
SECTION MEETINGS

Baylor University Student Chapter, February 12 — Faculty Sponsor Corey Carbonara introduced guest speaker Steve Krantz, Microtime Inc. Krantz's presentation covered frame synchronization, time-base correctors, and the genesis box. The audience of 35 was responsive during the entire presentation. — Vicki Leeper (Secretary).

Detroit, January 15 — New developments in satellite communications was the subject of an informative presentation by John F. X. Browne, Browne Associates Inc. He reviewed the development of communication satellites, beginning with the early passive reflectors and continuing through successive developments to the present day C-band and Ku-band active units. He explained how the speed of the satellite travelling in space was calculated to cause the satellite to maintain an orbit about 22,500 miles above the earth's equator at an angular velocity the same as that of the earth's rotation. The satellite thus appears to be stationary with respect to the earth's surface (geostationary).

Browne pointed out the advantages and disadvantages of C-band and Ku-band satellite transmissions. The C-band "birds" pose special problems in siting both the uplink and downlink earth stations due to mutual interference to and from common carrier terrestrial microwave systems that share the same frequency spectrum. Ku-band systems, although not subject to the same type of interference, are subject to much deeper fading during heavy precipitation than are C-band systems. Applications of satellite technology for voice, video, and data were compared with alternate methods of information delivery.

A spirited question-and-answer period demonstrated the keen interest in the fast-developing field of satellite communications. — Richard L. Kennedy (Secretary-Treasurer), John F. X. Browne & Associates, 525 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48013.

Detroit, February 12 — Despite the inclement weather, 16 determined members and guests from the Detroit/Windsor area gathered for a dual-topic program at Windsor's Hiram Walker reception area. Prof. Phil Alexander, University of Windsor, discussed the question, "Is the Electronic Cottage in Your Future?" He explored the potential offered by developing information technology for changing the world of work in a service-oriented economy. The proliferation of personal computers and the development of digital trans-

mission systems brings the home into focus as a workplace.

Computer-aided design, word processing, graphics, and monitoring/supervising automated machinery are but a few of the tasks that can be performed in the electronic cottage workplace. Evaluation of worker performance would be more objective, based upon quality and quantity of work output, rather than the supervisor's observation that the worker seems to be occupied with the work at hand. Alexander noted that some of the many advantages of working at home include the more efficient use of time, transportation, and expensive real estate now used for offices and parking lots.

Garry B. Newhook, Leitch Video Ltd., discussed the importance of measurement of the phase relationship between video horizontal sync and the color subcarrier (SC/H), as specified in the RS170A standard, and the measurement techniques available. He noted that prior to the RS170A, no phase relationship was specified, and timing errors were additive, as a product was developed using several production facilities, each with a different standard. Using the Leitch Video Model SCH731N SC/H monitor, he showed the SC/H error measured in several different video sources on a multiple LED readout. — Richard L. Kennedy (Secretary-Treasurer), John F. X. Browne & Associates, 525 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48013.

Florida/Caribbean, February 17 — The multi-media show, *Flight of the Aurora*, was shown to the 41 members and guests assembled at the Kennedy Space Center. This was followed by the IMAX film, *Hail Columbia*. A tour of the projection facilities was conducted by Tom Anderson, TW Services, Inc. An impressive part of the tour was the close-up view of the *Columbia* spacecraft. — M. A. McDaniels (Chairman), Martin-Marietta Corp., 2819 Harriett Dr., Orlando, FL 38606.

Montreal/Quebec, February 5 — The meeting, held at the Sonolab/CME (Centre de Montage Électronique) complex, featured a three-part program on sound mixing, video duplication, and on-line editing.

René Villeneuve, Sonolab, gave a brief history of how the sound mixing studio got involved with Dolby Stereo sound mixing. The audience was then shown a comparison screening of a 35mm film mixed in both mono and Dolby stereo sound. The impact of the Dolby stereo track was a great hit. The mixing studio was open for

viewing, and technicians were there to answer questions.

Joe Costa, Videoquip Ltd., outlined his design of a complete video duplication center for Sonolab, incorporating the most up-to-date 1/2-in. VHS, Beta HiFi, and 3/4-in. duplication equipment. The operation was also designed to accommodate future expansion. The video duplication was in full operation and technicians demonstrated procedures and answered questions.

The audience of 95 members and guests then moved to the Centre de Montage Électronique, where Gilles Pilon showed the on-line video editing suites and demonstrated the Rank Cintel which had been upgraded to include an Amigo computer. The film material prepared for the demonstration included archive black-and-white, faded color print, contrasty material, and currently used color film stock. A tape of this film before and after correction on the Rank was then shown. The versatility of the Rank and the Amigo computer was impressive. — Grant Dearnaley (Chairman), National Film Board of Canada, P.O. Box 6100, Station A, Montreal, P.Q., Canada H3C 3H5.

New England, February 20 — The Hitachi FP-Z-31 portable color camera was shown by John P. Breitenbucher, Hitachi Denshi. Breitenbucher presented technical data about a new twisted field Saticon and discussed the camera's automatic features and internal character generator. He then provided a working demonstration under low lighting conditions.

Richard C. Erickson, Hitachi Denshi, presented the HR-230 Type-C 1-in. teleproduction videotape recorder. This was



A special event at the Florida/Caribbean Section meeting was a close-up view of the spacecraft *Columbia*.



Paul R. Beck (L), John P. Breitenbucher, and Richard C. Erickson at the New England Section meeting on February 20.

an in-depth session where many features of the VTR system and its on-board operator aids were demonstrated and explained.

The meeting was attended by members of the Society of Broadcast Engineers who had been invited to view the presentations. After-meeting discussions continued until well after 10 p.m. — Paul R. Beck (Secretary-Treasurer), 71 Cross St., Foxboro, MA 02035.

New York, February 13 — Bradley Hunt, Eastman Kodak Co., presented a paper by Richard Sehlin, Kodak, entitled, "Graininess in Motion Pictures." In this paper, the author describes the factors that affect the impression of graininess and the techniques that can be used to minimize it. Motion-picture prints have maximum graininess at a density of approximately 0.90. A factor affecting the viewer's im-

pression of graininess is the eye sensitivity, or visibility function, which has a relative weighting for print-through granularity of 60% green, 30% red, and 10% blue.

Identified as techniques that may be used to minimize screen graininess were: increased print density; selecting a lower speed, finer-granularity negative; avoiding underexposures; lighting scenes to have a short brightness range; and overexposing and under developing the negative (pull-processing). These techniques were demonstrated in a 16mm film, and the audience was cautioned that they are departures from the recommended practices that produce optimum prints. Questions from the audience related to the techniques for minimizing graininess and the visibility function of the eye.

The next event on the program was the presentation by Michael Groth, Eastman Kodak Co., of a paper authored by Steven

Powell, et al. entitled, "The Interface of Motion Picture Films and Video." The authors describe factors that affect the picture quality of motion-picture films transferred to video by production telecines. Color-masking requirements, tone-scale reproduction, and image noise are discussed in terms of the relationship to the type of film used as input to the telecine. Questions from the audience concerned contributions to image noise, techniques for minimizing image noise, and the tone-scale improvements realized with Eastman color LC print film 5/7380.

The audience enjoyed a pre-meeting reception sponsored by Eastman Kodak Co. — Edward J. Burns (Past-Chairman), Eastman Kodak Co., 1133 Ave. of the Americas, New York, NY 10036.

Rochester, February 13 — The film, *Digital Dream*, produced by Glen Glenn Sound Co. to demonstrate its digital sound recording, editing, and mixing capabilities, was shown to the more than 150 members and guests assembled at Loew's B-Plex Theater. The 35mm anamorphic print with Dolby stereo optical sound track included some behind-the-scenes footage of the Glen Glenn facilities. *Digital Dream* is a 30-min film that took over 16 months to complete, with a staff and crew of over 500 professionals. It was shot throughout the U.S. using prototype technology never before available to a commercial production. The result is a motion picture with some of the most dazzling visuals and sounds ever created.

Following the film, John Pytlak, Eastman Kodak Co., answered questions about the film. At the conclusion of the meeting, Pytlak described the Theater Quality Evaluation Program. This is a voluntary program designed to help motion-picture theaters improve presentation quality. — R. J. Erskine (Secretary-Treasurer), 168 Vinedale Ave., Rochester, NY 14622.



Edward Burns introduced the speakers at the New York Section meeting on February 13.



Bradley Hunt presented a paper at the New York Section meeting on February 13.



Michael Groth spoke at the New York Section meeting on February 13.