

Minutes
Fog and Smoke Working Group
Saturday, 26 July 2003
Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport Marriott South
Ft. Worth, TX

Presiding chairman: Larry Schoeneman; Interesting Products, Inc.; Interesting Products, Inc.; P; MP

Recording secretary: Karl G. Ruling; ESTA

Members attending: 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; DR
Adrian Segeren; Le Maitre Special Effects; P; MP
Ron Bonner; PLASA; P; G
Eric Tishman; Rosco Laboratories; P; MP
Bill Hektner; USITT ; P; 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

Regrets for being unable to attend had been received from Nathan Kahn of Theatre Effects. His wife recently had a baby, and this has kept him from attending. Also, his alternate, David Honigs, no longer works for Theatre Effects and so cannot continue to serve as Kahn's alternate.

Visitor: Malcolm Reed; Knight Security Systems, Inc.

1 Opening remarks

Larry Schoeneman called the meeting to order at 19:07.

2 Attendance and membership

A red attendance sign-in sheet was circulated.

2.1 Introductions of those present

Those present introduced themselves.

2.2 Determination of quorum

Nine voting members were present. Larry Schoeneman announced that we have a quorum and may conduct business.

2.3 Recognition of alternate voting members

There were none to recognize.

2.4 Requirements for membership

The following was read aloud by Larry Schoeneman:

"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. Except for organizational members, 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."

2.5 Processing of new membership applications

Peggy Martindale of the University of Texas, Austin applied as an observer in the general interest category.

Brad Dittmer moved that Martindale's application be accepted. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved unanimously on a voice vote.

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

There were no voting members subject to voting change due to chronic absence.

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

Name	Company	Representing (sort field)	Voting status	Interest categories				
				G	U	MP	CP	DR
Gary Fails	City Theatrical, Inc.	City Theatrical, Inc.	P			1		
M. Brad Dittmer	Downhome Productions	Downhome Productions	P		1			
Mike Wood	High End Systems Inc.	High End Systems Inc.	P			1		
Lowell Fowler	High End Systems Inc.	High End Systems Inc.	A					
Byron Ziegler	High End Systems Inc.	High End Systems Inc.	A					
Edwin S. Kramer	I.A.T.S.E, Local 1	I.A.T.S.E. Local 1	P		1			
Larry Schoeneman	Interesting Products, Inc.	Interesting Products, Inc.	P			1		
Greg Meeh	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	P					1
Patrick Boyd	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	A					
Adrian Segeren	Le Maitre Special Effects	Le Maitre Special Effects	P			1		
Martin Michaud	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	P			1		
Ron Bonner	PLASA	PLASA	P	1				
Tony Douglas-Beveridge	PLASA	PLASA	A					
Eric Tishman	Rosco Laboratories	Rosco Laboratories	P			1		
Nathan Kahn	Theatre Effects, Inc.	Theatre Effects, Inc.	P			1		
Bill Hektner	USITT	USITT	P	1				
Florian von Hofen	VPLT	VPLT	P	1				
Eckart Steffens	SOUNDLIGHT	VPLT	A					
Gunther Schaidt	Safex Chemie	VPLT	A					
			13	3	2	7	0	1

3 Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting

Brad Dittmer moved that the draft minutes of the March meeting be accepted as written. The motion was seconded. The motion was accepted with a unanimous show of hands.

4 Approval of Agenda

Bill Hektner moved that the draft agenda be accepted. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved with a unanimous voice vote.

5 Reading of the call for patents

The following call for patents 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 protected intellectual property issues were brought to the attention of the assembly.

6 Reading of the anti-trust statement

The following statement regarding restraint of trade issues 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 reported that the TSC meeting was a very straight forward one. The cooperation and mutual respect being shown between the task groups and supporters of BSR E1.17 (known as "ACN") and BSR E1.20 (RDM) was notable.

7.2 E1.23, Generic fog effect guidance project

The most recent version of BSR E1.23 was discussed. The consensus was that there should be another revision. Karl Ruling will send out a Word version of the document, and comments on the document should be submitted to Karl Ruling by September 1.

7.3 Fire detector guidance document – Presentation by Malcolm Reed of Knight Security Systems, Inc.

Malcolm Reed identified the National Burglar and Fire Alarm Association and the Security Industry Association as organizations that might be helpful allies on this project.

Reed described analog addressable systems, which allow some fine-tuning of the sensitivity and what conditions initiate an alarm signal. These are expensive systems that are usually used when there are a large number of detectors –50 or more. Ron Bonner said that these systems were in use in the UK, also.

Reed explained how ionization and optical sensors work. Both types are easily fooled by fog. UV and IR detectors detect the electromagnetic radiation from fire and are good for open areas and protecting expensive equipment, but only trip when there is visible flame, which is the third stage of a fire. Heat detectors of various types are good for protecting property, but not for life safety. By the time they trip, the environment is deadly for people.

Despite the slight advantages offered by analog addressable systems and the various types of detectors, Reed felt that there is no technological fix available. We need a standards solution.

It was decided that Greg Meeh shall start on a document that explains the problem and then gives a procedure for dealing with the problem. He will send it to Karl and Larry, and a rough document will be ready for the next meeting. A deadline of September 1 for sending it to Karl and Larry was proposed.

Larry Schoeneman thanked Malcolm Reed for generously giving us his advice.

8 Old Business

None.

9 Liaison Reports

9.1 PLASA

Ron Bonner discussed the HSE "Health Hazards from Theatrical Smoke Machines." He said it was a disappointing report; it adds little to our knowledge.

9.2 VPLT

No report.

9.3 The Kramer and Fails Report

No report.

9.4 NFPA

Schoeneman reported on some recent action in the NFPA's special effects technical committee SPE-AAA. There had been a TIA proposed for NFPA 1126 that would have required the venue owner to be the applicant for a pyrotechnic permit, but the proposal was voted down by the technical committee.

10 New business

Eric Tishman reported on the Equity/League acceptance of the additional calibration factors for new equipment that were developed to support ESTA's "A Test is Worth a Thousand Words" fog testing program. Dr. Moline of Mt. Sinai School of Medicine has said the tests ESTA organized with ENVIRON International are fine. However, until the Broadway shows are shown to be in compliance with the agreed upon exposure limits, Equity is not interested in accepting the additional calibration factors. The League has no problem with the additional factors.

11 Other business

Schoeneman reviewed the action items:

1. Comments on BSR E1.23 to Karl G. Ruling by September 1. Karl will send out a Word version to help this.
2. Larry Schoeneman will write Malcolm Reed with thanks and ask to whom we should be talking.
3. Greg Meeh shall draft a fire alarm procedure and send it to Karl and Larry by September 1.

12 Schedule for future meetings

The ETS-LDI meeting is scheduled for Saturday, 22 November 2003, from 07:00 - 11:00 in the morning.

13 Adjournment

Bill Hektner moved that the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded. The motion was accepted by acclamation. Larry Schoeneman declared the meeting adjourned at 21:18.

Membership and Contact Information as of 2003-10-01

Name	Company	Representing (This is the 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	O	MP
Gary Fails	City Theatrical, Inc.	City Theatrical, Inc.	P	MP
M. Brad Dittmer	Downhome Productions - Springfield, MO	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.	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
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
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 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
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

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