



CHAPTER TWENTY NEWS

society of broadcast engineers
pittsburgh chapter

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National SBE Executive Director John Poray and Chapter 20 Convention Chairperson Kim Cannon at our convention in October.

33rd Convention Review

Kim Cannon
Convention 2003 Chairperson
CDR Systems, Inc.

This Year's 33rd Pittsburgh SBE Convention had over 50 exhibitors, 432 attendees (not including 90 "no shows"), and 18 different technical sessions. There was a lot to see and a lot to learn. For those who missed it, you missed a great opportunity and a good show. Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's convention!

The biggest change this year was a unique floor plan. Jack McAndrew of Skyline Displays helped me out tremendously. He created a new floor layout which worked well. Skyline donated the truss for our entrance way and the tabletop displays for the National Museum of Broadcasting. Overall response on the new floor layout was great by the exhibitors. We all had good booths. If you would like to attend Skyline's Trade Show Exhibiting Seminars they are coming up soon. They aren't just sales seminars, they really are good learning. Visit www.skycorp.com under free seminars.

We had a lot of good speakers this year. We hope you were taking it all in. Our speakers and the National Museum of Broadcasting exhibit are reviewed elsewhere in this newsletter.

KDKA did a "Hometown Hello" from the exhibit floor. Dan

Braddock said it was one the largest one's they have shot. I think we had about 40 people or so. It was a fun experience for us. It only took about 5 takes to get one Hometown Hello and KDKA was kind enough to air it twice.

A theatre on the floor played a 45 minute ensemble of demo reels from production companies, TV stations, students, animation and sports facilities. Special thanks to the Pittsburgh Steelers, Cornerstone TV, the Video House, Production Masters, KDKA, New Perspectives, Home Run Pictures, the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, the Media Spot and Ryno Productions. These guys scurried around at the last minute to get me material, and I really appreciate that.

We also had a very special visitor from the National Headquarters of the Society of Broadcaster Engineers' John Poray, Executive Director. We are excited to have such big support at Pittsburgh's SBE Convention. He chose our convention to visit and we are happy that he did. We do have one request – get involved with the Pittsburgh Society of Broadcast Engineers. It's more than transmission. Visit our website for on-line newsletters and the monthly meeting's time, location, and topic. Join the Society of Broadcast Engineers.

Thank you, Adobe Systems, Art Institute

Continued on page 2

No Meeting in October

because of the closeness of the convention

Next Meeting November 20

*Topic: P2
by Larry van Camp
of Panasonic*



Chairman's Corner

Some Chapter Housekeeping Details

R.W. Sam Zborowski
samzborowski@stargate.net

Each year, our Regional Convention takes a substantial effort to be successful. Our thanks go out to Kim Cannon and everyone else who helped organize and conduct the recent convention. John Poray, SBE Executive Director, stopped in at the convention for part of the day and had some very positive things to say about it! More review of the convention appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

There will be no chapter meeting this month, but I am seeking input and help on several items of chapter business. We need to assemble a Nominations Committee to suggest candidates for the upcoming election of chapter officers; anyone interested should contact me or come to the November meeting. The election will be held at the December meeting.

At the last monthly meeting, there was a discussion of possibly changing the meeting times and locations to accomodate more members. One approach is to alternate meetings between the noon lunch meeting format and evening/dinner format to hopefully include more members. Other suggestions were to hold the regular monthly meetings at various locations in the Pittsburgh area to make the trip easier for members in those areas. Field trips to broadcast, CATV and industrial sites have been well attended in the past; we should try to arrange more of these types of venues. Particular presentation topics of interest to our members would also help increase meeting attendance. Let me know what you think!

The chapter still has open positions for FCC Committee and Membership Chairmen. Please consider volunteering for one of these positions.

We are considering the closing of our PO box (16312) at the Greentree Post Office (ZIP 15242) since it appears to be far from the members who are most active in the chapter. We opened a new PO box (771) at the Monroeville Post Office (ZIP 15146) so that members could check it more often, especially during the convention preparations. We need to discuss the possible closing of the old PO box before the rent is due by end of December.

If anyone has trouble emailing to me in the near future, try using my permanent forwarding address: sam_zborowski@alumni.pitt.edu . Stargate is in Chapter 11 reorganization and the unit of their business that serves my email account will likely be sold to Earthlink.

Convention Review continued from page 1

of Pittsburgh, Panasonic, and Sony for the raffle prizes. Thank you, Alias, for the hors d'oeuvres.

The Art Institute of Pittsburgh helped us with all of our art work. Their upcoming Khyrmira Experiment is more than a haunted house. See it at the Mall at Robinson October 16-18 and 23-25, Thursday & Friday 6 to midnight, and Saturday noon-midnight. Admission \$10.

I have learned a lot about coordinating and running a convention this year. I hope you enjoyed this year's convention. It's been a challenge for me. See you soon!



The booth layout was much improved.



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2003 Convention Speakers



John Luff, Azcar, speaks at one of the many technical seminars

Our speakers were excellent this year. We got a lot of positive feedback from the attendees. I hope you had a chance to sit in on some of these sessions.

The biggest hit was Alex Lindsay a visual effects artist formerly with Industrial Light and Magic now with DV Garage and Pixelcorps. Not only is he a very interesting speaker but he helped us out tremendously all at the last minute. I am so happy to have him as a speaker and he impressed me with

kindness. Originally scheduled for one session, it soon became three for Alex Lindsay.

I found out a week before the show that Tom Ohanian had been in a car accident. He was ok but among his injuries he suffered a severe concussion and would not be able to fly. I dropped Alex an email and he responded quickly. He gave me some ideas for a presentation in this slot and we moved forward with photogrammetry.

After arriving the day of the show bright and early, we learned of flight delays for another scheduled speaker. Again, I asked Alex if he could help and without any hesitation he said he would do a question and answer session. Alex's three back-to-back sessions turned out to be a great success. You can email Alex at ablindsay@dvgarage.com and, by the way, Alex is a Pittsburgh native.

Our next biggest hit was one of Pittsburgh's most respected documentary producers, Rick Sebak. You got to love him. He is one genuinely nice person and I am honored to have him participate in this year's SBE Convention. He was concerned his topic wasn't nuts and bolts technical, but it was one of the best. What would we do without producers and our voice of Pittsburgh? We look forward to seeing Rick's upcoming documentary which he is literally in the middle of working on. Next year will be WQED's 50th year of broadcasting. Thank you for taking the time out to do our show!

Special thanks to all of our technical presenters from Sony Electronics, L-3 Electron Devices, Rohde & Schwarz, Inc., Communications Specialties, Avid, Azcar, Chyron Graphics, Digital Rapids, Adobe Systems, Edirol, Panasonic Broadcast, Media 100, Alias, Nick Cap, and Discreet.

Convention Vendors

The SBE Convention 2003 included one of the widest array of products and services for broadcasting, video, film and audio production that we have ever had. Here is the list of vendors.

Adobe Systems	Alias	Applied Magic
The Art Institute of Pittsburgh	Avid Technology	Axcera
Azcar	Belden Electronics	Canon Broadcast
CDR Systems, Inc.	Chyron	Continental Sales & Eng.
Crispin Corporation	Discreet	DVS-Direct
Edirol	Evertz	Fujinon
Gepco	The Hite Company	Leff Electronics
Leitch	The Lerro Corporation	Lightspeed Grip & Lighting
The Media Stop	Microfirst, Inc.	Microwave Radio Communications
National Museum of Broadcasting	Nucomm, Inc.	Omnivue
Parkervision, Inc.	Professional Products, Inc.	Prophet Systems Innovations
ProVideo Systems, Inc.	PS Prompting	Quintech Electronics
Ross Video Ltd.	RPC Video, Inc.	Sachtler Tripods
Sierra Video Systems	Sony	Snell & Wilcox
Sundance Digital	Switchcraft	Symco
Systems Wireless	Tri-State Video Services	TRON-Tek, Inc.
Videotek, Inc.	Vincent Lighting Systems	

NMOB Big Hit

Kim Cannon
CDR Systems



Some of the working antique equipment on display.

My favorite exhibit at this year's convention was an idea I had when I took this convention on. Preserve the past and support a good cause. The National Museum of Broadcasting, located in Wilkinsburg, is a non-profit organization that has been on a long quest to save our roots in television and radio broadcasting. They have preserved monumental antiques from the beginning days of radio and television broadcasting. Incredibly, they have even salvaged Frank Conrad's garage, the site of the first radio broadcasts. It is in storage and waiting for a home.

Rick Harris and Lee Schaeffer presented an amazing exhibit of early television and radio broadcast equipment and photographs. The exhibit included a working Dumont camera, bearing WQED's original logo, displayed on an antique monitor and using cabling from WDTV (KDKA). They had a replica of the first microphone for radio broadcast, an antique television, classic cathedral radios, interesting historical photos, clips of early television programs, and interesting facts about broadcasting firsts.

You can contact Rick Harris at rharris@nb.net to learn how you can support the National Museum of Broadcasting.

OOPS, Missed At Least One

We received an email from the daughter of a Pittsburgh radio transmitter engineer who was not mentioned in our article on the topic of retired radio engineers last month.

Of course, there were many others who were also not mentioned, and Dave Tepe reports that he remembers others every day who he didn't recall while writing the original article.

According to Lucy (Calabrese) Wargo, Michael William Calabrese worked at the WWSW transmitter which was located on Cemetery Lane from 1952-1977 with "Si" Siebel, Frank Lachima, and Hank Kaiser. He was a radio engineer for 25 years at the radio station before being let go after the station automated in the mid-70's. He is now deceased.

I worked at the WWSW transmitter site in the summer of 1971 and I remember the name of Michael Calabrese. It's a dim memory since it was largely solitary work at the transmitter which is located away from the studio site. Perhaps that is why he wasn't mentioned; transmitter guys are often out of sight and out of mind!

Sam Zborowski



"Hello, Pittsburgh!"

Last meeting

Twelve attended the September meeting on the 18th at Gaetanoes. Last minute convention plans were discussed and several attendees volunteered to help either on convention day or on setup day.

Monthly meeting times and locations were discussed.

Nick Cap showed us a new cable tester that he recently found on the web. He finds it very helpful on remotes.

Sam Zborowski presented a paper regarding On-channel Boosters for filling in pattern gaps of digital stations. This included discussion of the equalization range of the different generations of DTV decoder chips and how that affects the reception ability of the chips under different amounts of interference or multipath reception. He also made a case for relaxation of the DTV emission mask