

The SBE 38 Signal

March 2026

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



The latest from the SBE

The Society of Broadcast Engineers will hold the 2026 SBE Leadership Development Course March 2-4, 2026, in Austin, TX. This three-day course is an intensive study of successful leadership and management, designed specifically for broadcast engineers.

The course explores the nature of leadership, the difference between being a manager and being a leader, how to build a winning team, the importance of attitude in the leadership position, communication insights and much more. Details 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/.

CHAPTER NOTES

The minutes from our last meeting at El Rincon De Cortez

NAUTEL OFFERS CERTIFICATION

Nautel's latest course in RF could get you extra credits for certification maintenance

THE BANK OF ECONCO CLOSES

Econco closes shop in California, does this mean Tube Prices are going up?

SBE 38 WELCOMES

Ernesto Martinez

Thomas Rios

Salvador Porras

Chapter Notes

A great get together was held for February's meeting at El Rincon De Cortez on El Paso's westside. Jose brought a really neat meter that will be up for grabs at March's meeting.

Total Attendance: 13

Meeting Called to Order: 12:13 PM by Antonio Castro

Secretary's Report: Minutes from January Meeting accepted by Norbert Miles and seconded by David Halperin

Treasury Report: \$1239.42 in the bank, Accepted by Warren Reeves and Norbert Miles second.

Certification Report: Congrats to Noe Rodriguez on his recertification by credits.

Membership Report: Will resend invoices Jaime Martinez agreed with KTDO as a sustaining member David Sanderford will receive an invitation as a sustaining member.

Frequency Coordination Report: KPAS has gone dark

Scholarship Report: No Report.

Website Report: Noe Rodriguez made proposals for a new domain for the chapter redirecting to the KINT 98 site. Will collaborate with Norbert Miles

EAS Report: Texas and New Mexico EAS monthlies ran without issue. KTSM FM continues to have issues

Program Committee Report: Dialight will make a presentation at the KDBC/KFOX Studios March 11th

New Business: Jaime Rodriguez explained personal safety issues at Ranger Peak.

The Chapter has also agreed to move the monthly meeting to the second Wednesday of the month moving forward

MEETING ADJOURNED: AT 1:09 PM.

Nautel Offers Certification

From Radio World Staff



Nautel will offer two in-depth paid training sessions this year, to be held at the company's new training center in Hackett's Cove, Nova Scotia.

Courses will be in June and September. Each will last three days and will cover FM transmitters, AM transmitters and RF technology essentials.

John Wilton, Nautel's head of customer service, said in the announcement that the training is intended to complement what's available from the Society of Broadcast Engineers at the NAB Show.

"The 'aging out' of broadcast engineers is causing concern in the community over the lack of RF knowledge. Many new engineers are coming in from the IT sector or straight from school," he said.

"Modern transmitters are software-intensive, to be sure, but usually those new engineers don't have a background in transmitter and RF technology."

The training center opened last fall. Wilton said the sessions are at the level of an introductory college course.

"This is an opportunity to see the results of adjusting parameters, get real-time measurements, and learn safety practices. We'll also offer 'tips and tricks' for keeping transmitters running smoothly," Wilton said.

Each training session costs \$1,800 (US) and qualifies for SBE recertification credits.

Info: <https://support.nautel.com/training>

Our Next Chapter Meeting:

Wednesday, March 11th at 11:30a at the KFOX/KDBC Studios. (200 S. Alto Mesa Dr.)

Presentation and Lunch Provided by:
Tom Amador – Dialight Corporation

We hope to see you there!



SBE 38 El Paso

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Program Chair

Warren Reeves (Ho Tah Say)

EAS Chair | Newsletter

Michael Rivera (TSM)

Executive Committee

Antonio Castro

Bruno Cruz

Walter Hanthorn



The Bank of Econco Closes

MPP Announces Closure of Former Econco Facility

The manufacturer will discontinue repair services for power tubes effective May 12

By Nick Langan

[Microwave Power Products](#) has announced it will close operations at the former Econco facility in California, ending its program for rebuilding power tubes used in vacuum tube-type broadcast transmitters.

MPP made the announcement late Wednesday. The company said in a release that operations at its Woodland, Calif., manufacturing site will cease on Sept. 1 as the company consolidates operations at its Palo Alto facility.

As part of the transition, MPP will discontinue repair services for Econco Power Grid tubes, though the company will continue to manufacture new tubes.

An MPP spokesperson declined to comment on the reasoning behind discontinuing the program.

The news is significant for stations using transmitters that require tubes such as the EIMAC 4CX20000E. Several readers have expressed concern regarding the dwindling number of companies offering rebuilt power tubes, which provide a cost-effective alternative to purchasing new tubes, or a solid-state transmitter.

The move includes the termination of Econco's "bank" program. The program allowed customers to store non-working power grid tubes at the Woodland facility to be rebuilt and made available for future purchase.

MPP said that manufacturing of magnetrons and magnetron repair services will continue at the Palo Alto site.

Alternatives

Massachusetts-based [Kennetron](#) also advertises vacuum tube rebuilds.

Some readers have inquired about options on Alibaba, including those from Chinese manufacturer Jingguang. However, sourcing from China raises additional concerns regarding reliability and import tariffs.

The deadline to purchase repaired Econco Power Grid tubes is May 12 at the close of business. According to the release, failure to confirm a purchase or request the return of non-working tubes by that date will be treated as consent for MPP to dispose of any property remaining in the Bank program.

According to a timeline on MPP's website, Econco was founded in 1968 and held the first contracts ever awarded by the U.S. government and the U.S. Navy to remanufacture microwave devices, twice receiving the Navy's Award for Excellence.

Communications & Power Industries acquired Econco in 2004. In June 2024, Microwave Power Products Inc. and the CPI Electron Device Business spun off from CPI to become an independent entity.

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

