

Section Meetings



From left, Tom Hindle, George McPherson, and Ray Baldock address the New York audience in February.

Chicago January 17, 1995

Some 30 people came to the Hotel Intercontinental to listen to Jerry Lewis, Grass Valley Group, discuss why his company chose the Indy platform by Silicon Graphics, Inc., for their Sabre Edit Controller. Specifically, he explained that the old technology used in the Super-Edit series of controllers could no longer support the features that customers were requesting. As a result, Grass Valley began to develop new proprietary hardware for their next-generation editing systems. But by the time the company began running its prototype, it realized that companies such as SGI had already developed the necessary computer system and could deliver it more quickly and less expensively. The Sabre 4100 editing system utilizes LAN technology to communicate machine control parameters from the computer; it also uses the computer to provide a comprehensive graphical user interface with live video. After the presentation, attendees were treated to a demonstration of the Sabre 4100 system. — Steve Robinson (Secretary/Treasurer), Serial Scene

Chicago February 21, 1995

Randy Strong, Silicon Graphics, began the February meeting by giving an overview of the SGI product line as well as the growth of his company. He was followed by colleague Gary Griffin, who explained SGI's Keystone Initiative. This project is an effort by its members to standardize their applications with regard to improved interoperability and file interchange. Griffin detailed such things as the way icons should look and respond, typing conventions, session management, software installation, and how on-line help

will comply with a set of common guidelines. — Steve Robinson (Secretary/Treasurer), Serial Scene

Napa Valley College February 21, 1995

About 30 people were in attendance to listen to former student Jim Redovian, Abekas, describe his job duties as a technical writer. He also elaborated on the basic skills that are necessary to be successful in getting a job and being productive in the technical field. This was followed by a video presentation about his company's main functions. — Shane Ingwersen (President)

New York February 6, 1995

About 95 members and guests attended the February meeting, held at Image Group Post/Image Group Studios. Tom Hindle, BTS; George McPherson, Hewlett-Packard Co.; and Ray Baldock, Odetics, reviewed

the architecture and applications of broadcast video servers. Among the topics discussed were the use of video servers as on-air playback, for commercial insertion, as editing systems, and for rendering animation. In addition, the all-disk video server was compared to the hybrid disk/tape video server in order to determine which solution is appropriate for different applications. — John Martin (Manager), MTI

Philadelphia February 14, 1995

The site for the February meeting was NFL Films, Mt. Laurel, N.J. About 35 members and guests were treated to two presentations, beginning with "Serial Testing in a Serial Plant," presented by Trevor Smith, Leitch, Inc. The tutorial reviewed various video formats and the processes used to develop component digital and composite signals and then progressed to the pros and cons of parallel and serial digital interfaces. The "cliff effect," a fairly abrupt failure that can occur in serial digital transmission, was explained and demonstrated.

Smith was followed by Jukka Hamalainen, Matsushita Applied Research Laboratory, Burlington, N.J., who gave an overview of his own company's research activities as well as those under development at Panasonic Advanced TV-Video Laboratories, Inc. After the briefing, bus transportation was provided to the nearby Burlington facility, where Hamalainen and other members of the staff explained and demonstrated developmental and product prototypes of various HDTV formats. The guided tour included demonstrations of motion-compensation algorithms for standards conversions and interpolating missing fields or frames for interlaced and progressive scanning systems. — Raymond Hallows (Program Coordinator), Film-to-Tape Transfers



Don Ver Ploeg (L), Glenn Kennel (C), and John Cerquone at the January meeting in Rochester.



Douglas Nishimura (R) makes a point to Tom Hope (L) and Rollie Zavada at Rochester's February meeting.

Rochester January 10, 1995

The January meeting was held at the Rochester Engineering Society's Conference Center; 21 people were in attendance. The first two of the three guest speakers presented the papers they had originally given at the 136th SMPTE Technical Conference and World Media Expo last October in Los Angeles. In "Eastman KeyCode Numbers and Transfer Verification Film," Don Ver Ploeg, consultant, reviewed a new test film from Kodak which helps calibrate automated film edgeprint reading equipment used in post-production of film and television programs. He was followed by Glenn Kennel, Eastman Kodak, who in his paper, "Digital Film Workstations and Evolution in the Video Compositing Suite," described a vision of the future of film and television post-production based on projected advances in digital image technology and experience gained from Kodak's digital intermediate film post-production products and services. John Cerquone, Sony Business and Professional Products, ended the presentation with a description of Sony's new digital camcorder technology, digital Betacam; a demonstration video showcased several of the production features of the new camcorder. — Walter C. Snyder II (Secretary/Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co.

Rochester February 7, 1995

Twenty-three people attended the February meeting, held at the Image Permanence Institute (IPI). The IPI, an independent research firm located in the Rochester Institute of Technology and funded significantly by the National Endowment for the Humanities and through contracts for testing services, is one of the world's leading institutions for research in long-term storage techniques for photograph materials.

Meeting attendees listened to four of the Institute's staff — Jim Reilly, Peter Adelstein, Douglas Nishimura, and Jean-Louis Bigourdan — as they gave a short presentation on their respective areas of research, which included a review of archival strategies, standards, and storage techniques. — Walter C. Snyder II (Secretary/Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co.

Rocky Mountain January 19, 1995

The January meeting, held jointly with the Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE) and the Society of Cable and Television Engineers (SCTE), was a day-long series of presentations on signal testing and measurements. Some 40 members and guests from the three groups attended. Mark Kloverstom, Hewlett-Packard, presented an overview of his company's offerings. Mike Ems, also from Hewlett-Packard, discussed the HP8591C spectrum analyzer for CATV and the integration of CALan products into the HP line. Their colleague Maryam Aghamirzadeh, spoke about the remote testing of fiber-optic networks, covering the savings in time that can be realized by use of remote testing capabilities during splicing and installation procedures and in quickly locating cut lines.

John Kelly, Tektronix, gave several presentations during the course of the day. In one he discussed the features of his company's portable 2715 CATV spectrum analyzer, and the RFM150 SignalScout battery-operated portable unit for field use. Later in the day, Kelly returned with a videotape presentation covering signal measurements of differential phase and gain and measurements for serial and parallel digital signals. Fran Paez, Tektronix, discussed the synchronous optical network (SONET) monitoring. The day concluded with a group discussion on the JPEG and MPEG compression schemes. — Kent Gratteau (Manager), KWGN-TV

Rocky Mountain/Utah Group January 19, 1995

The first Utah SMPTE meeting was held at the studios of KSL-TV in Salt Lake City and hosted by Talmage Ball of Bonneville International and KSL. Thirty-four members and guests were in attendance to hear Mrs. Elma G. Farnsworth, widow of Philo T. Farnsworth and author of her late husband's biography, *Distant Vision*.

At the age of 13, Philo Farnsworth conceived the basic principles that he later developed into the first functional electronic television system. He produced the first electronic television picture on September 7, 1927. He was granted over 120 patents on various items, including the image dissector tube and electronic scanning for cameras, television receive systems, saw-tooth scanning waveforms, synchronization systems, magnetic focusing, high-voltage generation from the horizontal scanning signal, and electron multipliers.

Mrs. Farnsworth lived and worked at her husband's side as a lab assistant, helping him keep his journals and drawing many diagrams from his sketches. She was present that night in 1927 when electronic television was first demonstrated, and was the inventor's closest aide and confidante throughout his career.

Mrs. Farnsworth brought an image dissector tube, a small receiver CRT tube, and her husband's Emmy Award for display at the meeting. She talked about their beginnings in television, some of the problems of raising money to do the research and development, and the problems of finding and developing technology, such as the special techniques needed to construct the image dissector tubes. It was interesting when she mentioned some problems for them that still exist today, such as long working hours with limited development budgets, short development schedules, and sudden changes in priorities. There was



From left, Talmage Ball, Marc Walker, Elma Farnsworth, and Leon Stanger at the Utah meeting in February.



Thirty-four people attended the first meeting of the Utah Group of the Rocky Mountain Section last January.

also the problem of filling 10 to 12-hour schedules of programming on their experimental television station. These problems seemed remarkably familiar to many people at the meeting. — Marc S. Walker (Utah Representative), BTS

**Sacramento
January 25, 1995**

About 35 members and guests came to the American Multimedia Group, Auburn, Calif., to hear Daniel Miessau, CKS Interactive, discuss the component of multimedia, production techniques, and distribution methods. A variety of interactive multimedia products that CKS Interactive has produced for its impressive list of clients was shown to the attendees. Graphics and Quicktime movies were creatively combined in several of the examples, and the interactive capabilities were also demonstrated. — Keith Y. Reynolds (Secretary/Treasurer) Grass Valley Group

**Sacramento
February 22, 1995**

Craig Clator, Pacific Satellite Connection (PACSAT), hosted a tour of his company's

facilities located across the street from the California Capitol. PACSAT is a location feed service company that operates five mobile KU uplink trucks in the western U.S. and has recently entered the video post-production business with their all-component digital suite. Clator discussed the utilization of all-digital post-production and applications in distribution via satellite to the 12 SMPTE members who were in attendance. — Keith Y. Reynolds (Secretary/Treasurer) Grass Valley Group

**Washington, D.C.
January 21, 1995**

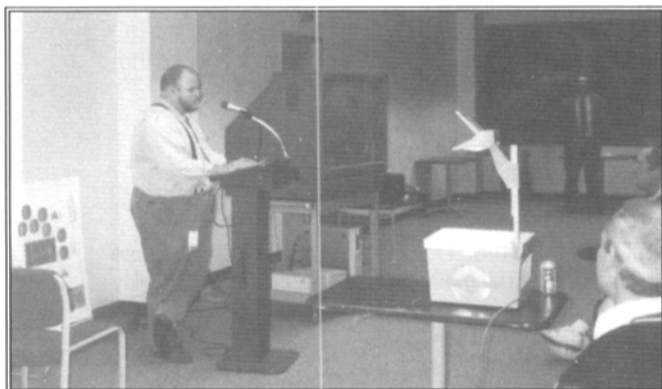
The January meeting was held at the Bell Atlantic Video Services (BVS) headquarters, Reston, Va.; among the 150 attendees were Bell Atlantic employees and vendor representatives. The guest speakers for the evening were Bell's A. Cody Claxton, Larry Plum, Rich Schmeltz, Mike Lasky, Stan Botts, and Diane Roggow. After a brief description of the structure and mission of BVS, they presented "Stargazer, Video Dial Tone," which described interactive video-on-demand. The demonstration included dialing into the delivery sys-

tem with a common telephone and requesting a movie via the keypad from a video screen full of icons. The speakers explained that MPEG-1 and MPEG-2 at 1.5 Mbits are the compression schemes used for their Asymmetrical Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) delivery system. A tour of the facilities concluded the meeting. — Frank Brewary (Manager), broadcast consultant

**Washington, D.C.
February 9, 1995**

The February meeting, held at the National Security Agency, began with a tour of the National Cryptological Museum, where attendees were able to view an amazing array of tradecraft from Civil War Coding to Enigma machines. This was followed by "High-Definition Picture Analysis and Data Archiving," presented by Adam Schadle and Blake Homan, Viewgraphics, Inc.

Methodologies for HDTV picture analysis were explained and illustrated via the Viewgraphics Viewstore 6000 Image Media Manager in combination with a Dataview Serial Digital Adapter (SDA) and D-1 VTR. In efforts to optimize imaging research, the Viewstore 6000 is preprogrammed in every video format necessary from NTSC and PAL to the newest Grand Alliance resolution scheme. The Dataview SDA, acting as both a high-speed data and video storage/retrieval interface, enables high throughput speed and capacity to achieve and access computer data bit streams stored on 4:2:2 digital videotape. Powerful imaging system platforms are being utilized to visualize and compare, pixel by pixel, moving picture schemes with various methods of applied compression algorithms and bit rate variables. Image data passes through these systems, inputting to high-capacity DRAM memory, scalable from 128 Mbytes to 6 Gbytes, storing up to a full minute of high-definition video, which is then matched with the ultra high-speed retrieval process. — Carole Ann Chambers (Program Chair), Advanced Television Test Center



Mike Lasky addresses the Washington audience in January.



One of the speakers at January meeting in Washington was Cody Claxton.