



The Society of Broadcast Engineers, Inc.

Chapter 80 - Serving Northeast & Central Wisconsin

Venue Report #66
Friday, October 3, 2008



This was the fourth time presenting to SBE Chapter 80 and the broadcast folks in the Fox Valley area of Wisconsin (Green Bay, Appleton, Oshkosh and Fond du Lac). Our presentation took place on the campus of the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh in the Titan studios that are part of the Radio, Television Film (RTVF) department. Green Bay – Appleton is the nation's 70th largest television market serving some 444,210 households.

An interesting side note, this was our sixty-sixth presentation and the students at the University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh produce programs for local cable distribution; they are carried on channel 66.

It was thought that the students of the RTVF department might benefit from being exposed to some of the latest in radio and television technology; they were invited to join us also. Between the few engineers, a few sales representatives, a couple of guest and chapter members that showed up (of the forty-two SBE members listed on official SBE roster, only eight bothered to show up and sign in) and the two dozen or so students that stopped by long enough to have some pizza and listen for a few minutes, we did get a head count of thirty-nine total. Under any other circumstances, that would be a great number, but I'm not sure if it was because we were presenting on a Friday or everyone had something better to do, when it came time for the door prize drawing at the end of the presentation, there were only five folks who divvied up all of the day's door prizes.

SBE Chapter Chair, Keith Kintner and I, as a credentialed teacher, thought the students could benefit from being exposed to some of the most cutting edge technology in the industry, but it appears they didn't see it that way. It all started when it took the teacher an extended period of time to get her class to the Titan studio so we could start our presentation. The wait caused us to begin nearly an hour late. When they did arrive, shortly thereafter, the teacher abandoned her class. Apparently none, including their teacher, need to know the information I had to offer. At the risk of sounding like a political spot, Keith Kintner review this write-up and agrees with me on all aspects.

Keith Kintner, the SBE chapter chair went all out to publicize this event. It was very disappointing to see his efforts come to having only five folks there when it was all over. Keith was there to help us set up along with his boss, William Kerkhof, when it came time to pack things up; it was Keith, Shawn and I. A big thanks go to Keith, who arranged for the refreshments and to Steve Brown, Chapter80's Secretary-Treasurer, who assisted in a big way by purchasing the soft drinks, ice, and brought the coolers. Chapter 80 was reimbursed for all the expenses for the refreshments by the Tech-Notes Taste of NAB Road Show.

There wasn't much interactivity at this presentation. One of the television engineers was proud of the fact that his station had an Omneon Spectrum server in service saying it was the most flexible server on the market and could be built on as his stations needs changed. The question did come up about several of the MediaDecks being able to talk to each other and work together. The answer was of course, yes.

An engineer radio guys told us that he had two of the Audemat Golden Eagle HD radio monitors and couldn't think of any other item of test equipment available that even came close to its performance and capabilities.

There was some discussion about the multiplexing capabilities of the Telecast Fiber Systems' technologies. I was able to answer all the questions that came up.

There was some interest in the JK Audio Blue Tooth technology. One engineer said it would be in their next year's budget.

And finally, maybe it was a good thing that none of the sponsor's reps spent the time to come to this presentation. If you are interested in who won what door prizes and pictures of the event, you can see them posted on our website at: www.tech-notes.tv/2008/69-Fox_Valley.htm.

The following comments were received since four reports ago 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. Please take the time to read these as some have comments on the technologies we presented.



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Subject: Dialnorm question
From: Boehm, John JohnBoehm@clearchannel.com
Date: Mon, 29 Sep 2008 22:58:13 -0500

Hi Larry!

Fantastic show! I indeed learned something new on the fiber discussion.

I have seen the term "dialnorm" used in reference to a specific audio level for television broadcast. Henry Ruhweidel mentioned as we talked, that Dolby never defined the exact level- but it is thought that it is -16dBFS to -20dBFS. It is a specific level, or finite range of levels, to "normalize" the audio levels in source material.

I knew John Bredesen in Oshkosh, when I was a broadcast student there from Jan. 1978 - 1980. He was always really sharp and built an absolutely wonderful radio and TV broadcast facility. Please say hello when you see him! (***John Bredesen is the Secretary of SBE Chapter 76 in Eugene, OR***)

Thanks so much,

John

John Boehm, CSRE
Clear Channel Radio Chicago
Sent from my BlackBerry

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END

