

Section Meetings

Chicago July 12, 1995

Thirty-five people turned out for the July meeting, which featured three speakers. Charles Morganti, BTS, began by describing the history and evolutionary development of the Quattro CCD telecine. He explained that the key elements in achieving picture quality improvements include low FPN CCD chips, highly specialized prisms, and a high-resolution capstan transport. Next, Peter Glassberg, da Vinci, discussed his company's reasons for adopting the SGI Indy workstation as a platform for the new Artisan color corrector; essentially, the processing power, storage, display, and interface capabilities necessary for da Vinci's applications were more effectively available by using this existing workstation technology. Finally, Jeff Banke, BTS, briefly discussed the power of the Diamond digital switchers; he also mentioned that BTS has been in the switcher business for a long time in Europe and only just recently began distribution in the Americas. The meeting concluded with demonstrations of the entire telecine/color corrector arrangement and of the switcher in an editing system setup. — Steve Robinson (Secretary/Treasurer), Serial Scene

Hollywood June 13, 1995

The digital dilemma of image preservation was explored from several different viewpoints and experiences by five panelists at the June meeting, held at the Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum and attended by 190 members and guests. Milt Shefter, Miljoy Enterprises, moderated the meeting and introduced the problem of the archival community's wait for the "magic bullet" of digital solutions. Videotape preservation was addressed by Jim Lindner, Vidipax, and Ron Weiss, Advanced Storage Technology Co. Rick Utley, Kodak Pro-Tec Vaults, discussed the right and wrong methods of film preservation. Scott MacQueen, Walt Disney Co., related his company's experiences with digitized and conventional film restoration. The presentation was summarized by Michael Friend, Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Film Library, who used history's lessons to explore future directions in image preservation. — Milt Shefter (Chairman's Advisory Board), Miljoy Enterprises

Montreal/Quebec June 29, 1995

The June meeting took the form of the Section's Third Annual Golf Tournament,



Members of the Rochester Section enjoy a cookout following the July meeting.

held at the Golf Du Boise de Lachenaie-ouest enr. This event boasted an attendance of 70 people, and winners included Peter Garred, Sony of Canada, who was given a plaque courtesy of Normex. — Dany Harrison (Secretary/Treasurer), Television Quatre Saisons

Rochester July 20, 1995

Forty-eight people came to the July meeting, held at Mammoth Production Packages, Inc. That company's Gregg Goodhew and John Skripnik gave a tour of the production, lighting, and grip facilities and equipment center. On display were film and video-based camera systems plus related equipment available as part of Mammoth's production services. The meeting was followed by a cookout, sponsored by the SMPTE Rochester Section, Chapter 57 of SBE, and Sony, where the attendees were given an opportunity to relax, eat, and socialize. — Walter C. Snyder II (Secretary/Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co.

San Francisco July 20, 1995

Seventy-two members and guests gathered at KTVU's Studio A, Oakland, Calif., for the July meeting to hear speakers address three topics. First, Phil Livingston, Panasonic, introduced the DVCPRO to members who were unable to attend the NAB. He explained that his company brought to NAB what they envision as the all-digital video electronic news journalism system. The DVCPRO system compresses component digital signals by a factor of five to offer 63 minutes of recording in a very small 1/4-in. tape. Livingston demonstrated the DVCPRO ENG Camera/Recorder and Studio VTR. There was plenty of time for hands-on DVCPRO following the other speakers.

Next, Tony Ciesniewski, Fox Tape, and Chuck Phelan, National TeleConsultants, discussed the challenges of the design and construction of Fox's facilities for broad-

casting NFL football. Among these challenges is an extremely aggressive schedule, a norm for Fox. Engineering design issues for the NFL facility — which include the production stage and control room, post-production suites, and a doubling in size of the Fox Network Release facility — were discussed and slides of work in progress and the completed installation were shown. A lively question-and-answer period explored the learning curve for the surround-sound experience at Fox Sports.

Finally, John L. Goodell, Goodell & Associates, Sunnyvale, Calif., introduced his line-counting generator. This box, which outputs NTSC, PAL, or SMPTE 240M, is useful for checking a video path that includes frame-store synchronizers, standards converters, and/or digital compression. Each video line and field is identified with a binary code so that the engineer can check the integrity of interlace, field dominance, or descrambler/digital processor integrity. — Charles Hintz (Secretary/Treasurer), KTVU

San Francisco August 8, 1995

At the August meeting, attendees were able to get a look at the emerging efforts of two Bay-Area companies (Ampex and Hewlett-Packard) that are helping define some of the technical terms we will encounter in the near future, including "MPEG-2," "SCSI fast-and-wide," "audio/video file server," "on-line storage," "near on-line storage," "off-line storage," and "archive."

First, HP's Greg Lowitz presented a review of the evolutionary process that led to the HP Broadcast Video/Audio Server. Then he explained the server's multichannel applications, distributed networking, and near on-line storage. Video/audio file servers, with finite storage capacity, represent the present step in broadcast on-line technology.

Second, Ampex's Michael Wilke discussed the role that the DST products play in the area of image storage for film and television. Near on-line storage is more massive storage from which error-free data, in compressed or uncompressed form, can be transferred to the on-line server without the use of sneaker-net (an operator in tennis shoes).

As the meeting closed, the DST 410, the 1.1-Tbyte-capacity, automated DST drive, was demonstrated and the development of the interface drivers was reviewed. — Charles Hintz (Secretary/Treasurer), KTVU