

# Minutes

## Fog and Smoke Working Group

Friday, 21 March 2003  
Hilton Minneapolis  
Minneapolis, MN

**Chairman:** Larry Schoeneman; Interesting Products, Inc.; P; MP

**Recording secretary:** Karl G. Ruling; ESTA

**Members attending:** Patrick O'Rourke; Big Apple Lights; O; DR  
Gary Fails; City Theatrical, Inc.; P; MP  
M. Brad Dittmer; Downhome Productions; P; U  
Mike Wood; High End Systems Inc.; P; MP  
Edwin S. Kramer; I.A.T.S.E. Local 1; P; U  
Greg Meeh; Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.; P; U  
Adrian Segeren; Le Maitre Special Effects; P; MP  
Martin Michaud; MDG Fog Generators Ltd.; A; MP  
Ron Bonner; PLASA; P; G  
Eric Tishman; Rosco Laboratories; P; MP  
Stephen Vanciel; O; U (joined at this meeting)  
Bill Hektner; USITT; P; G

**Visitors:** Peggy Lee Martindale; UT Austin  
Neil Huff; Prism Inc.

Regrets for being unable to attend had been received from Nathan Kahn of Theatre Effects.

### 1 Opening remarks

Larry Schoeneman called the meeting to order at 07:08. He thanked all for attending and thanked MDG for providing the food.

### 2 Attendance and membership

#### 2.1 Introductions of those present

Schoeneman asked those present to introduce themselves. A red sign-in attendance sheet was circulated.

#### 2.2 Determination of quorum

Schoeneman noted that a quorum was present and business could be conducted.

#### 2.3 Recognition of alternate voting members

Martin Michaud was recognized as the representative for MDG. Marc Gingras was not present.

#### 2.4 Requirements for membership

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

#### 2.5 Processing of new membership applications

Bob Barbagallo of Solotech had applied for observer membership in the dealer or rental house category. Martin Michaud moved that Bob Barbagallo's application be accepted. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved with a voice vote.

Stephen Vanciel applied as an observer representing himself (not the Walt Disney Corporation) in the user interest category. Brad Dittmer moved that his application be accepted. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous show of hands. Ruling pointed out that this representation will have to be revisited if Vanciel applies to become a voting member, since the Walt Disney Corporation has an obvious interest in the work of the group.

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

None.

The consensus body during the meeting, including those absent, was:

Name	Company	Representing	Voting status	Int. cat.
Gary Fails	City Theatrical, Inc.	City Theatrical, Inc.	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
Byron Ziegler	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	MP
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
Marc Gingras	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	P	MP
Martin Michaud	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	A	MP
Ron Bonner	PLASA	PLASA	P	G
Tony Douglas-Beveridge	PLASA	PLASA	A	G
Eric Tishman	Rosco Laboratories	Rosco Laboratories	P	MP
Michael Sean Graves	Rosco Laboratories	Rosco Laboratories	A	MP
Nathan Kahn	Theatre Effects, Inc.	Theatre Effects, Inc.	P	MP
David Honigs	Theatre Effects, Inc.	Theatre Effects, Inc.	A	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
			13	total
			7	MP
			0	CP
			1	DR
			2	U
			3	G
		TOTALS		

**3 Approval of minutes from the previous meeting**

Brad Dittmer moved that the minutes of the January 2003 meeting be approved as written. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved with a voice vote.

**4 Approval of Agenda**

Larry Schoeneman asked for a discussion of the newspaper report of the SHAPE study under Other Business. The agenda with this addition was approved by acclamation.

## **5 Reading of the call for patents:**

The following was read aloud by Larry Schoeneman:

"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 identified.

## **6 Reading of the anti-trust statement**

The following was read aloud by Larry Schoeneman

"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 issues were brought to the attention of the assembly.

## **7 Task group and committee reports**

### **7.1 TSC**

Larry Schoeneman that there were no big issues of concern. He noted how many projects that the Rigging Working Group has and that the TSC approved the public review of the BSR E1.22 fire safety curtain draft standard.

### **7.2 Fog standard E1.5**

Schoeneman reported that the draft standard was accepted by the TSC via a letter ballot. It was presented to the ESTA Board and was approved by a supermajority. There was one vote against it.

### **7.3 E1.23, Generic fog effect guidance project**

There was a discussion of the generic fog effect standard. Informative advice about specific technology can be put in the non-mandatory appendix; the mandatory requirements in the main body of the document can be kept general so as not to impede development of new technologies. Ruling asked for comments to be sent to him by the end of May.

### **7.4 Fire detector guidance document**

There was a discussion of the outline that Greg Meeh had provided.

The consensus was that Greg Meeh shall draft a letter to Bill Conner (to be vetted by Larry and Karl) suggesting that the NFPA 72 needs to be used more diligently by theatre consultants.

Ron Bonner offered to speak to UK alarm specialists about detection systems that are not likely to be falsely triggered by fog.

Larry Schoeneman said he would talk to Lori Rubinstein about our relationship with low-voltage industry groups to see if there is advice available from them.

## **8 Old Business**

None.

## **9 Liaison Reports**

### **9.1 PLASA**

Ron Bonner reported that there was not a lot of news from the UK, but that at the end of April he has a meeting with the HSE, who have done some research on fogs and issued a report He hopes to have some information from that. He has heard that it's a favorable report.

Bonner stated that there is interested in the fog testing program at the Royal Albert Hall. If testing is done at the Royal Albert Hall, the Opera House at Covent Garden would probably follow.

### **9.2 VPLT**

No report.

### **9.3 The Kramer and Fails Report**

Gary Fails reported that he has spoken to representatives of Local One. He reported that there is little concern about fog now from Equity or Local One. There is concern about pyro.

Eddie Kramer had a story about Secret Service agents at being very concerned about DF50 machines and the purity of the fluid being used when government officials are present. Fog is an aerosol and it could be used for dispersing pathogens. The agents decided that fluid that was canned and sealed before 11 September 2001 was probably okay.

### **9.4 NFPA**

There was a discussion of the possible changes to NFPA 101, NFPA 5000, and NFPA 1126 in response to the Station disaster. The proposed changes involve dropping the threshold for sprinkler systems for public assembly occupancies to some number lower than 300, requiring crowd managers for all assembly occupancies (not only those holding more than 1,000), and specifying that the owner of a building be the one to apply for a pyrotechnics permit.

## **10 New business**

There was a discussion of how active we should be in promoting fog product stewardship and safety. Should we be more active with USITT or with other communities? Do we want to run fog sessions for USITT or others, or offer a fog speaker's bureau service?

The consensus was yes. There was talk of how we might do this. We only have one set of meters, and they represent an investment of \$5,000, so it is not possible to cart the meters off to each demonstration, however, it was felt that meters aren't always needed.

## **11 Other business**

### **11.1 SHAPE study**

A newspaper report had appeared in the *Vancouver Sun* about a study done by SHAPE of motion picture technicians working with fog effects for long periods. The newspaper article reported that the researchers did find irritation effects from long exposure to high levels of effect materials. Tishman said it was good support for E1.5, which has TWA levels specified as well as ceiling levels. The reports the newspaper article referenced can be found at <http://www.soeh.ubc.ca/research/reports.htm>.

### **11.2 Archived Email Reflectors**

There was a discussion of the archived email reflector discussion forums. Ruling distributed sign-up instructions.

**12 Schedule for future meetings**

Schoeneman announced that the next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, 26 July 2003, from 19:00 to 23:00. The meeting will be at the Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport Marriott South in Ft. Worth, Texas.

**13 Adjournment**

Mike Wood moved that the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved by a show of hands. Larry Schoeneman declared the meeting adjourned at 08:57.

### Fog & Smoke Working Group Members and Contact Information

Name	Company	Representing	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	O	MP
Gary Fails	City Theatrical, Inc.	City Theatrical, Inc.	P	MP
M. Brad Dittmer	Downhome Productions	Downhome Productions	P	U
Norman Wright	Group One Ltd.	Group One	O	DR
Mike Wood	High End Systems Inc.	High End Systems Inc.	P	MP
Lowell Fowler	High End Systems Inc.	High End Systems Inc.	A	MP
Byron Ziegler	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	MP
Jack Suesse	J.R. Clancy, Inc. (NC)	J.R. Clancy, Inc.	O	G
Greg Meeh	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	P	U
Patrick Boyd	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	A	DR
Adrian Segeren	Le Maitre Special Effects	Le Maitre Special Effects	P	MP
Marc Gingras	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	P	MP
Martin Michaud	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	A	MP
Monona Rossol	Arts, Crafts & Theater Safety	Monona Rossol	O	G
Kent H. Jorgensen	MPS Grips, Local 80	MPS Grips, Local 80	O	G
Tony Douglas-Beveridge	PLASA	PLASA	A	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 Präsentationssysteme	RST Präsentationssysteme	O	G
Beverly Huggins	SFX Design, Inc.	SFX Design, Inc.	O	MP
Robert Barbagallo	Solotech Inc.	Solotech Inc.	O	DR
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
David Honigs	Theatre Effects, Inc.	Theatre Effects, Inc.	A	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
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

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