

Section Meetings

Hollywood December 2006

The Hollywood Section's regular holiday screening took place at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Linwood Dunn Theater, on Saturday, December 9. This year, approximately 70 members and guests were in attendance to view the Walt Disney picture, *Cars*, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Thanks to Walt Disney Productions for supplying the print, prior to its screening for the Academy's animation nominating committee. For the second year, members also participated in the Los Angeles Fire Department's "Spark of Love" toy drive.—*Richard P. May, Past Chair*

Ohio December 2006

The Section meeting on December 15, combined with the monthly meeting of the local Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE) Chapter 52, was held at WCMH-TV/DT's new master control broadcast operations center in Columbus, OH.

WCMH-TV/DT was sold by the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) to the Media General Corporation in June 2006. As a result of the sale, the station has become a central broadcast operations center for a "spoke" type relay schematic for some of the other Media General stations' broadcast operations, including all of those stations' local commercial station breaks, as well as their network affiliate distribution, etc. The only exceptions are live local studio-originated programs such as local newscasts, field specials, etc.

Debra Grivois, director of broadcast engineering operations for WCMH-TV/DT in Columbus, presented an interesting and informative program covering the many aspects of implementing such a project from conception to online transmission. She was assisted by members of her staff: Steve King, Ira Lilly, and Jodi Naylor.

The 23 attendees were given a very interesting outline of some of the challenges encountered in converting the conventional WCMH-TV/DT's master control room to a new state-of-the-art local station break and network distribution center. This involved the installation of several new computer hardware/software platforms and creating more space for housing additional equipment needed, such as the Floral Automation and Grass Valley GVVDs, computer servers, satellite downlinks, and personnel.

The meeting also included a lively Q & A session and a facilities tour. Refreshments were furnished by Media General-WCMH-TV/DT.—*Gene L. Batey, Secretary/Treasurer*

Rochester December 2006

The annual family film screening for members of the Rochester Section and the Rochester Audio Visual



(L-R) Kodak speakers Richard Wheeler and Gabriel Fielding with members/Kodak retirees LeRoy DeMarsh and Roger Morton.

Association (RAVA) attracted 65 attendees to the Cinemark IMAX Theatre at Tinseltown in Rochester. The film was the animated comedy feature *Happy Feet*, about Emperor penguins in Antarctica. The audience enjoyed both the film content and the beautiful animation quality on the large IMAX screen.—*Alan Masson, Secretary/Treasurer*

Rochester January 2007

The Section meeting was held on January 10, at the Eastman Kodak Company in Rochester, NY. In reprise presentations Richard Wheeler and Gabriel Fielding from the Entertainment Imaging Division of Kodak provided two complementary programs, originally prepared for the past SMPTE Technical Conference in October.

The first presentation, "Temporal and Chromatic Sampling Artifacts in Digital Intermediates," authored by Gabriel Fielding and Paul W. Jones, provided important background concepts related to temporal and chromatic artifacts in the digital capture. This provided a foundation for the second presentation and helped the group appreciate the impact of various types of reconstruction techniques.

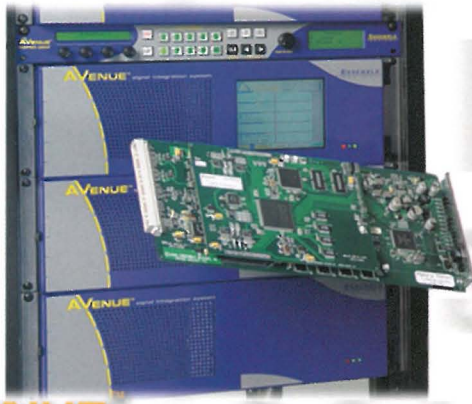
The second presentation, "The Effect of Single-Sensor Color Filter Array (CFA) Captures on Images Intended for Motion Picture and Television Applications" by Richard B. Wheeler and Nestor M. Rodriguez, compared desirable attributes and unwanted artifacts produced by various single-sensor and multiple-sensor camera designs used to consider key trade-offs in the design of systems. Wheeler explained how resolution, sharpness, aliasing, reconstruction errors, CFA artifacts, sensitivity (speed), and dynamic range interact to produce perceptual differences in modern projection systems.

The program was well attended by a great cross section of the Rochester Imaging Community, including several first-time visitors.—*Mark Henry, Section Chair*

Rocky Mountain December 2006

The joint SMPTE and SBE Chapter 48 annual networking and award luncheon was held on December 8, at the Park Hill Golf Course in Denver. This year's Citation for Outstanding Service went to long-time member John Helleyer, founder of HSE Communications. Helleyer was former chief engineer at KMGH prior to forming HSE—an RF consultancy. For many

You're focused on signal processing and infrastructure.



AVENUE

So are we. That's all we do.

Whether upgrading your broadcast facility to digital, or converting to HD, Avenue will take you there.

- **HD up/down/cross conversion**
- **HD/SD Dual rate modules**
- **New optical I/O**
- **Best control system plus SNMP**

NAB Booth SU 2997

ENSEMBLE
DESIGNS

Tel +1 530.478.1830 ▲ Fax +1 530.478.1832
www.ensembledesigns.com ▲ info@ensembledesigns.com
PO Box 993 Grass Valley CA 95945 USA



John Helleyer receives Citation for Outstanding Service.

years he has served, on a volunteer basis, as game day frequency coordinator for the Denver Broncos.

Helleyer provided an enlightening impromptu presentation on the logistics of coordinating in excess of 300 wireless frequencies. Most attendees were not aware of the complexities of coordinating the various broadcast services; police and fire; coach to team communications; and stadium requirements.

Thanks to John Helleyer for his efforts. The Denver broadcast community salutes him for his fine work. Special thanks also to Jim Schoedler for organizing the event.—*Rome Chelsi, Section Chair*

Washington, D.C. December 2006

In the spirit of the season and good fellowship, the Section celebrated the holidays with dinner at one of the fine restaurants in the beautifully decorated Union Station in the heart of Capitol Hill. This departure from the technically-based meetings enhanced the value of SMPTE membership at the Section level while providing an extended opportunity for networking and socializing. Members, spouses, and guests enjoyed the panoramic views of the architecture and decorations, as well as the view of the Nation's Capitol Dome from the third floor balcony.



Washington, D.C., Section members enjoy holiday festivities at Union Station.

The event included an element of vendor support with contributions from Tektronix and Miranda. The presence of Miranda CEO Strath Goodship, and several Miranda staff from Canada, was a pleasant addition to the evening. This event strengthened the existing relationships within the Section and provided an even stronger platform upon which to expand an already active Section. Earlier in the month, members staffed the SMPTE booth at the Government Video Expo, which proved to be an excellent recruiting venue.—*Bob Natwick, Section Manager/Event Organizer*

Washington, D.C. January 2007

About 40 members and guests gathered at Henninger Media Services in Arlington, VA, for a roundtable discussion of current issues and solutions in HD production workflow. After a brief introduction by president Rob Henninger, senior staff members explored how their particular specialties are being affected by HD and how they help clients navigate these new waters. Participants included director of engineering Sam Crawford, senior editor Jef Huey, senior colorist Lauren Meschter, and senior audio mixer Rob Fritts.

The discussion—with much interplay from the SMPTE audience—ranged from up- and down-conversion, to color-correction for video versus film, to mixing and delivering surround soundtracks. The panel shared many anecdotes from actual jobs, which raised questions about the state of reference monitoring (LCD versus the disappearing CRT), audio metadata (nobody's prepared to deal with it), and how to handle the choice of HD or SD colorspace (SD is still winning due to cost considerations).

The panel also stressed the need to consider final deliverables—master tapes and files—as the starting point in determining an HD project's workflow. The materials that are required, and how the final product will be used, may ultimately drive decisions all the way back to the choice of acquisition formats.

Following the presentation, some conversations ensued during short tours of Henninger's ever-evolving facility.

Many thanks to Rob Henninger, Fred Elliott, and the panel participants for a lively discussion as well as excellent food and drink.—*Eric Wenocur, Section Manager/Program Chair*



The Henninger panel faces questions from SMPTE attendees.

Our new entry-level automation
may leave you with time to kill...



...and money to spare

Pro-Bel's Morpheus automation system drives some of the world's largest and most complex playout operations. Major companies like Turner Broadcasting choose Morpheus because it provides them with the tools they need to deliver their content in winning and totally reliable ways.

Now, **Morpheus Foundation** offers all of Pro-Bel's automation expertise in a single, entry-level system which delivers best-of-breed capabilities at an entry-level price. **Morpheus Foundation** is an out-of-the-box solution which provides no-compromise channel automation. It comes pre-configured to drive your choice of video server, logo generator and closed-captioning system. Interfaces for Store and Forward solutions and EAS are supported as well as a wide variety of scheduling systems. **Morpheus Foundation** is flexible and scalable and offers a variety of options for advanced redundancy and media management as well as a choice of ingest tools.

And the price will certainly give you something to smile about!

Automation
Media Management
Master Control
Modular Infrastructure
Routing
Control & Monitoring



www.pro-bel.com
Engineering The Broadcast Future