



Venue Report #48

Tuesday, September 2, 2008



Society of Broadcast Engineers
Chapter 82
Detroit, Michigan



This was the fifth time that the Taste of NAB Road Show was presented to the broadcast community in Detroit, the nation's eleventh largest television market. It was truly good to see familiar faces, folks who've become good friends and some new faces too. We had twenty in attendance, which isn't all that good for a market this size. I was told that this is typical or even better than most SBE meeting attendances.

This was the first time we've ever presented at the WWJ - WMYD transmitter site. It certainly was an interesting place to put on the presentation and did present some real challenges. The room was quite small and we only had three small tables to use. The noise from the air conditioning was a killer, but our Sennheiser wireless mic and Henry Engineering SixMix were able to overcome most of that problem.

Bob Bracken, Transmitter supervisor for WMYD and SBE Chapter 82 Chair made all the arrangements for both the meeting place and getting the food and beverages. There was plenty for everyone. This was the first time Bob has ever been to a Taste of NAB presentation. He promised once, if not a dozen times, that when we return next year, that he'll have a much bigger room and that we'd have many more tables.

We arrived early and Bob was there to greet us and help set up. I wish to also mention that Mike Malin, Bob's assistant, joined us to help get things in and set up. We had lots of help when we departed getting things back into the van. It's always difficult when putting together a list of folks to thank without unintentionally leaving some off.

The group was an interesting mix of mostly television folks with some professional engineers and a couple of radio guys from Clear Channel. There were also some independent contractors who offer various kinds of services to the Detroit broadcast

community. All in all, it was a very interesting group that asked questions and showed a genuine interest in all the technology we presented.

The Clear Channel gentlemen boasted about their Audemat Golden Eagle HD radio monitor and there was good interest by the television transmitter folks in the ATSC monitor from Audemat. A couple of the TV guys said that they had Leader scopes and were quite happy with them. One individual stood up and spoke briefly about his very positive experiences with Avocent and his KVM system.

There was general discussion about the need and requirements for the new 3 gig equipment that Blackmagic Design, AJA and Leader have to offer. Questions were discussed about redundant power supplies, but were not addressed to any particular sponsor's technology. There was also a lively discussion about the transition to digital in February of this coming year. Many were quite surprised that only 24% of all television transmitters must make the change and that over seven thousand transmitters are not required to do so, consisting of Class A's, Low Powers and translators. That 24% is, of course, all full power television transmitters.

In summary, although we didn't have much space in all respects to put everything up and show it off, we did a reasonably good job with the power point presentation and I believe all left with a good understanding of the technology we brought with us despite the very noisy situation with the air conditioning. Nearly everyone stayed well past the end of the three hour presentation and door prize drawing and most all took sponsor's CDs and business cards with them. I did have three gentlemen very specifically ask me to contact Telecast Fiber for additional information as we had no CDs or other information to give them. I also had one transmitter supervisor ask for more information on the Audemat ATSC monitor device. We had NO sponsor's representatives present at this presentation. We did have one gentleman from ROSCOR whose company offers many of our sponsor's technologies.

If you are interested in who won what door prizes and pictures of this event, you can see them posted on our website at: <http://www.tech-notes.tv/2008/50-Detroit.htm>

The following comments were received since our last report from folks who attended our presentations. These e-mails are unedited except as noted. The "To" line has been deleted when it is our address as well as sender's physical address and phone numbers. Anything in italics has been added for clarification.



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#111

Subject: Thanks

From: Mike Malin m.malin@tv20detroit.com

Date: Wed, 3 Sep 2008 11:02:55 -0400

Larry,

Thank you for a very informative presentation.
I just wish I could have stayed until the end.

Mike Malin
Broadcast Maintenance Technician
WMYD TV
Southfield, Michigan 48034
+++++

110

Subject: Thanks
From: MURRAY, WALLACE W (ATTASIAIT) wm3912@att.com
Date: Wed, 3 Sep 2008 11:00:10 -0400

Larry:
Something that you may want to pass along to your sponsors. While I attended NAB this year, on my own nickel, I might add, I was looking for certain things. Your presentation of just a few of the items gave me an opportunity to consider how things might be used. Case in point was the AJA sync box. In the old days we had to prune coax, today, in the digital domain we have to make sure everything is properly timed. Same stuff, different day.

I look forward to seeing you next year.
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#109

Subject: no, THANK YOU!!!(This was in response to a thank you note I sent out to the folks who attended)
From: Michael Heim kd0ar@sbcglobal.net
Date: Fri, 29 Aug 2008 07:20:14 -0700 (PDT)

I want to thank you, Larry for your presentation again this year! This was our fourth year of bringing your presentation to the Youngstown, Ohio and western Pennsylvania area, and as always, it was a very good, informative show. I'm certain everyone got something out of it, I know I did!

Yes, turnout wasn't what we all expected, but that didn't degrade the quality of the show. Larry does a fine job explaining the equipment he has on display. This year was especially informative to me, because of the expanded radio related products which were demonstrated.

We look forward to having Larry here again next year. There is always something new at every show!

The small part John and I and the rest of the SBE122 membership did in bringing the show to Youngstown pales in comparison to the REAL work that Larry puts into the show year to year. Here is a man who unselfishly takes literally MONTHS away from home to help educate engineers from around the country on the latest and greatest that the broadcast industry produces. Words cannot express the gratitude and thanks that we all have and feel for Larry's energy and knowledge he brings with every show he presents.

One more time,
Thank you, Larry!!!

Michael Heim
Chief Engineer, Forever Broadcasting

New Castle PA
WKST WJST WGGY
WGYI WOYL WFRA
814-671-0666 (cell)
Chapter Chair, SBE-122
ARS KD0AR

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END



Please not the folks taking the CDs



Note the bullet hole in the transmission line above.