



The

Broadcasters' Desktop Resource

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... edited by Barry Mishkind – the Eclectic Engineer

NAB Report 2013

Looking Back at this Year's Show



by Alan Alsobrook

[April 2013] Here is another look at the NAB

As per my normal practice I arrived in Las Vegas a few days before the show, to allow a bit of time to have some fun before getting into the hustle of the NAB show. It was good advice.

I got in on Friday evening and wandered out to Henderson to explore a bit. Then, on Saturday morning I took a trip to the Hoover Dam and



went on the generator tour. I had hoped for the Dam tour but unfortunately it was sold out for the next several hours. (Hint if you want to take the Dam tour, get those tickets and then look around).

Sunday morning the show activities began. I started bright and early at the NUG (Nautel User Group) learning about all the new stuff Nautel

had come up with as well as solutions for bugs with older products.

As you have probably heard by now one of the big announcements was that Nautel has worked with Omnia to develop a direct digital link from an audio processor to the exciter without going through a transition to analog composite audio.

Those that know seem to think the audio in the digital link is ever so slightly cleaner, and the modulation can be pushed just a bit more. I did not see any specific specs on the improvement made by this approach but I will bet they will be out soon, if not already.

Sunday afternoon found me in the North meeting rooms for a meeting of the BWVG (Broadcast Warning Working Group), where we had quite a bit of discussion on the current state of EAS and how it can be improved.

The full meeting is available on the BDR's YouTube page:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheBDRnet>

DOORS OPEN

Monday morning it was really on! The show floor was now open with everyone in high gear.



As I arrived, I came through the North hall and stopped at the Harris booth.

There, Geoff Mendenhall was displaying the new the Harris Flexiva 60 kW (at least I remember it as a 60 kW – the most I can confirm is a 50 kW) FM using the LDMOS technology.

CENTRAL HALL

After admiring this pretty new box I made my way on into the front area of Central hall where most of the radio stuff is displayed.



My first stop was to visit with Bob Surette of Shively Labs – now disguised with a beard.

I wanted to check on modifying a translator antenna for one of my customers. Of course Bob’s answer was sure we can do that!

One of the major earthshakers Monday were the meetings on “How to Save AM.” The main one was moderated by FCC Commissioner Ajit Pai.

On the panel, there seemed to be heavy leaning to making the AM band entirely digital.



Ajit Pai was the first FCC Commissioner to moderate a session at NAB

This was a full room SRO (Standing Room Only) meeting of folks who wanted to hear what the speakers had to say.



DAY 2

I woke up earlier than expected on Tuesday and actually arrived at the show before the floor was open – that is a first for me!

After the show opened up I noticed a new device that got my attention, this was a new antenna monitor just being rolled out. It was located on the side of the Kintronics booth and was easy to miss.



This monitor was designed with fiberoptic sample lines along with a computerized display that allows you to tweak up your phasor simply by putting the towers back where they belong.

Then, it was off to Barry's lunch at the Riviera. The lunch is always a must-do event; we now have done it for 21 years. The [video from the lunch is already up on YouTube](#) as well.

Back on the floor after lunch, it was great to see Dave Hultsman over at the Continental Electronics booth.



This is Dave's 50th consecutive year on the floor at the NAB Show – that has to be some kind of a record.

Also after lunch, I literally bumped into (I did not know he was behind me) Commissioner Pai checking out some of the new products.



RADIO ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

The highlight on Wednesday was the presentation of the Radio Engineering Achievement Award to Frank Foti of Omnia.



After the show on Wednesday, it was the HAM reception, a must do for HAM radio operators.

THURSDAY

On the final day of the show, I was able to spend some time with DEVA Broadcast to look at their full line of products,



Recently I had the chance to review their Band Scanner GPS ([the review is located here](#)).

I wanted to take a look at all the other products from this company. It seems like each one is so loaded with features, you can see almost everything going on with your signals.

POST SHOW REPORT

After the show was over I got the spur of the moment idea to drive out to Pharump, NV just

to get an idea of what the “High Desert” really was like.

Well, short story: I did not run into Art Bell while I was there, but it was a very interesting ride up through the mountains and back down into the high flatland.

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DB4004 – DSP based FM Radio Modulation Monitor



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