

# Section Meetings

## Atlanta

**January 12, 1998**

Forty-five members attended January's meeting held at Video Tape Associates. Section Chair Paul Hogan opened the meeting with a discussion on the HDTV/DTV conference scheduled to be held in March. Ray Ostrum, Accom, followed with a discussion on the technology involved in his company's Attache DDR. Gary Lieberman, Accom, then introduced the Axial 3000 Editor.—J. Rhett Mappin (Secretary/Treasurer), Pinnacle System

## Chicago

**February 12, 1998**

Over 50 guests attended the joint SMPTE and SBE Chicago chapters meeting hosted by WGN-TV. Mike Duckworth, Leitch, Inc., began the meeting with a basic discussion of fiber-optic fundamentals. He compared fiber to coax with respect to cost, distance, weight, and bandwidth. Duckworth further explained the various forms of fiber-optic media including single mode and multimode, the various wavelengths used, and laser versus diode emitters. A sample power budget was reviewed for analyzing a typical fiber link installation. The SMPTE 297M Fiber Transmission of 259M Signals standard was also talked about by Duckworth. He went on to discuss possible applications for which the use of fiber may be appropriate which led to further debate of wave division multiplexing 259M signals on a fiber. Such applications included router tie-lines, STL links, and remote production environments. Several questions were addressed by Duckworth following his presentation.—Steve Robinson (Secretary/Treasurer), Serial Scene

## Detroit

**January 13, 1998**

An audience of 45 consisting of members of SMPTE, AES, and guests were present for the second part of a continuing series of talks on digital recording media presented by Mark Anzicek, ZenTechnologies. Part one, presented in October 1997, discussed the technical and marketing aspects of DVD.

Anzicek began part two of the series explaining the distinction between duplication and replication: duplication being a linear copying process and replication being a "stamping" process where the entire physical media is created in one step. "Ruplication," a term coined by Anzicek, can be applied to the copying of

CD-Rs because the media are initially stamped but then recorded upon in a serial fashion. He said large-scale CD-ROM duplication systems can still be successful even though individual users can produce their own copies by seeking markets for small runs of CDs that are too small for the injection-molding plants but too large for single-copy users. This is the fastest-growing duplication market. He gave some examples of small-run CD-R applications such as small-audience training and sales, college coursepacks, check copies in publishing, telephone bill detail listings, etc. and predicted that CD-R duplication services would be nearly as common as photocopy services in the near future.

A discussion of the technical details of CD-R disks followed while attendees examined samples of the media. Recording speeds were covered, as well as verification requirements (some applications are more stringent than others) and problems encountered when trying to economically print on small runs of CDs. While discussing security issues, it was pointed out that individually unique copies of media (with serial numbers or other authorization codes), impossible to do with injection molding, can be easily done with CD-R.

Anzicek brought a Microtech Conversion Systems Image Automator, which is a robotic system for automatically feeding, duplicating, and printing CDs. During the talk the machine ran in a loop and entertained the audience by continuously loading and stacking CDs.



Mark Anzicek, ZenTechnologies, Inc., demonstrates the Microtech Conversion Systems Image Automator at Detroit's January meeting

Following the talk, Anzicek ran a demonstration by duplicating four different data sets to blank CD-Rs simultaneously.—Frank Maynard (Secretary/Treasurer), WKBD-TV

## Florida/Caribbean

**January 24, 1998**

"DTV must be a guy thing. We've got it so we've got to use it," said Duane Solem, Sony Electronics, Inc., at the January meeting held at Disney/MGM Studios. Those words were Solem's description of the need to move from a successful broadcasting system into the digital age of television. The relative advantages and disadvantages of the various proposed systems were discussed at the meeting. Solem interjected his humor in discussing some of the potential problems of bitstream splicing in the studio and transmission environment to the 51-member audience. This is an important issue to broadcasters who are concerned with commercial insertion, placement of the "bug" on the screen in different screen formats, and latency issues when dealing with MPEG-encoded program streams.—Al LeBoeuf (Section Chair), Lockheed Martin

## Montreal/Quebec

**January 27, 1998**

More than 100 people gathered to listen to Guy Beaudoin, TVA Network, discuss the implementation of a news production system based on client/server technology, automation of operations, and multichannel TVA-LCN. The new specialized LCN channel is an uninterrupted news service operating 24 hours a day. The implementation of this service is made possible through the merging of common resources from TVA and some of the "high end" technologies available today. The presentation outlined the implementation of the server technology, high-bandwidth networks, and digital technology. This system will have a profound effect on the way a news bulletin is produced, from recording up to production and broadcasting. Beaudoin described how automation and system integration allow a reduction in the number of operations required in the production of a news bulletin as well as an increase in speed to air late breaking news. These systems allow LCN to expend more energy in the preparation and production of news, and less in the operation of technical equipment. Beaudoin described the various systems installed and their operations which allow the production and the multichannel



Guest speaker Mike McCune (left) greets an attendee at the Napa Valley Student Chapter meeting in December.



Art Cosgrove delivers a high-powered presentation on digital television at the Rochester meeting.

broadcast of LCN and TVA. The main benefits of a server-based service are most felt in the increase of speed over the acquisition of news material, the ease of operation in production, and the ability to share the same media among two channels. These benefits are what make it possible to operate two distinct news services.—Michael Yeon (Secretary/Treasurer), Réseau des Sports

### **Napa Valley College December 12, 1997**

Twenty-eight members and three guests attended December's meeting which focused on rental houses and maintenance engineering. Mike McCune, Bixel, a Napa Valley alumnus, spoke about VTRs. McCune is currently a maintenance engineer at Bixel, a video equipment supply and rental firm in Los Angeles. He specializes in the repair and maintenance of the company's VTRs which can take a beating in the field. McCune has gained a wealth of information in the seven months he's been working and has proven himself an asset to his company.—Anthony V. Cassano, Student Chair

### **Pacific Northwest Section January 23, 1997**

January's meeting focused on CIVT (Baton Broadcasting), Vancouver, Canada's newest and only completely digital television station. Vladimir Rybrerczyk and John Festinger, both from CIVT, introduced and conducted a tour of the state-of-the-art facility which went live-on-air on September 18, 1997. The technical area of the station is surrounded by studios above, below, and sideways. The layout of the high-tech facility was very impressive and left a lasting impression on the more than 100 attendees.—Michael Scott (Secretary/Treasurer), Bates Technical College

### **Rochester January 13, 1998**

Eastman Kodak scientist Art Cosgrove presented a program titled "Digital Television—The Next Generation" to 25 members of the section. He reviewed the steps taken to bring digital television to the present, the technologies that were required to do so, and the role of standards organizations in that development.

The discussion moved to technical issues still in flux such as confidential access, channel naming and navigation, network distribution, and local station studio and transmission requirements. The final item reviewed was the business development and economics of the implementation of digital television. A lively discussion on the meaning of "high-definition" television, regulatory requirements for local broadcasters, and the power/signal strength levels required for digital television followed the presentation.—John Walsh (Section Manager), Hubbard Broadcasting, Inc.

### **Sacramento January 21, 1998**

An audience of 22 attended January's meeting held at Tektronix. Mike Waidson, Tektronix, discussed MPEG measurement techniques related to moving pictures rather than static ones. He followed the developments of his company's Picture Quality Measurement System including feature extraction, peak signal-to-noise ratio, the raw difference engine, development of the Human Vision System Model, the concept of just noticeable difference, and picture-quality rating.

Questions resulted in a discussion regarding how the HVS model, licensed from Sarnoff Laboratories, was developed and whether the PQR is absolute or relative. Several test sequences were shown.—William Carlquist (Secretary/Treasurer), Grass Valley Products

## **SMPTE SECTION CALENDAR**

### **Montreal/Quebec**

For further information contact Section Chair Dany Harrison, TVA Network, tel: (514) 599-6004, e-mail:harrisd@tra.ca

#### *Dates for future meetings*

April 21: SGI- Automation System for On-Air Operations  
May 13-14: Tutorial Production Film vs. Video  
May 21: Annual Golf Tournament

### **New England**

For further information contact Section Chair John C. Gates, Gates Service Group Inc., tel: (508) 651-7886, fax: (508) 651-7889, e-mail:liteguy@bu.edu

#### *Dates for future meetings*

April 15: NAB Wrap-up  
May 20: Moving WLVI-TV: Tour and Presentation (Tentative)  
June 19: High-Speed Duplication/Annual Retrospective and Barbecue at Video Transfer, Southboro

### **Rocky Mountain**

For further information contact Section Chair Fred Baumgartner, TCI, tel: (303) 486-3946, fax: (303) 486-3891, e-mail:baumgartner.fred@tcinc.com

#### *Dates for future meetings*

May 20: Tour of Assembly and Test Area for High-Power Digital Transmitters  
June 17: AES/EBU AC-3 5.1 Blow Out  
July 22: Lookout Mountain Picnic  
August 19: Presentation of Encoder for ATSC DTV Application

### **Toronto**

For further information contact Promotions Adviser Brad Fortner, Rogers Communications Center, Ryerson Polytechnic University, tel: (416) 237-0625, fax: (416) 979-5203, e-mail:bfortner@acs.ryerson.ca

#### *Dates for future meetings*

May 12: Film Topic  
June 8: Alliance Broadcasting Tour