



The Society of Broadcast Engineers

Fox Valley Wisconsin SBE Chapter 80

PO Box 1519 Appleton, WI 54912-1519

May 2026

Connect with us at: www.sbe80.org  [X.com@sbechapter80](https://x.com/sbechapter80)  facebook.com/sbe80

Chairman's Corner

As I drove up to the scrap yard today, to drop off an old transformer we pulled off a hilltop, I reflected a bit about where I am in life and how I got here. I started college in 2001 chasing a math degree. That didn't suit me, so after kicking between jobs for a few years, I joined the military to pay off my debt and wound up in communications (albeit of the satellite variety). After getting out and getting a job (and subsequently being let go), I spent 6 years as a stay-at-home dad. Finally, my wife got the urge to own cows (she grew up on a dairy farm) and it was time to put my signal flow knowledge to use in radio. Looking back, I think my 18-year-old self would be shocked and a little dismayed at where I am today. I had plans for a much different life, one that didn't include an incomplete degree, a stint in the military, and a career in radio. But here I am, happy and healthy and pulling huge chunks of metal out of tiny buildings in the middle of cow pastures. I guess the lesson here is probably that old adage: "Gold is where you find it." I've been through a lot, and somewhere along the line, I became much more comfortable with letting go of preconceived notions about what my life "should" be and enjoying the journey. So when I'm sweaty and dusty after pushing around 717 lbs of copper and steel, I know I'm in the right place, even if I never saw it coming.

Craig Pilgram Chairman
SBE Chapter 80

Thanks to everyone who attended the April 28th Meeting in the Wausau area!





Upcoming Webinars by SBE

Cooling Your Transmitter Site

May 21, 2026 | 2:00 p.m. ET

Resolving cooling issues at transmitter sites presents many challenges. While some of the amplifiers of the transmitter are burning up, other modules experience high flange temperatures, challenging the HVAC systems cooling capabilities. Investigating the issue becomes costly to troubleshoot. This webinar discusses a real-life scenario and how it is dissected and resolved.

Wisconsin Association of Broadcasters offer Engineering Fellowship Grants

The WBA and the WBA Foundation offer Engineering Fellowship Grants. This program is meant to provide a stipend for broadcast engineers currently serving Wisconsin member stations to acquire continuing education in broadcast engineering.

The Foundation will award up to two \$500 grants statewide. These grants are to be used for continuing engineering education such as courses in information technology/networking, engineering leadership/management, electrical engineering/transmission courses, or other “new technology” training.

Funding for the grant is from donations made in the name of WBA Hall of Famer and former SBE president Terry Baun.

More Information at:

<https://www.wbafoundation.org/scholarships-grants/engineering-fellowship-grants/>



Upcoming Certification Exams

Exam Dates	Location	Application Deadline
August 7-17, 2026	Local Chapters	June 15, 2026
November 6-16, 2026	Local Chapters	September 7, 2026



Give Back. Become an SBE Mentor.

The SBE Mentor Program provides a means for SBE members to share knowledge and experience. For the seasoned mentor, it's a chance to give something back. For the freshman mentee, it's an ideal way to gain inside knowledge and understanding that can sometime take years to accumulate.

Want to share your knowledge, but don't want to be a regular mentor? Be a Subject Matter Expert. Lend your knowledge and experience in specific areas when the need arises

SBE Chapter 80 is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: SBE Chapter 80's May Zoom Meeting

Time: May 19, 2026 12:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82726676865?pwd=wtiaQWT6vmsMUQJVBDhvPIf9D4cnev.1>

Meeting chat link

<https://us06web.zoom.us/jc/82726676865>

Meeting ID: 827 2667 6865

Passcode: 069383

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