

Section Meetings

Chicago, August 9, 1994 — Twenty people came to the Museum of Broadcast Communications to listen to Joe Mattedy, Computer Related Technologies, give a presentation relating to the type of information required in modern broadcast and post-production facilities. He stressed that engineering managers need to keep accurate records of equipment assets, spare parts, costs of maintenance, staff labor costs, etc., and that use of a sophisticated computer database is essential to organize and analyze this data. Mattedy explained that new digital equipment will soon have diagnostic features to provide a direct link to the database for reporting such facts as head hours, tape tensions, power supply voltages, and firmware revision. — Steve Robinson (Secretary/Treasurer), Ampex Corp.

Detroit, May 10, 1994 — The May meeting was held at the Eastman Kodak Co. offices in Birmingham, Mich., and was attended by 32 members and guests. Colin Ritchie, Cineon System Sales (Eastman Kodak), explained how motion-picture film merges with the digital domain and how special effects are created while preserving the original fidelity of the film. He described how the original film is transferred to digital, manipulated at a digital workstation, and then transferred back to film without any compromise in image quality. The presentation was illustrated with samples of special effects used in several current motion-picture feature films. — Gene Wilczak (Secretary/Treasurer), WJBK-TV

Detroit, June 14, 1994 — Thirty-eight members and guests were on hand for the June meeting, held at Clover Communications, Novi, Mich. Tim Hardy, MI-TECH, gave a presentation featuring the latest technology involved in digitizing full-motion video and audio and storing it on a file server for distribution on demand over a local area data network to desktop units. The system used in the demonstration, the Starlite Network System using Starworks Digital Video Networking Software, is capable of handling 40 users simultaneously. — Gene Wilczak (Secretary/Treasurer), WJBK-TV

Houston, June 22, 1994 — The KHOU-TV transmitter was the site for the June meeting, which featured three speakers from Westinghouse Electric Corp. Tom Yuhas explained to the 20 attendees his company's desire to produce advanced, solid-state ATV transmitters. Paul DeGonia then described various solid-state transmitters that had been manufactured for high-reliability military or government service. Finally, Al Morse discussed the manufacturing of a silicon carbide transistor that Westinghouse believes will make the ATV solid-state transmitter economical to purchase and maintain. — Andy Anderson (Secretary/Treasurer), KUHT-TV

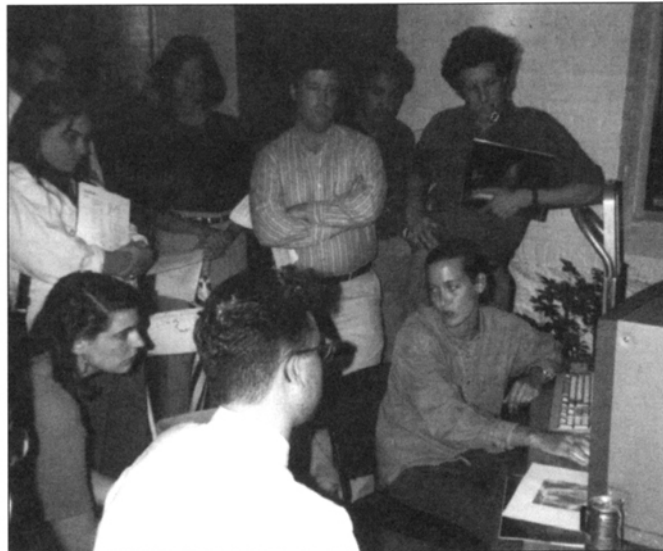
Houston, July 20, 1994 — The July meeting took place at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, where four speakers highlighted the "Progress in Nonlinear Video Editing" for the approximately 65 members and guests who attended. Eric Janzen, Data

Translation, stated that his company's Media 100 was positioned to become the "Pagemaker" of the nonlinear editing industry because it was composed of nonproprietary components that produced an exceptionally fine end product. He was followed by Chris Wilkerson and Charles Crolley, Fairview-AFX, who demonstrated the ImMIX platform while explaining that it was ImMIX's objective to "empower the video editor." Finally, Patrick Culp, AVID Corp., discussed his company's editing station; it is a nonproprietary unit that is unique in its JPEG compression card and editing software. — Andy Anderson (Secretary/Treasurer), KUHT-TV

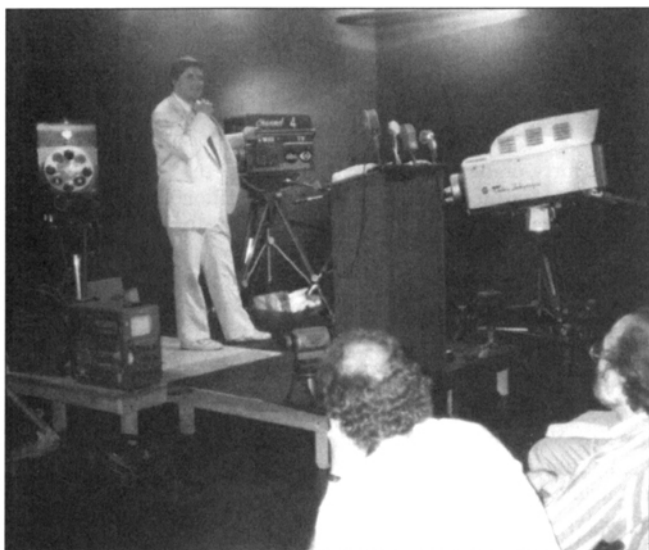
New England, April 21, 1994 — TASC, Inc., Reading, Mass., was the location for the April meeting, which featured an open panel discussion entitled "NAB, Review '94." The panelists were Ross Kauffman, WCVB-TV; Robert Lamm, Cync Corp.; C. Robert Paulson, AVP Communications; Martin Polon, Polon Research International; Karl Renwanz, Video Transfer; and Bob Turner, Turner Post-Production Services. The moderated discussion, which related to the new technologies and equipment that were presented at the NAB convention in Las Vegas, allowed ample time for audience questions and participation; the panelists also provided their personal observations and predictions. Among the topics covered were nonlinear editing, multimedia, HDTV, digital video recording formats, and graphics and animation systems. — Paul R. Beck (Secretary/Treasurer), Emerson College



Wilson Chao addresses a standing-room only crowd at the New England Section's meeting on May 25, 1994.



Cheryl Levine of Paintbox Commandos demonstrates graphics capabilities on a PC at the meeting in New England on May 25.



Paul Beck at the June meeting in New England, which featured a retrospective with antique and pioneer video cameras.



John Cerquone (L), Paul Kanerva (C), and Jerry Toms enjoyed the post-meeting cookout in Rochester in June.

New England, May 25, 1994 — “High-Quality Post-Production on the Personal Computer” was the subject for the meeting, held at Cambridge Television Productions, Newton, Mass. Wilson Chao, Cambridge Television Productions, began the meeting with his personal observation that nonlinear video editing was the hottest subject of interest within his company in recent years. He also expressed concern about the rapid changes in professional-level video and editing hardware; he explained that his firm’s current primary acquisition and on-line editing format may well be discarded for a newer format within a year. Chao concluded by saying that increasing industry-wide dependency on computer interconnectivity will prove to be risky in the long run, and may ultimately be counterproductive to the creative and business aspects of future computer-driven video post-production enterprises.

Several equipment displays were arranged within the facility; representatives from such companies as Hewlett-Packard, ECHOLabs, For•A Corp., Paintbox Commandos, and Truevision gave demonstrations on component on-line editing, nonlinear editing, and graphics and animation. — Paul R. Beck (Secretary/Treasurer), Emerson College

New England, June 16, 1994 — Active Communications, Waltham, Mass., was the site for the annual technical/social/barbecue event. Local ITVA, SBE, and AES members were invited to attend the meeting; over 60 members and guests were on hand for “Take Me Back to the Good Old Days,” a special retrospective that looked at equipment dating from the late 1940s and early 1950s. The first speaker, cinematographer David Quaid, shared some behind-the-scenes stories and provided unique insights into the creative

aspects of getting an entire picture or single shot sequence completed on time and on budget.

Lou Lessard, VideoExpress, guided the audience through the history of the first large-scale installation of NTSC color television systems at the Walter Reed Medical Center, Washington, D.C., in 1955, for which he was responsible. He was followed by Paul Beck, Emerson College, who provided a guided tour through a wide array of antique video cameras that have been partially restored.

Finally, the meeting concluded with a 20-min video presentation by Bob Peirce, A&B Consulting, featuring an old Benny Hill comedy program that displayed every possible film or television production error and gaffe that could occur in a studio or on location. — Paul R. Beck (Secretary/Treasurer), Emerson College

Rochester, June 14, 1994 — At the final meeting of the season, 43 members of both the SMPTE and the SBE made a return visit to the Studios at Linden Oaks (formerly Post Edge) to see the studio facility that had been completed since last year’s visit. Sony provided an equipment display and sponsored the cookout that took place after the meeting. In his final act as the Rochester Section Chairman, John Cerquone, Sony Business and Professional Group, served as chef. — Alan J. Masson (Secretary/Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co.

Russia, June 23, 1994 — A. I. Vinokur, NIKFI, discussed the theoretical principles, methods, and equipment for controlling the technology of color film production for the 45 members and guests who attended the June meeting, held at the Cinema Photo Research Institute.

A method has been proposed to solve the problem of gradation optimization in

multistage reproduction processes; studies were based on the duplication theory of color reproduction and used mathematical modeling of color film printing processes. A measuring/computing system was developed to respond to the proposal that an exposure parameter be introduced and that the nonlinear sections of the characteristic curves that make it possible to adjust the final picture contrast be considered.

This system, used to implement the control of film picture gradation, was complete with application software to solve current technological problems of film processing laboratories. — Natalia Alekseyeva (Secretary/Treasurer), NIKFI

Russia, July 1, 1994 — M. A. Grudzinsky, Television Research Institute, was the first speaker at the July meeting, held at the Russia Television Co. and attended by 70 members and guests. Grudzinsky’s focus was on the development of technical facilities for communication, television, and radio broadcasting.

Among the topics discussed was the upgrading of the quality of television programs when using component signals without any coding or decoding features in the mixing consoles, the expansion of imaging possibilities when using digital equipment for video effects, and the provision of a quality margin including the chroma band reserves for component VTR recording.

This was followed by a discussion conducted by K. Z. Koguashvili, Independent NTV Co., of that company’s proposals concerning the problem of coordinating the work of national television and radio companies with that of new commercial ones. — Natalia Alekseyeva (Secretary/Treasurer), NIKFI