

Minutes
Fog and Smoke Working Group
Friday, 19 March 2004
Westin Long Beach
Long Beach, California

Chairman: Larry Schoeneman; Interesting Products, Inc.; P; CP

Recording secretary: Karl G. Ruling; ESTA

Members attending: Eric Tishman; Rosco Laboratories; P; MP
Bill Hektner; USITT ; P; G
Greg Meeh; Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.; P; DR
Martin Michaud; MDG Fog Generators Ltd.; P; MP
Edwin S. Kramer; I.A.T.S.E, Local 1; P; U
Ron Bonner; PLASA; P; G
Peggy Lee Martindale; University of Texas, Austin; O; G
Don Phillips; Le Maitre Special Effects; A; MP
Thomas V. Korder; Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, University of Illinois;
O; U

Visitor: Hugh Rose; The Walt Disney Studios

1 Opening remarks

Larry Schoeneman called the meeting to order at 08:32. He welcomed all to the meeting.

2 Attendance and membership

2.1 Introductions of those present

Schoeneman asked those present to introduce themselves. While they did so, a red attendance sign-in sheet was circulated.

2.2 Determination of quorum (13 voting members: 5 for a quorum, 7 to pass a supermajority vote)

Schoeneman noted that eight voting members were present, more than enough to constitute a quorum.

2.3 Recognition of alternate voting members

Don Phillips was present to vote for LeMaitre.

2.4 Requirements for membership

Schoeneman reminded the assembly that working group membership is open to all who are affected by the work of the group. Voting members must vote on letter ballots and attend meetings. A member's voting status will be changed to observer if he and his alternate miss three consecutive meetings. This will be done at the beginning of the third meeting missed. Reinstatement of voting status may be requested at the next meeting attended.

Until this meeting, there had been an exemption from the attendance requirement for organizational members. Larry Schoeneman announced that this exemption was being removed. Henceforth, organizational members will have the same attendance requirement as other members, and must attend meetings regularly or lose voting status.

There was an opportunity for discussion of this new requirement for organizational members. There were no objections.

2.5 Processing of new membership applications

There were none to process.

2.6 Processing of changes to observer status if this meeting is missed

No voting members had missed the previous two meetings and were subject to change of status at this meeting.

The consensus body during this meeting, including those not present, was:

Name	Company	Representing	Voting status	Int. cat.
Gary Crawford	C I T C	C I T C	P	MP
M. Brad Dittmer	Downhome Productions	Downhome Productions	P	U
Mike Wood	High End Systems Inc.	High End Systems Inc.	P	MP
Lowell Fowler	High End Systems Inc.	High End Systems Inc.	A	MP
Edwin S. Kramer	I.A.T.S.E, Local 1	I.A.T.S.E. Local 1	P	U
Larry Schoeneman	Interesting Products, Inc.	Interesting Products, Inc.	P	CP
Greg Meeh	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	P	DR
Patrick Boyd	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	A	DR
Adrian Segeren	Le Maitre Special Effects	Le Maitre Special Effects	P	MP
Don Phillips	Le Maitre Special Effects	Le Maitre Special Effects	A	MP
Martin Michaud	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	P	MP
Ron Bonner	PLASA	PLASA	P	G
Tony Douglas-Beveridge	PLASA	PLASA	A	G
Eric Tishman	Rosco Laboratories	Rosco Laboratories	P	MP
Nathan Kahn	Theatre Effects, Inc.	Theatre Effects, Inc.	P	MP
Bill Hektner	USITT	USITT	P	G
Florian von Hofen	VPLT	VPLT	P	G
Eckart Steffens	SOUNDLIGHT	VPLT	A	G
Gunther Schaidt	Safex Chemie	VPLT	A	G
		Total possible votes	13	
		Votes by interest category	6	MP
			1	CP
			1	DR
			2	U
			3	G

3 Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

Bill Hektner moved that the draft minutes of the January 2004 meeting be approved as written. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved with a unanimous voice vote

4 Approval of agenda

Eric Tishman moved that the agenda be accepted. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous mix of a show of hands and a voice vote.

5 Reading of the call for patents

Larry Schoeneman read the following statement aloud to the assembly:

"ESTA intends to publish no standard that contains protected intellectual property, unless that property can be licensed by anyone for a reasonable fee. ESTA uses a process of open patent disclosures to implement this intent. ESTA does not conduct patent searches and does not warrant that its standards contain no protected intellectual property.

"In keeping with the open disclosure policy, I ask if anyone present wishes to notify the working group of the existence of a patent or copyright that might protect material in a standard being developed by the working group. You need not be the holder of the patent or copyright in order to notify the working group of its existence."

No patent or copyright issues were raised by any member of the assembly.

6 Reading of the anti-trust statement

Larry Schoeneman read the following statement aloud to the assembly:

"The ESTA Board of Directors, the Technical Standards Committee, and the leadership of this working group will reject or nullify any actions that unlawfully restrain trade. Anyone who feels that such an action is being or has been taken is requested to bring that matter to the attention of the chair immediately. Anyone who feels that actions in restraint of trade have been taken and not properly annulled is requested to notify the TSC chair or ESTA president immediately.

"ESTA legal counsel has informed us that violations of the anti-trust laws can have serious consequences. Individuals engaged in certain unlawful conduct can be found criminally liable. An individual convicted of a criminal violation of the Sherman Act may be fined as much as \$100,000 and imprisoned for up to three years. An easy to read pamphlet describing restraint of trade issues is available from the Technical Standards Manager."

No restraint of trade or anti-trust issues were raised by any member of the assembly.

7 Task group and committee reports and business

7.1 TSC – Larry Schoeneman

Larry Schoeneman reported on the significant reports given at the TSC meeting. The Camera Cranes handbook was voted to be made available for public review. The Rigging Working Group has four standards in public review, but the flying performers project has been shelved. Control Protocols is making progress, particularly with the E1.11 project. The Floors Working Group has a working document. The Electrical Power Working Group is moving along with a 40+ page feeder cable document.

7.2 E1.23, generic fog effect guidance

Karl Ruling reported that the TSC had voted to offer it for public review.

7.3 Fire detector guidance document

Greg Meeh circulated a document he had finished writing on the plane. It was discussed.

Larry Schoeneman described the NFPA SPE-AAA technical committee meeting Meeh and he had attended, at which he proposed changes to 1126 and 160 to deal with false alarms. The SPE-AAA technical committee decided that Schoeneman should lead a false alarm task group to work with the NFPA 72 committee to get words in NFPA 72 to reinforce the need for guarding against false alarms due to theatrical fog and smoke.

There was a discussion of the purpose of the document Meeh was writing document. Ruling directed the group to what was decided at the last meeting and was recorded in the minutes:

7.3 Fire detector guidance document

There was a discussion of the way forward with this document. The consensus was that Greg Meeh should continue to work on it, with the idea of making it a document of two to three pages that we could put on the ESTA website. Greg will focus on providing anecdotal information.

Schoeneman noted that ASTC has a periodical publication that is sent to its members. Schoeneman knows the editor and will try to get this document into their publication.

After some discussion, the consensus was that Karl Ruling shall pursue writing an article for NFPA for one of their publications and also for *Protocol*. Larry Schoeneman shall pursue having an article published with ASTC. Greg Meeh shall work on modifying the text distributed at this meeting for inclusion in *The Introduction to Modern Atmospheric Effects*.

Thomas Korder suggested that people at IAAM should be made aware of this problem

Peggy Martindale reported on a reworking of the fire detection system at UT Austin to partition the system. They have the problem that false alarms in one theatre cause the evacuation of another.

8 Old Business

There was a discussion of how to proceed with revising *The Introduction to Modern Atmospheric Effects*.

Eric Tishman moved that the current edition be placed on the ESTA website for public comment. The motion was seconded. By a show of hands, the motion was approved unanimously.

9 New business

None.

10 Other business

Bill Hektner reported that Dr. Randy Davidson had taken ill the previous night. Those present expressed their concern. Hektner excused himself so he could participate in a USITT session as a replacement for Davidson.

11 Liaison Reports

11.1 PLASA

Ron Bonner reported on his research in anecdotal evidence. Because of the licensing requirements, the fire brigade has a lot to say in the UK, and they are requiring new systems in theatres. These are L1 systems, the highest level of life safety protection, and these have detection systems in every space in the venue. They are all putting in sophisticated systems that allow the bypassing of the fog-susceptible detectors during performance conditions.

11.2 VPLT

Neither Von Hofen nor Steffens were present. There was no report.

11.3 The Kramer and Fails Report

Kramer was present and said that Gary Fails had sent his regards. Kramer suggested we take this report off the agenda. There is very little news or controversy about fog coming from IATSE or Broadway shows now.

11.4 NFPA

Schoeneman's report on the NFPA had been given under item 7.3 above.

12 Schedule for future meetings

Larry Schoeneman proposed that the working group cut its meeting schedule to twice a year, to meet at the ETS and USITT shows only, once BSR E1.23 is done. There is not enough work now to justify meeting four times a year. He suggested that probably the January meeting in 2005 would be the first one skipped, but that would depend on the progress with BSR E1.23.

Schoeneman announced that the next meeting is scheduled for July 17, from 19:00 to 23:00 at the Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport Marriott South in Ft. Worth, Texas. The following meeting is scheduled for October 23 at 7:00 am, but Schoeneman suggested we can push that starting time back if there is not enough work on the agenda to warrant such a long meeting.

13 Adjournment

Martin Michaud moved that the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved with a unanimous voice vote. Larry Schoeneman declared the meeting adjourned at 09:55.

Fog & Smoke Working Group Membership and Contact Information as of Friday, 23 April 2004

Name	Company	Representing (This is the primary sort field.)	Voting status	Int. cat.
Murray Gellatly	A.C. Lighting Ltd.	A.C. Lighting Ltd.	O	DR
Patrick O'Rourke	Big Apple Lights	Big Apple Lights	O	DR
F. Lee Iwanski	Big Apple Lights	Big Apple Lights	O	DR
Gary Crawford	C I T C	C I T C	P	MP
Gary Fails	City Theatrical, Inc.	City Theatrical, Inc.	O	MP
M. Brad Dittmer	Downhome Productions	Downhome Productions	P	U
Norman Wright	Group One Ltd.	Group One	O	DR
Lowell Fowler	High End Systems Inc.	High End Systems Inc.	P	MP
Edwin S. Kramer	I.A.T.S.E. Local 1	I.A.T.S.E. Local 1	P	U
Larry Schoeneman	Interesting Products, Inc.	Interesting Products, Inc.	P	CP
Jack Suesse	J.R. Clancy, Inc. (NC)	J.R. Clancy, Inc.	O	G
Greg Meeh	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	P	DR
Patrick Boyd	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	A	DR
Adrian Segeren	Le Maitre Special Effects	Le Maitre Special Effects	P	MP
Don Phillips	Le Maitre Special Effects	Le Maitre Special Effects	A	MP
Martin Michaud	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	P	MP
Monona Rossol	Arts, Crafts & Theater Safety	Monona Rossol	O	G
Kent H. Jorgensen	MPS Grips, Local 80	MPS Grips, Local 80	O	G
Ron Bonner	PLASA	PLASA	P	G
Douglas Franz	QVC Network	QVC Network	O	U
Jim Gill	Reel EFX, Inc.	Reel EFX	O	MP
Martin Becker	Reel EFX, Inc.	Reel EFX	O	MP
Eric Tishman	Rosco Laboratories	Rosco Laboratories	P	MP
Heinz Siller	RST Presentations-systeme	RST Presentations-systeme	O	G
Beverly Huggins	SFX Design, Inc.	SFX Design, Inc.	O	MP
Robert Barbagallo	Solotech Inc.	Solotech Inc.	O	U
Stephen Vanciel	Stephen Vanciel	Stephen Vanciel	O	U
Reuben Goldberg	Technic Services	Technic Services	O	U
Nathan Kahn	Theatre Effects, Inc.	Theatre Effects, Inc.	P	MP
Jerry Gorrell	Theatre Safety Programs	Theatre Safety Programs	O	G
Thomas Costello	TJC and Associates	TJC and Associates	O	G
Colin Waters	TMB	TMB	O	G
James F. Foley	UCISCO, Inc.	UCISCO, Inc.	O	MP
Thomas V. Korder	Krannert Center for the Performing Arts	University of Illinois	O	U
Peggy Lee Martindale	University of Texas, Austin	University of Texas, Austin	O	G
Bill Hektner	USITT	USITT	P	G
Florian von Hofen	VPLT	VPLT	P	G
Eckart Steffens	SOUNDLIGHT	VPLT	A	G
Gunther Schaidt	Safex Chemie	VPLT	A	G
Mark Elliott	Walt Disney Company	Walt Disney Company	O	U
Michael Zilz	Zilz International GmbH	Zilz International GmbH	O	G

Significant changes since the meeting: Mike Wood has left High End Systems to start Mike Wood Consulting LLC. Lowell Fowler has moved from alternate to principal to take Mike Wood's place. An application is on file for Mike Wood to join the working group, and that application will be processed at the July 2004 working group meeting.

Key to codes:

- P principal voting member
- A alternate voting member
- I individual voting member
- O observer, non-voting

- MP mass-market producer interest category
- CP custom-market producer interest category
- DR dealer or rental company interest category
- U user interest category
- G general-interest interest category