



70 Minutes

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

May, 2005 • Vol. XIII, Number 4



Chairman's Chat

by Mike Szabo

Bird Electronics Corporation hosted our March meeting. Tim Holt, Applications Director and Katie Wright, Application Engineer gave an excellent presentation on Digital Power Measurement, which included a preview of one of their new power meters. Bird Electronics provided two Model 43 wattmeters with elements as door prizes. Congratulations to our door prize winners, Mark Krieger and Joe Mate and thank you to Bird Electronics for providing the prizes and being a gracious host.

In our last Newsletter I made mention of the 2GHz BAS relocation plan. Since that time, the 2GHz BAS users in the Cleveland market had an opportunity to meet, informally, with Nextel's Senior Broadcast Coordinator for the Midwest Region, John Owen. The meeting was held on April 13th at the WKYC-TV studios. If you are a licensed user of the 2GHz BAS band and did not receive an invitation to the meeting please contact me so I can add your name to my list. Our formal "Kick-off Meeting" will be held later this year in Novem-

(Continued on page 2)

May Meeting

Tuesday, May 10
Coaxial Dynamics
Gather at 7pm

Chapter 70's May 10th meeting will be held at Coaxial Dynamics at 6800 Lake Abram Drive in Middleburg Heights, www.coaxial.com. (See maps on page 2) Coaxial Dynamics has been a leading manufacturer of precision equipment for the measurement and termination of RF power for over 30 years. Their equipment is used by engineers and technicians in a wide variety of applications throughout the world. Many radio/TV facilities (including dtv/iboc) around the world are using their equipment for station monitoring and transmitter control. Coaxial Dynamics will give us look at some of their most recent products, projects and technologies. After their program they will give tours of their new facility.

The gathering will begin at 7:00 with

(Continued on page 2)

Next Meeting
Tuesday, June 14th

Chairman's Chat (Continued from page 1)

ber or December. One important note I neglected to mention was the eligibility requirement for compensation set by the FCC. Licensees whose initial license filing was prior to June 27, 2000 will be eligible for compensation by Nextel. However, Nextel is working with broadcast industry groups to explore whether the eligibility date can be extended to cover more licensees. More information is available at www.2Ghzrelocation.com.

Don't forget, SBE's Membership Drive concludes on May 31st. Receive \$5 off your 2006 membership renewal for each new member that you recruit, up to \$25. You will also be entered into a prize drawing to be held in June. Check your Membership Drive mailing for details or the SBE web site.

Meeting Notice (Continued from page 1)

a light dinner and socializing. Our business meeting will begin at 7:30 and will be followed by Coaxial Dynamics' program and then tours.

I hope to see you all next Tuesday.

Gary Bluhm

Program Chairman

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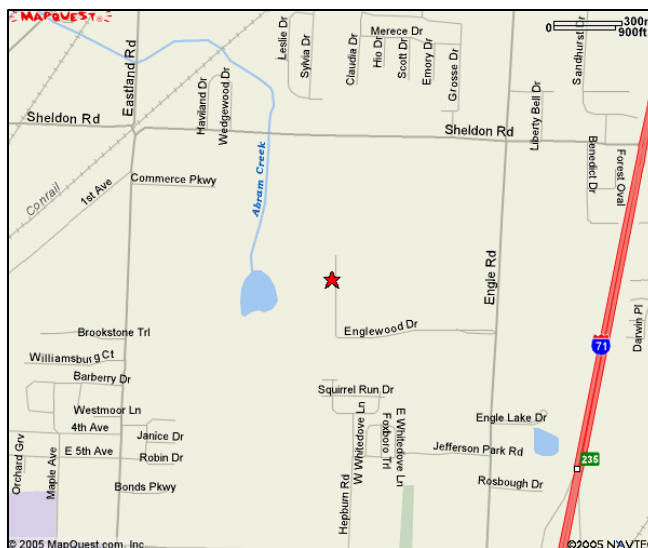
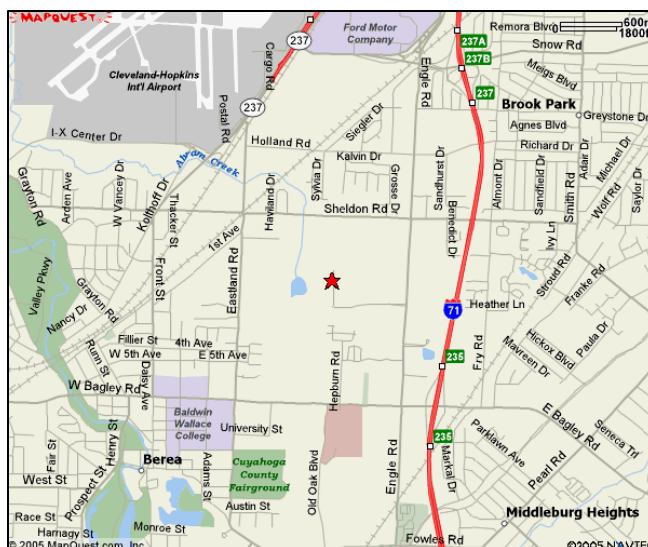
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Society of Broadcast Engineers

Chapter 70

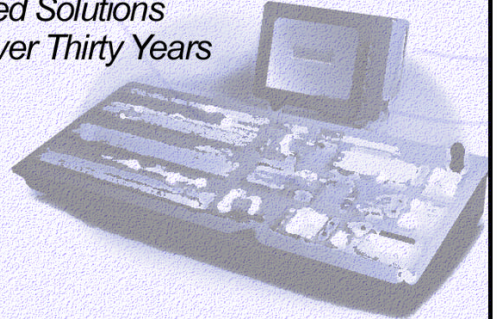
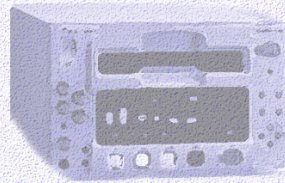
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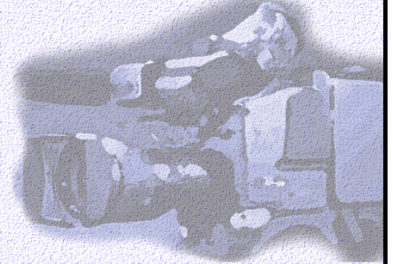
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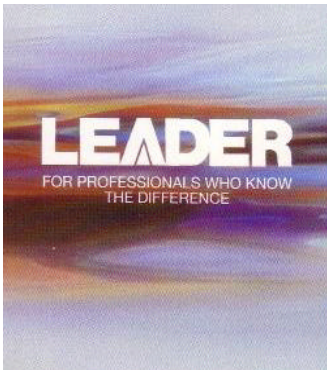


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Chapter 70's Foti presents at NAB

Surround Sound Systems Revealed

By Leslie Stimson

RADIO WORLD

Sunday was all about HD Radio for the audio sessions in the Broadcast Engineering Conference - from surround sound to implementation options as more transmission equipment for HD Radio becomes available.

Representatives for companies adapting their surround sound technologies for digital radio peppered each other with sharp questions Sunday during "Surround Sound - A New Frontier for Radio."

Proponents from Omnia Audio, SRS Labs, Coding Technologies and Neural Audio discussed the pros and cons of matrixed (non-discrete channels) vs. non-matrixed (discrete or separate channel) surround sound systems.

The National Radio Systems Committee (NRSC), the standards-setting body co-sponsored by NAB and the Consumer Electronics Association, is also looking at the systems offered by the proponents who spoke on the panel. The NRSC yet to determine if it will actually choose a surround sound system to recommend for use with HD Radio, as it is still in the early stages of studying them.



Omnia's Frank Foti said surround is a great application for HD Radio and can drive consumer adoption.

INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION

Omnia's Frank Foti said surround is a great application for HD Radio and can drive consumer adoption. He said terrestrial radio is under attack from other media, such as satellite radio and iPods, and broadcasters need to act on surround sound.

"Please let's not let FM radio become a media backwater," Foti said.

When asked what happens with his system if something goes wrong, Foti said it drops back to stereo.

He said independent testing of all surround systems is important, and vigorously questioned the other panelists about the testing done on their systems.

"We're fooling ourselves if we say 'we've done a bunch of Grammy nominations [in surround sound] and we're done,'" he said.

Coding Technologies developed Spectral Band Replication, which Vice President and General Manager of U.S. Operations David Frerichs said "approximately doubles the efficiency of audio codecs. SBR is used in the iBiquity Digital HDC codec for HD Radio.

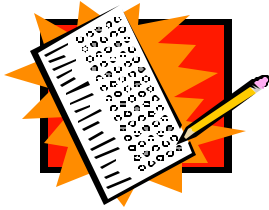
Frerichs said the MPEG parametric sound is going to become part of MPEG-4, an open standard. "The goal of the MPEG surround system is to accurately replicate sound."

He said broadcasters need a surround system that will address today's FM needs, but can also be used with streaming and other uses beyond HD Radio down the road.

Robert Reams, chief technology officer (CTO), co-founder and chief scientist for Neural Audio, told attendees 5.1 content is scarce so broadcasters need to think about how they would both upmix and downmix audio from stereo to 5.1 and back again.

Storage of 5.1 content in automation systems is also something for broadcasters to think about, he said, noting he saw three products at this show that can store 5.1 content as a WAV file.

Source: NAB 2005 Daily News Online Edition (4.18.05)



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 | March 1, 2005 |
| 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
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