



Community Television Association of Maine



Fall 2011

KENNEBUNKPORT HOSTS FALL CTAM MEETING



Kennebunkport Station

The invitation said there would be “light refreshments” but that didn’t do justice to the full spread of hot and cold delights that Dave Powell and Mike Davis laid out for the meeting.

The CTAM Board met prior to the general meeting and discussed ways to improve communication among CTAM members and between the organization management and its members. Topics included updating and simplifying the web site – with particular emphasis on de-cluttering the front page, adding a Facebook button, using Constant Contact or Google Documents & Apps to manage our e-mail lists and documents.

We then got down to business with the general meeting.

Dave and Mike began led the meeting with a rundown of what they do at Kennebunkport TV. Right now they run the entire operation out of a small closet in the town’s meeting room. They have robotic cameras for town meetings such as the town council and school board. They also videotape outside events – the Christmas Prelude, walking tours, library talks and other town events. They are gradually expanding their programming as time and money allow.



Kennebunkport Control Room

Next Up were the guest presentations.

Reggie Groff led off with his new “History Mark” smartphone app. This free app, and free service, marries the GPS function of a smartphone with historic (and other) videos of a particular location. Users with the app can be at a site or location and view videos related to that site. Videos could include old movies, stills, interviews, music, events or discussions. .

Access stations could participate in the process by providing videos to History Mark

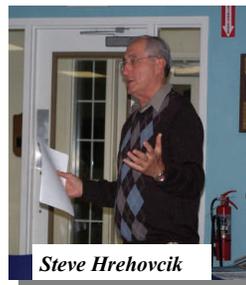
The videos would enhance the experience of the tourist or others who are visiting a site – or anyone just walking through a town. Although stations would not be paid for their videos, the videos could be sponsored – with the station receiving a portion of the revenue. Stations could also run – and get sponsors for – Scavenger Hunts or Walking Tours.



Reggie Groff

Reggie expects to have the service up and running by the beginning of the year. The final fee schedule and operational details are still being worked out. For more information contact Reginald Groff at 415-1473 or via e-mail: reg@groffdrtv.com.

Steve Hrehovcik then took center stage to talk about “Bruce McToose.” This access show that Steve produces with his son, Josh, follows the (mis)adventures of Bruce McToose, “Celebrated Traveler and Explorer” as he tours the world – without leaving the state of Maine. So far his travels have taken Bruce to Paris and Norway, among others. While Bruce gets a bit confused along the way he – and the audience – eventually learn a lot about the history and geography of the towns he visits.



Steve Hrehovcik

Steve is looking to work with other “foreign” towns in Maine to produce additional programs, in addition to the six that are already in the can. The shows are available for all access stations and you can get more information by contacting Steve at (207) 590-7752; www.brucemctoose.com; or www.KennebunkArtStudio.com.

Inside this issue:

<i>Kennebunk Hosts</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Fall CTAM Meeting</i>	
<i>Page 1, continued</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Credits</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Capitol View</i>	<i>3</i>

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Committee Reports

PUBLIC POLICY

Tony Vigue reported there were no new policy initiatives in the works.

MEMBERSHIP

Ned Lightner advised that the membership numbers are up. Members are asked – and encouraged – to talk up CTAM Membership to stations in Maine that are not members. We all benefit by having more stations in the tent.

SPEAKERS AND PRESENTATIONS

Some possible topics for upcoming meetings:

- > Getting, and keeping, volunteers
- > How to get schools involved with Access TV
- > Has cell phone video killed television (and journalism)?

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?

NE REGION UPDATE

The regional video contest will be on November 12th in Springfield, Massachusetts. Bob Nichols will be receiving the “Chuck Sherwood Award” at that meeting.

WEB SITE REPORT

Bill Severance was not able to attend the meeting. Tony Vigue advised that the website and e-mail providers will be changed in the near future. In addition, CTAM has been approved for “Google Apps” as a non-profit. The Board hopes to utilize the power of Google to better coordinate our mailing lists, document sharing and calendar coordination. The CTAM website may be unavailable for brief periods during the changeover and members will be advised prior to any outages.

We are also looking for ways to make the CTAM website less cluttered, improve the functionality, more user friendly and more dynamic.

CTAM ARCHIVE PROJECT

After a couple of months of investigation and discussion we have received tentative approval to re-start the Archive project that has lain dormant for several years. The Maine Humanities Council and the Maine State Archive have agreed to let us begin collecting significant video from the PEG/Access stations in Maine and uploading it to Archive.org as a permanent collection reflecting life in Maine towns. Before we can proceed we need to provide them with some additional information and detail about the project. Once they have approved it we can begin.

Belfast TV and Ned Lightner have agreed to host the project, supplementing the grant money with in-kind services. Operational details still must be worked out but we will get the project on-line as quickly as possible. So, start thinking about what video you have in your own archives that you want to contribute to the CTAM archive.

When the archive is up and running, we intend to publicize it to media, libraries and other institutions in Maine. We’ll need your help to come up with a list – including contact information – to send out those notices.

CTAM PROGRAM EXCHANGE

There has been discussion at several CTAM meetings about establishing a “Maine Only” version of PEGMedia. As a companion to the Archive Project we will also be establishing a separate CTAM collection on Archive.org that CTAM members can use for program archive and exchange. Members will be able to upload video to the CTAM programming collection and other members will be able to download those programs free of charge. More information about this new service will be distributed once the details are worked out.

**MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRED
ON JUNE 30
HAVE YOU RENEWED YOURS?**

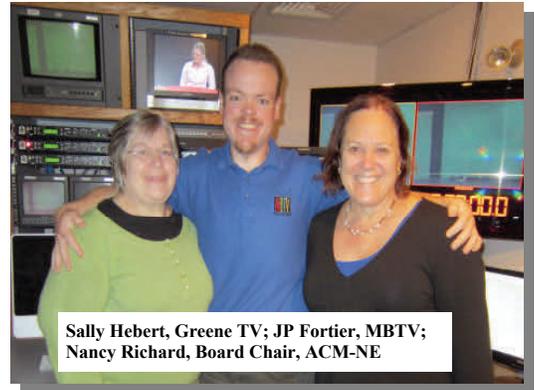
2011-12 MEETINGS

January 31 - SOUTH PORTLAND
 April 24th - FARMINGTON
 June 26 - HARPSWELL (Tentative)

CTAM is *your* organization. One way to show your support is to attend the meetings. They’re a great way to keep in touch with fellow members and to out the latest in technology, trends or policies that will help you run your station better.

JP GOES REGIONAL

JP Fortier, Executive Director for Mt. Blue Community Access TV was installed onto the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Community Media – Northeast Region on October 6 in Shrewsbury, MA. JP brings many years of experience and knowledge of community television to the Northeast region Board. JP has served Mt Blue TV for the past 11 years and is also on the Board of CTAM. Congratulations to JP!



Sally Hebert, Greene TV; JP Fortier, MBTV;
Nancy Richard, Board Chair, ACM-NE

CTAMESSENGER CONTRIBUTORS & CREDITS

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

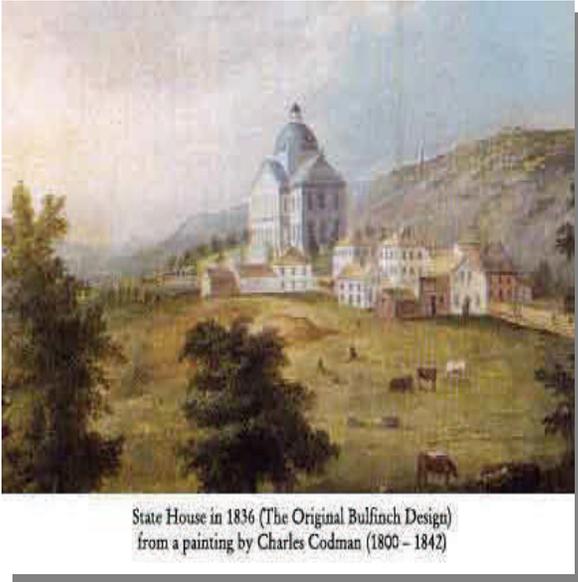
BECOME A CTAMESSENGER CONTRIBUTOR

We welcome your story suggestions and ideas
CONTACT US AT: newsletter@ctamaine.or

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CAPITOL VIEW

“CAP” ACT UPDATE by Tony Vigue



HR1746 is the Community Access Preservation Act. There are currently 18 co-sponsors in the House for the Bill and we are working hard to get more, especially bi-partisan support as there is currently only one Republican on board. We heard from Representative Pingree’s office this week that she is “on board” with this legislation and will co-sponsor it as she did during the last session, so now we need to concentrate on Mike Michaud and our two Senators. Senator Collins staff told us that the Senator is going to defer to Senator Snowe since any telecom legislation will have to go through the Commerce Subcommittee she is on. Senator Snowe’s staff told us that the Senator would like to see more bi-partisan support before committing to anything.

The Community Access Preservation “CAP” Act HR 1746

1. It removes the distinction between "capital" and "operating" in PEG support fees.

The CAP Act will eliminate that part of the Telecommunications Act that prevents PEG centers from using PEG support for their operating expenses.

2. It guarantees that PEG channels are equivalent in quality to all other local commercial stations, network affiliates or PBS.

Certain cable operators are lumping all PEG channels in a regional area onto one single channel (for instance AT&T’s channel 99). This delivery method discriminates against people who are deaf or hard of hearing because it won’t allow for closed captioning and it is impossible for people who are blind to find the channel through the onscreen menu. It also degrades the signal quality, and causes viewers to have to wade through myriads of menus to get their local PEG channels. PEG channels should be delivered equal to commercial channels or PBS.

3. Makes sure local governments can secure funding for PEG channels in exchange for cable operators’ use of public rights-of-way and makes sure local government can have PEG channels.

4. It makes sure that cable operators transmit the PEG channels without charge to the local government.

This is an important point because in several places cable operators are claiming they can charge local governments for the transmission of the channels. Cable operators are demanding several thousand dollars per year per channel for transmission. This must stop!

5. It requires the FCC to undertake a study on PEG.

The FCC will be required to undertake a study within 180 days of the passage of CAP to analyze the effect of state-wide/state issued franchise laws that have passed. It also requires an analysis of the impact of digital conversion on PEG. And it calls for the FCC to make recommendations for changes to the Telecommunications Act to preserve and advance PEG, broadband and localism.