

Last Meeting

The January meeting of Chapter 20 was held on the 20th at Gaetano's with 10 people attending. There was Discussion of the Annual Expo venue search.

Due to travel problems, the "Signal Processing for HD/SD Infrastructures" presentation scheduled to be given by Randy Conrod of Leitch was replaced by a talk about Leitch's new X75HD. Jon Powell, Regional Sales Manager for our area, did the talk. This unit is a 1RU HD and SD frame sync, up-converter, down-converter, and cross-converter with the ability to access and process all embedded audio channels.



Jon Powell of Leitch, pinch-hitting at the December meeting of SBE Chapter 20.

Next Meeting

Do You Have Dirty Power?

This month's presentation will be a discussion of internal and external causes of "dirty power" by Ron Stoof of R.M. Stoof & Associates located in Pittsburgh.

YOUR ELECTRIC POWER, IS IT YOUR PROBLEM? What happens to your power as it moves through your plant? How do you identify problems? What are the culprits? What can be done about it?

As your company moves into the 21st century, your need for Quality Power will grow with your expanding level of infrastructure technology. R.M. Stoof & Associates, Inc. provides technical services and products to meet the need for maintaining Power Quality.

Ronald M. Stoof is President of R.M. Stoof & Associates, Inc. The company has specialized in Power Quality Improvement and Power Protection for the past twelve years.

They have supported power applications ranging from a Research Laboratory with scientific equipment to a basic computer network serving a point of sale system in a commercial establishment. Included in this mix of business has been several TV Stations and other broadcast customers.

\$300 DTV Sets

Thomson's TV joint-venture with RCA has introduced 7 direct view SD 4:3 digital TV sets priced between \$300 and \$400. The sets have integrated DTV tuners that will tune all 18 of the digital TV formats.

Next Meeting

Time

Thursday, February 17
12 noon

Come at 11:30 to shoot the breeze

Program

***Your Electric Power, Is It
Your Problem?***

by Ron Stoof

R. M. Stoof & Associates

Place

Gaetano's

1617 Banksville Rd.

Use the Rt. 19 South (Banksville Rd) exit
when coming out of town.

Use the Greentree exit when coming in.

Lunch fee \$7



Chairman's Corner

CES Shows a Dynamite Future

Bob Jordan, CPBE
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If the 2005 Consumer Electronics Show is any indication, manufacturers and service providers are cranked up and ready to fuel the digital explosion with a myriad of offerings in all categories. Offerings like a 102" plasma screen; enhanced DVR's; portable/mobile HD receivers; and even combination broadcast/broadband/IPTV HD entertainment systems with as much as 250 GB of integrated storage. And one manufacturer even has classic frames to make your jumbo flat panel TV look like any other starving artist mural.

One of the shortcomings of over the air broadcast of HDTV has been susceptibility to multipathing. Recognizing that the antenna is an important part of the solution, Winegard has stepped up to the plate with an indoor/outdoor antenna that incorporates an ultra low noise amplifier. Looking like an aileron gone astray, it also doubles as a windshield scraper or pasta strainer, and boasts 30 mile indoors and 45 mile outdoors reception.

Digital Multicast Carriage Agreement

The Association of Public Television Stations and the National Cable & Telecommunications Association recently announced a 10-year agreement committing cable system operators nationwide to carry multicast digital signals from local public broadcasters.

The agreement covers pre and post analog switchoff. Pre switchoff, cable systems with 750MHz or more of activated channel capacity offering HD or other digital programming must commit to carrying up to four streams of free non-commercial digital broadcast programming from one public TV station in the market in addition to that station's analog signal. Post switchoff, cable systems with that much capacity offering HD programming will carry free non-commercial digital programming of each public television station in the market that's entitled to analog must-carry rights. This includes up to four streams of free non-commercial digital HD and SD programming and associated material.

The agreement must be ratified by MSOs representing 80 percent of cable subscribers and public television stations in markets with 80 percent of U.S. TV households within 60 days of approval by the boards of the APTS, PBS and the NCTA.

And if you've been wondering what to do with the ".1" of your "5.1" sound, there's a set of four powered center speakers, one to put under each leg of your couch, tied to a power amp guaranteed to make the earth move, or at least feel like it's moving.

Chapter 20 down the road

For our regular chapter meetings, we're always looking for presentations with broad appeal, and this month John has found one you won't want to miss. No matter what part of this business you're in, you need power, so make it a point to be at this month's regular meeting on the 17th. Details elsewhere in this issue.

Looking a little further down the road, we've zeroed in on October 5 and 6 for this year's Regional Broadcast Expo. We're not quite ready to announce where, but I think you're going to like it whether you're a vendor or attendee. As they used to say "stay tuned" for more details.



Tod Riggs, systems engineer from Florida, and Jon Powell from Kokomo, Indiana, program presenter and regional sales manager for the East Central US district of Leitch, at January's meeting.



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