



CHAPTER TWENTY NEWS

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"Joe Wilcher, Maintenance Technician at WTAE TV4, holds one of the 10 pound ground rods that were removed. The ground cable from the guy wires hangs loose near by."



Musings of a Consultant

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"NAB held a few surprises for me, though some of them should have been on my "duh" radar a long time ago.

Sony announced a nonvolatile memory recording camera after obsessing about moving media for decades (XDCAM-EX. In reality this was inevitable (duh), due to the falling prices and increasing capacity of memory.

Not to be outdone, Panasonic showed significant increases in P2 capacity and lower cost per minute.

Harris and LG demonstrated an alternative to A-VSB in a moving bus they call MPH, Mobile-Pedestrian-Handheld.

Samsung demonstrated A-VSB in similar circumstances, and after NAB has refuted claims by MPH that A-VSB is at a disadvantage of about 7 dB in threshold reception.

Sony showed a production model of a projector with 4096x2048 resolution for digital cinema. At their press briefing they had a 3D demo of an NBA game that was pretty convincing.

IT companies bought bigger booths, with SGI showing up post bankruptcy and quietly showing a killer VOD engine, HP demonstrating that they sell computers (duh), and IBM showing how Services Oriented Architecture,

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CHECK YOUR GUY ANCHORS !

By Dave Kasperek
WTAE-TV4



On a recent routine inspection, WTAE technicians found that someone had pulled up two guy wire copper ground rods and cut the ground wire to the rods at a guy anchor point for our main transmit tower in Elizabeth Twp. These rods were left lying inside the guy anchor chain link enclosure. The lock on the enclosure had been cut. It doesn't make sense that someone would go to the trouble of this work without then taking the copper rods. We suspect the perpetrators had plans to systematically remove these and then come collect them all.

The incident was reported to local police who concur that break-ins for copper are on the rise. With the price of copper so high at present, a Duquesne Light foreman recently told us people are even risking their lives breaking into hot substations to steal copper, so apparently a tall tower is not any discouragement either, even with RF Hazard signs posted. Obviously we are beefing up security and routine inspections. I suggest other broadcasters consider doing likewise.

**No Meeting
this month.**

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



Chairman's Corner

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First, let me apologize for the cancelled meeting in May. I have not cancelled a meeting since I became Chairman. It appears post-NAB activity has caused everyone to be very busy and unavailable for the NAB Review. I have done the NAB review for the last couple of years and it is very valuable for the members. Even if you go, no one has the time to see it all at the NAB.

We will have the NAB Review at the June meeting. I expect the participation of Nick Cap, Annette Parks, Paul Byers, Bob Hoffman, Karl Paulsen and others who attended the NAB and saw things that we should all be aware of. The technology is continuing to change at an exponential rate. Everyone should participate in this Review. The meeting location is still TBD. I expect a good turnout and a nice location. Free food, as usual. Please invite everyone you can. I look forward to hosting our annual NAB Review at the June meeting.

The NAB was more like the professional CES show. The lower South Hall is now all computer-based technology companies. Like many other "old-timers," to me this floor was a foreign world of new names, new companies, new terminology and new ideas. I forced myself to wade into the floor and the exhibits and get familiar with the "new world order" of television. The NAB convention now exhibits and discusses a tremendous amount of "new media" that includes AVC, WM9 and DVB-H delivering to the web and hand-held devices. Automation is close behind. Anything that adds efficiency and reduces errors is of great interest to Broadcasters.

HD, HD, HD were the three hottest things in the television industry and at the NAB. EVERYONE was all about HD. If you didn't have HD to display, no one wanted to stop at your booth.

The HD flood gates have finally burst open. Consumer acceptance of flat panels and lower prices for (mostly) HD displays has accelerated. The "Consumer acceptance curve" is used to describe any new technology presented to consumers. VHS, audio cassette, CDs, DVDs, all have had a predictable acceptance curve that (for many reasons) suddenly turns sharply upward and sales take off. That has now happened to HD television. Unfortunately, the vast majority of viewers never see terrestrial TV stations directly. Most

watch TV stations via DBS or Cable. Worse, the viewer may not be seeing "real" HD because the source is upconverted, it is overly compressed or the consumer's display is not really HD resolution. But ... that's a topic for another discussion.

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. Exhibits will open Wednesday evening from 5 P.M. until 8 P.M. 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.SBE20.org. Part of the web site upgrade is our mailing database for the Expo. Bob Hoffman is ready to put the database up on the web site. 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.

As usual, I am always open to any suggestions to make this SBE 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.

Musings of a Consultant

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SOA, can make automating broadcast work flow in a non-real time plant flexible and understandable.

Looking for new VTR's, stunning new switchers, or other baseband hardware? Not in Lost Wages this year.

My pick of the show? The new Sony professional LCD monitor that was the absolute equal of their best CRT monitors. It uses LED illumination and had no lag and great colorimetry ... and a huge price tag of course. It rocked!"

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