

Section Meetings

Atlanta

October 14, 1996

Doug Ingram and Tom Moye, Broadcast Software Solutions, were the featured speakers for the October meeting, held at WXIA-TV and attended by 35 people. Ingram began with a brief description of how the new EAS system is organized, along with the timetable for broadcaster compliance with the new requirements. He explained the fully specified national requirements and then talked about how local requirements were determined. After explaining the path for information distribution, he demonstrated MasterEAS, a software package that interfaces with the TFT-911T EAS receiver/generator. He originated and received messages, which were then saved as files on the hard disk drive. Ingram showed how easily the system could be configured on a message-by-message basis to carry messages immediately, after master control approval, automatically if they are not in local commercial material, or ignore them completely (if allowed for that type of message). Next, MasterCG was demonstrated. This software package for master control allows crawls, rolls, supers, and full-page graphics while simultaneously monitoring an EAS decoder. The meeting concluded with a tour of the WXIA broadcast facilities by Jerry Michel, director of operations. — Dick Perin (Secretary/Treasurer) Sony Electronics

Chicago

October 23, 1996

The Chicago chapters of the SMPTE, SBE, and AES met jointly to listen to two guest speakers from Shure Brothers, Inc. Kevin Mikes covered the fundamental concepts behind wireless microphone systems design. A review of FM modulation was discussed as was how transmitter/receiver systems must be optimized for maximum frequency response and minimum interference. Equations for multitransceiver systems design were presented, which revealed what carriers would be acceptable without frequency overlap. Mikes also discussed antenna design and diversity systems. Then Rob Capucci outlined the issues that led his company to develop a line of UHF wireless products; overcrowding of the spectrum and improved performance in both single and multiple transceiver systems were given as a few of the benefits. After the presentation, a demonstration of the UHF system was given. The meeting was adjourned after a question-and-answer period. — Steve Robinson (Secretary/Treasurer), Serial Scene

Chicago

November 12, 1996

The November meeting was held at the Embassy Suites Hotel; 35 members and guests attended. Michael Taylor, Sony Corp., presented his company's Betacam SX system, which includes front-end cameras and recorders to make it suitable for acquisition, production, and post-production. The system uses MPEG-2 compression (MP@ML), and the recording capacity is up to 90 min. According to Taylor, having both tape and disk facilities allows the user to copy segments recorded from tape to disk and then play the disk as a nonlinear device. A question-and-answer period and a demonstration of the system followed Taylor's presentation. — Steve Robinson (Secretary/Treasurer), Serial Scene

Detroit

October 15, 1996

Randy Conrod, Leitch Technology International, discussed ancillary data and embedded audio in the serial digital video stream at the October meeting, which was hosted by Sandy Corp. in Troy, Mich.; 15 members and guests attended. Conrod started by providing an overview of ancillary data, describing the types of information that can be coded, including time code and error detection and handling clusters. He explained the mechanics whereby data is placed in the composite SDI stream and how it is significantly smaller than the space available in the component interface. He illustrated the advantages of routing audio along with the video and pointed out the drawbacks, which included the cost of multiplexing and demultiplexing hardware and providing audio delay equivalent to the time required to process video through effects devices. The program concluded with a dis-

cussion of protocols for error detection and handling and a demonstration of a computer program that can show EDH statistics of up to seven video signals on one PC. A question-and-answer period followed. — Frank Maynard (Secretary/Treasurer), WKBD-TV

Detroit

November 12, 1996

Jerry Cohen, JVC Professional Products, discussed digital video recording technology as it pertains to JVC's Digital-S family of VTRs. He explained the advantages of digital recording, the distinction between lossy and lossless compression, and its implication on multigeneration recordings. A discussion on compression methods, quantization, recording bit rates, and data flow management followed. The talk concluded with an outline of the specifications of the Digital-S system. Cohen then took questions from the audience and demonstrated two Digital-S VTRs. — Frank Maynard (Secretary/Treasurer), WKBD-TV

Florida/Caribbean

October 17, 1996 (Orlando)

October 18, 1996 (Davie)

The October meeting was held twice, in Central Florida at WESH-TV and in South Florida at Digital Communication Link. The focus of the meetings was the advanced technologies used to broadcast the Olympic Games in Atlanta. Bill Lowrenz, Entertainment Technologies, and Bruce Dunn, WCEU-TV, presented an overview of broadcast maintenance and graphic operations in a virtual studio environment. Lowrenz discussed the planning, installation, digital interconnect, and maintenance of the International Broadcast Center, while Dunn highlighted the disciplined real-time



Speaker Jerry Cohen at the November meeting in Detroit.

graphics operations that enabled NBC to operate a virtual studio. Through a digital slide presentation and the official maintenance and graphics manual from the Olympics, the speakers guided the audience through studio operations. Post-production facilities in New York and Atlanta operated as one unit via two fiber optics lines. All graphics preparations were monitored and controlled centrally in Atlanta. — Al LeBoeuf (Chair), Lockheed Martin, Electronics and Missiles

Houston September 18, 1996

Ernie Magnotti, Sony Corp., gave a presentation on the use of videodisk storage technology integrated into a station transmission automation package. His program focused on both the disk storage and its compression technology as well as the Windows NT-based automation software that controls the disk storage system and external videotape recorders. An STAS-10 demonstration system was available for hands-on examination. — Marty Kirkland (Chair), Pearlman Productions, Inc.

Houston October 16, 1996

Neil Neubert, JVC Professional Products, held a program about the Digital-S videotape format. In addition to presenting the tape format's technical characteristics, a thorough discussion of compression techniques, bit-rates, and digital recording was provided as fundamental material. Several models of Digital-S equipment with multi-generation test material was available for examination. — Marty Kirkland (Chair), Pearlman Productions, Inc.

Italy November 13, 1996

The November meeting was held at the corporate offices of Philips Italy, and 80 members and guests were in attendance. The meeting was entitled "Technological Trends of Digital Television," and topics focused on broadband wireless systems, broadband multimedia networking, ATM, and digital videocommunications systems. After the meeting, guests were treated to a tour of the Philips plant, which included the European research and development labs and the advanced lighting laboratory. — Angelo D'Alessio (International Governor), Philips Italy

Mashpee October 28, 1996

After the meeting was called to order and several administrative matters were attended to, Faculty Adviser Mike Pietrowski gave an update on the status of the



Guest speaker Tony Cox, left, with Napa Valley College Student Chair Robert Maniaci at the October meeting.

Chapter's Technology Show, scheduled for May 14 and 15, 1997. He also discussed the Chapter's planned trip to NYNEX Headquarters on December 16, 1996. Then Chair Jonathan Forsythe introduced the evening's speaker, then-Editorial Vice-President Tom Bentsen, NASA. Bentsen gave a presentation on the various aspects of digital video and computer technologies. He showed his audience a video shot with a camera he designed, depicting a space shuttle landing from the helmsman's point of view. — Thomas N. Holmes, Student Secretary/Treasurer

Napa Valley College October 17, 1996

Tony Cox, Film Core, spoke to an audience of 40 students about his career. He took two years of telecommunications at Napa Valley college before getting his degree at North West Electronic Institute, Wisconsin. After graduating in 1993, he went to work as a contract employee at Oncore in Los Angeles. In one year he was promoted to head engineer and assigned to build the Film Core facility in San Francisco. He attributes his success to the training he received at Napa Valley College. Film Core offers vault services and distribution, and Cox works on nonlinear editing; networking; and D-1, D-2, Beta, 1-in., and 2-in. machines to handle archival materials dating back to the 1950s. — Robert Maniaci, Student Chair

Pacific Northwest October 22, 1996

The November meeting, which had an attendance of 55, featured speakers Stephen Mahrer and Gary Youngs, Panasonic Broadcast & Television Systems Co. They presented a technical overview of digital component broadcast technology, including intraframe/intrafield adaptive compression schemes and various video sampling ratios.

Equipment demonstrations of the D-7 format were also incorporated into the meeting. — Michael Scott (Secretary/Treasurer), Bates Technical College

Pasadena City College October 3, 1996

The first of three October meetings featured four guest speakers, all of whom were Pasadena City College alumni. Following graduation, Brown, Rick Frost, Pam Mosher, and Tanya Wright formed Parker Media Productions, a production company based in Arcadia, Calif. They screened two episodes from their latest project entitled "Rose City Rocks." The 36 students who attended were then asked to complete a two-page questionnaire, to get feedback and suggestions for improvement. — Candace Brown, Student Chair

Pasadena City College October 15, 1996

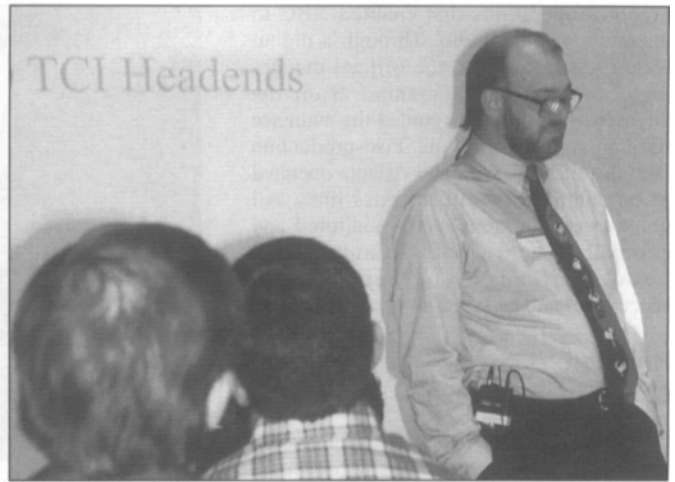
The second October meeting featured former Pasadena City College student Gordon Vaughan, Vault-Tylie Jones & Associates. Vaughan began with a brief history of his company, a commercial archiving facility based in Los Angeles. He went on to discuss the steps he took to obtain an interview with the company and ultimately secure his current position. He especially noted the importance of computer courses as well as a working knowledge of operations equipment. He spoke about the possibilities for advancement and the need for students to stay dedicated and persistent in both school and on the job. — Candace Brown, Student Chair

Pasadena City College October 22, 1996

Fabian Rodriguez, NBC-TV, took time off from covering the recent Malibu fires to address the 41-member audience. A news



Pasadena City College Student Chair Candace Brown, left, with guest speaker Gordon Waughan at the October 15 meeting.



The Rocky Mountain's half-day conference in October featured speaker Charles Kenamer.

photographer for almost 20 years. Rodriguez has traveled all around the world and emphasized the changing face of news and production. He discussed when and how a microwave truck would be used and discussed the difference between it and a satellite news van. He demonstrated how he would set up a live broadcast and allowed students to get in front of as well as behind the camera. He expressed the need to know all facets of the industry from writing to acting in preparation for changing job descriptions. He also emphasized the need to stay current in industry trends through education and offered suggestions to further one's knowledge. He urged students to focus on their goals and stick to them. — Candace Brown, Student Chair

Rocky Mountain October 17, 1996

Over 70 people attended the half-day conference entitled "Communications and Data Networking." Jointly sponsored by SMPTE, SBE, and SCTE, the session featured topics of interest in the fields of broadcast and video, cable, and telecommunications. Myron Oliner, KUSA, hosted the meeting and a tour at the Denver studio. Randy Brigham, Sony Corp., discussed his company's serial data/digital interface (SDDI); the proposed standard is used to transport packetized data within a studio/production center environment. SDDI is a high-speed file multiple stream, transfer interface (234 Mbits/sec) used between file servers while still retaining compatibility with an installed base of SDI routers and associated distribution equipment.

George Abe, Cisco Systems, has held positions in engineering as well as product manager for X.25 packet switching equipment. Abe was responsible for the introduction of a global I.P. service named InfoLan. He provided an overview of asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) in backbone transit,

video transport, ATM/MPEG and D-1 video, as well as the local loop.

Charles Kenamer, TCI, described real-life experiences using MPEG encoding to provide compressed services via satellite and cable. He also detailed how his company balances the bandwidth needs of differing services that have variable results in compression and how these decisions are made.

Two interesting wrap-up topics were provided by Rich Rodriguez, AT&T, who gave a practical view of what's in store for the future of telecommunications, and Leo Cirbo, FCC, who highlighted regulatory changes and what is happening within his organization. — Rome Chelsi (Chair), IHS Regulatory Products

Russian October 20, 1996

Dr. Eleonora Vinogradova, NIKFI, provided the attendees with an analysis of the motion picture equipment exhibit at Photokina '96, including her perspectives on the direction that the engineering and technology of cine production are taking. — Valery S. Ershov (Secretary/Treasurer), Cinema & Photo Res. Institute

Toronto October 15, 1996

The October meeting focused on PC engines for video productions. Doug Wurster and Mike Tucker, Digital Processing Systems, Inc., presented information on the DPS Perception Video Recorder family of products, focusing mainly on the Perception Video Recorder card, which permits the recording and real-time playback of full computer animation sequences directly from a hard drive, thus eliminating the need for the traditional record VCR and single frame controller. DPS has also developed software that

allows for video frames created with Perception appear simultaneously in many different file formats.

Then Greg Grena, Truevision, Inc., presented "Moving Real-Time Digital Video to the Desktop." Grena discussed his company's open-system approach that has resulted in a number of software companies and hardware manufacturers integrating their cards in Truevision's applications.

In "Broadcast Multimedia: An Open Platform," Bruno Parent, Matrox Electronics Systems Ltd., described a series of video production cards known as DigiSuite. These series of cards have been designed to provide desktop video production that allows for real-time, lossless, 10-bit D-1-quality video in a multilayer environment. — Brad Fortner (Promotions Adviser), Rogers Communications Centre, Ryerson Polytechnic University

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:

January 14, 1997
February 11, 1997
March 11, 1997
April 15, 1997
May 13, 1997
June 10, 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) 761-3115, 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).