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SBE CHAPTER 52

NEWS LETTER

CONNECTIONS



**There will be a joint meeting of the Ohio Section SMPTE
and SBE Chapter 52 on
Thursday, May 28, 2015 at the
WBNS Sports Studio**

**Our speaker is Tim Anderson of
GatesAir speaking on: “The Pursuit (and Retreat) of Hi-Fidelity
Radio Broadcasting”**

Broadcasters and listeners have come a long way in their quest for better audio quality. Today, we assume Hi-Fi audio quality but it hasn't always been that way. Maybe we've even taken a few steps backward. Some of what was old is new again and what was new is old. We'll talk about the early efforts of Hi-Fi broadcasting, where it went, where it is, and where it's going.



About This Month' s Speaker:

Tim Anderson, CPBE / DRB, CBNE

GatesAir, Manager, Radio Product and Business Development, Mason, OH

With 38 years in the broadcast engineering field, Tim Anderson joined Gates- Air in 2007 and is the Manager of Radio Product and Market Development. In this role, he has led the conceptual product development efforts on the HPX and Flexiva “ FAX ” line of FM digital transmitters. Prior to joining Harris, he served as a broadcast systems engineer with iBiquity Digital Corporation, where he assisted in the development, testing and deployment of the HD Radio transmission system.

Previously he was a Broadcast Systems Engineer for Avid Technology. Over the years, he has served as a consultant, and chief engineer of several major market radio stations, groups, networks and production facilities. Tim has published numerous technical articles on the subject of digital radio broadcasting and radio transmitter systems. He holds The Society of Broadcast Engineers ' Professional Broadcast Engineer/Digital Radio Broadcast and Broadcast Network Engineer certifications. He serves on the SBE National Board of directors and Digital Radio Mondial Steering Committee.



Our thanks to MILLS — JAMES PRODUCTIONS and Scott Lanum, VP Teleproduction Services for hosting our April meeting. Scott and Mills-James are always gracious hosts and generous of their time and facilities in support of SBE and SMPTE. Thank you for again hosting us.

Osborn Engineering kindly provided the food and beverages.



Last Month's Program

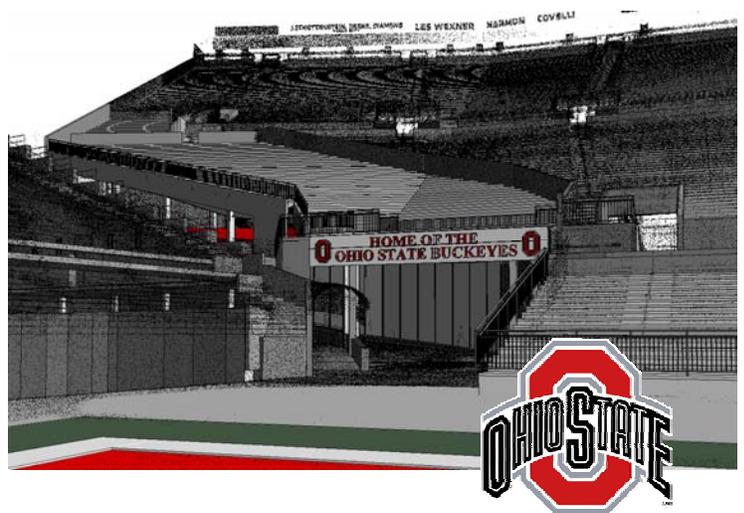
The April program was presented by a team of engineers and architects from Osborn Engineering with offices in Cleveland and Akron, Ohio. They were just back from the National Association of Broadcasters Convention in Las Vegas. Shown from left to right in the upper left photo are Mark Fehlig, PE, CPBE, Senior RF Spectrum Engineer; Donald P. Archibale, PE, AIA, Vice President and Director of Technology; and Tyler G. Slentz, Technology Designer. They gave a concise, rapid fire overview of new NAB exhibitor products and services, and discussed the behind the scenes turmoil in the FCC's management of the radio spectrum. It was a stellar performance in covering so much information in so little time. See referenced documents on the following page for further study. Chairman John Owen is shown above right and below introducing the panel and welcoming the SBE and SMPTTE members, and their guests.





Don Archibale recommended the above documents for further study in the ongoing spectrum issue. Contact Don at darchibale@osborn-eng.com for assistance in finding them on the internet.

What do the projects shown on this and the following page have in common? Answer on page 6.



What do the following projects have in common? Answer on the following page.





Answer: All of the structures were created by our newest bulletin sponsor, Osborn Engineering. Pictured above is Frank Osborn, founder of the company in 1892. For more background, visit their excellent web site:

Osborn-Eng.Com

SBE Regulatory Update

May 18, 2015

Broadcast Spectrum Incentive Auction

On May 13, the FCC released a public notice, [DA 15-580](#), concerning the upcoming broadcast spectrum incentive auction that is of importance to many SBE members. There are two aspects of this public notice of which television broadcast engineers must be aware.

First, the FCC has previously established that all auction eligible stations should review information set forth in the FCC's databases, including the Consolidated Database System and Antenna Registration System, and correct any errors in that information. **The deadline for this review is May 29, 2015.**

Second, sometime shortly after May 29, likely no later than June 15, the FCC will issue a public notice listing all stations eligible for participation in the auction or protection in the repacking process. *All eligible stations, regardless of whether or not they intend to participate in the auction, are required to complete and submit [FCC Form 2100, Schedule 381](#).* The form requires licensees to certify that their facilities are correctly described in the FCC's database, or to explain any discrepancies. It also requires certain technical information regarding station facilities to be provided.

Stations should take the following actions as soon as possible:

- Carefully review the information set forth in the FCC's databases and confirm it is accurate. If it is not accurate, correct it immediately.
- The engineering parameters set forth in the databases will define the facilities that will be eligible for protection following the auction. If certain engineering specifications, for example antenna pattern rotation, are incorrect, this could potentially result in a loss in coverage if the station is repacked after the auction. Review the parameters shown in the databases and **make any corrections before May 29.**
- Review Schedule 381 and begin gathering information needed to complete this schedule for all stations.
- Look for the Eligibility Public Notice that will be released sometime in early to mid-June.
- Complete and file Schedule 381 for each station within 30 days of the release of the Eligibility Public Notice.

Watch for further updates from the SBE, including when the FCC releases the list of auction-eligible stations or protection in the repacking process.

News & Headlines

Closed Captioning and the Elimination of POTS Lines

March 4, 2015

The SBE was recently contacted by representatives of the [National Court Reporters Association](#) (NCRA) over its concern about the telephone industry's process of phasing out POTS lines. POTS lines are used by many stations to receive closed-caption data. In many cases, this work is performed remotely by members of the NCRA, who are hired by the stations.

The NCRA wants to be sure that TV stations are aware of the phase out of POTS lines and, since it's the station's responsibility to be in compliance with captioning regulations from the FCC, prepare to change to an alternative delivery method. For more information on this topic, the NCRA has provided a short white paper on this subject to the SBE, which follows.

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Closed Captioning and the Elimination of POTS Lines

The Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) phone lines serve as the distribution method for a large amount of closed captioning data transmitted in the United States. The captions are generated by the individual broadcast captioner and sent to the television station across POTS lines. The telephone industry's process of eliminating POTS lines has begun a disruption of service pattern across the country. The station as well as the caption provider may not realize data compression within the telephone system is causing garbled captions or intermittent phone drops. While captioners are able to receive audio through VoIP, transmitting captions through VoIP presents significant problems and results in garbled and incorrect captions.

POTS lines are becoming increasingly difficult for consumers to obtain as telephone providers upgrade their equipment to more efficient fiberoptic, digital lines, or VoIP lines as opposed to maintaining existing POTS infrastructure. While POTS may continue in the future for emergency systems, captioners cannot rely on continued access for the foreseeable future. Fiberoptics and other digital lines can transmit caption data successfully; however, these lines are routinely rerouted to long-distance VoIP lines, which then can introduce disruption to the transmission of the caption data.

Caption data cannot be delivered over internet-based telephone systems, or VoIP.

- VoIP compresses the caption data, which damages the captions to the point of making the data unusable on the air. It can also cause random phone line drops.
- POTS lines are the only phone-based system that can reliably deliver caption data.

At this point, POTS lines are being slowly phased out by telephone companies.

- A significant number of television stations rely on POTS lines to receive caption data from their captioners for live and near-live programming such as sporting events and news broadcasts.
- Regardless of market size, television networks and stations need to consider that captioners may not have access to POTS lines.

The onus falls on the broadcaster to ensure that it is in compliance with the captioning regulations from the FCC. Several simple steps can be taken to ensure that captions are successfully delivered to the station using a static IP address.

- All modern caption encoders with HD capability can receive captions through IP delivery.
- If a TV station does not have the option of IP delivery with its current caption encoders, it will need to replace the encoders with equipment that does have the IP delivery option.
- Broadcasters should coordinate the transition to a caption IP-delivery option on their own timeframe, as opposed to one set by the FCC.

For additional information, contact NCRA Director, Government Relations Adam Finkel at afinkel@ncra.org or 703-556-6272 ext. 159.

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Check out the latest broadcast industry job openings across the nation. For information on submitting or accessing positions, contact Scott Jones at kjones@sbe.org or visit: www.sbe.org, click on Jobs then SBE JobsOnLine.

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Deposit your resume where prospective employers can view your profile and make a withdrawal from SBE. For information on submitting or accessing resumes, contact Scott Jones at kjones@sbe.org or visit: www.sbe.org, click on Jobs then SBE Resume Service.

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Now on Facebook & Twitter! Check them out!

Robert Holden, SBE Chapter 52 Webmaster, has opened a Facebook and a Twitter Account for Chapter 52 to

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