

Section Meetings

Florida/Caribbean, November 30, 1992 — “Barcelona — Engineering Overview of the 1992 Summer Olympics,” was presented by SMPTE Financial Vice-President Charles Jablonski, managing director, Engineering Olympics, NBC Sports.

Jablonski’s discussion on the massive logistics of the network’s Olympic operations was complemented by a slide presentation, which highlighted both the business and technical issues of the project. He showed the layouts of the control rooms, studios, and event venues. The operation went on 24 hours a day because of the time-zone difference between Spain and the U.S. More than 500 technical staff people participated in the Barcelona operation. The temporary site included the first large-scale serial digital component routing system.

One of the major unexpected problems the staff encountered was the lack of power. This was solved by a quick installation of local generators. Jablonski noted that the D-3 video recorders worked very well, with the exception of use for ENG, which requires smaller size and less weight.

After the presentation, the members and guests were given a tour of the Channel 2 facilities by John Demshock, the station’s chief engineer. The layout and engineering planning that went into this new facility supports flawless operation and is easy to change and maintain. — James V. Van Anda (Secretary/Treasurer), Digital Imaging Inc.

New England, November 19, 1992 — Over 80 people attended the November meeting, which took place at Target Productions and was held in conjunction with the Boston Chapter of the Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE). The meeting opened with a presentation by Tedd Jacoby and Steve Kreinik of Nova Systems. Kreinik discussed the modular video processing systems that incorporate the Novablox modular system concept. These systems offer powerful digital time base correction and synchronization for standalone videotape recorders, as well as plug-in peripherals for desktop video editing and graphics systems, in both NTSC composite and several component forms.

Phil Livingston, Panasonic Broadcast and Television Systems Co., then gave an extremely informative and well-illustrated presentation on the background development of the 1/2-in. digital D-3 video recording format and its evolving

digital component companion, which has been termed D-X or D-5.

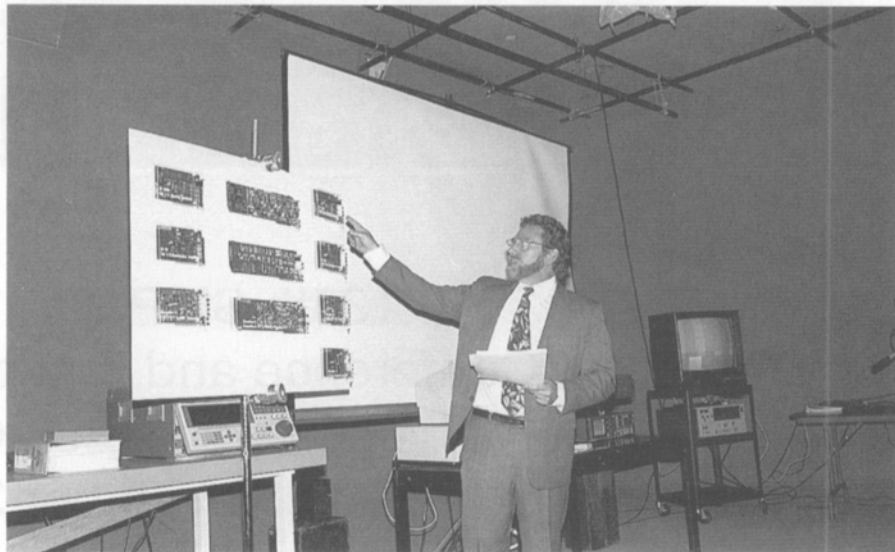
The third presentation was given by Bill Sturcke, also of Panasonic, who gave a tutorial and update on the all-digital signal-processing technologies for the company’s recent broadcast-grade CCD color cameras. The presentation was complemented by 35mm slides.

The evening concluded with the screening of some D-3 footage, provided by NBC-TV, which gave a behind-the-scenes look at the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona, where Panasonic’s D-3 VTR technology and digital signal-processing camera played a pro-active role. Lengthy question-and-

answer sessions followed each presentation. — Paul R. Beck (Secretary/Treasurer), Emerson College.

New England, December 16, 1992 — The New England Section was joined by the Boston Chapter of SBE for a meeting held at the studios of WSHH-TV. The topic of the evening was Network and Station Automation Systems.

Joe Centorino, Home Shopping Network (HSN), gave a complete analysis of the planning and design phases of creating a fully automated television station, based upon an Alamar automation system. He discussed the engineer’s role in determining the actual automation



Tedd Jacoby presenting examples of the Novablox family of digital signal processing during the New England Section’s November meeting.



Phil Livingston and Bill Sturcke, Panasonic, demonstrating D-3 digital video equipment during the New England Section’s November meeting.

needs; defined interdepartmental issues, such as traffic, production, and accounting/billing; and touched on several installation problems that should be avoided. He closed with some ideas and procedures that HSN has established to maintain its on-line systems.

The second phase of the meeting concentrated on many aspects related to configuring an automated broadcast system. C. Robert Paulson, AVP Communications, presented a brief outline and analysis, and then moderated a panel discussion. The panel included Centorino, Ray Baldock of Odetics, Frank Kovary of Alamar, Don Albanese of WEEI AM-590, and Karl Renwanz, WHDH-TV.

The entire meeting was captured with a single camera on a VHS tape. The tape is available to SMPTE members on loan or a no-cost dupe will be made if a T-120 videotape is provided. The New England Section has been attempting to videotape selected section meetings for documentation purposes, as well as to provide a service to those members who are unable to attend the meeting events. — Paul R. Beck (Secretary/Treasurer), Emerson College.

Pasadena City College, December 8, 1992 — Pasadena City College alumnus Tina L. Vennari, video production specialist for the City of Burbank, discussed the importance of education and provided insight into her latest project, which was a video encouraging and educating Burbank residents on recycling.

Vennari was the producer, writer, and director of the project. She explained that the endeavor started with meetings with executive producers to decide the mood of the piece. Once it was decided to take a light, entertaining angle, the writing aspect began. Much of Vennari's time was spent researching current recycling programs and expounding on three basic fundamentals: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

After the writing was completed and the script was approved, she began to work on the production schedule. A tight budget of \$10,000 for the entire project made Vennari's ingenuity and resourcefulness the most valuable assets in her arsenal. While the host of the show was a professional, many of the extras were family members and friends. In addition, she handheld the camera while being rolled down the street on a mover's dolly to get a smooth trucking shot without the expense of renting professional tracks. In all, the project came in a little under budget, yet it was professional and polished. — Janna Nava (Student Chairperson), Pasadena City College.

Russia, November 4, 1992 — Forty companies and organizations participated in TeleKinoTechnika '92, which took place in Sochi from November 1 to 7, 1992. The SMPTE Russian Section held a meeting during the conference, which was attended by 70 people. The meeting featured presentations by Juri Baryshnikov, NIKFI, who discussed digital development of broadcast signals; Michael Gordon,

NIKFI, who gave a presentation on workstations for digital development; and Sergey Panchenko, TV Sochi, who spoke about small-size synthesizers. The meeting was held at Sochi State TV and Radio Broadcasting Co. — Valery Ershov (Secretary/Treasurer), NIKFI.

San Francisco, December 10, 1992 — The December meeting, which was held at Ampex, featured a presentation on the company's DCT™ Digital Component Technology. Craig McCartney, marketing manager, new products/systems, was the keynote speaker. He described the need for and advantages of digital component signal handling in the post-production industry and explained the engineering details and solutions in developing a new digital-format video recorder. The unit's engineering involved head technology, data compression, tape handling, and the need for a new tape for these recorders. The processes for the testing of the digital component video and examples of multigeneration recordings were played on the DCT recorder. Proofs of the multigenerational recordings were displayed with a unique invert and sum test, which produced a gray screen resulting from the cancellation of the first generation and inverted last generation. William F. Carpenter, senior product specialist, gave a demonstration of the DCT technology, which was followed by a lengthy hands-on question-and-answer session. — Richard LeForge (Secretary/Treasurer), Consultant.

News

The SMPTE Chicago Section's All-Day Meeting will take place March 13, 1993, at Allstate Insurance Co. in Northbrook, Ill.

The meeting, which will focus on Advanced Transmission Systems, will cover such topics as Fiber-Optic Transmission, Digital Satellite Broadcasting, and Advanced Terrestrial Transmission. The event will be aired via a satellite across the U.S.; the transmission will be conducted by Cycle Sat, Inc., by way of Satcom K2 Transponder 4(V).

The program will begin at 8 a.m. (CST); lunch will be included with the admission fee. For more information, call the SMPTE Hotline at (708) 299-8080, ext. 422.

The National Computer Graphics Association (NCGA) will hold its 14th annual conference and exposition at the

Philadelphia Civic Center, April 26 to 29, 1993. The conference, entitled "Computer Graphics Solutions: Applications for Implementation," will focus on such applications as multimedia, graphics arts, design, visual communications, architecture, engineering, and construction. The technical program will begin on April 26, while the equipment exhibit will begin on April 27. For more information, contact NCGA, 2722 Merrilee Dr., Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22031.

The 18th International Television Symposium and Technical Exhibition will be held in Montreux, Switzerland, June 10 to 15, 1993. In addition, the sixth edition of the International Electronic Cinema Festival, a contest among cinema and television shows produced or post-produced in high-definition television, will run concurrently. The symposium

activities will include a Future Technology Day, devoted to the presentation of technologies "beyond the products" known today, and a series of four Weekend Forum programs of special interest to the management and creative communities on the strategies and economics of the new technologies, HDTV production for television and cinema, and multimedia television programming. Workshop sessions will also be offered. The technical program will cover innovations in digital technology, video compression, and automation for present television systems, enhanced television systems, and HDTV. An equipment exhibit will be open from June 11 to 15. For more information, contact Montreux International Television Symposium and Technical Exhibition, P.O. Box 97, Rue du Théâtre 5, Montreux 1820, Switzerland.