Section Meetings

Detroit
September 10, 1996

The September meeting was held jointly with the Audio Engineering Society Detroit Section, at the studios of WKBD-TV in Southfield, Mich. Forty-three members and guests were in attendance. Jim Hilson of Dolby Laboratories started by giving an overview of his company and a history of Dolby processing, including noise-reduction and surround applications. He went on to explain the development of Dolby Surround for the home market and Dolby Pro Logic for theatrical use; he also outlined some of the new uses for Surround, including car audio, video games, and computer sound.

Of particular interest to the broadcasters among the audience was the discussion of surround techniques for television sound, including the importance of having a good surround monitoring setup at the audio control point and placement of speakers at the monitoring location. With the advent of DVD, which will bring high-quality sound directly to the home, and the proliferation of surround-encoded programming (both network and syndicated), broadcasters must be aware of the marketplace and take steps to assure that they are delivering the best audio that they can. The program concluded with a question-and-answer session. — Frank Maynard (Secretary/Treasurer), WKBD-TV

Florida/Caribbean
September 17 (Orlando)
September 19 (Fort Lauderdale)

The September meeting was held twice, once in central and once in south Florida. The topic was DV 6mm technology and featured four speakers. John Copenhaver, Tektronix, gave an overview of how a consortium of leading companies came together in 1993 to set a common standard for the digital replacement for the highly successful 1/2-in. VHS consumer format. Don Lenihan, Philips, began by discussing the difference between consumer DV and his company's professional 6mm DV, DVCPRO. Larry Van Camp, Panasonic, explained Panasonic's DVCPRO and included a vision of future products planned for the professional DV technology.

Duane Solem, Sony, discussed the difference between consumer DV and the Sony professional 6mm DV, DVCCAM. Solem explored how energy-hungry the 6mm format is and how these professional formats are the first true hybrid systems that will help make the transition to the all-digital motion picture environment at work and at home. Questions were fielded from the audience during and at the end of the presentation. — Al LeBoeuf (Chair), Lockheed Martin

Hollywood
September 18, 1996

The Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum in Los Angeles was the site for the September meeting, attended by some 200 members and guests. The evening's topic, multistandard digital videotape recorders, was presented by Luke Freeman, Sony, and Doug Korte, Ampex. They discussed the technology and demonstrated their companies' systems, recording 625/50 from the telecine and then playing back the 625/50 tape at 625/48 to create a perfect 525/60 telecine master. After the presentation, the audience was given the opportunity to closely examine each of the systems. — Alan A. Hart (Chair), Modern VideoFilm

Nashville
September 19, 1996

The September meeting was held at Trinity Music City, a virtual reality theater. The 18 people who attended saw a video that explained the development of the facility. The audience was then led into the High-Definition Theater, where a program entitled "The Revolutionary," shot on location in Israel using film-style techniques to demonstrate the merging of the video and film worlds for both production and presentation, was shown. The meeting concluded with a tour of the facility. — Tom Hoffmann (Secretary/Treasurer), MPL Film & Video

SECTION CALENDAR

Toronto

For further information contact Promotions Adviser Brad Fortner, Rogers Communications Centre, Ryerson Polytechnic University, Tel: (416) 237-0625, Fax: (416) 979-5203, e-mail: bfortner@acs.ryerson.ca

Dates for future meetings:

- December 10, 1996
- January 14, 1997
- February 11, 1997
- March 11, 1997

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) 761-1100, e-mail edit@smpte.org. Information must be received by the 15th of the second month preceding issue date (e.g., January 15th for March issue).

New York
September 25, 1996

More than 120 members and guests attended the September meeting, which was held at ABC and looked at "The New Digital Tape Formats." Jerry Cohen, JVC, discussed his company's Digital S format in great detail, stressing that it is a 4:2:2 format. Steve Mahrer, Panasonic, talked about his company's DVCPRO and its compatibility to all DV systems. Nick DiLello, Sony, presented his company's higher-priced Beta SX system, a hybrid system that is compatible with Beta and SP and provides a viable transition to digital. All three of these systems use compression schemes. The meeting concluded with a

From left to right, Nick DiLello, Warren Singer, Jerry Cohen, Steve Mahrer, and Bill Birdsall at the September meeting in New York.

brief panel discussion and an equipment demonstration. — Warren Singer (Manager), Video Technology Resources.

Pasadena City College September 10, 1996

The first September meeting, attended by 20 students, featured faculty adviser Gerald Finn, who explained the benefits of SMPTE membership and the importance of starting the affiliation as a student. Also discussed was the upcoming Hollywood Section meeting and fall conference. The final order of business was the election for student chairperson; Candace Brown will serve in that capacity for the school year. — Gerald Finn (Faculty Adviser), Pasadena City College

Pasadena City College September 24, 1996

Former Pasadena City College student Gregg Katano, Novocom, Inc., addressed the 45-member audience at the second September meeting. He chronicled his career from his early days of working long hours in an entry-level position to his current position as director of operations at Novocom, a post-production facility based in Playa Vista, Calif. Katano expressed the importance of learning as much as possible, especially in such a fast-paced business. He also suggested forming good habits early on, such as promptness. Respect for everyone in the workplace was also stressed.

During the meeting, Katano announced that his company donated a Sony BVH-2500, 1-in. C-format videotape recorder with digital time base corrector and all monitoring equipment to the school. The meeting ended with the showing of Novocom's award-winning demo reel and the presentation of a certificate of appreciation to the speaker. — Candace Brown, Student Chair

Toronto September 10, 1996

The Toronto Section kicked off its 1996-97 meeting program at the CBC Broadcast Centre with a program entitled "The Centennial Olympic Games: A Canadian Perspective." Over 100 members gathered to hear the role Canadians played in delivering the 1996 Atlanta Summer Games. Doug Sellars, CBC Olympic Programming, opened the presentation with an insight from the production side of Olympic coverage. The CBC provided 245 hr of coverage and used ten edit suites — eight three-machine suites, one super suite, one four-machine suite, an off-line editing area, and a 20-VTR record area. Two control rooms were used: the first was a traditional CBC control room with a 24-input switcher, a two-channel DVE, and a two-channel Chyron; the second control room was made up from one of their mobiles. The CBC used fiber-optic services to deliver signals back to Toronto on the VYVX network. A T1 data line was secured by the CBC, allowing the staff to be on-line with production software located in the Broadcast Centre.

From left to right, Washington, D.C., Section Manager Ron Peters; Section Chair Bruce Miller; and speaker Gene Donaldson at the September meeting.

Peter Laidlaw, Imagineering Ltd., explained that his company's role in the Olympic broadcast was to provide the engineering and implementation force for the broadcast systems in the International Broadcast Centre. His colleague Jim Morrison outlined the numerous facilities that Imagineering was responsible for; Morrison gave an overview of the installation challenges and the design changes that were ongoing during the games. Jack Sinclair concluded Imagineering's presentation with a video he and Tome Sinyi shot of the International Broadcast Centre.

Applied Electronics was responsible for the supply of production and packaging facilities for Australia's Network 7 and Pay TV Channel, as well as the Tokyo Broadcasting System and YLE Finland. That company's Gord Ballantyne discussed the scale of these installations: Finland's installation included 18 D-3 VTRs, while Australia's included 54 D-3 VTRs. Like the CBC, multiple control rooms, edit suites, and backup facilities were constructed.

A presentation by Matthew Brown, IMMAD Broadcast Systems, concluded the evening. IMMAD was contracted to install the facilities and manage the equipment that was designed by Imagineering. Thirty-five people were employed in Markham to prebuild the racks. It took 11 53-ft transport trucks to transport the equipment to Atlanta, and IMMAD connected 31,000 BNC cables and installed 166 mi of cable used in the center. IMMAD was also selected to install Panasonic's facilities at the Georgia Dome and Olympic Stadium. Over 300 VIDCAD drawings were produced by IMMAD during the planning and installation of facilities. The equipment used in these facilities was typical of many broadcast installations and as such the installation was primarily a standard analog build. — Brad Fortner (Promotions Adviser), Rogers Communications Centre, Ryerson Polytechnic University; and Howard Wilkinson (Membership Chair), CBC Engineering

Washington, D.C. September 12, 1996

Thirteen members met at the Montgomery County Transportation Management Center, Rockville, Md., for a tour of the recently upgraded facility and a demonstration of the county's new advanced transportation management system (ATMS). Gene S. Donaldson, chief of the Transportation Systems Management Section, described the ATMS, an integrated traffic/transit management system featuring a multicamera video traffic surveillance system, an airborne stabilized camera with visual and infrared capability plus tracking microwave link, a computerized traffic signal control system, a real-time geographic information system showing detected traffic flow and signal operation, a travelers' advisory system, live transportation information feeds to County Cable TV Channel 55, direct video feeds to local TV stations, an automatic vehicle location system using GPS, and an Internet Web site (http://www.dot.co.montgomery.md.us) containing images from the video cameras updated every few minutes and other information. Donaldson also described future enhancements to the system, including automatic traffic signal control based on vehicle tracking to speed mass transit. — Ron Peters (Manager), WUSA-TV