



# Hill Country Connection

Volume 1, Issue 2

October 2009

## Inside this Issue:

Upcoming Events	<a href="#">2</a>
August Technical Seminar Recap	<a href="#">2</a>
Hill Country Chapter's Third Quarter Certifications	<a href="#">2</a>
The Golden Amplifier	<a href="#">3</a>
Board of Directors Election Nominations (Continued)	<a href="#">4</a>
HCC on Facebook®	<a href="#">4</a>
Certification Spotlight: Broadband Premises Technician	<a href="#">5</a>
Board Contact Info	<a href="#">6</a>

## 2010 HCC Board of Directors Election Nominations

It's that time of year when the Hill Country Chapter holds its annual election for the Board of Directors. Being part of the SCTE HCC board of directors is a rewarding experience for all who participate.

SCTE Chapters provide local networking, professional development, and SCTE certification opportunities to SCTE current and prospective members in over 70 locations across the globe. SCTE's Chapter members are the most active in the Society and are dedicated to educating broadband technicians and engineers on the latest technologies and leadership skills necessary to be successful.

All SCTE members are invited to participate in all chapter events. In addition to educational seminars, chapters also offer:

- Testing opportunities for SCTE Certifications
- Vendor interaction through the HCC training meetings
- Broadband competitions including a national competition - Cable-Tec Games
- Leadership opportunities through participation as an Officer of the Board
- Networking opportunities with local cable and broadband engineers

## What to expect from the HCC Board?

The HCC board of directors are all outstanding individuals dedicated to their own careers and the careers of others they work with daily. An incoming board member's experience is rather predictable. He or she will work with other board members to arrange seminars in the Central Texas area. The seminar location, topic, speaker, and lunch arrangements are part of the seminar process. Other voluntary committee opportunities also exist for members having time to contribute a little extra.

To get involved in the Hill Country Chapter, send your biography to Gordon Bennett for placement on the election ballot. You will want to tell all the SCTE members in Central Texas about yourself and how you can contribute to the career advancement of hundreds

(Continued on page 4)

# Hill Country Connection

## Upcoming Events

- 10/28/09–10/30/09: SCTE Cable-Tec Expo– Denver, Colorado
- 11/18/09: Technical Seminar–San Antonio, Bjorn’s Audio Video
- 12/16/09: Technical Seminar
- 2/10/10: HCC Cable Tech Games, San Marcos

## August Technical Seminar Recap

The SCTE Hill Country Chapter held a half-day Technical Seminar on August 18th in San Marcos at “The Meeting Place”. Two vendors came in to provide training to approximately 30 chapter members in attendance. Don Jacobs of Channel Communications explained heat dissipation in pedestals and David Krook of Technetix Inc. went into detail about noise mitigation for DOCSIS 3.0 deployments.

## Hill Country Chapter’s Third Quarter Certifications

Name	Organization	Certification
Sonny Avanilla	Time Warner Cable	BDS
Angel Baez	Time Warner Cable	BDS
Jesus Gutierrez	Time Warner Cable	BDS
Eugene Salazar	Time Warner Cable	BDS
Hilo Smith	Time Warner Cable	BDS
Brandon Edwards	Time Warner Cable	BPI
Bryan Fix	Time Warner Cable	BPI
Fisseha Gezu	Time Warner Cable	BPI
Maria Gonzales	Time Warner Cable	BPI
Kathy Lacy	Time Warner Cable	BPI
Clayton Mitchell	Time Warner Cable	BPI
Robert Thomas	Time Warner Cable	BPI
Russell Bishop	Time Warner Cable	BPT
David Gonzalez	Time Warner Cable	BPT
Eugene Salazar	Time Warner Cable	BPT
Christopher Schafer	Time Warner Cable	BPT
Erick Schwandt	Time Warner Cable	BPT
Eugene Salazar	Time Warner Cable	BTS



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

[david.gordon@twcable.com](mailto:david.gordon@twcable.com)

*“the Golden Amplifier...symbolizes the value, opportunity, and fellowship of the SCTE.”*

## The Golden Amplifier Award

By Gordon Bennett

One day after 5 o'clock (and a few cocktails) in November 2005, North Central Texas Chapter President Dave Adams and I hatched the idea for the “Golden Amplifier”. Several ideas were originally kicked around such as the “pink hard hat”, the “broken tap”, the “rusty anchor”, you get the idea... To get more people involved in the Cable Tech Games and SCTE, the two chapters would send their respective teams to the opposing chapter's Cable Tech Games to compete for the Golden Amplifier, which symbolizes the value, opportunity, and fellowship of the SCTE.

The rules were laid out, originally stored only in the twisted minds of a cable guy and a cable sales guy! The competition would be between HCC and NCTC, similar to the North and the South. The plaque would be shared between the companies of the competing members and would be returned to each Cable Tech Games for presentation to the winning team each February and August. Dave and I approached our respective boards for the Golden Amp's approval and each approved the idea unanimously.

The first presentation was made by the NCTC President Dave Adams to the HCC residing president Matthew Stanek, in February 2006. The program has since been embraced by all involved. It has helped to bring pride to the chapters and friendly competition between technicians. Several technicians have been overheard sharing “secrets” to improving their jobs and discussing challenges they have faced in the field.



Most recently, the Hill Country Chapter reclaimed the Golden Amplifier at the North Central Texas Chapter's Cable Tech Games in August. Congratulations to Eric Von Quintus, Rick Garza, Rick Bible, and James Turner! Thanks guys for bringing the Golden Amp back to the HCC!!!

Other types of competition may be coming soon between chapters within Texas. Who knows...maybe sponsors of the National Cable Tech Games will pony up additional plaques or awards, such as the “Golden Cleaver” for fiber splicing, or the “Platinum F Connector” for drop competition?

(Special credit should be given to John Frame, and Jamey Gore for procuring the “Golden Amplifier”.)

## Board of Directors Election Nominations

(Continued from page 1)

of industry technicians and engineers. Don't be shy and reach for sky. Take control of your career advancement.

Please send your biography via email to [gordon.bennett@twcable.com](mailto:gordon.bennett@twcable.com) before November 25th, 2009 to be considered for the 2010 board of directors. Elections will take place in December by the SCTE membership base in Central Texas. Please feel free to contact Dan Warner (512-684-7171 or [dan.warner@twcable.com](mailto:dan.warner@twcable.com)) with any questions.

Election Schedule:

- Nominations / Biographies from candidates due by November 25, 2009
- Election ballots will be sent to HCC SCTE members on December 1, 2009
- Voting deadline will be December 31, 2009

## The SCTE Hill Country Chapter is on Facebook®

Check out the SCTE Hill Country Chapter on Facebook®! Show your support and become a fan of the new page! Stay informed of happenings within the chapter, post comments, and use the discussion board to keep in touch with other members. Click the "Find us on Facebook" image to the right to become a fan.

*Facebook is a registered trademark of Facebook, Inc.*



## Certification Spotlight

*“A field technician who possesses the Broadband Premises Technician certification is an experienced technician who can install and troubleshoot telecommunications services...”*

### Certification Spotlight: Broadband Premises Technician

The Broadband Premises Technician certification is one of three stand-alone Broadband Premises certifications. Content includes “the how” of telecommunications installation and service. The other stand-alone BPS certifications are Broadband Premises Installer (BPI) and Broadband Premises Expert (BPE). (The BPE certification will be available during the third quarter of 2009.)

A field technician who possesses the Broadband Premises Technician certification is an experienced technician who can install and troubleshoot telecommunications services (video, voice, and data) at the customer’s premises. A successful certification candidate has the knowledge to install and service most “triple-play” installations. The BPT certification exam covers the following customer premises topics:

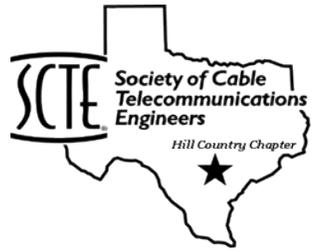
- Basic components of NTSC video
- Digital signal basics
- Components and characteristics of fiber-optic cable used in the drop system and at the customer’s premises
- Characteristics of cables and wire used in the drop system and at the customer’s premises
- Differences between cable operator-provided 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



**We're on the Web!**  
<http://chapters.scte.org/hillcountry/>



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 <a href="mailto:ed.tagg@twcable.com">ed.tagg@twcable.com</a>	Gordon Bennett, Vice President <a href="mailto:gordon.bennett@twcable.com">gordon.bennett@twcable.com</a>	Dan Warner, Treasurer <a href="mailto:dan.warner@twcable.com">dan.warner@twcable.com</a>	Greg Krueger, Secretary <a href="mailto:greg.krueger@twcable.com">greg.krueger@twcable.com</a>
David Gordon, Communications Officer <a href="mailto:david.gordon@twcable.com">david.gordon@twcable.com</a>	Jim Baldwin <a href="mailto:jbaldwin@commscope.com">jbaldwin@commscope.com</a>	William Bartley <a href="mailto:william.bartley@suddenlink.com">william.bartley@suddenlink.com</a>	Todd Bowen <a href="mailto:todd.bowen@twcable.com">todd.bowen@twcable.com</a>
Judy Graham <a href="mailto:judy.graham@arrisi.com">judy.graham@arrisi.com</a>	Gary Lloyd <a href="mailto:gary.lloyd@twcable.com">gary.lloyd@twcable.com</a>	Russell Morgan <a href="mailto:russellmorgan_cec@yahoo.com">russellmorgan_cec@yahoo.com</a>	Jim Wood <a href="mailto:jwood@omega-broadband.net">jwood@omega-broadband.net</a>