

Minutes
Fog and Smoke Working Group
Friday, March 26, 1999
Royal York Hotel
Toronto, ON
Canada

Chairperson: Larry Schoeneman; Interesting Products, Inc.; Principal; Producer

Recording secretary: Karl G. Ruling; ESTA

Members in attendance: Brad Dittmer; Associated Theatrical Contractors; Principal; User
Gary Fails; City Theatrical, Inc.; Principal; Producer
F. Lee Iwanski; Four Star Lighting; Principal; User
Mike Wood; High End Systems; Principal; Producer
Edwin S. Kramer; IATSE, Local 1; Principal; User
Adrian Segeren; Le Maitre Special Effects; Principal; Producer
Marc Gingras; MDG Fog Generators Ltd.; Principal; Producer
Tim Cox; PLASA; Principal; General interest
Martin Becker; Reel EFX; Alternate; Producer
Eric Tishman; Rosco Laboratories; Principal; Producer
Bill Hektner; USITT Health & Safety Commissioner; Principal; General interest

Visitors: Matthew Griffiths; PLASA
Roger L. Lattin; IATSE Local 728

1 Opening remarks

Larry Schoeneman called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2 Attendance and membership

2.1 Introductions of those present

Those present briefly introduced themselves.

2.2 Determination of quorum (6 needed)

There were 12 voting members present, so Larry Schoeneman declared that we had a quorum.

2.3 Recognition of alternate voting members

Martin Becker was recognized as voting in Jim Gill's absence for Reel EFX.

2.4 Requirements for membership

Schoeneman reminded the group of the attendance requirement:

Except for organizational members, a member's voting status will be changed to observer if he misses two consecutive meetings, pending that member's attendance at another meeting.

After reviewing the attendance records, Schoeneman announced that the following voting members had their status changed to observer because of their lack of attendance:

Gary Crawford; CITC
Monona Rossol; Monona Rossol
Thomas Costello; TJC and Associates
Nathan Kahn; Theatre Effects, Inc.

James F. Foley, UCISCO

2.5 Processing of new membership applications

Rob Schneider reapplied as an observer because his employer had changed from Arizona State University to University of Arizona.

Eric Tishman moved that his application be accepted. Brad Dittmer seconded the motion. Unanimous by show of hands.

2.6 Processing of changes to observer status

3 Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

Kramer said that the original report on his report was inaccurate. He had presented no formal report, and asked that the line referring to him in 9.4 be changed to read:

"Eddie Kramer was asked about Local One, but had no formal report to offer."

Kramer moved that the minutes be accepted with this change. Bill Hektner seconded. Unanimous by show of hands.

4 Approval of Agenda

Bill Hektner moved that the agenda be accepted as written. Eddie Kramer seconded. Unanimous by show of hands.

5 Call for patents:

Schoeneman directed the group to read the call for patents and antitrust statement printed below, and allowed two minutes for people to do so.

"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."

6 Anti-Trust Statement

"The ESTA Board of Directors, the Technical Standards Committee, and the leadership of this Working Group will reject or nullify any actions that restrain trade. Anyone who feels that an action restraining trade is being or has been taken is requested to bring the 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 any member of this working group may be found individually liable for any action that restrains trade taken by this working group. An individual convicted of a violation of the Sherman Act may be fined as much as \$100,000 and be imprisoned for up to three years. An easy to read pamphlet describing restraint of trade is available from the Technical Standards Committee."

7 Task Group Reports

7.1 Fog standard E1.5 – The "Stink Test" report

Larry Schoeneman reported on The Life Sciences Consultancy's draft of the "Preliminary Identification and Characterization of Risk Issues Associated with the Use of Glycol-Based Smoke and Fog Fluids in Theatrical Settings." The report had been sent to Schoeneman at the Royal York Hotel, and duplicated by him and distributed to as many working group members as possible in the few days before the meeting.

Many in the working group had noted that the draft refers to 1, 4-butylene glycol, when it is 1, 3-butylene glycol that we asked them to research, and that glycerol had not been covered at all. Schoeneman explained that the "1, 4" was a typographical error, and that the report was really on 1, 3. The omission of glycerol was an error. Our request specified glycerol, and it would be covered in the revised document.

Schoeneman reported that the draft document is only a draft, and that the billing time put into it is about \$5,000 to \$6,000 dollars. This will double if we want a finished version of the document.

Schoeneman summarized the main points of the report and a conversation he had with one of its authors, Dr. Ken Wilmarth. The first is that no glycol fog standard is appropriate until the Equity/League study is done. This will be the first study to address vocal performance and fog, which is a concern of the working group and which must be addressed in the standard.

Second, we need hard data on the use of fog and the concentrations. The hard data we have on how it is actually used is limited. We must collect data.

Third, we need to develop our own product stewardship program. We need a formalized program to make sure that artificial fog is used responsibly. This program has to address all of the people and groups who are in the artificial fog supply chain: distributors, dealers, professional users, and amateur users.

Brad Dittmer moved that we establish a Responsible Product Stewardship Program. Bill Hektner seconded. By show of hands, 11 in favor and none opposed. Schoeneman appointed a task group consisting of Eric Tishman, Adrian Segeren, and Mike Wood. Schoeneman charged the group to develop a report on what we must do and to do so no later than 30 days before next meeting. [June 17.]

Brad Dittmer moved that we establish a task group to investigate collecting data on actual fog usage. Bill Hektner seconded. By show of hands, 11 in favor and none opposed. Schoeneman asked Mike Wood if he would be a one-man task group for this. Wood said that he would turn the task over to his staff chemist, Byron Ziegler. The deadline is also 30 days before next meeting. [June 17]

7.2 Fog machine instruction manual standard (Brad Dittmer & Lee Iwanski)

The consensus was that the draft document is good. However, in 4.3.1 it refers to "warnings established by USITT." Unfortunately, USITT has not published its warnings.

By consensus it was decided that the text of the draft USITT warning should be adapted and inserted into the draft manual standard. Karl Ruling was charged with retyping the draft standard so it is in electronic form and inserting the appropriate, adapted warning wording.

The revised typed-up version will be sent to the working group. The group will read the document and provide written comments back to Ruling for distribution in time for the next meeting. [June 17 deadline for comments.]

7.3 Fog Book III

Karl Ruling asked for a brief discussion on the new, third edition text. In particular, he wanted to know if the book was going in the right direction, with significant amounts of new information, but not so much

as to overwhelm our intended audience for the piece. No motion of approval or condemnation was offered, but the few comments voiced were supportive of the draft text.

Ruling said that he wanted one more month to do another revision, and then he would distribute the text again. After that, working group members could submit written corrections, amendments, or comments. He would respond to those comments in writing, and resend the document in time for the next meeting, and in time to generate another round of comments.

Schoeneman stated that we will address only written comments at the July meeting. We do not want to ever edit the book the way we did in November 1995, with comments from the floor, and a meeting that lasted well past midnight.

7.4 CMA project (Schoeneman and Segeren)

The consensus was that this was addressed when we discussed the Product Stewardship Program under 7.1.

8 Old Business

8.1 Gary Crawford's letter asking for documentation

Crawford was not present and had sent no report. Tabled.

8.2 Thanks to Local 1

Eddie Kramer had sent the contact information to Karl Ruling shortly before the meeting, and Ruling sent it to Schoeneman. Schoeneman now has all the information he needs to write a thank you letter.

The man to thank is:

Frank Dwyer, Secretary
Theatrical Stage Employees
Local One IATSE, AFL-CIO
320 West 46th Street
New York, NY 10036-2437

9 Liaison Reports

9.1 PLASA (Tim Cox)

Regarding the quest for help funding the Stink Test project, Cox said he hopes to present the request to the PLASA Executive at the next meeting on April 8th.

In regard to funding, Bill Hektnar reported that he had asked USITT for some additional funding for this particular "Stink Test" project. He was quite hopeful that the funding would be granted.

9.2 JATET (Schoeneman)

No report.

9.3 VPLT (von Hofen)

No report.

9.4 The Kramer and Fails Report

Kramer reported that within the membership of Local 1 there is a group that is seriously concerned about fog. One point that has been made with that group, and that is valid, is that the crew stays for years on a show, much longer than the cast or the musicians, so the crew is the most affected.

Kramer reported that Musicians Union 802 is funding the orchestra pit air curtains. On Les Miz the primary concern is one musician in the pit who is an asthmatic. Kramer reported that the pit air curtain on Les Miz works better on ameliorating the flow of fog and smoke into the pit with some effects than it does with others. The curtain is designed to run at full, but it usually runs at 30% for sound reasons. Thus there are now curtain cues written into the show to speed up the fans to deal with the heavier fog and smoke effects. The show deck covers part of the pit, so the pit opening in front of the stage is only 2' to 4' wide. A guy who does industrial air curtains designed the curtain.

A major route for fog and smoke to come into the pit on Les Miz was through a manhole that is in the deck over the pit, particularly when the manhole cover is open. The opening is now masked so that doesn't happen anymore. The curtain does a fair job of keeping atmospheric effects from coming over the edge of the stage into the pit, reported Kramer.

Kramer reported that a similar system is going into Beauty and the Beast. That show has a wider pit opening, but it is a louder show so the fans will be able to run faster.

9.5 West Coast Report

Roger Lattin, visitor from Local 728, described the general lack of awareness and flagrant disregard for safety concerns during film shoots on the West Coast. It appears to be common practice in the film industry for management and special effects technicians to deliberately keep workers uninformed about chemicals to which they may be exposed.

10 New business

Ruling asked the group what they want to do to promote the F&S industry and the working group at LDI99. The consensus was that we can do the Fog Day again, as long as we do it on Thursday just before the trade show so we get some more attendees. Also, the group felt that having a CIH do a presentation was not necessary.

11 Other business

Eric Tishman reported that at the Rosco user's group meeting here at the USITT Conference someone mentioned that a theatre was being sued by Equity for using fog when the contract said it could not. Tishman had no other details.

12 Schedule for future meetings

Our next meeting will be Saturday, July 17 in Irving, Texas. It will start at 5:00 p.m. and go to 10:00 p.m. or so.

The following meeting will be Friday evening, November 19th in Orlando, in conjunction with LDI99.

13 Adjournment

Bill Hektner moved we adjourn. Eric Tishman seconded. Unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

F&S Working Group Membership List as of the End of the March 26, 1999 Meeting

Name	Company	Vote Stat.	Int. Cat.
Murray Gellatly	A.C. Lighting Ltd.	P	G
Hugh A. Rose	Alliance of Motion Pict. & Television Prod.	O	G
Brad Dittmer	Associated Theatrical Contractors	P	U
Patrick O'Rourke	Big Apple Lights	O	U
Gary Crawford	C.I.T.C.	O	P
Gary Fails	City Theatrical, Inc.	P	P
F. Lee Iwanski	Four Star Lighting	P	U
Mike Wood	High End Systems	P	P
Lowell Fowler	High End Systems	A	P
Edwin S. Kramer	IATSE, Local 1	P	U
Larry Schoeneman	Interesting Products, Inc.	P	P
Jack Suesse	J.R. Clancy, Inc.	O	G
Greg Meeh	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	O	P
Jon Petts	Jem Smoke Machine Co, Ltd.	O	P

Name	Company	Vote Stat.	Int. Cat.
Norman Wright	Jem Smoke Machine Co./Group One	O	P
Adrian Segeren	Le Maitre Special Effects	P	P
Randy Segeren	Le Maitre Special Effects	A	P
Marc Gingras	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	P	P
Martin Michaud	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	A	P
Monona Rossol	Monona Rossol	O	G
Tim Cox	PLASA	P	G
Tony Douglas-Beveridge	PLASA	A	G
George Sabbi	PRG Lighting Division	O	U
Jim Gill	Reel EFX	P	P
Martin Becker	Reel EFX	A	P
Eric Tishman	Rosco Laboratories	P	P
Dan Faulkner	Rosco/Entertainment Technology	A	P
Gordon Pearlman	Rosco/Entertainment Technology	A	P

Name	Company	Vote Stat.	Int. Cat.
Heinz Siller	RST Prasentations systeme	O	G
Beverly Huggins	SFX Design, Inc.	O	P
Eckart Steffens	SOUNDLIGHT (VPLT)	A	G
Nathan Kahn	Theatre Effects, Inc.	O	P
Thomas Costello	TJC and Associates	O	G
Colin Waters	TMB Associates	O	G
James F. Foley	UCISCO, Inc.	O	P
Rob Schneider	University of Arizona, Department Of Theatre	O	U
Bill Hektner	USITT Health & Safety Commissioner	P	G
Florian Von Hofen	VPLT	P	G
Gunther Schaidt	VPLT / Safex Chemie	A	P
Jeffrey Lind	Walt Disney Imagineering	O	U
Michael Zilz	Zilz International GmbH	O	G

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 in fog or smoke effects