



CHAPTER TWENTY NEWS

society of broadcast engineers
pittsburgh chapter

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Chairman's Corner

"Bits 'n Pieces"

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Chapter 20 Expo

While serving as our official Chapter 20 representative at NAB, Nick Cap was able to get positive commitments from numerous vendors for our Regional Broadcast Expo on October 20. The list includes some big vendors like Harris that haven't been here in awhile, and in fact, between Nick and John Humphrey, it looks like we're already just about full on both booth space and speaker slots. Also, it looks like we're going to be able to offer one and possibly two full-scale workshops concurrent with the show. Most likely one workshop will be on ENG safety.

BAS

Nextel has formally accepted the FCC's R&O in the matter of alleviating interference issues with public safety communications in the 800 MHz band, and relocating 2 GHz Broadcast Auxiliary services. The National SBE will be serving as a consultant to Nextel to assure the smoothest possible transition to the new channel plan – the plan which the SBE proposed, and which the FCC adopted in 2003. For Pittsburgh and adjoining markets, the new channel plan is slated to kick in during the first week of November.

National SBE

Beginning this year the SBE is going to begin offering certain Certification exam "Specialties". These Specialty exams will target areas of broadcast engineering of a specialized nature that are becoming rare. The first such exam will be on maintaining AM directional antennas. If you're interested, contact SBE 20's Tom Skubel or National Certification Director, Linda Baun at lbaun@sbe.org

Also, the National SBE will be presenting Course I of the SBE "Leadership Skills Seminar". This three day seminar will take place in Indianapolis in June. Anyone interested should contact Angel Bates, SBE Member Services Director at abates@sbe.org

Next Meeting

NAB Convention Round-up

Last month we didn't have a meeting because of conflict with the NAB Convention.

This month Vice Chairman John Humphrey will lead a presentation and round table discussion on NAB, what was cool, where the crowds were, what was happening and what is going to happen. This will be especially good for those of us who couldn't make this year. Those of you who got to NAB owe it to the rest of your buddies to fill us in on what you saw.

We will also have the latest 2005 Expo information, including lists of vendors and presenters.



Next Meeting

Thursday, May 19

12 noon

Come at 11:30 to shoot the breeze

NAB Round-Up

with John Humphrey

and Expo Update

At 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.

\$7 Lunch fee

**Don't forget the annual
SBE membership contest.**

Details on page 2.



Back to Lost Wages

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This year's NAB was what we have all come to know and love/dread. Miles of walking, loads of old friends (of increasing age), sales persons yapping about the latest doodads and geegaws for making multimedia mush out of HDTV extravaganzas.

The theme must have been "work flow," and everyone was touting the improvements in work flow their products offer.

At the top of the list was Final Cut Pro, and the bundled Final Cut Studio package which includes a suite of production tools. They are fast approaching dominance in installed base of editing stations. Last year they passed 1/4 MILLION seats.

With software wrapping in the form of work flow tools from companies like Building4Media, it can become a powerful news automation package for stations of all sizes. A client of ours is considering dumping a well known vendor of editing in favor of FCP-HD for over 50 seats of production review and post.

Another interesting development was the introduction by NVision of a new audio router, the NV7512, which is a scant 14 RU high for

512x512 AES. It uses a rear plane connector named "1.0/2.3". it allows 4 times the density of BNC's ... so find small people with thin fingers (actually there are elegant tools for insertion and removal).

With AES, analog audio, time code and MADI interfaces, it is a pretty powerful switcher. When asked if they intend to bring out a new video router using similar interconnection they only smiled.

They also introduced a line of compact routers barely 2" deep with control panels which attach to the front of the rack frame with thumb screws. Smaller lighter and cheaper ... you have to love it! Only a couple of years after their leveraged buyout, and they seem to be on a roll.



**Last
Call**

Annual Membership Contest

The annual SBE membership contest runs until May 31 this year. Talk someone into joining the SBE and have them put you down as their sponsor and you will get \$5 off your next membership dues payment, plus be entered to win one of many prizes, including a trip to the SBE National Meeting in Dallas. Applications are available on SBE web site.



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