ed out. It's only 2 hours from most of our area so you don't need a hotel stay to attend. The planning committee has a wide range of engineers from radio and TV stations including myself, Marvin Hite, John Owen, Jason Knapp, Mark Hiner, and a few others I can't get the names of today. I think with this diverse group we should have our best sessions yet. Please plan now to attend, let your GM know how much you could save him if you have the knowledge attained at these types of events. Don't forget the door prize at each meeting too; the AC testers from Radio Guide have been very popular, although you have show up for your chance to WIN!

That's the way it seems,  
Blake Thompson  
SBE Chapter 70 Chairman

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## **FCC Looks at Changes to Rules Covering Unattended Operation**

by Leslie Stimson, 7.04.2007

Leslie Stimson is the News Editor and Washington Bureau Chief for Radio World.

Surprising many observers, the FCC used the IBOC proceeding to review some basic regulations for all stations when it published new digital rules.

The commission is revisiting the appropriateness of unattended operations for all stations and how that affects the transmission of EAS alerts in connection with its review of public interest requirements for IBOC.

While the FCC now has published basic service rules and fundamental public interest obligations for digital channels, it seeks comment on additional public service obligations in a Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. These new obligations could extend beyond the digital channels to affect main analog channels.

If the FCC were to cut back on the number of hours a station may operate unattended — and possibly require 24/7 staffing — the change would apparently affect all stations and could have a large impact on facilities, especially those with undersized staffs in small markets.

In 1987, the commission eliminated a provision of the main studio rule in which stations were required to originate a majority of non-network programming from the main studio. It did so in part based on technical advances in program production and distribution, it said.

In 1995, in response to improvements to monitoring equipment for stations and transmission facilities, the agency authorized unattended operations and expanded the ability of stations to control and monitor station technical operations from remote locations.

Now, the agency is asking whether “changes in remote operation impacted the requirements that the commission should adopt in this area.”

The FCC has an open EAS proceeding and believes asking EAS questions in the digital proceeding is appropriate, although the issues it seeks comment on would apply to all stations.

The commission is taking comment on whether it should revisit the rules allowing unattended operations, and specifically, whether the “widespread reliance on automated operations” limits the ability to distribute EAS alerts effectively.

The commission didn’t mention other possible reasons for opening this topic, such as loss of localism, which some critics say resulted from allowing “automated” stations.

“Although EAS equipment can be programmed to operate automatically in certain circumstances, when a state or local alert is initiated by designated local authorities, initial input of the alert and acti-

vation of the originating EAS ENDEC must be done manually. In some emergencies, this initial input does not occur,” the FCC stated.

In a footnote, the FCC referred to two incidents where it states EAS alerts were not activated: the widely reported 2002 train derailment near Minot, N.D., and a train collision in Macdona, Texas, 10 miles from San Antonio.

In the Minot case, Clear Channel has said state emergency personnel did not know how to operate the EAS and did not send the initial message to the primary station to pass on. Clear Channel says it has since trained state personnel on how to operate its EAS equipment.

The question of unattended operation and whether it affects a station’s ability to transmit an alert is separate from the EAS Common Alerting Protocol order the agency announced in May.

The commission will require EAS participants to accept CAP messages after FEMA adopts standards. CAP involves the transmission of EAS alerts as text, audio and video via broadcast, cable, satellite and other networks.

And finally, the commission, which is examining whether requirements for the public inspection file for TV stations are adequate to ensure the public has easy access to the material, is asking the same questions about digital and analog radio stations.

The agency has proposed that TV stations make the contents of their public inspection files available on the Web. The FCC asks whether radio should do the same or if radio rules should be different.

Comments on the Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 07-33, are due 60 days after Federal Register publication.

(Source: <http://www.rwonline.com/pages/s.0049/t.6992.html>)

### How to Subscribe to SBE’S NE Ohio Broadcast Net

The SBE-NEOH BROADCAST NET is an e-mail type posting of information and comments relating to broadcast issues and concerns in the Cleveland/Akron area. Many of our NE Ohio engineers are already on-line. If you want to join, following the instructions below.

To receive the SBE-NEOH postings, send the following message addressed to:

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## SBE CERTIFICATION EXAM DATES

2007 Exam Dates	Location	Application Deadline
February 9-129	Local Chapters	Closed
April 17	NAB-Las Vegas	Closed
June 1-11	Local Chapters	Closed
August 10-20	Local Chapters	Closed
November 9-19	Local Chapters	September 21, 2007

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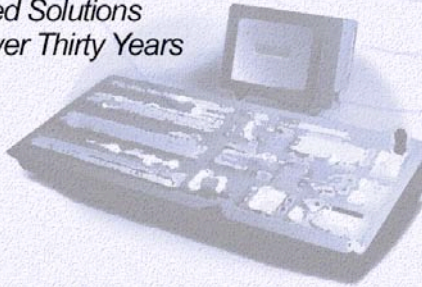
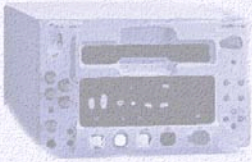
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## Industrial video

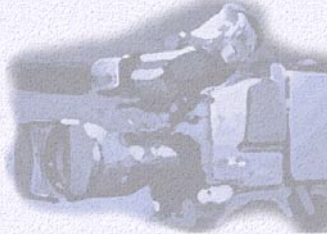
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## Media Scene for Jessie Davis Murder at Stark County Sheriff's Office

(Photos courtesy of Bill Wesinger)

Counterclockwise from left: Steve Brown, FOX News; Action 19 News arriving; CNN preparing to interview Jessie Davis' mother; three of the half-dozen KU band trucks feeding national media; WHLO Mobile News Unit

