

Roots II 2002 – Bigger and Better in San Diego (Part 1) by Rob Kaufmann DMD MS

I'm on my way to Summit 2 in San Diego. Could it get any better than Summit 1? How would the atmosphere change with about 230 people registered instead of 65? Would the weather be as sweltering as in Toronto? Would half the audience leave to enjoy the California sunshine? Could we pull it off without Kendo? Who would win those amazing (\$\$) Raffle Prizes? Would Fred Barnett come out of the closet and finally reveal his "Dark Side"? These and many more questions were on my mind as I checked into the San Diego Wyndham Emerald Plaza on Tuesday June 4 for Roots 2.

Looking back at the entire program, I can't help but be impressed by the breadth of talent and topics that are presented. And the SUPPORT from the commercial side was unprecedented. I just can't imagine how the people like Steve J. and Bob G. managed to convince the bean counters to invest in a small meeting like ROOTS. They must have known that their big investment would pay off in much higher profile for their products and I believe the success of the Summit will bear them out in the bottom line. Suffice to say that ROOTS Summits have now served as a prototype for face to face meetings of internet based SIGs (Special Interest Groups). It CAN be done with quality. It simply blew away the Chicago AAE and was by far the best didactic learning experience I have had since Grad school. Don't believe me? Just ask Cliff Ruddle. Here's a quote from him as he started his lecture "I think the ROOTS meeting will now become my AAE." High praise from one of the best.

By keeping the lectures short, ROOTS forced the presenters to be concise and to concentrate on the "stuff that matters". No time for extraneous BS. It worked. There was lots of "editing" of the lectures on the fly, but that only served to "tighten up" the presentation, make it more interesting and leave you "wanting more". The result only served to whet our appetites for ROOTS III. (As one of the presenters mentioned : Good presentations are like a woman's skirt : Long enough to cover the subject matter but short enough to keep you interested. ☺)

How did they do it? They did it with some amazing Powerpoint presentations that incorporated both radiographic, still and video images. Congratulations to Fred, Joe and Peter for keeping the meeting moving and doing a perfect job of scheduling. The days flew by !

Arriving in the evening of Tuesday June 4th, I see that the Global gang is hard at work assembling the 25 microscopes that will be used for tomorrow's all day microscope workshop. I marvel at the shipping crates piled high in the corner of the room. (Glenn later tells us that half of the microscope shipment actually did not arrive on time and was "misplaced" at the airport, adding to the initial panic. It was located and assembled in time. Whew !)



Wednesday a.m. – General Dentist Scope Workshop

Glenn Van As does a great job of discussing why he believes scopes are essential to good practice. Never mind the fantastic visibility, it saves your back when you use it properly. How much is THAT worth to you over your entire career? Advice on chair and operator positioning. Lots of good photos from his CD-R (I bought it after last year's Summit – the video should be out soon.) BTW, as many of you know ROOTS finally has convinced ME (the scope luddite) to jump the shark. Yes, the ceiling mount was installed while I was in San Diego. I'm awaiting delivery any day. (Note to Gary Carr: I am a pygmy no more !)

Wednesday p.m. – Endodontist Scope Workshop

Every station is to be equipped with the latest gear: Global microscope, Bien-Air Electric handpiece (man, those are soooo smooth, I'm gonna have to get one !) Ultrasonic units (one of 2 types !), Rotary engines (ATRs or DTCs with sets of sponge mounted Ni-Ti files of several different designs.) Extension cords are everywhere. For the p.m. Endo workshop, there are packages containing tapered diamonds, hand files, access burs, mouth mirrors, DG 16s, a mounted dentofrom and even molars pre-mounted in plaster! For those that want to obturate, there are System Bs, Gutta percha and sealer. We have everything we need. And all for a frighteningly small \$75 per session (a.m. or p.m.) The logistics of getting the stuff there and setting it up must have been a nightmare. I wonder how they've done it. I retire to my room to rest up. I've got to pace myself if I'm going to

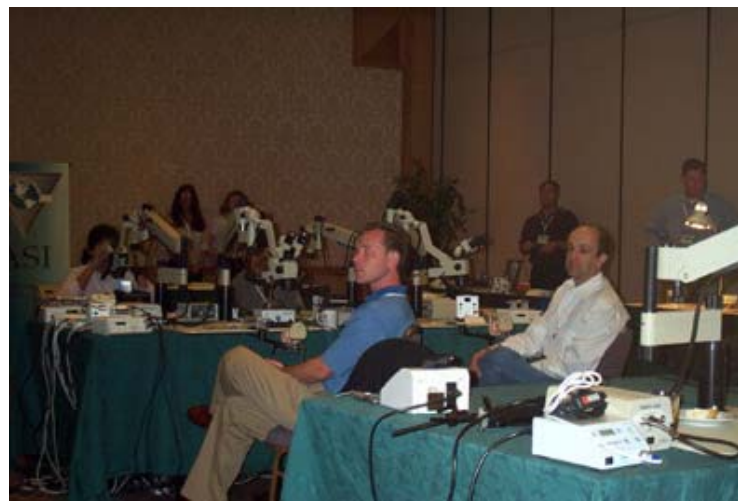
last until Sunday.



Glen Van As

Winfried Zeppenfeld

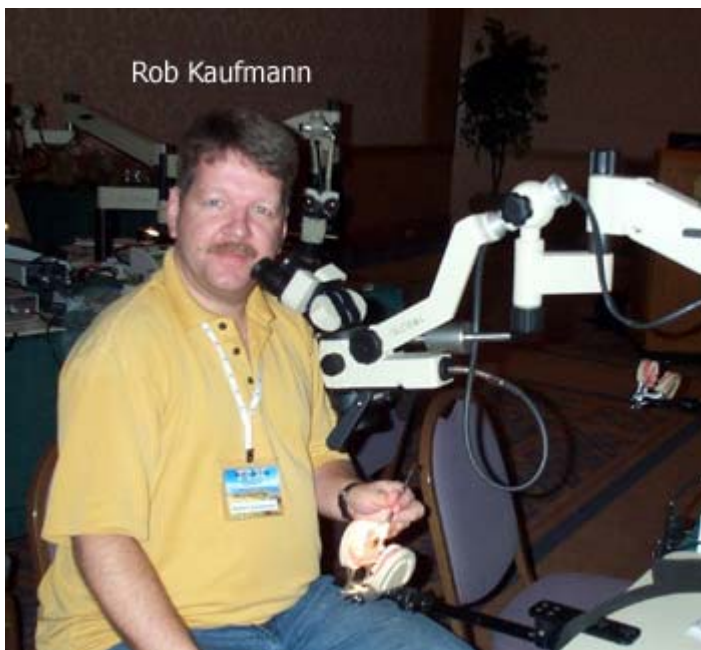
These new mirrors are cool!



Ahmad Tehrani

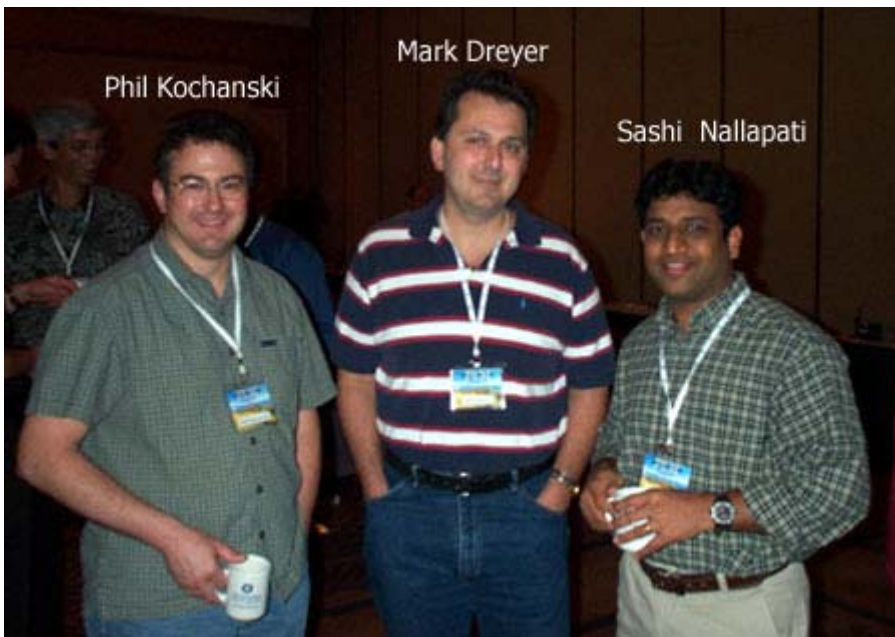


Dr. Merritt looking hard.



Rob Kaufmann





Thursday morning comes waaaay too early. (I'm not a morning person which is why I start treatment at 10 a.m.!) Sleepily, I wander down to the lecture hall where I find a mob of 200 + people chowing down on coffee, juice, croissants and danish pastries, graciously provided by the exhibitors. About a dozen exhibitor tables are spread out with all sorts of Endodontically related goodies. The joint is hopping!

As we greet some familiar faces and place some faces to some E-mail signatures there is much laughter, lots of handshakes, back slapping and good natured kibbitzing. Bob "the Canon" Gannon is racing from lecture hall to lunch/exhibit room but seems to have the whole affair tightly under control.

The schedule is posted and Fred Barnett is determined that things will start on time. True to his word, the show starts at 7:30 am sharp.



Steve Jones of Kerr Sybron does a brief intro and we're off to the races. It's going to be like mainlining a triple espresso poured by Ken Serota !! Here we go ! Hang on!

ROOTS II IS READY TO ROLL



Part II to follow