

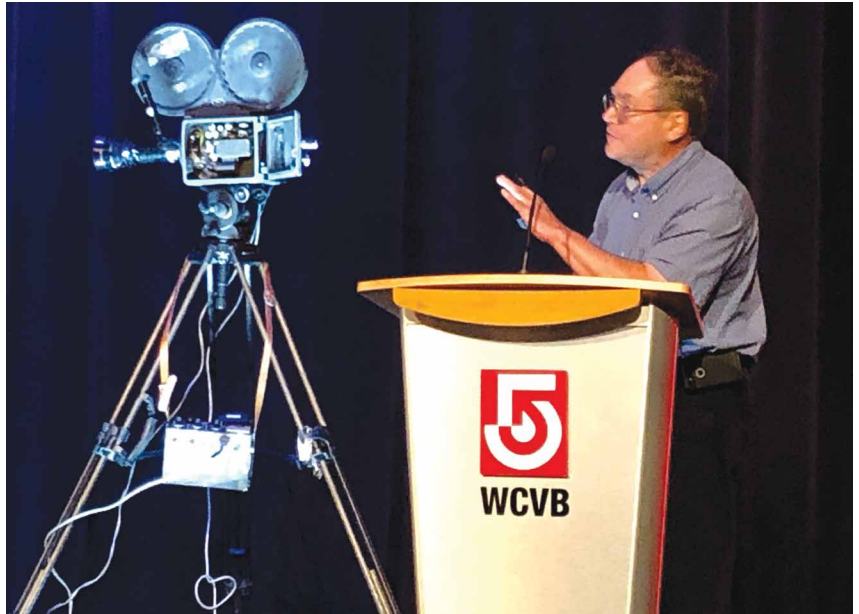
New England June 2019

The New England Section meeting, held on 26 June, featured a look back at “Chronicle,” WCVB-TV’s (Hearst, Boston) legendary magazine program, which continues to go strong after 37 years on the air. As we were pleased to learn—Chronicle is always seeking new ways to bring memorable stories of lasting significance to an increasingly mobile audience. One of Chronicle’s most recent innovations is a podcast that delivers the program to viewers in a new and convenient way. Chronicle’s producers are very much aware that much of today’s content is not necessarily consumed sitting in front of a TV set.

However the program is delivered, Chronicle is still known for capturing the flavor, culture, and diversity of a region that is so rich in history and innovation.



Nneka Nwosu Faison.



Art Donahue.

Chronicle’s new managing editor Nneka Nwosu Faison opened the program by highlighting several of the latest program developments and answering questions from the approximately 75 members and guests.

Art Donahue, who has been Chronicle’s principal photographer

for years, addressed the group and presented his recently completed 1-h HD documentary, *50 Years of Local TV News Production 1969–2019*. This documentary was produced for this meeting, but we hope the distribution will be much broader. The documentary illustrates the most enjoyable technological advancement from 16-mm motion picture film to analog videotape and on to digital HD and beyond.

Awarded his FCC First Class License in 1979, Donahue worked as a producer/photographer/editor at four New England TV stations, including 27 years with WCVB’s Chronicle. He was the Boston Press Photographers Association’s “New England News Photographer of the Year” for seven years, and the National Press Photographers Association’s “National TV News Photographer of the Year” in 1986.

Donahue has received much praise over his incredible half century career; however, he was genuinely overwhelmed by the presentation of



Legendary New England news cinematographer Art Donahue describes how the circa 1970s Auricon 16mm single system sound on film camera was threaded. The film magazine only lasted 12 minutes at 24 frames per second.



David Beauvais.

“The Golden Viewfinder,” a gilded and yes, still operating ENG viewfinder mounted on a duly inscribed polished wooden base. Among his numerous awards, he won 15 Emmy Awards in photography, video editing, writing, and producing for his remarkable accomplishments. Donahue retired from WCVB-TV in 2014.

The New England Section wishes to thank our host, David Beauvais, assistant director of engineering, WCVB-TV (Hearst), for making this meeting possible.

—Marty Feldman
Section Chair

Toronto June 2019

The Toronto Section’s June meeting, co-organized by Sylvia Fantin and Tony Meerakker, was held at The Weather Network. The meeting began with the Section’s year-end barbecue, an outdoor event that offers a great venue, great food, and a perfect setting for networking with other SMPTE members.

Since 1989, Pelmorex, The Weather Network, has been refining the way it delivers weather information and data to its users. Always with an eye on the latest technology, the Weather Network works consistently to keep the user experience as personalized and hyperlocal as possible, across all platforms. Sam Sebastian spoke about the history of the facility, its recent evolution, and how technology is powering dramatic change in weather gathering. Juan Dia and Adrijan Jahjaefendic talked about the facilities’



PHOTO COURTESY TONY MEERAKKER.

Sam Sebastian addressing the audience during the Toronto meeting.

technology and infrastructure. Examples of equipment ranging from those used in the early days to the current weather gathering technology were on display. It was evident that over time, equipment became smaller and faster. Attendees received a tour of the facility after the meeting.

—Tony Meerakker
Past Chair

Washington, D.C. June 2019

The Washington, D.C., Section held its June meeting at the headquarters of the National Association of Broadcasters. Manjinder Sandhu and Bruce Mathews from Evertz Microsystems presented a program on the use of the public internet for the relay of backhaul content by broadcasters.

The meeting on 20 June kicked off with refreshments and an opportunity for networking, and then shifted to a short business meeting before the introduction of the guest speakers and their presentation “Professional Quality Video Over the Internet—The Internet as a Tool for Broadcast.”

The presenters noted that it is not uncommon today for broadcasters to use the public internet for backhaul and live video signals of professional quality, since the use of the internet has advantages over the more commonly used transport methods such as microwave,

satellite, fiber, and MPLS Ethernet networks. However, the internet is not a trusted network, as it operates on a best-effort basis, and is prone to congestion, packet loss, packet reordering, and jitter. They then described how technology has developed within the past decade to resolve such issues and provide a pathway for the delivery of high-quality content for broadcast.

The presenters identified several of these developments for internet transport enhancement, including automatic repeat request, or ARQ, which is the “best current practice” (IETF RFC 3366) on the internet that provides retransmission of lost packets, enabling video networks to recover from disruptions. Mathews described how ARQ worked, and how it represents a tradeoff between latency and quality, noting that the IETF document does not provide a standardized way for its implementation, leading to a variety of implementations.

Next, the SRT protocol was identified and discussed, as was Reliable Internet Streaming Transport (RIST), which promises to provide greater interoperability. Mathews noted that the development of the open-source code is still pending. He added that his company has done considerable work in the area of transport via the internet and in the cloud and has developed

a number of products to support such transport.

Sandhu and Mathews concluded their presentation by describing several use cases for this technology, including both backhauls and distribution.

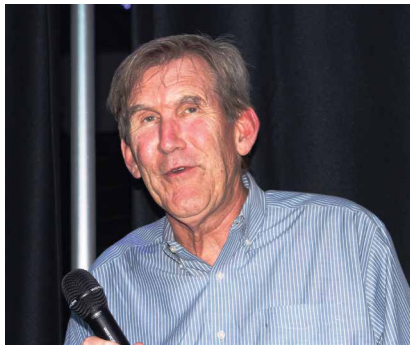
—James E. O’Neal
Section Manager

Washington, D.C. August 2019

A look at wireless microphone deployment in the diminished spectrum following the on-going TV channel repack brought together members and guests of the Washington, D.C., SMPTE Section, Chapter 37 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers, and the D.C. Audio Engineering Society Section for a combined meeting on 13 August at the headquarters of Jetwave Wireless, a firm specializing in wireless mic deployments.

Around 40 individuals attended the meeting, which featured Scott Hewett, a spectrum consultant with the T-Mobile wireless broadband enterprise, and Jim Dugan, president of wireless microphone companies Wisycom U.S. and Jetwave Wireless.

Following refreshments and a short business meeting, Hewett began his presentation, providing an overview of the re-allocation of TV channels 38–51 in the 600-MHz spectrum region for wireless applications by T-Mobile and other winning bidders in the 2017 FCC Broadcast Incentive Auction. He described the staging of the repack and the introduction of wireless carrier companies into the spectrum, cautioning that if wireless microphone users had equipment operating on former “white space” TV channels in this range, it would have to be exchanged for units operating outside this range sooner rather than later. He noted that T-Mobile had been proactively working with users to minimize the impact of the 600-MHz band spectrum loss.



Scott Hewett.



Jim Dugan.

Dugan followed Hewett, describing the wireless microphone, interruptible foldback and the intercom industry as a whole, and how it had changed and flourished over the past several decades in which he had been involved, to the point of being a crucial part of the TV broadcast ecosystem. He noted the challenges that the industry faces in terms of the desire of broadcast producers to deploy more and more wireless technology in an ever-shrinking amount

of RF spectrum, and how these challenges are being met. Dugan stressed the importance of spectrum planning, user coordination, and the use of 21st-century technology to maximize the use of spectrum still available, noting that broadcast wireless device deployment can no longer be a matter of system design by purchase order.

—James E. O’Neal
Section Manager

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