

SOCIETY OF BROADCAST ENGINEERS Chapter 122

July 2026 NEWSLETTER

Join us at our next regular meeting at noon **September 10, 2026**



850 E Western Reserve Rd #8, Youngstown, OH 44514 (330) 758-0544.

We're usually on the right, along the wall

(680 at Western Reserve, then west about 1000 feet)

Reminder: SBE CH 122 has 9 meetings a year.

We have NO official meetings in July-August and December.

SBE Chapter 122 Meeting Minutes 6/11/26

- Date 6/11/26
- Start 12:30 PM
- End 12:40 PM
- Number of Attendees: 5, SBE Certified:1
- Presiding Officer: Bob Flis
- Motion to accept minutes from last meeting; John Clarke Melisa Limpose seconds the motion
- Treasurer Report: Mike Orto not present
- EAS Report: John Clarke, All tests ran normally
- Frequency Report < 1 GHz: Wes Boyd, nothing to report
- Frequency Report > 1 GHz: Bob Flis, nothing to report
- Certification: nothing to report.
- Old Business: None
- New Business: None
- Program Speaker: None
- Motion to Adjourn: Melissa Limpose / Seconded: Ben Slagle

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

The State of Ohio 2026 RMT Schedule PN Stations Reference Guide

<i>MONTH</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>SOURCE(S)</i>
July	7/08/26	9:50am	CAP + SP-1
August	8/12/26	3:50am	CAP + SP-1
September	9/09/26	9:50am	CAP + SP-2
October	10/14/26	3:50am	SP-1
November	11/11/26	9:50am	CAP + SP-1
December	12/09/26	3:50am	CAP + SP-2

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

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.

2026 PENNSYLVANIA EAS NETWORK REQUIRED MONTHLY TEST DATES

MONTH	DAY	TIME	JULY	16 THU	10:15 A.M. DAY,	EMnet
AUGUST	20 THU	12:45 A.M. NIGHT,				EMnet
SEPTEMBER	17 THU	10:30 A.M. DAY,				EMnet
OCTOBER	15 THU	4:40 A.M. NIGHT,				EMnet
NOVEMBER	19 THU	10:45 A.M. DAY,				EMnet
DECEMBER	17 THU	4:45 A.M. NIGHT,				EMnet

Matt Lightner PA EAS SECC Matt@LightnerElectronics.com

1771 Beaver Dam Road Claysburg, PA 16625 814-239-8323

Broadcasters' Desktop Resource

(WWW.theBDR.net)



by Barry Mishkind

Over 15 years of service to broadcasters

As always, many great articles to read

The NCE FM translator Window was coming too fast for some folks – especially those at universities and colleges where staff and resources were on Summer mode, Native American Nations, and some others. Other, smaller groups suggested that getting applications done by early August was just too soon.

The FCC has released a [Public Notice](#) rescheduling. the Window to November 4.

6/24/26 – As expected the FCC voted [to advance the cybersecurity initiative to NPRM status](#). And [now the NPRM has been released](#). Part of this is in reponse to recent hacks that have hijacked the audio and RDS texts, but there reall y is more to it.

While the FCC's current emphasis is on EAS security and Part 11 updates, the rapid advances in AI-assisted hacking clearly suggests any equipment that designed or enabled to be accessed via the Internet needs to be given attention and hardened. Among other things, the FCC seeks

- strong firewalls,
- 15 character passwords – changed before any program chain equipment is installed – and immediate updates from software and firmware releases.

This is not designed to be a lengthy proceeding as the Public Notice suggests the FCC wants this within 60 days of publication in the Federal Register – that will only come after the NPRM. The Comment Period starts when the NPRM is published in the Federal Register. Comments are due 30 days after publication. Reply Comments are due 60 days later. The FCC seems like they want to move this along with alacrity.

6/17/26 – The FCC has put out a [Public Notice](#) and announced the dates for the NCE FM Window: August 11 to 25, 2026.

Notice Of Violations

6/3/26 – [74.1263, 74.1251](#) – **SDK Franco, LLC**, operators of a pair of **Houston translators, K233CW and K287BQ** have entered into a Consent Decree to resolve violations of the Rules.

The two translators were accused of changing the primary station without authorization, originating programming on the translators, long silence periods, improper installation of transmitters, and unauthorized transfer of control.

[The Consent Decree](#) calls for a \$50,000 payment to the US Treasury and a compliance program to prevent further infractions.

6/5/26 – Long promised, the FCC has finally put Part 11, regarding the EAS, in the spotlight, with some major changes on the table to protect the system now and into the future. Noting that, despite the FCC's encouraging stations to secure their networks, successful attacks are continuing – at least 10 events occurred around the country in the past six months or so, at this month's Open Meeting, it is anticipated they will vote to issue a proposed Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM).

E. A. S.

The [Public Notice is 100 pages long](#), focusing on cyber security for EAS operation.

Among the proposed points that will be required or permitted within 60 days of new Rules publication in the Federal Register:

- better cyber security for EAS participants EAS gear, STL links, and networks.
- use of a firewall or other network practices to prevent unauthorized access to equipment.
- all default passwords be changed to at least 15 non-word characters.
- password changes any time there is evidence of a system compromise.

- prompt installation of any security patches to the EAS receiver or networks.
- all EAS alerts should be authenticated before transmission.
- improving EAS message data with a unique message ID to prevent multiple use or misuse.
- investigate using symbology to display emergency types for EAS and WEA transmissions.
- the further issuance of an NPRM to allow software solutions for encoder/decoders, although not in the “cloud.”
- The Further Notice would propose additional ways to modernize EAS and WEA to make them more helpful to alerting authorities, less burdensome for participants, and better able to save lives, including better geo-tarketing.

If adopted, the process will invite Comments due 30 days after the date of publication in the Federal Register. Reply Comments would be due 60 days after the date of publication in the Federal Register.

Contacting the FAA:

The number to call for reporting tower beacon and side-light outages: 1-877-487-6867 (Be sure to get the NOTAM number and call and report when the lights are restored!)

Want to check to make sure your NOTAM got into the system?

Check out: <https://notams.aim.faa.gov/notamSearch/>

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.

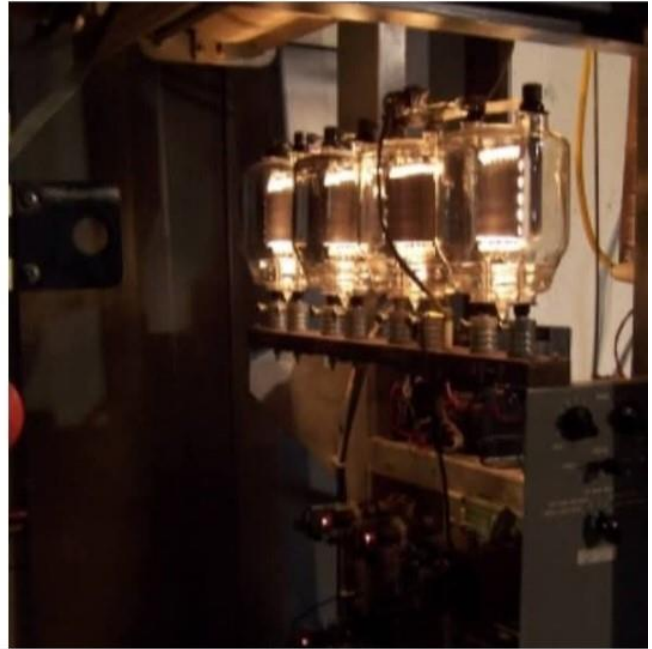
Recordings of the meetings are usually posted a day or so afterward.

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.

AND IT’S FREE !



My Favorite Nite Lite



THE SOCIETY OF BROADCAST ENGINEERS

The Association for Broadcast and Multimedia Technology Professionals

Madison Marriott West Middleton, WI

The annual Society of Broadcast Engineers National Meeting will be held in Middleton, WI, on Sept. 15-16, 2026, in conjunction with the Midwest Regional Broadcasters Clinic, presented by the state broadcast associations of Wisconsin and Minnesota. SBE members from the region and across the country are invited to attend. The SBE national Meeting includes the SBE Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Presentation. Program details are below. Admission to the SBE National Meeting requires registration to the Conference. (All times are Eastern Time.)

SBE Webinars

ATSC 3.0 – Datacasting and Public Safety Applications

Protecting the Broadcast Workforce: Physical Safety for Engineers, Reporters, and Media Operations Teams

Securing Your Infrastructure: Cybersecurity Essentials for Broadcasters

SBE Releases Updated Radio and TV Self-Inspection Guides

July 7, 2026

The Society of Broadcast Engineers, the Association for Broadcast and Multimedia Technology Professionals, has released three updated [Broadcast Station Self-Inspection Guides](#) for AM, FM, and television stations. These revised Guides provide broadcasters with practical guidance for conducting self-inspection of their stations.

Developed jointly by the Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE) and the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), the guides reflect FCC rule and policy changes since the initial editions were released in 2024. The Guides are intended for use by station personnel, as well as contract inspectors participating in the Alternative Broadcast Inspection Program, which is administered by state broadcaster associations. Until 2003, the FCC published official self-inspection checklists, but ceased updating them although rules and policies had changed substantially since that time.

The updated Self-Inspection Guides are available as a free member benefit to SBE and NAB. Beginning July 8, 2026, SBE members may download the guides through the SBE Bookstore on the SBE website under the Resources tab. They will also be available from the NAB website.

“The SBE is proud to work with the NAB in preparing and updating these Guides for broadcasters, which help ensure station compliance with FCC Rules,” said Charles “Ched” Keiler, CPBE, 8-VSB, ATSC3, CBNE, chair of the SBE ABIP Committee. SBE President Kevin Trueblood, CBRE, CBNT, added, “Access to the Station Self-Inspection Guides is yet one more SBE member benefit. I hope all SBE members take advantage of this valuable resource.”

WWW.SBE.ORG

Get notifications and information from the SBE about **SBE** Webinars

The Society of Broadcast Engineers has released new **Broadcast Station Self-Inspection Guides** for AM, FM, TV and LPFM broadcast stations. The SBE partnered with the National Association of Broadcasters to produce the documents, which are the first part of a planned series to cover all broadcast services. These Guides are designed to aid stations and Alternative Broadcast Inspection Program (ABIP) inspectors in evaluating a broadcast station's compliance with FCC rules and regulations.

It's time to renew your SBE membership !!

And several good articles on the latest issue of The SIGNAL.

SBE HF HAMnet

The **SBE HF HAMnet** takes place on the **second Sunday of every month** at 2400 GMT. **Hal Hostetler, CPBE, WA7BGX**, serves as net control. The published frequency is 14.205MHz. Occasionally, that frequency is busy and you may need to move up or down (no more than 10kHz) to find the SBE meeting. Hal is a long-time member and lives in Tucson, AZ.

An email reminder list has been set up to send reminders and other notices about the net. Contact Scott Jones (kjones@sbe.org) to be subscribed.

SBE 122 Officers and Committees

President:	Robert Flis	Retired: Ex WFMJ TV CE (leave a message, maybe I'll call)
Vice President:	Wes Boyd	Retired/ Semi Homeless, and happy ! (leave a message, but I won't call !)
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	

A QUICK REFERENCE FOR HURRICANE CATEGORIES



ALL ABOARD STRUTHERS ROAR!

PACIFIC UNION

BIG BOY

— 4014 —

IS STOPPING IN
**STRUTHERS,
OHIO!**

— JOIN US ON —
JULY 12TH

COME VOLUNTEER WITH US
AND SEE THE WORLD'S
LARGEST STEAM LOCOMOTIVE!



BIG BOY NO. 4014 FAST FACTS

Twenty-five Big Boys were built exclusively for Union Pacific Railroad, the first of which was delivered in 1941. The locomotives were 133-feet long and weighed 1.2 million pounds. Because of their great length, the frames of the Big Boys were "hinged," or articulated, to allow them to negotiate curves. The massive engines normally operated between Ogden, Utah, and Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Big Boy No. 4014 was retired in December 1961, having traveled 1,031,205 miles in its 20 years in service. Union Pacific reacquired No. 4014 from the RailGiant's Train Museum in Pomona, California, in 2013 and relocated it to Cheyenne to begin a multiyear restoration process. UP celebrated the restored Big Boy's inaugural run May 4, 2019.

DRIVING WHEEL DIAMETER 68 INCHES	ENGINE + TENDER WEIGHT 1.2 MILLION LBS	FUEL CAPACITY 6,100 GALLONS
WATER CAPACITY 25,000 GALLONS	TENDER TYPE 14-WHEELED	ENGINE + TENDER LENGTH 133 FEET
7,000 HORSEPOWER	WHISTLE 3 CHIME HANCOCK	BRAKE SHOES CAST IRON
TOP SPEED 65 MPH	HEIGHT 17 FEET	

