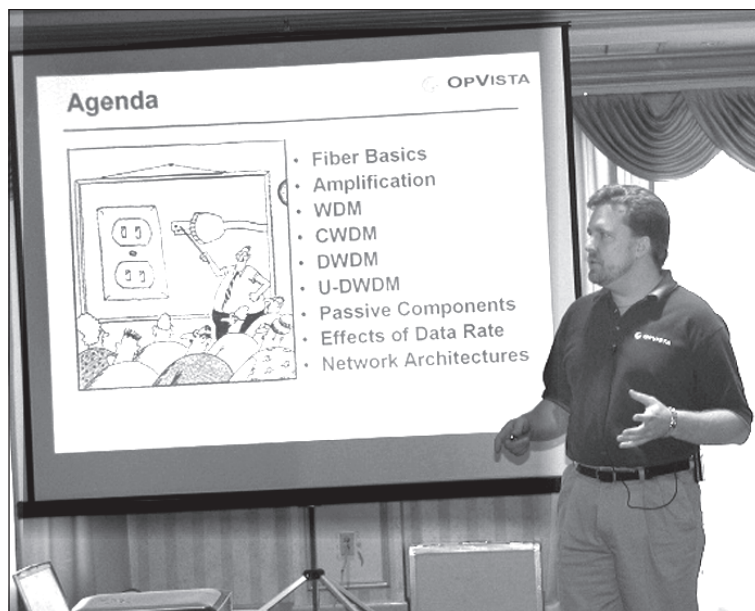




Op Vista gave the talk on Fiber Optics on November 17.

Last Meeting

Chapter 20's November meeting was held on Thursday Nov. 17 at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites in RIDC Park north of Pittsburgh. It was a joint session with the SCTE. Though no other business was addressed, we did discuss the recent Expo and planned for a critique meeting.

Talks at the all-day regular meeting of the SCTE included MPEG Stream Analysis, Fiber Optic Transport, and Statistical Multiplexing.

Statistical Multiplexing is one way cable companies are able to get more efficient use of limited bandwidth. It allows a thirty percent increase in the number of channels that fit in one QAM digital channel.

Another method of getting more out of limited bandwidth is called Switched Digital Broadcasting (SDB), in which heavily watched channels are sent in the normal way but less viewed channels are independently switched and sent to only the subscribers that dial them up. This allows many extra channels to be fit in the same bandwidth.

Sam Zborowski, Gary Stewart, Blake Richert, Tom Skubel, Frank Bobro, and Bob Jordan represented Chapter 20. They enjoyed both the intellectual stimulation and the buffet lunch.

Chairman's Corner



By Bob Jordan, CPBE
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What a year!

And where did it go? Seems like 2005 has just flown by. Industry wise, we now have a formal 2 GHz BAS reallocation plan and a final drop dead date for analog TV broadcast. Satellite radio is taking off, but you can also carry every one of your favorite tunes in something no bigger than a pack of gum. The public is actually buying wide screen TV's, of which there are many to choose from, and people are standing in line to buy the latest video game box.

Locally, the chapter put on a very successful Regional Expo in a new venue. Successful in terms of a tremendous lineup of speakers, several new vendors who haven't exhibited with us before, significantly greater atten-

Continued on page 2

Next Meeting

Thursday,
December 15

Lunch at noon -

come early & shoot the breeze

Annual Election of Officers & Free Lunch

Gaetano's

1617 Banksville Road

Use Rte. 19 South (Banksville Rd.) Exit
when coming out of town.

Use the Greentree Exit when coming in.

Chairman's Corner

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dance, and a very comfortable, more professional, more central location. But to be honest, as I report to you, our members, I do have to qualify that success just a little. That's because we didn't make any money. In fact we lost a little. As a 501.c.6 organization, we're not supposed to make a profit, but it would be nice to not lose money either. Why did we lose money? Three reasons: 1) What's called "Pipe and drape". We paid more for fancy curtains and things to support them than we paid for the hotel. 2) There wasn't enough station interest in a safety seminar to pay an expert to conduct one. Sad but true. 3) Sponsorship. We had hoped to get some of the local stations to kick in a little to help offset our costs, but we weren't able to get that off the ground. We learned a lot, and if we fix any one or all three of those items next year, then we will have plugged the leak. Anybody want to get out of broadcasting and go into renting curtains and curtain rods? I'm telling you there's big money there.

As the year draws to a close, so does my term as your Chairman. It's been exciting and very busy, but our bylaws only permit two successive terms. I've had a lot of great help and some huge THANK-YOUs are in order:

To Blake for keeping the books straight and paying the bills. To John for a terrific line up of speakers, both monthly and for the Expo. To Nick for bringing in vendors and pulling last minute rabbits out of the hat. To Joann, without whom the last two expos just wouldn't have happened. Period. And last but far from least, a big thank-you to Gary, who, for longer than I can remember, has worked in the shadows keeping us honest and on time; prodding us when we need prodding; and still finding time to help his wife Jean publish our newsletter too.

I've appointed a nominating committee, and they will be making their report at our annual Christmas get-together on December 15th. Please plan to attend, not only to complete the election process, but to meet and greet old friends and new ones before the holidays.

To all of our members, readers, and supporters, may you have a most enjoyable holiday season, and a healthy and prosperous 2006.



The XXth Winter Olympic Games from Turino, Italy

Nick Cap
Freelance TV Engineer
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The Winter Olympic games in Turino, Italy, will be broadcast by NBC on all of their seven different network outlets, including their Spanish network. As we start the final stages of building the IBC (International Broadcast Center) here in Turino for NBC's coverage of these Olympic games, there are a couple of new technologies that are going to be put into operation for this special venue.

The production team will be based back in a control room in New Jersey, and look at the camera feeds and switch them remotely via the internet. My next article will further discuss the concepts and some of the technology that will be used to do this virtual control room.

For now, as we ramp up to build some of the fly-pack systems that will also be used at several venues instead of the usual Mobile unit, I had a day to unwind from my jet lag so I am sending a picture of me, while I visited one of the Mountain venues in the Italian Alps.



Nick recuperates from jet lag by checking out the cross-country skiing venue for the XXth Olympics.



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