

# Section Meetings

**Detroit, June 8, 1993** — Approximately 30 people attended the June meeting, which was held at the studios of WXYZ-TV. The subject for the event was to have been on the manufacture of large flat TV screens using the active matrix liquid crystal display. Unfortunately, the featured speaker was unable to attend due to a last-minute commitment. Three members of the Detroit Section volunteered to give short presentations: Harold Miller, Harold Miller Associates, spoke on the history of flat-screen displays; Mark Anzicek, Allied Film and Video, discussed video duplication including high-speed duplication; and Barry Schwab, Sabre Corp., talked about designing a faster high-speed video duplication machine. — Gene Wilczak (Secretary/Treasurer), WJBK-TV.

**Hollywood, June 16, 1993** — The Twentieth-Century Fox lot was the location for a session on the "Preservation of the Fox-Movietone Library by Digital Means," presented by Andrew Setos and Evans Wetmore. Over 200 people attended.

Setos and Wetmore discussed the real-time high-resolution film scanners Fox has built to preserve the newsreel library, consisting of approximately 50-million ft of 35mm film, most of which is on nitrate base. Within the presentation, a print of a 1937 newsreel was run in its entirety. Many of the special and unique features of the film scanners were discussed. Also, the project as a whole was discussed, including the reasons for digitizing as opposed to copying onto safety film.

The scanner digitizes each film frame in real time (24 frames/sec) into a 1000-line progressive raster. With 1019 pixels/line,

there are over 1 million pixels/film frame. Each pixel is linearly encoded using 10 bits. The digitized frames are stored on two ID-1 data recorders operating at 256 Mbits/sec. Simultaneously, the scanner converts the high-resolution raster into NTSC using line interpolators and a "2-3 electronic pulldown." The NTSC is recorded onto a Betacam SP cassette and three S-VHS cassettes. In this way, there are two ID-1 masters, a Betacam SP master, and three S-VHS copies generated at once in real time. A custom-built laser sound reader is used to read the sound tracks.

The formal presentation was followed by a lively question-and-answer session and a demonstration of the operating scanner. — Roy Brubaker (Secretary/Treasurer), Foto-Kem/Foto-Tronics.

**Houston, June 16, 1993** — I-Magic Studios served as host of the June Houston Section meeting. Katherine Diazmunoz presented a tutorial on computer graphics from the basics to the most complex. While explaining each step of the creative process, Jim Weldon of 4D Visual Graphics performed the functions discussed, which were visible on a projected video.

I-Magic Studios operates on three platforms: a Mac Quadra, an IBM 4086, and a Silicon Graphics Indigo. The major animation programs are Alias Power Animator, Topaz, and Electric Image. Each program/platform combination's advantages and uses was demonstrated.

Following the tutorial and demonstration, tours of the studio were led by Heidi DeRick and Sara Farr, animator-designers at the studio. — Robert Musburger (Secretary/Treasurer), University of Houston.

**Nashville, June 17, 1993** — Twenty people attended the June meeting, which was held at WKRN, Channel 2, in Nashville. Mike Provancha, The Grass Valley Group, opened with a discussion of current digital video formats, both composite and component, and outlined parallel and serial distribution systems. He detailed techniques for reliable serial digital video distribution employing both embedded and discreet AES/EBU digital audio. Jim Edwards, Tektronix, then discussed techniques and hardware for monitoring and detecting errors in serial digital video systems. Provancha concluded the presentation with a look at bandwidth requirements and timing techniques for serial digital systems and a glimpse of future ATV and HDTV systems. — Michael S. Arnold (Secretary/Treasurer), Scene Three, Inc.

**New England, March 17, 1993** — Over 150 people attended the March meeting, which was a joint session with the Boston Chapter of SBE. The event took place at WHDH-TV, Channel 7, in Boston.

Sony Corp. of America presented the topic of the evening, "New Video Technology." The speaker was SMPTE Secretary/Treasurer Peter Dare, who addressed new developments in video digital recording technology. Dare gave a detailed analysis of various technical issues facing the television and recording industries in dealing with the issues of bit-rate reduction in digital compression schemes, component and composite digital video recording systems, and the extensive new considerations with respect to wide-screen 16X9 format video images and the multiple generation effects that can result with too many stages of bit-rate reduction and decompression.



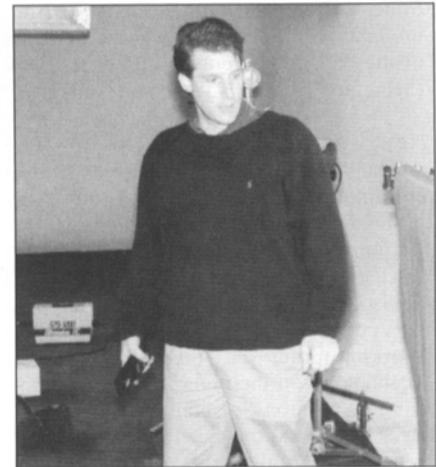
Katherine Diazmunoz, I-Magic Studios, delivering a tutorial at the Detroit Section's June meeting.



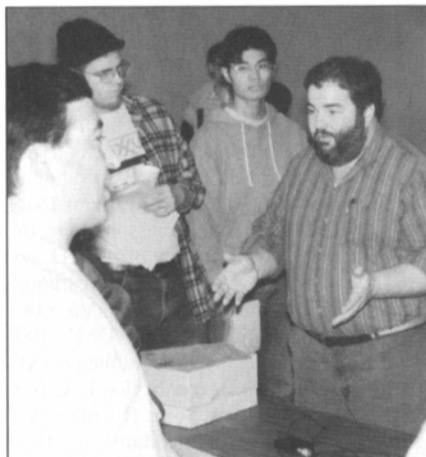
Hollywood Section Chairman Paul Carey (right) with guest speakers Andy Setos (left) and Evans Wetmore at the June meeting.



*The New England Section's March meeting featured Sony Corp. of America's digital technology. Pictured are Karl Renwanz, Edward Dextraze, Craig C. Taylor, Harry H. Morishita, and Peter Dare.*



*Peter Boynton, Rosco Laboratories, giving a presentation on lighting techniques at the New England Section's May meeting.*



*Mike Dileso addressing the New England Section at the May meeting.*



*Brian Heller and John Gates presenting the custom-made lighting tent for large glossy-surface photography, during the New England Section's May meeting.*

Dare introduced Harry H. Morishita, product manager for Betacam and U-matic professional video formats. Morishita gave a historical review of the development of the U-matic and Betacam formats, detailing the format improvements with each succeeding generation of products. He then unveiled, for the first time in the New England area, a working prototype of the new Sony Digital Betacam VTR, which is backwards-compatible with the ability to play all pre-existing Beta and Beta SP, plus the record/reproduce capability in a new "mild" 2-to-1 digital compression recording system. — Paul R. Beck (Secretary/Treasurer), Emerson College.

**New England, April 7, 1993** — The April meeting was held at WCVB-TV, in a joint session with the Boston Chapter of SBE, attended by 45 people.

Two presentations on HDTV transmitters and antennae were provided by Joseph A. Zuba, director of broadcast sales and marketing for Dielectric

Communications, and Mark Aitken, HDTV strategic planner for Comark.

The papers covered the technical considerations related to new transmission facilities that will be needed to implement the emerging low-power UHF HDTV augmentation channel and the complexities of co-location of combination VHF/UHF transmitters and transmission lines/antennae, as well as similar issues for UHF/UHF combination transmission plants.

A videotape of the entire meeting is available from the New England Section. — Paul R. Beck (Secretary/Treasurer), Emerson College.

**New England, May 1, 1993** — The May meeting, which was attended by over 100 people, was a special tutorial and hands-on demonstration of lighting and staging technology, held in conjunction with the IATSE Locals 481 and 644. The day-long exhibits and tutorial sessions were held at High Output Studios, in Brighton, Mass.

SMPTE Regional Governor John C.

Gates served as chairman and manager of the entire program, with special assistance from his colleagues at Gates Service Group. Michael Dileso, DSO, provided the rigging/gaffing expertise.

An informative session on lighting large glossy surfaces for film and video production was conducted by IATSE Director of Photography Brian Heller, who provided a custom-made light tent that was "flown" above a large automobile, and which was discussed and explained in detail.

James Hirsch, High Output, gave an in-depth analysis of the new lightweight and very flexible Dedolights from Dedotec USA.

Jim MacDonald, an official IATSE EMT/paramedic, gave an informative presentation on responsibilities and liabilities related to personal injury issues that can occur during a major film/video project. He offered valuable advice on steps to be taken in a life-threatening risk situation.

Gunther Hoos, advisor to the Fitchburg

State College SMPTE Student Section, brought over 20 students who participated in the day-long events. — Paul R. Beck (Secretary/Treasurer), Emerson College.

**New England, May 19, 1993** — The annual "Post NAB Wrap-Up" was held in conjunction with SBE, ITVA, and AES professional member participation.

Coordinator/planner for a lively panel discussion was SMPTE Fellow C. Robert Paulson, AVP Communication, who also served as chairman of the SMPTE Working Group on Digital Transmission Technology on the night of the panel discussion. Section Secretary/Treasurer Paul Beck filled in as the panel moderator.

Technical topics related to emerging technologies, new equipment releases, industry standards and HDTV/ATV system planning, and personal opinions were shared on a wide variety of topics. The panel consisted of Kirk Paulson, AVP Communications and Image Architecture; Ross Kauffman, WCVB-TV; Karl Renwanz, WHDH-TV; Martin Polon, Polon Research International; and Bob Turner, Turner Post-Production Services.

The entire 2-hour event was captured on audiocassette, and is available from the New England Section. — Paul R. Beck (Secretary/Treasurer), Emerson College.

**Pasadena City College, June 1, 1993** — Mark Broadwater, director of photography for Ambassador Productions, was the guest speaker. Broadwater, whose career began 15 years ago, stressed the importance of being a well-rounded individual. While it is vital to know the television business, it is just as important to be able to converse with producers and directors about subjects outside of production. In his career, he has been called on to travel extensively, and it has been essential for him to be able to get along with the location crews. Broadwater noted that to remain competitive, he takes UCLA extension courses.



*News Reporter Warren Wilson addressing the Pasadena City College Section's June meeting.*

On the technical side he explained how he looks for a shot and frames that shot similarly to a still photographer. — Janna Nava (Student Chairperson), Pasadena City College.

**Pasadena City College, June 8, 1993** — News Reporter Warren Wilson was the guest speaker at the last meeting of the 1992-1993 year. Wilson was recently the focus of media attention when several suspects wanted in connection with high-profile cases surrendered themselves to him.

Wilson began by sharing the career path that led him to his current position as a KTLA news reporter. He started in radio as an overnight producer and writer. Eighteen months later, he took his first television reporter position with the local NBC affiliate. This led to his current position at KTLA, which he has had since 1984. The stories he has covered range from the Watts riots in 1965 and the brush fires of the 1970s to presidential campaigns, famous court cases and, of course,

the riots in Los Angeles last year.

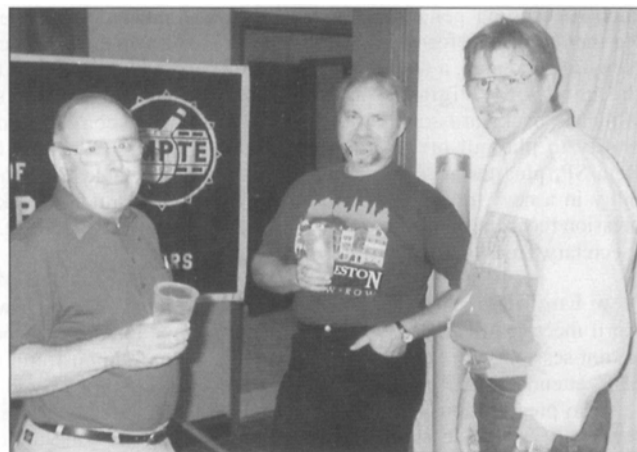
He then discussed his current perspective on television journalism and journalism in general. From the late 1970s to the 1980s, journalism headed in a different direction from where it had been in the days of Watergate. Journalists no longer probed or asked tough questions; rather they became complacent and accepted what the government had to say. As salaries exploded, journalists became a part of the social circles they were to supposed to report on.

Wilson stressed the power of television in influencing and shaping attitudes dealing with crime, racism, and discrimination. He does, however, see possibility for change in the future, if viewers write and voice their concerns over what kinds of stories get media coverage. Also, with the advent of new and strong competition, the viewer will have more options that will force journalists to return to the principles of strong and probing journalism. — Janna Nava (Student Chairperson), Pasadena City College.

**Rochester, June 8, 1993** — The final program of the 1992-1993 season was a visit to Post Edge Inc., a digital post-production facility recently opened by William Lang, Gary Knaak, and John Peterson. A record turnout of over 60 members of SMPTE and SBE were on hand to view demonstrations of Sony's Digital Betacam, DVS-6000 Component Digital Switcher, DME-3000 Digital Video Effects Unit, and the DMXE-3000 Digital Audio Mixer by Joe LoGrasso and Nick DiLello of Sony Business and Professional Group. Tom Mauro of Video Technology Resources demonstrated the Avid Media Composer with version 5.0 software. Members then enjoyed an open-air cookout organized by John Cerquone, Tom Mauro, and Will Rieckenberg, which was sponsored by Sony, Sony Tape, and Video Technology Resources. — Alan J. Masson (Secretary/Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co.



*The Rochester Section concluded the 1992-1993 year with a bar-becue, held on June 8, 1993.*



*Rochester Section members LeRoy DeMarsh, Dick Smith, and Paul Kanerva at the section's closing cookout.*