

Section Meetings

Detroit December 12, 2000

Seventeen members of the Detroit Section met at WKBD-TV for a presentation by David Neff, ADC Broadcast Systems Div., dealing with bandwidth enhancement in 8-VSB transmission. A brief overview of some types of non-DTV broadcast signals adjacent to DTV channels 2, 4-6, 7, 13, 14, 36-3, and 51, such as land mobile, non-commercial FM, and radio telescope operations, were identified as potential sources of interference. The concept of bandwidth enhancement technology (BET) involves the creation of a type of guardband by reducing the 8-VSB signal by up to 200 kHz at the edges. Using sharper filters, edge attenuation can be reduced by 30 to 60 dB, protecting adjacent services.

In the NTSC world, out-of-band products can be greatly reduced by the use of bandpass and notch filtering: Not so with 8 VSB. There is necessary information that lies outside of the pilot and Nyquist points of the spectrum that, if lopped off, would confuse an 8-VSB demodulator. One solution is to move this spectral tail energy to an area just inside the band. By replacing the removed energy from outside with equivalent energy at mirrored frequencies inside, the resultant signal can be demodulated

as though it were identical to the original 8-VSB signal. The design process for arriving at compatible narrowband 8 VSB was then described, and resultant effects were shown at both the lower and upper channel edges. A more conventional technique of brute force spectral truncation was compared to BET. It was shown that this technique relies on transmitter and receiver equalization using large and expensive filters to correct the I channel. With BET the correction is already built in, requiring only conventional filtering, rendering the narrowband I channel identical to standard 8 VSB. The receivers that have been tested are from Panasonic, Sony, Philips, Thomson, and Zenith.

The Detroit Section would like to thank David Neff and our host, WKBD-TV, for their seasonal hospitality and extends wishes for a Happy New Year to all our friends at SMPTE.—Bob Zeichner, Secretary/Treasurer

Napa Valley College December 1, 2000

The December meeting was a very special one for the Chapter 11 club. The members spent that Friday evening at a post-production house in San Francisco, where Filmcore-SF

hosted a field trip for 21 Napa Valley College Telecommunications Technology students. After Friday classes, the group was greeted by Chief Engineer Tony Cox, a 1993 graduate of the Telecommunications program who now oversees the maintenance for all the equipment at Filmcore.

Students got a first-hand look at a working machine room filled with 1-in. C, Betacam, and pro-audio dubbing equipment. A highlight of the trip was the chance to sit in an edit suite. Editor Angelo Valencia, devoted some time out of his busy schedule to demonstrate the Avid editing system and field questions about his experiences in post-production. Later in the evening, during off-hours, the group was able to examine and discuss the physical connections and inner-workings of the editing equipment and software. To top off such a great learning experience, Filmcore provided a pizza dinner and refreshments!

This meeting marked the conclusion of the Fall 2000 semester and Chapter 11 club activities. The club along with advisor Gary Vann would like to thank Tony Cox, Jon Ettinger, Angelo Valencia, Jeffrey Pennington, and Masaki Eshima-Johnston for the hard work that went into making this great field trip a reality!

See everyone in Spring 2001—Greg Martin, Secretary



Editor Angelo Valencia demonstrates Filmcore equipment to students touring the San Francisco facility.



Students of Napa Valley College at a field trip to Filmcore-SF in December.

New York December 12, 2000

The meeting was held at ABC's broadcast facility and the topic was "Datacasting for DTV." More than 70 people attended this event, which featured presentations by two speakers, Brad Newbury, director of broadcast engineering for iBlast, and Gomer Thomas, product manager for Triveni Digital. Datacasting is a hot topic, both politically and technically, and these companies represent leadership in this small but growing niche in the broadcast industry. Newbury started off by exhibiting the business model of iBlast and explained how they expect to deliver data from content creators. This model revealed how iBlast, a company owned by many content creation companies, can broadcast IP data to the home.

Next, Thomas complemented Newbury's presentation by describing many of the technical aspects of broadcasting IP data, such as carouseling techniques, that can create the kinds of environments that companies such as iBlast envision. Both companies see these services not as replacements for the search engine type of internet use, but rather, an enhancement of what traditional broadcasting can provide. They showed that these data delivery models can be analogous to how visual content is broadcast today. A very spirited Q and A session followed that took nearly as long as the papers themselves.—Mike Strein, Program Manager, Television

Ohio November 14, 2000

The November meeting, held at the new WEWS-DT Studio in Cleveland, was combined with several Society of Broadcast Engineers chapters from around Ohio and included approximately 40 members and guests. The evening's speaker Ian Caldwell, Miranda Technologies Inc., discussed the revolutionary new virtual monitoring display wall called the Kaleido. The virtual wall monitoring system is achieved by projecting just one large frame on a screen but contains many sub-frames within the overall display. Each frame monitors different, individual video and audio signals, just as the monitors in a standard control room,



The New York Section meeting in December featured Gomer Thomas (l) and Brad Newbury shown here with Mike Strein, program manager, television.

but does not take up the same space and create the same heat and heavy power usage. The end result is that all the display details of a complete control room monitoring facility can be faithfully re-created, even the typical control room clock! This means that television broadcasters in the future could eliminate or greatly curtail all the traditional control room monitors and replace them with just one LCD projected display, even in remote vans on location. The Kaleido accepts input signals from both analog NTSC video and MPEG digital video sources.

Some attendees then demonstrated the use of the system, which can run on either a standard desk or laptop computer, connected to a high-resolution LCD projector and displayed via a front or rear projection screen format. Discussions centered around the fact that the Kaleido can also be used for applications other than television broadcast plants, such as monitoring flight arrival and departure schedules in airport concourses; shopping centers; stadiums; airliners; etc. Caldwell pointed out that anywhere multiple conventional television monitors can provide display services today, the Kaleido could provide that same display service tomorrow.

James Baird, the WEWS Television chief engineer along with some of his staff, then gave informal tours of the station's new digital HDTV facilities, which now provide local as well as network passthrough, digital signal service to the Cleveland television market.—Gene L. Batey, SMPTE Ohio, Sec./Treas., Ohio State

University Office of Information
Technology

Pasadena City College November 28, 2000

With 24 in attendance, the meeting began with the distribution of invitations to the SMPTE Christmas screening of *Dinosaurs* at Disney Studios. Barbara Wolf, the wife of the late Lou Wolf presented Student Chapter Chair Kenneth A. Young, Jr. (aka Kassa Zakadi), a check for one of the first Lou Wolf Scholarship Awards.

The guest speaker for the meeting was Milt Shefter, Miljoy Enterprises, Inc. Shefter, a co-chair of the Lou Wolf Scholarship Committee is also the designer of the new Audio Visual Conservation Center at the U.S. Library of Congress. As the president of his own company, Shefter's topic dealt with how to acquire a job. He elaborated on networking, meeting people within the industry to find out what jobs are available, and researching the companies you are interested in.

The resumé is defensive marketing, it is critical to remember that for every job opening there are many applicants. Shefter defined the fundamentals required to create an effective resumé and explained how it should be structured: Contact information (name, address, phone, e-mail, etc.); Summary (selling sentences describing your strengths); Professional experience; Other experience (anything that adds to your capabilities for the posi-



Barbara Wolf presents the Lou Wolf Scholarship Award to Kenneth A. Young at the November meeting of the Pasadena City College chapter.



Milt Shefter was the guest speaker at the PCC chapter meeting in November.

tion); and Education. It must be business-like and demonstrate good communication skills. He urged people to avoid colored paper or gimmicks.

A resume is designed to procure an interview. Shefter articulated the critical components of an interview. Dress

appropriately for that particular business (hair cut and properly maintained clean nails, shoes shined and not showing worn heels, etc.). Ask questions about the company and the position (don't speak only about yourself). Salary and benefits are dis-

cussed after an offer of the job. If you are not hired, inquire about other companies in the industry; you could walk out with a referral for another interview. —Kassa Zakadi, Chairperson

News

Tandberg and Telenor Conduct Broadband Trials

Tandberg Television is partnering with Telenor to conduct end-user trials of broadcast-quality television over an IP (Internet Protocol) broadband network. The trials, which commenced in December 2000 and will conclude in March 2001, will form part of Telenor's field tests of its broadband full service network (FSN) and will offer consumers an exciting new way of receiving entertainment and information.

The Tandberg Television/Telenor trials will provide consumers with a wide choice of multimedia services including digital television; video-on-demand; live and scheduled broadcasts; and personal video recorder (PVR) services via a PC linked to a settop-box. Field trial users in Oslo, Norway, will be connected to the services via broadband access technologies such as VDSL and LMDS. The trials will see the deployment of the new Tandberg Television IP Multi-

Streamer, which enables broadcasters, telcos, and communications companies to cost-effectively distribute MPEG-2 broadcast streams over IP networks.

Milestone in Filmmaking

The film, *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* marks a milestone in the convergence of film and digital technologies. It is the first time that the digital intermediate technology pioneered by Cinesite, Inc., has been used as an extension of the art of cinematography on an entire feature film. The film was created by Ethan and Joel Coen and takes place in rural Mississippi, where three convicts escape from a chain gang.

"Ethan and Joel wanted to create a sense of time and place with a dry, dusty delta look with low golden sunlight," said cinematographer Roger Deakins. "The problem was that principal cinematography was slated for Mississippi during the summer months when I knew landscapes would be lush

with various shades of green." The film was edited traditionally and then converted to digital format by Cinesite. Deakins took a painter's approach to interpreting images in the digital suite. In some scenes he turned lush green trees and other foliage into various yellow tones.

"*O Brother, Where Art Thou?* has created a link between film and digital," said Ruth Scovill, president and COO of Cinesite. "Technology and artistry have blended together to produce stunning results previously unattainable."

International Theatrical Distribution System Developed

Hollywood Software, Inc., has formed a strategic partnership with World Entertainment Software Technology Corp. (WestCorp) that will effectively extend the reach of the former's industry-leading theatrical distribution system, TDS2000, around the world. Under the agreement, WestCorp will collaborate with Hollywood Software