Computer Control of Sound Systems

Bob Moses, Rane Corporation

DATE: Wednesday, November 17, 1993 - 7:30 PM

PLACE: Jack Straw Productions Studio, 4261 Roosevelt Way N.E., Seattle

DIRECTIONS: From I-5, take the N.E. 45th street exit eastbound, toward the University of Washington. Turn south on Roosevelt, 3 blocks east of the freeway (one way street). Go south on Roosevelt for two blocks. Limited parking is available next to the JSP building, otherwise, park on the streets.

Computer-control of sound systems has been one of the most active research topics in the AES community for several years, focusing primarily on creating local area network (LAN) standards for controlling and monitoring audio equipment. A LAN will give us unprecedented access and control over all devices in a system. We will enter a new age of interaction, not just between devices in the system, but also between the human and the system.

This meeting will explore three of the leading computer control systems: Crown’s IQ, Lone Wolf’s MediaLink, and Crest’s NexSys. We will set up a small MediaLink system (consisting of a QSC amplifier and a Rane equalizer) and demonstrate how the system is configured and operated. We will discuss the purpose and progress of the AES SC-10 Subcommittee on Sound System Control. And, for fun, we will explore a few new virtual reality influenced human interface technologies which may become popular once computer control becomes widespread.

Bob Moses is a Senior Digital Audio Engineer with Rane Corporation in Mukilteo, Washington. Bob has been with Rane for over six years, and is responsible for developing many of Rane’s digital audio and MIDI products. Prior to joining Rane, Bob developed compact disc and other digital audio products for Wadia Digital Corporation, and telecommunications products for Applied Spectrum Technologies, Inc. Bob received his BSEE from McGill University in 1987, leaving the University with the usual assortment of honors and awards. He is most proud of winning the “Life Member” award from the IEEE, and placing First in a National Technical Paper Competition for his paper entitled: “Improved Signal Processing for Compact Disc Systems”. Bob is chairperson of the AES SC-10-3 working group on Information, responsible for disseminating information pertaining to AES local area network standards. Bob is a long-time leader in the AES SC-10 efforts, and a prolific writer on the topic of computer control for a number of trade publications (Mix, EQ, Live Sound, Sound & Video Contractor, etc.) He recently produced the “Synesthesitics” interactive multimedia show at the Washington Hall Performance Gallery in Seattle which featured a large amount of his custom-designed computer controlled sound, lighting and MIDI equipment. In his free time Bob enjoys hiking in the Cascade mountains, skydiving, and building bizarre MIDI controllers. Bob’s book Digital Projects for Musicians, co-authored with electronic music legend Craig Anderton, will hit the bookstores very soon.

NON-MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND