



# The Society of Broadcast Engineers

**Fox Valley Wisconsin, Chapter 80  
2308 East Henry Street  
Appleton, Wisconsin 54915-3547**

**July 2009**

The next meeting of Chapter 80 SBE will be our annual site picnic at noon on Tuesday July 21st at Heartland Video Systems in Plymouth WI. See the map inside.

Chairman's Corner

Welcome!

The July meeting of Chapter 80 will be our annual Site Picnic, on Tuesday, July 21, 2009, at Heartland Video Systems, 1311 Pilgrim Road in Plymouth, WI. A big thank you to John Pfankuch and the staff of Heartland Video for inviting us to tour their headquarters and providing the facilities. The event will begin at noon. Bring your appetite and a friend! Directions and a map are printed in the Newsletter.

Please plan to RSVP for the event, and bring a \$5.00 donation to help cover the great food. To RSVP, email me at: [kintner@uwosh.edu](mailto:kintner@uwosh.edu) or call me at (920) 424-7357. Give your name, phone number, email address, and whether or not you will be bringing a guest. You may also RSVP to John Pfankuch at Heartland Video Systems, email: [jpfankuch@hvs-inc.com](mailto:jpfankuch@hvs-inc.com) or phone: (920) 893-6748. Please RSVP as soon as possible, and no later than Monday morning, July 20, so that we will have enough food and beverages!

Our June meeting for Chapter 80 was held on Wednesday, June 17, 2009 at the WBA/SBE Summer Engineering Workshop, during the WBA Summer Conference at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake, WI. About 50 engineers from around the state were in attendance for the sessions this year. Our thanks to the WBA and the committee for another outstanding event!



Upcoming events:

Tuesday, August 18, 2009 – Chapter 80 meeting – TBA

Tuesday, September 15, 2009 – Chapter 80 meeting -- TBA

I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, July 21, 2009 at noon at Heartland Video for our annual site picnic! Please remember to RSVP no later than Monday morning, July 20!

Regards,

Keith M. Kintner

### **2009 SBE Certification Application and Exam Schedule**


Exam Date(s)	Location	Application Deadline
August 7-17, 2009	Local Chapters	June 5, 2009
November 6-16, 2009	Local Chapters	September 18, 2009



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Regional Sales Manager

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**The Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club, W9ZL, will once again operate a Special Event station from the grounds of the EAA AirVenture 2009 near Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The club will operate 5 days. -- Wednesday through Sunday, during the last week of July. This operating event is open to all license classes. W9ZL will operate 2 HF stations, one on 20 meters and one on 40, plus local communications on 2 meters. The club is looking for both "am" and "pm" operators covering each of the 5 days. Interested hams can sign up for one shift or more. The event is open to all of the amateur community. If operators sign up for a 4 hour shift, they will be given a daily wristband that will allow them admission to the Fly-in. For further information and to sign up to operate the event go to: <<http://fcarc.us/ea/ea.htm>> or contact Jon Oldenburg, AB9AH <[ab9ah@arrl.net](mailto:ab9ah@arrl.net)>, or (920)832-9727. (Excerpts from the American Radio Relay League's <[arrl.org](http://arrl.org)> web site)**

**Directions to Heartland Video Systems** (our site picnic): From Green Bay are 43 South to Hwy 23 (60 miles, exit 126), 23 West to Hwy 57 (about 10 miles), 57 South to Cty Hwy PP (about one mile), PP West one block to Pilgrim Road, South on Pilgrim Road to 1311. Directions from the Appleton area are Hwy 41 South to Hwy 23, 23 East to Hwy 57 (about 30 miles), 57 South to Cty Hwy PP (about one mile), PP West one block to Pilgrim Road, South on Pilgrim Road to 1311. We have a big sign out front and two satellite dishes in the yard.



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**CHAPTER 80 ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS 2009-2010**

Chairman	Keith Kintner	UWO	920-424-7357	kintner@uwosh.edu
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Membership Chairman	Al Kilgore	WRVM	920-842-2839	akilgore@wrvm.org
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Frequency Coord. < 1 GHz	Tim Laes	WGEE WIXX WNCY WROE	920-435-3771	tlaes@new.rr.com
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Chapter 80 Webmaster	Jim Jensen	Christian Family Radio	920-749-9456	jim@bjjensen.net
EAS Coordinator	Steve Konopka	WPNE TV/FM	920-336-3541	skonopka@ecb.org
Past Chairman	Mark Friedman	WPNE TV/FM	920-336-3541	titletownfans@yahoo.com
Board of Dirs/SBE Liason	Keith Kintner	UWO	920-424-7357	kintner@uwosh.edu

**FCC to allow AM stations to have FM translators** .. but with a condition: "In this Report and Order, we adopt changes in our FM translator rules to allow AM stations to use currently authorized FM translator stations to retransmit their AM service within their AM stations' current coverage areas. Specifically, AM broadcast stations will be allowed to use currently authorized FM translator stations (i.e., those now licensed or authorized in construction permits that have not expired) to rebroadcast their AM signals, provided that no portion of the 60 dBu contour of any such FM translator station extends beyond the smaller of: (a) a 25-mile radius from the AM transmitter site; or (b) the 2 mV/m daytime contour of the AM station. In addition, AM broadcast licensees with Class D facilities will be allowed to originate programming on such FM translators during periods when their AM station is not operating. ". The catch is the translator has to already been approved by the FCC "We recently commented that the FM band is "maxed out." Although this comment did not apply to FM translators, which enjoy greater flexibility than full-service stations or LPFM stations under our licensing rules, we do believe that creating greater demand for future FM translator authorizations by allowing them to be used by AM as well as

FM stations could adversely affect opportunities for new LPFM stations. Accordingly, we will limit the rule change being adopted here to currently authorized FM translators" (fcc.gov)

**Chapter 80 member running for SBE Directors Seat.** Mark Heller, CBRE and CTO of Chapter 80 has been nominated by the Nominations Committee for a Director's Seat at the National Board of Directors of SBE for 2009-2010. Election date is August 27th, and ballots will be mailed to voting membership by July 28th. Those elected will take office on October 7, 2009. It's a two year term. Mark is the President / General Manager / Chief Engineer of WGBW -AM 1590 at Two Rivers



**Picture of the month.** Analog TV broadcasting is history. Think maybe we can retire our Tektronix 526 vectorscope? I believe Tek invented the vectorscope with this model

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**Jim Pianowski**  
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**FCC Assists Consumers to Ease Transition** The nation's historic switch to digital television by 971 full-power stations Friday prompted hundreds of thousands of consumers to call for assistance but caused no widespread disruption of free, over-the-air television broadcasts. A record 317,450 consumers called the FCC's toll-free help line, 1-888-CALL-FCC, for a total of almost 700,000 from June 8 through 12. Of the calls handled by live FCC help line agents, nearly 30% concerned the operation of digital converter boxes. Most of those calls were resolved when consumers were instructed to "re-scan" their converter boxes in order to receive the digital channels that had moved to new frequencies. Over 20% of the calls handled by live agents dealt with reception issues. Reports from the 200-plus FCC staff stationed across the country as part of the Commission's extensive outreach effort reflected similar concerns.

Inside the Commission building, two DTV transition command centers were staffed day and night to monitor call center activities and maintain contact with field staff, broadcasters and electronics manufacturers and retailers. The FCC and the Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration also continued to coordinate activities and promote the NTIA's converter box coupon program. ([fcc.gov](http://fcc.gov))

The SBE Chapter 80 Newsletter is published monthly. Members are welcome to contribute articles or ideas. Please have your submissions in by the 4<sup>th</sup> of the month to Dave Driessen or Bill Tessman.

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