



The

Broadcasters' Desktop Resource

www.theBDR.net

... edited by Barry Mishkind – the Eclectic Engineer

NAB 2011



By Alan Alsobrook

[April 2011] Alan takes his look at this years' NAB Spring Show.

I was able to get back to the NAB this year after missing last year by being on the injured reserve list. Since I did make it I was asked to give a few thoughts on what most impressed me at the show.

Although the 2011 NAB ran from Monday through Thursday, there was a lot more going on in Las Vegas. For some, activity started the previous week, with the PREC (Public Radio Engineering Conference) or on Sunday morning with the Nautel Users' Group (NUG)... but no matter how many days one was in Las Vegas, there was not enough time to see and do it all.



The Nautel's User Group had a very nice turnout this year

Of course to me one of the most important aspects of getting to Vegas is the annual chance to meet up with people and catch up. I did get to see many friends and colleagues at the show and really enjoyed that aspect of it.

LUNCHTIME

Along those lines, one of the big events of the show is always Barry Mishkind's Tuesday Lunch Gathering at the Riveria. This year, as in those past, it was an excellent event.



Part of Barry's 19th Annual Lunch Gathering

For 19 years, Barry has been bringing a large group of engineers, consultants, managers, station owners and manufacturers together for the Lunch Gathering. As always, it was a good opportunity to meet and greet so many that we email and call all year – and meet some new folks each time as well.



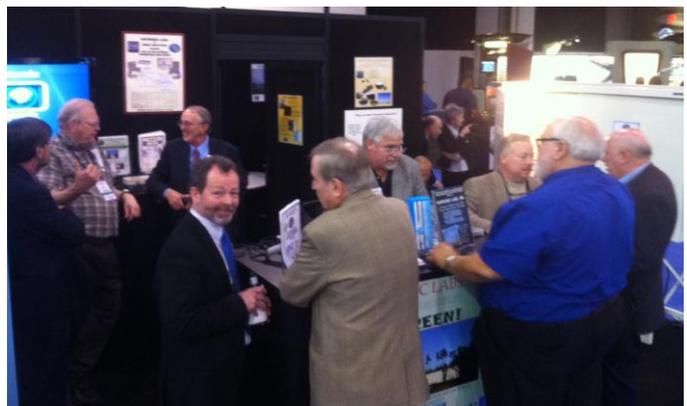
In for Vanna White: Tom Osenkowski

ON THE FLOOR

Obviously, an important part of the show is to hit the floor and see what is new or different each year. For me, it was a two-year change, so while on this adventure I had a few things catch my attention.

One thing was for sure, inch for inch, you would be hard-pressed to find a more AM knowledgeable group than among the gathering at the Kintronic Labs booth.

Also at the Kintronics booth they were showing a capacitive voltage sample unit that can be used when a tower is too tall to use a current transformer. Interestingly, the Phasetek booth had a similar unit that was inductive.



In the Nautel area, the VS series lower power FM transmitters were on display. And Harris did surprise me with a new FM high power Tube Transmitter; yes the HT has been replaced, along with a new medium power solid-state offering.



Over at Axia, the new iQ series console was out on display.

This particular model was of special interest to me because even as I was looking at it on the floor, three iQ's were being delivered to one of my clients in Florida. As you might expect, there will be follow up on the installation in a future article right here on the BDR.



A close up look at Axia Audio's iQ assignment screens

LOOK QUICK! THAT IS ELVIS OVER THERE!



I did note that Elvis apparently is alive and well over at the Hilton.

It looks like he was even doing a show there.

All in all I think the show was a good one, although I did miss seeing some of the smaller vendors that are usually there.

On the ride home Jim Johnson and Rick Rickey from South Florida treated me to a nice seat on the plane. Who knew they would be flying to Jacksonville to connect down to Ft Lauderdale. They boarded the plane in the first group and held a seat for me as the last one to be let on board. I wonder if that was because I asked if the plane came with the sunroof option?

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[Return to The BDR Menu](#)

