

Section Meetings

Detroit

October 12, 1999

The October Section meeting, hosted by WWJ-TV at its new transmitter building in Oak Park, attracted 36 members and guests. The evening's speaker, Andrew Larsen, Adaptive Broadband, discussed the latest technology for DTV studio-to-transmitter links and gave a report on advances in digital ENG transmission using digital COFDM technology. The presentation included a description of the MRC TwinStream systems capable of carrying both DTV and NTSC on the same channel. Larsen also showed a tape displaying a split-screen demonstration of the advantages of COFDM modulation in mobile and aerial ENG applications.

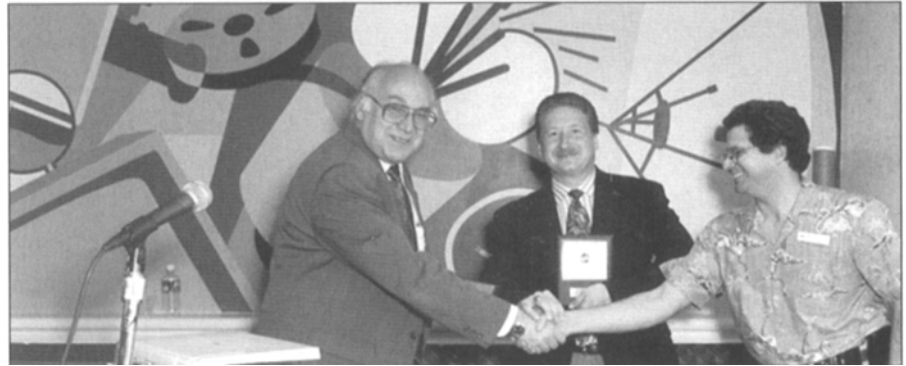
Following the meeting WWJ-TV staff gave tours of the facility, which included a close-up view of the new tower and the impressive NTSC and DTV transmitter installation.—Helge Blucher, Secretary/Treasurer

Nashville

September 16, 1999

The September meeting was held at the Renaissance Center in Dickson, TN, with 28 members and guests in attendance. Bob Spencer gave a brief description of the Renaissance Center, a state-of-the-art facility designed to provide educational programs and initiatives (actual theater, production, music, and other activities) for all ages.

The facility, which houses a cyberspace-interactive 3-D domed theater (142 seats), a performing arts theater (455 seats), the Michael Faraday Science Theater, a fine arts gallery, and many other activity areas, was designed and developed by the Jackson



New York Section meeting in October. Left to right: Johann Safar, Panasonic, Brad Sanberg, Tektronix, and Bill Topazio, New York Section chairperson.

Foundation to provide fine-arts instruction, computer training, multimedia experiences, and a learning lab, as well as community programs by area colleges.

Attendees met in the television studio where Ralph Easley gave an overview of the equipment installed in each facility and discussed the Sony D-30 cameras. Robert Kilmarx, Technical Industries, then talked about the facilities from a technical perspective. This was followed by a tour of the building, which began with a show in the cyberspace theater. The remainder of the meeting was spent viewing other areas of the facilities.—Phil Arnold, Secretary, Treasurer

New York

October 27, 1999

Approximately 75 people attended the meeting to hear Johann Safar, Panasonic, and Brad Sanberg, Tektronix, talk about compression technology and picture-quality analysis. Safar opened with a tutorial on DCT-based compression, focusing on the

temporal aspects of MPEG and the DV systems. His slide show was concise, informative, and very well received, packing a week's worth of material into a 40-minute lecture, which works out to about 60:1 compression! Safar also distributed a very useful book published by Panasonic.

Sanberg began his presentation by describing the work at Tektronix in the PQA field, and MPEG stream analysis. He noted the differences between traditional baseband "linear" quality measurement (signal levels, noise, etc.) vs. "nonlinear" quality issues such as scene-dependent artifacts. Tom Freeman, Tektronix, provided PQM hardware for demonstration. This was followed by a random drawing for a copy of the television standards on CD-ROM, donated by the Society.—Bill Topazio, Section Chair.

Pasadena City College

September 14, 1999

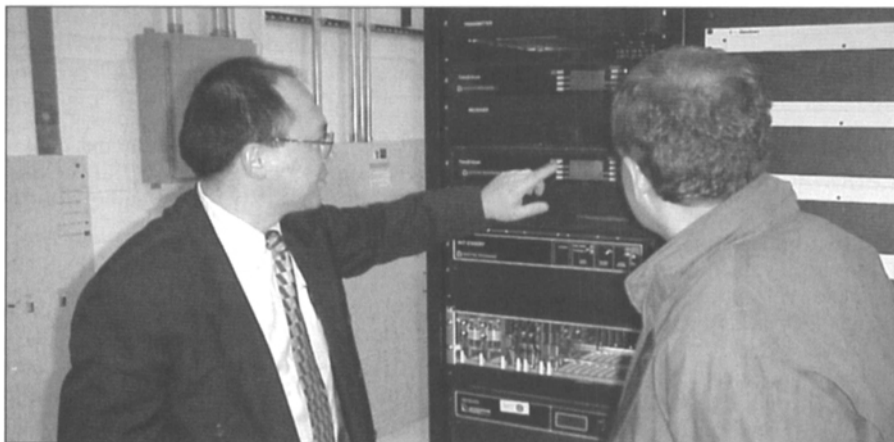
With 18 in attendance, the opening meeting for the 1999-2000 school year was called to order by Gerald Finn, faculty advisor. The history of SMPTE and how membership benefits individuals was provided, in addition to an explanation of the role of student chapters and background of the chapter's beginning in 1981.

After the presentation, an election by ballot for student chairperson was held. Congratulations to Kassa Zakadi, elected as chairperson, and Ricco Ricardo Clement, elected as co-chair.—Gerald Finn, Faculty Advisor

Pasadena City College

September 28, 1999

The Chapter meeting was called to order by Kassa Zakadi, student chairperson. Following announcements, guest speaker Eddie Lopez, former Pasadena City



Andrew Larsen demonstrates WWJ-TV's MRC TwinStream microwave radio to one of the many interested members at the Detroit Section meeting.



Pasadena City College students, following the September 14 meeting.

College student, was introduced.

Lopez began his presentation by stating that Walt Disney's first animation was not Mickey Mouse in *Steamboat Willie* in 1928, but Oswald the Lucky Rabbit. Using the chalkboard, Lopez drew a block diagram of the structure of Disney and gave an overview of the various divisions and subdivisions. He explained that to an outsider,

what seems like related areas, might, in fact be handled by different parts of the company. As an example, he pointed out that feature animation is handled by a different division than television cartoon animation. Many were unaware of the many different divisions of Disney. The meeting was adjourned after a Q and A session.—Gerald Finn, Faculty Advisor

Sacramento

October 27, 1999

The October meeting was held at the Grass Valley Group facility in Nevada City, CA. Allen Garber, Tektronix, gave a very interesting presentation on the development of the telecommunications system and its ability to transmit realtime video signals.

Garber explained the various levels of telecommunications transmission lines from the domestic single-line phone connection, DS0, to the high speed OC192. The types of transmission lines were tied into the various compression formats available for the transmission of video signals in realtime. These covered the highly compressed H261 teleconferencing format, H320, MPEG 2, and uncompressed component digital and HDTV formats.

The meeting concluded with information on distance limitations for different formats, and a brief description of the various protocols used at each level, including IP and ATM.—Mike Betts, Secretary/Treasurer

News

Xytech Opens International Office to Meet Increasing Demands

In order to address the increased need for facility management systems internationally, Xytech Systems International has announced the opening of its new international office headquartered in London, England.

Trends toward consolidation have led stronger facilities to acquire competitors in an effort to gain market share, resulting in high demand for multisite, currency, and language support. Government sponsored facilities are also penetrating the market with increased needs for better resource management.

"Our decision to open an international office drives from our dedication of being a total solutions provider world-wide," said Roger Kleckner, Xytech's president. "As we address the burgeoning growth of the European market, we expect that international sales will account for 50% of Xytech's revenue over the next few years."

Xytech's new office will accommodate an international sales and distribution staff focused on positioning the company's products to the European community, which constitutes the world's largest production/post-production market to Los Angeles.



Ken Michel (left) is presented Engineering Emmy from Rick Hollowbush (center) and Phil Steyaert (right)

NATAS Awards to Dolby Laboratories and Videotek

The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences has awarded Dolby Laboratories an Emmy for outstanding technological achievement in the development of Digital Versatile Disc (DVD) technology.

The Emmy-award winning technology, Dolby Digital, is a form of digital audio coding that enables consumers to hear the same 5.1 channel surround sound at home as in movie theaters. Specifically, it

allows formats such as DVD and digital television broadcasts (DTV) to provide high-quality, multichannel audio without sacrificing picture quality.

Ken Michel Recognized for Videotek's VTM-200

After receiving an Emmy for its VTM-200 multifunction on-screen monitor, Videotek presented the award to ABC-TV's Ken Michel for his active involvement in the product's development.