



The Society of Broadcast Engineers

Fox Valley Wisconsin SBE Chapter 80

PO Box 1519 Appleton, WI 54912-1519

March 2024

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Monthly Meeting for March

Broadcast Supply Worldwide (BSW), headquartered in Tacoma WA and now in its 51st year of serving the broadcast community, presents two outstanding guests for SBE Chapter 80 this Tuesday, March 19th in a virtual meeting beginning at noon.

Ben Barber always liked taking things apart and seeing how they worked. When his parents bought him a “Radio Shack 65-In-One Kit” at the age of 12, there was no looking back. He took electronic classes in high school and college, and one of his first jobs was soldering patch bays at the local AM Radio station where he grew up. That cemented it for Ben; a career in electronics *and* radio was his destiny. Ben is the president and CEO of Inovonics Incorporated, an innovative broadcast equipment manufacturer located in the Bay Area of California.

Alex Bonello brings over 30 years of experience to broadcast as president of INSOFTELL, a Florida-based corporation that specializes in broadcast and telecommunications products. He started his career as part of the team who developed audio compression. This achievement was set to revolutionize the radio industry by making hard drive based radio automation a reality. Throughout the decades, he worked for various companies designing digital audio processors, digital audio consoles, and radio direction finders. In 2012 he again shocked the industry by defining the new frontier: Visual Radio. Twelve years later, INSOFTELL's award winning HDVmixer solution automates video production for the most influential broadcasters in the country: Univision, Learfield, Cox Media Group, Hubbard Radio, Bonneville International, and many others. It's not a coincidence that after the surge in Visual Radio, Nielsen dropped the blockbuster news that AM/FM radio's total audience overtook television for the first time in history in 2023. HDV Mixer is exclusively available in the USA from Broadcast Supply Worldwide (BSW).

Alex & Ben will be discussing EAS monitoring of LP1, LP2, and NOAA Weather services. Inovonics has recently released a triple receiver specifically built and designed for meeting these requirements for monitoring. This will be an in-depth review of the features and functions of this receiver and how it can be integrated into your current existing EAS air chain.

This presentation was coordinated for SBE 80 by John Lynch, BSW Director of Business Development and longtime ‘radio guy’ particularly in the broadcast sports world.

As always, if you can't join us in person, you have the option of joining us via Zoom, Bill Hubbard will be sending the link in a separate email.

Finally, if anyone would like to see any of our financial reports you can contact myself or Steve Brown and we will get you that information. *Our chapter financial records are available for viewing by any Chapter 80 member in good standing upon request.*

March 2024 Chairman's Corner

First up this month, don't forget to renew your SBE Membership as renewals are due to the National Office by April 1st. I'd also highly recommend taking the Member Plus option. Standard membership is \$85 annually while the Member Plus option is \$175 but grants you free access to all the SBE Webinars and SBE University content.

2024 Membership Drive

Speaking of Membership, the SBE launched the 2024 Membership Drive on March 1, 2024 with the theme Shape the Future: Recruit a New SBE Member. As with Membership Drives in previous years, SBE members are encouraged to recruit new members, and in doing so, the recruiter could win prizes from the SBE and donated by SBE Sustaining Members. The Grand Prize is a trip to the SBE National Meeting in the fall. The Membership Drive again runs until May 31st. See the link below for complete details.

[2024 Membership Drive](#)

WBA Summer Conference

The WBA has officially announced the details of its summer conference at Hotel Retlaw in Fond du Lac this year. The Duke Wright Media Technology Institute is back again this year and will run June 18th through the 20th. The conference will once again be led by Chapter 80's own Bill Hubbard. Also, Chapter 80's own Steve Brown will be inducted into the WBA Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame, dinner, and presentations will take place on the evening of Thursday, June 20th, with the reception beginning at 5pm. More information can be found by clicking the link below.

[Wisconsin Broadcasters Association](#)

Springtime Reminders

Spring is almost officially upon us. It's time to start thinking about outdoors and transmitter site projects, cleanup, and pest control. Good engineering practices say that we should be visiting our sites once per week and ideally that's what we would be doing (we all know it is very difficult to get to all our sites once per week). At a minimum FCC rules state that "the transmitter site must be visited as often as necessary to ensure compliance." FCC Rules Part 73.1350 (a) indicates "each licensee is responsible for maintaining and operating its broadcast station in a manner which complies with the technical rules set forth elsewhere in this part and in accordance with the terms of station authorization."

Section (c) states, "the licensee must establish monitoring procedures and schedules for the station, monitoring procedures and schedules must enable the licensee to determine compliance, plus the monitoring equipment must be periodically calibrated so as to provide reliable indications of transmitter operating parameters with a known degree of accuracy."

So, visit your sites, take readings, and make sure you are in compliance. We will talk more about pest control and site cleanup in our April newsletter.

More Changes to EAS

Additional changes are coming to the Nationwide EAS. This comes from my friend Larry Wilkins at the Alabama Broadcasters Association:

"Right on the heels of the "Periodized CAP Polling" requirement issued by the commission, there is a "Notice of Proposed Rulemaking," which proposes to implement multilingual capabilities for the Emergency Alert System (EAS). The FCC is proposing that public safety and other groups

that originate alerts would be provided pre-scripted, pre-translated alert messages in thirteen non-English languages that the originators can distribute during emergencies to TV and radio broadcasters, cable service providers, and other EAS participants.”

One potential issue with this is how do you pre-script or pre-translate a weather or Amber Alert given not every weather event or Amber Alert is going to be the same? Comments on this are due by April 8th. More to come, I'm sure.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our meeting on Tuesday, March 19th either in person or via zoom.

Respectfully,

Matt Converse

Chairman, Chapter 80 Fox Valley

SBE Exam Dates & Application Deadlines

Exam Date(s)	Location	Application Deadline
April 16, 2024	NAB Show Las Vegas	March 1, 2024
June 7-17, 2024	Local Chapters	April 26, 2024
Aug. 2-12, 2024	Local Chapters	June 14, 2024
Nov. 1-11, 2024	Local Chapters	Sept. 6, 2024

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Thursday, March 21st – Webinar: RF Multipath

This session delves into the intricacies of RF multipath, exploring its impact on both fixed and mobile broadcast reception, and its implications for point-to-point microwave systems. As part of the webinar, we'll dissect the various multipath culprits, including signal propagation conditions such as reflections from buildings, terrain and water. Atmospheric multipath such as ionospheric (skywave) propagation and tropospheric ducting are included. Techniques for reducing multipath reception are presented and digital transmission techniques that are designed to correct for symbol interference effects, such as differences in coding and modulation, symbol rate, spectrum spreading and forward error correction.

Tuesday, April 16th – SBE Chapter 80 monthly meeting, Out-O'-Town Club in Kaukauna, 12:00 pm

April 13th – 17th – NAB Show in Las Vegas

Thursday, April 25th – Webinar: 2024 RF Safety Course

The SBE RF Safety Course provides an updated overview of RF radiation issues and practices for broadcasters, including:

- Proving compliance at a broadcast site

- Biological effects of RF radiation and the distinct differences between RF radiation and ionizing radiation
- FCC, OSHA, state, and local regulations – what they are and what you need to do to comply
- Workplace hazards
- Transmitter sites
- SNG and ENG trucks
- Remote operations (where news personnel can find problems such as on rooftops)
- The unique issues at AM stations
- RF hazard protection equipment – you may not need it but your contractors probably will
- Signs – what they mean and what you need

The course is designed for broadcast station personnel, including chief and assistant chief engineers, transmitter site engineers, ENG and SNG maintenance personnel, and management who need to have an understanding of RF safety issues and regulations. It is recommended that people taking the SBE RF Safety Course have at least some basic knowledge of electronics and understand the concept of frequency and power.

Friday, April 26th – SBE June Exam Application Deadline

June 18th – 20th – Duke Wright Media Technology Institute, Retlaw Hotel, Fond du Lac

Link to the [SBE WEBSITE](#)

Chapter 80 Elected & Appointed Officers

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 Program Chairman

Matt Converse
 Craig Pilgram
 Marty Jury
 Eric Papenfuss
 Steve Brown
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Support the companies that support Chapter 80!

SBE Sustaining Members would like your business! Please consider them first when making purchasing decisions.

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