

November 9, 2016

What's New? By George Harding

Interdrone ...

This one of the most interesting conferences I've been to lately. Drones are proliferating rapidly and the opportunities for their use are expanding even faster

This September show is the second one ever and yet had some 3,500 attendees from 54 countries and 155 exhibitors.



The show had several parts: keynotes, panels, classes and the exhibition hall.

Michael Huerta, the FAA Administrator, gave the Grand Opening Keynote, as he did last year. What a difference a year makes! The FAA has been working to design a set of rules applicable to drones that are both founded in safety and yet realistic for drone users.

The result is Rule 107, promulgated only recently and August 30. It provides a set of restrictions applicable to drones under 55 pounds, as well as several requirements, among which is an aeronautical test for drone pilots

somewhat similar to that required for pilots of manned aircraft.

Mr Huerta reported that so far 520,000 drones have been registered. This compared to 320,000 registered manned aircraft!

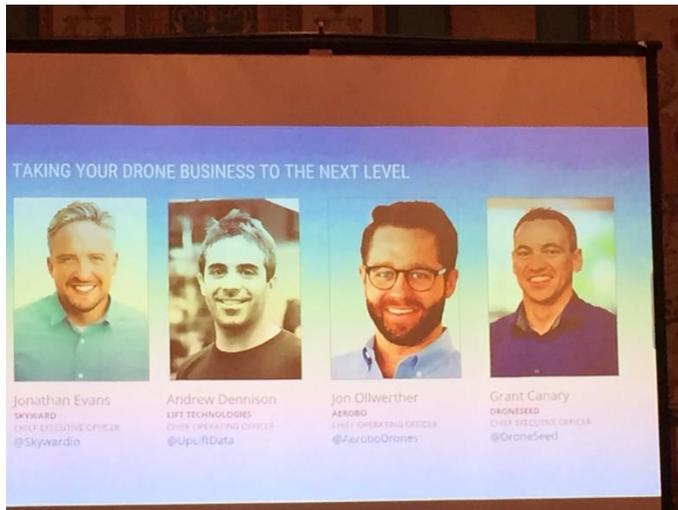
There were several other keynotes spread throughout the 3 day conference. Some of these were Intel, Amazon, and Yuneec, Maria Stephanopoulos (ABC) and a lawyer, Jeffrey Antonelli.



Panel discussions covered subjects germane to operating drones and running a business. Some were:

- Insuring your drone business
- Drones in structural inspection
- Sense-and-avoid detection

- Firefighting and search and rescue operations
- Precision agriculture and drones
- Drones for law enforcement, surveillance and security
- Newsgathering with drones
- Funding a drone business



Classes covered many more subjects related to drone construction, operation, and more.

As interesting as the subject matter was, it was impossible to attend all the sessions that would be interesting..

It's amazing that a dynamic business has grown so rapidly in such a short period of time. The large attendance at this conference shows the intense interest in the subject.

Interdrone

www.interdrone.com

Entrance fee for attendee about \$600

InfoComm ...

This Las Vegas conference is for those interested in audio-visual subjects.

It has exhibits from AV vendors of various sorts. The most impressive such exhibits are of display technology. Wall-sized displays are both attractive and eye-catching. Even though the displays are quite large, the resolution is very good.

These large displays are made by attaching many single displays together to form one large one. If you look at the back of one of these, you see clearly how it is constructed, but from the front it looks like a single unit.

I was able to get quite close to the front, to see if the resolution would degrade or pixelate, but the quality is as good from one foot as from 50 feet! You cannot even see the dividing lines between the individual units that make up the large display.

AV means both audio and visual, so many of the exhibitors deal with audio solutions. These take the form of better microphones, better cables, hardware to transfer the audio from analog to digital and back again without distortion.

What was amazing to me was the level of resolution that is possible with today's technology. The measure of brilliance is the lumen. It's defined thusly: *the SI unit of luminous flux, equal to the amount of light emitted per second in a unit solid angle of one steradian from a uniform source of one candela.*

As an example, a 100 watt light bulb is equivalent to about 100 lumens. A mid-price projector is rated at about 5,000 lumens.

Some of the displays at InfoComm had lumen ratings in the tens of thousands. One from Sony had a lumen rating of 35,000! It was really brilliant.

Another facet of the projectors at the show was the “short throw” length. This referred to the angle between the projector’s lens and the display surface. Many of the projectors exhibited had a throw of almost 90 degrees.

This was an interesting show, with a lot of interesting exhibits of display technologies.

InfoComm www.infocommshow.org/ Attendance fee varies

Energi Charger ...

Here’s a handy charger for you. It can charge five devices at once! It senses your device capability for charging and adapts to it. It works with small and large devices. It has a removable external charger.

Tylt offers this product to their long line of innovative tools. I have an external charger for my iPhone that is both a case and a charger. The case provides the usual protective features. The charger fits around the case and connects by the built-in lightning connector. Pretty slick!



Energi is another example of innovative engineering for consumer devices. The main unit connects to a standard wall outlet and provides five USB slots for charging your devices. Each is capable of charging either a smartphone or similar device or a tablet.

Each slot has what the Company calls SmartDetect technology to provide maximum rapid charging. That means both fast charging and no over-charging. The latter benefit is important in today’s environment of concern for fires caused by over-charging.

The four standard USB slots provide 2.4 amps of power while the fifth slot can provide 3.5 amps for even faster charging.

A unique feature of this charging station is the removable battery pack (the fifth slot). It can be easily removed and carried in a pocket or purse for on-the-spot use. No need to find a wall socket when you run out of charge.

The fins on the top of the unit can be used to organize your cables whether because there are too many or they are too long.

The unit comes with a start-up guide which is very short, with diagrams as well as text in several languages.

The unit comes with a one year warranty after you register your unit.

Energi Charging Station by TYLT
\$80

www.tylt.com/charging-station

Price