



The Society of Broadcast Engineers

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

Special EAS Edition

November 2011

The next meeting of SBE Chapter 80 will be November 15th at noon at the Out o' Town Club in Kaukauna. Our program will be by Mike Erickson from Wheatstone/Vorsis about audio processing *Look inside for special EAS coverage for the November National EAS Test.*

Chairman's Corner

Welcome to our eNewsletter!

Our November meeting of Chapter 80 will be Tuesday, November 15th, 2011 at noon at the Out O' Town Club in Kaukauna. Our program this month will be presented by Mike Erickson from Wheatstone/Vorsis. Mike will discuss the new ways audio processing manufacturers are trying to narrow the field between clean and loud. Advanced hardware design allows for more processing power than ever before and ideas that were dreams just a few years ago are now reality. Hear about these latest innovations in Mike's presentation about audio limiters and a fresh new look on how they work as part of an audio processing system.

Our October meeting of Chapter 80 was at the SBE/WBA Broadcasters Clinic 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."

SBE Ch.80 Annual Elections will take place during the November 15th 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 no later than Monday 11/14/2011.

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, December 20, 2011 – SBE Chapter 80 Holiday party

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

Tuesday, February 21, 2012 – SBE Chapter 80 - TBA

I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, November 15th, 2011 at our Chapter 80 meeting at the Out O' Town Club in Kaukauna.

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.

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write in:

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write in:

Keith Kintner

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU REMINDS MEDIA OUTLETS AND EAS PARTICIPANTS THAT BROADCAST OF EAS TONES AND ATTENTION SIGNAL IS PROHIBITED EXCEPT DURING AUTHORIZED EAS ACTIVATIONS, INCLUDING TESTS

The Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau reminds all media outlets not to rebroadcast the EAS tones and/or attention signal in news or other stories about the Nationwide EAS Test scheduled for November 9, 2011. Pursuant to section 11.45 of the FCC's rules, "[n]o person may transmit or cause to transmit the EAS codes or Attention Signal, or a recording or simulation thereof, in any circumstance other than in an actual National, State or Local Area emergency or authorized test of the EAS." 47 C.F.R. § 11.45. Any rebroadcast of the EAS tones and attention signal not only would violate FCC Rules, but also would pose a public danger because rebroadcast of the tones could trigger a false alert from EAS equipment that picks up such a rebroadcast.



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Final Preparations for the National EAS Test by Scott Mason, CPBE, SBE EAS Education Committee Chair and Chriss Scherer, CPBE CBNT Unless you've been in a coma, you know about the upcoming Nov. 9 national EAS test. As that date approaches, many engineers and stations are going through a last-minute cram before the big test.

The first-ever nationwide EAS test is scheduled for Nov. 9 at 2 p.m. ET/11 a.m. PT. In theory, the EAS unit you have had since 1994 should have always been able to relay the test with the EAN code.

After the test, broadcasters are asked to report their individual results. This online reporting system has three forms. Form 1 can be completed before the Nov. 9 test to provide background information on your facilities and equipment. Form 2 is to be completed on Nov. 9 (or shortly thereafter) to provide information on whether a station received the alert and whether it relayed the alert. Form 3 is to be completed between Nov. 10 and Dec. 24 to provide more detailed information on the success or failure of the test.

Many questions have arisen (and were posted on the SBE's EAS Exchange remailer) about needing to complete forms for all the various streams (i.e. HD Radio multicast), translators and boosters. In speaking with the FCC, the SBE has been told that it wants a form filed for each transmitter that relays the test. This includes boosters and translators. While *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*

the FCC and FEMA do not want to make extra work for stations, they are interested in seeing how the test propagated and where the holes in service lie. Each station is unique, and while the forms may not be completely clear, provide the best information you can when completing them.

It's likely additional tests will be scheduled as shortcomings in the relay system are revealed.

More details that will help you prepare for the November 9, EAS national test are provided in the [complete article](#) at sbe.org.

Some helpful links:

[FCC National EAS Test Website](#)

This includes links to the reporting form, the Handbook, PSAs and other materials

[FCC National Test EAS Handbook](#)

[FEMA/IPAWS Best Practices Guide](#)

[FCC National Test Reporting Form](#)

[Lat/Long Decimal Convertor](#)

[SBE EAS Information](#)

[SBE EAS Exchange](#)

Broadcaster's discussion group on all things EAS SBE members Barry Thomas, CPBE, CBNT and Chriss Scherer, CPBE, CBNT have produced a [video showing how the EAS test will look to a station](#). The video length is 7:56. Our thanks to Radio magazine for posting the video.

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Streaming Radio Webinar December 6

Get ready for 2012 with the next Webinar by SBE, Streaming Video: A Tutorial for Broadcasters. Whether you are considering streaming for the first time, or looking to upgrade your streaming product, Chris Tarr, CSRE, DRB, CBNT will take you through all the things you need to consider, from choosing a streaming provider, sending metadata, royalty payments, service for mobile devices and more. This webinar takes place on Tuesday, December 6 from 2 to 3 p.m. ET. The cost is \$39 for SBE members and \$59 for non-members. Register on-line at sbe.org.

SBE Accepting Fellow Nominations

Nominations for the membership grade of SBE Fellow are open. Nominees must be members in good standing who have rendered conspicuous service, or are recognized for having made valuable contributions to the advancement of broadcast engineering or its allied professions, dissemination of knowledge thereof, or the promotion of its application in practice.

Voting members of the SBE can submit nominations that are endorsed by five additional voting members. Nomination must include a professional biography of the candidate. Nominees must not be made aware of their nomination.

Send nominations via email to:
Mr. Troy Pennington, CSRE, CBNT
SBE Fellowship Chairman
troy.pennington@cumulus.com

The deadline for nominations is March 23, 2012. The SBE Board of Directors will review and vote on the nominees on April 15, 2012. Candidates elected to the member grade of Fellow will be announced during the 2012 NAB Show and recognized in Denver, Colo. at the SBE National Meeting in October 2012.

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 do not 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.

FCC Announces Activation of Nationwide EAS Test Electronic Reporting System and Release of Nationwide EAS Test Handbook

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) reminds Emergency Alert System (EAS) Participants (e.g., broadcasters, cable operators, satellite radio and television service providers and wireline video service providers)¹ that on November 9, 2011, at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST), the FCC and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will conduct the first-ever Nationwide EAS Test. The purpose of the test is to assess the reliability and effectiveness of the EAS as a way to alert the public of national emergencies. The test is diagnostic in nature and is intended to allow the FCC and FEMA to determine how well the nationwide EAS works and to make improvements if necessary.

Under the FCC's rules, all EAS Participants must participate in the nationwide test and must submit test result data to the FCC no later than December 27, 2011 (*i.e.*, 45 days following the test). EAS Participants may file the required test result data either in paper format or electronically. EAS Participants that choose to file paper submissions must do so no later than December 27, 2011, and must file an original and one copy of each filing with the Commission by hand, messenger delivery, commercial overnight courier, or by first class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail addressed to the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, ATTN: Nationwide EAS Test, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington DC 20554. EAS Participants must mark the top of each page of their submissions: "Confidential – Not for Public Inspection."

FCC TAKES FIRST STEP TO MODERNIZE TELEVISION BROADCAST PUBLIC INSPECTION FILES

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today took a major step toward modernizing the way television broadcasters inform the public about how they serve their communities.

The Commission adopted an Order on Reconsideration that vacates a 2007 Report and Order (R&O), and a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM), which proposes a new approach that would require commercial and noncommercial television stations to submit documents to an online public file hosted by the Commission. The 2007 R&O largely replaced a decades-old requirement that television stations maintain a paper public inspection file in their main studio with one that required the files be available on their stations' Internet website, if they had one.

Those rules were never put into effect because of legal challenges.

The FNPRM seeks comment on proposals that would reduce burdens on the broadcast industry. The Further Notice proposes to streamline the information broadcasters will need to provide by requiring the Commission to import information already filed with the FCC, and exempts certain items from being posted online such as letters and emails from the public. It further seeks comment on posting sponsorship identification information, now disclosed only on-air, and shared services agreements online as part of the public inspection file hosted by the Commission.

SBE Awards Named To Honor Flanders, Wulliman, Battison

The Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE) has named two of its annual awards in honor of members who made significant contributions to the growth of the organization. The SBE announced on September 28 that, beginning in 2012, the SBE Broadcast Engineer of the Year Award will be named the Robert W. Flanders SBE Engineer of the Year Award. Also beginning in 2012, the SBE Educator of the Year Award will be named the James C. Wulliman SBE Educator of the Year Award.

The late Bob Flanders, who was director of engineering at WRTV-TV in Indianapolis for many years, was the fifth president of the SBE from 1971 to 1973. Flanders is credited with elevating the operations of the SBE to a more professional level, setting the stage for the society's future growth. He also was instrumental in establishing a management training program for broadcast engineers in the early 1960's that lives on today as the SBE Leadership Development Course.

Jim Wulliman retired from WTMJ-TV in Milwaukee 25 years ago as director of engineering. Wulliman, who served as SBE's sixth president from 1973 to 1975, was one of three members of the SBE credited with the creation of the SBE's certification program and guided the program through its first twenty years as its director and committee chairman. The program has become the preeminent engineering certification in the U.S. broadcasting industry, with more than 5,000 individuals holding SBE certification.

The SBE is very pleased to recognize these two prominent members by naming these important national awards in their honor.

In April of this year, the society announced that the SBE Lifetime Achievement Award would be named

the John H. Battison SBE Lifetime Achievement Award, in honor of the founder of the SBE. In the early 1960's, Battison worked for several years to create interest in a new organization devoted to the professional development of the broadcast engineer and the field of broadcast engineering. On April 5, 1964, the Society of Broadcast Engineers was born during a meeting at the annual convention of the National Association of Broadcasters in Chicago. What started with 100 members has grown to more than 5,000 members today, located in all 50 states and in more than 20 other countries.

The SBE Engineer of the Year and Educator of the Year awards were first presented in 1991. The SBE Lifetime Achievement Award was first presented in 1995. A complete list of recipients for all three awards can be found on the [awards section the SBE website](#).

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU ANNOUNCES UPDATES TO THE NOVEMBER 9, 2011 NATIONWIDE EAS TEST

After a careful review of the technical elements of the test, FEMA and the FCC have concluded that a thirty-second test will allow the agencies to effectively assess the reliability and effectiveness of the EAS as a way to alert the public of national emergencies with limited disruption to the public. Today's public notice supersedes any prior Public Notice, and announces that a revised *Handbook* reflecting the new thirty second test length has been posted at www.fcc.gov/nationwideeastest.

All EAS Participants, (e.g., broadcasters, cable operators, satellite radio and television service providers, and wireline video service providers) should consult and use the updated version of the *Handbook*. A copy of the *Handbook* must be located at normal duty positions or EAS equipment locations when an operator is required to be on duty and be immediately available to staff responsible for administering the Nationwide EAS Test. The *Handbook* supersedes all other EAS Handbooks for the duration of the November 9, 2011 Nationwide EAS Test. A copy of the *Handbook* is attached to this Public Notice as Appendix A. Copies of the *Handbook* can also be downloaded from the Bureau's web site at <http://www.fcc.gov/nationwideeastest>.

SBE submits two filings in support of broadcast use of BAS spectrum The SBE has submitted two filings to the FCC in support of broadcast use

of Broadcast Auxiliary Service (BAS) spectrum. The first is a Petition for Rulemaking seeking modification of the Remote Pickup rules to allow both digital and analog modulation on RPU channels. It also corrects an anomaly created by the Commission in 2002 by realigning the center frequency specification to allow for more efficient use of the spectrum while preserving the ability to stack channels for wider bandwidths. A change of these rules would conform BAS regulations more closely to other recent FCC rule updates and will significantly expand equipment choices available to broadcast engineers to include devices currently restricted to non-broadcast use. The change would also facilitate digital conversion of the bands at a pace determined by the industry rather than by the FCC.

Joe Snelson, chair of the SBE Frequency Coordination Committee said, "The best quality about this petition is that it solves a significant regulatory and equipment problem but does no harm to existing station RPU operations. The proposed rules would not mandate any change but would simply make digital-modulation, narrow-band operation permissible."

The second filing is a request for an immediate FCC rule waiver to allow use of current-technology digital radios and communications equipment, resolving a serious disconnect between the broadcaster's need to maintain and update their RPU fleets and the availability of suitable replacement equipment. Chris Imlay, SBE general counsel said, "A temporary waiver of these rules while the rulemaking process is progressing is vital to making our members' jobs easier right now by allowing engineers to use widely-available, Part-90-type digital equipment on RPU frequencies while remaining compliant with FCC rules."

EAS details from the Wisconsin EAS web page National EAS Test Information

On June 9, 2011, FEMA and FCC announced they will conduct the first-ever nationwide EAS test on November 9, 2011 at 1:00PM CST.

The details, as we know them so far, are posted below. The information will be updated as more is known.

IMPORTANT CHANGE: DHS today shortened the length of the National EAS Test to be broadcast on November 9, 2011 at 1:00PM CST. Rather than the previous 3 to 3 ½ minute length, the audio message will now last only 30 seconds. With the

EAS tones, this will yield a test of about 45 seconds. As before, the test will conclude with a normal End-of-Message (EOM) code which will release your EAS unit back to normal programming.

IMPORTANT ACTION ITEM: All broadcasters and cable operators must now download, print, and display at all EAS operating positions a revised copy of the FCC "Handbook for November 9, 2011 Nationwide EAS Test" from the FCC Nationwide EAS Test website at: www.fcc.gov/nationwideeastest. Note that nothing on the cover of the document indicates it is the revised Handbook. The changes are on Pages 5 and 16, where the test length is changed to read 30 seconds.

FEMA will use the EAS Location Code for Washington, DC when sending the National EAS Test. Some questions have arisen whether this code needs to be entered into the filters of EAS units. In most cases, it doesn't. Here is the latest information provided by several manufacturers in a Sept. 1, 2011 FEMA webinar:

TFT EAS 911: TFT has determined that the DC FIPS code does not need to be entered into the TFT EAS 911 programming. TFT does caution however that the EAS 911 unit must be in Automatic Mode for the alert to air on its own. If the EAS 911 unit is in Manual Mode, an operator must manually forward the alert.

Sage ENDEC: Sage has said that its ENDEC unit will forward the alert whether in Auto or Manual Mode, and the DC FIPS code does not need to be added to the ENDEC memory. The only caution from Sage is that it is possible to delete or alter the EAN Filter, so stations may want to double-check that the EAN Filter still exists.

Digital Alert Systems DASDEC: DAS says their DASDEC unit will pass the EAN whether in Auto or Manual Mode, and the DC FIPS code does not need to be programmed into the DASDEC memory.

Gorman-Redlich: Says its EAS unit will pass the EAN in either Auto or Manual Mode, and does not need the DC FIPS code added to the EAS unit memory. G-R cautioned that the EAS unit must be in Automatic Mode to pass the EAN on its own. If in Manual Mode, an operator must manually forward the alert.

Trilithic: Says its EASyCAST EAS units with software version 6.67 and older will need the DC FIPS code added to the programming. EASyCAST EAS units with software version 6.70 and newer (the current version is 8.03 - May, 2011) will not need the DC FIPS code added to the programming and will pass the EAN in either Auto or Manual Mode.

<http://www.sbe24.org/eas/natltest.asp>