



The Society of Broadcast Engineers

**Fox Valley Wisconsin, Chapter 80
2308 East Henry Street
Appleton, Wisconsin 54915-3547**

March 2009

The next meeting of Chapter 80 SBE will be at the Out of Town club at noon on Tuesday March 17th . Our program is "Transmission Technologies and Spectrum Considerations for Digital Radio" by Mike Troje from Continental Electronics.

Chairman's Corner

Welcome!

Our next meeting of Chapter 80 will be on Tuesday, March 17, 2009, starting at 12:00 noon at the Out 'O Town Club in Kaukauna. Our Guest speaker will be Mike Troje from Continental Electronics, speaking on the topic, "Transmission Technologies and Spectrum Considerations for Digital Radio."



While the economy may be in the doldrums, HD Radio technology is in the process of making significant changes and improvements. Mike's presentation, besides a brief marketing discussion of Continental's products, will focus on the current pressure to elevate HD power levels, and all that entails, and the change to the spectrum as stations transition to dedicating more spectrum to HD. Bring a friend and plan to join us!

Our February meeting was held on Tuesday, February 17 at the Out O' Town Club. A special thanks to Chris Crump from Comrex, for the lunch and the program. He discussed IP Audio Coding for transmission of broadcast quality audio. The discussion included an overview of BRIC Technology (Broadcast Reliable Internet Codec) and how it enables broadcasters to use the public Internet to transmit reliable, real-time, high quality and fully bi-directional audio. Since BRIC Technology was first introduced in 2006, Comrex has added several innovative features to their ACCESS Product line including the BRIC Traversal Server and their new BRIC-Link Codec for dedicated links. Applications such as STL/dedicated studio links utilizing ISM band radios, satellite data services and high speed, wired or wireless dedicated IP data circuits were also discussed.

Upcoming events:

April 18-23, 2009 – NAB 2009, Las Vegas, NV

Tuesday, April 28, 2009 – SBE Chapter 80 --TBA

Tuesday, May 19, 2009 – SBE Chapter 80 – TBA

Wednesday, June 17, 2009 – SBE/WBA Summer Engineering Workshop at the Ostoff Resort in Elkhart Lake, WI. Details available soon!

I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at noon the Out O' Town Club.

Regards,

Keith M. Kintner

2009 SBE Certification Application and Exam Schedule


Exam Date(s)	Location	Application Deadline
April 21, 2009	NAB, Las Vegas	April 1, 2009
June 5-15, 2009	Local Chapters	April 17, 2009
August 7-17, 2009	Local Chapters	June 5, 2009
November 6-16, 2009	Local Chapters	September 18, 2009



Mark Bartolotta
Regional Sales Manager

Heartland Video Systems, Inc.
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SBE University offers first course related to TV engineering 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](#), written by Douglas W. Garlinger, CPBE, 8VSB, CBNT, a Fellow in the Society of Broadcast Engineers, is now available. The purpose of the SBE 8-VSB course is to offer an overview of the 8-VSB system from end to end, providing all of the basic information the student 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 also 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. (sbe)

421 stations cease analog broadcasting; sun still rises the next morning. The DTV transition came with a whimper instead of a bang on February 17th with 641 station remaining on the air in analog. The FCC denied 123 station requests to shut off their analog transmitters in several markets which in Wisconsin included Madison, LaCrosse, and Wausau, because in most cases they all wanted to turn off at once. Acting FCC Chairman Michael J. Copps said that disruption Tuesday was minimized

largely because of the action that Congress and the President took in enacting the DTV Delay Act, which became law on Feb. 11. "Thanks to the movement of the deadline, we did not have anything like the extent of disruption we would have experienced had every station in the country gone completely digital on Tuesday," Copps said. "In fact, we tried to ensure that in every market in America, at least one station continues to broadcast an analog signal." New 'final' deadline: June 15th. (fcc)

Local Radio Freedom Act Gains Support The Local Radio Freedom Act -- which gained the support of a majority of the House when it was initially introduced last year -- has picked up nine more supporters in the current House, for a total of 135. The resolution, introduced by Reps. Gene Green (D-TX) and Mike Conaway (R-TX), reads, "Congress should not impose any new performance fee, tax, royalty, or other charge relating to the public performance of sound recordings on a local radio station for broadcasting sound recordings over-the-air, or on any business for such public performance of sound recordings." The resolution counters the Performance Rights Act, reintroduced in the House and Senate earlier this year, which would impose a performance royalty for copyright owners on broadcast radio. New on board with the Local Radio Freedom Act include Steve Kagen (D-WI), The resolution now has the support of 89 House Republicans and 46 Democrats. (radioink.com)

Wisconsin has DTV questions. Wisconsin was 6th on the list of calls to the FCC DTV hotline during the transition According to data published by the FCC. Total call volume peaked at 27,764 on Thursday February 17th with 4% of the calls from Wisconsin



INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Rick Thompson
Central Regional Manager

1770 Birchwood Avenue
Des Plaines, IL 60018-3006
Office: 847-795-9555 ext.21
Mobile: 847-942-7990
Fax: 847-795-8770
E-mail: rick.thompson@gepco.com
www.gepco.com



B. Benjamin Evans, P.E.
Partner

ben@evansassoc.com
www.evansassoc.com

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Joseph P. Kaufenberg
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Broadcast & Production Systems Division

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Andover, Minnesota 55304
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Cellular (612) 237-3368
E-mail: joe.kaufenberg@am.sony.com

GREG BELL
VP Broadcast / General Manager
Direct 920-831-5655

Woodward Communications, Inc.
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CHAPTER 80 ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS 2008-2009

Chairman	Keith Kintner	UWO	920-424-7357	kintner@uwosh.edu
Vice Chairman	Evan Stanek	Woodward Communications	920-831-5682	estanek@wcinet.com
Secretary/Treasurer	Steve Brown	WHBY WAPL WKSZ WZOR	920-733-6639	sbrown@wcinet.com
Program Chairman	John Pfankuch	Heartland Video Systems	920-893-0204	jpgankuch@hvs-inc.com
Program Chairman	Bill Hubbard	WBAY-TV2	920-438-3276	bhubbard@wbay.com
Membership Chairman	Al Kilgore	WRVM	920-842-2839	akilgore@wrvm.org
Sustaining Memberships	Greg Tadyshak	WBAY-TV	920-438-3258	gtadyshak@wbay.com
Frequency Coord. < 1 GHz	Tim Laes	WGEE WIXX WNCY WROE	920-435-3771	tlaes@new.rr.com
Frequency Coord. > 1 GHz	Joe Kamenick	WFXX TV-55, Wausau	715-847-1155	jckamenick@peoplepc.com
Newsletter Editor	Bill Tessman	Heartland Video Systems	920-893-4204	btessman@hvs-inc.com
Newsletter Editor	Dave Driessen	WGBA WACY	920-494-2626	ddriessen@nbc26.com
Certification Chairman	Jim Sams	UWGB	920 465-2572	samsj@uwgb.edu
Chapter 80 Webmaster	Jim Jensen	Christian Family Radio	920-749-9456	jim@bjjensen.net
EAS Coordinator	Steve Konopka	WPNE TV/FM	920-336-3541	skonopka@ecb.state.wi.us
Past Chairman	Mark Friedman	WPNE TV/FM	920-336-3541	titletownfans@yahoo.com
Board of Dirs/SBE Liason	Keith Kintner	UWO	920-424-7357	kintner@uwosh.edu



Julius Genachowski Nominated as Next FCC Chairman

President Barack Obama nominated Julius Genachowski as FCC Chairman. Genachowski, 46, is a technology executive and a former classmate of Obama's from Harvard Law School. Upon Senate confirmation,

Genachowski will replace Acting FCC Chairman Michael Copps; Copps took over the Commission on January 22, 2009, two days after then-Chairman Kevin Martin resigned. Genachowski has been widely praised by industry executives and consumer-activist groups -- two groups often at odds -- for his wide-ranging experience and intimate knowledge of technology issues. (arrl.com)

FCC extends BAS relocation deadline again. On February 12, 2009, Sprint Nextel, Inc. the Association

for Maximum Service Television, Inc., the National Association of Broadcasters and the Society of Broadcast Engineers filed a Supplemental Joint Request Concerning the BAS Relocation (Supplemental Request). In the Supplemental Request, the parties request that the Commission waive until February 7, 2010 the deadline by which Sprint Nextel must complete the relocation of the Broadcast Auxiliary Service (BAS) licensees in the 1990-2025 MHz band. The Supplemental Request cites numerous circumstances that the parties characterize as being beyond Sprint Nextel's and the broadcaster's control, and that will prevent completion of the BAS transition before the current deadline. On February 27, 2009, the Commission waived the relocation deadline for a period of 45 days, until April 19, 2009, in order to provide the Commission with time to consider the issues raised by the Supplemental Request (fcc)

Jim Pianowski
Sales Representative

ROSCOR

ROSCOR CORPORATION
1061 Feehanville Drive
Mount Prospect, IL 60056
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Web site of the Month: TV signal strength calculator. The FCC has created a new tool for predicting signal strength of DTV signals. Enter your zip code and get the level in dbm for all area stations. You can then move the arrow and it will recalculate. <http://www.fcc.gov/mb/engineering/maps/>



The SBE Chapter 80 Newsletter is published monthly. Members are welcome to contribute articles or ideas. Please have your submissions in by the 4th of the month to Dave Driessen or Bill Tessman.

GEMCOM
 Communications Consultant
 Broadcast, Sound, Voice & Data

GARY W. MACH
 1511 Biemeret St.
 Green Bay, WI 54304
 (920) 499-4637