



The Society of Broadcast Engineers

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

January 2017

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Our next SBE Chapter 80 meeting will be at the Out O Town Club at noon January 17th. Our speakers will be Ben Crease and Jeff Clarine speaking about wideband antennas

Happy New Year fellow Chapter 80 members!

Chapter 80's 2016 meetings wound up on a precipitous winter night at the Out o' Town Club on Tuesday, December 20, for our annual holiday dinner with a total of 16 in attendance! There was an even split between members a guests, and we enjoyed an hour of fellowship before a nice dinner in the back room, followed by our guest speaker, Tom Hutchison, former WLUK-TV GM and author of the book *Hunters, Loggers & Bootleggers*, published in 2015. Tom amused us with many stories from the past, recounted in his book, along with some others from his broadcasting years. A number of people had questions about the past history and also relayed some of their own stories. It was a most enjoyable evening! Thanks to Gary Mach for arranging for Tom to present to our group.

The first Chapter 80 meeting of 2017 will be at noon at the Out o' Town Club on Tuesday, January 17, featuring Jampro Antenna's Ben Crease and Jeff Clarine, who will be speaking about wideband, low wind load antennas and RF solutions for the impending TV repack. Please plan to join us for what sounds like an interesting and timely topic.



Our Chapter 80 election of officers was completed in December, with the incumbents being re-elected to another one-year term in office. Thank you also to our 10 committee chairs for serving another year. Thanks to all who voted!

Regards,

Mark Hoenecke

CHAPTER 80 ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

Chairman	Mark Hoenecke	WPT	715-845-1319	Mark.Hoenecke@ecb.org
Vice Chairman	Stu Muck	Muck Broadcast Services	920-960-0045	mbsfdl@yahoo.com
Past Chairman	Steve Konopka	WPNE TV/FM	920-336-3541	skonopka@ecb.org
Treasurer	Steve Brown	WHBY WAPL WKSZ WZOR	920-733-6639	sbrown@wcinet.com
Secretary	Bill Moede			bmoedereplay@gmail.com
Program Chairman	John Pfankuch	Heartland Video Systems	920-893-0204	jpfankuch@hvs-inc.com
Membership Chairman	Mark Friedman	WPNE TV/FM	920-336-3541	mfriedman@ecb.org
Sustaining Membership	Stu Muck	Muck Broadcast services	920-960-0045	MBSFDL@yahoo.com
Frequency Coord. < 1 GHz	Tim Laes	WGEE WIXX WNCY WROE	920-435-3771	tlaes@new.rr.com
Frequency Coord. > 1 GHz	Bill Hubbard	UW Green Bay	920-465-2510	hubbardw@uwgb.edu
Newsletter Editor	Dave Driessen	WGBA WACY	920-494-2626	dave.dr99@gmail.com
Certification Chairman	Jim Sams	Retired	920-822-5951	jsams@netnet.net
Chapter 80 Webmaster	Mike Steele	WHBY	920-831-5605	msteele@wcinet.com
EAS Coordinator	Steve Konopka	WPNE TV/FM	920-336-3541	skonopka@ecb.org
Board of Dirs/SBE Liaison	Keith Kintner	UWO	920-424-7357	kintner@uwosh.edu

Look ahead at upcoming opportunities to take a [certification exam](#) in your area with the local chapter.

If you would like to take an exam but are not able to make it during these sessions, please contact Megan Clappe to ask about special proctoring.

Below is the upcoming certification exam schedule

Exam Dates Location Application Deadline

February 3-13, 2017	Local Chapters	December 31, 2016
April 25, 2017	NAB Show Las Vegas	March 17, 2017
June 2-12, 2017	Local Chapters	April 21, 2017
August 4-14, 2017	Local Chapters	June 5, 2017
November 3-13, 2017	Local Chapters	September 25, 2017

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



After your application to take an exam has been approved, the SBE national office will arrange for your local chapter SBE certification chair, or his or her qualified designee, to proctor your exam. If you don't live near an active SBE chapter, the national office will work with you to arrange for a proctor in your area. For specific information about the [SBE](#)

[certifications available](#), see the SBE website, your local certification chair or contact [Megan Clappe](#) at the SBE National office at 317-846-9000.

The Auction Continues On December 1, the FCC concluded the first half of stage three of the Incentive Auction. The first half was the reverse auction in which the FCC makes offers for stations to give up spectrum or move to a lower TV band. In Stage 3, the FCC is seeking 108 MHz of spectrum in which they will sell 80 MHz to the wireless Providers. In stage 3 of the auction, the total amount that was offered to the broadcasters was \$40,313,164,425, which is \$19,229,868,437 less than \$59,543,032.826 that was offered to the broadcasters in the second stage and \$48 billion less than the \$88.35 billion stations were offered in the first stage. As the FCC needs less stations as the amount of spectrum sought is reduced, the offers from the FCC also are reduced.

In stage one, the wireless providers offered the FCC for 126MHz of spectrum \$22.45 billion of which 100 MHz was available to the wireless providers. In stage two, the wireless providers offered \$21.52 billion for 108 MHz of spectrum of which 90 MHz was available for use by the wireless providers. The excess spectrum not offered to the wireless providers will be used as guard bands and used for both licensed and unlicensed use for wireless microphones and white space devices. In stage 2, the forward auction for the wireless providers to buy spectrum lasted one round of bidding.

If the wireless companies decide to hold ground and not increase their bids, the stage 3 forward auction may only last a few rounds and the auction will go to stage 4 in which the FCC will seek 84 MHz and offer 70 MHz to the wireless providers. As this stage has less spectrum reserved for guard bands and is not divided by the Channel 37 space research spectrum, this may be where the reverse and forward auction amounts may start to come together. If stage three last only a few rounds and the wireless providers don't close the gap between the reverse and forward auction, we could see stage 4 start before the holidays.

The stage 3 forward auction started on December 4 and the totals after each round can be found at: <https://auctiondata.fcc.gov/public/projects/1000>. (Tom Smith SBE24)

Initial Findings of the 2016 EAS Nationwide Test

At the end of December, the FCC released an initial overview of the nationwide EAS test results and highlighted several opportunities for strengthening the EAS. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) and the National Weather Service (NWS), conducted a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) at 2:20 p.m. EDT on Sept. 28, 2016. The nationwide test was designed to assess the reliability and effectiveness of the EAS, with a particular emphasis on testing FEMA's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), the integrated gateway through which common alerting protocol-based (CAP-based) EAS alerts are disseminated to EAS Participants.



The test also provided the Commission an opportunity to evaluate improvements made to the EAS since the 2011 nationwide EAS test and to improve its ability to monitor the performance of EAS Participants during nationwide EAS tests. At the direction of the Commission, the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau launched the EAS Test Reporting System (ETRS), an electronic filing system and related database, on June 27, 2016. Using ETRS for the first time, EAS Participants nationwide registered accounts and submitted identifying information regarding their participation in the EAS. In the hours following the nationwide test, EAS Participants submitted "day of test" results that indicated whether they successfully received and retransmitted the test alert. EAS Participants submitted detailed analyses in the weeks following the test that specified how they received the alert and identified any complications they experienced during the test.

The FCC reports that the Nationwide EAS Test was successful. Initial test data indicates that the vast majority of EAS participants successfully received and retransmitted the National Periodic Test (NPT) code that was used for the test. The improvements made to the EAS using the

lessons learned from the 2011 nationwide EAS test and the implementation of the ETRS appear to have significantly improved test performance over what was observed during the 2011 test.

From the data submitted by EAS participants to the ETRS, several steps have been identified where the Commission could strengthen the EAS. These improvements address problems with poor audio quality, inability to deliver the Spanish alert because of receive timing between the over-the-air test and the IPAWS CAP alert, better access to alerts for people with disabilities, shortcomings in some state EAS plans, improperly configured station equipment, and potential improvements in cybersecurity of the EAS.

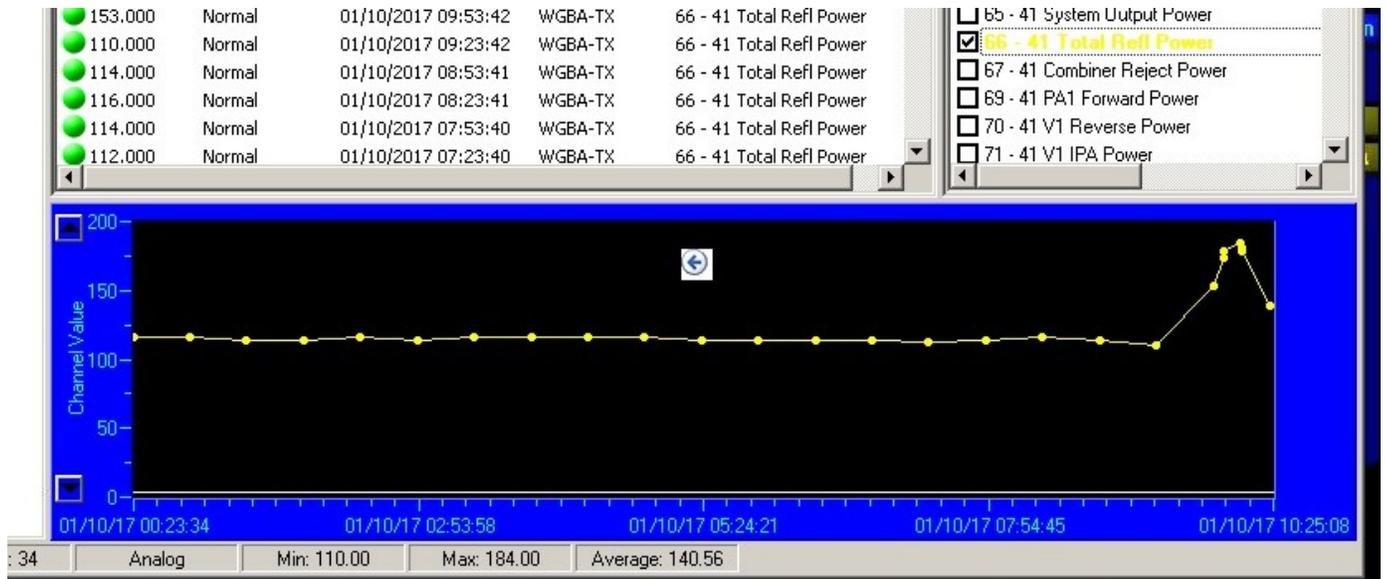
Read the FCC's public notice:

https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-16-1452A1.docx

https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-16-1452A1.pdf

(sbe.org)

Picture of the month



Freezing rain can build up on the antenna causing an increase in backpower

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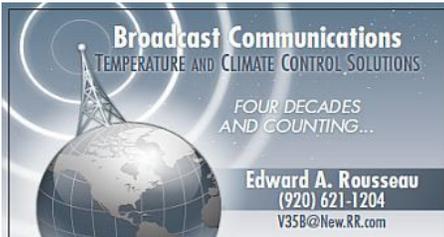




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