



The Society of Broadcast Engineers

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



December 2011

Chairman's Corner

Welcome!

Our next meeting of Chapter 80 will be on Tuesday, December 13, 2011, starting at 6:00 p.m. for cocktails, and 7:00 p.m. for dinner at the Out 'O Town Club in Kaukauna. This is our annual Holiday gathering, to celebrate the seasons, Christmas, Hanukkah, the end of a great year, and the start of the new one.

Plan to join us, and bring your spouse, significant other, co-workers, etc. The food is delicious, and the fellowship with engineers in the Chapter makes for a fun evening. I look forward to seeing you there! If you will be joining us, please RSVP to Tim: email – tlaes@new.rr.com or phone – (920) 321-1952.

Our November meeting of Chapter 80 was Tuesday, November 15th, 2011 at noon at the Out O' Town Club in Kaukauna. Our program was canceled due to travel cancellations. The Program was to be presented by Mike Erickson from Wheatstone/Vorsis. Mike was going to discuss the new ways audio processing manufacturers are trying to narrow the field between clean and loud. Hopefully we will re-schedule Mike for a later date.

Upcoming events:

Tuesday, January 17, 2012 – SBE Chapter 80 – Don Heinzen and John Purvey of Belden to discuss the Telecast products.

Tuesday, February 14, 2012 – SBE Chapter 80 - David Veldman of Harris to discuss video compression and wrappers.

Tuesday, March 20, 2012 – SBE Chapter 80 - Mary Ann Seidler of TieLinie to discuss the changing nature of audio remotes.

Tuesday, April 24, 2012 – SBE Chapter 80 – NAB Review

I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday evening, December 13, 2011 at our evening Holiday party in Kaukauna!

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Regards,

Timothy J Laes



Mark Bartolotta
Regional Sales Manager

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SBE submits two filings in support of broadcast use of BAS spectrum (November 7, 2011)

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."

The SBE filings were submitted Monday, November 7 to the FCC.

The SBE's Legislative Goals include support and defense of broadcaster access to BAS frequencies as an extension of its frequency coordination programs and its support of broadcast engineering. Copies of these filings and further information will be at www.sbe.org.



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SBE Statement Following the National EAS Test

(November 10, 2011)

Following the Nov. 9, 2011 national EAS test, it's obvious there were some problems. While some stations passed a complete test message, other stations did not. Though it appeared most broadcast station EAS equipment worked as expected, portions of the audio had problems nationwide.

Damon Penn, assistant administrator of National Continuity Programs at FEMA wrote the following on the FEMA Blog at 6:30 p.m. ET, four and a half hours after the test. "This nationwide test served the purpose for which it was intended - to identify gaps and generate a comprehensive set of data to help strengthen our ability to communicate during real emergencies. Based on preliminary data, media outlets in large portions of the country successfully received the test message, but it wasn't received by some viewers or listeners."

The SBE has noted the high volume of messages on its SBE Exchange - EAS discussion list, regarding the test. SBE EAS Education Chair, Scott Mason, CPBE, CBNT said, "The SBE will continue to provide educational support on EAS to our members and technical guidance to the FCC and FEMA, to provide a higher success rate for the future."

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



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SBE EAS Exchange

The Society of Broadcast Engineers, in response to those who have requested a forum dedicated and limited to the discussion of issues related to the Emergency Alert System, has instituted the SBE-EAS Exchange. The EAS Exchange is moderated by SBE EAS Committee Chair Clay Freinwald, CPBE. On occasion, another member of the SBE EAS Committee may also moderate the discussion. SBE membership is encouraged to participate on the EAS Exchange, but it is not required.

Participants may discuss equipment issues or the latest related FCC activity, share EAS failures or success stories, etc.

To subscribe to the SBE-EAS Exchange, click [Subscribe now](#).

SBE webinar teaches chief operator responsibilities

The FCC requires each broadcast station to designate a chief operator. To help stations comply with FCC regulations and instruct individuals on how to carry out the responsibilities of chief operator, the SBE is presenting the webinar, "Chief Operator Responsibilities - What should I be doing?" on January 12, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. ET.

The presentation will provide insight into the responsibilities specific to each station's chief operator, including administrative and technical responsibilities, communication requirements and authenticating station records. Sample templates of required documents will be provided.

The presenter is Dennis Baldrige, CPBE, 8-VSB, AMD, DRB, CBNT, a Senior Member of the SBE who has worked in the field of broadcasting for over 30 years. As owner of Baldrige Communications, LLC, he provides contract engineering services to broadcast stations in the upper Midwest.

Baldrige holds an FCC Lifetime General License (formerly a First Class FCC License) and Amateur Radio Extra Class License (KØDB). He also teaches science courses at Upper Iowa University, has authored several articles for Radio Guide magazine and is part of the SBE Technical Presenters Group.

The cost to attend is only \$49 for SBE Members and \$69 for non-members. [Register on-line](#) or for [more information](#), visit the SBE website.

FCC disregards SBE warnings about spectrum for medical devices

December 6, 2011, Indianapolis, Ind. - On November 30, 2011 the FCC adopted a [Report and Order](#) in ET Docket 09-36/RM-11404 amending the FCC's rules to allow implanted medical micro devices to operate as a secondary service in the 413-457 MHz band. This band includes Broadcast Auxiliary Service (BAS) frequencies (450-451 MHz and 455-456 MHz). FCC disregarded warnings included in comments filed by SBE and others, and will now allow medical micro-power networks (MMNs) to operate on, among others, audio RPU frequencies.

While advances in medical RF technology are indeed inspiring, SBE continues to oppose the operation of medical, potentially life-sustaining RF devices in spectrum that is not specifically allocated and protected against incompatible incumbent uses. In this case, these unlicensed micro-power devices will operate on a secondary basis to licensed operations. This means that the medical devices must accept interference from licensed services in the band. The society's view is that this presents an unacceptable risk to users of the devices.

SBE is also concerned that operation in this band may eventually result in a situation similar to that encountered by DTV stations during the digital broadcasting transition. Because of RF-susceptibility of Part 15-regulated medical devices, licensed DTV stations were required to notify and coordinate with medical facilities prior to sign-on of their DTV transmitters. Because of the safety implications, licensed operations were in practical terms subjugated to an unlicensed service.

"On an ongoing basis, engineers and stations should be cognizant of circumstances in which BAS operation may conflict with a concentration of devices like these. Remote broadcasts (TV live shots or "radiothons" for example) from or near medical facilities may eventually require notification when RPU frequencies are used; perhaps similar to pacemaker warnings posted at stores using microwave ovens," states Barry Thomas, CPBE, CBNT, the SBE government relations chair.

Short newsletter this month-my computer is broke!