

Section Meetings

Atlanta

June 10, 1996

Twenty people came to the June meeting at the Atlanta Video Production Center (AVPC), where representatives from Panasonic, Sony Electronics, and Thomson Broadcast discussed recording formats and how television technology is changing in the face of digital camera development. The speakers — Les Black, Panasonic; Dick Perin and Glenn Vargas, Sony; and Michael Rosner, Thomson Broadcast — each brought his company's newest cameras, providing in-depth demonstrations. — Kathleen Wood (Secretary/Treasurer), Tektronix/Grass Valley

Chicago

June 18, 1996

The June meeting was held in conjunction with the Chicago SBE and AES chapters. Nearly 70 people were at the WFMT radio studios to hear that station's chief engineer, Gordon Carter, discuss the design philosophies and processes that led to the recent construction of the facility. The presentation incorporated architectural prints and photographs at various phases of development. After a question-and-answer period, Carter conducted a tour of WFMT. — Steve Robinson (Secretary/Treasurer), Serial Scene

Detroit

March 12, 1996

The March meeting was held in Studio One of WDIV-TV and attended by 24 members and guests. The speaker, Mike Waidson, Snell & Wilcox, presented "Standards Conversion: Focusing on the Interface Between Proliferating Formats." He discussed the problems involved as the television industry expands worldwide and the need for international program interchange grows. With this growth is the need to convert material among all the world's broadcast standards, whether conventional, widescreen, or high definition. He spoke about the need for a transparent signal path between these otherwise incompatible formats and explained the decoding and encoding involved, and he gave the attendees some insight into the digital and analog component interfacing and the analog component tolerances. Using an overhead projector he showed diagrams of one possible orderly arrangement of television studio equipment utilizing different standards and connected in such a way that signals would not recross boundaries, particularly between composite and component areas, more often than necessary. Waidson

answered a number of questions at the end of his presentation and showed samples of conversion equipment. — Harold L. Miller (Secretary/Treasurer), Harold Miller Associates

Detroit

June 11, 1996

The corporate offices of Rocktron Corp. was the site for the June meeting; 20 members and guests attended. The meeting started with a plant tour, which included the research and development department and production. Much of the plant is automated and includes flow-through soldering tanks and automatic parts insertion. Rocktron's James Waller started the program with a clear explanation of Circle Surround Matrixing system. With the capabilities of the 5.2.5 system, it is now possible to encode five independent channels down to an L_1R_1 (stereo) signal, with the ability to then decode those five signals as independent sound sources that can be fed to any predetermined speaker location. Before the Circle Surround Matrix system, 4-2-4 technology allowed only for the decoding of a left, center, right, or single surround signal as a dominant channel. The 5.2.5 system now provides the capability to encode a left, center, right, left surround, or right surround signal as a dominant channel. Demonstration tapes were played and comparisons made with 4-2-4 tapes. Many questions were answered, and the balance of the program was held in the parking lot, where several cars had been prepared with Circle Surround decoders installed in the music systems. Interested attendees went from car to car to listen to the differences created by sound system and body shape as well as the fullness of Circle Surround. — Harold L. Miller (Secretary/Treasurer), Harold Miller Associates

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:
- October 15, 1996
- November 12, 1996
- 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., August 15th for October issue).

New York

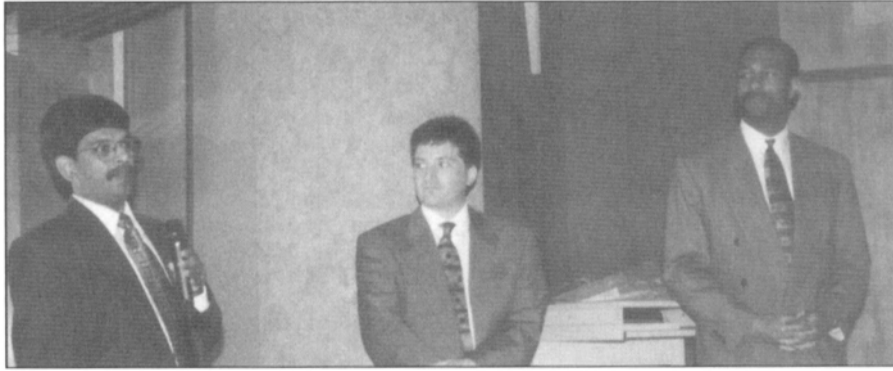
June 19, 1996

"The Distribution of Video and Audio Signals in the Very Near Future: A Presentation by IBM and Nynex" was held in Image Penn Studios with 75 members in attendance. Stuart Elby, Nynex, spoke on ATM switching technologies and related access technologies such as native LAN, ADSL, and ISDN. Howard Hall, Nynex, described his company's early adaptation of ATM service and provided information concerning its future general commercial offering of ATM services within the New York Metro area and throughout its footprint. Hall also mentioned that Nynex markets analog fiber in its distance learning division.

Gopal Soora, IBM, introduced the next generation of video transmission service. IBM video services will allow television producers, networks, sports organizations,



Some 75 people attended the New York meeting in June, held at the MTI/The Image Group Studios in the Pennsylvania Hotel.



From left to right, the speakers at New York's June meeting: Gopal Soora, Stuart Elby, and Howard Hall.

or any other commercial video user to schedule and distribute video as easily as making a phone call. The underlying technology will be ATM wide-area networking and MPEG-2 real-time compression. — John Martin (Chair), MTI/The Image Group

Rochester May 14, 1996

Twenty-seven people turned out for the May meeting, held at the Rochester Institute of Technology and featuring a presentation by director and cameraman Tim Wainwright. Wainwright offered a lively discussion and a screening of several commercials that he has produced for a variety of industrial and commercial clients. He has created highly imaginative motion images by mixing technologies such as elaborate dolly rigging, computer image processing, and compositing. — Walter C. Snyder (Chair), Eastman Kodak Co.

Rochester June 11, 1996

Once again, the Rochester Section closed its program season with a studio tour and picnic. Forty-one people came out to the "Crystal Pix" video post-production facility located in Fairport, N.Y. Crystal Pix is one of Western New York's newest video post facilities and specializes in editing, graphics, and sound post-production for industrial, institutional, and commercial clients. After a tour and screening of demos, attendees socialized and enjoyed a complimentary picnic. — Walter C. Snyder (Chair), Eastman Kodak Co.

Toronto June 11, 1996

"The Next Generation of Digital Video Tapes" held at Deluxe Toronto, featured presentations by JVC on Digital S, Panasonic

on DVCPRO, and Sony on Betacam SX. Neil Neubert, JVC Professional Products, spoke on the recently introduced Digital S format, starting with a technical overview of 4:2:2 component digital processing. He then gave a technical explanation of the 4:1:1 processing system employed by the consumer DV format, along with its inherent limitations in processing a digital image.

Stuart Hurst, Matsushita of Canada, outlined the advantages of the 4:1:1 processing system employed by DVCPRO. DVCPRO will use IEEE 1394 finewire cables for connecting to other devices for a distance of up to 2.5 m. The 25 Mbit/sec data rate means that high-speed tape transfer from a DVCPRO tape to a file server at four times normal speed is possible. Existing 100 base T Ethernet can carry the equivalent of two DVCPRO video streams.

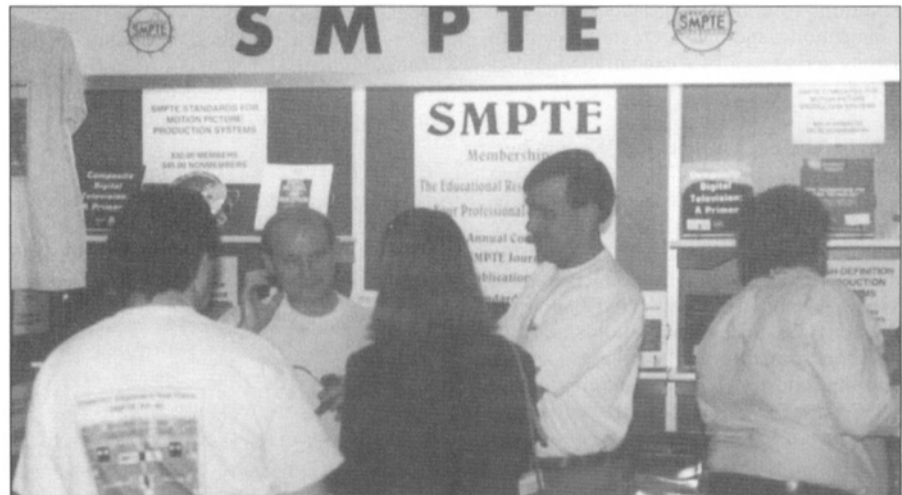
John Quanz, Sony of Canada Ltd., concluded the evening with a presentation on Betacam SX, stating that it still costs between 40 and 60 cents per megabyte to store digital video on a hard drive, while the corresponding cost on tape is about 1/2 cent per megabyte. Betacam SX has adopted the MPEG 4:2:2 Profile/Main Level as its standard. It has a video image equal to Betacam SP and delivers a data rate of 25 Mbits/sec (18 Mbits/sec video and 7 Mbits/sec audio and other data). Betacam SX records on the same Betacam SP tapes in use today, and because of Betacam SX's lower data rate, the tape moves at half the speed of existing Betacam SP systems. This means that tape time is effectively doubled. — Brad Fortner (Promotions Adviser), Rogers Communications Centre, Ryerson Polytechnic University

News

SMPTE at ShowBiz Expo West

The Society was among the exhibitors at ShowBiz Expo West, held at the Los Angeles Convention Center, June 28 to 30, 1996. SMPTE staff members as well as President Stan Baron, NBC, were on hand for those who had questions regarding membership, conferences, publications, and test films. In addition, Baron served as moderator for a panel discussion held Sunday, June 30, entitled "HDTV — Pipe Dream or Reality?"

Thomas M. Gurley has been appointed vice-president, technology, of the Association for Maximum Service Television (MSTV), Inc. In this role, Gurley will provide technical guidance and support to MSTV and its more than 300 member television stations. He will also represent MSTV's technology and spectrum management goals in all



SMPTE President Stan Baron (second from left), Executive Director Fred Motts (second from right) and Staff Engineer Mark Hyman (far left, back to camera) sport SMPTE's RP-45 tee shirts at the SMPTE booth at ShowBiz Expo West.