

Section Meetings

Chicago January 16, 1996

The January meeting, held in conjunction with the Chicago chapter of the Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE), featured two speakers: Joseph T. Sobeck, electrical/mechanical engineering consultant, and Ernest E. Werle, Power Quality International. Nearly 100 people were in attendance as they discussed problems that have developed recently as a result of increased electronic loads and their devastating effects. Sobeck presented the various types of adverse power conditions now common at broadcast and production facilities. He described sags, swells, brownouts, and blackouts, as well as some of the solutions to these conditions, ranging from UPS systems to back-up generators.

Werle gave a detailed technical discussion of nonlinear loads common to computer equipment using switching power supplies. He then described the negative effects of harmonics, hot neutrals, and overheating transformers. As an example, he used a case study that involved a product from his company. The meeting concluded with a question-and-answer period. — Steve Robinson (Secretary/Treasurer), Serial Scene

Detroit January 9, 1996

The January meeting, held at Sandy Corp., Troy, Mich., featured Joseph Perecman, Sony Electronics, as guest speaker. His presentation, entitled "MPEG-2 4:2:2 Profile — The Underlying Technology," began with an overview of various sampling and subsampling schemes, including 4:2:2, 4:2:0, 4:1:1, and 3:1:1; reasons for subsampling and the direct and indirect effects were also discussed. This was followed by a historical treatment highlighting motion JPEG, DVC and Digital Betacam, and interframe compression schemes including MPEG-1, MPEG-2 Main Profile at Main Level (MP@ML), and the new MPEG-2 4:2:2 Profile. The need to understand and be aware of the effects of concatenation and multigenerational degradation when processing the digital signals through a CODEX was stressed. The conclusion reached was that compression technology has reached a high level of technical maturity, but there is no one best compression tool for all applications. Following the presentation, Perecman gave examples of the compression schemes discussed, with standard images being shown to help compare artifacts

between various technologies. A question-and-answer period followed. — Harold L. Miller (Secretary/Treasurer), Harold Miller Associates

New York January 17, 1996

The Kodak Digital Imaging Center on Park Ave., New York City, was host to 85 members and guests who came to hear answers to the question "Film Cleaning — What Do We Do Now?" Since the preferred film cleaning solvent, 1,1,1-Trichloroethane, may no longer be legally manufactured, many operators are faced with difficult decisions regarding alternative methods. Edward Kurz, Eastman Kodak Co., led with a discussion of the development of film cleaning processes, particularly with organic solvents, as well as alternative technologies including particle transfer rollers and aqueous cleaning. Jonathan Banks, RTI/Lipsner-Smith, described his company's research into alternative ideas and how differing technologies may be used for specific cleaning tasks. He also discussed the compatibility of new liquids with existing Lipsner cleaners.

Mike Michelson, Technical Film Systems, described his company's distilled water film cleaning machines. The design exposes the film to water for only a fraction of a second, thus avoiding thorough wetting of the emulsion. The equipment has many automatic operational and safety features. The machines have been in use in the major Hollywood film laboratories with excellent results. Donald J. Wanamaker, Environmental Management, Ltd., presented an overview of Federal EPA regulations and how each of many proposed methods of film cleaning conform with these and with OSHA's regulations. Further complicating the issues are the many state environmental regulations with which operators must become familiar.

The speakers then participated in a panel discussion, moderated by Section Manager Ed Schuller, Entertainment Video Systems, where they discussed issues such as relative cost, health hazards, reclamation, atmospheric pollution potential, film damage, and new equipment designs for man-made solvents and the universal solvent — water. The discussions answered many questions but raised many others because there does not seem to be one best process suitable for all operations. — Ed Schuller (Manager), Entertainment Video Systems

Rochester January 9, 1996

Twenty-three people turned out to hear Mike Duckworth, Leitch, present a mini-course on digital television at the January meeting. Duckworth reviewed the major characteristics of various analog and digital television formats and the issues involved in format conversions. He described many of the factors contributing to the growth of component digital formats in today's television marketplace and discussed solutions to many of the video format interchange problems that currently exist in video plants. — Walter C. Snyder II (Acting Chair, Secretary/Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co.

SMPTE SECTION CALENDAR

Hollywood

For further information contact Secretary/Treasurer Gail Ringer, Ringer Video Services, (818) 954-8621, fax: (818) 954-8431

- Wednesday, April 10: "The AMPAS Technical Awards"
- May: date and topic to follow
- June: date and topic to follow

New England

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

- Wednesday, April 17, 1996: What's Up at NAB?"
- May (date to follow): Film Processing and X-Fer"

Toronto

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

- Tuesday, April 9, 1996: Telecine/Film
- Tuesday, May 14, 1996: Annual NAB Wrap-Up
- Tuesday, June 11, 1996: New Media Technology. 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) 761-1100. Information must be received by the 15th of the second month preceding issue date (e.g., November 15th for January issue).