



SECTION MEETINGS

San Francisco February 2011

On 24 February, the San Francisco section had its first meeting after a brief hiatus to reorganize. Held and hosted by HDI, those attending were treated to an informal discussion and demonstration of their display technology.

During the meeting, Ingemar Jansson, chief executive officer and founder of HDI, Chris Stuart, director of technology, and Edmund Sandberg, chief technical officer teamed up to explain how they have combined their proprietary Liquid Crystal on Silicon technology and a laser light source in a video projection system. These two technologies, as shown at the meeting, allows for a high-resolution scalable light output system. A side benefit is that the



Laser light demo.

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Attendees view 3D material at the SF meeting in February.

system's design lends itself to the projection of 3D images without any loss of image resolution or the need for expensive active glasses.

Highlights of the meeting were the viewing of 3D material including the video game

Avatar, based on the movie, and a RCA 1930s vintage rear screen video projector undergoing restoration.

Fifty people attended the meeting and the social hour and refreshments that preceded. —John Hartwell, Section Manager



Attendees at the SF meeting.

Washington, D.C. February 2011

The Washington, D.C., Section meeting on 24 February broke from the usual presentations from featured speakers with a journey to television and broadcasting's roots via a special program held at the National Capitol Radio & Television Museum in nearby Bowie, MD.

After a meal and fellowship at a nearby restaurant, the group traveled to the museum, which had been opened beyond its normal operational hours to accommodate the SMPTE meeting and tour.

The special program attracted both regular and some first-time attendees, with a large turnout that required breaking the attendees into two groups to navigate the exhibits located in the refurbished "farm house,"

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which was donated to house the Museum by the City of Bowie.

Attendees witnessed “hands-on” demonstrations of technologies that eventually led to modern-day radio and television broadcasting. These included an operation of a spark transmitter with reception provided by a Branly coherer detector, off-air reception of AM signals via a Marconi-type magnetic detector and several crystal sets, a very early “electrical” phonograph, a late-1930s home facsimile machine, and a demonstration of a late 1920s mechanical television via a working reproduction of a Nipkow disk 28-line receiver.

The Museum contains a large number of rare, and in some cases, one-of-a-kind objects, including a pre-WWII RCA TRK-120 mirror-lid television receiver; a Crosley “Reado” fax printer that was used in an early attempt to deliver an “electronic newspaper” to the home; RCA’s first production color television receiver, the CT-100 which dates to 1954; and an Atwater Kent model 40 radio receiver that was



Washington, D.C., Section members Bob Bush and Peter Wharton study the Museum’s C. Francis Jenkins exhibit.

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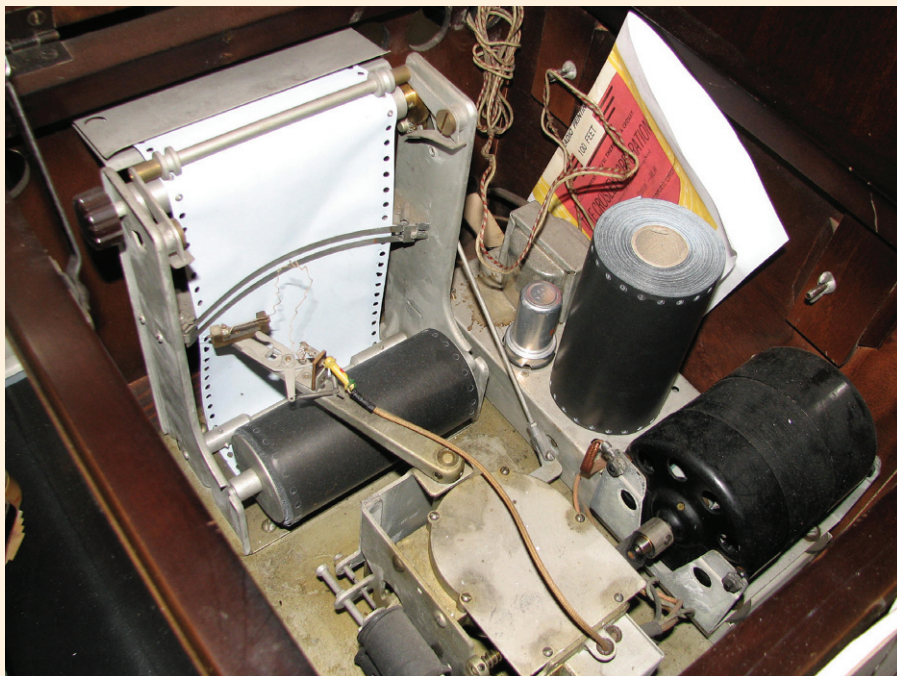
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The interior of the Crosley "Reado" home facsimile machine owned by the Museum. Devices such as these were produced in the late 1930s and early 1940s for delivery of a fax version of a daily newspaper to homes overnight by radio stations during their "experimental hours." Only a few hundred of these machines were produced and delivered before WWII ended the program.



National Capitol Radio & Television Museum docent Noel Elliott demonstrates 28-line television circa 1928 with a specially crafted mechanical "televisor."

presented to President Herbert Hoover in 1928.

The Museum is located only a few miles from the location of the 1929 experimental television station established by SMPTE founder, C. Francis Jenkins, in Wheaton, MD, and features a special exhibit about Jenkins' work in television.

After the formal tour concluded, several attendees remained for an impromptu question and answer session about items displayed in the Museum.

The Washington Section wishes to extend a special note of thanks to Museum docents Noel Elliott and Tony Young for taking time out from their normal schedules to accommodate the evening tour. SMPTE members from other areas of the country may wish to include a stopover at the National Capitol Radio & Television Museum on their next trip to the Washington-Baltimore area. Normal hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays and 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The Museum was established in 1999 and is operated by The Radio History Society, Inc., a non-profit corporation that is dedicated to the preservation of radio and television's past. —James O'Neal, Section Manager


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Detroit Section Attends Great Lakes Broadcasting Conference

Detroit Section members were in attendance at the Great Lakes Broadcasting Conference and exposition on 9 March, 2011. The show, put on by the Michigan Association of Broadcasters each year, included approximately 1,000 conference attendees, which consisted of managers, sales, and promotions staff from radio and TV. Many local stations cannot send staff to NAB, so this is one way to inform and educate their staff. The focus of the conferences is not only on those in the broadcasting arena, but also students from both high school and post-secondary educational institutions.

Detroit Section members Chris Hill and Ray Previ manned the SMPTE booth, which showed a DVD promoting SMPTE and its upcoming NAB and New York conferences, as well as the SMPTE Professional Development Academy. At the booth, SMPTE



SMPTE booth showing promotional DVD.



SMPTE member Ray Previ.

members spoke to management and students about the value of membership.

After the close of the exhibits, a session was held with approximately 70 members of the Michigan legislature (almost half the



SMPTE Life Member Chris Hill talks about SMPTE.

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members), who were told about the brand new Raleigh Studios in Pontiac, Michigan near Detroit—one of the largest in the country. The legislators were also encouraged to vote to continue the film and digital media tax credit program to promote the film industry in the state of Michigan. Due to budget problems in Michigan, the governor proposed to cap the film credit at \$25 million. As a result three major films withdrew within three days of the announcement, which resulted in a \$300 million loss.

—Chris Hill, Life Member