



CHAPTER TWENTY NEWS

society of broadcast engineers
pittsburgh chapter

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SBE Chapter 20 Chairman John Humphrey receives a plaque from Barry Thomas, national SBE president.



Chairman's Corner

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The Annual SBE Chapter 20 Equipment Expo was in conjunction with the National SBE last month. I was quite surprised to find out that the Chapter 20 SBE Expo is one of only three, yes that's right, one of just three equipment shows put on in the entire U.S. by a local SBE chapter.

Chapter 20 was awarded a plaque recognizing the effort put forth to host the National SBE meetings.

Like many of you, I have been involved with the SBE show for so long that I had no idea we were so unique. It is quite a testament to the Pittsburgh Chapter. I'm not sure how long it has been running continuously, for maybe 36 years? I know for the last 25 years I have been involved with the show.

We had another good show. Generally, the goal is to provide a meeting place for vendors and broadcast professionals and to not

lose money in the process. As always, I had hoped for a significantly larger quantity of attendees. However, the vendors I spoke with told me the QUALITY of attendees was better, even if the quantity was only slightly greater. We have had a good, long-running equipment show and it will continue.

I think when the vendors talk about better quality of attendees, what they mean is they are speaking to real buyers looking to upgrade their facilities, not "tire kickers." Of course, right now HD is the hottest thing and everyone is either buying or considering buying various HD equipment and systems.

For the first time in a long while, exhibits and a cocktail reception were open on Wednesday evening from 5 PM until 8 PM. My feedback was it was a success.

I had several visitors make a point of coming to me and thanking the SBE for having evening exhibits. I did not hear any complaints from vendors, since they have to set up during that day anyway.

Much of our success is a result of our generous sponsors. Harmonic and PSI paid for the Wednesday evening reception. Ross Video paid for everyone's lanyards, and Sony paid for the Thursday morning breakfast.

We had as many vendors as we had last year (sold out). Thanks to everyone who made an effort to show up at the Expo and support

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Next Meeting

November 15 @ 7:00 PM

Come @ 6:30 to shoot the breeze

Topic: TBA on the Web Site
<http://www.sbe20.org>

No Meal Fee

Gaetano's

1617 Banksville Rd., Pittsburgh

Chairman's Corner

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the vendors that support us.

The technical presentations were much better attended at the show. Our keynote breakfast featured Larry Thorpe. That was standing room only and very interesting. Larry designed cameras for RCA and Sony before joining Canon. If you think you've seen it all, Larry's presentation on "What's next for HDTV?" showed we are just starting to see High Definition. Resolutions of 4K x 2K are being used right now by NHK and others.

The John Lennon Bus was also very interesting. I took the tour and it is a truly wonderful opportunity for young, talented musicians who might never get this exposure to a recording studio.

The Chapter gave away, at our expense, the following door prizes:

Apple 8GB iPod Touch; (3) \$50 Best Buy Gift Cards; Pinnacle HD Pro Stick USB Tuner; Magellin Nuvi GPS; Nikon Coolpix Camera; Samsung 19" Widescreen Monitor; Sony 4GB Vault Flash Drive.

I also want to thank Sandy Riscoe for the donation of noise cancelling headphones and PC speakers.

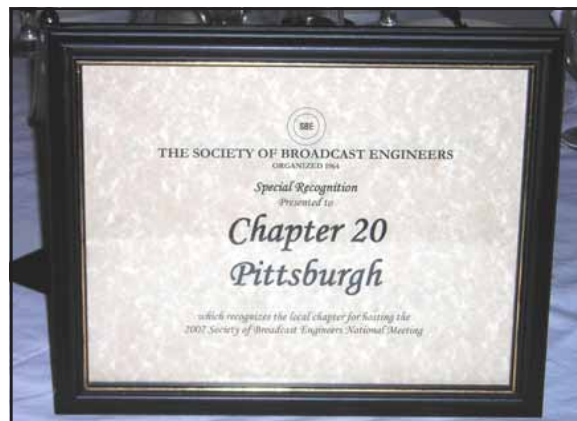
Most importantly, I want to take this opportunity to thank some of the people who gave their time to make the show possible:

- Joann Garvin did a great job of handing all the details and worked the registration table. Of course we pay her, but she's worth it!
- Gary and Jean Stewart who tirelessly put out the info on the web site and the SBE newsletter.
- Bob Hoffman was my right hand man at the show and did an amazing job with the database and credit card processing for booth payments.
- Henry Lassige (Sr.) for paying all the Expo bills and Henry Lassige (Jr.) for bringing the checks to the show.
- Glenn Romsos for buying all the door prizes. You might think this would be fun, until you have to do it.
- Nick Capp who went to the NAB and stepped up at the right time (with John Luff) to make sure we had good technical presentations for the show.

As usual, I am always open to any suggestions to make this SBE Chapter work better for its members and for Radio and TV broadcasting.

I look forward to see all of you at the November meeting.

I would like to hear your opinion about any subject by phone (888) 873-0800 or by e-mail to: john.humphrey@azcar.com.



Plaque presented to SBE Chapter 20 in recognition of our efforts in hosting the national SBE meeting.



Wednesday evening's cocktail reception.



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Broadcasters, Federal Agencies Discuss Next Generation Public Alerting

John Poray
SBE Executive Director

On October 17, the Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE) chaired a meeting in Washington, D.C. to discuss the next generation of public alerting. Attending the meeting with SBE were representatives of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) and the National Alliance of State Broadcast Associations (NASBA).

The purpose of the meeting was to bring together federal agencies responsible for developing and implementing an improved emergency notification system with representatives of the broadcast industry. Representing SBE at the meeting were Clay Freinwald, national SBE Emergency Alert System (EAS) Committee chair, who led the meeting, Richard Rudman, a member of SBE's EAS Committee and John Poray, Executive Director.

Based on comments from the representatives of the federal agencies in attendance, there is much work to be done before any firm plan for the next generation alerting plan will be known. The agencies all said that input from the broadcast industry is needed and will be solicited to help design the system. FEMA, which has primary responsibility for system architecture, anticipates a system that will provide redundancy and resiliency. FEMA said their "IPAWS" plan will essentially be a "system of systems" and that a next generation of EAS would constitute one of those systems. NASBA representatives made it clear that funding for any required equipment should come from the federal government.

FEMA is preparing a "first assessment" of architecture for the White House, due by December 31 of this year. SBE representatives came away from the meeting feeling that there will likely be no action required of local broadcasters for at least a year and possibly longer. The group anticipates another meeting in January, 2008 to hear updates from the federal agencies and continue the dialogue.

Expo Door Prizes

The hourly door prizes were won by the following attendees:

Wed 6:00PM PC Speakers

Bill Combs, First Evangelical Free Church, North Huntingdon, PA

Wed 7:00PM Garmin Navi GPS

Dave Kasperek, WTAE-TV

Wed 8:00PM Noise Canc. Headphones and \$50 Best Buy card

Anny Fernandes, Agape Television, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania Africa

Thu 9:30AM Noise Canc. Headphones

Roger Wilson, WPCB-TV

Thu 10:30AM Noise Canc. Headphones and \$50 Best Buy card

Gary Stigall, XETV, San Diego

Thu 11:30AM USB PC-HDTV receiver

Joe Balcik, Monroeville TV-15

Thu 12:30PM Samsung 19" WS monitor

Peter Harrison, the U.K.

Thu 1:30PM 4GB Tiny Flash drive

Andy Butler, PBS, Alexandria, VA

Thu 2:30PM Nikon CoolPix camera

Kevin Connolly, the Bethel Park School District

Thu 3:30PM iPod Touch

Keith Brown, Mirage Advertising, Monroeville, PA

Thu 4:30PM PC Speakers

Hal DeLozier, Hollidaysburg, PA

Thu 5:00PM \$50 Best Buy card

John Lyons, The Durst Organization, New York

Opportunities

As the transition to digital rounds the bend at high speed, AZCAR has identified several openings for well qualified senior engineers, junior engineers, and project managers with broadcast and integration experience. AZCAR provides consulting, design, and integration services to broadcasters, post-production facilities and other A/V clients.

For information regarding specific career opportunities, please see <http://www.azcar.com/careers.php> or contact the human resources department at bruce.long@azcar.com

