

Section Meetings

Atlanta, April 21 — The meeting, attended by 37 Society members and their guests, was held at WXIA-TV, Atlanta. Four speakers combined to give a complete and informative presentation on the Ku-band satellite news-gathering system (SNG). The program began with a tour of WXIA's SNG truck. Conducted by Paul Unger, station engineer, the tour gave participants the opportunity to see how WXIA's equipment is utilized and operated during an actual Ku-band remote transmission and reception.

The second part of the program was a presentation on two-way communications via satellite. Hines Wegener, Wegener Communications, discussed single carrier/channel (SCPC). He outlined the alternate ways to implement SCPC, including dedicated transponder, band edge, and pre-post video. Next, Keith Rosser, Harris Corp., conducted a tour of the WXIA downlink facility. Don Kivell, director, NBC Television Network Interconnection, then discussed the operation of Ku-band transmission between the network base and NBC's many affiliates throughout the country. — Bebe F. McClain (Secretary/Treasurer), PAG America, Ltd., P.O. Box 5813, Asheville, NC 28803.

Chicago, April 8 — Forty members and guests attended the meeting held at the Chicago Marriott Hotel. Ron Hill, Eastman Kodak Co., demonstrated the Kodak modular video system, focusing on several unique operational features of the 8mm format. According to Hill, the 8mm high-density metal particle tape provides quality images. The pulse-code-modulated (PCM) digital sound can be used with or without video images and can also be used

to record off-air programming in stereo. The small format allows for a camcorder of approximately 5 lb. A lively question-and-answer period followed the presentation. — Gilbert L. Blew (Publicity), Eastman Kodak Co., 1901 W. 22nd St., Oak Brook, IL 60521.

Detroit, March 11 — Four speakers discussed various aspects of stereo audio for television at this meeting, which took place at WDIV-TV, the NBC Television Network affiliate in Detroit. A total of 150 persons from the SMPTE, the Audio Engineering Society, and the Society of Broadcast Engineers attended.

Howard Mullinack, Orban Associates, the first speaker, described the BTSC multi-channel sound system. BTSC has stringent filtering requirements, as well as extreme temperature stability. Those technical aspects, along with audio processing techniques, "perceived" loudness, and phasing problems and solutions, were explained in detail by Mullinack.

Representatives from WDIV covered other aspects of stereo audio for television. Bill Mullin, maintenance supervisor, shed light on the problems encountered with the actual on-air presentation of stereo audio. Methods of measurement were explained, along with measured performance parameters of the transmitted stereo signal. Mullin compared the methods employed in WDIV's audio processing systems against those required by NBC. Linc Reed-Nickerson, director of engineering, then touched on the problems encountered in planning for the many technical requirements associated with stereo audio. He explained how WDIV solved the signal problems it encountered in the STL system.

The fourth speaker was Jay Scott, Producers Color Service Inc. Scott dealt with stereo audio as it relates to television commercials. He described the type of facility needed to produce a quality stereo audio product, and the problems that result when "real" stereo audio is fed into synthesized stereo units. Following the presentations, attendees were given a brief tour of the WDIV facility. — Rudolph J. Kryger (Secretary/Treasurer), Canadian Broadcasting Corp., 1139 Eastlawn Ave., Windsor, Ont., Canada N8S 3J1.

Florida/Caribbean, April 24 — Frank Eberhardt, Eastman Kodak Co., presented a technical paper on Kodak's 7292 improved 16mm color negative film. He discussed the various properties of the new film, then offered an A-B-A test roll comparing the 7292 to the 7294, the company's prior format. Following this presentation, the 35 members and guests in attendance were treated to a film showing the award-winning commercials in the 1985 Clio Awards competition. A studio tour of host WJCT-TV, Jacksonville, Fla., concluded the evening's program. — Ralph Bevins (Secretary/Treasurer), FILMS, P.O. Box 1835, Longwood, FL 32750.

Hollywood, May 8 — The meeting, attended by 220 members and guests, took place at Mitsubishi Pro Audio Group, San Fernando, Calif. The program included a brief report, by Hollywood Regional Governor Richard J. Stumpf, on the Montreal/Quebec, Rochester, Ottawa, and Toronto Sections Mini-Conference, along with two technical presentations.

Tore Nordahl, president, Mitsubishi Pro Audio, gave a tutorial on digital audio. He outlined the advantages of digital audio over analog audio, then discussed the engineering design features and the performance and reliability of the Mitsubishi digital audio console. Following Nordahl's paper, Cary Fischer, director of technical services, Mitsubishi Pro Audio, provided a glimpse at the technology behind the intelligent digital fader (IDF). — Gus Dato (Secretary/Treasurer), ABC, Inc., 4151 Prospect Ave., Hollywood, CA 90027.

Nashville, April 24 — Thirty-eight members and their guests attended the meeting, held at Northern Telecom, Inc., Nashville. Kerns H. Powers, staff vice-president, communications research, RCA Laboratories, was guest speaker. Powers, a proponent of the enhanced NTSC television system, explained why he believes NTSC will prevail over the new high-definition television systems. He expressed the opinion that the industry will see the commercial use of high-resolution TV as soon as a 7-MByte frame store can be placed on one chip, by around 1991. — Duane Muir (Secretary/Trea-



Linc Reed-Nickerson speaking at the March 11 meeting of the Detroit Section. WDIV hosted the meeting.

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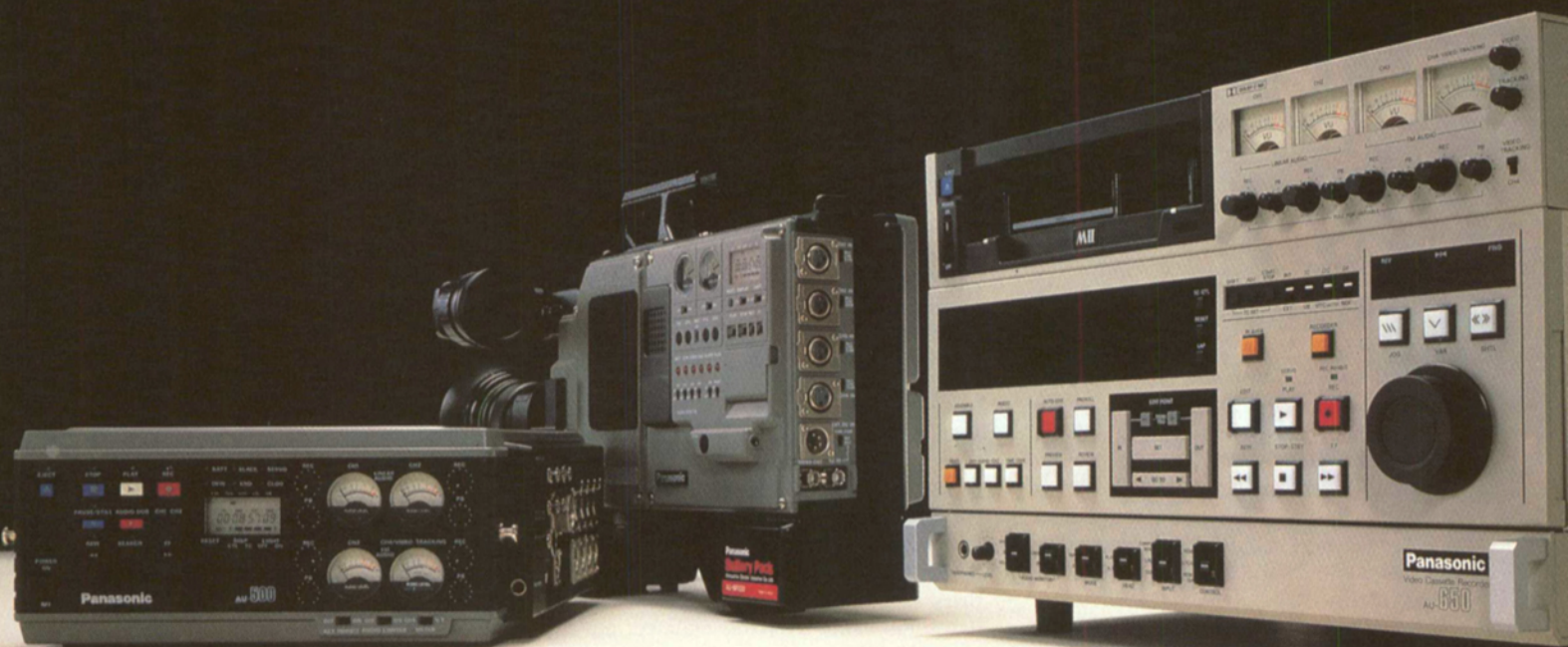
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surer), Nashville State Tech., 120 White Bridge Rd., Nashville, TN 37209.

New England, March 15 — A total of 200 persons from the SMPTE and three other technical societies were treated to a series of special technical presentations on the potential of sound in today's theaters. John E. Allen, of John E. Allen, Inc., Park Ridge, N.J., was the featured speaker at the special four-hour meeting. Other societies participating were the Audio Engineering Society, the Acoustical Society of America, and the Boston Audio Society.

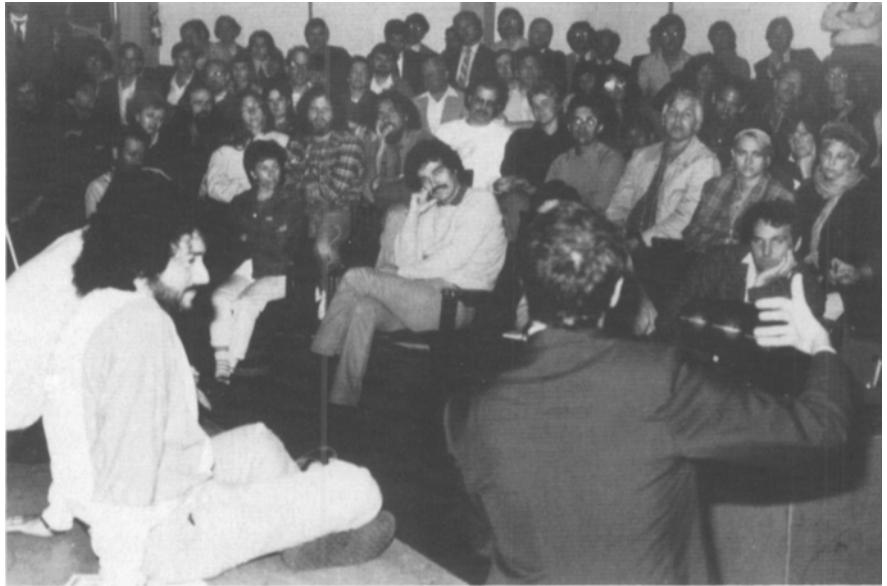
The site for the meeting was The Community Playhouse, a Wellesley Hills, Mass., theater recently cited by a regional magazine for its high-quality audio and projection capability. With a complement of the latest Dolby and Kintek audio processors, installed in advance of the meeting, the playhouse served as an excellent setting for Allen's demonstrations of special sound effects.

Allen, who was co-chairman of the Digital Audio Applications session at the 127th SMPTE Technical Conference, opened the meeting with a test reel from the popular motion picture *Midway*. This Sensurround test film features titles which "tip off" the members of an audience to the activation of a specific surround or effects channel.

Following this dramatic presentation of Sensurround, which included discussion into its history and technological development, Allen demonstrated Dolby Sound. Here, he used an optical release print of Dolby Laboratories' test film *Listen*, followed by a showing of segments from *A Chorus Line* and *Silverado*. The latter two reels were offered as examples of the high quality obtainable from conventional mastering and mixing.

After a break, Allen introduced the first of two final reels, a re-release of *Metropolis*, originally a silent film by Fritz Lang. A new digital sound track and restoration, including the addition of long-lost portions of the original film, demonstrated excellent sound quality that held the audience spellbound. Segments from Glen Glenn Sound's *Digital Dream* were also presented. This sound track was accessed directly from a 35mm dubber, transporting a first-generation master recording made from the original master.

The agenda also included a demonstration of the HPS-4000, a computer-designed theater sound system that Allen developed. Using slides and actual working models, he gave a detailed explanation of the system. With the HPS-4000, the sound quality across all frequencies can be projected in an ultra-flat field. The audience was impressed with the clarity of all areas of sound, from the very low bass, through mid-range, and into the high frequencies. — Paul R. Beck (Section Chairman), Emerson College, 71 Cross St., Foxboro, MA 02035.



Members of the San Francisco Section at the San Francisco Exploratorium on April 22.

Ohio, April 23 — Three computer graphic effects systems were demonstrated at the meeting, hosted by EDR Corp., Shaker Heights, Ohio. The impressive paint capabilities of the Via Video and Cubicomp graphic systems were shown to the 18 meeting attendees in EDR's computer graphics center. The audience then moved to the company's 1-in. editing suite for a demonstration of the Abekas A52 digital effects unit. Dave Cockley, EDR, and staff artists at the firm made the presentations. — John A. Barak (Secretary/Treasurer), Industrial Video Inc., 1601 N. Ridge Rd., Lorain, OH 44055.

Rochester, April 9 — Approximately 300 persons filled the Little Theatre, Rochester, N.Y., for a technical presentation on 3-D animation. The speaker was Al Cerullo, Computer Graphics Laboratories. His combined discussion and demonstration focused on some of the techniques employed to create 3-D and included the artistic considerations relative to 3-D animation. Following the presentation, a film of the 19th International Tournee of Animation was shown. — Philip C. Vogel (Secretary/Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co., 343 State St., Rochester, NY 14650.

Rocky Mountain, April 24 — Forty-five Society members and their guests attended the meeting at Mile Hi Telecommunications Center, Denver. After a lively discussion period on the 1986 NAB convention, John Dawson, the first of three speakers, took the podium. The director of cable systems engineering at Mile Hi presented an overview of current cable technology, with emphasis on two-way and addressable cable systems. He also discussed the use of various amplifier types in distribution systems. Randel Watson and Lonnie Scheele, also of Mile

Hi, then discussed studio and remote facilities available to the community and to independent producers. A tour of the facility followed the presentations. — Kent Gratteau (Secretary/Treasurer), KWGN-TV, 4714 S. Fraser St., Aurora, CO 80015.

San Francisco, April 22 — Approximately 150 members and their guests attended the meeting, held at the San Francisco Exploratorium. The varied uses of video post-production effects in today's industry were discussed from the point of view of a sales representative, an effects artist, and a technician.

Neil Selvin, product manager, Ampex Corp., began the meeting by outlining the history and development of digital effects. He then discussed the Ampex ADO line of special effects tools, talking specifically about new techniques ADO users have discovered, and presenting examples of ADO applications.

Jonathan Keeton, the second speaker, is a Paint Box designer/artist with Varitel Video. He showed the audience examples of his work, while commenting on when Paint Box is, and is not, appropriate as a tool for video post-production effects. He offered useful advice for Paint Box clients, stressing the need for in-depth preparation and planning prior to walking into a session.

The technician's point of view was offered by Maury Rosenfeld, technical director, The Post Group. Rosenfeld discussed the Mirage special effects tools and showed how all three techniques — ADO, Paint Box, and Mirage — were combined in the television program "The Twilight Zone." Following Rosenfeld's presentation, the audience was given the opportunity to ask questions. — John A. Carlson (Secretary/Treasurer), Monaco Labs, 234 Ninth St., San Francisco, CA 94103.

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News

Toronto, April 8 — This meeting, held at the Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, Toronto, drew a total of over 100 members and their guests. After a videotape on the Tsukuba EXPO 85 Science Exposition was shown, Section Chairman Fung F. Lam, Sony of Canada Ltd., presented a technical overview of the 8mm video system.

Lam's introductory remarks centered on industry efforts to standardize 8mm videotape. In 1985, 127 companies adopted the 8mm video format, following a developmental process that began with standardization discussions in 1980. The 8mm videocassette, which is about 20% of the volume of VHS cassettes, incorporates several unique operational features, including signal recording, playback and automatic gain control circuits, head-to-tape speed characteristics, and the tracking system.

According to Lam, the 8mm video system uses a novel method of four frequency-tracking pilots to provide a fully automatic tracking system, and it automatically identifies and makes adjustments for metal powder or metal evaporated tape. The video 8 system contains no stationary heads. All audio, video, and pilot information is carried by the rotating video heads, and a 2-track erase head, on the same drum, provides an automatic record/edit function. If only sound information is desired, the system will provide up to 12 hours of PCM audio recording. Following the technical presentation, the audience was given an opportunity to closely inspect an 8mm demonstration tape. — David L. George (Secretary/Treasurer), Imagineering Ltd., 95 Barber Green Rd., Suite 112, Don Mills, Ont., Canada M3C 3E9.

Washington, D.C. — Douglas Drew, Allen Fleitell, and Douglas Smith, all affiliated with host City Lights, offered an interesting program on television, film, and theatrical lighting. City Lights, located in Washington, is a lighting and production facility. The firm provides lighting equipment, along with the talents and expertise of an in-house staff of cinematographers, lighting designers, and other professionals, to local television stations, film production houses, theaters, businesses, and even churches. The firm also has a grip truck for location shooting.

The three speakers enthusiastically talked about their facility, pointing out its range of services, past accomplishments, and recent assignments undertaken. Following the discussion, they demonstrated fresnel, ellipsoidal, PAR, and border lights. Special effects were created by using projection templates (gobos). The speakers then fielded questions from the audience, after which a tour of the facility was conducted. — David A. Cmeyla (Secretary/Treasurer), U.S. Information Agency, 601 D St. NW, B/TVF/FSL, Washington, D.C. 20547.

Members of the SMPTE Archival Papers and Historical Committee have been selected by Chairman John Belton, Columbia University. The committee is composed of Albert Abramson, CBS, Inc.; Evan W. Cameron, York University; Steven Chamberlain, Arriflex Corp.; Leonard F. Coleman, Eastman Kodak Co.; Richard T. Dayton, YCM Laboratories; Steve Garfinkel, Showtime; Robert Gitt, University of Southern California (Los Angeles); Peter Hammar, Ampex Corp.; Calvin Hotchkiss, Eastman Kodak Co. (retired); John B. Kuiper, George Eastman House; Eugene Ostroff, Smithsonian Institution; Roderick T. Ryan, Eastman Kodak Co.; Ralph Sargent, Film Technology; Arnold C. Schieman, Restoration House Film Group; Anthony Slide, Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences; S. Frederick Spira, Spiratone Inc.; and Heinz H. Thiele, consultant.

In response to the considerable interest expressed by both the Society's membership and the industry at large in film and video restoration, the 128th SMPTE Technical Conference will feature one or more archival sessions. The new committee is actively soliciting technical papers for the session(s). According to Conference Program Chairman Jack Spring, Eastman Kodak Co., the archival papers will shed light on some of the restoration efforts recently undertaken by individuals, institutions, and corporations.

The 1986 Annual Seminar of the SMPTE Rocky Mountain Section will be held September 13, 1986, at the Regency Hotel in Denver, Colo. The seminar, the theme of which is "Imaging Technology," will include technical papers on the following five subjects: High-Definition Television, The M-II Format, Digital Sound, Ampex Corp.'s ACR-225 Spot Player, and Enhanced NTSC. The featured presenters will include top industry professionals from Sony Corp.; NBC, Inc.; Eastman Kodak Co.; and Ampex Corp. Douglas Trumbull, co-chairman of Showscan Film Corp., who is widely recognized as a Hollywood legend in the field of special photographic effects, will be the keynote speaker at the seminar. Registration information is available from Paul Deer, Western Cine, 312 S. Pearl, Denver, CO 80209.

The 1986 Rocky Mountain Film & Video Expo will be held September 29-30, at the Regency Hotel, Denver, Colo. The exposition, in its second year, will feature the latest professional film and video equipment from well-known national and international distributors and manufacturers.

For more information, contact Mark Frost, (303) 534-4040.

China Film, Sound & Stage '86 will take place December 1-6, 1986, at the Beijing Exhibition Centre, People's Republic of China. Organized by China Expo Management Corp., the widely promoted trade exhibition aims to import motion-picture, television, and theatrical equipment and technical expertise from around the world for use by China's rapidly growing entertainment industry. China Film, Sound & Stage '86 is endorsed by both the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Television, Radio, and Film, P.R. China. Exhibitors or individuals desiring further information may contact Joann Coviello at China Expo Management Corp., 6 E. 39th St., New York, NY 10016.

A series of technical discussions on high-definition television (HDTV) drew representatives from the U.S., Europe, and Japan to Tokyo, May 6-7. Attending the HDTV conference were representatives of the European and Japanese television manufacturing industry, the U.S. Advanced Television Systems Committee (ATSC), French broadcasters, the Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK), and a Japanese delegation of the Broadcasting Technology Association. The constructive meeting addressed the particular problems each country faces relative to the worldwide use of HDTV.

The Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) has established a Master of Science degree in color science, appearance, and technology. The program, which will be offered beginning in the fall semester, 1986, is designed for students whose undergraduate majors are in imaging science, photography, graphic arts, and other disciplines pertaining to color. The curriculum for the graduate major will stress color measurement, color appearance, and colorant formulation. Additional information is available from Dr. Roy S. Berns, Munsell Color Science Laboratory, RIT, P.O. Box 9887, Rochester, NY 14623.

The Mitsubishi Pro Audio Group, San Fernando, Calif., has adopted the SMPTE/EBU RS422 standard. In making the announcement, the company said that its entire line of digital audio recorders as well as its Westrex film master motion controllers will be engineered to conform to the new interface standard. According to a spokesman, the decision to adopt the RS422 standard relieves the studio facilities of having to develop their own complicated interfaces.