

Section Meetings



Hollywood Section Chair Roy Brubaker, far left, with the speakers at the September meeting: (left to right) Peter Lee, Michael D'Amore, Kevin Dauphinee, Lance Kelson, and Greg Lowitz.

Detroit **October 10, 1995**

Twenty-three members and guests gathered at the studios of WDIV-TV in downtown Detroit and listened to a presentation on compression technology given by Richard Strauss, Communication Concepts. As a technology specialist with Sony Corp., Strauss gained a great deal of knowledge and understanding of the various techniques used to compress data; in association with Cycle-Sat, he has developed a number of programs to provide an informal education on compression, SMPTE RP 259, and MPEG 2. Among the topics that were covered during the evening were lossy and nonlossy coding, entropy and how it is used to choose the coding algorithm for a given task, and Huffman and run-length coding. Among the lossy coding techniques mentioned were those used in time-domain and frequency-domain coding; examples of the latter included the discrete cosine transform, fast Fourier transform, discrete Fourier transform, and LaPlace transform coding. The discussions on Huffman and run-length coding noted how each utilizes the redundancy inherent in nonrandom data in order to compress it. Finally, Strauss spent some time explaining how JPEG works as well as some of its strengths and shortcomings. — James Totten (Chair), WKBD-TV

Hollywood **September 12, 1995**

The September meeting, held at the Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum, was attended by approximately 135 members and guests. The topic, "Video Servers Today — Who, What, and When," was presented by Lance Kelson, Accom; Michael D'Amore, BTS; Greg Lowitz, Hewlett-Packard; Peter Lee, IBM; and Kevin Dauphinee, Tektronix. Each gave short presentations of his company's available products, philosophies regarding server development, and upcoming technologies. They then discussed networking with Tektronix and Hewlett-Packard, indicating that the new fiber channel topology would carry their channels. All representatives except for Lee listed several installations where production or Beta hardware was in service. A lively question-and-answer period concluded the meeting. — Robert Kisor (Past Chair), Paramount Pictures

Toronto **September 19, 1995**

The September meeting was held in conjunction with the CCBE Convention and Expo, which was held at the Skyway Trade Center. The first topic of the evening was new satellite receiving facilities, presented by Eugene Kwong, Comlink Systems, Inc. Kwong, who had reviewed the work asso-

SMPTE SECTION MEETINGS

Atlanta

For further information contact Secretary/Treasurer Kathy Wood, Grass Valley/Tektronix: (770) 493-1255.

- Tuesday, January 8, 1996: "Update on Digital Imaging"

New England

For further information contact Secretary/Treasurer Paul Beck, Emerson College, (617) 578-8800

- Wednesday, January 17, 1996: "The New Digital Tape Formats"
- Wednesday, February 21, 1996: "Nonlinear Showcase"
- Wednesday, March 20, 1996: "PEGs! MPEG, JPEG, and Other Compression Technologies"
- Wednesday, April 17, 1996: "What's Up at NAB?"
- May (date to follow): "Film Processing and X-Fer"

Toronto

For further information contact Stephen Pumple, IMMAD: (905) 470-2545, ext. 225, fax: (905) 470-2559.

- Tuesday, January 9, 1996: annual meeting distributed via satellite from Global Centre
- Tuesday, February 13, 1996: topic to follow
- Tuesday, March 5, 1996: "Direct-to-Home Technology (DTH)"
- Tuesday, April 9, 1996: topic to follow
- Tuesday, May 14, 1996: Annual NAB Wrap-Up
- Tuesday, June 11, 1996: Topic to follow. Last meeting for the year.

To publicize your Section events, please send announcements to SMPTE Headquarters, 595 W. Hartsdale Ave., White Plains, NY 10607, tel: (914) 761-1100, fax: (914) 761-3115. Information must be received by the 15th of the second month preceding issue date (e.g., November 15th for January issue).

ciated with the installation of TVRO facilities at CKVR, explained that there was no shortage of challenges encountered in managing the project. Among these challenges were power company regulations, unwelcome precipitation, and local terrestrial interference.

He was followed by Bill Coutts, Broadcast Automation Systems, who provided a technical discussion of the many factors that influenced the development of the user interface for the control of satellite receivers. His talk included comments on some of the problems encountered as the

software was being written and how these problems were solved.

Michael Martin, Comlink Systems, presented a view of the paths that a television signal will travel through on its journey from the source to the final destination (from the studio to the home viewer): satellite, microwave, wireless video, traditional over-the-air VHF and UHF transmission, fiber optics, and coaxial cables. Technologies reviewed included digital component serial, MPEG 2, both DAB and DAVIC compliant, ATM, and DS-3. Martin concluded with a list of obstacles for the

future, including standardization issues, the need for open architecture, the CATV distribution topology migration from "star" to "circle," and the costs associated with such changes. — Stephen Pumple (Promotions Advisor), IMMAD Broadcast Services

Toronto October 17, 1995

The Eaton Theater, Rogers Communications Center at Ryerson Polytechnic was the site for "The Emerging Role of the World Wide Web in Broadcasting," which boasted an attendance of about 100 people. Charles Poynton started the meeting with an introduction to the World Wide Web (WWW). He included a "nuts and bolts" introduction to the Internet, which he characterized as a "network of networks." He focused on a number of specific features that made the Internet accessible, such as the open systems architecture and publication/access to standards, the improvements due to the introduction of routers that connect the networks, and the access service made available through providers. After explaining how one obtains an Internet address, the three layers of software involved, the management of the Internet, and standard names related to specific areas, Poynton concluded with a demonstration on his own home page.

The second portion of the meeting focused on broadcaster's sites on the WWW. Several local broadcasters provided an introduction to their philosophy and application of the technology, and followed with an on-line demonstration. The presenters included Josh Raphaelson, City Interactive; Patrick McCann and Marlyn Persaud, Canadian Broadcasting Corp.; and Richard Rotman, ShowCase. The demonstrations were followed by a lively question-and-answer period, with discussions on access slowness (mainly due to the graphics files which must be downloaded) and censorship of on-line broadcasts. — Stephen Pumple (Promotions Advisor), IMMAD Broadcast Services

Obituaries

Scott Hubbard has passed away at the age of 58. When he joined the SMPTE in 1968, he had just joined the United States Parks Service as the chief of audiovisual engineering; at the time of his death, he was the chief of audio production. He had also held positions with Rodel Audio Services and Electronic Wholesalers, Inc.

Mark D. Levine died at the age of 53. An SMPTE member since 1984, Levine was the general manager at Hollywood Film Co. at the time of his death.

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