



The Society of Broadcast Engineers

Fox Valley Wisconsin SBE Chapter 80
PO Box 1519
Appleton, WI 54912-1519

October 2011

The October SBE Chapter 80 meeting was at the Broadcaster clinic in Madison. The next meeting will be in **November**

Chairman's Corner

Welcome to our eNewsletter!

Our October meeting of Chapter 80 was at the SBE/WBA Broadcasters Clinic at the Madison Marriott West, in Madison, on Tuesday evening, October 11, at 7:30 p.m., with the Nuts & Bolts Session, "War Stories and Your Stories." Early bird registration has already passed.

A friendly reminder, there will be **no** local SBE Ch.80 meeting on the 3rd Tuesday (October 18th 2011) at the Out O' Town club because of the Broadcasters Clinic in Madison.

Our last meeting of Chapter 80 will held on Tuesday, September 20th, 2011 at noon at the Out O' Town Club in Kaukauna. The September program, at the Out-O-Town Club, was an "Instant Replay" of the NFL Frequency Coordination Program, which was part of the NFL Back to Football event at Lambeau field on September 8th 2011. The frequency coordination process was shared from start to finish. Thank you to Joe Kamenick, John Pfankuch, and Bill Hubbard for hosting the program.



SBE Ch.80 Annual Elections will take place during the November meeting please be prepared to cast your vote. If you would like to nominate a member please e-mail me tlaes@new.rr.com with your nomination and officer seat.

The Newsletter will also be posted on our website <http://www.sbe80.org> , and archive copies, as well as other Chapter 80 and SBE information are available as well.

Upcoming events:

Tuesday, November 15, 2011 – SBE Chapter 80 – TBA

Tuesday, December 20, 2011 – SBE Chapter 80 Holiday party

Tuesday, January 17, 2012 – SBE Chapter 80 - TBA

I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, October 11th, 2011 at our Chapter 80 meeting at the Nuts and Bolts session at the annual SBE/WBA Broadcasters Clinic.

Regards,
Timothy J Laes


Still need to renew your SBE membership? Renew now using our easy [automated SBE renewal system](#).



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SBE Ch.80 Annual Elections will take place during the November meeting please be prepared to cast your vote. If you would like to nominate a member please e-mail me tlaes@new.rr.com with your nomination and officer seat.

CHAPTER 80 2011 BALLOT

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Chairman | Tim Laes |
| | write in: |
| Vice Chairman | Steve Konopka |
| | write in: |
| Treasurer | Steve Brown |
| | write in: |
| Secretary | Keith Kintner |
| | write in: |
| Program Chairman | John Pfankuch |
| | Bill Hubard |
| Membership Chairman | Al Kilgore |
| Sustaining Memberships | Greg Tadyshak |
| Frequency Coordination | Joe Kamenick |
| Frequency Coordination | Tim Laes |
| Newsletter Editor | Dave Driessen |
| Newsletter Editor | Bill Tessman |
| Certification Chairman | Jim Sams |
| Chapter 80 Webmaster | Jim Jensen |
| EAS Coordinator | Steve Konopka |

Comments:



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CHAPTER 80 ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS 2010-2011

| | | | | |
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| Vice Chairman | Steve Konopka | WPNE TV/FM | 920-336-3541 | skonopka@ecb.org |
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| Newsletter Editor | Dave Driessen | WGBA WACY | 920-494-2626 | ddriessen@nbc26.com |
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| EAS Coordinator | Steve Konopka | WPNE TV/FM | 920-336-3541 | skonopka@ecb.org |
| Past Chairman | Keith Kintner | UWO | 920-424-7357 | kintner@uwosh.edu |
| Board of Dirs/SBE Liaison | Keith Kintner | UWO | 920-424-7357 | kintner@uwosh.edu |

FCC extends EAS deadline to June 30th 2012 “We agree with the majority of commenters that an extension of the current CAP compliance deadline is warranted. Although section 11.56 of the Commission’s rules mandates that “all EAS Participants must be able to receive CAP-formatted alerts,”¹ it is through the rulemaking initiated in this docket by the Third FNPRM that we will revise our rules to define what a “CAP-formatted alert” actually is and establish regulations to determine the manner in which EAS Participants must receive it. While we agree with Monroe and Sage that the CAP standard is well established and that there is equipment that has already been deployed that complies with that standard, we nonetheless agree with commenters that argue that until the Commission has completed its rulemaking process, it cannot meaningfully impose a deadline by which EAS Participants must “receive CAP-formatted alerts.”² No one can comply with section 11.56 yet, because the *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*

Commission has not finalized all the key technical specifics necessary for receiving CAP-formatted alerts. Without having these specifics, no EAS Participant can claim that it is currently capable of receiving CAP-formatted alerts, even if it has equipment that could receive such alerts under one or more of the technical specifications being considered by the Commission. It is unlikely that the Commission can address all of the issues raised in the Third FNPRM and ensure that the corresponding Part 11 rule amendments are adopted and effective prior to the current September 30, 2011 deadline. EAS Participants should “be allowed adequate time to evaluate the impact of any changes to Part 11 before being required to comply with regulations the full impact of which cannot yet be known.”³ Accordingly, we conclude that a further extension of the CAP-compliance deadline is warranted.”

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-11-136A1.pdf

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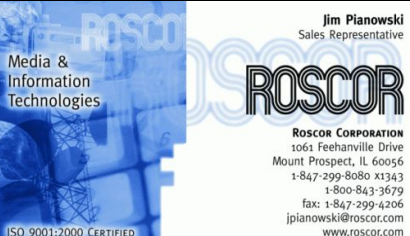


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Wisconsin EAS website update...The National EAS Test information page on the Wisconsin EAS website has been updated:
<http://www.sbe24.org/eas/natltest.asp>

Questions have arisen whether EAS units will need any reprogramming to carry the test. Info is listed for TFT, Sage, DAS, and Gorman-Redlich, all of which require no changes. Trilithic units with old software do require a change - see link above for details.

Also note, a new bullet was added to the National EAS Test details list:
The National EAS Test will take the place of the Required Weekly Test (RWT) and Required Monthly Test (RMT) in the week and month that the National EAS Test occurs.

Other updates:
- FEMA has not yet announced a URL to point EAS CAP boxes to.
- FCC has not yet released any new EAS CAP rules, or announced a decision on whether it will extend the September 30, 2011 deadline to have CAP equipment installed.

*Gary Timm, Broadcast Chair
Wisconsin EAS Committee*

**SBE 2011 EXAM
DATES LOCATION
APPLICATION DEADLINE**

If you have any questions, please contact the Certification Director, Megan Clappe or our Chapter 80 certification chairman Jim Sams Help your professional society "Raise the Bar" by recruiting a new member

2012 SBE Certification Exam Dates
Each year the SBE Certification Committee establishes four, ten-day exam periods when exams are held locally and proctored by volunteer SBE chapter certification chairmen or their qualified designees. Exams may also be taken at the NAB Show in Las Vegas, held in April each year. Exams may also be scheduled at other times during the year if the established exam periods to meet the needs of interested individuals.

The schedule of exam periods and application deadlines through 2012 include:

| Exam Dates | Location | Application Deadline |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| October 23, 2011 | AES Convention, New York, N.Y. | Pre-registration/on-site |
| November 4-14, 2011 | Local Chapters | September 6, 2011 |
| February 3-13, 2012 | Local Chapters | December 31, 2011 |
| April 17, 2012 | NAB Show, Las Vegas, Nev. | March 23, 2012 |
| June 1-11, 2012 | Local Chapters | April 13, 2012 |
| August 3-13, 2012 | Local Chapters | June 1, 2012 |
| November 2-12, 2012 | Local Chapters | September 14, 2012 |

Information about the various certifications available from the SBE and registration information is available at the SBE website.

TV Chief engineer wanted in Wausau
I have an immediate opening for a Chief or Director of Engineer/IT. My Engineer just gave notice. I've posted the position on the national SBE site and don't see a way on your local site. Any help would be appreciated.

Robert Raff
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U.S. Rep. Petri: Rebuts LightSquared ad in letter to CEO In a letter to the chairman and CEO of a controversial wireless company, House Aviation Subcommittee Chairman Tom Petri (R-WI) sought to set the record straight Thursday following the company's ad in the Wall Street Journal the day before.

LightSquared, a wireless broadband company, has been mired in controversy because it plans to use a portion of the radio spectrum adjacent to that used by global positioning system (GPS) satellites and the GPS equipment used in cars, planes, military equipment and elsewhere to help users navigate trips or identify the location of GPS-enabled equipment. A fully functioning GPS system is critical to ongoing efforts to modernize the nation's air traffic control system.

Petri gives voice to concerns he has heard that LightSquared's ground-based equipment will cause an unacceptable level of interference. In his letter to LightSquared chairman and CEO Sanjiv Ahuja, Petri noted: "The U.S. Department of Transportation has stated the GPS interference could result in almost 800 aviation fatalities and cost over \$100 billion. Our military operations, search and rescue efforts and many more activities affecting the safety and well being of the general public could be impacted."

LightSquared has been reported to be working on a technical fix to prevent interference. Petri says that's fine if they can pull it off without causing an undue burden to GPS users, but in the meantime he contends that the Federal Communications Commission has been far too accommodating in allowing LightSquared to proceed with its plans.

In his letter, Petri objected to LightSquared's ad which placed the blame for the controversy on the manufacturers of GPS equipment. Petri responded:

"This ignores the fact that GPS was located on this part of the spectrum long before LightSquared devised its plan to employ a terrestrial network within the Satellite band of radio spectrum."

"In fact, your spectrum was purchased at bargain prices because it was not intended for terrestrial operations," Petri continued. "If it were always intended for such use, it would

have been of much higher value. It became high value spectrum when it became clear that LightSquared's business plan was to abuse the ancillary terrestrial authorization and use the spectrum for terrestrial based operations - a radical change to the intended use of spectrum."

(wispolitics.com)

ONLINE RETAILERS OF ILLEGAL JAMMING DEVICES TARGETED IN ENFORCEMENT ACTION

The FCC Enforcement Bureau has issued 20 enforcement actions against online retailers in 12 states for illegally marketing more than 200 uniquely-described models of cell phone jammers, GPS jammers, Wi-Fi jammers, and similar signal jamming devices. These devices have the capacity to prevent, block, or otherwise interfere with authorized radio communications in violation of section 302(b) of the Communications Act and sections 2.803 and 15.201(b) of the Commission's rules.

The Enforcement Bureau has taken several actions against retailers and users of jamming devices, and in February of this year, released two Enforcement Advisories as part of its "outreach, educate, and enforce" approach to preventing the spread of these illegal devices. (See Retailer Advisory, available at http://transition.fcc.gov/eb/Public_Notices/DA-11-249A1.html; and Consumer Advisory, available at http://transition.fcc.gov/eb/Public_Notices/DA-11-250A1.html).

The signal jamming devices listed in the Omnibus Citation and Order include GPS blockers for vehicles, high-tech signal blockers with remote control capabilities, jammers disguised as paintings and cigarette packs, and other small, easily-concealable cell phone jammers, as well as high-powered industrial jammers that have the potential to disrupt radio signals in areas as large as a football field. In addition, the signal jammers offered by the online retailers claim to target a wide variety of frequencies, services, and technologies.

The full text of the Omnibus Citation and Order is available at:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-11-1661A1.pdf

In order to help answer consumer questions about signal jammers, the Enforcement Bureau has published Frequently Asked Questions on GPS, Wi-Fi and Cell Phone Jammers, available on the FCC's Jammer Enforcement webpage, at <http://transition.fcc.gov/eb/jammerenforcement/jamfaq.pdf>.

New online, on-demand courses added to SBE University Two new courses are available from The Society of Broadcast Engineers on SBE University. The courses, Television Video and Audio - a Ready Reference for Engineers and The New Lifecycle of Media - IP and File Based Architecture and Workflows, are the newest in the series of on-line offerings for broadcast engineers.

Television Video and Audio - a Ready Reference for Engineers is written by Randy Hoffner and provides the television engineer with a solid grounding in various aspects of video and audio for television and serves as a reference to the pertinent standards. The course is an overview of video and audio for television, from the dawn of analog television broadcasting to today's digital television transmission. The cost of the course for SBE members is \$99 and \$139 for non-members. More information can be found on the SBE website.

The New Lifecycle of Media - IP and File Based Architecture and Workflows is written by Gary Olson and explores the technical considerations that need to be taken into account in a file based architecture, as well as the changing roles and responsibilities engineers will have in designing and maintaining these new systems. The changes in workflow and business processes are also reviewed, as well as the new jobs and roles that are necessary in handling media in this architecture. This course is also \$99 for SBE members and \$139 for non-members. More information can be found on the SBE website.

SBE University has online, on-demand courses on a variety of broadcast technical topics. With these self-study courses, you pick the topic, time and location to learn and complete it at your own pace. Now that's convenience! Each course is less than \$100 for SBE members. Courses include a glossary, quiz questions and a final exam.

FEMA IPAWS Special Event: Nationwide Emergency Alert System (EAS) Test Preparations and Procedures- A Year in Review:

Things to know from the webinar:

- National EAS Test Nov 9th 2011 at 1pm CT
- Download PSAs at the NAB or FCC website
- The FCC will provide a special EAS Handbook for use with the test instead of the regular EAS checklist
- They will not send an EAT. The EOM at the end of the EAN will end the test.
- Report results to the FCC within 45 days. The FCC will make available an online report tool
 - They request EAS participants register in advance, update immediately after the test with basic information like if they carried the test and add details within 45 days after the test.

Go to A National Dialogue on the Emergency Alert System (<https://nationaldialogue-emergencyalertsystem.ideascale.com/>). For official information on the Nationwide EAS Test, please visit the FEMA IPAWS website: http://www.fema.gov/emergency/ipaws/eas_info.shtm.

The Farnsworth Invention is Theater for the Broadcast Engineer Mark your calendar to attend a theater performance in November! If ever there were a Broadway play that would interest a broadcast engineer, this is it. The Farnsworth Invention will be performed in

Madison at the Overture Center's Playhouse Theater.

With a cast of 16 actors playing more than 70 roles, The Farnsworth Invention is presented by the Forward Theater Company in collaboration with the UW-Madison Department of Theatre and Drama/University Theatre.

The Farnsworth Invention tells the dramatic story of the development of television and the bitter legal struggle over patent rights between Iowa farm boy Philo T. Farnsworth and RCA head executive David Sarnoff. The performance is from a screenplay adapted by Aaron Sorkin.

Aaron Sorkin is best known for creating Academy Award-winning movies such as The Social Network, The American President, and A Few Good Men. He was the Emmy award-winning creator of hit television drama, The West Wing, and also created Sports Night and Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip.

Some critics of The Farnsworth Invention complain that the ending is not historically accurate. In reality Farnsworth won the lawsuit, received \$1 million from RCA for his patents, and went on to enjoy a successful career as a researcher. But Sorkin defends his ending, suggesting that for the sake of clarity he conflated many years of lawsuits, appeals and counter-suits, which ultimately led Farnsworth to die "drunk, broke and in obscurity," into a single lawsuit that produced the same final result.

The Farnsworth Invention will be performed on Thursday, Friday, Saturday nights at 7:30pm, and Sunday afternoons at 2:00pm in November beginning on November 3rd and ending on November 20th. Ticket prices range from \$20 - \$37 and can be obtained by calling the Overture Center Ticket Office at (608) 258-4141 or by going to www.overture.com. Pre-show talks about television history will be given beginning one hour before show time for the Thursday night and Sunday afternoon shows. Thursday night pre-show talk begins at 6:30pm and the Sunday night pre-show talk begins at 1:00pm.

If there was ever a theater performance to appeal to a broadcast engineer, then this is it. It's a rare chance to see the history of our profession take center stage – particularly

when the talents of an exceptional screenwriter (Aaron Sorkin) tells the fascinating story of Farnsworth v. Sarnoff in a play originally performed on Broadway.

Sources:

- "The Farnsworth Invention" at <http://www.overturecenter.com/production/the-farnsworth-invention>
- "The Farnsworth Invention" at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Farnsworth_Invention
- "The Playhouse" at <http://www.overturecenter.com/about/venues/the-playhouse>

by Vicki W. Kipp SBE24.org

FEMA releases EAS best practices guide

- ✦ [Nationwide Emergency Alert System \(EAS\) Test Introduction](#)
- ✦ [Nationwide EAS Test Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- ✦ [Other EAS Tests and Demonstrations](#)
- ✦ [Nationwide EAS Test Information Materials](#)

Nationwide Emergency Alert System (EAS) Test Introduction

FEMA, in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), will conduct the first nationwide Emergency Alert System (EAS) Test on November 9, at 2:00 p.m. Eastern.

FEMA, the FCC, and NOAA's vision for improving the EAS is incremental, which means testing the readiness and effectiveness of the EAS as it currently exists today is the first step. A more effective and functional EAS requires continual testing to identify necessary improvements so that all levels of the system can better serve our communities and deliver critical information that will save lives and property.

EAS Participants provide a critical public service to the nation as the resilient backbone of alert and warning when all other means of communication are unavailable. EAS Participants include all broadcasters, satellite

and digital radio and television, cable television and wireline video providers who ensure the system is at a constant state of readiness.

The nationwide EAS Test is not a pass or fail measure, nor will it specifically test Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) compliant equipment (although CAP compliant equipment should pass the Emergency Action Notification [EAN] live-code in the same manner as legacy EAS equipment).

FEMA and its federal partners understand that improving the EAS is a process that takes time. IPAWS has compiled experiential lessons learned and best practices from the Alaska EAS Tests in 2010 & 2011 as well as through the EAS rebuilding effort and tsunami live-code test in the U.S. Virgin Islands (located in the EAS Tests and Demonstrations section). Laboratory research is also being conducted at IPAWS.

IPAWS, in coordination with the FCC, is continually engaging the EAS Community through many activities, including information updates, workshops, roundtables, webinars, and on-site State and local EAS demonstrations to continue a solutions-oriented dialogue. IPAWS has also developed an external idea sharing website, [A National Dialogue on the Emergency Alert System](#) to discuss best practices and lessons learned from the EAS Community on a variety of topics that will support discussions during webinar and roundtable events.

The alert and warning landscape is in an important state of transition; from the current system of radio, television, cable, satellite, and wireline broadcast media-based alerting to a future system that integrates new technologies for a more universal access to alert and warning messages. Future testing of the EAS will assess the effectiveness and reliability of other technologies to achieve the ultimate goal of timely alert and warning to American public in the preservation of life and property.

FCC Schedules FM Auction On September 12th, the FCC released a notice for comments

(http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2011/db0912/DA-11-1513A1.pdf) on the procedures for conducting an auction of 123 FM construction permits of which 17 had been previously placed for auction in FM Auction 91 but were unsold. The FCC asks for comments on the procedures for conducting each auction that they conduct. They may make some changes to the auction rules to correct for some issues they had in a previous auction. This is mainly a formality for most auctions. In each auction they issue a list of allocated frequencies that they wish to auction and request those interested to file an application. If more than one application is filed for an allotted frequency, the FCC will require the applicants to bid for the permit to construct the station. Comments on the procedures for this auction are due on October 7th with replies due on October 17th.

There are two FM permits scheduled to be auctioned in Wisconsin. They are for Crandon and Rhinelander. The Crandon permit is on channel 276 (103.1 MHz) and is a class C3 (25 kw at 100m). The Rhinelander permit is for channel 243 (96.5 MHz) and is also a class C3. The Rhinelander permit was auctioned previously in auction 91 and had no applicants. On September 9th, the FCC announced (http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2011/db0909/DA-11-1523A1.pdf) that it was deleting 20 allocations that had been unsold in previous auctions. They included three allocations in Wisconsin. There are in Boscobel, channel 244C3 (96.7 MHz), Owen, channel 242C3 (96.3 MHz) and Tigerton, channel 295A (106.9 MHz at 6 kw at 100m). They are asking for comments from interested parties that may wish to apply for the construction permits requesting that they should not be deleted and why they may not have previously applied. Comments are due on October 30th and replies on November 13th.

The FCC states the reason for the deletion of the allocation is so that they may be used in some other communities. This may or may not be possible due to the crowding in the FM band, which makes it very difficult to move most allocations any distance.

>>> (by Tom Smith SBE24.org)