

# Section Meetings

**Atlanta, September 14, 1992** — The September meeting, which was held at Editworks, began with a short video on the Avid nonlinear editing system. The video showed the different parts of the hardware, which is based on the Apple Quadra 950, and the media-storage devices. The displays and features of the media composers and the five different levels of media quality were also described.

Following the video, Charles Scoggins and Dan Wingard, Avid, demonstrated the technology. The presentation included capturing the video from tape and machine controlling the VTR. The 21-person audience saw the visual time-line display with the video edits and audio waveforms, as well as the final output with EDL. The session concluded with a discussion on JPEG compression, which the Avid system uses, and other means of compression. — Mickey Kroll (Secretary/Treasurer), Video Tape Associates.

**Atlanta, October 12, 1992** — The October meeting was divided into two parts. Duane Solem, Sony, began the meeting with a discussion on compression. He described compression and bit-rate reduction and where they are used, including CATV, TV stations, and telephone operations. He discussed the different compression ratios of CD-1, MD, JPEG, and MPEG; how some of the image redundancy is removed; and how storage and transmission efficiency is increased.

During the second half of the meeting, the 30-person audience saw a demo tape of 2:1 and 4:1 bit-rate reduction, processed and nonprocessed, and after different numbers of generation. The meeting concluded with a tour of the Sony service department. — Mickey Kroll (Secretary/Treasurer), Video Tape Associates.

**Detroit, October 13, 1992** — The meeting, which was held at Hy James, Inc., opened with a presentation by Glen Fisher, Fostex Corp. of America. Fisher gave the 22 attendees an overview of the Fostex PD-2 R-DAT, with time code, recorder and provided a complete run-through on the product covering all its features, including some of the sampling rate compatibility issues.

Jeff Jones of Audio-Visions and Paradise Post, one of the first area users of portable R-DAT recorders, conducted the second half of the session and shared his personal observations on R-DAT.

Both men concluded the program with a lively question-and-answer session. — Gene Wilczak (Secretary/Treasurer), WJBK-TV.

**Houston, September 17, 1992** — In an effort to duplicate the techniques of hand-painted cel animation with the advantages of digital video graphics, the AXA Corp. developed an animation series of computer software. Three programs — AXA Producer, AXA Ink and Paint, and AXA Camera fx — provide a stage of animation. Y. Don Hwang, president of the company, demonstrated each of the programs during the September meeting of the Houston Section.

The Producer software provides a graphic reproduction of an extended exposure sheet that serves as the production control center for the project. The program provides instant access to any single or multigroupings of cels. The row/column format is completely intuitive representing cel levels as well as individual frames. The Ink and Paint program is designed to follow traditional cel animation techniques by first allowing pencil drawings for precise design before painting. Painting is fast and can be accomplished by an operator with a minimum of training or experience. Changes may be made quickly in single or groups of cels. Sixteen million colors are available in the palette with 256 colors available for each cel level. The Camera fx program is completely faithful to the operation of an animation stand plus digital film compositing. Ten independent peg bars can hold an infinite number of cels and move in all four directions individually. Digital transparency allows the

creation of glass, bubbles, or other "see-through" images. These programs will operate on any 386 or 486 PC that runs with Windows version 3.X.

Preceding the demonstration, Houston Section Board Member Harris Milam presented a tutorial on animation technique history and traditional cel production methods. Following the formal program, attendees were given a tour of the recently remodeled University of Houston School of Communication studios. — Robert B. Musburger (Secretary/Treasurer), University of Houston.

**Montreal, September 9, 1992** — Guy Caplin, Alpha Video Film, gave an explanation of the Digital Electronic Film Transfer (DEFT), which eliminates the 3/2 pulldown and causes a mixed picture between two fields when transferring film from the NTSC video system to a PAL video system. The new video PAL generated by DEFT looked like a real PAL video. Following the technical explanations, the guest speaker showed a PAL videotape on a PAL Betacam — the result of a normal PAL transcoder and DEFT.

Tony Ballard, Power Quality Concept, discussed bridging the gap between electrical and electronic worlds. He described the basic operation of a system that eliminates high-peak voltage, suppressing all transients, and explained redundant voltage regulation, transformer-based isolation, suppression to ground (RS-232, MIDI, communication), and the potential return on an investment. The meeting, which took place at the National Film Board, was attended by 32 people. — Jacques LaChapelle (Chairman), Centre de Montagne Electronique.



*Mats Erixon addressing the Nordic Section's September meeting.*

**Nordic, September 22, 1992** — At the September meeting of the SMPTE Nordic Section, members were introduced to the Cosmonova Theatre of the Museum of Natural History in Stockholm, Sweden, which is an Omnimax theater that features an Evans and Sutherland Digistar III planetarium projector and a 23-meter dome theater with seating capacity for an audience of 291 people. The meeting included a guided tour of the traditionally designed Omnimax theater, which offers the latest Imax technology, such as digital 6-channel sound.

After the tour, a star projector demonstration, and some trailers, everyone gathered in an adjacent conference room for food and socializing. During this portion of the meeting, Mats Erixon, Mexfilm, gave a talk on current and future technologies in large-format presentations, including the world of Imax and Iwerks, focusing on what they achieved at the World's Fair in Seville, Spain. Erixon also gave a brief discussion of the current status of Sweden's large-format capabilities and of Scandinavia's major lab, Tektronix, and its 65/70mm post-production facilities. He also reported that a full-fledged Imax production is taking form. — Svante Larsson (Chairman), AB FilmTeknik.

**Pasadena City College, October 13, 1992** — The October meeting, the first of the new school year, began with an introduction to the Society and a review of its history by Faculty Advisor Gerald Finn. During the meeting Janna Nava was elected Student Chairman. Nava currently has two internships, one with KTLA-TV and the other with CNN. During her term as Student Chairman she plans to obtain scholarship funds to assist the chapter members who are able to attend the 1993 NAB Conference. — Gerald Finn (Faculty Advisor), Pasadena City College.



*Darryl Williams giving a demonstration during the Toronto Section's tour of The Rogers Communications Centre.*

**Rochester, September 8, 1992** — The finalists' screening of the 15th Annual Student Film and Video Festival, organized by SMPTE and the Rochester Audiovisual Association (RAVA), was held at Rochester Institute of Technology. After a reception for the students and SMPTE members, Vince Slavin of SMPTE and Dan Reardon of RAVA introduced the seven award-winning entries in the fields of fiction, nonfiction, and animation, to an audience of 56 people. Subjects ranging from comedy to serious social issues were creatively presented. The ready availability of complex titling and other special-effects facilities was apparent and well employed by a number of the students who entered the competition. — Alan J. Masson (Secretary/Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co.

**Rochester, September 22, 1992** — Steven Poster, A.S.C., described his career as a cinematographer, which has included shooting many features and commercials. With both a proven creative skill and a keen interest in new technologies, he has made extensive comparative tests of film and HDTV origination in collaboration with Panavision and NHK. He shared his thoughts on the differences between the "film look" and the "video look," the most significant being the picture refresh rate relative to the rate of transfer of visual information from the human eye to the brain. He then presented his conclusions about the most appropriate applications for each technology. — Alan J. Masson (Secretary/Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co.

**Sacramento, September 29, 1992** — The September meeting, a joint meeting of the SMPTE Sacramento Section and the Society of Broadcast Engineers, opened with welcoming remarks by Sacramento Section Chairman Peter Symes and San Francisco Section Chairman Gary Youngs, who discussed an upcoming joint meeting.

Michael Arbuthnot, Ampex Corp., then presented "DCT, Digital Component Technology." He detailed the engineering problems and solutions encountered in developing a new digital format videotape recorder. Mechanical engineering issues, head technology, data compression, tape handling and formulation, service and basic development were among the issues discussed. Test methods to determine the ruggedness of the compressed digital component signal were examined and a tape of a multigeneration test was played on a DCT videotape machine. The multigeneration signal was inverted and summed with



*Steven Poster (left) discussing cinematography with members of the SMPTE Rochester Section during the September meeting.*

the original. The result was a perfect gray screen, indicating little or no visible noise. A lively question-and-answer period, along with a hands-on demonstration, followed the formal presentation. An audience of 49 people attended the meeting, which was held at KVIE-TV studios.— Edward Hobson (Secretary/Treasurer), Grass Valley Group.

**San Francisco, September 18, 1992** — The San Francisco Section met on Pier 32 to board the *SS Morris* for its annual Bay cruise. This is the networking meeting of the year, which was quite successful. Thirty members and guests from several disciplines, including broadcast TV, motion-picture special effects, video teleproduction, and computer software, were in attendance. The cruise provided an opportunity for members to discuss their diverse fields and share the latest in their work. Much of the talk was about the economies of the respective industries, and there was plenty of time for nontechnical socializing. — Richard LeForge (Secretary/Treasurer), Consultant.

**Toronto, September 15, 1992** — The September meeting was held at The Rogers Communications Centre at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute. Jon Keeble, chairman of the School of Radio and TV Arts, gave an in-depth talk on developments in television production technologies and their impact on human judgment. The audience was taken through a series of historically significant videotaped news clips, to be made aware of how the advances in technology have changed the way we see news today. Keeble stated that the ability to transmit live feeds results in unprocessed information being sent to the public. He questioned whether the audience is being served by such technical advances, as images can be launched with one intent, but received with a different impact. He concluded his discussion with a look at future production technologies.

The second part of the evening was devoted to the technical installation of The Rogers Communications Centre, and its implication in both education and production. Darryl Williams, academic coordinator, School of Radio and TV Arts, stated that the facility was designed as an educational center, not as a production center. Features of the facility include microcomputer control of production equipment, a common interface to all audio and video equipment, and nonlinear audio and video media. A comprehensive tour of the communications center gave the audience a detailed look at its eight major areas. A wine and cheese reception, courtesy of Panasonic Broadcast and Television System, concluded the evening. — Diane Cappelletto (Secretary/Treasurer), Kodak Canada Inc.

# Engineering News

## Engineering Committees

SMPTE Engineering Committees meet to develop standards, practices, and engineering guidelines and to review existing documents to ensure that they are current with established engineering practices and are compatible with international standards. Membership is open to those who have affirmed in writing that they are directly and/or materially affected and are willing and able to participate actively in the work.

## Monthly Meeting Schedule

The calendar below shows the dates and times of upcoming Engineering Committee meetings and the cities where they will be held. Specific locations may not yet be determined.

Those requesting further information on participation in these meetings should contact the Engineering Department at SMPTE Headquarters, (914) 761-1100.

### December

1 Tues.	WG on Video Index P18.41	(W. Miller)	Hewlett Packard Palo Alto, Calif.
1 Tues.	WG on Editing Procedures P18.27	(O. Morgan)	Hewlett Packard Palo Alto, Calif.
1 Tues.	Committee on TV Production Technology P18	(M. Weiss)	Hewlett Packard Palo Alto, Calif.
2 Wed.	WG on ATP Studio Systems S17.02	(J. Kutzner)	Hewlett Packard Palo Alto, Calif.
2 Wed.	WG on Advanced TV Production S17.39	(F. Remley)	Hewlett Packard Palo Alto, Calif.
3 Thurs.	WG on Ancillary Data S17.10	(J. Safar)	Hewlett Packard Palo Alto, Calif.
3 Thurs.	WG on Monitor and Diagnostics S17.36	(R. Wilson)	Hewlett Packard Palo Alto, Calif.
3 Thurs.	WG on Serial HDTV Interfaces S17.13	(H. Gaggioni)	Hewlett Packard Palo Alto, Calif.
4 Fri.	Committee on TV Signal Technology S17	(W. Nicholls)	Hewlett Packard Palo Alto, Calif.
7 Mon.	WG on 1/2-in. Digital Format V16.05	(K. Sadashige)	Ampex Corp. Redwood City
7 Mon.	WG on DTTR Format Applications V16.03	(H. Mahler)	Ampex Cor. Redwood City
8 Tues.	Committee on TV Recording and Reproduction Technology V16	(T. Cavanagh)	Ampex Corp. Redwood City
9 Wed.	AHG on Audio Production A12.68	(M. Strong)	Disney Garden Burbank, Calif.