

## Section Meetings

### Chicago May 11, 2000

The meeting attracted 35 attendees for a presentation by Dale Reed, Trompeter Electronics. Reed discussed requirements for coaxial cable, connectors, and patch jacks when deployed with the high data rates associated with uncompressed HDTV signals. He addressed such factors as return loss, insertion loss, and high-frequency harmonic components consistent with high-frequency transmission line physics. A Q & A session followed the program.—Steve Robinson, Secretary/Treasurer

### Nashville June 15, 2000

A combined meeting of the SMPTE Section and the SBE Chapter was held at the Slingshot Network facility. Jay Gonzales, Panasonic Advanced Digital Video Systems, led the group through the history of NTSC and HDTV, explaining that the NHK had set HDTV standards for the industry that lasted until May 1989. At that time, the FCC opened the door for digital standards and on December 24, 1996, accepted the ATSC standards, setting deadlines for their implementation. Now one of the major issues for digital is how to compress the signal for distribution. Panasonic looked at various means of compression and chose MPEG or temporal compression for



Al Jason discusses contours at the Rocky Mountain Section meeting in June.

streaming program, but DV for production.

Gonzales presented Panasonic's offerings in cameras, videotape machines, laptop editors, and servers, especially Digital News Automation. He also talked about Picture Link, which is a system for choosing the good takes at the camera, so the editor gets only the best ones. Another item of interest is the Universal Format Converter, which makes all different formats available.

The 36 members and guests were invited to tour the facility as well as inspect the equipment.—Phil Arnold, Secretary/Treasurer

### Rocky Mountain June 21, 2000

AMFM studios hosted the June meet-

ing. Al Jason and Greg Montano, Jampro Antenna Corp., provided insight into "Getting The Most from Your Antenna." Jason discussed the selection process for television and FM, providing an overview of the mechanical characteristics and design optimization for VHF, UHF, and FM applications. He also gave a description of various mounting configurations: top mount, side mount, and side mount panels; along with real-world considerations of how mounting structures affect contours.

Jason gave an informative presentation on variances between contour patterns and reality at a previous meeting, and was kind enough to review this information.—Rome Chelsi, Section Chair

## News

### Movie Theaters to be Converted to Digital by 2005

A recent report by SRI Consulting, Business Intelligence Center, states that by 2005, movies encoded by digital files will increasingly replace film prints as the preferred method of distributing movies to theaters. Reports reveal that using D-cinema will provide theater operators with a number of benefits, which will result in the elimination of film prints: lower handling costs; more efficient response to demand; lower theater-construction

costs; more consistent image quality; improved sound; new release options; and new revenue sources for exhibitors.

### Technicolor and Qualcomm Offer Digital Cinema Services

Technicolor Digital Cinema, Inc., and Qualcomm, Inc., have formed a joint venture, providing end-to-end distribution technology and support services for the delivery of digital cinema to theaters worldwide.

Jointly managed by the two companies, the new venture—Technical

Digital Cinema, LLC—will work with the motion picture industry as a technology enabler and service provider, while supporting open standards for digital delivery movies and the existing studio-to-theater business model. Both companies will take an active role in the initial management of the entity's day-to-day operations.

"This new entity will combine the two companies' complementary strengths to create an open, standard-based end-to-end distribution solution for digital cinema," said Larry Raimondo, Technicolor's CEO.