

Section Meetings

Hollywood March 2006

The meeting titled "Innovations and Inventions," was held at the Linwood Dunn Theater on March 21 with about 100 attendees. The program, which included two winners of 2005 Scientific and Technical Awards from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, opened with greetings from Section Chair Patricia Keighley. She was followed by Membership Chair Beverly Pasterczyk, who announced that there were 25 new members in the past few months. Past Chair David Wiswell reminded members about the upcoming election and introduced several of the candidates who were present. Section Manager Ralph Sargent then introduced the speakers.

The first presenter was Scott Leva, who was honored by the Academy for the design and development of the Precision Stunt Airbag for motion picture stunt falls. Leva told the audience that after many years as a stunt man, the death of two of his co-workers, as a result of falling, inspired him to design an air bag that



Section Manager Ralph Sargent and presenter Scott Leva at the Hollywood meeting.

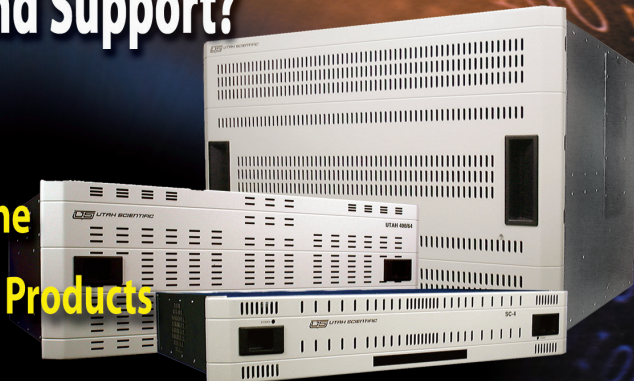
enveloped performers, preventing them from bouncing out of the bag. He ran a short video in which he made jumps from as high as 150 ft. This presentation was a fascinating change from the usual technical material.

The second presenters were Bob Heiber, president of Chace Productions, and Jamie Howarth of Plangent Processes. They have developed a system to eliminate "wow" and "flutter" from magnetic recordings in which the base material is warped or shrunken. Details were projected on-screen, along with audio examples that were played through the Dunn Theater's exemplary sound system.

Technicolor was also honored for its Real Time

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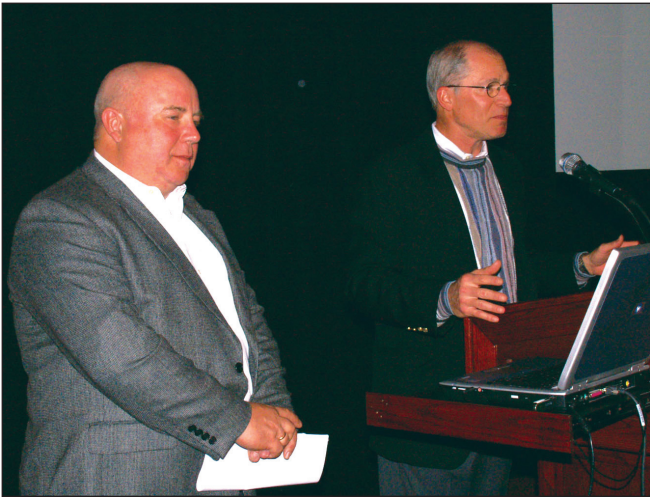


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Presenters Jamie Howarth and Bob Heiber.



Harold Rattray and Tim Reynolds of Technicolor.

Answer Print System. Representative Bob Olson, vice-president of operations, gave a PowerPoint presentation describing the procedure. This system allows a print to be projected on a unit containing printer light sources. Color and density can be viewed and changed in almost any manner. These changes are translated into printer light changes. This generally cuts the number of prints needed to arrive at the desired quality in half. Following the presentation, Tim Reynolds and Harold Rattray, both part of the development team, answered questions from the audience.

The final speaker Ralph Sargent of Film Technology Co., Inc., presented a variable contrast printing system currently in development. He described the need for this process in archival restoration, often due to older poorly made source films. Examples of the results were shown with a reel of 35mm black-and-white clips.

The pre-show reception was provided by Film Technology Co., Inc. and Chace Productions.

—Ralph Sargent, Section Manager/Richard May,
Past Chair

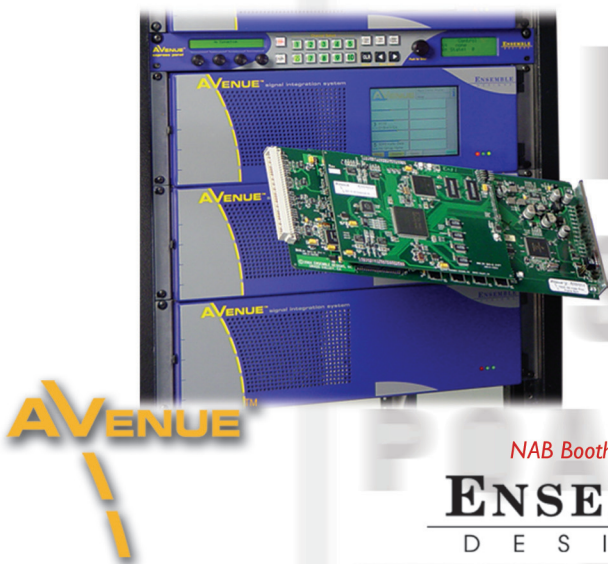
Rocky Mountain February 2006

Over 125 broadcast professionals from the Rocky Mountain region attended the February meeting titled “Testing High-Definition Video Signals.” Mike Richardson, director of product development for Harris-Leitch Corp., provided an all-day session on testing and monitoring high-definition video. Richardson discussed the basics of uncompressed high-definition video signals, as well as the considerations and methods required to properly test and monitor them. Embedded data monitoring (such as



Speaker Wayne Schulman addresses attendees at the Washington, D.C., Section meeting.

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embedded audio) was also covered as well as ways of monitoring various video signal parameters.

Thanks to Harris-Leitch for their authoritative presentation, and to Ray Milius and Lonnie Scheele of the Starz Entertainment Group for hosting the meeting.

—Rome Chelsi, Section Chair

Washington, D.C. March 2006

Twenty-five members and guests attended the meeting on March 16, which was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Silver Spring, MD.

The presentation titled "Camera Systems for Special Video Effects—Enhancing Your Video: DV, HDV, and HD" by Wayne Schulman of Bogen Imaging Video Products, included a demonstration of the Chromatte and LiteRing light source for enhanced chromakey applications, produced by ReflecMedia in the U.K. The LiteRing is on-camera light source comprising a ring of blue or green LEDs that surround the camera lens. Schulman explained that Chromatte is a highly direction-reflective material coated with microscopically small glass beads, originally developed for the BBC in England. In operation, the Chromatte material reflects

the blue or green light straight back to the lens, and the camera sees a perfectly even blue or green background that is ideal for keying. Due to the number of glass beads within the fabric, the camera and LiteRing are free to move and can work at acute angles to the Chromatte. He showed that, in the extreme, the fabric can be screwed into a ball and still produce a usable key signal. Schulman demonstrated a new DV keyer, developed in cooperation with Ultimatte, to improve blue and green screen capabilities for smaller budget productions in studios and remote locations. Overall, the system produces composite pictures with natural-looking backgrounds and no evidence of unwanted foreground color or edge artifacts.

The presentation, which also included information on a range of new HD/DV soft-effect filters with an outline of the general process for making high-quality glass filters in squares and rounds, concluded with a Q&A session. A general display of tripods, lighting stands, soft cases, and reflectors were available for inspection before and after the formal presentation.

Thanks to Bogen Imaging and their local dealer, CTL, for their hospitality and excellent refreshments.

—Graham Jones,
Section Manager/Program Chair