



CHAPTER TWENTY NEWS

society of broadcast engineers
pittsburgh chapter

March 2006

Volume 14 Number 3



The guest speaker at our February meeting was David Buck, Channel Manager Software Solutions for the Harris Corporation. He was accompanied by David Hopson, District Sales Manager and Norm Slater, Product Manager. All three are from Mason, OH.

Last Meeting

Glenn Romsos
gromsos@comcast.net

Our guest speaker at our February meeting was David Buck, Channel Manager Software Solutions for the Harris Corporation.

David gave us an easy to understand overview of Harris NetVX, a unique networking device that can replace up to 14 hard wired devices formerly needed to support only one type of network, with an infinitely flexible platform that can handle all packet-based architectures such as: ATM, IP, microwave and satellite. David referred to the NetVX as the “second generation Flexicoder on steroids.” With NetVX, analog or digital video (SD or HD), audio, and/or data can be transported over any combination of networks simultaneously.

– continued on page 2

Inside:

Chairman's Corner p. 2 SCTE Opportunity p. 4
Olympics XX p. 3 2006 Membership Drive p. 4

Next Meeting

First Evening Meeting Disaster?

Will our first regular evening meeting be a disaster? Not if you come and hear David Russin of Masstech talk about Disaster Recovery/Preparedness – Procedures, Policies, and Equipment for Broadcasters.

If you don't have a disaster plan in place, it would be wise to show up. If there is a disaster the next day, at least you can tell your boss you were just about to get to it and had finished your training the day before. In fact, maybe you better bring your boss and your CFO with you because this is important and could require some funding. The place and day are still Gaetanos on third Thursdays, but the new meal charge is \$10. Time is now 7 p.m.

Dave Russin Graduated from the State

– continued on page 3

Next Meeting



Thursday, March 16

Dinner at 7 P.M. –

come early & shoot the breeze

Disaster Recovery/Preparedness: Procedures, Policies & Equipment for Broadcasters

by David Russin
of Masstech

Gaetano's @ 1617 Banksville Road
Use Rte. 19 South (Banksville Rd.) Exit
when coming out of town.
Use the Greentree Exit when coming in.

Dinner fee \$10



Chairman's Corner

John J. Humphrey, CPBE
AZCAR
john.humphrey@azcar.com

If you have been paying attention or attending the monthly meetings, you probably know this chapter's membership and meeting attendance has been in a slow decline for several years. My first major agenda for 2006 begins this month. The monthly meetings will be held on the third Thursday at 7:00 in the evening at Gaetano's Restaurant, for the remainder of this year. I really hope to see an improvement in attendance.

As usual, we have an interesting presentation. The Pittsburgh chapter has over 80 members. Typically, 10 or 12 attend the monthly luncheon meetings.

We have coordinated our Expo dates with the SBE national and other regional shows. We hope this will make things easier for the vendors who travel from show to show. It will also help some attendees who attend more than one SBE show allowing more time and distance between show dates and locations.

The date for the Chapter 20 SBE Expo is now set as Oct. 12th. Setup day is the 11th. The location is the Monroeville Expo Mart East Hall. We were in the West Hall two years ago. This location puts us conveniently close to the Radisson Hotel and the restaurants. The Expo has new carpets and it will cost the SBE substantially less to put on our show at the Expo Mart. The Greentree location was unavailable for any of the dates we needed.

It appears the move to HD by local broadcasters is on! Now that the hard shut off date is established, TV stations are really beginning to plan for DTV. Of course this means a major upgrade to the facility. Typically, most stations need to be digital. Widescreen capability for cameras and monitors and switchers (depending on vintage) is next. Most systems need to be replaced or seriously upgraded, so it is not for the "weak of budget." It is also a major change in operations because every facet of the on-air look needs to be reexamined due to the new aspect ratio and the higher resolution.

Finally, this is your professional and broadcast organization for western Pennsylvania.

For those who typically don't make the monthly meetings, please e-mail, call or come to the meetings and tell me what we can do to make the SBE chapter work for you. I look forward to bigger and better participation and a bigger and better SBE for 2006.

Last Meeting –

continued from page 1

NetVX can be configured to support any number of network topologies. A unique, inherent CrossConnect structure enables any input to feed any output.

Dave Buck was accompanied by David Hopson, District Sales Manager and Norm Slater, Product Manager. All three are from Mason, OH.

What appealed to several of our members was the ability to populate the NetVX with specific modules to meet today's networking needs while providing easy expansion and the necessary redundancy to provide "5 Nines" redundancy.

It's encouraging to overhear our members, after a presentation, discussing how the product can provide solutions to some long standing challenges.



Chapter Twenty News is published monthly
(except July & August) by

Society of Broadcast Engineers
Chapter 20
P.O. Box 16312
Pittsburgh, PA 15242-0312

Web page <http://www.broadcast.net/~sbe20>

Chairman– John Humphrey	724-873-0800
Vice Chair– Annette Parks–Taylor	412-237-1187
Secretary– Glenn Romsos	724-934-1191
Treasurer– Blake Richert	412-824-3930
Frequency Coordinator– Otto Schellin	412-237-1184
Expo Planner– Joann Garvin	724-843-7501
Certification– Tom Skubel	412-244-4435
FCC Committee– vacant	
Newsletter Editor– Gary Stewart	412-824-3930
Newsletter DTP– Jean Stewart	412-678-9211



The XXth Winter Olympic Games from Torino, Italy IV

Nick Cap
Freelance TV Engineer
nicholas_cap@att.net

The XXth Winter Olympic games have come to an end finally, here in Torino, Italy.

NBC was able to provide over 26.5 hours of Olympic coverage with the time delay between the United States and Italy. As I talked before in my articles about the curling coverage that aired on USA network and CNBC, most of the coverage actually ended up being done live to those networks.

The "Virtual control room" had an almost flawless to-air report card. The use of the Internet to switch the router and feeds from the curling venue in Italy from the production rooms in New Jersey went well.

Using an audio sub mixer box that is made by Tieline enabled the announcers and their IFB's to be mixed via the internet from New Jersey as well. Yes, there was a small time delay to the IFB's returning from New Jersey, but we were able to have the announcers watch the return feed from New Jersey as well as their local program feed. This dual monitoring of the video signal would allow them to keep their continuity for the show.

One other Internet control that worked well was the ability to have a video shader control the cameras in Torino, Italy from his video desk in New Jersey. A small amount of reaction time delay would happen, but with this being an indoor event with constant lighting, there were no real time-delay issues.

As the Olympics end with a very positive performances by all the athletes, I finally get ready to pack up my stuff after 3 months in Italy. It's time to come home.

Caoi.



It looks like Nick enjoys his work!

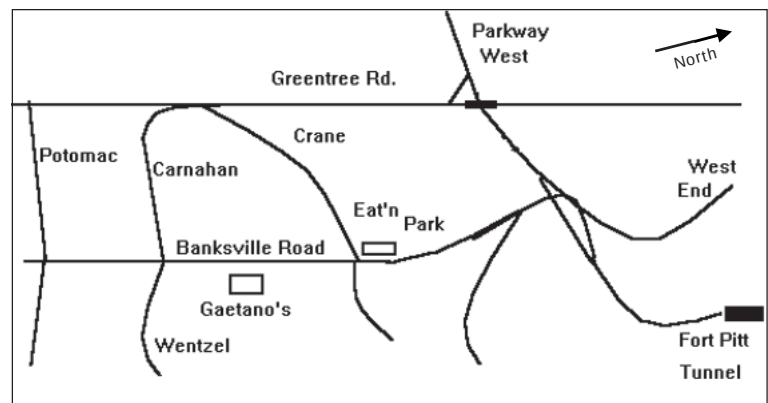
Next Meeting –

continued from page 1

University of New York with honors in Radio and Television Broadcast in 1977. He has held positions in production, news and teaching. For the past 20 years Dave has worked in manufacturing with groups such as Grass Valley, BTS-Phillips, Louth, Harris and now with Masstech. Dave was part of the development team for the Saturn Master control while at BTS.

Dave lives in Northern Virginia with his Wife Stacey, His three year old daughter Julia, 1 year old son Benjamin and 2 dogs (when he is home).

Map To Gaetanos



Gaetano's @ 1617 Banksville Road.

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

Use the Greentree Exit when coming in.

Actual warning label on a dog bed:

"Product NOT Intended for Consumption."

2006 SBE Membership Drive Inspire Someone to Greatness

Why not inspire someone today with an invitation to join the Society of Broadcast Engineers.

Recruit a new member during the 2006 Membership Drive, March 1– May 31, and your name will be entered into a prize drawing with more than 60 prizes, including:

Grand Prize: A trip for the winner, compliments of SBE, and a trip for your new recruit, compliments of Broadcaster's General Store & Telos Systems / Omnia / Axia, to Turning Stone Casino Resort in Verona, N.Y., for the SBE National Meeting, being held in conjunction with the 24th Annual SBE22 Broadcast & Technology Expo, Sept. 26 -27, 2006. The Grand Prize winner will also receive Profiler Automated Logging Software, compliments of Telos Systems / Omnia / Axia.

Your name goes into a drawing once for each approved new Regular or Associate member – 5 times for a new Sustaining member.

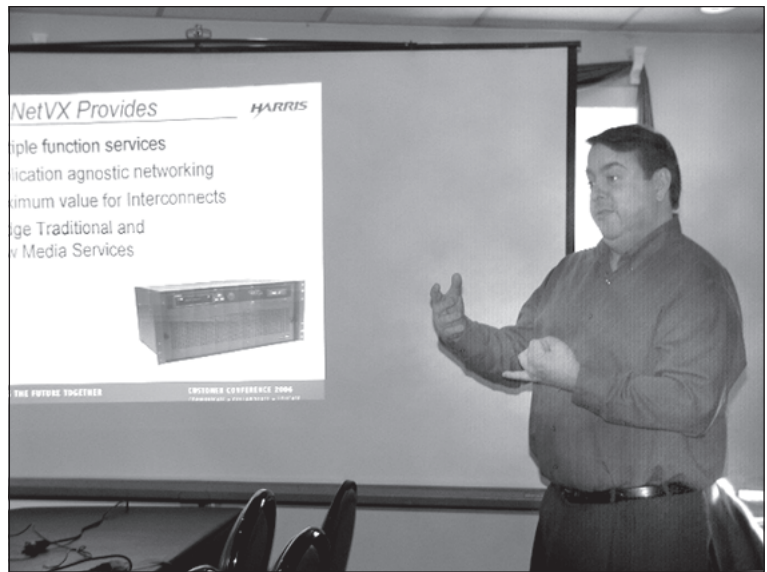
You'll also receive \$5 off your 2007 membership renewal for each new member that you recruit, up to \$25.

Other prizes include handbooks, gift certificates, shirts and tech stuff. Check your SBE Membership Drive postcard for more.

Go to www.sbe.org for official rules and additional resources.



Chowing down at the our February meeting.



David Buck of Harris Corporation gave us insights into NetVX at our February meeting.

Don't Forget SCTE Table-Top Vendor Day!

The Penn-Ohio Chapter of the Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers is having a Table-Top Vendor Day and Cable Games Competition, March 23, 2005, at the Comcast Technical Center, 1530 Chartiers Avenue in Pittsburgh, PA.

SBE members are welcome to attend free of charge including a free lunch. You can come for the cable games and watch the cable techs compete in their various skills, or just come for the vendor displays and lunch from 10 to 2.

The schedule will be as follows:

Starting 8:00 AM

Cable Games

(Conference room in Tech Center)

9:30AM

Vendor Set Up

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Table Top Exhibits

1:30 PM

Door Prize Drawings (must be present to win)

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

BCTE Testing

Available With Advanced Request

Vendors are invited to participate and should call Roger Hughes at Armstrong Group for costs. 724-283-0925 x224

This would be a good opportunity for broadcasters to see test equipment, tools, cables, etc., that we use in our business that may have application in yours. Last year we had 65 different vendors with table-top displays.