



Community Television Association of Maine



Spring 2010

GRAY COMMUNITY TV HOSTS WINTER MEETING

Brian Meehan, Brad Fogg, Mike St. Clair and the gang at Gray Community TV made CTAM members feel warm on a cold January night with beef stew & chili as they hosted our winter meeting on January 26th

The evening began with an appearance by Bill Gregory, one of the hosts of the access show Second Act. Bill recounted a bit of the history of the show and gave us some insight into what makes it a popular offering among access stations. Bill's enthusiasm for "celebrating the gifts and vitality of those in the second half of their lives" was evident. Bill also encouraged stations to let the show know about interesting people in their own communities who might make good subjects for a segment. You can E-Mail them at secondact@ctn5.org.

The Southern Maine Agency On Aging has an article about Second Act in their Jan-Feb 2010 issue. You can read it at: www.smaaa.org/documents/sn0110web.pdf



Second Act host Bill Gregory

Next up was a presentation by Scott Morrison, the National Accounts Manager for Leightronix. Scott brought the members up to date on the latest products and services offered by a company that access centers have been using for the last 20 years. Check out their website for full information about what Leightronix has in the works: www.leightronix.com.



Scott Morrison of Leightronix

Tony Vigue spent some time discussing new Public Policy Resources and Ideas. One idea is to allow vendor "ads" in the form of business cards for a small fee in the newsletter. To broaden its distribution Sally Hebert proposed a printed version from time to time. Other initiatives being looked at are Membership and Outreach issues and CTAM's relationship with its vendors and other outside groups. The Board will be studying these issues and expects to have some ideas ready for the Spring meeting. Bring your ideas as well since the main purpose of the discussion is to provide you with the services you want and need.

By the way the next CTAM meeting will be April 27 in Harpswell and the summer meeting will be June 29 in Belfast.

Our Gray hosts served notice they'll be looking for a few strong backs, not to mention a hand truck or two, sometime in July to help them move to their new building. The date is not confirmed but they promise a FOOD FESTIVAL for all the volunteers. More details to come.

The CTAM meeting came just two days after Bob Nichols informed PegMedia's users of changes in the financial model. Since its inception PegMedia has been free to all who wanted to upload or download programs. Unfortunately the service has become a victim of its own success and can no longer afford to cover the storage and bandwidth costs associated with PegMedia. As a result PegMedia will now start charging for downloads. The cost is based on the size of the file. For example a 30 minute show is about \$.67. (story continues on page 2)

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As might be expected the new structure was a source of significant discussion at the Gray meeting. All members expressed their appreciation for Bob's work in establishing PegMedia and all were understanding of the economic circumstances forcing the new cost structure.

Attendees offered several alternatives to charging per download. These included subscription fees and sponsorships as well as suggestions that PegMedia reduce the size of the files – using higher compression formats – and reducing the size of its archive by not storing shows beyond a date set by the producer.

Some government-owned stations expressed concern about paying for programming and worried about political decisions made about which shows should, or should not, be downloaded. The CTAM Board is discussing the issue with Bob Nichols and will have an update on the situation at the next CTAM meeting. It was noted that some producers have paid up front so that stations could still download their program for free.

The Treasurer's report showed that 54% of the total of last years membership dues have been received so far this year. If you haven't paid your dues yet please get the check in the mail. You must be a member to vote at the annual meeting in June

There are several technical forums and Google groups on the CTAM website that members are encouraged to take advantage of. They include technical, programming and management issues and can be a great place to exchange information or get a question answered. Please take a look at the categories and let us know if they are things you are interested in or if not, what areas would you like to see added. CTAM also has a presence on Facebook, look for us there as well.

CTAM is still looking for people willing to be mentors to new access stations. As you all remember, the learning curve when just starting out can be daunting and it helps to have a knowledgeable friend who can guide you through the rough waters.

See you in Harpswell on April 27th! Directions and agenda will be sent out prior to the meeting.



ACM Northeast and Mid-Atlantic
Regions and the Jersey Access
Group Present A Community
Media Conference 2010
May 13 and 14, 2010
"The Power of Partners"

A reminder about the ACM-Northeast and JAG SUPERCONFERENCE at the Hyatt Regency hotel in New Brunswick, NJ coming up in May. There will be a whole host of events, presentations, workshops and a trade show. It will be great event and one that you don't want to miss. Check out the ACM Northeast website – www.acm-ne.org for details.

If you're not already a member of the Alliance For Community Media, you should be. The organization is fighting to preserve public access against threats from all quarters – from cable and phone companies to state and local regulators. Go to the website www.alliancecm.org and Join Today!

SAVE THE DATES: ACM 2010 NATIONAL CONFERENCE:
JULY 7-10, PITTSBURGH, PA

CTAM ESSENGER CONTRIBUTORS & CREDITS

CAPITOL VIEW: Painting by Charles Codman, Maine State Museum; CTAM MEETING: Photos: Brian Knoblock

BECOME A CTAM ESSENGER CONTRIBUTOR

We welcome your story suggestions and ideas

CONTACT US AT: newsletter@ctamaine.org

Editor: Brian Knoblock

Newsletter Design: Jen Scholz

SUPPORT THE CAP ACT

PLEASE contact your U.S. Senators and Congressmen to pass HR 3745, the Community Access Preservation Act, which, if enacted, would preserve and protect PEG access channels.

On February 17 the South Portland City Council passed a Resolution in support of the measure. The Resolution has been sent to their legislators to show the community's support for the law. You should encourage your local City or Town governments to pass a similar resolution. Check out the text at www.southportland.org and submit a resolution to your local council.



CAPITOL VIEW

A document entitled "Cable Franchise Renewal and Local right of Way Management," by James N. Horwood of Spiegel & McDiarmid, was handed out at the CTAM meeting. It summarizes the steps and issues – technical, legal and regulatory – involved in a franchise renewal. If your renewal is coming up take a look at Mr. Horwood's paper – which is available on the CTAM website.

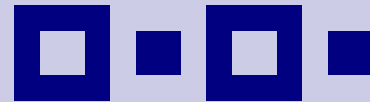
MMA TECH CONFERENCE

On March 11th, representatives of CTAM participated in the Maine Municipal Association Tech Conference at the Augusta Civic Center. CTAM hosted a panel discussion titled "Internet Streaming and Video On Demand Technologies for municipal Meetings."



Moe Amaral of SPC-TV explains a typical video streaming & VOD signal path diagram for participants at the conference.

The purpose of the panel discussion was to introduce municipal officials to the terms and processes involved in bringing televised municipal meetings to a wider audience via the internet. Following the presentations from the Panel, the audience participants were able to question each of the panelists individually about their equipment and services. On the panel were Randy Perry of e-city Services, Michael McDade of the Town of Falmouth, Tony Plante, Windham Town Manager, Eric Nelson of Access A/V, Dave Chipman of Harpswell Community Television, Daniel Krawczyk of Telvue Corp, Ray Tiley of Tighrope Media Systems and John Goran from the Town of Brunswick. Ton Vigue was moderator and the PowerPoint slides from the 90 minute session can be found on www.ctamaine.org.



2009-2010 CTAM Membership Invoice

(Expires June 30, 2010)

Date Submitted: _____

Name of Member: _____

(Name of Municipality or Access Center IF VOTING MEMBERSHIP or Individual's Name if NON-VOTING)

Address: _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Day Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Evening Phone: (optional): _____

E-mail address: _____

Please Check Appropriate Membership Category:

Voting Membership (Organization) \$50.00

Person designated to cast vote on behalf of your organization:

_____ Their Phone Number: _____

Non-Voting Membership (Individual) \$37.50

How did you learn about CTAM? _____

Please Make Check Payable To: The Community Television Association of Maine
Print out this form , complete and mail with the check to:

The Community Television Association of Maine
 P.O. Box 2124
 South Portland, Maine 04116

Questions? Call (207) 767-7615
 Thank you for your support