

# Section Meetings

**Atlanta, January 12, 1993** — The January meeting took place at CNN. The 36 members and guests, led by James McKechnie, were taken on a tour of the facility and were treated to a view of CNN Headline News. The group got an opportunity to see the different master controls, news rooms, edit bays, and the Sony Library Management Systems. Attendees also saw the DVR-20 LMS system and learned about its operation. — Mickey Kroll (Secretary/Treasurer), Video Tape Associates.

**Detroit, January 12, 1993** — The January meeting was held at the Sandy Corp. offices in Troy, Mich., and was attended by 30 members and guests. The topic of "Broadcasting HDTV" was discussed by John F. X. Browne, a telecommunications consultant at John F. X. Browne and Associates. His presentation focused on the proposed transmission standards only and not on the production standards. The FCC, through its appointed industry advisory committees, is now considering the standards for broadcast HDTV. According to Brown, several things are clear: broadcasts will be digital and confined to 6-MHz channel bandwidth, all transmissions will be UHF, and the FCC will not approve an augmented system. The FCC expects to select a standard early in 1993. Field tests will only be done on the selected standard. The fringe issue is yet to be resolved. Digital signals do not fade gracefully; it also appears that the peak power levels of the digital signal



*Presenters at the New England Section's January meeting (from left) Joyce Bokuniewicz, Paul St. Pierre, Martha MacPherson, Charles Jablonski, Ed Dextraze, Lorne Trotter, and Jacqueline Kandrach.*

will be about the same as the present peak power levels — Gene Wilczak (Secretary/Treasurer), WJBK-TV.

**Houston, January 20, 1993** — The topic of the evening was high-resolution FIT CCD cameras. Sony's latest EFP-studio camera, the BVP-90 was discussed by C. Jesse Harris. The camera's CCDs are new 1000H FIT HyperHAD sensors that attain 800 TV lines resolution with reduced aliasing effects. The HAD sensors provide

f8.0 light sensitivity, combined with the FIT structure, which virtually eliminates smear phenomenon.

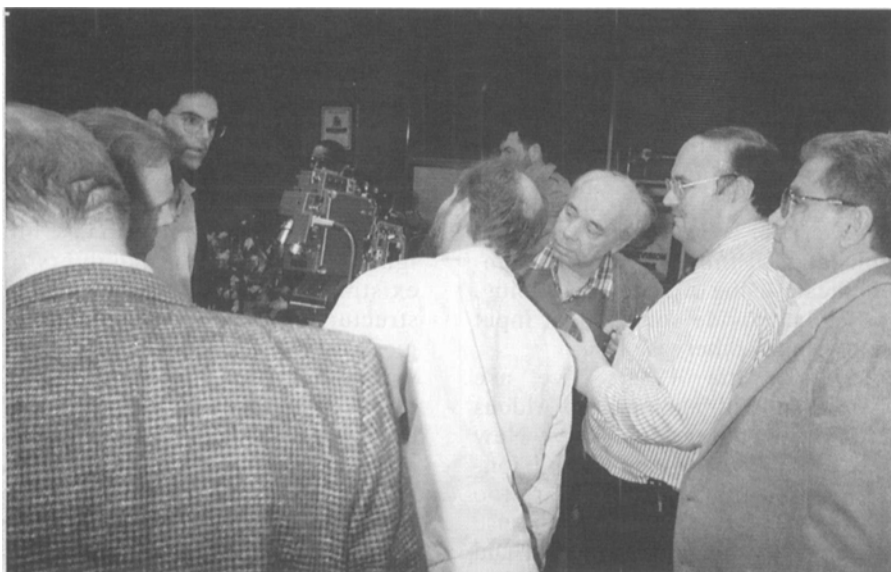
The camera is lightweight and has an even-balance design with switches and controls that are located in easy-to-reach positions, allowing operation without taking an eye away from the viewfinder. The low body design allows unobstructed vision to the right of the camera. The camera can operate on triax or multicore cable and is equipped with separate ND and CC filters and auto setup features.

Following the description and demonstration of the camera, a tour of the Pearlman Studios was conducted by Marty Kirkland, chief engineer and chairman of the Houston Section. — Robert Musburger (Secretary/Treasurer), University of Houston.

**Montreal, January 5, 1993** — The January meeting was held at Matrox. The 90 members and guests toured the technical and production facilities, as well visited the inside personnel facilities, which include a preschool, gymnasium, and swimming pool.

Spiro Plagakis, Matrox, then gave a full demonstration of the company's studio post-production capabilities. All the signals are manipulated via 4:2:2; the systems can accept three video signals, one graphic signal, and one digital audio signal, and use three DVE channels, mix and wipe effects, transitions, keyers, and more.

Denis LaPierre, Technologies Miranda



*Houston Section members and guests inspecting the Sony BVP-90 camera during the January meeting.*

Inc., gave a demonstration of the Toccato and Titania software, which was specially developed for the Matrox post-production facility. He explained how the software can support the post-production system and how it can be used in a 2-D picture in a tri-dimensional environment. — Jacques LaChappelle (Chairman), Centre de Montage Electronique.

**New England, January 13, 1993** — Over 75 members and guests braved a winter storm to attend the January meeting, which was held at Raytheon Corp. Past New York Section Chairman Ray Blumenthal opened the meeting with an overview of the topics to be covered during the all-day tutorial, "Digital Imaging for Film and Television," which will precede the 1993 SMPTE Advanced Television and Electronic Imaging Conference.

The main topic of the evening was "Desktop Video: The Saga Continues..." The first speaker was Lorne Trottier of Matrox. He was assisted by Jacqueline Kandrach of Crimson Technology in presenting a full-capabilities overview and demonstration of the Matrox studio digital-video post-production systems.

Paul St. Pierre and Joyce Bokuniewicz, Avid Technology, discussed and demonstrated the Avid Media Composer. They were followed by Charles Jablonski, NBC Sports, who gave a complete rundown of all the behind-the-scenes issues and events related to the Summer Olympics. Jablonski's presentation, which was accompanied by a slide show, provided thoughtful insight as to how he and his staff executed such a complex undertaking. The entire meeting is available on a T-160 VHS videocassette. — Paul Beck (Secretary/Treasurer), Emerson College.

**Pasadena City College, January 12, 1993** — Kimberly Crawford, director/associate director for Channel-5 KTLA "News at 10," began her presentation with a background on her education. She graduated from Skidmore College with a Political Science degree. In her junior year she did an internship at a radio station where she discovered she would not become a lawyer after all; the production bug had taken its bite. She became the production manager and was later promoted to general manager.

She later did an internship with the local CBS affiliate and found that television was a more creative field. She worked at that station as a production assistant and did research, wrote news, field produced, and assisted the producer. She later returned to radio as a reporter; it was at this point that she realized she was not going to pursue radio. She felt dissatisfied with the media in general and turned to the service field. A year and a half later,

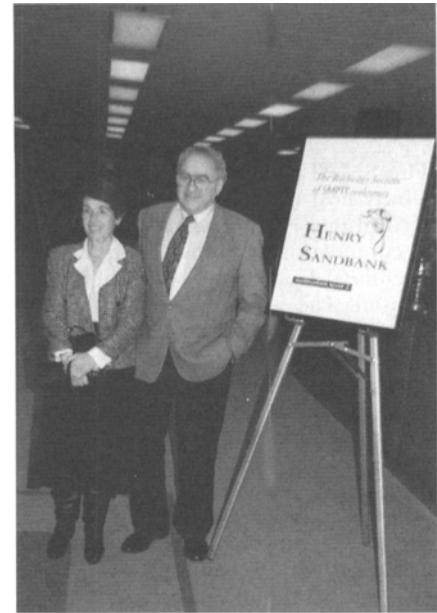
she moved to Los Angeles and quickly found a job at Prime Ticket as a production coordinator. She spent 1 1/2 years there and left to work as a freelance associate director.

Crawford elaborated on the advantages and disadvantages of freelancing. If you are good, then you get work, but if you are in demand, you will have to turn work away, which might alienate people. After six years of associate directing work in the sports field, she decided she wanted to direct. To accomplish this she felt she had to leave the sports market. She found work at KNBC as the coordinating producer on a documentary dealing with problems in the Los Angeles Unified School District. She won a Golden Mike award for this project. She emphasized, however, that ratings, not awards, gets sponsors for a show. Awards are items that reflect on the essence and issues being addressed.

She was next employed by Turner Broadcasting, where she worked on the Goodwill Games. The games were covered over 20 days at 4 hrs a day on weekdays and 7 hrs on weekends. Every minute of every show was carefully broken down and formatted.

She moved back to Los Angeles and attained her current position. While she likes the security of being on staff, she dislikes the rigidity of the structure of the program and would prefer more variety. She distributed a technical routine of the show, which is what the director uses during the live broadcast. It reflects all the news stories, anchor, and any special effects being used, i.e., chroma key, etc. At the close of the meeting, Crawford was presented with a certificate of appreciation by the student chairperson. — Janna Nava (Student Chairperson), Pasadena City College.

**Rochester, January 12, 1993** — The Rochester Section was entertained with a humorous presentation and demonstration by Henry Sandbank, one of the foremost directors of photography of commercials in the country. After an earlier career in professional photography, he has specialized in shooting spots for television, employing both film and video origination. Creative flexibility in this field has been enhanced in recent years by the availability of the high-speed negative film stocks, and more recently by nonlinear editing systems, which also allow much faster editing. Sandbank, however, regretted the passing of film dailies, which allowed the full quality of the image to be reviewed, compared with the limited quality of video dailies that are now the norm. The ready availability of paint-box techniques capable of correcting dirt and scratches on film transfers has led to lower standards of film handling. — Alan J.



*Henry Sandbank, pictured with his wife, was the guest speaker at the January meeting of the SMPTE Rochester Section.*

Masson (Secretary/Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co.

**Rocky Mountain, January 21, 1993** — Twenty-eight members and guests attended the January meeting, which was held at Tektronix, to view a professionally produced 35mm slide presentation and discussion on serial digital video. The presentation was supplemented by actual hardware demonstrations. The audience was impressed with the robust nature of the serial digital format and its marked advantages over parallel digital signal handling. — John Kelley (Manager), Tektronix, Inc.

**Washington, D.C., January 21, 1993** — In spite of a heavy downpour, twenty-nine members and guests attended the January meeting at GTE Space Net Corp. Marianne Voight, accounts manager, coordinated a panel discussion of GTE experts in which satellite operations, allocating time on eight satellites, was described. The system provides communication services to many users, including PBS, KMart, Mobile Oil, and Kentucky ETV.

Of primary interest to the group was a dissertation on satellite news-gathering activities supporting the ABC, CBS, NBC, and CNN networks, as well as a host of other SNG users. Of note, since 1985 GTE has serviced 80% of the marketplace with short burst feeds of 5-min segments.

The meeting concluded with a complete facilities tour, which was conducted by Ed Wright, Ron Hall, and Brian Park. — A. R. Pignoni (Public Relations Chairman), Panasonic Broadcast Systems.