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USER REPORT

WANE Makes News with ParkerVision

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FORT WAYNE, IND.

WANE-TV, owned by LIN-TV, is the CBS affiliate serving Fort Wayne and its surrounding counties, including parts of Ohio. As a "centralcasting" spoke station, WANE receives all its programming and commercials through a fiber line from WISH-TV in Indianapolis.

In July 2002, WANE replaced its aging analog cameras with four ParkerVision Digital CameraMan three-CCD robotic pan/tilt cameras. The ParkerVision cameras are fixed on tripods and used for 25 hours per week of live news, plus two in-studio sports programs. Our anchors also occasionally use them for special reports.

Any new technology brings with it a learning curve and we expected an adjustment period of several months, though ours only took several days. The directors learned to call up shots, control the cameras and tweak the positioning of each shot with minimal training.

Anchors were particularly concerned about how their eyes would appear onscreen as they read the prompter positioned above the camera's lens. Our anchors now prefer these prompters to the old ones, as the scripts are presented on easier-to-read flat-screen monitors as opposed to the traditional prompters—the location of the monitor turns out not to be an issue with the distance the cameras are from the talent.

From an operational perspective, the Digital CameraMan provides for a flawless show once the operators and talent are comfortable. The ability to pre-program shots in the camera's memory allows for faster shot movement than is possible through human operation. Zooms and focus are smoother and faster with robotics.

The cameras are also quiet—pans, tilts and zooms are inaudible. Though fixed on tripods, the cameras are versatile in movement. The fourth camera rotates more than 180 degrees to the sports desk for our live in-studio sports programs on Friday and Sunday. Signal quality is as robust as you would expect from a digital signal.

WANE-TV uses ParkerVision's Digital CameraMan three-CCD cameras in its news studio to deliver 25 hours of live broadcasting per week.

One operator controlling four cameras also creates a more controlled environment on the news set. The operator is positioned behind the cameras and controls the cameras via two options: a ParkerVision Shot Director multicamera controller or a DNF Shotbox. Though the operator could control the cameras from anywhere in the facility, this position allows for direct communication with the anchors and access to the prompters.

There are other features within the Digital CameraMan that will come into play in the future. For example, the switchable 4:3/16:9 aspect ratio will likely be vital to our operation when high-definition enters the picture.

We will continue to explore many of the camera's advanced functions over time. ■

Jim Riecken has been with WANE-TV since 1984 and became operations manager in July 2002. He can be reached at jim@wane.com. *The opinions expressed above are the author's alone.*

For more information, contact ParkerVision at 904-737-1367 or visit www.parkervision.com.