



# CHAPTER TWENTY NEWS

society of broadcast engineers  
pittsburgh chapter

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## Last Meeting

### NAB Convention Round-up



About 14 members attended the May meeting. Bob Jordan read an update on the 2 gig situation. We also talked about the upcoming 2005 Expo planning and had early looks at tech papers and vendors. And for the first time ever we had french fries as an option with our lunch.

To top off the meeting we had an NAB review presented by John Humphrey of Azcar. There was one little SNAFU, in that we didn't have our LCD projector so we watched John's power point presentation on his lap top screen, which worked out fine.

John went over the main themes that seemed to predominate at the NAB this year. There were:

- \* Workflow
- \* Newsroom, MC, control & monitoring
- \* Move to IT for Audio and Video.
- \* Servers, encoders, NLE
- \* Advanced encoding for low bit rates AVC (H.264 part 10. MPEG-4) VC-1 (WM-9)
- \* HD was shown everywhere.
- \* Low cost HD cameras and NLEs.

He highlighted a few selected products areas:

- \* Sony 1080p cameras
- \* Precision focus camera lenses
- \* Long GOP NLE's

John also reviewed the New product awards announced by three organizations:

- \* NAB 2005
- \* Broadcast Engineering Magazine
- \* TV Technology Magazine's "Star Awards" and "Mario Awards"

It was the best NAB review that we have ever had at our meetings.

Thanks, John!

**Mark you calendars now!!!**



**October 20, 2005**

### *Next Meeting*

*Thursday, June 16*

*12 noon*

*Come at 11:30 to shoot the breeze*

### *DTV Datacasting Applications*

*with Steve Sloan  
of Triveni Digital*

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



## Chairman's Corner

# The Clock Is Ticking

Bob Jordan, CPBE  
bjordan@wpxi.com

It looks as though New Years Day 2009 will definitely be D-Day for the cutoff of analog-TV service.

At a recent hearing on draft Digital-TV legislation, House Commerce Committee Chairman Joe Barton (R-Texas) said the "discussion draft" had room for negotiation on numerous points, but the Dec. 31, 2008, cutoff date is "pretty much frozen."

Significantly, the draft legislation does not include any provisions regarding mandatory cable carriage ("must-carry") of broadcasters' multicast DTV signals, nor a government subsidy program to fund digital-to-analog converter boxes. However, Barton said he would support a limited subsidy for digital converter boxes to low-income analog viewers.

Here's what the draft legislation does include:

- Elimination of the 85% test and sets a hard deadline of December 31, 2008 for analog broadcasting to cease.
- Allows cable operators (at their option) to down-convert a broadcaster's digitally-transmitted signal at the head-end for delivery to subscribers in analog format provided that:
  - 1) the broadcaster has elected must-carry for its signal;
  - 2) the cable operator continues to deliver the broadcaster's signal in its digital format as well as the analog format; and
  - 3) if the cable operator down-converts the digital signal of any must-carry station in the market, it must similarly down-convert the digital signals of all must-carry stations in the market.
- Requires the FCC to complete its ongoing DTV channel election process and assign final DTV channels to broadcasters by December 31, 2006.
- Orders the FCC to accelerate its DTV tuner mandate by moving up the deadline for manufacturers to include DTV tuners in 100% of television sets with screen sizes 13 inches and larger from July 1, 2007 to July 1, 2006.
- Orders the FCC, beginning February 1, 2006, to submit reports every six months to both the House and Senate Commerce Committees regarding the status of the agency's international coordination efforts with Canada and Mexico.
- Orders the FCC to conduct the auction for the 700 MHz band spectrum to be recovered commencing April 1, 2008, with the proceeds of the auction to be deposited in the US Treasury by June 30, 2008.
- Requires that manufacturers of analog-only television sets place warning labels on their screens and on their packaging containing specific language informing consumers of the impending DTV transition deadline, after which the television will no longer be able to directly receive broadcast programming. Also requires that retailers selling analog-only television sets place a sign next to each such set with the same warning.
- Orders the FCC to commence a public outreach program to educate consumers about the transition deadline.
- Requires that between July 1 and December 31, 2008 each broadcaster air at least two 60-second PSAs (one in the morning and one at night) warning viewers of the impending DTV transition deadline and the fact that analog-only television sets will no longer be able to receive broadcast programming. The draft further requires during that same time period that each cable and satellite provider include a notice in its bills setting forth the same warning language required above for broadcasters.



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# Opportunity

If you apply for this job, please mention that you saw it in the SBE Chapter 20 Newsletter. Chapter 20 will receive a finder's fee if you get the position.

## Job Description:

25% Travel

This position is responsible for providing complete and accurate solutions to encoding issues arising from Television broadcast environments. This position will gather and decipher information on encoder issues and perform on-site visits to local and national broadcast facilities to analyze encoder issues that may result from design, manufacturing defects, installation procedures or incompatibility with other broadcast equipment.

This position will interface with a variety of internal departments to analyze issues and resolve encoder platform issues. The position will also be responsible for devising and conducting cases on new generations of encoders for field reliability.

## **Skills Required:**

- Thorough understanding of NTSC and ATSC broadcast equipment and digital/analog routing and distribution systems
- Familiarity with SMPTE 259 video distribution standards
- Experience:
- BSEE 4 Years of experience
- MSEE 2 Years of experience or
- 10 Years of Electronics design experience (2 in broadcast engineering)

## **Desired Experience:**

- ATSC Digital Cable Standards
- Watermarking Techniques
- Dolby E, Dolby 5.1, EIA 608
- Testing Experience and system quality assurance

For IMMEDIATE attention, please send a copy of your updated resume to:

[eric@thefountaingroup.com](mailto:eric@thefountaingroup.com)

The Fountain Group is a professional services company, and we are assisting one of our clients in locating an Engineer for a contract to permanent position in Tampa Bay, FL. (Relocation is available)

Thank you,  
Eric Thompson  
The Fountain Group  
(813)269-9311



*Munching at our Chapter 20 meeting on May 19.*

## Radio Byte

If you're interested in the future of HD radio, check out Leslie Stimson's article, "Stations Crafting Multicast Radio Deal" on Radio World's website at [www.rwonline.com](http://www.rwonline.com).

When it comes to multicasting and radio, Stimson suggests that the future will be here sooner than anyone expected.

"A year from now," he writes, "you won't be able to find a new HD Radio that doesn't have the ability to decode multiple digital signals, or multicasting. That's the opinion of NPR Vice President for Engineering and Operations Mike Starling."

## EVER WONDER...

Why they are called apartments when they are all stuck together?  
Why they call the airport "the terminal" if flying is so safe?



## Expo Papers

Plans for the 2005 Equipment Exposition on October 20 are shaping up.

These are the presentations we have confirmed at this time:

Breakfast Keynote speaker, Mark Schubin

HDTV's True Transition Status

Separate presentation during the day:

Calrec, Tim Casey

5.1 Surround Mixing

Rhode/Schwartz, Rudy Niznanski

HDTV Measuring

Mark Schubin

HDTV Futures

Azcar, Tom McDonough

IT/AV Convergence

N-Vision

IT in Broadcasting

Adobe, Rich Pelzer

NLE Software

Multi-dyne

Digital Fiber Transmission

Chyron

MOS Connectivity

Harris Corp.

Digital AM FM Transmission

These are among the presentations we're still working on:

Apple Computer

Final Cut Pro 5

Digital Rapids

Coding and Streaming

Leitch

Digital Ser

Jerry Kalke

New 802.11N In The Broadcast Band

Laurant Coulant

Video Game Design

Telecast Fiber

Remote News Bureaus

Leitronics

Digital Automation Playback System

## Expo Vendors

These are the vendors we have lined up early so far for the October 20 Equipment Expo:

Telecast Fiber

Calrec Consoles

Harris Transmitters

Rhode/Schwartz

Telos - phone hybrids

Audio Technica

United Broadcast, Inc.

CP Communications

Vitac Closed Captions

Leitch



Being a free lance TV engineer sure gets Nick Cap some unique assignments. He was in Thailand May 19 to June 4. He had time on the last day to take a tour of the temples of the emerald Buddha and the palace grounds of the current king and queen of Thailand. The pictures are from the temples located on the palace grounds.

Watch your mailbox and our website for more updates and details.

We are also planning to present two 1/2 day workshops, one on "ENG Safety" and one on "Lighting for HD and Desktop Editing." A fee will be charged for these seminars to cover costs, with a substantial discount to SBE members

