



CHAPTER TWENTY NEWS

society of broadcast engineers
pittsburgh chapter

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At our March meeting, SBE Executive Director John Poray gave us some details about the SBE National Convention to be held in conjunction with our Expo in October.



Last Meeting

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Our March meeting was held at WQED. Twenty-eight people attended. Paul Byers gave us a tour of their facility. We got to see their new Avid suites, their new master control, their new audio room and their two new video control rooms.

Among those attending was SBE Executive Director John Poray. He gave us some details about the national meeting, which will be held at our expo this year. Events will include the annual meeting where new board members and a new president will be inducted. There will also be an awards ceremony, dinner and a special guest speaker.

After John spoke, we heard from Alan De Vaney and Bob Bolinsky from Crispin. They spoke about digital asset management. Alan talked more in general from the creation or acquisition of a show or spot, to storage on a server and play out.

Bob talked more about news stories. Starting with acquisition to

editing and archiving. He also talked about the use of metadata to help retrieve stories from archive.

During the business part of the meeting, John Humphrey asked for volunteers to help out with the database and the show. He is also looking for ideas on what kind of workshops and white papers we would like to have at the show.

We voted to approve sending Nick Capp to NAB to help find venders, presenters and white papers for our Expo

We also discussed the fact that the HD World show in New York will conflict with our expo. This will make it more difficult for us to line up venders.

We also voted to not have an April meeting since it would coincide with NAB.



The presenters at our March meeting.

**No Meeting
this month because of
conflict with NAB.**

**May meeting will be our
annual NAB Review.**



Chairman's Corner

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Every year in late spring, the broadcast industry goes into hyper-mode as the NAB approaches. The National Association of Broadcasters Convention is not just for broadcasters, of course. In fact, broadcasters are now a minority at the "big show." The NAB is now more like the professional CES show. The NAB convention now exhibits and discusses "new media" that includes AVC, WM9 and DVB-H delivering to the web and hand-held devices. Other than Broadcasting, production, post-production, audio for radio and TV and thousands of accessories make seeing it all very, very difficult.

I will host our annual NAB review at the May meeting with Annette and Nick Capp. I expect to have the participation of all that attended the NAB to help with the review.

HD, HD, HD are the three hottest things in the television industry and at the NAB. I have wondered when the HD flood gates would finally burst open. Well, that has happened! Of course, automation and computer technologies are close behind. Anything that adds efficiency and reduces errors is of great interest to Broadcasters.

Nick and Annette are working to make this year's Expo a big success with vendors and presenters.

As you know, the National SBE has selected our chapter as the location for the 2007 SBE National meeting. The date for the 2007 Expo is October 10th and 11th. The 10th is the National SBE meeting and set up. It is also the first day of exhibits. Wednesday evening from 5 P.M. until 8 P.M. exhibits will open with a reception afterwards. The 11th is the normal full day of Expo exhibits and technical presentations at the Expo Mart in Monroeville from 8 A.M. until 5 P.M.

The web site new address is; www.SBE22.org. Part of the web site upgrade is our mailing database for the Expo. We need to put a committee together to work through the incorrect database. We will put it on the web (password protected) so we can all see it and update it.

Thanks to Paul Byers for hosting one of our largest monthly meetings at WQED. As I joked at the meeting; a nice facility, new Master Control tour and free food is apparently a recipe for a good turnout.

Please invite industry people to our monthly meetings, these are

the future members of the SBE. I hope we will see some of those non-members join this year. Until further notice, the monthly meeting dinners will continue to be paid by the Chapter and there is no cost to members and non-members.

As usual, I am always open to any suggestions to make the Chapter work better for its members. I would like to hear your opinion about any subject by phone (724) 873-0800 or by e-mail to: john.humphrey@azcar.com.



WQED Non-linear Editing Suite



WQED's HD Camera



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Recruit new members ... and win!

There's still time to "Reach New Heights" during the 2007 SBE Membership Drive. The annual drive started March 1 and continues through May 31, 2007.

All current SBE Members who sponsor a new member during this year's drive will receive \$5 off your 2008 dues for each new Regular, Associate, or Sustaining member that you sponsor (up to \$25). In addition, sponsors will have their names entered into the Membership Drive Prize Drawing where you could win one of many great prizes donated by SBE Sustaining Members and SBE Bookstore publishers.

If you plan to attend NAB2007, this is a great time to introduce your friends and colleagues to SBE. Bring them to the SBE booth in the upper level of the South Hall of the Las Vegas Convention Center (conveniently located near the Broadcast Engineering Conference) with their applications where you can both pick up an SBE membership ribbon. Then invite them to the SBE Membership Meeting on Tuesday, April 17, at 5 P.M.



Reaching new HEIGHTS

2007 SBE Membership Drive March 1 — May 31

Need a little inspiration?
Recruit a new member during the 2007 SBE Membership Drive, March 1 – May 31, and not only will you strengthen the voice of broadcast engineers in the industry, but **your name will be entered into a prize drawing with more than 50 prizes, including:**

Grand Prize: A trip for the winner, compliments of SBE, to the SBE National Meeting, held in conjunction with the Pittsburgh Regional Convention, October 10-11, 2007.



Musings of a Consultant

John Luff
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April is NAB month. With the exception of twice in the last 41 years, it has been my annual trek. For most of those years I was free to roam the floor, looking for things that truly changed the industry. The first practical video server in 1994 (Tektronix Profile PDR-100), the first digital video recorders (1987, Sony D-1), first MPEG encoder (1994 Divicom), first digital production switcher (1988, GVG Kadenza), first AVID editor (AVID/1, 1988), first non-linear editor (CMX600, 1970), first CCD camera (RCA CCD-1, 1984), and many other industry changing products have been food for NAB wanderers. I missed the introduction of video tape (AMPEX VR-1000, 1956).

This year very little is expected to be introduced which we will all remember as having changed the industry. Cameras will be smaller, cheaper, and better (debatable...). Storage will be faster, denser and cheaper. VTRs will be smaller and cheaper. In fact the theme, if there is one, is that manufacturers are responding to the fact that the broadcast market is tiny compared to other segments of industry. Their strategy is to leverage research into consumer products and turn them into professional products. Dolby makes more money licensing in consumer products than they do making commercial products. "Pro-sumer" crossover products are mainstream these days. Who would have thought that broadcasters would see the CES as nearly as important to their industry as NAB?"

April 30 Deadline for Board Nominations

April 30 is the deadline for being nominated to serve on the SBE National Board of Directors. Contact any member of the Nominations Committee if you are interested (Jim Bernier, jim.bernier@sbe.org; Ralph Beaver, bevo@media-alert.com; or Larry Wilkins, larry.wilkins@cumulus.com).

The SBE is governed by a 17 person board of directors and four officers. The SBE Nominations Committee is currently seeking candidates to run for six at-large board positions to run in this summer's elections. Candidates must be Regular, Senior or Life members or be the designated representative of an SBE Sustaining Member and hold an engineering level certification. Directors serve two years and are expected to attend two full meetings of the Board each year, which includes the spring meeting at NAB and the fall meeting at the SBE National Convention (here in Pittsburgh this year only). Meeting attendance is at the individuals own expense.

Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters

The Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters will hold its 23rd Annual PAB Engineering Conference on May 8th at Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA.

Cost is \$50 per person for the one day meeting. The first person to register from each station is free. A registration form is available at www.pab.org.

May 8th PAB Engineering Conference Agenda

- 8:50AM Conference officially begins with the presentation of the Bosak Scholarship
- 9-9:45 Radio Topic – *HD Radio Implementation*
Gary Manteuffel, Nautel
- 10-10:45 Radio/TV Topic – *Digital Audio Networking Radio & TV*
Phil Owens, Wheatstone Corporation
- 11-11:25 Exhibitor Break
- 11:25-12:15 Radio/TV Topic – *Transmitter Site Maintenance*
John Bisset, Brdcast. Elec.
- 12:15 Lunch – *Hall of Fame Induction of Fred Vossburg*,
Engineer, WSEE-TV, Erie
Lunch is sponsored by Wheatstone Corporation
- 1:30-2:30PM Radio/TV Topic – *EAS, Amber Alert and EMnet*
Matt Lightner, PAB
and Anthony Manetta, Pennsylvania State Police
- 2:30-3:00 Exhibitor Break
- 3:00-3:45 TV Topic – *In Band Mobile TV for Cell Phones & PDA Devices*
Jay Adrick, VP, Broadcast Technology, Harris
- 4:00 Vendor Door Prizes
- 4:15–5:00 Exhibit Time and adjourn

When you talk to vendors, ask them if they will be exhibiting at the SBE show in Pittsburgh, October 11 and 12. Send them to our new web page at www.sbe20.org for details. Additional show contact information is on the vendor page.

SBE Certification Exam Schedule

SBE Certification Committee has established the following exam dates. Choose the exam period that is best for you.

Exam Dates	Location	Application Deadline
April 17, 2007	NAB - Las Vegas	March 2, 2007
June 1-11, 2007	Local Chapters	April 20, 2007
August 10-20, 2007	Local Chapters	June 8, 2007
November 9-19, 2007	Local Chapters	September 21, 2007

Please note: SBE Certification exams are administered only by SBE and are proctored in-person by qualified and approved representatives of SBE. No other organization is authorized to administer SBE exams.



WQED's new HD production control room with LCD monitors.