



# 70 Minutes

The Monthly Newsletter of Chapter 70  
of the Northeast Ohio Society of  
Broadcast Engineers

March, 2005 • Vol. XIII, Number 3



## *Chairman's Chat*

by Mike Szabo

Thanks to Pro Video Systems Inc. and Leader Instruments Corporation for sponsoring last month's meeting and providing an overview of "Eye Patterns in a Serial Digital Stream". I would also like to thank WVIZ-TV and our Program Chairman Gary Bluhm for hosting the meeting.

On February 7th, Nextel Communications announced its acceptance of the FCC's Report and Order in the matter of "Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800MHz band and Real-locating Spectrum at 2GHz for use by Mobile Satellite Service (MSS) and Advance Wireless Services (AWS)". To the Broadcaster, this will mean a complete change to the 2GHz BAS spectrum currently used for Electronic News Gathering and special event coverage. A new channel plan will shrink the bandwidth of the existing seven channels to 12MHz per channel. In order to maintain video quality with reduced bandwidth, it will mean that radios will have to be converted to a digital transmission system. TV stations, Cable Companies and Production Com-

*(Continued on page 2)*

## March Meeting

Tuesday, March 8  
BIRD Electronics  
Gather at 7pm

The March meeting of SBE Chapter-70 will take place on Tuesday, March 8, at Bird Electronics Corporation at 30303 Aurora Road in Solon. (See map on page 4.) Tim Holt, Director of Application and Systems Engineering, will be presenting a program entitled "*Power Measurement Considerations for Digital Transmission Applications*".

The accurate and reliable measurement of transmitter output power has always been an important consideration in the operation of broadcast transmission systems. These measurements are important for older generation analog transmission systems, and are even

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## Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 10th

—  
There will be no meeting in  
April because of the NAB

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

panies across the country will have 30 months to convert all television markets to a new 2GHz channel plan. The spectrum made available, after the transition, will be given to MSS and AWS users. Nextel's part will be to reimburse the BAS users for the cost to convert their existing equipment. Nextel will also give back spectrum at 800MHz to eliminate interference to Public Safety users. In return, the FCC will grant a portion of the lower 2GHz band, nationwide, to Nextel to cover the costs and replace the 800MHz spectrum. The SBE is acting as a consultant to Nextel to insure a smooth transition in the 2GHz band. If you would like to know all the details the full 255 page FCC R&O is available at:

[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-168A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-168A1.pdf)

SBE's Membership Drive runs March 1st thru May 31st. Receive \$5 off your 2006 membership renewal, up to \$25, for each new member that you recruit. You will also be entered into a prize drawing to be held in June. Check your Membership Drive mailing for details.

If you are heading to NAB be sure to check <http://www.sbe.org> for information on SBE events. There will be several meetings held this year and an all day seminar Saturday on Building the Next Generation Master Control -- Radio and TV.

### Meeting Notice (Continued from page 1)

more important today with the advent of digital broadcast formats such as HDTV and IBOC digital radio. The discussion will be centered around the challenging issues associated with transmitter power measurement in digital broadcast settings, in contrast with their analog predecessors. Tim will present several power measurement methods, and summarize comparative accuracy testing of these methods. Finally, he will demonstrate their latest product offerings intended for these applications.

As usual we will gather at Bird at 7:00 pm for a light dinner, beverage and socializing. Our business meeting will begin at 7:30 with Bird's program to follow. Tim has kindly offered to arrange tours of the facility after the program.

Measuring digital power can be less than straight forward, especially in an IBOC situation. This meeting should prove especially valuable to all of us who work with digital transmitters.

See you all at Bird.

Gary Bluhm  
Program Chairman

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# Society of Broadcast Engineers

## Chapter 70

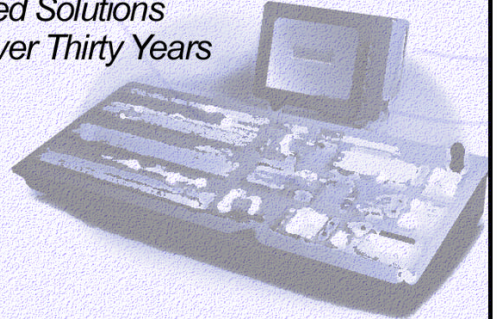
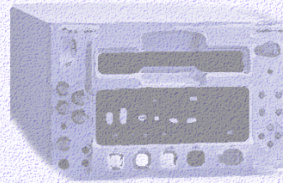
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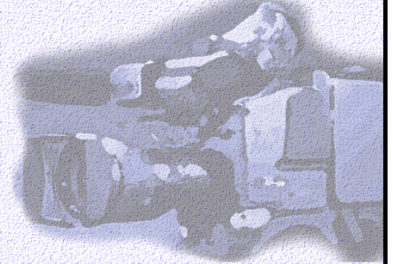
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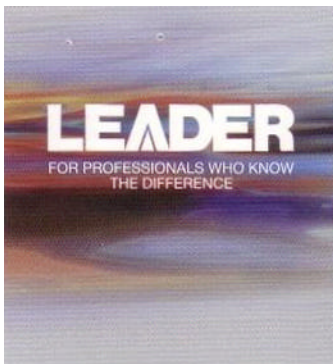
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**Dave Goldsmith**  
President

26471 SouthPoint Rd.  
Perrysburg, OH 43551  
[www.provideosystems.com](http://www.provideosystems.com)  
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800-832-2367  
419-874-2850  
Fax: 419-874-8056



**JOHN PIERCE**  
Director of Sales

Leader Instruments Corporation  
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TF 800.645.5104  
T 714.527.9300 ext. 212  
F 714.527.7490

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Videodub International Inc.  
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## SBE to introduce CERT specialists

Beginning in April 2005, SBE plans to inaugurate exams in several Certification “Specialties.” The specialties will target areas of broadcast engineering knowledge that are becoming harder to find and/or are of a specialized nature. The first specialty will test on maintaining AM directional antennas with testing available at the exam session held during the NAB convention. Those wishing to take a SBE Specialty exam will need to already hold a current SBE Broadcast Engineer or higher certification. A one-day seminar on AM directional antennas is also in the works.



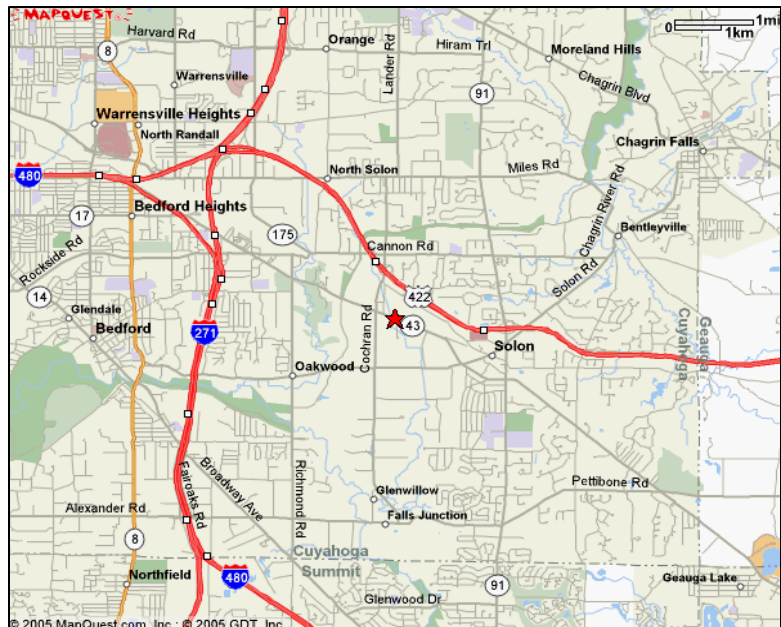
## Leader Skills 2005 scheduled

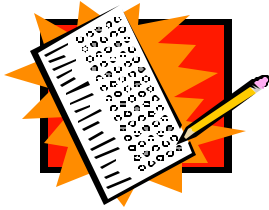
SBE has scheduled Course I of the SBE Leader Skills Seminar for June 7-9, 2005 in Indianapolis. The SBE Leader Skills Seminar provides management and people skills training for broadcast engineers and technicians. We are pleased to have Dick Cupka back to lead our seminar. Please mark the dates and make plans to attend yourself or send someone from your organization. Both the individual and the company will benefit. Contact Angel Bates at the SBE office for more information [abates@sbe.org](mailto:abates@sbe.org) or (317) 846-9000.

## Nomination committee seeks national candidates

Eligible members of the Society of Broadcast Engineers interested in serving on the national Board of Directors of the Society are encouraged to contact any of the members of the SBE Nominations Committee by mid-April. They include: Larry J. Wilkins, CPBE, CBNT, Chairman ([larry.wilkins@cumulus.com](mailto:larry.wilkins@cumulus.com)) and members Jim Bernier, CPBE, CBNT ([jim.bernier@sbe.org](mailto:jim.bernier@sbe.org)), Bob Stroupe, CSRE ([bobstroupe@clearchannel.com](mailto:bobstroupe@clearchannel.com)) and John Bisset, CSRE ([John.Bisset@dielectric.spx.com](mailto:John.Bisset@dielectric.spx.com)).

Map to...  
Bird Electronics  
30303 Aurora Road  
Solon





# SBE Certification Exam Dates

<u>2004/2005 Exam Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Application Deadline</u>
November 12-22	Local	Closed
February 4-14	Local	Closed
April 19	NAB—Las Vegas	Closed
June 3-13	Local	April 22, 2005
August 12-22	Local	June 10, 2005
November 11-21	Local	September 23, 2005



## **70 Minutes – Monthly Newsletter**

Society of Broadcast Engineers  
Chapter 70 - Northeast Ohio  
9028-E Portage Pointe Drive  
Streetsboro, Ohio 44241

### **CHAPTER 70 OFFICERS**

#### **CHAIRMAN**

Mike Szabo  
WKYC-TV3  
216-344-3391  
mszabo@wkyc.com

#### **VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Blake Thompson  
WZIP-FM  
330-972-6221  
blake@uakron.edu

#### **PROGRAM CHAIRMAN**

Gary Bluhm  
WVIZ-TV  
216-398-2800uijty-0p  
gbluhm@wviz.org

#### **SECRETARY**

James Hartland  
216-535-3386  
Jim.hartland@cox.com

#### **TREASURER**

Bill Weisinger, CBRTE  
Weisinger Engineering Services  
wwes@juno.com

#### **CERTIFICATION**

Bill Kozel, CSRE/CBTE  
WEWS-TV5  
216-431-3730  
kozol@wews.com

#### **FREQUENCY COORDINATOR**

> 1 Ghz  
Mike Szabo  
WKYC-TV3  
216-344-3391  
mszabo@wkyc.com

#### **FREQUENCY COORDINATOR**

< 1 Ghz  
Mark Krieger  
216-481-1756  
mkrieger@visn.net

#### **WEB SITE SERVICES**

Ric Cicchinelli, CBT, CBNT  
330-484-6471 Ext.2822  
ricchick1@yahoo.com

#### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Bob Long  
88.9/WSTB-FM  
330-626-4906 Ext.215  
blong@rock889.com