

By Mark Frink

A week that began with clear but cool blue skies in Anaheim, CA ended with Pineapple Express showers, dramatic NFL conference championships and a record number of attendees for the Winter NAMM Show, the annual kick-off trade show for both pro audio and musical instrument manufacturers.

The National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) reported 95,709 registered attendees, a six percent increase from last year, representing a new record for the 110-year-old show. International registration experienced a 15 percent increase from last year to nearly 12,000. The association also reported that exhibitor numbers were up slightly, to 1,441, including 236 new exhibitors.

A wealth of new products was introduced at NAMM this year, including significant releases from many major companies and a few surprises from smaller companies and startups. JBL Professional had their most significant introduction in a decade, the first member of the VRX Series of next-generation VerTec line-arrays, the V25, which is a technological tour-de-force, incorporating new dual-drive transducers throughout that vastly increase power handling and reduce distortion.

Mackie announced the DL1608, a 16-channel digital mixer with no faders, buttons or encoders, using an iPad as a control surface, either docked or wireless and up to 10 iPads can control the mixer. A new company called Pivitec was showing a Personal Monitor Mixing System that employs iPhones and iPads for wireless control.

JoeCo's Blackbox Recorder now has an iPad app for wireless remote control. ProCo, now part of the RapcoHorizon family, introduced the iPad version of mtweak for wireless control of personal



monitor mixes on their Momentum digital snake system. PreSonus released the QMix iPhone app for controlling StudioLive monitor mixes.

Radial Engineering introduced their first Tube DI, the canary-yellow Firefly. Shure, Sennheiser, Audio-Technica and Line6 all introduced digital wireless microphones. Goodbye companding. Waves announced version 9 plugins, which eliminates the need for an iLok.

Avid added the Stage 48, an AVB stagebox for the SC48. DiGiCo released the UB MADI, a hot-plugable, pocket-sized MADI

to USB 2.0 converter. Yamaha released a couple of sweet, fully-featured hybrid rack-mount mixers and a full line of self-powered affordable DSP speakers.

Shure expanded their Live Sound Academy preceding NAMM, now in its second year, to two full days of quality live sound instruction and seminars. Steve Vai was awarded the Les Paul Award, picked up his Ibanez and shredded the TEC Awards stage.

What follows is a sampling of this year's NAMM Show. Winter NAMM returns to Anaheim next January. This summer's NAMM takes place in Nashville July 12-14. **FOH**



AM&S' Arabian Prince with Sonomax's Sculpted EERS instant custom-fit in-ear monitors



Future Sonics' Marty Garcia with mg6pro custom Ear Monitors



Grund Audio's Susan and Frank Grund with their new UB-16RN dual-eight fill and under-balcony speaker with 1-inch driver on an asymmetrical horn



Blue Öyster Cult's Eric Bloom, Buck Dharma and Richie Castellano rock Peavey's Composite Acoustics guitars



Mindi Abair and Dave Koz at Audio-Technica 50th Anniversary celebration



Chris Countryman and Omer Inan with Type 10 and Type 10S active direct boxes



Crown Audio's Andy Flint with Band Manager 2 for control and monitoring of XT2 amps



Furman's John Benz with CN-1800S and CN-2400S AC power SmartSequencers with Ethernet control



L'Angelus (lawn-jay-loose) band's Rees clan on PreSonus' NAMM stage with Studio One 2. From left, Paige, Katie, Stephen and Johnny.



Audio-Technica's Gary Boss with ATMS10 cardioid dynamic handheld vocal microphone



Celestion's John Paice with CDX1 series of ferrite 1-inch compression drivers



DAS Audio's Javier Navarro



JBL's Mark Gander with PRX 400 series of passive enclosures, which work with Crown's XT12 amp presets



DiGiCo's David Webster with UB MADI hot-pluggable USB 2.0 MADI adaptor



Focusrite's Hannah Bliss with Scarlett 2i2 compact USB audio interface



JoeCo's Joe Bull with BlackBox Recorder iPad remote control app



On Point Audio's Mike Torlone with Narrow-Profile OPA 28 NP dual-eight co-axial two-way loudspeaker



Line6's Sean Halley with StageSource network powered mixer speaker



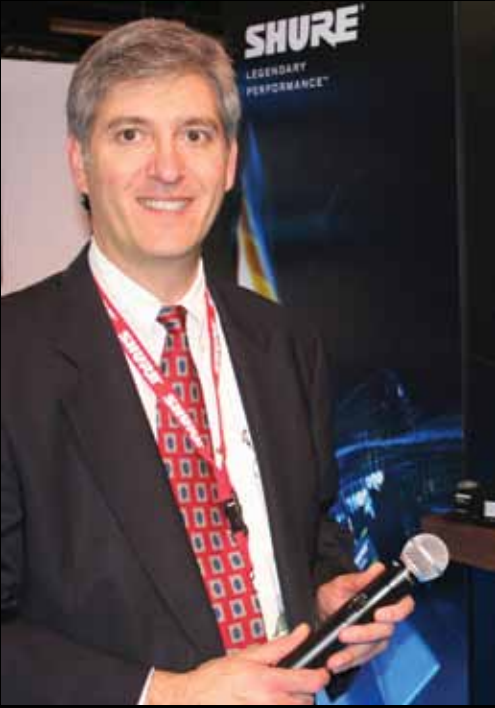
Mackie's John Boudreau with DL1608 iPad-controlled digital mixer dock



Meeting Services' Eric Stahlhammer with Soundcraft Vi1 mixing NAMM lobby stage



RapcoHorizon's Darius Seabaugh with ProCo's mtweak personal monitor mix app for Momentum mo8me mix engine



Shure's Chris Lyons with PGX-D digital wireless mic



DPA's booth talent included Kristin Korb Støve and Bruce Forman



Yamaha's Wayne Hrabak with self-powered DXR two-way and DXS subs



Yorkville's Phil Betette with Paraline quad-six constant curvature self-powered array and dual-twelve subs



JBL's Paul Bauman introduces next generation VerTec VTX Series V25 large format line array with D2 annular ring dual HF driver



Avid's Derk Hagedorn with VENUE Stage 48 AVB Ethernet stagebox for SC48



ISP Technologies' Buck Waller with HDL 2208 dual-eight self-powered compact line array



Radial Engineering's Peter Janis and JT's David Morgan with Firefly tube DI



PreSonus' Rick Naqvi with QMix iPhone app for controlling StudioLive monitor mixes



SKB Cases' Kathy Galbraith with military-spec waterproof 31-2011-MC16 16-microphone airline roll-board case



Pivitec's Dan Garrett with iOS app for AVB Personal Monitor Mixing System



Soundcraft's Tom Der demonstrates Si Compact digital console's V2 software



Avid's Robert Scovill at Sennheiser's second annual Sound Academy Live Sound Workshop