



The

Broadcasters' Desktop Resource

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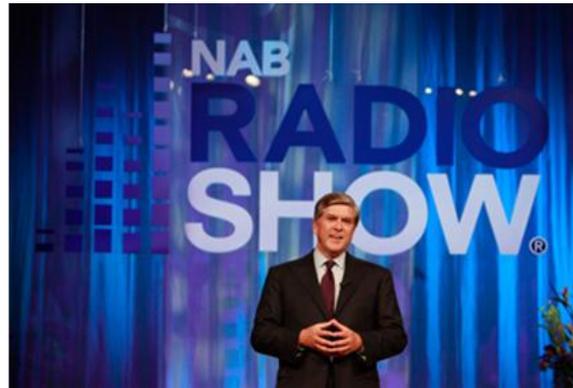
... edited by Barry Mishkind – the Eclectic Engineer

2009 NAB Fall Radio Show

OK.... What would you like to know about the 2009 NAB Fall Radio Show in Philadelphia?

Total attendance: 2507

The new NAB CEO, Gordon Smith (a former Republican US Senator from Oregon), gave his first speech to the industry.



Gordon Smith

A former member of the Senate Commerce Committee, Smith gave his assurance that he understood the challenges and the opportunities for broadcasters, and would be an advocate for them, especially in getting rid of unnecessary regulation and fighting the performance tax.

As one might expect, the overwhelming number of attendees were from the eastern part of the country, including the engineers. Given the state of the economy, the show floor had more exhibitors than might be expected. From conversations, the vendors seemed to be happy with the level of interest shown, but the level of expectations was generally lower than in past years.

With a fraction of the attendees that are in Las Vegas for the NAB, the technical sessions were not as crowded, in general, with some exceptions. The PREC conference preceded the NAB show, and many NPR technical people were in for that. Also, on Wednesday afternoon, Nautel put on their Nautel Users' Group meeting, which drew a nice crowd at Maggiano's Italian Restaurant, a local favorite.



The Nautel NUG at Maggiano's

At the NAB Show itself, located at the Philadelphia Convention Center, the technical sessions ranged from around a dozen to about fifty attendees.

Many of the engineers attending the show were interested in the updated Method of Moments material presented by Ron Rackley and Ben Dawson. This new procedure already is being adapted for some directional antennas and, while it does eliminate a large part of the RF Proof procedure, it does simplify a number of things nicely.

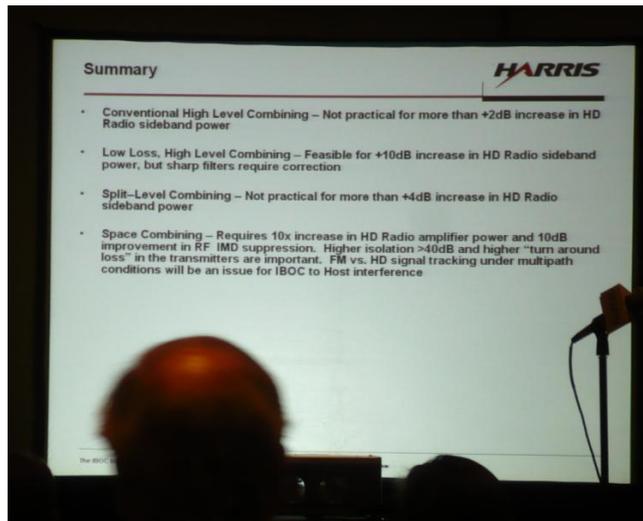


Ron Rackley and Ben Dawson held forth on MoM

Watch the BDR for forthcoming summary by Phil Alexander of the MoM session, as well as his other thoughts on the technical sessions during the Show.

There was also a fair amount of interest in the session dealing with the potential for increased power for digital stations. All of the major transmitter manufacturers were represented on the panel, which also included Peter Doyle Division Chief of Audio Division of the FCC's Media Bureau.

Various possible paths for power increase were discussed. One point made was that stations should not buy a transmitter until they talk to their consulting engineer. With all the various factors considered, not all stations can or will get a 10 dB power increase. Getting the right-sized transmitter may take some additional calculation, lest a station end up either with too little headroom or a lot of wasted capacity.



The panel discussion on IBOC power increase focused on how to approach the upgrade options

Scott Fybush brought the technical sessions to a close with a well-received photo show of many of the interesting sites he has visited over the years.

From the distinctive Blaw-Knox towers at WSM and WLW to some interesting directional arrays, old-style hammock antennas, and curiosity sites, Fybush not only exhibited the pictures but showed his love for and command of radio history.



The word is that there will be a 2010 Fall Radio Show in the Washington, DC area – but not necessarily at the DC Convention Center. The exact venue and the form of exhibits will be announced later.

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