



The Society of Broadcast Engineers

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

March 2016

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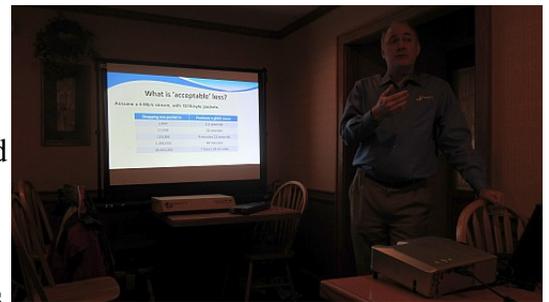
Twitter: @sbechapter80

Our next SBE Chapter 80 meeting will be at the Out O' Town club on Tuesday March 15th at noon.

Chapter 80 members,

Happy Spring! I hope that by the time you read this we will have had a few days in the 50-degree range and that our snow is going fast if not gone.

Last month, we had a presentation by Bill Slattery of Immedia TV joined by Mark Bartolotta and Scott Michaels of Heartland Video Systems about today's multiple formats for encoding & decoding Video over IP along some of the pros and cons involved with each option. Thank you to Bill and Immedia TV for sponsoring our lunch!



There is no program planned for March, however many members find it beneficial to get together for some old-fashioned networking, so don't let the lack of a formal program deter you!

Please plan to attend this month's meeting on the 15th at the Out o' Town Club!

Mark Hoenecke

Also please note that I will be in Madison on the 15th and unable to attend the Chapter 80 meeting

Thanks,

Mark

Upcoming meetings and events:

April 14th Wisconsin Tornado warning test-more in this newsletter

April 26th is NAB review. **[One week later than usual!]** at Out O Town club

SBE Certification

2016 EXAM SESSION

June 3-13

August 5-15

November 4-20

APPLICATION DEADLINE

April, 19, 2016

June 3, 2016

September 30, 2016

If you have any questions contact the Certification Director, [Megan Clappe](#).

CHAPTER 80 ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

Chairman	Mark Hoenecke	WPT	715-845-1319	Mark.Hoenecke@ecb.org
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Board of Dirs/SBE Liaison	Keith Kintner	UWO	920-424-7357	kintner@uwosh.edu

SBE Members: Discount Registration for the NAB Show

SBE members without access to the NAB member rate can save on a FlexPass or SmartPass with the SBE [registration code EP09](#). This code can also be used to register for a free exhibits-only pass.

[More](#) >

FCC Waives SNG Carrier ID Requirement until Sept. 3, 2017 The FCC published an order today waiving the identification requirement for digital video transmissions in Section 25.281(b) for a period of one year, beginning on the effective date of the requirement, Sept. 3, 2016. The order states, "In light of information concerning the equipment available to meet these requirements, this temporary waiver will allow additional time to update the record on the anticipated costs of compliance and to determine whether any additional relief is warranted." The waiver extends the deadline to Sept. 3, 2017.

This news affects those responsible for satellite news gathering (SNG) uplinks. Section §25.281(b) of the FCC rules had stated, "As of June 1, 2016, transmissions of fixed-frequency, digitally modulated video signals with a symbol rate of 128,000/s or more from Satellite News Gathering vehicles or other temporary-fixed earth stations must be identified through use of an ATIS...". ATIS stands for Automatic Transmitter Identification System. This is also known as Carrier Identification (CID).

Broadcasters had expressed concerns about the cost and availability of equipment to provide this for older SNG vehicles. This order also serves as a correction to the original order, which stated a deadline date of June 1, 2016, adjusting it to Sept. 3, 2016.

The complete FCC order is available on the SBE website, [Regulatory page](#).

FCC Issues Enforcement Advisory Regarding Pirate Radio The FCC issued a public notice - enforcement advisory on March 1 regarding pirate radio. The notice defines what is prohibited and explains the harm caused by pirate radio operators. The notice also explains what individuals should do if they discover a possible pirate radio operation. The notice warns against those providing support to pirate radio operators, such as landlords or advertisers, as they may be subject to FCC enforcement or other legal action.

[Read the full public notice](#)

TO: All Wisconsin Broadcasters and Cable Operators
FROM: Wisconsin EAS Committee
Gary Timm, Broadcast Chair, GTEAS@sbcglobal.net
Released: 2/10/2016

Afternoon and Evening Statewide Tests of Tornado Warning EAS Code on April 14, 2016

In cooperation with Wisconsin Emergency Management, the National Weather Service will conduct two tests of the real Tornado Warning EAS Code, one in the afternoon and a second one in the evening, on April 14, 2016 as part of Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week. The State of Wisconsin has received a waiver from the FCC to use the actual EAS Tornado Warning Code for these statewide tests. If there is a threat of severe weather at the time of the afternoon test, then both the afternoon and evening tests will be postponed until April 15, 2016. If there is severe weather on April 15, the tests will be canceled. If the afternoon test runs on April 14, but the evening test is canceled due to the threat of severe weather, the evening test will not be rescheduled to the next day – it will just be canceled.

This is the first year a second test is being added in the evening hours, as our neighbors in Minnesota have been doing for years. Broadcast stations and cable systems are encouraged to carry both of these tests, and forward their opinions on this new testing regime to the Wisconsin EAS Committee following the tests. Participation in these tests is not required by FCC rules, but is requested for public awareness.

The audio of these tests will repeat several times in the script “This is a Test”, but because the real EAS Tornado Warning Code is being sent, the crawl on TV stations and cable systems will read “A Tornado Warning has been issued for...”. Thus we ask that TV broadcasters and cable operators making the decision to air these tests should display a “This is a Test” graphic behind the crawl.

The tests will be originated on NOAA Weather Radio (NWR), and will be relayed via the State Relay (SR) and Local Primary (LP) stations. The EAS “TOR” Code will be sent independently by all five NWS offices serving Wisconsin, following the schedule below. Broadcasters and cable operators that monitor SR or LP stations from multiple EAS Operational Areas, or directly monitor NWR from another EAS Operational Area, may receive more than one Tornado Warning alert for each test; since these alerts are sent independently from each NWS office they will not be recognized by EAS units as duplicates if alerts are received from two different EAS Operational Areas. It is also possible that some NWR stations may broadcast more than one TOR Code for each test as some NWR stations serve counties from more than one NWS office.

As a condition of granting Wisconsin a waiver to use the real TOR Tornado Warning code for these tests, the FCC stipulates that broadcasters and cable operators should air informational announcements to the public in advance of the test so that citizens are not misled when the test airs saying “A Tornado Warning has been issued for...” Accordingly, we ask that broadcasters and cable operators begin carrying informational announcements one week prior to the April 14th test (PSAs, mention in your news stories, weather reports, etc.)

This will be the schedule for the two tests run on April 14, 2016
(or if there is severe weather on April 14, both tests will be conducted on April 15, 2016)
(if the afternoon test runs on April 14, but the evening test is canceled due to the threat of severe weather, the evening test will not be rescheduled to the next day – it will just be canceled):

Tornado Warning AFTERNOON TEST:

1:00PM – Tornado Watch “TOA” EAS Code issued (not aired on broadcast stations or cable)

1:45PM – Tornado Warning “TOR” EAS Code issued by all NWS offices serving Wisconsin counties*

EVENING TEST: (The TOA EAS Code will not be sent for the evening test.)

6:55PM – Tornado Warning “TOR” EAS Code issued by all NWS offices serving Wisconsin counties*

EAS Header Code parameters to be used in both tests:

Originator Code: WXR

EAS Code: TOR

EAS Duration: 15 minutes

*These tests are being coordinated with the State of Minnesota. Stations and cable systems in the border area will receive both Wisconsin and Minnesota counties in the same coordinated TOR Tornado Warning EAS message at both 1:45PM and 6:55PM.

Wisconsin Broadcasters, please be aware that the State of Iowa will be running a live Tornado Warning test on March 23rd. See the details below. An actual TOR code will be used. If your station monitors an Iowa station and has an Iowa county as part of your “local area”, you could be receiving this live test. Be aware.

Leonard Charles

WI SECC Committee

SBE Launches SBE Membership: The Road to Success

This year's member recruitment effort began officially on March 1 with the launch of the society's annual three-month drive. The theme - SBE Membership: The Road to Success.

**SBE Membership:
The Road to Success**



The SBE would like your help in recruiting new members, and you can win rewards for your efforts. Sponsor a new Member, Associate Member or Sustaining Member between March 1 and May 31, 2016 and you will be eligible for the prize drawings. For each approved new member application you sponsor you will

earn \$5 off your 2017 membership renewal, up to \$25. Each new member application may have only one sponsor. Applications must be received at the SBE National Office between March 1 and May 31, 2016, to be eligible. Drawing for all prizes will be completed by June 7, 2016.

The Grand prize is a trip to the SBE National Meeting held in conjunction with the annual Ohio Association of Broadcasters Engineering Conference in Columbus, OH, October 26 - 27, 2016. Prize package includes round trip airfare for one from within the continental US to the meeting; all SBE National Meeting and Engineering Conference events; and two nights at the host hotel, the Crowne Plaza Columbus, OH. More than 20 other prizes will be awarded.

Complete details, prize rules, prize listings and membership forms are posted on the [2016 Membership Drive page](#).

[More >](#)

Picture of the month. BTA-5 transmitter from 'RCA Broadcast News July August 1950' at americanradiohistory.com
<http://www.americanradiohistory.com/Archive-RCA-Broadcast-News/RCA-60.pdf>



FIG. 1 (above). Front view of the RCA, BTA-5F AM transmitter. Visible in front of equipment racks are: C. V. Clarke, Plant Engineer (left), and J. F. Byrne, Operator (right).

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