

listed for ongoing developments and to become more involved in expressing the requirements of the broadcast community.—Tom Hoffman, (Secretary/Treasurer), The FilmWorkers Club/Nashville

Ohio May 29, 1997

Joseph S. Balkin, NBC, New York, an expert in the field of high-definition digital TV was well received by the more than 50 attendees at the May meeting; audience participation was very lively. The meeting was presented in cooperation with Chapter 52 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers, and the hosts for the evening were Gene L. Batey and WCMH, Columbus. Visitors demonstrated an interest in joining the SMPTE.—David Prince (Chair), Prince & Associates, Inc.

Sacramento March 19, 1997

David Hoogendyk, Tektronix/Grass Valley Products, gave a presentation on fiber-optic transmission technology. Topics included an optical fiber overview and a discussion on loss budgeting, single mode versus multimode, various kinds of dispersion, connector types, etc. He also discussed optical sources (how the laser diode works) and detectors, and various transmission techniques.—William Carlquist (Secretary/Treasurer), Tektronix, Grass Valley Products

Sacramento May 21, 1997

Peter Symes, Tektronix, Grass Valley Products, presented a "first person" timeline of how we came to have the recent DTV system adopted in this country. What a bizarre process! The audience was spellbound hearing about the politics, simulations, tradeoffs, prototyping, testing, cajoling, etc., that led us down this path. Symes also covered the technical concepts and details of the various schemes proposed. Among the 52-member audience were people from the TV manufacturing industry, production community, and broadcasters (including PBS), as well as several foreigners (from six countries) in town for training. The most common question was "why?" All agreed this was an excellent meeting.—William Carlquist (Secretary/Treasurer), Tektronix, Grass Valley Products

San Francisco June 26, 1997

Jeff Cree, Sony Acquisition Systems, San Jose, Calif., spoke to a gathering of 60 SMPTE members and their guests on the ramifications of the DTV mandate by the FCC and its effect on image acquisition technology. Cree, a rare combination of video design engineer and program producer, discussed DTV imaging issues, both in theory and in practice.

The Sony DTV meeting, hosted by Silicon Graphics, Mountain View, Calif., was the first in a series of SMPTE monthly presentations covering various aspects of the transition to all-digital television and what the change will mean to video engineers and program producers.

DTV's MPEG-2 delivery system supports multiple scan standards, resolutions, and aspect ratios, including standard-definition 4:3 (704 x 480), standard-definition widescreen 16:9 (1280 x 720), and high-definition widescreen 16:9 (1920 x 1080). After an overview of the FCC's requirements for DTV transmission, Cree discussed the program origination process. Along the way, he identified how the DTV specification is not really a standard, but offers guidelines for the broadcaster delivering digital information to the public.

He pointed out that, armed with these guidelines, each broadcaster will need to make many decisions in the upcoming months that are more related to business and economic issues than to technology. These issues include broadcasting a mix throughout the day of standard-definition 4:3, standard-definition widescreen, and high-definition widescreen video, along with simulcasting NTSC analog well into the future.

The show concluded with an overview of Sony's imaging products and strategies to support the many choices that broadcasters and producers face, including camera systems that offer simultaneous NTSC analog and widescreen digital outputs. —John Hartwell (Manager), Sony Electronics

News

The Digital Video Broadcasting Project (DVB) has issued the DVB blue book, "Implementation Guidelines for the Use of MPEG-2 Systems, Video and Audio in Satellite, Cable and Terrestrial Broadcasting Applications." This specification allows for both standard-definition (SDTV) and high-definition television (HDTV), optimized for both 50-Hz and 60-Hz countries.

The new blue book was produced by the Technical Module of the DVB Project, to commercial requirements issued by the DVB Commercial Module, and has been approved by the DVB Steering Board. It now goes forward to ETSI for publication as a revision to ETR 154.

The Implementation Guidelines detail the MPEG-2 parameters that baseline SDTV and HDTV decoders should support. As before, the baseline SDTV decoder is based on MPEG-2 Main Profile at Main Level (MP@ML). The HDTV baseline decoder uses MPEG-2 Main Profile at High Level (MP@HL), ensuring backwards compatibility with existing DVB/MPEG-2 bitstreams.

While the DVB MPEG-2 data container gives a flexible range of service options, the Implementation Guidelines recommend that HDTV broadcasters use the so-called common image format (CIF) proposed by the ITU and DAVIC (i.e., 1080 lines by 1920 pixels). They also detail the implementation requirements necessary for integrated receiver-decoders (IRDs) to be used in countries which for historical reasons have either 60 Hz or 50 Hz field-refresh rates.

When HDTV broadcasts are directed towards populations of DVB-compliant IRDs of which some are not HDTV-enabled, the DVB Implementation Guidelines recommend multiplexing SDTV program streams into the MPEG-2 bitstream alongside the HDTV program, in an approach known as simulcasting.

Panasonic Broadcast and Digital Systems Co., an SMPTE Sustaining Member, was presented with a 1997 Primetime Engineering Award by the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences

(ATAS) for the development of the AJ-LT75 laptop editing system. The award, recommended by the ATAS Engineering Awards Committee, was presented at a luncheon on July 10, 1997, as a preliminary part of the upcoming 49th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards. ATAS cited the AJ-LT75 for "its small size and weight, which represents the equivalent of an entire field edit in a pack that can fit under an airplane seat."

UCLA Extension is offering "Project Management Principles and Practice," a course designed for project managers and personnel, functional managers whose staff participate in projects, and executives to whom project managers report, to be held October 7 to 10, 1997. The course will develop insight into the special characteristics of projects and the tools and techniques needed to manage them. Topics include the nature of project management; the importance of end-item focus, careful planning, appropriate control, open and timely communication, and interproject

coordination and prioritization; and alternative organizational structures, elements of leadership, and ways of maximizing personal and project effectiveness. For more information, contact UCLA Extension, Department of Engineering, Information Systems and Technical Management, Short Courses, 10995 LeConte Ave., Ste. 542, Los Angeles, CA 90024, tel: (310) 825-3344, fax: (310) 206-2815, e-mail: mhenness@unex.ucla.edu, Internet: www.unex.ucla.edu/shortcourses.

California State University, Northridge Extension is now offering a new Certificate Program in Audio Technology for technicians in music, film, TV, and radio. Chief engineers from leading Hollywood studios have helped develop the new one-year program that offers expert training in audio maintenance, problem solving, and crisis management. Technical supervisors recruited from major music and film studios will be teaching the classes, stressing real-world experiences and proven techniques. Students will also participate in hands-on practice at several Hollywood recording studios. Classes meet on Saturdays, starting September 1997. For more information, contact Nancy L. Mondok, Program Director, College of Extended Learning, California State University, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge, CA 91330, tel: (818) 677-2468; fax: (818) 677-3929, e-mail: nlm44409@email.csun.edu.

Craig K. Tanner has been appointed Executive Director of the Advanced Television Systems Committee (ATSC).

Tanner brings to the ATSC more than 20 years of experience in various aspects of the television and telecommunications industries. In his previous position as senior vice-president of Advanced Technologies at TELE-TV Systems, Tanner led the telephone company partnership's technical efforts to design an interactive digital set-top terminal for the partners' wireline digital television deployments. Prior to this, Tanner was vice-president of Advanced Television Projects at Cable Television Laboratories (CableLabs), the North American cable television industry's research and development consortium. At CableLabs, Tanner directed the official cable industry test laboratory which examined the competing HDTV transmission systems proposed to the FCC, including the final Grand Alliance digital HDTV system.

During the past ten years of the digital television development process, Tanner served the FCC Advisory Committee on Advanced Television Service as chairman of the Experts Group on Transport, chairman of the Working Party on Subjective Assessments, and co-chairman of the Working Party on Transition Scenarios.

Tanner also held the position of business manager, High-Definition Video Systems, with Sony Corp. of America, and over the course of 12 years with CBS, served in a variety of capacities, including vice-presi-

dent of planning for CBS Engineering and Development, as well as director of shareholder communications for CBS Inc.

Tanner holds an MBA in finance from Fairleigh Dickinson University, as well as a BS in Electrical Engineering and a BA in Communications from the University of Delaware. In addition to being a member of the SMPTE, he is a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and has served as a member of the ATSC Executive Committee for several years.

Tanner replaces Mark S. Richer, who left the post last April to become vice-president and general manager of Comark Digital Services. The ATSC, composed of over 100 member corporations, associations, and research and educational institutions around the world, was established in 1982 and is developing voluntary standards for digital television, including high-definition television.

John Gates, Gates Service Group, Inc., received the 1997 Individual Achievement-Lighting Emmy Award from the New England Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS) for his lighting of "Fox News Boston" (WFXT-TV 25) newscasts and sports shows. He earned his first Emmy in 1989 for his lighting of the made-for-TV film "Jenny's Song" (for Group W/Westinghouse Broadcasting). Gates has served the Society in a number of capacities, including three terms as Governor.

Calendar

SMPTE Activities

NEW YORK, N.Y. — 139th SMPTE Technical Conference and Equipment Exhibit, Marriott Marquis Hotel, *November 21-24, 1997.*

TORONTO, ONTARIO — 32nd Advanced Motion Imaging Conference, *February 5-7, 1998.*

For more information on these and other SMPTE activities contact SMPTE Headquarters:

(914) 761-1100 Fax: (914) 761-3115

September

IBC'97, RAI Exhibition and Congress Centre, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Info: Sarah Campbell, IBC Office, Savoy Place, London, WC2R 0BPL, U.K. *September 12-16, 1997.*

The 17th International Display Research Conference (IRDC '97), Sheraton Hotel,

Toronto, Ont. Canada. Info: Ralph Nadell, IDRC '97 Conference Coordinator, Palisades Institute for Research Services, 201 Varick St., Ste. 1006, New York, NY 10014. *September 15-19, 1997.*

IIC'97, Regent Hotel Sydney, Sydney, Australia. Info: Sharon Campbell International Institute of Communications Secretariat, tel: +44 171 388 0671, fax: +44 171 380 0623, e-mail: sharon@iicom.org. *September 29-October 2, 1997.*

October

Rocky Mountain Film & Video Expo, John Q. Hammons Convention Center, Denver, Colo. Info: Mark Cramer, ExpoMasters, Inc., 7632 E. Costilla Ave., Englewood, CO 80112. *October 1-2, 1997.*

IBTS '97, Milan Fair, Milan, Italy. Info: General Secretariat, Via Domenichino, 11 C.P. 15117 - 20150 Milan, Italy, e-mail: MC1703@MCLink.it. *October 16-20, 1997.*

November

CIE 2nd Expert Symposium on Colour Standards for Imaging Technology, Scottsdale, Ariz. Info: CIE Central Bureau, Kegelgasse 27, A-1030 Vienna, Austria. *November 20-21, 1997.*

March 1998

cinec 98 International Trade Fair for Motion Picture Technology and Post-Production, M,O,C, Events Center, Munich, Germany. Info: Messe München GmbH, cinec Exhibition Management, Messegelände, D-80325 München, Germany. *March 21-23, 1998*

April 1998

NAB '97 International Convention and Exposition, Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nev. Info: National Association of Broadcasters, 1771 N St. NW, Washington, DC 20036-2891, <http://www.nab.org/conventions>. *April 4-9, 1998.*