



**The Spectrum**  
**Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Chapter**  
<http://chapters.scte.org/rockymtn>  
October 2009

**National Cable-Tec Expo in Denver October 27<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>**

A Great Value! SCTE Cable-Tec Expo®-the industry's engineering show of the year provides technical workshops, technology-focused exhibits and key networking opportunities. Discover and learn first-hand about the latest in cable technology, products and services. For the schedule of events, technical workshops, list of exhibiting companies and much more, visit <http://expo.scte.org>.

If you are only able to attend the Exhibits, please be our guest by using this complimentary Guest Pass: <http://expo.scte.org/downloads/Exhibitors/guest%20pass.pdf>

- In order to override the customary \$100 fee, the Complimentary Guest passcode number (11238) MUST be entered on the registration form.
- Denote "Rocky Mountain Chapter" affiliation anywhere on the form.
- Bring this form to the registration line in the Colorado Convention Center as the online pre-registration is now closed.
  - Wednesday 2pm – 6pm = Exhibit Hall open
  - Thursday 11pm – 5pm = Exhibit Hall open

Please share this with prospective SCTE members you know and have them contact a board member for membership opportunities. (see the Board member directory in this newsletter). Thank you for helping to spread the word about Cable-Tec Expo 2009! We look forward to seeing you October 27-30!

## Letter from the President: Rex Kohart

This letter finds us on the brink of closing out another very successful year for our Chapter. To date we have completed over 52 hours of technical training with a couple more events still on the calendar. The board is busy finalizing activities for Oct, Nov and Dec which include the National Expo, Board of Director Elections and our Chapter's 2010 planning session – all to occur in the next couple of months. I hope that all our Chapter participants are making plans to join in on the festivities surrounding this **national EXPO** being held right here in Denver this week.. What a wonderful opportunity to experience all that makes our industry technically tick. To hear, see and learn from technical professionals from all facets of our industry, on a national scale, cannot be duplicated. The benefit of having the ability to tie local insight with national perspective is paramount for our local professional's growth. My sincerest hope is that we utilize this time to place ourselves and our teams in a position to expand our technical capabilities, while learning with new contacts, and strengthening our individual industry experience. Local professionals cannot afford to miss this national industry event.

I wanted to take this opportunity to reach out to the members affiliated with the Rocky Mountain Chapter and point out that **it is election time again**. Every year we elect approximately half of the sitting board positions. This year will see five seats up for election. I welcome anyone interested in running for a position to please reference the election communications that will be coming from our Election Committee Chairman Joe Thomas. I can speak specifically to the benefits of working with the professionals that run our Chapter. Each individual brings a wealth of industry experience and leadership capabilities to the chapter. Networking, strategizing and collaborating with professionals of this caliber is an intensely rewarding experience. You'll garner so much insight and knowledge that it will profoundly impact your professional approach on many issues. You'll truly get a chance to work among a functioning team of professionals that understands how to be successful. If you are willing to challenge yourself to help make an impact in the Chapter and be rewarded with an enhancing career experience, I welcome you to please join in the election cycle. If you are not ready for that level of commitment, then please consider becoming a friend of the board as an initial step into familiarizing yourself with the professional make up of the Society's leadership.

Lastly is a request that is repeated at all of our seminars. We are preparing to hold a **Strategic Planning Session for the 2010 calendar** and need input from you on desired training topics for eight events next year. If there is a specific topic or location for a topic, please let our board members know. This will allow the board to discuss this input during our January 8<sup>th</sup> planning session. This planning session lays out the entire year's events so everyone can plan for and provide support where needed. Our entire calendar is produced around your input and the guidance of our Friends of the Board. In this fashion, we have found that we can be successful in supporting the needs of our current and future SCTE members. This has been one of the Rocky Mountain Chapter's claims to success for over the last 6 or 7 years and your input is vital to this endeavor.

The end of the year is shaping up to be filled with a flurry of activity, and excitement. What a great way to close out a successful year and insure the building blocks are in place to build a solid foundation for 2010. Thanks for being a part of it.

Rex Kohart SCTE  
Rocky Mountain Chapter President

# The SCTE Rocky Mountain Chapter Scholarship Opportunity

Joe Thomas

In these hard times job loss is collateral damage to the effects of the credit, housing, and energy issues affecting our country. The Rocky Mountain Chapter is proud to be in the position to offer its members a way of providing some security or opportunity in these times. We believe that through a scholarship program we can assist members wanting to differentiate themselves from their peers through education and certification.

## **Why does the RMC support a Scholarship Program for its Members?**

We make it easy on our members to enroll, test, and certify for SCTE certifications covering a wide range of job classifications and skills. Certificates range from residential installation practices to digital video engineering and all points in-between. Visit the <http://chapters.scte.org/rockymtn> web site for certification offerings. Our scholarship application should take you less than 15 minutes to complete and you'll just need to add two letters of recommendation before sending to us.

## **Why should I certify with the SCTE?**

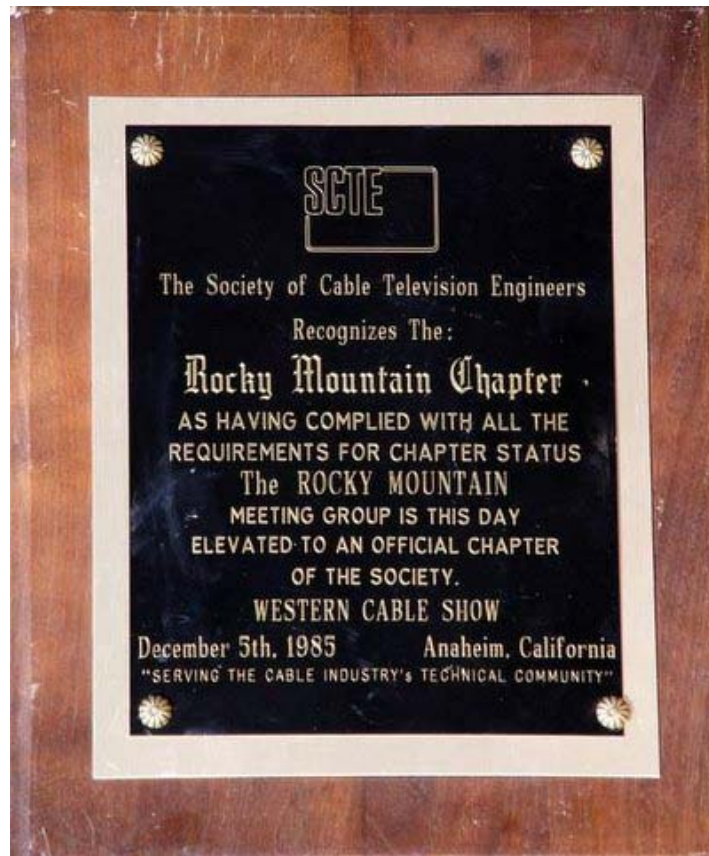
The SCTE is the leading source of certification specific to our industry. There are over 15,000 worldwide members and more than 3,000 members enrolled in SCTE certification programs. It is the most comprehensive and widely recognized program in the industry.

In this competitive job market any edge you can give yourself will help you rise above the masses when being considered for a promotion or a new job. Believe me when I say, that experience and "time in the trenches" is invaluable to our employers and it has let many of us earn a great living in a great industry.

However, there are large numbers of people out there looking for job that have time and work experience on their side. Unemployment is expected to move into the double digits in 2009 and competition is only going to become fiercer. How will you secure your current position or prepare yourself for the next promotion opportunity? Today you need something else to demonstrate your commitment to expanding your work knowledge and skills. Otherwise your resume looks just like the two dozen other ones sitting on a hiring manager's desk.

College classes are another avenue for motivated individuals. A college degree is a fantastic goal and the SCTE Foundation has funds available for grant to help you here as well. Consult the [www.SCTE.org](http://www.SCTE.org) web site for more details. But College is not for everyone and the time, family responsibilities, and other constraints are endless. SCTE certification allows you to simply test at a local seminar after home studying for as long as you wish. There is no set class schedule or deadlines. The RMC offers testing at about every seminar. Certification is a viable route for many whom have full time jobs but yet want to advance and demonstrate their knowledge. The Rocky Mountain Scholarship program covers membership cost, testing fees, and peer recognition. The details of how to apply for a scholarship from the RMC is available on our web site: [www.scte.org](http://www.scte.org)

## “1985 - The Rocky Mountain Meeting Group is awarded Chapter status”



### Discussions with Rocky Mountain Chapter Founders

**Dave Robinson**

This year is the 40th anniversary of SCTE. We recently contacted some of the Rocky Mountain Founders of our chapter to see what their thoughts and memories were at that time and the changes that have occurred since our chapter was formed in December of 1985. More complete memories from the rest of our founders will be able to be read on our website. A copy of the plaque is above. Here are some selected memories.

#### **Ron Hranac:**

I don't have specific numbers from the early 1980s on the size of the Society, but can share some of what SCTE was up to as an organization. In 1983, Rocky Mountain Chapter co-founder Sally Kinsman was the first female elected to the national Board of Directors, and the first Cable-Tec Expo was held in Dallas that same year. 1984 saw the hiring of Bill Riker as Executive VP, the launch of the Satellite Teleseminar program, and *Communications Technology* becoming SCTE's official trade journal. The Broadband Communications Technician/Engineer certification program was introduced at Cable-Tec Expo '85, and the first BCT/E exam was Category IV "Distribution Systems."

Data communications basics hit the top of the list quickly. If I recall correctly, this topic was covered in our first technical seminar, held in a lecture hall on the University of Denver campus. That seminar covered a lot of the basics of data—bits, bytes, baud, and so on—and while the subject was certainly of interest, it took quite a few years before data became a daily part of our jobs. Sometime in the '80s the

Chapter tried to put together a regional seminar on HDTV, and ended up canceling it—there simply wasn't much interest in high-def at the time.

ATC, Jones InterCable, TCI, Mile Hi, Daniels, United, and a handful of others were among the major players based in Denver around the time the Rocky Mountain Chapter was founded. All of those companies have come and gone, or merged with or been acquired by other operators. ATC, of course, became Time Warner Cable.

**Richard Covell:**

Most (of us) were just then trying to figure out XMOD, C/N, and other distortions. Simultaneous Sweep was another hot topic and the gear available swept at a 3 seconds per trace rate.

They put on a seminar in Colorado Springs and had Sydney Fluct (who lived on Tulip Lane in Bucks County) provided training on sweep for Jerrold GI gear back then.

When RMC started in the Denver area, Pressure Taps were mostly out of the picture. Return loss was a big topic at that time. Also, wiring standards were handled mostly at a national level with local contribution. Signal Leakage was emphasized as well.

**Steve Johnson:**

I remember Sally Kinsman, Ron Hranac, Bruce Catter, Joe Thomas, Todd Acker, Tom Elliot, Richard Covell, Bob Luff and Pete Smith as some of the original members and/or founders.

The franchising battles were in full swing. While franchising departments were very competitive between MSOs, the technical departments were still mostly cooperative. Jones InterCable was overbuilding in underground areas of Denver and then selling back to United Cable, Daniels, or ATC, whoever the overbuilt operator was.

**Pete Smith:**

Signal Leakage was just starting. We held a national single topic seminar on signal leakage which was very successful due to the threat of losing channels. It was at the hotel just north of I-70/I-25 interchange which is now a Metro State Dorm. It has a round building – Regency? This seminar made the chapter some good profits and the feedback was incredible. Ted Hartson, aka Dr. Strangeleak, was the hit of the conference.

I was responsible for building some of the larger urban and mid-sized towns in the late 70's through 1984 when I left Time, Inc (before Time merged with Warner). The consumers chased our crews down the street wanting to know when they could get cable. It was not the operator they wanted, it was MTV, HBO, ESPN etc. We got 25% + with no sales or marketing and then more once we sold the product. The challenge was getting higher and higher bandwidths to larger urban areas.

## 2009 Elected Board of Directors

Name	email	Company	Position	Phone Number
Dave Krook	<a href="mailto:David.Krook@technetix.com">David.Krook@technetix.com</a>	Technetix	Board	303-408-4116
Frank Eichenlaub	<a href="mailto:eichenf@cisco.com">eichenf@cisco.com</a>	Cisco Systems	Board, Web Master Region II Director	303-790-6659
Jim Stewart	<a href="mailto:jim_stewart2@cable.comcast.com">jim_stewart2@cable.comcast.com</a>	Comcast	Board	303-603-5687
Joe Thomas	<a href="mailto:joe.thomas@ccur.com">joe.thomas@ccur.com</a>	Concurrent	Board	303-953-1386
Lane Johnson	<a href="mailto:l.johnson@cablelabs.com">l.johnson@cablelabs.com</a>	CableLabs	Board	303-717-5123
Nick Segura	<a href="mailto:Nick.Segura@chartercom.com">Nick.Segura@chartercom.com</a>	Charter	Vice President	303-669-3705
Pat Wike	<a href="mailto:Pat.Wike@Technetix.com">Pat.Wike@Technetix.com</a>	Technetix	Board	303-883-8978
Rex Kohart	<a href="mailto:Rex_Kohart@cable.comcast.com">Rex_Kohart@cable.comcast.com</a>	Comcast	President	303-603-5639
Steve Brown	<a href="mailto:Steve80134@comcast.net">Steve80134@comcast.net</a>	Operations	Secretary	303-898-1027
Steve Murphy	<a href="mailto:Steve_Murphy@cable.comcast.com">Steve_Murphy@cable.comcast.com</a>	Comcast	Treasurer	720-267-3038

## Supporting Friends of the Board 2009

Definition: Somebody who supports the functions of the local chapter by participating in meetings provides input that helps drive board decisions, volunteers, speaks supportive, and generally those who make an impact through their involvement.

Name	email	Company	Position	Phone #
Tom Gorman	<a href="mailto:Tom.Gorman@chartercom.com">Tom.Gorman@chartercom.com</a>	Charter	Friend and SCTE Chairman	303-323-1482
Alan Babcock	<a href="mailto:ababcock@cmitsolutions.com">ababcock@cmitsolutions.com</a>	CMIT Solutions	Friend	303-478-1660
Dave Robinson	<a href="mailto:d Robinson@evisearch.com">d Robinson@evisearch.com</a>	EquiVision	Friend and Newsletter editor	303-722-8920
Debbie McManis	<a href="mailto:debbie_mcmanis@cable.comcast.com">debbie_mcmanis@cable.comcast.com</a>	Comcast	Friend	720-267-3604
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James Neil	<a href="mailto:jim.neil@cablem.com">jim.neil@cablem.com</a>	Cable Mgmt	Friend	303-632-0506
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Steve Snider	<a href="mailto:stephen_snider@cable.comcast.com">stephen_snider@cable.comcast.com</a>	Comcast	Friend & Speaker.	303-603-2167

❖ Please contact any one of us with your questions or ideas.