

Minutes
Fog and Smoke Working Group
15 February 2002
Hyatt Regency New Orleans
New Orleans, LA

Presiding chairman: Larry Schoeneman; Interesting Products, Inc.; principal; producer

Recording secretary: Karl G. Ruling, ESTA

Members attending: Adrian Segeren; Le Maitre Special Effects; principal; producer
Edwin S. Kramer; IATSE Local 1; principal; user
Eric Tishman; Rosco Laboratories; principal; producer
F. Lee Iwanski; Big Apple Lights; principal; user
Gary Fails; City Theatrical, Inc.; principal; producer
Greg Meeh; Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.; principal; user
Kent H. Jorgensen; MPS Grips, Local 80; observer; general interest
M. Brad Dittmer; Downhome Productions; principal; user
Martin Michaud; MDG Fog Generators Ltd.; alternate; producer
Mike Wood; High End Systems Inc.; principal; producer
Murray Gellatly; A.C. Lighting Ltd.; principal; general interest
Nathan Kahn; Theatre Effects, Inc.; observer (changed to principal at this meeting); producer

Visitors: Ralph Weber, ENDL Texas
Peggy Lee Martindale, UT Austin
Douglas Weber, Theatre Effects, Inc.

ESTA staff: Bill Maiman

1 Opening remarks

Larry Schoeneman called the meeting to order at 07:05. He thanked MDG Fog Generators for providing the breakfast, and asked Martin Michaud to convey these thanks to Marc Gingras. Schoeneman's thanks were interrupted by applause.

2 Attendance and membership

A chartreuse attendance sign-in sheet attached to a stack of green, yellow, and mauve visitor registration forms was circulated.

2.1 Introductions of those present

Schoeneman asked those present to introduce themselves, which they did.

2.2 Determination of quorum

Schoeneman noted that a quorum was present so the meeting's business could be conducted.

2.3 Recognition of alternate voting members

It was noted that Martin Michaud would be voting for MDG Fog Generators rather than the principal, Marc Gingras.

2.4 Requirements for membership

Schoeneman reminded the group that membership is open to all who are affected by the work of the group, but that voting membership requires meeting attendance. Except for organizational members, a member's voting status will be changed to observer if he and his alternate miss two consecutive meetings. The voting status may be reinstated at the next meeting the member attends.

2.5 Processing of new membership applications

Nathan Kahn asked to have his voting status restored. He said that he intends to attend more regularly. Greg Meeh moved that Nathan Kahn be accepted as a voting member. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by a voice vote.

The full voting body, including those absent, was thus:

Name	Company	Representing	Voting status	Interest category
Murray Gellatly	A.C. Lighting Ltd.	A.C. Lighting Ltd.	P	G
F. Lee Iwanski	Big Apple Lights	Big Apple Lights	P	U
Gary Fails	City Theatrical, Inc.	City Theatrical, Inc.	P	P
M. Brad Dittmer	Downhome Productions	Downhome Productions	P	U
Mike Wood	High End Systems Inc.	High End Systems Inc.	P	P
Lowell Fowler	High End Systems Inc.	High End Systems Inc.	A	P
Byron Ziegler	High End Systems Inc.	High End Systems Inc.	A	P
Edwin S. Kramer	IATSE, Local 1	I.A.T.S.E. Local 1	P	U
Larry Schoeneman	Interesting Products, Inc.	Interesting Products, Inc.	P	P
Greg Meeh	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	P	U
Adrian Segeren	Le Maitre Special Effects	Le Maitre Special Effects	P	P
Marc Gingras	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	P	P
Martin Michaud	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	A	P
Tim Cox	PLASA	PLASA	P	G
Tony Douglas-Beveridge	PLASA	PLASA	A	G
Martin Becker	Reel EFX, Inc.	Reel EFX	P	P
Eric Tishman	Rosco Laboratories	Rosco Laboratories	P	P
Nathan Kahn	Theatre Effects, Inc.	Theatre Effects, Inc.	P	P
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
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2.6 Processing of changes to observer status

None.

3 Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

Brad Dittmer moved that the minutes be approved as written. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous show of hands.

4 Approval of Agenda

Eric Tishman moved that the agenda be approved. The motion was seconded. The motion was accepted unanimously by a show of hands.

5 Reading of the call for patents

Larry Schoeneman read the following statement aloud:

"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 issues were brought to the attention of the working group.

6 Reading of the anti-trust statement

Larry Schoeneman read the following statement aloud:

"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."

Bill Maiman held up several of the easy-to-read pamphlets. No anti-trust issues were brought to the attention of the working group.

7 Task group and committee reports

7.1 TSC

Larry Schoeneman reported on actions within the recent Technical Standards Committee meeting that might be of interest to members of the Fog & Smoke Working Group.

The fog outreach program that ESTA is doing with KSA Plus was outlined. This is a program to help prevent conflicts over fog use by encouraging theatres and other production groups to test the air and to report the results of the testing. This will help demonstrate a commitment to responsible use and will help to ensure that the use is indeed responsible. This is not a technical standards project, it is a trade association project, but it will, of course, link into standards because published standards will be used as criterion for responsible fog use.

The fog product stewardship documents were presented to the TSC, reported Schoeneman, and were accepted. He suggested that we need an article in Protocol about the availability of these product stewardship checklist documents and volunteered to write it. He asked the group how else it should be publicized. "Put it on the website," was the common answer. There was a discussion of the possibility of an LDI session on product stewardship. Schoeneman noted that it should be tied to the KSA Plus fog outreach program.

7.2 Fog standard E1.5

Karl Ruling reported that the public review period had closed earlier in the week, but after he had left to come to New Orleans. Therefore, he had not tallied up the comments. He noted that when he had left no comments had been offered that disagreed with the glycol and glycerin levels proposed.

7.3 Data collection task group

Karl Ruling reported that there had been no recent activity here, but that we hope to get some information as a result of the KSA outreach program and the air sampling it should prompt.

8 Old Business

8.1 Dust effects

Kent Jorgensen reported that fuller's earth had been used in the making of the Planet of the Apes. The fuller's earth had high levels of silica in it. He reported that a film industry safety committee is putting together a guidance document on the use of dusts as atmospheric effects. Jorgensen asked if the F&S Working Group would want to put together a standard? The consensus was that this group could provide an organizational framework for the work, but that people with an interest and expertise

would have to join to do the job. There are currently no dust experts on the working group's membership roster.

8.2 Product stewardship

Karl Ruling said that this topic had been covered adequately by Schoeneman's TSC report.

9 Liaison Reports

9.1 PLASA

Tim Cox was not present. No report.

9.2 VPLT

Neither Florian von Hofen nor Eckart Steffens were not present. No report.

9.3 The Kramer and Fails Report

Gary Fails reported that he had met with Anthony DePaulo, now Thirteenth Vice President of the IATSE General Executive Board, to ask if there were any problems with fog. The response was that there was nothing to report.

9.4 NFPA

Schoeneman reported that there is some discussion in the NFPA about making an atmospheric effect standard. It has been suggested that NFPA should do it because fire inspectors would enforce it, and they look to the NFPA for guidance. However, the NFPA committee members of the SPE-AAA technical committee dealing with special effects are not experts in fog. Should we do it? He expressed concern that AHJs might not use a standard if it's not an NFPA standard.

Eddie Kramer said that if we had a standard, we could work on having the NFPA reference this standard.

Martin Michaud moved that we write a cryogenic fog standard. The motion was seconded. There was discussion of whether this should be only a cryogenic fog standard or a general fog standard. Eddie Kramer moved that the motion be tabled until the next meeting. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. The motion was tabled until the next meeting.

10 New business

Eric Tishman spoke about a January meeting in San Francisco dealing with fog. The meeting had been put together by a local theatrical dealer. He noted that this geographical area is one in which fog is a concern. He said that he'd received lots of questions from a SAG/AFTRA representative about health and safety, but fewer questions from the local Equity rep. Tishman said there seemed to be the sense on the part of the Equity rep that they have their guidance document, and have few questions now. Tishman said he is interested in further meetings with SAG, AFTRA, and Equity members.

11 Other business

None.

12 Schedule for future meetings

Schoeneman announced that the next meeting will be at the Marriott South in Ft. Worth on May 4 from 19:00 to 23:00. The following meeting will be at the same place on July 27 from 19:00 to 23:00.

Schoeneman suggested that for LDI we set the meeting time by set it for two to two-and-a-half hours before the show floor opens. Although Eddie Kramer objected to having any morning meetings, the consensus of the group was that early morning meetings are effective and free time later in the day for business and other activities.

13 Adjournment

Brad Dittmer moved that the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded. The motion was accepted unanimously on a voice vote. Schoeneman declared the meeting adjourned at 08:45.

Fog & Smoke Working Group Membership and Contact Information at the End of the Meeting

Name	Company	Representing	Voting status	Interest category
Murray Gellatly	A.C. Lighting Ltd.	A.C. Lighting Ltd.	P	G
F. Lee Iwanski	Big Apple Lights	Big Apple Lights	P	U
Patrick O'Rourke	Big Apple Lights	Big Apple Lights	O	U
Gary Crawford	C.I.T.C.	C.I.T.C.	O	P
Gary Fails	City Theatrical, Inc.	City Theatrical, Inc.	P	P
M. Brad Dittmer	Downhome Productions - Springfield, MO	Downhome Productions	P	U
Norman Wright	Group One Ltd.	Group One	O	P
Mike Wood	High End Systems Inc.	High End Systems Inc.	P	P
Lowell Fowler	High End Systems Inc.	High End Systems Inc.	A	P
Byron Ziegler	High End Systems Inc.	High End Systems Inc.	A	P
Edwin S. Kramer	IATSE, Local 1	I.A.T.S.E. Local 1	P	U
Larry Schoeneman	Interesting Products, Inc.	Interesting Products, Inc.	P	P
Jack Suesse	J.R. Clancy, Inc.	J.R. Clancy, Inc.	O	G
Greg Meeh	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	P	U
Patrick Boyd	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	O	U
Adrian Segeren	Le Maitre Special Effects	Le Maitre Special Effects	P	P
Jon Petts	Jem Smoke Machine Co, Ltd.	Martin Professional A/S	O	P
Marc Gingras	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	P	P
Martin Michaud	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	A	P
Monona Rossol	Monona Rossol	Monona Rossol	O	G
Kent H. Jorgensen	MPS Grips, Local 80	MPS Grips, Local 80	O	G
Tim Cox	PLASA	PLASA	P	G
Tony Douglas-Beveridge	PLASA	PLASA	A	G
Robert Barbagallo	Proximo Inc.	Proximo Inc.	O	U
Douglas Franz	QVC Network	QVC Network	O	U
Martin Becker	Reel EFX, Inc.	Reel EFX	P	P
Jim Gill	Reel EFX, Inc.	Reel EFX	O	P
Eric Tishman	Rosco Laboratories	Rosco Laboratories	P	P
Heinz Siller	RST Presentations-systeme	RST Presentations-systeme	O	G
Beverly Huggins	SFX Design, Inc.	SFX Design, Inc.	O	P
Nathan Kahn	Theatre Effects, Inc.	Theatre Effects, Inc.	P	P
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	P
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
			Voters	4 G 4 U 8 P
			Observers	8 G 3 U 5 P

Voting Status

- P Principal voting representative for a company or organization
- A Alternate voting representative for a company or organization
- I Individual representing no organization other than himself or herself
- O Observer; non-voting

Interest Categories

- P Producer (manufacturer) of fog or smoke effects
- U User of fog or smoke effects
- G General interest