

Section Meetings

Chicago
July 16, 2002

The July meeting, attended by 12 members and guests, was held at Post Effects in Chicago.

The guest speaker for the evening was Charles Morganti, Jr., central regional manager for Tigi, who presented a different approach to data storage developed by that company. First he gave an overview of the problems with current data storage schemes, where there are limits to the systems used due to the nature of hard drive rotation speeds and seek times. While these have improved over those in the past, they are still not fast enough, given the need for larger capacity storage devices and the need to faster data access, than currently possible.

Tigi has designed an approach using both solid state storage and hard drives in conjunction with a sophisticated caching system which can prioritize the data that is most often needed. This approach increases CPU usage and overall efficiency. The devices are modular and can be interfaced using either fibre or SCSI and could be added onto an existing data storage network.—Dave Melone, Manager



Attendees at the Rocky Mountain Section meeting in July.

Rocky Mountain July 17, 2002

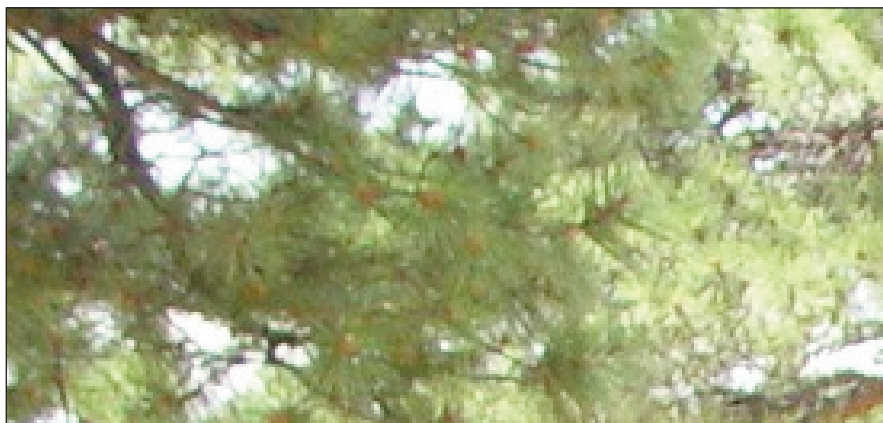
Each summer SMPTE's Rocky Mountain Section and our industry sister organization, SBE, gather for a social outing at Lookout Mountain, overlooking Denver. Lookout Mountain is the principal transmitter site for Denver's television, radio, 2-way, and paging community. More than 80 members attended.

This year, through the efforts of the two chapters, individuals, and sponsorships from the broadcasting community, we were proud to present a check for \$1,000 to the Ennes Foundation. If you've been around broadcasting for a while, you have probably run into at least one of a series of hardcover books such as *Television Broadcasting Tape Recording Systems* (1979), *Television Broadcasting Systems Maintenance* (1972), *Television Broadcasting*

Equipment Operating Fundamentals (1979), or *AM-FM Broadcasting Equipment, Operations and Maintenance* (1974), among others. All are the work of Harold E. Ennes, published by Howard W. Sams & Co. Inc., in Indianapolis.

The Ennes Trust operates solely for educational and charitable purposes, with Trustees responsible for assuring its use for intended purposes and maintenance by balancing growth with the desire to allocate funds. The Ennes Trust buys tools, underwrites educational publications, and traditionally distributes a series of scholarships to students entering the field of broadcast engineering. After the events of September 11, Troy Pennington and members of SBE wanted to do something for the families of the engineers who perished at the World Trade Center. The Trust was called upon to serve this need. Donations of about \$150,000 were collected and distributed separately from the educational trust activities.

In the last year, the Trust issued three additional scholarships of \$1,000 each to students in a broadcast engineering program. Typically they are involved in engineering campus stations and indicate to their professors a desire to follow this career path. The Foundation maintains relationships with several schools specializing in broadcasting, and relies heavily on recommendations from instructors for the disbursement of funds.—Rome Chelsi, Section Chair, and Fred Baumgartner, Board Member



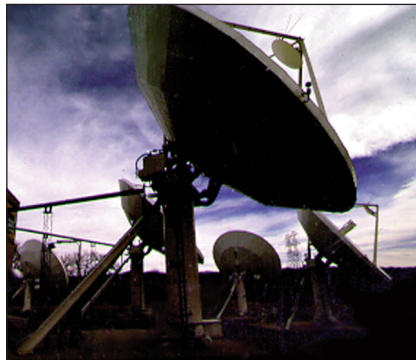
(L-R) Fred Baumgartner, Bill Harris, and Rome Chelsi present donation to the Ennes Foundation at the Rocky Mountain Section meeting in July.



SMPTE Event at AT&T Digital Media Centers

The SMPTE Standards working groups met at AT&T's Digital Media Centers (ADMC) in Denver during the week of June 10 through 14. The location, in the middle of the U.S. is a bit of a departure from SMPTE tradition, but the position on the 105th meridian is ideal for both Atlantic and Pacific Operating Region satellite access. While meetings were held on the "normal" 10-hour a day schedule, there was an opportunity on Wednesday evening for attendees to leave Studio West-One for a tour of the associated Titan Earth Station and ADCM facility.

Originally, the picnic was scheduled for Titan, however, the Hayman Colorado forest fire threatened the site and the festivities were moved to the in-town location at the last moment to



View from below of Titan Earth Station at dusk.

ensure a successful outing. The fire remained contained 20 miles to the southwest, so the threat never materialized. The working groups shared a Denver-style Bar-B-Q with the members of the Rocky Mountain Section of the SMPTE, and Chapter 48 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE). Denver is somewhat unusual in that SMPTE and SBE meetings have been held jointly since 1997.

The ADCM facility is one of the better-kept secrets in the television world. Together with the Titan uplink facility, 11 miles away, the enterprise originates some 70 channels of continuous programming (mostly for cable use) and is the home of the Head End In The Sky (HITS) digital cable distribution

platform, which uplinks over 430 full-time video services. The facilities are among the world's largest origination and uplink services and include streaming, production, editing, traffic, and programming departments. The building is home to iNDEMAND, Animal Planet, the digital and high-definition Discovery channels, and ESPN's digital out-of-market sports offerings, among others. Also resident are DMX (Digital Music Express), TV-Guide on Screen, and The International Channel. The ADCM centers include operations in Hong Kong, New York, and Los Angeles.

Despite the smoke impinging on the already rare oxygen atoms, this was a successful meeting enjoyed by all who attended.—*Frederick M. Baumgartner*



Aerial view of ADCM facility in Denver.



Denver Studio East-One set.