



CHAPTER TWENTY NEWS

society of broadcast engineers
pittsburgh chapter

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At our last meeting, John Humphrey gave a crisp and fast paced review of this year's NAB convention.

Last Meeting

Glenn Romsos
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Fourteen attended the May meeting as our chapter chairman John Humphrey presided over the business meeting and gave a crisp and fast paced review of many of the "Top Picks" of the thousands of products displayed at this year's NAB convention in Las Vegas.

John noted that our rapidly evolving radio and television business remains robust enough to attract over 105,000 registered attendees and 15,440 exhibitors to a national meeting!

The products displayed and the topics of many presentations addressed issues such as: work flow efficiencies; the continued move to Information Technology (IT) for audio and video collection, storage and distribution; advanced encoding for lower bit rates and the perennially upgraded High Definition video products.

John feels it's safe to say that video tape for conventional storage is dead. While video tape continues to be supported, John wasn't able to find a single exhibitor showing a videotape machine.

True to form, John's summary of his Top Picks all included the "wow factor"—something so new or significantly advanced that broadcasters could easily find solutions to many vexing problems.

John invited all to ask questions or give their views on what they saw at the convention, all of which provided for a very upbeat meeting!

Next Meeting

The Wave of the Future?

Imagine you are Rip van Winkle, XI, the Chief Engineer for RvW-TV. You wake up from a quick nap on a park bench and return to work. Unfortunately, you find that you've overslept by six months and have been fired. The new Chief Engineer takes you to see the new Master Control. The room is empty except for a single rack and a computer sitting on a fancy table.

You have questions.

"Where's the MC operator?"

"Oh, he went home yesterday at five."

"Where's all the MC equipment?"

"All we have now is a 2-rack-unit-high server and a computer."

"Doesn't it take more to support a station than that?"

"Oh, we have an I/O room next door with a few satellite receivers, Internet connections, ingest terminals, editing terminals and near line storage drives and a couple of playback VTR's."

"Who operates all that?"

"All the old MC operators"

"I want to see them."

Continued on page 2

Next Meeting

Thursday, June 15

7:00 P.M.

Come early and shoot the breeze

**Omnibus iTX and its
Technology**

John Wadle, Omnibus

Dinner Free

Location: Gaetano's

Details on page 2



Chairman's Corner

John J. Humphrey, CPBE
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This month, I am covering a couple of subjects. I am discussing the questions that I brought up at last month's NAB review meeting. These questions were originally taken from the SBE National Strategic Planning meeting to be held July 8th. The questions certainly touched a nerve! It's as though you were waiting for someone to ask! I have received many e-mails and calls. As a reminder, the questions were::

- What are the SBE's most/least important functions?
- What services should the SBE provide/discontinue?
- What role does/should the SBE play in Broadcasting?
- What can the SBE do to increase the value of membership?
- What's the skill set for the current Broadcast engineer?
- What will the future Broadcast Engineer need to know?
- What can the SBE do to attract more members in locals?
- How can the National better support the Local chapters?

Generally, the opinion is: We need much more IT knowledge; it's clearly the future for broadcast engineers and broadcasters. Yogi Berra said; "The future ain't what it used to be." We need to know about LANs, switches, routers, level 2 and level 3 protocols, etc.

The recent quote, "We don't know, what we don't know" is pretty much where we are today. The first step is to begin at the beginning and the beginning was the conversion from analog to digital video. Today, the final transition is the conversion of digital video to digital data (as in PC files). Standard IT technology is everywhere. It works and it's cheap. WE ALL NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT IT! That's the agenda for our monthly speakers, Expo technical presentations, and the two half-day workshops at the Expo.

We are also considering ad-hoc IT Technology workshops on Fridays or Saturdays during the year. If you already know all there is to know about IT, share it! If not, attend.

The June 15th dinner and meeting date and location is (as usual) Gaetano's Restaurant on Banksville Rd. All SBE meetings are now dinner meetings. There have been some suggestions that we move to a new location. I am in agreement with this plan as Gaetano's has become a bit old and depressing. I also agree we need to look for new and "fresh" locations for the evening meetings. Dave Kasperek has suggested Panera's meeting rooms. They're free with purchased

meals from the SBE members. Reservations need to be made well in advance. We are planning on a new location after the summer (July and August) break. If you have a new location idea, let me know.

The theme for this year's Expo is "The Line is Drawn, The Future is Here." The SBE Expo is this October 12th. The conversion to DTV is now on the horizon. In late 2008, all new consumer NTSC television equipment will carry a sticker that indicates the end of NTSC broadcasting in February, 2009.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting. John Wadle, Vice President of Technology for Omnibus will speak. John brings 34 years of experience in software engineering, design, and development. He also has worked with transmission, news automation, and product management in the broadcast industry. He will talk about the PC technology and iTX Technology Platform, the first server using 100% standard PC technology.

The Wave of the Future?

Continued from page 1

"Oh, they went home yesterday at 5, too."

"What's this all about?"

It's about the wave of the future. Come to the Chapter 20 meeting on June 15 to hear John Wadle of Omnibus Systems presenting on "iTX" and the PC technology that runs it.

The OmniBus iTX technology is a result of research and development to determine whether an end-to-end playout solution could be built using only standard computer hardware and advanced software. Real-time master control video effects are achieved by utilizing the DSP functionality contained within the latest-generation AMD chips driven by a new OmniBus control mechanism, ensuring real-time performance is delivered from the Windows multi-tasking environment.

See John Humphrey's article above for more info on John Wadle's background.

Directions to Gaetano's at 1617 Banksville Road. Use Rte. 19 South (Banksville Rd.) exit when coming from Pittsburgh. Use the Greentree exit when coming toward Pittsburgh.

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