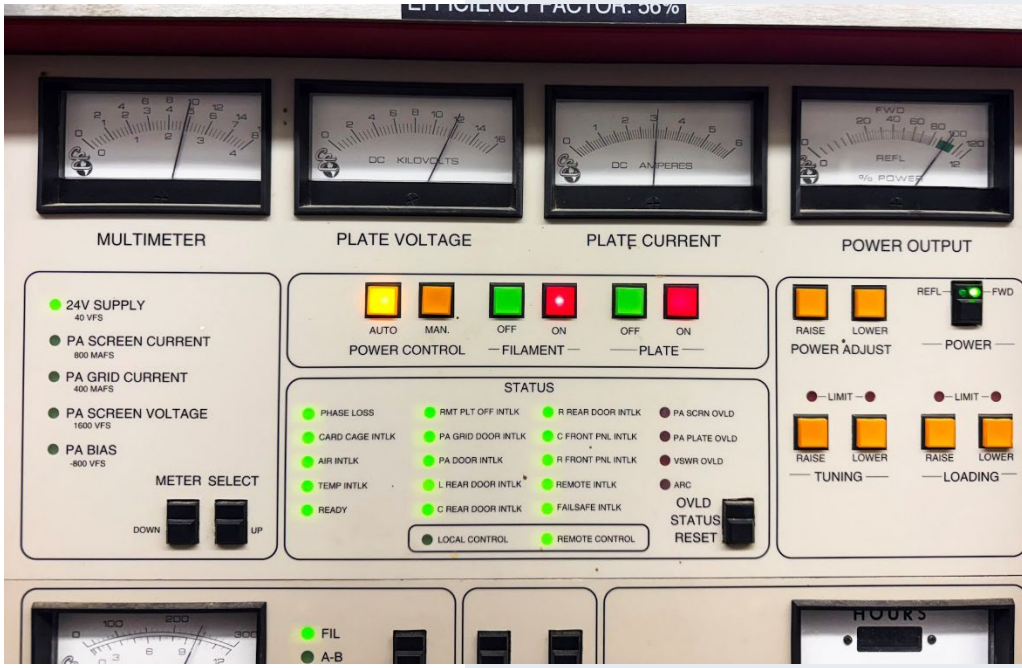
The SBE 38 Signal

April 2026

The official newsletter of the El Paso chapter of the Society of Broadcast Engineers



The latest from the SBE

Summer is right around the corner, it's not a bad idea to review your HVAC situation. SBE national is hosting a webinar next month on site cooling.

Resolving cooling issues at transmitter sites present many challenges. While some of the amplifiers of the transmitter are burning up, other modules experience high flange temperatures, challenging the HVAC systems cooling capabilities. Investigating the issue becomes costly to troubleshoot. This webinar discusses a real-life scenario and how it is dissected and resolved. More info at SBE.org

SBE AT NAB

The Society of Broadcast Engineers will again exhibit and hold several events at the annual NAB Show in Las Vegas. The final SBE event of the convention will be the SBE Ennes Workshop at the NAB Show on April 21-22. Other events will be held through the entire convention.

The SBE Ennes Workshop has long been the traditional highlight of the NAB Show. There are two separate educational tracks: From Signals to Success: RF101 Gets You There, and Emerging Technology. Attendees can register for one or the other via the NAB Show website. Both will be held in the Las Vegas Convention Center North Hall. The Workshop is being held on the last two days of the convention. A complete rundown of all the presentations is posted on the SBE website: sbe.org/ennes-workshop-2026-nab/.

MEETING NOTES

The minutes from our last meeting at Sinclair El Paso

DASDEC GETS AN UPDATE

If you have a DASDEC III, keep an eye on your firmware

DRONES CHANGE THE GAME

Drones are here to stay, but don't cancel that climb just yet.

SBE 38 WELCOMES

You! Stop by our next meeting April 8th!

Meeting Notes

Total Attendance: 26

Meeting Called to Order: 11:45 AM

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY: Minutes from the February Meeting accepted by Norbert Miles, Anthony Porras (2nd)

REPORT OF THE TREASURER: $ 1,482.01 in the bank. Accepted by Norbert Miles, David Halperin (2nd)

REPORT OF THE CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE: Recertifications for Noe Rodriguez (CBNE) and Glenn Leffler (CPBE)

REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Will resend invoivces, Jaime Martinez agreed with Telemundo 48 (KTDO) as a sustaining member, Invited David Sanderford for sustaining Membership

REPORT OF THE FREQUENCY COORDINATOR COMMITTEE: 95.1 FM is operating as a potential pirate signal; Warren Reeves will investigate and follow up.

REPORT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: NO REPORT

REPORT OF THE WEBSITE COMMITTEE: Noe Rodriguez and Norbert Miles are coordinating a new site domain for the chapter website

REPORT OF THE EAS CHAIRMAN: No issues with Texas EAS RMT, New Mexico missed.

REPORT OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE: Presentations from Live-U (Luis Muñoz, Jaqueline Flores) and Dialight (Tom Amador) at the KFOX/KDBC studios with lunch provided

NEW BUSINESS OR ANY ITEMS FOR THE CHAPTER INTEREST: Ernesto Martinez received a good working Triplett Analog Multimeter offered by Antonio Castro!

MEETING ADJOURNED: AT 12:01 PM.

DASDEC GETS AN UPDATE

From Radio World Staff

Digital Alert Systems released Version 6 software for its DASDEC-III emergency messaging platforms. It calls this a strategic modernization of the core platform, responding to enterprise demand for hardened infrastructure.

A new operating platform is designed to improve performance, security and ease of maintenance. Background processes are streamlined for more consistent connectivity. The architecture is also "future-ready," with an eye on evolving technical standards and interoperability frameworks.

Also, V6 includes the Plus Package option for active encoder devices. Enhancements include instant alert visibility with automatic browser refresh; expanded audio support, including MP3 and OGG/Vorbis streaming formats; front-panel audible alerts for operator awareness; customizable alert messaging, including text and audio adjustments; and live sequencing of manually forwarded alerts

The upgrade is available for the DASDEC-III platform and is not mandatory. Customers using DASDEC-II or One-Net SEs will continue to receive support for Version 5.4.

Version 6 is free to DASDEC-III customers who are enrolled in the company's Software Assurance Plan, have recently purchased a DASDEC or participated in the UpTrade program since October 2025. Customers interested in upgrade eligibility or pricing for non-covered systems should contact the factory with their unit's serial number.

Info: www.digitalalertsystems.com.

Our Next Chapter Meeting:

Wednesday, April 8th. Location to be discussed with your chance to win a portable projector as well.

We hope to see you there!

SBE 38 El Paso

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Warren Reeves

EAS Chair | Newsletter
Michael Rivera (KLAQ, KSII, KROD)

Executive Committee
Antonio Castro
Bruno Cruz
Walter Hanthorn

Drones Revolutionize Cell Tower Inspections:

A Game Changer for Telecoms

By Joe Stough – The Fast Times

The telecommunications industry is evolving fast, and keeping critical infrastructure safe, efficient, and online is more important than ever. At the center of it all are cell towers, which require regular inspection to ensure optimal performance and reliability. Traditionally, these inspections have been time-consuming, expensive, and fraught with safety risks. Now, commercial drones are changing the playbook.

FAA-certified pilots capture high-resolution imagery, thermal data, and LiDAR scans in hours instead of days. Here's how commercial drones are already transforming how telecommunication companies operate.

Reducing safety risks

Climbing towers has always been one of the most dangerous jobs in telecom. Manual inspections often require human technicians to ascend hundreds of feet, exposing them to dangerous heights, unpredictable weather conditions, and the inherent risks associated with working on complex structures. Falls, equipment malfunctions, and even electrocution are real possibilities. In many cases, drones eliminate the need for human ascent. Operators can control the drone safely from the ground, removing personnel from hazardous environments and drastically minimizing the potential for accidents and injuries. This protects teams in the field, reduces liability, and keeps projects moving without delay or danger.

Saving time and money

The truth is, time is money, and in the fast-paced telecommunications industry, nothing could be truer, but we could add that for cell tower inspection, efficiency is paramount. Traditional inspections can take several hours, if not days, to complete, depending on the tower's height and complexity. This includes the time spent on travel, site preparation, and the actual inspection process. Drones, on the other hand, can complete comprehensive inspections in a fraction of that time, often within hours. Faster inspections mean fewer labor hours, lower travel costs, and the ability to inspect more thoroughly and frequently. Furthermore, the ability to conduct more frequent inspections with drones can prevent minor issues from escalating into major, costly repairs.

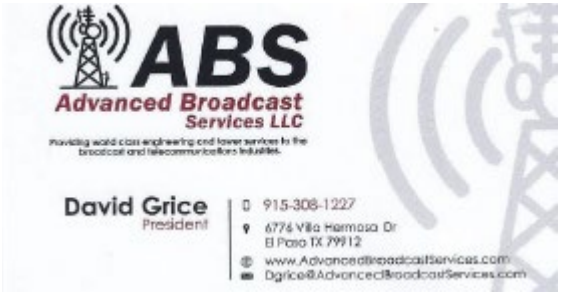
Increasing the rate of repair percentage

Drones provide highly detailed, accurate visual data that makes repairs faster and more effective. The high-resolution cameras and advanced sensors on commercial drones can detect even the slightest anomalies, such as loose bolts, cracked welds, corrosion, or damaged antennas, that might be missed during a visual ground inspection or even a hurried manual climb. This precise identification of issues allows repair crews to arrive on-site with a clear understanding of the problem and the necessary tools and parts, leading to more efficient and effective repairs. Less guesswork means fewer return visits and a higher success rate in resolving issues on the first try.

The full article can be found in its entirety here:

https://www.thefastmode.com/expert-opinion/45515-drones-revolutionize-cell-tower-inspections-a-game-changer-for-telecoms

Your card not on this page? Well… Let's get it here!



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