



CTAM SUMMERS IN BELFAST



Attendees at the CTAM Annual Meeting in Belfast were captivated by what they saw before they even walked in the door of the Boat House along the city’s waterfront. It wasn’t just the great view that captured their attention, it was Belfast TV’s Mark Kuzio putting an aerial drone through its paces in the park. Mark was piloting a DJI Phantom Copter outfitted with a GoPro camera. The drone was maneuvered effortlessly up, down and around the open field with the seemingly simple controls. For more information on the drone go to www.dji.com.



David Weiss of Northeast Historic Films talks about film/video archiving

NEHF has 10 **MILLION** feet of film that needs to be digitized along with thousands of reels of tape – in a mind-numbing array of formats – that also need to be preserved. While your station may not have the same volume of material, the issues of technology, cost, staff and space are common to all stations, regardless of size.

David also talked about criteria for archiving. What do you save? Everything? “Important” video? How do you choose? NEHF’s criteria is that the material should be of interest to the people of Maine and is at risk of being lost. That’s a pretty broad category but one you can tailor to your station’s situation.

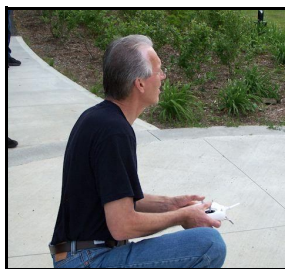
If you elect to digitize your archives, what quality level are you going to select? NEHF has a high-quality film to digital conversion system but a two-hour film results in a 2 TB video file. Digital storage pricing is always dropping but if you have several hundred hours of film the costs for digital storage can mount quickly.

Once you’ve digitized your film/video, then what? How long will your drive last? Where do you store them so they’ll be safe? Cloud storage is expensive. If you elect to use “free” Cloud storage how do you know that the company – no matter how well funded it is today – will be in business in the future?

Digital storage technology is always changing. At least once your files are digital you can convert them to the next/latest format but you have to keep up with it. You need to reassess your storage every couple of years. What technology is dying? What’s coming down the road?

NEHF is always looking for contributions of film and video that meet its criteria. They also have video available for members to borrow and air on their local stations. Currently the material is sent via returnable DVD but they hope to have a password access Vimeo account set up for members in a year or so.

For more information about Northeast Historic Films and their work contact them at 469-0924 or at www.oldfilm.org.



Mark Kuzio and the DJI Drone



Following the outdoor air show we were welcomed to the meeting by Ned Lightner and his team from Belfast TV. After our dinner and networking session it was time to get down to business.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

CTAM members elected a new Board at the June meeting. Tony Vigue is stepping down from the CTAM Board after 20 years and attendees elected Steve Galvin of NPTV as his replacement. Sally Hebert will remain as President and JP Fortier has re-upped as Treasurer and Ned Lightner remains in charge of membership. Steve Galvin will take over Meetings and Conferences and Brian Knoblock will assume the public policy and administrative duties from Tony.

Sally Hebert prepared a moving tribute to Tony's many contributions to the organization and Tony assures us he plans to remain active and involved in CTAM's work.



2013-2014 CTAM Board: JP Fortier, Ned Lightner, Tony Vigue, Sally Hebert, Brian Knoblock



2014-2015 Board: JP Fortier, Steve Galvin, Ned Lightner, Sally Hebert, Brian Knoblock

PUBLIC POLICY

Support the Community Preservation Act

CTAM, the ACM and others continue to press for implementation of the CAP ACT. As a reminder this proposed legislation would make a small change to the Telecom Act that would allow Franchise Fees to be used for ANY purpose, not just capital expenses – which is the situation now. The only modification required is to change one sentence in the Telecom Act.

Recently the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the Conference of Catholic Bishops have come out in support of the amendment. They argue that restriction on the use of PEG money has led to the closing of more than 100 PEG access centers—where the community can produce programming—and to hundreds of PEG channels going dark in the last decade.

The mayors argue that PEG channels are the "primary vehicle" for localism by supplying "vital local government information, educational content, civic and cultural information and religious and political expression to residents in local communities across America."

The FCC might be able to accomplish the goal with a Rule Change or it might be possible to slip the wording into an appropriations bill. Senator King is aware of the issue and has asked to be kept posted on the issue. However, since he does not sit on a Committee with oversight of this issue he is not able to bring the matter forward himself.

ARCHIVE PROJECT

Ned Lightner reminded us that he is still accepting submissions for transfer to the CTAM site on Archive.org. Anne Allee is back working at BCTV and can handle the video. While Ned had set up an FTP transfer process for material, just sending a DVD works better.



Sally Hebert reminded attendees about the upcoming joint conference being held by the ACM and NAMAC – the National Alliance for Media Arts and Culture. The event will be held in Philadelphia August 6-8.

The ACM Northeast Conference and Trade Show will be held in Nashua, NH October 9-10. Workshops are being developed and we hope to see a full rundown of events shortly. Karen Hayden, the NE Region Chair, sent her regrets for not being able to attend the CTAM annual meeting. In her letter she said that the NE Region would like to hold its annual conference in different states, including Maine.

Following a discussion – including the Financial Report by the Treasurer, CTAM has decided to start a reserve fund that would go towards funding a future ACM NE event in Maine. The initial amount earmarked for this fund is \$2,611 in one of our existing CD accounts. CTAM will review the issue at each annual meeting and decide future set-asides on a yearly basis. The attendees approved this budgetary change along with the Annual Budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

CTAM TRAINING CLASSES

There was discussion about having CTAM arrange for training classes for members. Topics could include field & studio audio, video setup/shading or other technical issues.

This could be a separate session or linked to a regular meeting. We might hire an expert – or find one within CTAM's ranks. It is possible that we can find a vendor to conduct a class for us – for example Shure might do one on audio. Lincoln County TV is willing to host the first class. Steve Galvin will do some research and update the group.

MEDIA BILL OF RIGHTS

The Bill of Media Rights was conceived and drafted collaboratively by a number of national and local media reform organizations around the United States during the winter of 2004-2005. The document provides a foundational list of key principles and values--consistent with the First Amendment and the regulatory concept of the "public interest"--which must underlie all contemporary debates concerning media and communications policy.

CTAM Member Stations are encouraged to present the Resolution to their local City/Town Councils and urge them to support Media Rights in their city.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A BILL OF MEDIA RIGHTS

WHEREAS, a free and vibrant media, full of diverse and competing voices, is the lifeblood of America's democracy and culture, as well as an engine of growth for its economy; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, massive and unprecedented corporate consolidation has dangerously contracted the number of voices in our nation's media; and

WHEREAS, some argue we live in an age of unprecedented diversity in media, the reality is that the vast majority of America's news and entertainment is now commercially-produced, delivered, and controlled by a handful of giant media conglomerates seeking to minimize competition and maximize corporate profits rather than maximize competition and promote the public interest; and

WHEREAS, according to the Supreme Court, the First Amendment protects the American public's right to "an uninhibited marketplace of ideas in which truth will prevail" and "suitable access to social, political, esthetic, moral and other ideas and experiences;" and it is "the right of the viewers and listeners, not the right of the broadcasters, which is paramount.;" and

WHEREAS, too often, our nation's policymakers favor media conglomerates' commercial interests over the public's Constitutional rights, placing America's democracy, culture, and economy at risk; and

WHEREAS, guided by the principles that follow, policymakers must ensure that the Constitutional rights of present and future generations to freely express themselves in the media, and to access the free expression of others, using the technologies of today and tomorrow, are always "paramount;"

WHEREAS, the principles that follow are not meant to be all-inclusive, but illustrate an American media structure that is the American public's present and future right under the Constitution of the United States; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of _____ joins the broad coalition of consumer, public interest, media reform, organized labor and other groups representing millions of Americans in proposing the following **Bill of Media Rights**:

The American public has a right to:

1. *Media That Provide "An Uninhibited Marketplace of Ideas"*

- Journalism that fully informs the public, is independent of the government and acts as its watchdog, and protects journalists who dissent from their employers.
- Newspapers, television and radio stations, cable and satellite systems, and broadcast and cable networks operated by multiple, diverse, and independent owners that compete vigorously and employ a diverse workforce.
- Radio and television programming produced by independent creators that is original, challenging, controversial, and diverse.
- Programming, stories, and speech produced by communities.
- Internet service provided by multiple, independent providers who compete vigorously and offer access to the entire Internet over a broadband connection, with freedom to attach within the home any legal device to the net connection and run any legal application.
- Public broadcasting insulated from political and commercial interests that is well-funded and especially serves communities underserved by privately-owned broadcasters. Regulatory policies emphasizing media education and public empowerment, not government censorship, as the best ways to avoid unwanted content.

2. *Media That Use The Public's Airwaves To Serve The Public Interest*

- Electoral and civic, children's, educational, independently produced, local and community programming, as well as programming that serves Americans with disabilities and underserved communities.
- Media that reflect the presence and voices of people of color, women, labor, immigrants, Americans with disabilities, and other communities often underrepresented.
- Maximum access and opportunity to use the public airwaves and spectrum.
- Meaningful participation in government media policy, including disclosure of the ways broadcasters comply with their public interest obligations, ascertain their community's needs, and create programming to serve those needs.

3. *Media That Reflect And Respond To Their Local Communities*

- Television and radio stations that are locally owned and operated, reflective of and responsible to the diverse communities they serve, and able to respond quickly to local emergencies.
- Well-funded local public access channels and community radio, including low-power FM radio stations.
- Universal, affordable Internet access for news, education, and government information, so that the public can better participate in our democracy and culture.
- Frequent, rigorous license and franchise renewal processes for local broadcasters and cable operators that meaningfully include the public.

REMINDER TO STATIONS / INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NOT RENEWED THEIR CTAM MEMBERSHIP



Community Television Association
of Maine



2014-2015 CTAM Membership Invoice

(Expires June 30, 2015)

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

Non-Voting Membership (Vendor) \$50.00

Non-Voting Membership (Non-Profit Organization) \$50.00

How did you learn about CTAM? _____

**Please Make Check Payable To: The Community Television Association of Maine
Print out this form, fill it out 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 !

Bill Severance updated the group on upcoming changes to the CTAM website. The look of the site will be changed as Bill uses new “skins” that will serve as background graphics. He is also working to resolve an issue with SPAM registrations that are flooding the site.



Bill would like to get a Logo and a Production Still from each CTAM member station. You can send them to him at: bill@wesnetdesigns.com.

At our Winter meeting, attendees had decided that the CTAM website should be a basic information resource for the organization. CTAM members felt they didn't have the time to provide fresh content – videos, production images etc. – on a regular basis to keep the site updated and current.

Some attendees at the Summer meeting have asked that we take one more look at this issue. Do we want the CTAM Website – and the Facebook page – to showcase the work of our member stations or do we want to be a resource for visitors with, perhaps, links to individual stations' website? Do we want current videos posted to one/both of the sites. Some stations say that they get many more views of their videos on the Facebook page than they do on their own website. Should we concentrate more effort on the CTAM website page?

The CTAM Board is soliciting comments on this issue in advance of a Special Board meeting in August. Please think about what you want to see on the CTAM Facebook page / Website and let the Board know how you would like us to proceed – and what you and your station are willing to do to provide fresh content on a regular basis.

Send your thoughts/comments by **July 30th** to info@ctamaine

UPCOMING MEETINGS

September 30 – Lincoln County TV

January 27 – CTN, Portland

April 28 – Greene

June 30 – Harpswell (Tentative)

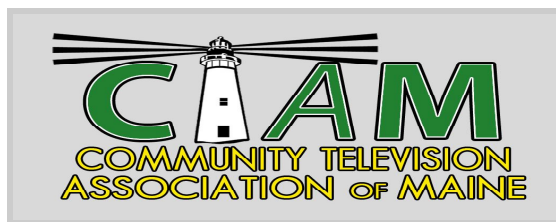
CTAMessenger Contributors & Credits

CTAM MEETING: Drone & Speaker Photos Brian Knoblock. Board Photos: Laurie Severance

BECOME A CTAMESSENGER CONTRIBUTOR
We welcome your story suggestions and ideas

CONTACT US AT: newsletter@ctamaine.org

Editor: Brian Knoblock
Newsletter Design: Jen Scholz



Who we are:

CTAM is a broad-based, community television support organization that was incorporated in Maine in 1992 as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization to be a coordinated voice for the interests of non-profit community television organizations in Maine on a local, state, and national level.

CTAM supports their efforts to produce and disseminate non-commercial access programming and serves as an information source and educational advocacy group for the 72 public, educational and governmental (PEG) channels in Maine. CTAM is also an affiliate member of the Maine Municipal Association.

CTAM recognizes that the utility corridors in the public right of way belong to the towns. Access to these corridors by unregulated* commercial entities who provide non-essential entertainment services for profit, may require just compensation for the use of the public right of way in the form of rent to the towns. This is known in the law as a “franchise fee”. <http://caselaw.findlaw.com/us-5th-circuit/1297394.html>

CTAM recognizes that democracy is the foundation of our society and in order for democracy to flourish, people must be able to communicate ideas, share opinions and have access to information.

CTAM recognizes that a healthy, democratic society is founded on open government with engaged, informed and included citizenry.

CTAM recognizes that the primary means of information delivery and exchange today is through electronic media.

CTAM encourages the establishment and growth of Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) media centers to provide people with access to electronic communications training, equipment, facilities and delivery systems to encourage civic dialogue and participation; teach media literacy and serve their communities' needs in promoting media democracy for all people regardless of their life circumstances, their political or religious beliefs or their ability to pay.

*Not regulated by the Maine Public Utilities Commission

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Canon

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