



70 Minutes

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

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Chairman's Chat

by Blake Thompson



Many thanks to WKYC, Mike Szabo and the staff for hosting our March meeting. The changes in studio B from our last time there were dramatic. Special thanks to Jim Peck of Wheatstone for the presentation of their new D-5.1 digital board/mixer/router, that thing really "cooked". Congratulations to our own Ron Bartlebaugh for the publishing of his *SBE Handbook for Radio Operators* and the great response for it. The preview copy we had at the meeting looked very nice. I will definitely be ordering one for my student operators to read.

I hope those of you that went to NAB got a lot of information and kept most of your "wages" from being lost. On the DTV front it seems that the NAB and the CEA / CFA consumer groups are, putting it mildly, not in agreement. The consumer groups say the FCC has been too easy on broadcasters and the NAB is asking for more leniencies. It's funny that the consumer groups seem to think that TV stations can just dump a ton of money on new technology without any means to recoup that investment until more people can see it. Apparently the NAB should stop whining about what we have to spend because a "70 billion gift to broadcasters" has gone to

(Continued on page 2)

May Meeting

Tuesday, May 13
WCLV Studios
Gather at 7pm

Robert Conrad has graciously agreed to host our next meeting that will begin at 7pm on May 13th at the WCLV studios, 26501 Renaissance Parkway, Cleveland 44128.

Pizza and soft drinks will be made available courtesy of WCLV.

Following the 7:30 business meeting Bob Conrad and the WCLV staff will be hosting a tour and demonstration of the newly equipped WCLV five studio complex.

The station recently installed Logitek digital audio consoles and Enco DAD Pro 32 program automation equipment using Strata audio editing software. This will be an excellent opportunity for attendees to see the benefits of a networked studio complex. The station also has on order IBOC transmitters for their AM and FM facilities.

WCLV is located off Emery Road and easily accessible from either I-480 or I-271. Driving directions are available at www.mapquest.com. Just look for the 630 foot tower.

Ron Bartlebaugh
Chapter 70 Program Chairman
Director of Engineering, The WKSU Stations
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Chairman's Chat *(Continued from page 1)*

waste. "The people own the airwaves, which have been valued as high as \$70 billion," said Mark Cooper, CFA director of research, "and when the broadcasters were given the right to use it for free, the FCC was supposed to ensure a rapid and smooth transition to digital television. "In truth, the FCC has let the industry drag its feet for so long there is no transition to digital TV - there is just a patchwork of hit-and-miss conversions of occasional signals, without full power." No mention about the absence of receivers from either consumer group was a testament to their lack of a clear understanding of the troubles that we broadcasters face in the new DIGITAL TV and now radio, world. Let's hope for some help from the manufacturers on the reception issue soon.

In some good news, the SBE successfully petitioned the FCC for a "Stay" to the Order concerning updates and revisions to the Part 74 Broadcast Auxiliary Service (BAS). This includes the new requirement for a Prior Coordination Notice (PCN) frequency coordination exhibit for 950 MHz Aural BAS links and for 7 and 13 GHz TV BAS links. The FCC agreed to a 6-month Stay - the rules go into effect Oct. 16, 2003. So take this time to insure your BAS licenses are up to date.

Blake Thompson
SBE Chapter 70 Chairman

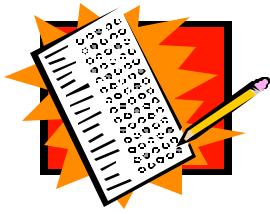


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2003 Certification Exam Dates

<u>2003 Exam Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Application Deadline</u>
April 8, 2003	NAB - Las Vegas	Closed
June 6-16, 2003	Local Chapters	Closed
August 15-25, 2003	Local Chapters	June 13, 2003
November 7-17, 2003	Local Chapters	September 26, 2003



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Society of Broadcast Engineers

Chapter 70

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FCC grants stay requested by SBE

The FCC granted a six-month stay that delays the effective date of prior coordination procedures adopted by ET docket 01-75. SBE requested the stay just before the April 16 effective date that would have put into place new coordination rules requiring fixed aural stations in the 950 MHz band and fixed TV BAS stations in the 2.5 GHz, 7 GHz, 13 GHz and 18 GHz bands to use Part 101 Prior Notification Procedures.

SBE's stay request was based on the fact that the FCC's ULS database is incomplete and inaccurate and that time was needed for licensees to correct receive site information. SBE also said that interference standards for the assorted digital, analog and hybrid digital/analog links need to be developed before prior coordination procedures are put into effect.

SBE met with FCC officials on April 29 in Washington to discuss ways and offer suggestions on how to correct the ULS. Though licensees will need to check the ULS to make sure that their BAS point-to-point links are accurate, it is not clear at this point whether licensees can make changes in their ULS information without incurring a fee from the FCC. SBE suggests that licensees hold off briefly from making changes until a procedure is devised, hopefully without a fee from the FCC attached. More information will be proved from SBE and the FCC as soon as it is available.

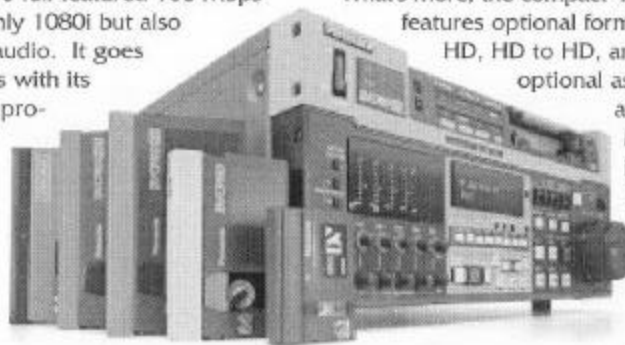
Source: www.sbe.org

The HD/SD Standard. Available Now ... the DVCPRO HD Studio VTR

Panasonic's new AJ-HD150 full-featured 100 Mbps studio VTR delivers not only 1080i but also 720p with 8 channels of audio. It goes beyond conventional VTRs with its playback capability of all professional DV-based formats, including DVCPRO Progressive, DVCPRO50, DVCPRO, DVCAM, and even DV. The HD/SD VTR runs continuously variable noise-free slow motion to add style and focus to any program without going to disk.

What's more, the compact 4U rack-mountable AJ-HD150 features optional format conversion from SD to HD, HD to HD, and HD to SD. Now add optional aspect ratio conversion, SDTI and complete specification Metadata for ground-breaking performance in any studio environment.

At a cost not much more than traditional 4:2:2 VTRs, the AJ-HD150 sets a new standard for High Definition and Standard Definition work.



DVCPRO HD

Bill Edwards
Direct Sales Manager
Panasonic Broadcast
412-366-6513

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TREASURER's REPORT

by Bill Weisinger

Since it's been a long time since we published a "State of the Chapter Treasury," I thought this might be a good time, especially since we do have money.

Our single largest annual expense, the monthly newsletter has (as predicted) now been saving the Chapter lots of money each month. This is good since we lost one (business card sized) sponsor for sure (due to a national cut-back) and two others are still not quite committed, but traditionally have been solid supporters. I think all the sponsors liked the new ad rate discounts and new features we incorporated this year as a result of the conversion to E-mailed newsletters.

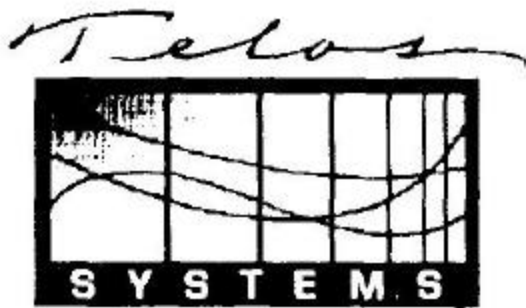
We still have some monthly Newsletter expense, due to a small group who are still receiving this by US mail. If YOU are one of these regular mail folks and have an E-mail address, please send it to Bob Long so we can get you off this paid postage list and onto the one that gets your newsletter (and all emergency updates) to you fast (and free).

To put some numbers to this impressive Newsletter saving, it used to cost the Chapter about \$70.00/mo for snail mail. Now we're down to about \$17.00!

Our Chapter Treasury is in good shape with a balance of just over \$3,200 and no outstanding debts (that I'm aware of).

Finally, since we're in such fine shape, I decided to upgrade the "Chapter Treasury Box." This is the actual physical device that holds all our receipts and records. So we now have replaced the former SBE Chapter Shoe Box (yes...it was a real shoe box), with an actual "Jumbo Pro -File" portable file folder with real hanging file folders. Total cost was \$9.29.

Our next big expense, traditionally, (should we have one this year), is the annual Chapter Picnic.



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70 Minutes – Monthly Newsletter

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