

Section Meetings

Atlanta March 8, 1997

The Atlanta Section held its first all-day educational symposium, drawing members and nonmembers from as far away as North Carolina. The first speaker was Phil Livingston, Panasonic Broadcast, who began with background material on the Digital Video Consortium and went on to explain the processes used in DV-based compression systems. Then Gwenn Tune, Leitch, presented an overview of AES/EBU audio standards, relating both theoretical calculations and real-world data to the science of digital audio. She described devices made by Leitch and other companies that allow a high-performance, integrated system to be assembled. She was followed by Clyde Smith, Turner Entertainment Networks, who discussed issues related to the integration of video servers into the broadcast environment.

SMPTE Engineering Vice-President William Miller, Capital Cities/ABC, Inc., presented a report on the work of the



SMPTE Engineering Vice-President Bill Miller discusses SMPTE standardization efforts at the Atlanta educational symposium in March.



Clyde Smith addresses the Atlanta Section in March.

SMPTE/EBU Task Force on Harmonization, a group charged with creating standards for the exchange of program material as bit streams. Concluding the program was S. Merrill Weiss, consultant and author. After presenting a brief overview of the MPEG toolkit, Weiss began breaking the MPEG bitstream down into component parts and explained each part's syntax and structure. He then illustrated the Grand Alliance system in detail and contrasted other transmission methods such as ATM, SONET, ADSL, and COFDM. He concluded with an explanation of the work SMPTE was doing to define original coding methods and the challenges presented by switching compressed signals. — Dick Perin (Secretary/Treasurer), Sony Electronics.

Chicago February 13, 1997

Nearly 70 people came to the joint SMPTE/SBE meeting held in February at the WBBM-TV studio that was the site of the first Kennedy/Nixon debate; WBBM's Dave Haworth conducted tours of the facilities prior to the program. The first speaker, Bob Johnson, Loren Green Systems, gave an informative talk about proper grounding, pointing out that the foremost purpose of grounding is safety. Diagrams were shown of various methods of grounding at the service entrance, the distribution box, and the equipment area, and Johnson rated each of the common configurations with regard to noise immunity. Then Warren Schultz, WLS Radio, showed photographs of the renovations that were made on his station's transmitter, which had endured several years of lightning strikes. He then discussed the use of inductive coils, "V" gaps, ball gaps, and gas tubes as dissipaters and fuses to protect the transmission system. — Steve Robinson (Secretary/Treasurer), Serial Scene

SMPTE SECTION CALENDAR

Hong Kong

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Dates for Future Meetings:

May 1997: Digital Compression
May 1997: DVD
August 1997: VOD/IMS
November 1997: MPEG-2

San Francisco

For further information contact Section Chair Charles Hintz, KTVU Partnership, Inc./Fox, tel: (510) 874-0290, fax: (510) 272-9957, e-mail: charlesinca@aol.com

The 1997 San Francisco Section Second Saturday Tutorials Schedule

August 9, 1997:
Video Acquisition and Display

September 13, 1997:
Digital Audio and Compression

October 11, 1997: Growing into MPEG

November 8, 1997: Living with MPEG-2

All times are 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Seminars 1, 3, and 4 will be held at Stanford University, Gates B-01 Computer Science Classroom, Palo Alto, Calif. Seminar 2 will be at Dolby Labs, 100 Potrero Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

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:

June 10, 1997: Film and Video Archiving

Future SMPTE Toronto Events:

May 14 to 15: The Multimedia Experience

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., April 15th for June issue).

Detroit January 14, 1997

Thirty-one members and guests were at the January meeting, held at WWJ-TV. Michael Taylor, Sony Corp., began by discussing the need for application-specific equipment for broadcast as opposed to industrial usage and outlined the design criteria for the Sony