



Houston, TX Venue Report #18 Tuesday, June, 17 2008

There were both positives and negatives with our Houston presentation. Despite the fact that we were told that the Univision facility where we did our presentation is one of the largest broadcast facilities in Texas, they only have one TV studio, a bunch of small radio studios and a plethora of conference rooms with tables fixed that run right down the middle of rooms that can't be moved. As you can see in the picture to the left above, it would have been nearly impossible for us to set up as we normally do and still have room for anything else. This was the largest of the conference rooms they had.

We always make our requirements know to the local folks. We have little or no control where they book us. It is always a surprise when we arrive to find out where and how we're going to do our thing.

To accommodate the situation, we brought all the gear up on the carts and parked them in the small anti-room next to the this second floor conference room where we did the presentation, put the CDs, business cards and door prizes on a counter at the rear of the room (see pix above on the right) and made use of the room's projector and screen for our power point presentation. As interest was expressed in the various technologies we presented in the power point, we'd bring in that particular item off one of the carts and pass it around, when that was feasible.

Most all of the technical information on the equipment and technology we have with us is in our power point presentation. Those in attendance in Houston got all the same information that is presented when we do put the gear on display in a working configuration.

As the presentation progressed, we did have heavy interaction with members in the group about Digi-Data's offsite storage, AJA's FS-1, Nversion's automation, Telecast fiber's optical systems, Avocent's KVM switching systems and Blackmagic's converter boxes and routing switcher.

For a market the size of Houston, the turnout was disappointing with only twenty in attendance. I have no idea why. I was told that some were on vacation and others had technical issues, but I was also told in confidence that we had what was typical for this chapter in the way of a turnouts.

I'd like to thank Joel Skogen of Commercial Video Systems, Inc. for covering the cost of our lunch. Joel is also a rep for most all of the technologies we had with us and was very interactive with those expressing interest after the meeting was over. Additionally, it was appreciated that we had representation from the following sponsors: Nversion in the person of John Harvey, JVC in the person of Scott Burch and Avocent in the person of Monte Bennett. The presence of any represents from our sponsors is always welcome. I wasn't the only one not pleased that we couldn't roll out the gear; I have no doubt that the reps were unhappy as well.

Thanks also go to Tom Daniels, Chief Engineer of Univision's KXLN-TV 45 & KFTH-TV 67 Univision and Huston SBE Chapter 105's Chairman for providing us with a place where we didn't get rained on. (As we were loading up the gear after the meeting, this concept of not getting rained on took on a very important meaning).

We will post all e-mail received from those in attendance since the last venue report in the next venue report.

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