

# SBE CHAPTER 70 - CLEVELAND/AKRON

## SBE 70 MINUTES

**WKTX-AM  
Studios**

**11906 Madison Avenue  
Lakewood 44107**

**Gather at 7pm  
Meeting at 7:30pm**

**March 2011  
Vol. XIX Number 3**

### MEETING DETAILS FOR MARCH 8th

Welcome to March in NE Ohio! Spring is finally in sight at least. The next meeting on Tuesday March 8th is at the site of our weather canceled meeting last month, the WKTX-AM studios located at 11906 Madison Ave., Lakewood OH 44107, just west of downtown Cleveland. Our host will be Jim Georgiades and his plethora of 'antique' but still working broadcast gear. Our presentation will be from Sam Avellone of NPI Audio Visual Solutions. He will be showing a Portable HD AV Flight Pack System powered by the NewTek TriCaster TCXD850, a 24 Channel - 8 Input AV Switcher / Editor / Webcaster and the new TCXD850 CS Live Control Surface. In addition, they will have an SD-SDI Portable AV Flight Pack System powered by the NewTek TriCaster Broadcast, a 6 Input SD-SDI AV Switcher / Editor / Webcaster and a variety of add-on accessories including single channel instant replay, independent graphics station, 3 -hannel replay system and a custom 84 key macro panel. These systems target the portable live production & sports market, but can also be used in studios for distance learning and web streaming. For more information, contact Sam Avellone - Director of Sales NPI Audio Visual Solutions - 216-514-5023. I've seen these packages before and they really make these systems easy to use.

We'll start to gather around 7pm or so with our business meeting to run at 7:30 and the program to follow that.

Thanks and I'll see you all at WKTX.

Blake Thompson CBNT  
Director of Engineering  
WZIP-FM / Z-TV [www.wzip.fm](http://www.wzip.fm)  
SBE Chapter 70 Program Chair

### CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

by Ed Miller, CPBE

Our last scheduled meeting, of February 8th., unfortunately had to be cancelled due to a scheduling conflict. Our intentions are to again offer this program, at a later time, this year. Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

For those of you who have not explored the new National website...please do so. You will find it to be very informative, thorough in its presentation, and easy to navigate. Chapter 70 programs and other pertinent chapter information will appear under the local chapters Northeast Ohio drop-down. The intent of National is to not only showcase individual chapters, but to provide area-wide program agendas available to manufacturers and vendor reps for cost-efficient planning to schedule presentations at multiple chapters within a general locale.

Just a reminder...SBE membership renewal time is here! If you have not already done so...please do! Members in the Member, Senior, Associate, Student, and Fellow membership categories should have received their renewal form in the mail.

There are three ways to renew: on-line via the SBE website, by mail, and by fax. Membership dues may be paid using a personal or company check, money order, debit or credit card (MasterCard, VISA or American Express).

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

If you have any questions about your renewal, or if you have not receive your renewal reminder, please contact Scott Jones at the SBE National Office at (317) 846-9000 or [kjones@sbe.org](mailto:kjones@sbe.org).

On the EAS front...The FCC recently released its Third Report and Order, amending FCC Part 11 rules governing the Emergency Alert System (EAS) to provide for national testing and the collection of data from those tests. Elements of the FCC national test requirements include:

- Require all EAS Participants to participate in national EAS tests as scheduled by the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) in consultation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA);
- Require that the first national EAS test use the Emergency Alert Notification (EAN), the live event code for nationwide Presidential alerts;
- Require that the national test replace the monthly and weekly EAS tests in the month and week in which it is held;
- Require the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (Bureau) to provide at least two months' public notice prior to any national test of the EAS;
- Require EAS Participants to submit test-related data to the Bureau within 45 days following a national EAS test;
- Require that test data received from EAS Participants be treated as presumptively confidential, but allow test data to be shared on a confidential basis with other Federal agencies and state governmental emergency management agencies that have confidentiality protection at least equal to that provided by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA); and
- Delegate authority to the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau to determine, in consultation with FEMA and with other EAS stakeholders, as appropriate, various administrative procedures for national tests, including location codes to be used and pre-test outreach.

Damon Penn, Assistant Administrator of the National Continuity Programs (NCP) Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, when asked when he expected the first national test to take place, said, "This fall." So brace yourself!!

As Northeast Ohio SBE frequency coordinator, I share the following article, prepared by Dane E. Ericksen, P.E., CSRTE, 8-VSB, CBNT, consulting engineer with the firm of Hammett & Edison, Inc:

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**Why Your TV Station Needs A BAS Review...**As part of the FCC's National Broadband Plan (WT 10-153), the commission has proposed opening up the 7 and 13 GHz TV Broadcast Auxiliary Services (BAS) bands to Private Operational Fixed Service (POFS) stations.

In exchange, the prohibition (outlined in Section 101.601(a)(7)) that a below-21 GHz POFS station could not be used as the final link to a broadcast station, would be abolished. The driver for this proposal is to make more backhaul spectrum available for wireless broadband access, a primary goal of the NBP, General Docket 09-51. In this writer's view, rulemakings seen by the Commission as supporting the NBP get expedited action, and have a high likelihood of being adopted.

Assuming that POFS stations do get access to the 7 and 13 GHz TV BAS bands, these newcomer POFS stations would be basing their Section 101.103(d) prior coordination notice (PCN) studies solely on what is reflected in the Universal Licensing System <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>> (ULS). If a BAS record has missing data in the ULS, or has obsolete data, or is even missing entirely (without the TV station licensee realizing that the record is missing), then it is possible that a newcomer POFS station could be granted authorization to operate on a frequency and path that would interfere with the improperly

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**Gary Liebisch**  
Regional Sales Manager - Eastern U.S.  
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Making Digital Radio Work.

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## Chairman's Chat (continued from page 2)

documented TV BAS station in which case it would presumably be the improperly documented TV BAS station that must give way. If that means your studio-to-transmitter link (STL) must cease operation, the repercussions could be serious. Even if the improperly documented TV BAS station does eventually prevail against a newcomer POFS station, the TV BAS licensee will likely have had to spend substantial sums for legal and engineering services to achieve that outcome. So the adage "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" is applicable.

## EIBASS COMMENTS

In its WT 10-153 reply comments, Engineers for the Integrity of Broadcast Auxiliary Services Spectrum (EIBASS), a group which I founded along with Richard Rudman of Remote Possibilities in October 2009, noted that 15 percent of all 7 GHz TV BAS fixed-link records had missing receive-end coordinates, 37 percent had missing receive-end antenna height, and 51 percent had missing receive-end antenna make and model information. For 13 GHz TV BAS fixed-link records the situation was only marginally better: 13 percent had missing receive end coordinates, 35 percent had missing receive-end antenna height, and 50 percent had missing receive-end antenna make and model information. These are shocking and appalling statistics, and do not bode well for ensuring that newcomer POFS stations properly protect existing TV BAS links.

So, what does this mean to you? It means that it is now really important to fix missing data in the ULS for any of your TV BAS licenses, and to ensure that you don't have any missing licenses. TV BAS licenses can be inappropriately deleted from the ULS if the parent TV station renewal is delayed (e.g., a license renewal challenge). Thus the FCC's Media Bureau does not notify the Wireless Telecommunication Bureau (WTB), which maintains the ULS and BAS license records, that a timely renewal application for the parent TV station was filed, and therefore also for all BAS licenses associated with that TV station. Pursuant to Section 1.62 of the FCC rules, if a timely renewal application is filed, then the station in question has continuing authority until the renewal application is acted upon, even if that takes years. Unfortunately, in such cases WTB may incorrectly delete BAS records from the ULS, thinking that they have expired.

## CHECK LICENSES

So the key message is, check your licenses now. When the FCC acts, and this writer thinks it will, then your station's ULS database records will need to be current, correct, and confirmed. Ask for a checkup that includes at least the following:

- \* Review all TV BAS records in the ULS associated with the TV station;
- \* Check for TV BAS records having the TV station's licensee name, but missing association with the facility identification number for the TV station;
- \* For fixed-link records (STLs and ICRs), check TX-end and RX-end coordinates for reasonableness and consistency with site elevation of record; flag fixed-link records with missing RX-end data;
- \* Keep an alert eye for any other portions of the ULS data that suggest a technical problem that could result in improper protection from newcomer links;
- \* Check for links that have been converted to digital, but still show an analog emission designator (and thus not properly authorized, and only protected on the basis of the no-longer-in-use analog modulation);
- \* For 2 GHz TV Pickup stations, check to see if the license properly shows digital emission designators, and whether any fixed ENG-RO sites have been added to the license (thus entitling those sites to protection from 2,1102,120 MHz adjacent-band Part 27 AWS base stations).

Added bonus: If the 2 GHz TV Pickup operation is in any of the 10 markets scheduled to have 2 GHz DoD uplink station added, this also means that the DoD uplink must protect the of-record ENG-RO site.

But don't wait too long, as the WT 10-153 clock is ticking.

And finally, just a reminder, because the NAB is scheduled for April 8th through 14th our Chapter will not meet during the month of April. Regular Chapter 70 meetings will resume on May 10, 2011.

Edward J. Miller, CPBE  
SBE National Past-President, SBE Fellow  
SBE Chapter 70 Chairman



## SBE 2011 Certification Exam Schedule



Exam Dates	Location	Application Deadline
February 4-14	Local Chapters	Closed
April 12	NAB Convention	March 25, 2011
June 3-13	Local Chapters	April 15, 2011
August 5-15	Local Chapters	June 3, 2011
November	Local Chapters	TBA

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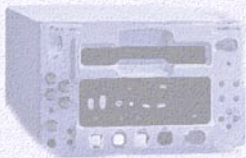
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