

Montréal November 2017

The Montréal Section meeting, held on 14 November, was hosted by Radio-Canada in Montréal, Canada. Speaker Hugo Gaggioni, chief technology officer at Sony Professional Solutions of Americas, provided tutorial aspects of high dynamic range (HDR). He also reviewed some technical considerations for live production and distribution workflows and gave a detailed description of the methodology and techniques that Sony has developed to achieve practical HDR results for live production applications.

Charles Poynton also presented an outline of the color and tone issues in HDR/wide color gamut (WCG) video, discussing the adaptation of image data to different display and viewing characteristics.

The event, which had a full house of more than 100 attendees, also included a social hour of pizza and casual exchange and a Sony HDR monitoring products demonstration.

The Section offered a live streaming video feed of the meeting using Matrox Monarch-LCS to members



Hugo Gaggioni demonstrates HDR at the Montréal Section meeting in November.

outside the immediate vicinity. The entire presentation, as well as other past events, are available on the @SMPTEMTL Section of facebook.com.

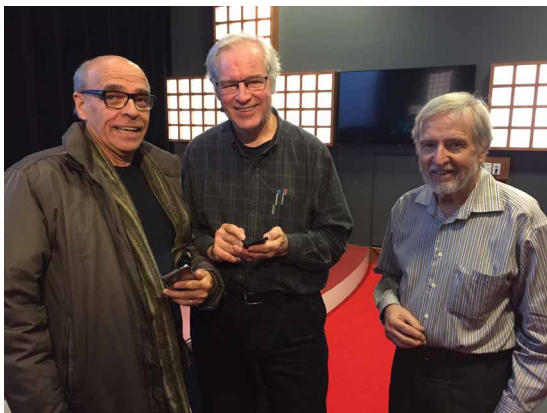
—Gaetan Gauthier
Section Events Manager

New England November 2017

The topic of the New England Section meeting on 15 November was “The Boston Repack.” The event, held at

Hearst’s WCVB-TV in Needham, MA, just outside of Boston, included guest speakers Neil Searls, director of business development, American Tower Corporation, and Jim Stenberg, principal broadcast RF Engineer, also from American Tower Corporation. The meeting explored the technical challenges involved in moving stations to new channel allocations, achieving signal distribution goals, protecting neighboring broadcasters from interference, determining ideal ratios between

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Rene Villeneuve, Charles Poynton, and Stephen Scott.



Attendees view demonstration during the meet-and-greet at the Montréal meeting.



(L-R) Neil Searls and Jim Stenberg from American Tower Corporation were presenters at the New England Section meeting in November.



Philadelphia Section meeting attendees view presentations on VR/AR/360.

horizontal and vertical polarization (so that both terrestrial and mobile viewers would be served) as well as tower loading considerations and site safety. American Tower, headquartered in the Boston area is a major player in broadcast tower design and construction.

The meeting was hosted and managed by SMPTE New England Manager, Dave Beauvais, Assistant Director of Engineering, WCVB-TV.

—Marty Feldman
New England Section Chair

Philadelphia September 2017

On Thursday, 28 September, the Philadelphia Section, in conjunction with Millersville University's student SMPTE chapter, held a meeting discussing VR/AR/360. A first in the Philadelphia Section, the meeting involved an onsite and a web-based presentation to attract a larger audience, another first for the Section. Attendees included members of the Section, the Millersville University student chapter, the South-Central PA SBE chapter, engineers from WGAL TV, and other guests from the Lancaster/Harrisburg/York who were attending their first SMPTE event. The Millersville University student chapter president Tessa Iacono and vice president Nina Plaksin organized the event and produced the webcast with help from the Millersville students.

ChyronHego sponsored food and beverage for the social meet-and-greet before the meeting. Section Manager Chuck Diehl began by welcoming attendees, then SMPTE Membership Director Karl Kuhn provided additional information about SMPTE and gave a brief insight into the latest developments with SMPTE ST 2110.

Mark Mullen, a Philadelphia Section manager, and the advisor for




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Jim Pengelly from Transport Canada discusses UAS regulations at the Toronto meeting.

videos demonstrating recent use of the technology.

Overall, this event was a successful attempt at expanding outside of the greater Philadelphia area and exposed many potential SMPTE members to the Philadelphia Section.

—Chuck Diehl and Mark Mullen
Section Managers

Toronto November 2017

The Toronto Section met at the ProFusion Trade Show at the Toronto Convention Centre on 7 November. The meeting, organized by Toronto Section Managers Andrew Thomas and Stosh Durbacz, kicked off with a quick introduction to the trade show by Brian Young of Vistek followed by four industry experts, who discussed unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)/unmanned aerial system (UAS)/drones.

the Millersville University SMPTE student chapter gave a presentation on VR/AR/360, discussing its history dating back to the 1800s to today's current use of the technology. Olivier Cohen, former CEO of Hybrid TV and

current senior project manager at ChyronHego, presented a Webex, showing products and solutions using VR/AR/360 as a part of the background and augmented reality in a broadcast environment. The presentation concluded with

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Yifei Zhao, operations director at AlteX UAV Technologies, discusses UAV pilot training at the Toronto Section's November meeting.

Yifei Zhao, operations director at AlteX UAV Technologies (Formerly NTFG), and UAV program lead at Humber College Media and IT studies, talked about UAV pilot training and safety and how upcoming regulation changes could impact the industry. Jim Pengelly, Transport Canada, spoke about current UAS regulations and a roadmap to the future, where testing was done without line-of-sight as a requirement.

Chris Bacik, president of Sky Eye Media, talked about UAVs in television and feature film production. His company uses primarily custom-built drones with heavy payload capacity for bigger cameras. Proposed new regulations could threaten these custom drones. Bacik also discussed the benefits and limitations of drones versus a camera crane or helicopter.

Patrick Moynahan from DJI reviewed some of the new technology from DJI such as the Inspire 2 and the Phantom 4 Drones. Each presentation was followed by questions from the attendees.

—Andrew Thomas,
Section Manager

Washington, D.C. October 2017

The Washington, D.C., Section meeting on 26 October featured a tutorial session on HDR and WCG conducted by Neal Roberts, senior



(L-R) Neal Roberts and Ian Macaulay.

broadcast marketing manager at Dolby Laboratories, and Ian Macaulay, the organization's senior director of marketing development.

The event was held at the National Association of Broadcasters' facility in downtown Washington, with Greg Smalfelt, Section educational outreach committee chair, presiding in the absence of the Section's Chair, Tom Hackett.

Following a period set aside for refreshments and networking, Smalfelt conducted a brief business meeting. The Section's program committee chair, Eric Wenocur, then offered information on future meeting topics and dates and turned the proceedings over to Roberts and Macaulay.

The presenters began by comparing the conventional television viewing experience—based on ITU-R Recommendation 709—with what's achievable with ITU-R Recommendation 2020, noting that the latter provided a range of brightness levels approximating the 0–10,000 Nit range that the human eye is capable of accommodating.

The video experience provided by Rec. 709 was described as akin “looking through a window,” while a system operating with Rec. 2020 “opened the window.”

Roberts noted that while a brightness range of 10,000 nits was

not yet achievable, some specialized state-of-the-art video displays could provide a 4,000 nits range. He observed that as display brightness range continues to be expanded, the HDR capability will become increasingly important. The importance of an expanded color gamut was also discussed, with the presenters explaining that HDR both enables and requires a greater range of colors to be presented for a realistic viewing experience. An explanation of the technology for conveying HDR and WCG to consumers with both high-end and low-end viewing devices was also provided, with a description of the Dolby Vision HDR technology in which brightness range and color gamut information is encoded as metadata in post-production mastering and coloring sessions, with the metadata used in display devices to present this information as close as possible to what the colorist intended.

In addition to the presentation of technical information about HDR/WCG, Roberts and Macaulay also brought along video displays and source material to dynamically illustrate the high dynamic range and wide color gamut.

—James E. O'Neal,
Section Manager

