



The Spectrum

Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Chapter

October 2007

Letter from the President

Rocky Mountain Colleagues,

It is hard to believe that we are 70% of the way through the year. So far we have had great participation at our various seminars through out Colorado; including the VoIP Troubleshooting held in Grand Junction. We had great participation from Bresnan Colorado and Precis of Utah. We still have a couple seminars left this year, October, 18th at CableLabs for Home Theaters, Networking, CableCARDS and November, 15th Pueblo or Colorado Springs for Return Path, GIS Troubleshooting Leveraging CPE.

(Please visit our Website for full Details and locations <http://chapters.scte.org/rockymtn/>)

We had the Rocky Mountain Symposium Sept. 11th and 12th, the RMC- Board of Directors wants to thank everyone for the great participation, and we appreciate all of the support of our Vendors who help make this possible. Thanks to our Region 2 –Director, Frank Eichenlaub, Director at Large-Tom Gorman and Director at Large- Patrick O’Hare for their support in our show. We had 74 vendors for the floor show, a 144 golfers and a record breaking participation for the Cable Tech Games of 69 participants. A special thanks to all the Supervisors, Managers and Vendors who helped pull the cable games off. We were crowding 11:30 pm that night for the completion of these events a lot of fun was had by all.

Big congratulations to all placers in the different events (we will post the complete results on our website, link above). Brian Tritz will represent the Rocky Mountain Chapter at the National EXPO held in Philadelphia next year. Here are the top finishers for overall results.

1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place
Brian Tritz, Comcast-South	Terry Herring, Comcast-South	Matt Jones, US Cable

We’ll see you at upcoming events. Thanks again for all your support and please lets us know how we can better support you.

Sincerely,

Dave

Oct. 18th, 2007 Meeting Notice

“Cable Cards and Home Theatres”

MORNING SESSION

What? A comprehensive look at upcoming 2-way capable cable cards and the vast array of issues and equipment that create the “home theatre”

• What is the new Cable Card?	• How will it impact service and installations?
• What is a home theatre?	• What about all the forms of HDTV?
• HDDVD and BluRay	• Media servers?
• Connections, connections, connections	

Who? Dave Hunter, Project Director, *CableLabs*
Paul Eisbrener, Curriculum Developer, *Jones/NCTI*

When? 8:30 AM to 9:00 AM Morning Registration
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM Morning Seminar
12:00 PM to 1:00 PM Lunch (provided)

AFTERNOON SESSION

What? Repeat of Morning Session
Who? Same speakers
When? 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM Lunch (provided) & registration
1:05 PM to 4:05 PM Afternoon Seminar

Where? CableLabs
858 Coal Creek Circle
Louisville, CO 80027-9750 (303.661.9100)
http://www.cablelabs.com/downloads/CL_Map.gif

How Much? Free for current Local Chapter Participants and for current Nat'l SCTE Members
(National membership card verification required).
\$10 for Non-Local Chapter Participants; this includes 1-year access to all Chapter training seminars and events. Lunch is provided.

There will be certification testing available. First-timers must pre-register 48 hours in advance.
Register here: <https://www.scte.org/training/index.cfm?pID=131>.
Please RSVP if you plan on testing so we can line up enough PC's.

Please contact Sherisse Hawkins or Nick Segura with any questions:

Sherisse Hawkins (720) 279-2810 Sherisse.Hawkins@twcable.com
Nick Segura (303) 323-1425 Nick.Segura@chartercom.com

Also, visit our website at: <http://chapters.scte.org/rockymtn/>

UPCOMING SEMINARS and TESTING OPPORTUNITIES!

November 15 th	Pueblo or Colorado Springs	Return Path, GIS Troubleshooting Leveraging CPE	TBD
January 10 th , 2008	Comcast Iliff or CableLabs	DOCSIS 3.0	TBD

TECH FORUM

Jim Stewart

Welcome back to “The Tech’s Forum”. This section of the SCTE newsletter features articles and tips for technical personnel of the CATV Industry. Ideas and articles for “The Tech’s Forum” are always welcome. If you would like to contribute please contact me at jim_stewart2@cable.comcast.com.

In the last several editions of “The Tech’s Forum”, the testing and analysis of digital signals has been discussed. In this edition we will expand our discussion to the testing of data streams.

Parameters that can help us determine the health of our data network are packet loss, latency and jitter. Many new pieces of test equipment include options for testing these parameters.

Packet loss describes an error condition in which data packets appear to be transmitted correctly at one end of a connection, but never arrive at the other. Many pieces of test equipment will identify the percentage of packets that were sent from a source to a destination and back that were not received by the source. A network that experiences no packet loss would have a 0% packet loss. A network that drops all packets in transit would have 100% packet loss. Excessive packet loss can cause problems with phone and internet traffic. Recommended acceptable packet loss is less than .1%.

Latency is the time delay between the transmission of information and its arrival. Poor quality voice transmissions and slow internet speeds can be the result of excessive latency. To ensure quality voice signals, latency should not exceed 200 msec.

If packets are not received in the correct order or take too long to arrive to their destination, echoes and delayed responses can occur during phone conversations and internet speeds can be slowed down. This condition is referred to as jitter. Gaps in phone conversations can also occur if jitter is not kept below acceptable limits. To ensure quality voice signals, jitter should be kept below 50 msec.

By agreeing to serve, the Board pledges to support the telecommunications industry and the participants of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the SCTE.

2007 Elected Board of Directors				
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Joe Thomas	jthomas@everstream.com	Everstream	303-953-1386	Vice President
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Alan Babcock	ABabcock@jonesncti.com	Jones / NCTI	303-797-9393	Board

'Friends' of the Board			
<u>Name</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>Position</u>
Frank Eichenlaub	Scientific Atlanta A division of Cisco	303-790-6659	Website Region 2 Director Board
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