

**Inside this Issue:**

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Upcoming Events                                       | <a href="#">2</a> |
| HCC Welcomes Kris Snoddy to the Board                 | <a href="#">2</a> |
| November Technical Seminar Recap                      | <a href="#">2</a> |
| Certification Spotlight: Broadband Premises Expert    | <a href="#">3</a> |
| Eric VonQuintus' Trip to Expo                         | <a href="#">4</a> |
| SCTE LiveLearning: The Path to IPv6 in Cable Networks | <a href="#">4</a> |
| Hill Country Chapter's Fourth Quarter Certifications  | <a href="#">5</a> |
| Board Contact Info                                    | <a href="#">6</a> |

## SCTE Hill Country Chapter Cable-Tec Games!

It is once again time for the Hill Country Chapter's Cable-Tec Games! Cable-Tec Games is a friendly competition between cable techs of various skill levels in challenges such as Cable Splicing, Fiber Splicing, Meter Reading, OTDR Reading, and Cable Jeopardy. Each year, techs gather in the Central Texas area to compete for prizes, pride, and a chance to go on to the International Cable-Tec Games at Cable-Tec Expo®!

Technicians from the SCTE North Texas Chapter will be in attendance, competing for the coveted Golden Amplifier Award. The golden amp is a "side bet" between the North Central Texas Chapter and the Hill Country Chapter. At each of the chapters' Cable-Tec Games, the golden amp is up for grabs. The Hill Country Chapter has current ownership of the award...so let's keep it by having a strong showing at this year's games!



The team format has changed a bit this year because of some delays we encountered last year. Teams will be determined by your position in the registration line. This is different from last year's registration, where participants chose their own teams. Cable-Tec Games is an individual effort anyway, so this change is not expected to be a problem.

Prizes for this year's games:

- Individual 1st place overall winner: \$250.00 Gift Card
- Individual 2nd place overall winner: \$200.00 Gift Card
- Individual 3rd place overall winner: \$150.00 Gift Card
- Immediate supervisor of the 1st place overall winner: \$50.00 Gift Card
- Immediate supervisor of the 2nd place overall winner: \$35.00 Gift Card
- Immediate supervisor of the 3rd place overall winner: \$25.00 Gift Card

# Hill Country Connection

## Upcoming Events

02/17/10: SCTE LiveLEARNING™ (Click here for more info)

03/03/10: HCC Cable Tech Games, San Marcos

## HCC Welcomes Kris Snoddy to the Board

Well, it's official. I am no longer the newest board member on the Hill Country Chapter's Board of Directors. The HCC's Board of Directors Election ended at midnight on 12/31/2009, with over 70 ballots casted. The five incumbent board members (Judy Graham, Greg Krueger, Gary Lloyd, Russell Morgan, and Ed Tagg) have kept their board seats and Kris Snoddy was elected to fill the vacant seat.

Kris Snoddy has been an SCTE member since 2004. He is the Plant Manager in Waco for Time Warner Cable, where he has played an integral role in the implementation of the Preventive Maintenance Program there. He was a Tech Ops Supervisor for three years before working in his current position and he was in the field for nine years before that as an Installer, Service Tech, and System Tech.

We are excited to have Kris on the Board and look forward to a great year ahead with the Hill Country Chapter. Congratulations to Kris and thank you to all who voted.



## November Technical Seminar Recap

About 75 people showed up for the November 18 Technical Seminar in San Antonio at "Bjorn's Audio Video". Mark Graves, of Trilithic, conducted a very well received presentation on Home Certification.

The Hill Country Chapter provided a traditional Thanksgiving lunch of turkey, ham, dressing and all the trimmings...including desserts! Enjoyed by all!

After lunch, Bjorn did a presentation that mainly focused on audio perception and discussed new and exciting ways to bring new technologies into the home. Then groups were taken throughout the store for demonstrations in different theater rooms, including a presentation on 3-D TV.



Mark your calendar

## Hill Country Connection

The Hill Country Connection is a quarterly newsletter published by the SCTE Hill Country Chapter for its members.

David Gordon  
Editor

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## Certification Spotlight

*“The Broadband Premises Expert (BPE) certification...[is] ‘the why’ of telecommunications installation and service.”*

[Click Here to Learn More](#)



## Certification Spotlight: Broadband Premises Expert

The Broadband Premises Expert (BPE) certification is one of three stand-alone Broadband Premises certifications. Content includes “the why” of telecommunications installation and service. The other stand-alone Broadband Premises certifications are Broadband Premises Installer (BPI) and Broadband Premises Technician (BPT).

A field technician who possesses the BPE certification is an experienced technician who performs installations, disconnects, pre-wires, changes of service, MDU wiring, and troubleshooting from the tap to the customer premises equipment at an expert level. The BPE certification exam covers the following customer premises topics:

- Basic components of NTSC video
- Digital signal basics
- Components and characteristics of fiber-optic cable used in the drop system and at the customer’s premises
- Characteristics of cables and wire used in the drop system and at the customer’s premises
- Differences between cable operator-provided and other voice services
- Differences and similarities between cable operator-provided high-speed services (HSD) and other HSD services
- Customer provided video, voice, and data service devices
- Company provided video, voice, and data service devices
- Cable types, handling techniques, connectorization and splicing, and methods and procedures for installing coaxial drop cable and fiber drop cable
- Wire types, handling techniques, and methods and procedures for installing twisted pair wire
- Inspecting an existing residential bond
- Installing video service
- Installing telephony service
- Installing HSD service
- Installing passive and active devices at the customer’s premises
- Conflict resolution with customers
- Common Analog signal impairments
- Function, use, care, and maintenance of test equipment
- Divide and conquer (isolation) method of troubleshooting
- Troubleshooting common voice service problems
- Troubleshooting common HSD service problems
- DOCSIS tools used to troubleshoot video, voice, and data service
- The provisioning process
- Regulatory agencies and standards
- Effective communication with internal and external customers
- Principles of adult learning
- Qualities of a positive role model
- Benefits, expectations and responsibilities of mentoring / coaching

# Hill Country Connection

## Eric VonQuintus' Trip to Expo

Eric VonQuintus, overall winner of the 2009 Hill Country Chapter Cable-Tec Games, went on to compete at the SCTE International Cable-Tec Games in Denver, Colorado. The International games are held annually in conjunction with SCTE Cable-Tec Expo®, and Eric represented the Hill Country Chapter well. In fact, he took first place in the MTDR contest! Eric said the SCTE Cable-Tec Expo “is a great place to meet other technicians that share a passion for their job, like I do.” When he wasn’t competing in the games, Eric said he dropped in on some technical seminars and got a chance to see some new technologies that haven’t been deployed yet. He says Expo is “an excellent place...to expand your knowledge in the cable field” and he recommends going if you get a chance.

## SCTE *Live* LEARNING™

### The Path to IPv6 in Cable Networks

**Wednesday, February 17**

**1:00 PM Central Time**

*Register Today!*

At some point, the limited address space in Internet Protocol version 4 currently in use will become depleted. Most predict that this will occur by 2011, thus prompting the move to IPv6. Some operators are already experiencing this limitation, and the pressure is on to move now rather than later. The impact of the transition to IPv6 is certainly going to be felt in terminating devices but also in data centers and the services operating on the network. A clear migration plan is a must for ensuring the successful transition, and during the transition, there will be a need to operate dual stacks to handle both new and legacy devices and services.

#### Presenters:

Chris Donley, Project Director, Network Protocols, CableLabs

John Brzozowski, Chief Architect, IPv6 and Principal Engineer, Comcast Cable

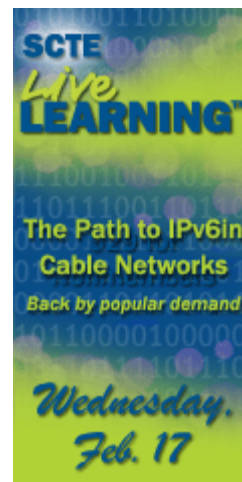
[Registration](#)

[2010 Schedule](#)

[SCTE Live Learning Archives](#)

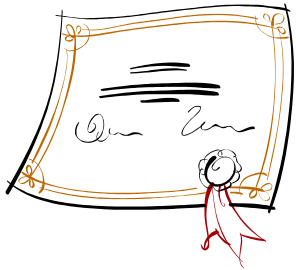
#### Technical Requirements:

- Windows PC with: Internet Explorer 5.0 or greater, or Firefox 1.0 or greater; or a MAC with Safari web browser 1.0 or greater
- Macromedia Flash
- A separate telephone line to listen to the audio portion of the presentation.



# Hill Country Connection

## Hill Country Chapter's Fourth Quarter Certifications



| Name               | Organization      | Certification |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Charles Bright     | Time Warner Cable | BDS           |
| Darrell Lloyd      | Time Warner Cable | BDS           |
| Gabriel Warner     | Time Warner Cable | BDS           |
| Aaron Smith        | Time Warner Cable | BPE           |
| Ted Hodge          | Time Warner Cable | BPE           |
| Jose Alfaro        | Time Warner Cable | BPE           |
| Bryan Morrison     | Time Warner Cable | BPE           |
| Robert Ackermna    | Time Warner Cable | BPE           |
| Reynaldo Canizales | Time Warner Cable | BPI           |
| Davey Castro       | Time Warner Cable | BPI           |
| Josiah Thorne      | Time Warner Cable | BPI           |
| Michael Fong       | Time Warner Cable | BPI           |
| Gabe Raymond       | Time Warner Cable | BPI           |
| Harold Clark       | Time Warner Cable | BPI           |
| Robert Hinojosa    | Time Warner Cable | BPI           |
| Tom Garcia         | Time Warner Cable | BPI           |
| James Cihacek      | Time Warner Cable | BPI           |
| Brandon Stratton   | Time Warner Cable | BPI           |
| David Georger      | Time Warner Cable | BPI           |
| Matthew Bonney     | Time Warner Cable | BPI           |
| William Coomes     | Time Warner Cable | BPI           |
| Frank Gil          | Time Warner Cable | BPI           |
| Michelle Ochoa     | Time Warner Cable | BPI           |
| Joseph Gaines      | Time Warner Cable | BPT           |
| Stephen Dykowski   | Time Warner Cable | BPT           |
| Robert Valdez      | Time Warner Cable | BPT           |
| Mujo Zukic         | Time Warner Cable | BPT           |
| Juan Rivera        | Time Warner Cable | BPT           |
| Fabian Johnston    | Time Warner Cable | BPT           |
| John Dillard       | Time Warner Cable | BPT           |
| Justin Ambrosini   | Time Warner Cable | BPT           |
| Barry Houston      | Time Warner Cable | BTS           |



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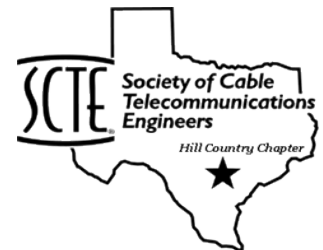
**We're on the Web!**

<http://chapters.scte.org/hillcountry/>



**Society of Cable  
Telecommunications  
Engineers**

PO Box 202394  
Austin, TX 78720-2394



The Texas Hill Country Chapter of SCTE is dedicated to advancing the careers of cable telecommunications professionals and serving the industry through excellence in professional development, information, and standards.

**Board Members**

|  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| Ed Tagg, President<br><a href="mailto:ed.tagg@twcable.com">ed.tagg@twcable.com</a>                             | Gordon Bennett, Vice President<br><a href="mailto:gordon.bennett@twcable.com">gordon.bennett@twcable.com</a> | Dan Warner, Treasurer<br><a href="mailto:dan.warner@twcable.com">dan.warner@twcable.com</a> | Greg Krueger, Secretary<br><a href="mailto:greg.krueger@twcable.com">greg.krueger@twcable.com</a> |
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