



CHAPTER 122

February 2024 AD

SOCIETY OF BROADCAST ENGINEERS

*Serving the Public through
Quality Broadcast Engineering*

(Eff ya' sees any typer graphic errorz, please notify da editor of dis newsletter !)

Monthly Meeting

As is the Chapter 122 tradition, due to the hectic holiday schedules many of us have, we don't have a regular meeting in December, so there are NO minutes for a December meeting.

Join us for our regular meeting at noon February 15 th , 2024

Address: 7463 South Ave, Boardman, OH 44512-5720 Phone: [330 629 2667](tel:3306292667)



We usually have a half dozen at our meetings, Cmon out and join us.
Bring your stories or just stop and say Hi

Youngstown Area EAS Test Schedule 2024

2024 PENNSYLVANIA EAS NETWORK REQUIRED MONTHLY TEST DATES

MONTH DAY TIME METHODOLOGY

JANUARY 18 THU 9:05 A.M DAY, EMnet
FEBRUARY 15 THU 4:15 A.M. NIGHT, EMnet
MARCH 21 THU 9:15 A.M. DAY, EMnet
APRIL 18 THU 12:35 A.M. NIGHT, EMnet
MAY 16 THU 10:05 A.M. DAY, EMnet
JUNE 20 THU 4:30 A.M. NIGHT, EMnet
JULY 18 THU 10:15 A.M. DAY, EMnet
AUGUST 15 THU 12:45 A.M. NIGHT, EMnet
SEPTEMBER 19 THU 10:30 A.M. DAY, EMnet
OCTOBER 17 THU 4:40 A.M. NIGHT, EMnet
NOVEMBER 21 THU 10:45 A.M. DAY, EMnet
DECEMBER 19 THU 4:45 A.M. NIGHT, EMnet

Matt Lightner PA EAS SECC

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Emergency Alert System The State of Ohio 2024 RMT Schedule Participating Stations Reference Guide

MONTH DATE TIME SOURCE(S)

January 1/10/24 9:50am CAP + SP-1

February 2/14/24 3:50am SP-2

March 3/20/24* 9:50am CAP + SP-1

*Custom script and date, in conjunction with Severe Weather Awareness Week, covering the RMT requirement for all stations in Ohio in March. If NOAA cancels their test due to potentially severe weather in the state, we will reschedule the RMT for the next day, 3/21/24 at 9:50am, regardless of a NOAA awareness week test reschedule.

April 4/10/24 3:50am SP-1

May 5/8/24 9:50am CAP + SP-2

June 6/12/24 3:50am SP-2

July 7/10/24 9:50am CAP + SP-1

August 8/14/24 3:50am SP-1

September 9/11/24 9:50am CAP + SP-2

October 10/9/24 3:50am SP-1

November 11/13/24 9:50am CAP + SP-1

December 12/11/24 3:50am SP-2

Required Monthly Tests originate from the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in Columbus at 48:00 past the hour to ensure delivery by 50:00.

WNCI is the State Primary station (SP-1) gregsavoldi@iheartmedia.com

WBNS-FM is the alternate SP station (SP-2) greg.armstrong@tegn.com

The SEOC originates RMTs through a combination of CAP via IPAWS and OEAS fiber via OET embedded digital stream, and firewalled G-Net audio codecs to LP stations with legacy Over-The-Air transmission to the 12 Operational Areas across the state. WNCI and WBNS-FM are the lead stations for OTA distribution to all Radio, TV, and Cable operators - statewide.

SBE Chapter 122 Meeting Minutes 1/11/24

- Date 1/11/24
- Start 12:34 PM
- End 12:44 PM
- Number of Attendees: 6 SBE Certified: 2
- Presiding Officer: Bob Flis, President
- Motion to accept minutes from last meeting N/A
- Treasurer Report: Mike Orto report on Chapter 122 finances
- EAS Report: John Clarke WMXY RWT Will be sent at random times going forward in 2024
Sage still has not released new firmware.
- Frequency Report < 1 GHz: Wes Boyd, not present
- Frequency Report > 1 GHz: Bob Flis: nothing to report.
- Certification: nothing to report.
- Old Business: None
- New Business: Greg Savoldi speaks on Ohio State EAS operations.
- Program Speaker: Greg Savoldi Chairman OH Emergency Communications Committee.
- Motion to Adjourn: Wes Boyd/ Seconded: Melissa Limpose

From: Broadcasters' Desktop Resource



by Barry Mishkind

The BDR Is Celebrating Our 15th Year Of Dedicated Support For Broadcasters

1/23/24 – The FCC had adopted new rules that voice, cable, and Internet providers report their status each day the DIRS (Disaster Information Reporting System) is activated. Broadcasters are currently exempt, but the Commission is considering an NPRM ([PS Docket No. 21-346](#)) to require the reports which are now voluntary (only 1/5 to 1/3 of stations in affected areas usually participate). The NAB suggests this is not going to work easily, especially for small stations – or any place where the Internet goes down.

In case you would like to see DIRS in action, there will be a “mock emergency” from Feb 6th -8th. Participation is opt-in, if you are interested, contact: michael.caiafa@fcc.gov, john.healy@fcc.gov, or ryan.hedgpeth@fcc.gov by February 2nd

1/22/24 – Police in Paris Texas [arrested a pair of copper thieves](#) who caused some \$500k of damage to the KITX (Hugo, OK) tower in order to get about \$100 worth of copper.

This is just another sad example of what many stations know all too well: the reward for the crooks is so small, compared to the damage caused.

1/11/24 – We are now down to a dozen weeks before NAB 2024 hits the stage in Las Vegas. The [2024 NAB Show registration is now open](#). If you are thinking of going, you can get a free floor pass now: Inovonics shares this Free Floor Pass code: NS5268 and Nautel is using NS9564. Also, do not forget the [Nautel](#) User Group (NUG) on Sunday at NAB.

1/9/24 – The FCC released its quarterly total of broadcast stations that are licensed. There were basically just a literal handful of changes, although the erosion, especially on AM continues: Townsquare has taken five stations dark, and turning in the license for at least three of them.

1/8/24 – The January FCC Open Meeting (on 1/25) current has the DIRS (Disaster Information Reporting System) on the agenda. The FCC is said to be working toward making participation (reporting disaster outages and other operational issues) to be mandatory. While that may not be settled this month, and NPRM is expected to be set out on the matter.

1/8/24 – Accounting for inflation, the FCC's maximum fine for obscene, indecent, or profane broadcasts is now up to \$495,500 for each violation – or per day for continuing violations. The new maximum is \$4,573,840. Plus legal fees.

Pirate fines also went up: unlicensed operation can be fined \$61,238 a day, up to a maximum of \$612,238. For most other rules, the daily fine is \$61,238, but tops out at only \$612,238. Plus legal fees

1/29/24 – Starting April 14, 2024, EAS users will install a new certificate to receive IPAWS CAP alerts. Without the update, the weekly tests and alerts sent through the FEMA system will not be received by stations. This is a free update for all U.S. DASDEC and One-Net users, and the new certificate is fully functional right now, so you are advised to replace the current certificate to ensure the required message authentication continues to operate correctly.

1/25/24 – The FCC has issued a report on the status of its efforts to increase personnel and specialized equipment in order to locate more illegal radio broadcasters, finding the properties where they originate and warning property owners under the PIRATE Act (Preventing Illegal Radio Abuse Through Enforcement). The EB has identified a number of illegal stations, some operating for years

The FCC’s efforts under The PIRATE Act to locate and city pirate broadcasters recently swept in the area around Miami, Florida, where more warnings to landlords of fines of over \$2 million were issued. Five personal citations (totalling over \$3.5 million) were issued to operators who were said to have been broadcasting for years without a license. Most eye-popping: the maximum – \$2,391,097 – issued to Fabrice Polynice, who had been cited at least twice before in the past 10 years.

1/19/24 – **Section 312** – Not every station can operate from a tree. But it is possible. On the other hand, “moving to an adjacent tree” without permission – coupled with some long spans of being silen – brought an “D” to KQCF(FM), Chiloquin OR, now DKQCF(FM).

1/18/24 – 73.1212, 73.1943 – In one of the argest fines leveled at a broadcast company, the FCC issued a Consent Decree with Townsquare Media for \$500k. The issue had to do with a pair of Idaho stations (KLIX and KIDO) the Commission was investigating regarding on-air sponsor identification and the Political File uploads required by the Rules. The Consent Decree closes the case.

1/16/24 – The US Court of Appeals denied the petition from WEKC to reinstate the license deleted last February (2/7/23, below).

1/16/24 – 73.2080, 73.3526 – FCC has fined **Cumulus Licensing LLC** for violations of EEO rules at five former stations in Georgia. The Forfeiture Order is for \$26k. The EB noted that the fine was more than doubled from the base – \$12k – due to previous similar violations (2008, 2017, etc) by Cumulus holdings. The exacerbating point: the report was nine months late.

The Virtual Lunch Gathering!

Each Thursday at 2 PM Eastern, 11 AM Pacific, we get together to discuss topics of interest to broadcasters and learn things.

The meeting is held using Zoom to prevent Zoombombing the URL is not published on the web.

Broadcasters Are Invited, (Go to Barry's site) To Get An Invite.

Recordings of the meetings are usually posted a day or so afterward.

At this time, they are being posted at Youtube on [theBDRnet channel](#).
(So you can leave the local SBE 122 meeting, and then check into Barry's meeting for the latest info.)

Thanks to Barry and the BDR, a great source for the latest news of the industry.
A weekly e-mail report.. and it's FREE

SBE NEWS

An [SBE Ennes Workshop](#) will be held at the 2024 NAB Show on April 12 and 13.
Add it to your calendar now.

January 8, 2024

The Society of Broadcast Engineers celebrates its 60th anniversary in 2024. To mark the occasion, the SBE is announcing special projects and events throughout the year. The first relates to the SBE Program of Certification, which is the benchmark of broadcast and multimedia technology skill evaluation.

Called the Diamond Project in recognition of the SBE's 60th anniversary, individuals who have held SBE Certification but let it expire can restore their SBE-Certified status without taking an SBE Certification exam. The Diamond Project runs through the calendar year 2024 (January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024). Individuals who allowed their SBE Certification to expire prior to January 1, 2023, qualify for this project. Applicants are required to complete the Diamond application (found on the SBE website under sbe.org/diamondproject) and provide it with either a resume or a letter to the certification committee stating what he/she has done in broadcast engineering since the applicant's SBE certification expired.

All SBE Certifications are included in the reinstatement program. There are two price points. All SBE Certifications except Certified Professional Broadcast Engineer (CPBE) can be reinstated for \$125 for each level of certification. Those who held CPBE that expired prior to January 1, 2023, may either reinstate at the senior level certification held prior to the CPBE at the rate above, or they may choose to reinstate the CPBE for \$200. All these costs are for current SBE members. Non-member fees apply for those who are not currently SBE members, which is an additional \$85 for traditional membership or \$175 for SBE MemberPlus.

SBE Certification must be renewed every five years. This is to ensure those who are SBE Certified stay current with technology. If a certification is allowed to expire, the individual must normally take the SBE Certification exam again to obtain the credential.

"The SBE Program of Certification, established in 1975, continues to grow and evolve to meet the changing needs of technical professionals and stay current with technology," said Ralph Hogan, CPBE, ATSC3, DRB, CBNE, chair of the SBE Certification Committee. "Sometimes people let their certification lapse for a variety of reasons. This allows them to become SBE-Certified again."

“SBE Certification is the widely regarded as the benchmark of technical proficiency in the broadcast community,” said SBE President Ted Hand, CPBE, 8-VSB, AMD, ATSC3, DRB. “The Diamond Project is an ideal way to reobtain SBE Certification and to further one’s career.”

Questions? Contact SBE Certification Director Megan Clappe at the SBE National Office (mclappe@sbe.org)



WWW.SBE.ORG

Don’t forget to check out the SBE website. WWW.SBE.ORG

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SBE 122 Elected Officers and Committees

President:	Robert Flis	WFMJ TV
Vice President:	Wes Boyd	Retired/ Semi Homeless, and happy !
Treasurer:	Mike Orto	WYSU / Youngstown State Univ.
Secretary :	John Clarke	iHeart Media Youngstown
Financial Manager:	Melissa Rogers	WYSU 88.5 FM Youngstown State Univ.
Certification:	Wes Boyd	
Frequency Co-ordination:		
1 Ghz and UP	Robert Flis	Under 1 Ghz Wes Boyd
Newsletter:	Wes Boyd	



The day the music died

February 3, 1959

They should announce a sequel to Groundhog day...



And then just re-release the original

funny animations dailymemes

