



CHAPTER TWENTY NEWS

society of broadcast engineers
pittsburgh chapter

May 2009

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At the April meeting, Paul Byers had a prepared presentation. Others shared their views on this year's NAB offerings.

Chairman's Corner

NAB & Expo



Paul Byers
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If you missed last month's meeting at the Pittsburgh Steak Company on the South Side, don't worry because we will be meeting there again on Thursday, May 21st. Instead of a noon meeting though, this one will begin at 7:00 PM. John Humphrey will give us his take on what was hot at the NAB Show in Las Vegas last month. As always, come a little early to shoot the breeze. Remember that there will be a \$7 charge for dinner. We had a good turnout for the April meeting, but I would love to see some new faces (in addition to the familiar ones) at this month's meeting. Please tell a friend or co-worker to come on down to the South Side on May 21st.

We are rapidly approaching our annual Expo (October 19th and 20th) at the new Monroeville Convention Center and with our summer meeting hiatus also about to begin, there is not much time left for planning. In order to have a successful show, we need vendors, papers and attendees. If everyone reading this newsletter could get just one vendor to sign up for a booth or submit an idea for a paper or ask 10 friends to come to the show, we could have the best Expo ever. I ask each of you to give some thought to how you could help. Vendor and attendee registration is up and running on our web site (www.sbe20.org) and you can always send me an e-mail with a topic for a technical paper.

Thanks in advance for your help and I hope to see you at this month's meeting.



Next Meeting ...

NAB Re-Cap Part II

Dave Kasperek
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In May we return to our new "normal" meeting time of 7 PM at our new meeting location, the Pittsburgh Steak Company. Chapter 20 SBE Secretary Sean Ryan suggested this location and we decided to give it a try last month. As near as I could tell most people were pleased. Come out this month and see if you agree and give us feedback either way. REMINDER - we voted to return to the past practice of a \$7 fee per attendee at the meetings to help keep overall chapter finances up.

The May meeting topic is a continuation of the April 2009 NAB review. Unfortunately due to a misunderstanding about the time of day for our last meeting, John Humphrey and John Luff of HD Consulting were not able to share their thoughts last month. John Humphrey and I both felt badly he had worked to prepare a review of value and think it's worth continuing the topic for another meeting so we can get the benefit of his insights into the 2009 Show.

Menu: Salad, manicotti w/ marinara, beef tips marsala, vegetable, bread, cookies for dessert, soft drinks, coffee, etc.

FCC Report

Paul Byers

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You've just received an FCC Notice of Violation. Now what?

1. Don't panic.

The fact that you received the Notice of Violation doesn't conclusively mean you've done something wrong, but it does mean the FCC has serious questions about you and/or the radio system cited.

2. Don't freeze.

Like being served with a law suit, you must fully answer the Notice of Violation or risk what amounts to a default judgment against you, and the FCC sending you a Notice of Apparent Liability. A Notice of Apparent Liability is, essentially, a bill for violation(s) that can cost you many thousands of dollars. What else can the FCC do? They can order you to shut down your radio system, or cancel your operator's license. If you fail to follow an FCC order, the Commission may refer the case for arrest and criminal prosecution.

3. Determine, EXACTLY, when your written response to the Commission is due.

The due date, or the number of days you'll have to respond will be printed on the face of the Notice. That's the day the response is due at the Commission...NOT the day you put the response in the mail. Your failure to respond when required can subject you to fines and/or shutdown orders.

4. Read the Notice VERY carefully. Then go back and read it again.

Determine EXACTLY what you're being accused of...and when! It might be that

you're not the right party based on the alleged violation, or the date or time of the alleged violation might be your defense. For example, were you cited on a date or time when the radio system was not in operation, or not operating in violation of the Commission's rules.

5. What you tell the Commission in your response can be used against you.

The choice of words you use (or omit) in your written response is, therefore, critical, both from an accuracy-of-response standpoint, and from the equally important standpoint of not incriminating yourself unnecessarily.

6. If you don't know how to respond to an FCC notice, get qualified help RIGHT NOW.

Scroll back up and re-read points 1 and 2 of this list. Remember, you owe the Commission a written response within a certain number of days, so every day you delay is a day lost. The quality, accuracy, and effectiveness of your written response will likely decrease as the due-date gets closer...and you get more nervous.



There was a lot more headroom at Pittsburgh Steak than at Alexanders.



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SBE Introduces The SBE University

Jan. 9, 2009

The Society of Broadcast Engineers announced the opening of the SBE University in January; a series of on-line, on-demand courses designed to bring expert instruction on a variety of technical radio and television topics to broadcast engineers at an affordable price.

Beat the recession with these all-new, affordable “nuts and bolts” courses available to take anytime at your convenience. No travel, hotel or other costs to eat up your limited training budget, these courses are developed by experts for the SBE. The first three courses offered by the SBE University at its introduction were:

AM Antenna Modeling

More info at: www.sbe.org/Online%20Education/SBEOnlineUniversity-AMAntennaModelingCourse.php

FM Transmission Systems

More info at: www.sbe.org/SBEFMTTransmissionSystemsCourse_000.php

Matching Networks and Phasing

More info at: www.sbe.org/SBEMatchingNetworksandPhasingCourse_000.php

SBE University Offers 8-VSB Course

The SBE has introduced the fourth course in its SBE University series of on-line, on-demand courses for broadcast engineers. The SBE 8-VSB Course is written by Douglas W. Garlinger, CPBE, 8VSB, CBNT, a Fellow in the Society of Broadcast Engineers and Senior Broadcast Engineer for Qualcomm Media FLO.

The purpose of the SBE 8-VSB course is to give the student an overview of the 8-VSB system from end to end, providing all of the basic information he or she will need to understand the nature of 8-VSB modulation and to recognize deficiencies in the transmitted signal. This information will be invaluable in installing, maintaining and operating a digital television transmitter facility. Much of the material contained in this course will aid the student in his or her efforts to obtain the SBE 8-VSB Specialist Certification.

The primary focus of the SBE 8-VSB Course is RF transmission and the process employed to transform the 19.39 Mbit/s transport signal into a signal suitable to modulate the transmitter. The course will also touch briefly on some of the important elements in the transport stream, such as video compression, picture formats, Active Format Description, PSIP and Dolby AC-3 audio.

A more thorough description of the SBE 8-VSB Course, including a course syllabus, and enrollment information, can be found at the SBE web site: www.sbe.org/SBE8-VSBCourse.php



Musings of a Consultant

NAB

John Luff
Television Technology Consultant
HD Consulting
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“The annual trek to Lost Wages was shorter this year for me, and nonexistent for many.

Attendance dropped 21% officially, though many felt the aisles were more empty than that. The operative watch word seemed to be reducing costs, or said more politely “Return on Investment.”

Sun was sold to Oracle in April, and SGI sold out of bankruptcy for a paltry \$25 Million late in March. Snell & Wilcox merged with ProBel and became Snell. NVision was acquired by Miranda and became a product line (brand). Grass Valley is for sale (again...), though they declined to talk about it since offers are being considered.

Seems like the shifting business climate was more interesting than the hardware at the show, and maybe it is more important as well.

The big question seems to be will everyone return to Las Vegas next year when (hopefully) the economy is better. With Sony pulling out of IBC for this year what else will spoil the annual parade?”

NAB Meetings On Line

The SBE recorded two of the meetings held at the 2009 NAB Show: The annual membership meeting on Apr 21 and the SBE EAS meeting on Apr 20.

Both are now posted as podcasts on the SBE website.

Links to these podcasts are on the SBE home page.

Thanks to Chriss Scherer for this info!

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Nick Cap, Steve Johnson, and Roger Wilson arriving at the Pittsburgh Steak Co. for our April NAB recap meeting.

Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, May 21

Location: Pittsburgh Steak Company
1924 East Carson St.
Pittsburgh

Time: 6:30 PM gather and shoot the breeze
7:00 PM Dinner

Program: NAB Review Part II
John Humphrey and associates from AZCAR and
John Luff of HD Consulting

Dinner Fee: \$7

Directions to Pgh. Steak Co.

The Pittsburgh Steak Co. is located on Pittsburgh's South Side at 1924 East Carson Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203. Crossing the Mon River from Pittsburgh, take either the Birmingham Bridge or 10th Street Bridge to Carson Street. If you need more detailed directions, call the restaurant at 412-381-5505 or email dkasperek@hearst.com. On Carson Street the restaurant is located a bit closer to Birmingham Bridge if you're trying to avoid Carson Street traffic. There are 2 public parking lots proximate to the restaurant. Meeting room is on the second floor.

