



# The Society of Broadcast Engineers

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

**January 2010**

The next meeting of Chapter 80 SBE will be at the Out of Town Club on Tuesday January 19th at **Noon**. Our program will be by Don Heinzen from Belden.

## Chairman's Corner

Happy New Year and welcome to our first eNewsletter!

Our next meeting of Chapter 80 will be on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at noon at the Out O' Town Club in Kaukauna. Don Heinzen, Account Manager, Enterprise Solutions for Belden will be our presenter. Bring along a friend and plan to join us!



Our last meeting was December 15, 2009, starting at 6:00 p.m at the Out 'O Town Club in Kaukauna for our annual Holiday gathering. We had nearly two dozen in attendance, including spouses and guests. A special thanks to Tom Hutchison, who spoke about his experiences in Green Bay television, and discussed his new book "The Land of Milk & Money". You can obtain more information from Mark Friedman (who arranged for Tom to present) and also by following this link: [http://www.hvsproductions.com/user\\_documents/Form/Milk&Money\\_order\\_form.pdf](http://www.hvsproductions.com/user_documents/Form/Milk&Money_order_form.pdf)  
The Newsletter is now switched over to an electronic version. We are still missing email addresses for a few of our members. We need your current email address if you wish to continue to receive our Newsletter. The Newsletter will be posted on our website, and archive copies, as well as other Chapter 80 and SBE information are available as well.

## Upcoming events:

Tuesday, February 16, 2010 – SBE Chapter 80 – David Kieper – Data Security, Part 2

Tuesday, March 16, 2010 – SBE Chapter 80 – TBA

I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday January 19, 2010 at our first Chapter 80 meeting for 2010 in Kaukauna!

Best wishes for a Healthy, Prosperous and Happy New Year!

Regards,

Keith M. Kintner

The SBE Certification Committee has established the following exam dates. Choose the exam period that is best for you.

Exam Dates	Location	Application Deadline
February 5-15, 2010	Local Chapters	CLOSED
April 13, 2010	NAB Convention	March 26, 2010
June 4-14, 2010	Local Chapters	April 16, 2010
August 6-16, 2010	Local Chapters	June 4, 2010
November 5-15, 2010	Local Chapters	September 17, 2010

[Click here for more information about SBE Certification.](#)



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**ATSC Digital Television  
8 VSB Transmission System  
Fundamentals & Measurement Seminar  
Hosted by: Milwaukee Public Television (MPTV)**

**Wednesday & Thursday, January 20 & 21, 2010**

**Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC)  
700 W. State Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53233**

**Presented by  
Gary Sgrignoli  
DTV Transmission Engineer, Meintel, Sgrignoli  
& Wallace**

A 2-day seminar will be presented on the ATSC's digital television (DTV) vestigial sideband (VSB) transmission system *fundamental concepts & measurement methodologies*. This seminar, a combination of the *original* VSB Fundamentals and the VSB Measurements presentations. It is aimed at broadcasters, broadcast consultants, equipment manufacturers (broadcast, consumer and test), translator /LPTV operators and cable operators. This *updated* seminar will help you develop an understanding of 8-VSB transmission system basics as well as measurement techniques in the laboratory, at the *transmitter* site and at remote *field* test sites. Practical test equipment information such as features, options, specs and other performance requirements will be covered. Also included is *new* information on mobile/handheld

DTV, Distributed Transmissions & recently learned information on DTV reception. Attendance at this seminar earns one SBE credit towards re-certification and it can facilitate preparation for the SBE *VSB Specialists Certification* exam.

**The Seminar will focus on the following topics:**

- **Basic data communication & modulation theory review**
- **8-VSB Transmission System review**
- **Introduction to FCC channel allocation factors (OET 69)**
- **Basic measurement concepts**
  - Power meters
  - Spectrum analyzers
  - Clock frequency & jitter analyzers
- **VSB Laboratory Measurement Methodologies**
  - Concepts, equipment requirements, specs, etc.
- **VSB Transmitter Measurement Methodologies**
  - Concepts, equipment requirements, specs, etc.
- **VSB Field Measurement Methodologies**
  - Concepts, equipment requirements, specs, etc.

**Sign up by January 13<sup>th</sup> for a \$10 discount  
(\$75 or \$85 at the door)**

<http://www.sbe24.org/MPTVFlyer.pdf>



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**CHAPTER 80 ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS 2009-2010**

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Board of Dirs/SBE Liaison	Keith Kintner	UWO	920-424-7357	kintner@uwosh.edu

**Upcoming programs.** We have lined up some excellent speakers and presentations you won't want to miss.

**January 19th:** Don Heinzen, Account Manager - Enterprise Solutions, Belden, will be our presenter. Don will bring us information about Belden prewired assemblies and their data center products. Also, you might be surprised to learn about the companies Belden has acquired!

**February 16th:** David Kieper, Manager of Network and Infrastructure Services, UW-Green Bay, will bring us our second security presentation. Dave will focus on external threats to data networks from the firewall/switch point of view. This will be an excellent complement to our previous presentation on PC and server security from last fall.

Your Chapter 80 program committee works hard to bring you topical, informative presentations on a monthly basis. If there is a topic you are interested in or a speaker you believe would be of interest to our Chapter, please contact John Pfankuch at (920)893-6748 or Bill Hubbard at (920)465-2510. We welcome and appreciate your suggestions and ideas.

*Bill Hubbard*



**Jim Planowski**  
Sales Representative

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## Senate Bill Proposes Engineering Help for FCC Commissioners

Senators Olympia Snowe (R-Maine) and Mark Warner (D-Virginia), introduced S. 2881, a bill that would authorize each FCC Commissioner to add one staff assistant position to the three that are currently authorized. The new position of "staff engineer" would require that the holder either be an electrical engineer or a computer scientist. If enacted, the new authorization would affectively undo a loosening of requirements for technical staff at the highest level of the FCC that began more than 25 years ago.

SBE President, Vinny Lopez, CEV, CBNT, remarked, "Ensuring the technical integrity of the FCC decision-making is perhaps our most important legislative goal. This legislation will go a long way toward returning technical expertise to the FCC Commissioner's offices." Lopez added, "We encourage other members of the Senate to support this well-crafted legislation. SBE will seek the introduction of a companion bill in the House and we will urge rapid passage of both Bills in the House and the Senate."

The proposed legislation, which would amend Section 4(f)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 154(f)(2)), explains that the "staff engineer" would provide each commissioner with technical consultation when appropriate and interface with the Office of Engineering and Technology, Commission Bureaus and other technical staff of the Commission for additional technical input and resources. The staff engineer would need to hold an undergraduate or graduate degree from an institution of higher education in their respective field of expertise.

The Senate bill would not seek to replace any of the existing staff assistants in each Commissioner's office but rather authorize each Commissioner to add one assistant.

SBE has already begun contacting members of the House of Representatives to seek sponsors for a

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

House version of the Bill. SBE members are asked to contact their senators and urge them to support S.2881, the, "FCC Commissioners' Technical Resource Enhancement Act." *sbe digest*

## Make 2010 the Year You Become SBE Certified

Have you put off getting that SBE certification? Why not make 2010 the year you get it done! December 31, 2009 is the deadline to apply for the February 2010 SBE certification exams. Other exam periods are available throughout the year. December 31 is also the deadline to recertify for those certifications due to expire on January 1, 2010.

There are a number of SBE Certifications for which you can apply. SBE offers entry-level certifications as well as certifications based on five to 20 years of broadcast engineering experience. There are also three specialist certifications to recognize expertise in very specific areas. Exams consist of multiple choice questions and are open book. An essay question is associated with the Senior level (10-years or more of experience) and Specialist exams and are closed book.

SBE also offers Television Operator and Radio Operator certifications. SBE publishes handbooks for both, which are all-inclusive studies, preparing the reader for the SBE Television or Radio Operator exam. The handbooks include practice test questions and the cost of the book includes the optional exam.

After passing an SBE exam and meeting any experience requirements, the certification is valid for five-years. By the end of the five year period you would recertify by professional credits accrued during that time, or by retaking the exam.

The SBE website has all of the certification and recertification applications you will need along with information about each certification available. You can also contact Megan Clappe, SBE's Certification Director, at [mclappe@sbe.org](mailto:mclappe@sbe.org) or (317) 846-9000 if you have any questions. *sbe digest*

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## **From the SBE News... SBE Members get "Partner rate" for NAB Las Vegas convention**

SBE members planning to attend the annual NAB convention in Las Vegas in April get a discount off the non-member full conference registration fee. If your station/employer is a member of the NAB, use the NAB member rate (the lowest rate) but if not, you can get a \$100 discount off the NAB non-member rate because you are a member of the SBE.

NAB convention registration for the "2010 NAB Show" is now open at [www.nab.org](http://www.nab.org)  
[Click here](#) to register

When completing the on-line registration form, check the "Partner" radio button (if your employer is not a member of NAB) and then select "SBE" from the drop down box of qualifying organizations.

SBE is once again NAB's presenting partner for the NAB Broadcast Engineering Conference. Beginning Saturday, April 10 and running through Thursday, April 15, the largest most comprehensive broadcast technical conference in the world will be presented. The largest broadcast and media exhibit floor in the world will be open Monday through Thursday.

The NAB hotel reservation system is now open and you'll find roll-back room rates that we haven't seen in ten years at convention time. SBE will have a booth located on the second floor of the South Hall and we'll hold our annual spring SBE Membership Meeting on Tuesday, April 13 at 5:00 pm. We have some special things planned for that meeting, so don't miss it!

### **Wireless mic bill**

"H.R. 4353 would require the FCC to provide access to an electronic database where wireless-microphone users will register their

frequencies, thereby protecting their operation from interference from signals transmitted from the newly approved white-spaces devices. The 13 classes of wireless microphone users in the Rush bill include sporting arenas and stadiums. The legislation would require that users specified in the bill have access to a geolocation database identifying protected professional-use frequencies.

The FCC's ruling approves the use of devices at powers of up to 100 mW on the white-space spectrum or up to 40 mW on spectrum adjacent to operating TV stations.  
[sportsvideo.org](http://sportsvideo.org)

**ATSC Keeps Cautious Eye on 3D TV Initiatives**, With ESPN and Discovery publicly embracing 3D-content creation and distribution and DirecTV expected to do as much at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) this weekend, it appears that cable and satellite distributors will be primed for 3D. But what about over-the-air broadcasters?

For the time being, any over-the-air broadcaster interested in distributing live 3D content will have to be patient, since there is currently no standard for delivering 3D content over the air. More important, no work is being done at the Advanced Television Systems Committee (ATSC) to develop such a standard, which means that live over-the-air 3D is at least two years away."

"Three-dimensional TV is an incredibly exciting area, and there is a lot of [standards-related] work going on around the world, but it's not our highest priority," says ATSC President Mark Richer. "Right now, it's a question of what broadcasters want to do with the bits in their DTV signals as every bit in the 19.39-Mbps signal counts." Article Ken Kerschbaumer from [sportsvideo.org](http://sportsvideo.org)

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h111-4353>