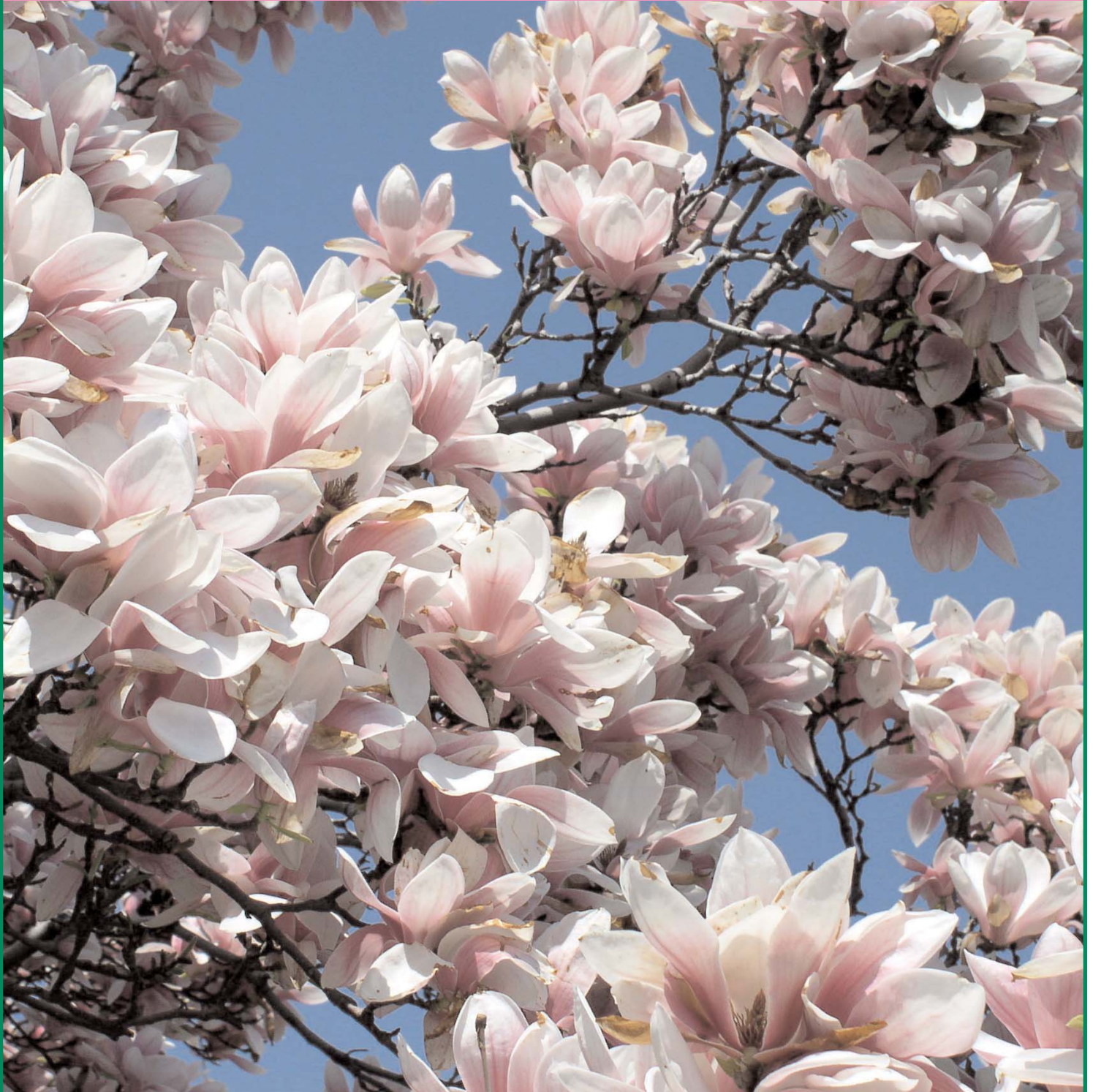


VOL. 40 No. 2, SPRING 2006

PANORAMA

OF AMATEUR FILM & VIDEO

SUR LE FILM ET VIDEO AMATEUR



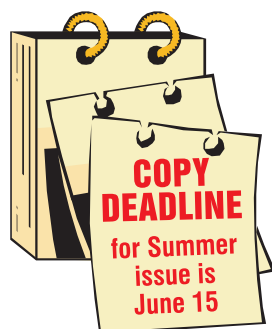
The Publication of the SOCIETY of CANADIAN CINE AMATEURS / SOCIÉTÉ DES CINE AMATEURS CANADIENS (Inc. 1969)

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Front Cover:

Magnolias
Photographer Fred Briggs



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Joseph and Joan Bochsler,
Fred Briggs
**Layout, Design and
Typesetting**
Athens Printing
Tel: 1-888-549-6719
2004 ISSN 1187-28207

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Photo by Joseph Bochsler Jr.

Fred Briggs, FSCCA

"Spring has definitely arrived"

While we're currently looking at about 10 days of rain here, the trees are green and the fruit trees are all in blossom. Spring has definitely arrived, and with it there is a new growth of hope!

For the first time in many issues of PANORAMA, I'm not aware of the passing of any of our members! We've lost a few friends over the winter here, all suffering from advanced age or long-term illness, but life goes on as it always has, and there's more good news than bad.

This month we received the Winter Issue of PANORAMA, returned by the Royal Mail, with the message that Sheila Graber is no longer at the address to which we have been mailing them. We rarely hear from our Honorary Members, so when PANORAMA is returned, it doesn't look good. I immediately tracked down the email address of Sheila's business partner, and asked her for Sheila's new address, hoping that it would be one to which the post office can deliver!

I received email back from Sheila, still alive and well, explaining that she had moved to Ireland, and apparently the Royal Mail was no longer forwarding her mail! Sheila is well and tells me that she still enjoys receiving PANORAMA, and sends her best wishes to all of us.

Looking at some of our smaller

blessings, we have already received the first Membership Renewal for the 2006 – 2007 Membership Year, and we have three entries so far for the Annual Video Competition, all a month or more in advance of the due dates! And we have a new Editor for the Club News! Thom Speechley, our Membership Chairman, volunteered to take on the added work, and has assembled his first report for this issue, in addition to describing a possible solution to a very vexing problem for many of us!

We have booked the former Stoney Creek City Hall for September 22nd for our Annual General Meeting. Those who were able to attend our AGM two years ago will remember what a beautiful and comfortable site that is for our meeting, the screening of the winning videos, and the presentation of the Awards for our Annual Film/Video Competition. We hope that many of you will be able to attend, and there will be more program details, with a map and directions to the site, in the Summer Issue, so please mark that date on your calendars.

Meanwhile, now is a good time to fill in the Membership Renewal Form and mail it with a cheque. And you should be looking at your video productions to choose the best two or three for submission to the SCCA Annual Competition. The Rules and Entry Forms can be downloaded (and printed) from our web site, <http://s-c-c-a.ca>. If you are a club member, why not print a few extras for some of your club members (especially those without internet access) and encourage them to submit their best video(s)?

You'll notice that like most PANORAMA Issues, this one carries articles from several individuals in the local clubs, in fact, some of them aren't even SCCA Members (yet!). Your SCCA Directors or members of the Executive can't write the whole thing themselves, and we appreciate all the help we receive. We also urge you to consider what you might be able to contribute to a future issue (maybe the Summer Issue?). If you have an idea for an article you could write, or even an article you have already written, please contact us at scca@canada.com. ■

Creativity, Inspiration and Problem Solving

by Fred Briggs

I'm sitting here trying to find a way to write what may be the most difficult thing I have ever tackled, and try to make sure that you won't find it the most difficult thing that you have ever read. I have these ideas churning around in my head, and somehow I have to organize them so they make some sense.

Some will feel this subject is theoretical, or even philosophical, but I want it to be very practical.

First, I'll start with a personal theory, expressed as a Law. There is no such thing as pure creativity. Nothing springs from nowhere! I'm not discussing religion here, disputing Divine Creation, or am I trying to deny the Big Bang Theory. Rather, I'm talking about ideas. No one just suddenly gets an idea out of nowhere!

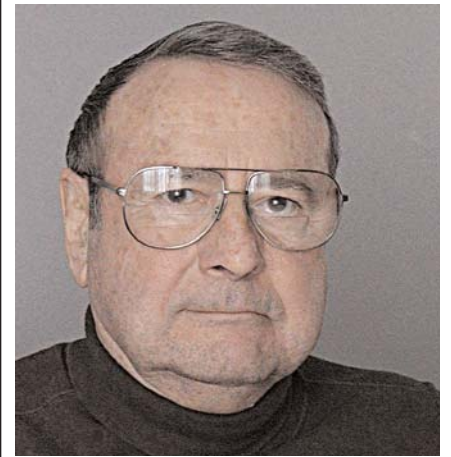
Instead, every so called "new idea" springs from long established observations or well known facts, that someone suddenly puts together in a way that no one has put them together before. And someone recognizes that this is a fresh idea, or solution to an old problem, and calls the discoverer creative.

This actual, real world creativity, is getting more common every day, because every day there are more observations, experiences and known facts than existed earlier. I'm not the first to note that "We see so far because we stand on the shoulders of others". Sir Isaac Newton is credited with the observation "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." in 1675 or 1676. But Bernard of Chartres, circa 1130, wrote "We are like dwarfs standing (or sit-

Continued on page 18

CLUB NEWS

By Thom Speechley



Joe Bochsler has done a fine job of editing this column after relieving Wally Robertson, who very capably managed this news for several years. The editor's task is to find those ideas in each bulletin or newsletter, which tell us something new and serve as a milestone in tracking the history and development of this hobby. This tells us where we are at and where we are headed. I hope I can continue to maintain this high level of 'selectivity' and keep the column readable.

Brant Video Makers

BRANT CAMCORDER NEWS

Editor: Dan Kennaley

We Meet on the Fourth Wednesday of the Month at 7:30

The Focus of this Meeting Will Be on Reminiscing About the Past.

To quote from Dickens' Christmas Carol. --- "Long past? No, your past."

I hope everyone will dip into their archives and bring something from the early days. Something from the 8 MM movie days would be preferable or from the early days of VHS or VHSC. There will be a prize for the oldest, and another for the best of the past. The Members will choose the judges at the meeting.

We will have a couple of projectors available to show actual 8-mm movies. We hope there will be some submissions. The movies and the videos should be 5 min. or so. After the break we will show members videos.

I think this meeting should be interesting enough that I would like at least 1 camera to record the people.

Connected to the submissions and their comments, then at least some of the movies or video.

A Visit to the past, come out and be entertained.

A possible new project --- (yes I know

I haven't finished the last one, I am working on it) I had a visit to the computer museum owned by SID BOLTON and I was very impressed. Syd has invited us to shoot a video of the facility in the future so we can discuss this at the meeting.

Summary of March 22nd Meeting

In Dan Kennaley's absence, Joe Szaloky chaired the meeting. Joe wore two hats tonight because he is our audiovisual technician as well. Dan is recovering from his surgery with a little complication. We sincerely pray that he will be back in top form for April.

Videos viewed were:

Joan Jacquemain's clip of the *Pyramids in Egypt*. Hani, the guide was discussing the construction of the pyramids. Jim Harlow showed *The Bok Tower Gardens* in Orlando, Florida. Bok was a young boy who emigrated from Holland. He eventually became the owner of *The Womens' Home Journal*. He bought a mountain and built a carillon surrounded by beautiful gardens. It was constructed of Georgia marble and coquina stone from St. Augustine. Jim showed some very interesting architecture in his video.

Don Bradley took the floor to open a discussion regarding producing a video of Brantford's *Architectural Heritage*. He reminded us that a video should tell a story. Therefore, it must have a beginning, middle and an end. Don did a bit of research on the computer and found much information about Brantford and its heritage. John Turner was an architect who partnered with a man from Buffalo to build Brantford buildings.

Ideas voiced were as follows:

1. Audio discussion with pictures
2. See what happened to Brantford - Past pictures from newspaper and video of modern buildings as a comparison of then and now.
3. Look in library for books with pic-

tures of buildings

4. Role-play - e.g. Mr. Cockshutt is interviewed or Ross McDonald is the featured guest. Terry Kittridge got permission a few years ago to video the Ross McDonald School for the Blind. Keith Gloster has also just received permission to do it.
5. Yates Castle or Grace Anglican Church could be good topics.
6. Have a commentator or dub in one after the video is complete
7. Have young children discuss what involvement their ancestors had in building a heritage building or get a descendant to discuss "what my grandfather or grandmother did to be involved."
8. Photograph every church which is in danger of being closed up or torn down
9. Concentrate on videotaping Grecian or Roman Columns in buildings
10. Video different types of pulpits in churches

The ending could be pictures of new buildings and surmise what will happen in the future. The ending should wrap up what has been shown or hint of other videos to come.

Possible titles suggested were: *Then and Now*, *Change*, *Once Upon a Time* and *Once Upon a City*

More videos were:

A Training Video which **Frank Birch** brought about *Exposure*. It had some very good points to watch for. For example watch for posts in the background which may seem to coming out of the top of your subject's head. Exposure should be adjusted to compensate for light from the sky. Use a branch to hide electrical wires. Too

much light behind subject? Block off part of it with something. Wax paper placed over a flashlight gives a softer glow.

Joe Bochsler showed his *Canada Day 2005 Parade*. Lots of good people shots interspersed with wide angle and close up ones.

A Hamilton Club video was next. **Peter Janssen** was the star of this in a comedic sketch by Anton Hair Productions. Nice hair Peter to go with your wardrobe. The second part of their video was a song by Nancy Lang called *Who'll Tell The Children?*

Frank Birch mentioned that he had a section of video from our project on the *Grand River*. It was titled *Metal Art Works by the Bradishs*. Their shop is located on the third line and Wellington Road near Guelph. They have a wonderful display of creative work.

Tasty cookies were supplied by **Joan Bochsler**. Other refreshments were served by Joan Jacquemain.

The next meeting will be held on April 26th at the Glenhyrst Coach House, 20 Ava Road in Brantford at 7:30 p.m.

Buffalo Movie Video Makers

CAMERAMA

Editor: John P. Weiksnar
March Meeting Recap

The March 12 meeting was Contest Night at the BM-VM! The excitement was in the air, the red carpet was laid out and limousines were everywhere. Parking was at a premium. Rent-a-Model companions were everywhere. Cleavage was NOT a rarity. . . .

The evening began with announcements from PHIL UTECH, our president, about the April and May meetings. Speakers and many exciting events are in the planning stages for the next few months. We are growing and it is exciting!

From there, we introduced a few of our new members:

MICHAEL D. O'HEAR and MARK J. ETTARO. Michael happens to be a friend of Mr. Novak's who has directed shows at his theatre group, The Towne Players of Tonawanda (www.towneplayers.com). We are glad to have these talented fellows interested in plying their skills into movie production. Welcome aboard.

JON SOYKA, our great Canadian

friend and BM-VM member, screened his documentary on the group production exercise we ran in February. It was nicely shot and edited. His star is shining very bright at the BM-VM. Nine movies were submitted to the annual contest, possibly a record setting number. Everybody enjoyed the creativity and energetic entries. NICOLE KENNEDY again created a moving piece with a lot of emotion. CHRIS SCIOLI's entry was excellent, and all in one take, with no edits. GARY MARZOLF was at his best, pushing the envelope with a political shot at censorship. EMIL offered a look at claustrophobia in the cellar of Buffalo's Central Terminal.

JOHN WEIKSNAR was in top form with Early-Fall-o-Rama, a beautiful series of excellent photographs in motion. NORM SALAMONE baffled the audience with, believe it or not real TV footage created in his film lab. WOW! On and on it went until we reached the end.

Once voting ended, we screened the TESLA THE ACCUMULATOR teaser trailer (www.teslamoviesite.com) to the crowd of unruly BM-VM members, who began to get testy as the contest tension boiled over. May the best movie win!

-- EMIL NOVAK,
V.P./Archives/Publicity
New Member Alert

The BM-VM roster revamps itself this month with the addition of two new motivated members. Both are good friends of EMIL NOVAK and aspire to become movie makers. MICHAEL D. O'HEAR of Lewiston brings an interest in MiniDV, directing and writing, with a penchant for wanting to "learn everything I can." He is a theatre director and has acted in plays that Emil has worked on for the Towne Players of Tonawanda. E-mail: **star-lost@aol.com** MARK J. ETTARO is an Amherst resident who has been working on documentaries in addition to helping out on TESLA THE ACCUMULATOR. Mark has an extremely active imagination and hopes someday to make movies in the abstract/horror genre. Makes note of his e-mail: **JetSetSatellite@aol.com** Also be aware that our friend JON R. SOYKA of Hamilton, Ontario, has renewed his membership in our international society. Reach him at **jonsoyka@moun-**

taincable.net We're all glad that you signed up!

Annual Contest Thoughts

The annual contest went well. Now that the rules for contests have been updated and are in place, we need to continue to enforce them. There were only a few video entries that did not follow the guidelines. The majority of entries followed the rules, and the screening went smoothly. The members had their chance to vote, and we had a great time viewing the entries. And since each member votes for their favorite, and they are aware of the guidelines, I believe the voting should not be skewed. Contest Chair has final say!

-- President PHIL UTECH

BM-VM 72nd Anniversary "Banquet"

ATTENTION ALL PARTY ANIMALS: BMVM's famous Annual Banquet / Party and Awards Ceremony meeting happens at this month's meeting (April 9).

A full, exciting program will be the highlight of the night, with filmmaker Jam Vafai, a local legend in the art and education community. Special thanks to BUCK BURDETTE for coordinating this talk. The evening will wrap up with the screening of the winning annual contest entry and our traditional presentation of club awards.

Hamilton Video/Film Makers

REEL NEWS Editor: Liz Stewart

President's Message

Election night is at hand.

Once a year we need to renew our club through the executive so that we can better serve our members. It is that time once more. The April meeting is election night and we hope to see a good number at the meeting and a few new faces elbowing each other out of the way to serve on the executive.

There are a few positions each year to be filled and a new face or two is a good thing for the club. I hope to see you putting your name forward. We will have a guest speaker this meeting and I urge you to come and enjoy the speaker. It will be a good meeting and I think we will all enjoy it.

Local people will have noted the extensive work by the QEW on the Red Hill Valley interchange. This project has been controversial for years and will be for a long time to come but

offers us opportunities to film events not to happen again for a long while.

The overpass construction has been interesting to watch with the different techniques used on each section. The impact on wildlife in the valley and by the highway is also a subject worthy of a video or two. The swans I filmed last year never left the area even after the water froze over a few days in January.

They have already built a nest near the interchange construction and I expect some eggs in the next month or two as well. Those swans have been very protective of the water area and in spite of the new exit lane being built along the edge which has in-filled some of this space, they have not left at all.

They seem to be ignoring the whole process. Of course with the nice weather here there are many activities such as the Around-The-Bay Race just recently past to catch your eye.

I'll see you at the meeting and don't forget to bring your annual contest entries with you. You can still buy or arrange tickets this month and the forms are all on the website.

Last month we saw the following videos:

Double Trouble and *I'm Puzzled* from Treav Beard, as only Treav could make them.

Wild Wing, from Doreen Jones, *Kiwanis- I Promise* program by Dan Copeland documenting the history and programs offered by the Kiwanis over the years and part of a TV special, *Nature* which was about Jack Carey and his filming. This video was brought in by another member to highlight some of Jack's work. Our next meeting in May will be the banquet. The contest videos will be screened after the meal and all are welcome to attend the screenings.

President's Message

Annual Banquet and Awards Night

Remember that this year we are stepping back to a more formal attire with jackets and ties for the men, and, well, the ladies always know what to wear so, why listen to me?

Adam Houston has again produced another custom door prize for those attending and perhaps this year I'll get lucky and win!!

We were pleased to see several old members rejoin the club this year and a few new members too.

Welcome back and we hope this means more productions of all kinds this year. The entries for the annual contest are way up, perhaps double that of last year and with Harold and Mary Cosgrove sponsoring the One Minute Contest, it will be exciting. We welcomed a new member to the next executive, which officially assumes power in September.

Manfred Ernst was elected last meeting and already is chomping at the bit to help the club. Barb Owen will be the next president of the club and as a sitting member has already been part of the executive this year.

I'll see you at the banquet!!

Dave Stewart

London Videography Club

"IT'S A WRAP" Editor - Bob Thorn

Well it looks like we had a great turnout for our last meeting. Due to night courses I have been taking at Fanshawe College, I have been unable to attend many meetings, including last month but I am done all of my courses now and will be back in attendance full-time.

We had a "Premier" meeting night at Ron's house on March 22 2006. Another good night was had by all who showed up. Thanks Ron!

David's "Glidecam" was of interest to us all! I must thank Thom for videotaping a good portion of it so at least I could get a pretty good idea what happened in the demonstration. From what I could tell it looks like David had everyone's undivided attention. Lots of discussion and lots of questions makes for one interesting meeting. All eyes were glued on David as he demonstrated all the parts needed for the "Glidecam". He was very patient and helpful answering all questions that came his way. We even saw some videos done in his backyard with his wife, a "Glidecam" crew and himself, giving all of us a good look that even with very little practice you too could get smooth, steady, rock solid performance with this unit.

Was nice to see the demo disk having them compare a hand-held camera vs. the "Glidecam". I would like to see all of them if David would be so kind and bring them all in so I could view them.

Unfortunately I still have not seen his DVD of St. Peter's Basilica. David if you have one of those I would like to

see that too?

Club Meeting for Feb. 08 2006

Harvey Hackland was absent due to a severe cold and Jim was asked to conduct the meeting. Jim collected 4 entries for judging in the annual Harry Ronson Nature production contest.

We introduced guest Matt Butler, a Fanshawe Broadcast Journalism student who was on a class assignment to report on a "meeting".

Eleven years ago, the Club set out to make a feature production. It was never finished. Recently some members requested a review in order to determine if we might justify the effort of finishing the production. Members had previously received by e-mail, a story synopsis so that they had a general outline of the plot.

Thom showed about 10 minutes of edited footage of the full-length feature production "**Time Lapse**". Most of what was shown was the early introductory part of the story. But he also showed a portion of the challenge to the hero's discoveries by the sinister Prof. Gluck. Thom then described how the story was intended to progress and suggested two alternative resolutions for the plot. There was then an open discussion which produced several other possible resolutions or plot details, which might satisfactorily end the story. There was also discussion regarding ways to work around obvious impediments such as the absence of key cast members and the difficulty at this late date, of rebuilding or reproducing sets and props. Thom will summarize the suggestions and submit a new outline based on our discussion. If we can then agree on a resolution, we can prepare a script and set a schedule for resumption of production.

Next Meeting:

This is the month we make plans and start shooting for this year's entry in the SCCA competition. This year participants will be asked to sign up for the assignment rather than being arbitrarily selected. We should end up with a new 'mix' of members for the two teams. The compulsory subject for the 2006 "Inter City" trophy is "It's In The Bag".

Toronto Film and Video Club

SHOTS&ANGLES

Editor: Sam Spence

President's Message (Edited)

This season is again turning out to be rather hectic what with some members such as Sam Spence, George Elliott and Marguerite Hann taken ill and the sad loss of Bill Williams just before Christmas. Luckily, Sam has fully recuperated from his bypass operation and returned to full duty.

However, now Richard Vielrose has become unable to attend meetings and perform all his regular jobs due to illness. As always though, other members of the executive step in to fill the breach.

I oversaw the 5-minute contest held at the last meeting (6 entries). Richard Ogner volunteered to set up the projector equipment and Milo Kubic will carry out the coming Annual Contest. Please note the entry deadline for this is Tuesday, April 25th, (with a few days grace).

Application forms will be available at the April 25th meeting. Contest rules are in the Roster. Please ensure that your movie is entered into its appropriate category.

It is due to this willingness of the executive to take over additional duties and the support of a loyal membership that is enabling our Club to carry on a full program in spite of the losses of so many of our long time members in recent years.

Richard Ogner has also volunteered to be our SCCA representative, which entails informing members of SCCA news items and also outlining the advantages of joining the SCCA.

Now, an update on our recent storage problem. Thanks to Trev Beard bringing in his special thermometer, which showed that the temperature in the kiln area was within safety range for our equipment, it was therefore decided to remain at the Centre and even be able to leave our projector in the cabinet. We had researched other venues but none had any storage facilities for our large storage cabinet.

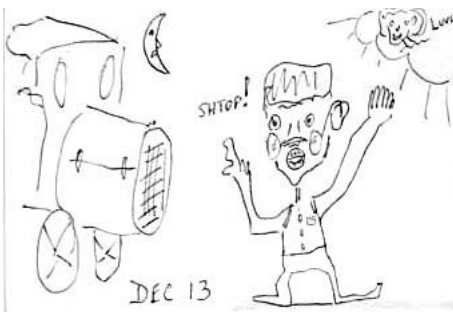
Josephine Black

Digital Party Game At the Club's Christmas party Richard Onger introduced a novel game which requires everyone to create a small simple pencil sketch on a 4"x6" white card. Then, using the magic of Photoshop, he re-creates the sketch with added colour and intriguing backgrounds. The "artists" were presented with printed copies at the club's next meeting. You

can check out all of Richard's work at:

<http://ca.geocities.com/richardogner@rogers.com/>

Here is an example. (Original)



(Finished)



The Vancouver Video Production Club

REEL TALK Editor - Cathy Caravan
PREVIOUS MEETING - MARCH 24, 2006

Ron Chappell showed us a 22-minute video he produced on the workings of his "Cirkut" antique panorama camera, and also demonstrated numerous photos taken with this camera as well as several other panoramic cameras he owns. Thanks, Ron, for taking the time to prepare such a thorough demonstration.

Ron was followed by Igor Kusec, who provided a demonstration of a video Slide Show using a laptop computer. Igor provided many helpful hints on improving the pictures we take with our digital cameras. Thanks, Igor, for a very informative talk.

Time did not allow us to show the unedited footage from the Video Stew Competition: it will be shown at the beginning of the April meeting.

NEXT MEETING - APRIL 28

Video Stew competition (edited entries); Judging by Audience Evaluation; top prize \$25.

Also, Greg Caravan and Bob Eli will do a joint presentation on family history video making using different tech-

niques. They will also lead a discussion on some of the options and types of family history videos that are currently popular. We are also hoping to get a copy of the CBC production of "On The Road Again" which aired on March 23rd and included a feature on VVPC Club Founder Lou Lanser which was shot in Vancouver several months ago.

MAY 26 MEETING:

Sony of Canada's annual demonstration of the latest product lines is tentatively planned; to be confirmed by Sony.

JUNE 23 MEETING:

Open Video Competition; outside judges; top prize \$100.00. Time limit 10 minutes per video including titles. Refer to the Website for full competition rules.

The Victoria Video Club

BULLETIN Editor: Sheila Perkins

The Assigned Subject Contest

Deadline will be the April 25 meeting. The topic is "Wind." Your videos may be up to four minutes long, including titles and credits. You may enter as many as you wish. Your videos may be submitted on either DVD or VHS tape but only one per DVD or tape.

The One-Minute Contest deadline is the May 30 meeting. In this contest, your videos may be on any subject but they must be no longer than one minute in length, including titles and credits. There is no limit to the number of entries you may submit. In this contest, you are permitted to put more than one entry on a video cassette or DVD.

Club Picnic Margaret is planning to hold a picnic at 11:00 a. m., on Tuesday, June 13. It will be held at her summer trailer site at Osborne Bay, Crofton, B.C. It takes just over one hour to get there from Victoria.

Directions will be available at the meeting. Please bring a bag lunch and two pieces of fresh fruit, so the fruit can be cut up and put in a large dish to make a fruit salad for dessert. Margaret will supply tea and coffee.

Page 2 of this month's newsletter is devoted to a reprint of shooting tips from the site of cinematographer/trainer Barry Casson.

<http://www.speakfilm.com/> The following is a portion of that article. Further useful tips can be found at Barry's website.

Zooming

In the early days of television the cameras had three lenses mounted on what we call a turret. This turret could be turned around to have the right lens in place for shooting. The lenses would consist of a wide angle, a standard lens and a telephoto lens.

Now someone comes along and invents the "zoom" lens. Now I may be wrong but I suspect that this new lens with its variable focal length (this just means that the lens can go from wide angle to telephoto) was made so that you could change the focal length quicker than turning the turret, makes sense to me.

Then someone notices that you can even keep shooting while you do this! Ah, ha!! but alas too late! The cat is out of the bag. So now we have the zoom lens. Now there are some inherent problems with zooming. Most amateur film and video makers never do a smooth zoom. This could be because the automatic zoom button on the camera usually gives you little real control over the speed of the zoom. Professionally we use a device called a "joystick" that has a servo motor attached to the lens barrel that allows you to crawl the zoom or pick another speed, all executed very smoothly. It is difficult for an editor to cut on a zoom shot. The reason being that the zoom is moving and the shot you cut to is more often that not static. What you get when you cut like this is a jerky edit, (a jump cut on the screen) because the zoom movement stops abruptly at the static shot.

Now here is a way around the problem. When you decide to do a zoom shot the first thing you want to do is zoom slowly rather than quickly. Start with a wide-angle shot of the subject that you are going to zoom into. Now, (without rolling any tape) in the camera, zoom into the subject with the end framing that you want. When you are framed up, check your focus and make sure it is sharp. Zoom back to the wide angle setting, (still not rolling any tape). Take the wide angle shot (rolling tape) and hold for 5 - 7 seconds. When you feel you have enough, zoom slowly into the end shot (that you have already focused) and when you get to the end shot, hold it for 5 - 7 seconds. The beauty of this technique is that you have now given yourself choices in edit-

ing. If the zoom shot doesn't work for you, you can simply use the static portion of the wide shot before you started to zoom and simply cut (make the edit) from it to the close up shot at the end of the zoom. This way you don't have to use that lousy zoom shot that you wished you could have done more smoothly. If more people used this technique, we, the audience, would not have to look at those jerky zoom shots.

Winnipeg Amateur Video and Movie Club

BULLETIN Editors: Wallace and

Jeanette Robertson

Presentation of Mr. James O'Brien, Mgr. The Sony Store, Polo Park Centre March 26 2006

Monkey Bread & SONY...

You had to be there...and I hope you were!

They were *both* sooooo good! Margaret Trupp's Monkey Bread and James O'Brien's SONY presentation... both to die for! Ask Wally—he told us he had eight pieces! Don't ask Don Comstock—he didn't make it to the trough in time! I know somebody asked for the recipe—like that would help! Now *who* was...

I can't tell you much more about the Monkey Bread (I'm not allowed in Thelma's kitchen), but I can tell you a lot more about SONY video products than I ever knew before thanks to our sister club in Vancouver for their article on SONY and Jeanette Robertson's initiative for arranging to have James O'Brien, Manager of the Polo Park Shopping Centre SONY Store, give us an outstanding presentation!

Did I ever tell you how the late Mrs. Van Slyk got the Queen, (yes, of the British Commonwealth), to come to our little town of Dugald, Manitoba (population 1000±), to officially open the "Dugald Costume Museum"—now the "Costume Museum of Canada"? That's another story. But I'll tell you anyway.

Somebody had asked that elegant lady in her 80's that very question, to which she replied "I wrote and asked her!"

So thanks, Jeanette for making the effort to ask James!

James O'Brien of SONY, is such a great guy he said he'd be glad to speak to us! And he turned out to be such a

genuine, personable guy, so full of SONY product knowledge, that I had to call it about two hours into his presentation, because my two-hour video tape was nearing its end! I'm sure he could have talked to us all night and I'm sure we would have all been there! If any of you missed James' presentation, I'll be selling copies of my tape for \$89.95. (Wally taped too—but buy mine!).

James was the best! He brought out "bags" full of SONY product and unleashed them one by one during his presentation—answering all our questions on the fly as he went.

He booted up his VAIO laptop and explained the utility of the popular (\$129) SONY "Movie Studio DVD" software. Then he brought out a SONY DVD Handycam explaining its virtues and the SONY DVD+RW disc technology, comparing it to the 8mm digital tapes and explained the advantages of digital loss-less duping when compared to analog tape duping. Also on stage—centre was the amazingly tiny SONY Mini DV "compression-less" - more "compatible" tape camcorders—neat!—(\$450 - \$2500); designed for "travel", with some camera controls right on its screen - handy for those low-angle shots! He also explained HD camcorders. The SONY "Easycam" function takes you back to factory default settings and provides automatic recording. He also explained disc designations..."R"= one-time use, "RW"= Reusable and these are computer DVD player dependent - check. Lower prices = fewer accessories (external mic connection, etc. - check. A big SONY plus - the Carl Zeiss T lenses. He spoke of the HDTV/wide-screen proportion (16:9) vs. the "standard" TV format of 4:3. Also discussed were firewire/USB 2.0 re video transfer issues and showed us how editing software works.

I could go on and on, but they never give me more column space! Thanks James O'Brien! - Check

www.esupport.sony.com

Don't forget now, watch for Larry Trupp's name; next time—on the Pastry List! ■

[We regret that this issue had to go to print before we received the journals of the American Movie Makers Association and the Film & Video Institute (IAC)]



GERALD R.S. MEE FACI, HON. SCCA

At the August Board Meeting the SCCA Board or Directors, acting under the provisions of Article V, Section 7 of the Constitution (Section 7. Honorary Members. Individuals who have rendered distinguished service to this Society or to motion picture photography and who have been singled out for this honour by the Board of Directors ...) voted to confer an Honorary Life Membership on Gerald Mee. All who know Gerald will agree with this belated recognition. For those who do not know Gerald, we are introducing him here.

Gerald Mee became interested in film when he was 8 year's old after "discovering" his father's Baby Pathe 9.5 mm. camera and projector in a drawer! His father had bought it in 1925 to film Gerald as a baby! (Gerald tells us that he still has the 400ft film, which is now on video.)

The equipment originally belonged to the late John Martin, a pioneer film maker in England and a friend of the family, and he taught Gerald all he wanted to know about amateur film.

Gerald was the founder of Leek Amateur Cine Society in 1940 and a top award winner in International competitions before and after WW2.

With a school friend Gerald screened three public shows in 1941-3, using John Martin's 16mm equipment. The proceeds were for things to do with the 'War Effort' (Spitfire Fund etc). They played the music live using twin turntables!

In 1950 Gerald joined the Stoke-on-Trent Amateur Cine Society (now Stoke Cine & Video Society) and in 1973 became President (and still is!)

He joined the Institute of Amateur Cinematographers, (IAC) now named the Film & Video Institute, in 1954. He has been a Councilor since 1967 and has held a variety of Technical Offices.

Gerald was a founder of the IAC Film Music Advisory Service in 1957, and is currently the IAC Copyright Advisor and until last year, Music Adviser (and you wouldn't believe the work that entails!).

Elected a Fellow of the IAC (FACI) in 1969, Gerald was later IAC Chairman from 1982 to 1984, and served as IAC President from 1988 to 1995. He is now Life Vice President, as well as Overseas Liaison and Sponsorship Liaison.

He was also IAC Festival Officer in 1984 and 1985. He has served on all three stages of IAC International judging

panels, and was a member of the International Jury for many European film festivals. Gerald was a Past President of the International Association of Amateur Film Festivals. This organization was the "ruling body" which authorized one, and only one, IAAFF Approved International Amateur Film Festival in each country, and laid down the standards for competition. (The CIAFF was a member festival of the IAAFF, and Gerald was nominated for that position by the late Betty Peterson, then CIAFF Director and the Canadian member of the Council.)

Gerald's own film making prowess is attested to by major International film awards, including the IAC 'Amateur Cine World' Plaque (Travel Class), the IAC Daily Mail Challenge Trophy (Film of the Year), the Movie Maker Magazine's 'Ten Best' Award (twice!), the Royal Photographic Society Hugh Baddeley Award, and the Australian 'Cineman' Award. He also received a City of Stoke-on-Trent Arts Award for film in 1998.

Gerald's honours include Associate of the Royal Photographic Society (ARPS) and Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA).

His first visit to North America was in 1973, a 3-week bus holiday starting in New York City and including Philadelphia, Washington, Richmond, Jamestown, Gettysburg and Boston, as well as Quebec City, Montreal, Toronto and Niagara Falls.

He has traveled to Canada on many occasions, and was introduced to Ontario by the late Betty Peterson. Gerald often stayed with Betty, and on each trip visited the Toronto Movie Makers and presented 16 mm. film shows. He has also shown his program at the Hamilton Club (and visited Jack Carey and his sister), the Vancouver

Movie Club several times, and the Victoria Club twice, where he was a guest of the Aldersmiths, Gerald was entertained by Margaret Chamberlain during Expo '86. Once (it must have been a long time ago), he visited the Calgary Movie Makers and screened his show there.

I remember Gerald attending a seminar I had arranged at the IMAX Cinesphere at Ontario Place, and speaking at a convention in Niagara Falls, NY (and showing his films), where he well remembers slipping on the riverbank while filming, and almost falling into the Niagara River!

Gerald has been a paying member of the SCCA for many years, and had close contacts with Helen Welsh of Albany, Jack Ruddell, Neil and Grace Upshall, Linda Smith, Sue Young and Lilian McGibbon (all SCCA Members).

Currently, Gerald writes *Ciné Courant*, a regular article for Film & Video Maker (the publication of the IAC), about Amateur Moviemaking around the world. I don't know how many of the countries about which he writes he has already visited, but judging from his visits to this side of the Atlantic, they are probably many.

But to my mind, the most unique contribution Gerald has made to the world of amateur moviemaking has been his efforts, and successes, regarding the licensing of commercial music for the use of amateurs in Britain. Gerald played an important part in the negotiations with the music industry to arrange an affordable licensing scheme whereby IAC members can get a licence to use music recorded by the leading music production houses, as well as commercial music normally sold at retail over the counter. On one trip to Toronto, Gerald and Betty Peterson negotiated an arrangement with The Music People to allow Canadian IAC members to license their music at a special price. Unfortunately, that agreement expired because too few Canadian amateurs took advantage of it (finding it easier to simply steal). Just last year, Gerald Mee coöperated with your SCCA Executive in unsuccessful attempts to renegotiate such an agreement with that company again, for SCCA Members. (Maybe we could accomplish more if we had as many members as does the IAC!)

As you can see, the SCCA Board of Directors doesn't create Honorary Memberships capriciously! ■

Introduction to Podcasts

By Dave Hardy

It has come to my attention that many members of the club are confused regarding how to receive the free video Podcasts that are available on the web such as Photoshop TV, VideoMaker TV and DV Creators wonderful series of DV Gear demos. In addition to the companies who are producing these broadcasts via the net, the really interesting thing is how ordinary people are starting to use this new media to have fun with their video making hobby.

Video hobbyists for the first time in history are discovering that there is now a means to have their efforts seen not only by their family and friends but also by people all over the world and have a lot of fun in the process. A good example of the later is a group of young women who call themselves The French Maids. They have only made 2 episodes at the time I am writing this. They've got off to a good start and it will be interesting to see how they develop as video makers.



iPod + iTunes

Which iPod are you?

iTunes 6
The best digital jukebox and #1 music download store.

iPod
Watch the new ad in HD

The new iPod
15,000 songs.
25,000 photos.
150 hours of video.

One Red Hot Offer
Pre-order The Red Hot Chili Peppers' new album, 'Stadium Arcadium', and you'll get the new single, "Dani California," instantly. Your pre-order also gives you access to pre-sale tickets for the group's upcoming tour and a chance to win the complete Red Hot Chili Peppers catalog.

Free Download
For Mac and Windows

iTunes Overview
Import your CDs and download music, videos, podcasts and audiobooks, then sync, share and stream.

Discover Music
Discover new music as you enjoy your collection or import new CDs — with MiniStore.

Customer Reviews
Post your own reviews, and read what others say about music, TV shows, videos, audiobooks and podcasts.

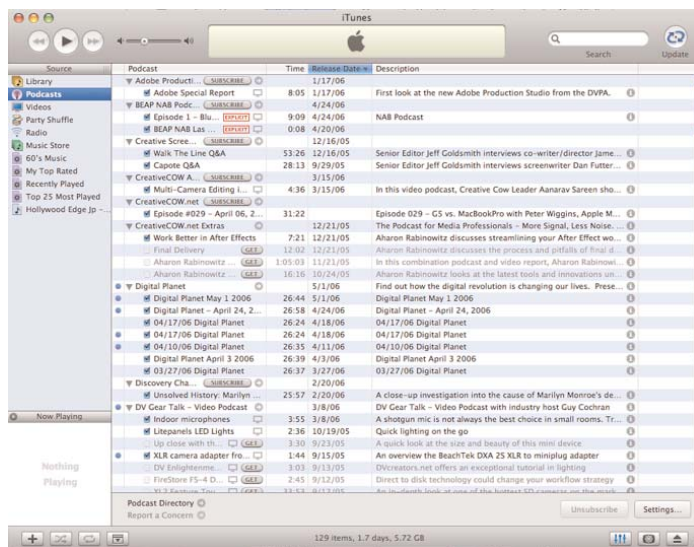
Today on the iTunes Music Store

Before sharing your efforts with the rest of world, you'll want to see the fledgling efforts of other amateur video makers. You can probably come up with some better concepts for short productions as you probably have a lot more experience with video than most of the people doing Podcasts. They are getting a head start in what will be the future of amateur video. Because of bandwidth requirements these productions have to be short in length, which makes this a perfect medium for members of amateur video clubs. When only a small handful of people are going to view your film, it's hard to justify all the hard work that is involved in making a good short production. However when it becomes possible for huge numbers of people to view and give you feedback on your efforts the equation suddenly changes

OK, so how do go about finding out what other people are doing and start to participate in where amateur video making is heading in the near future.

The easiest way to begin exploring both the professional and the amateur Podcasts is to use your free copy of the iTunes player. If for some reason you don't have it on your computer, you download it, after all it's free.

Not sure where to download it? Go to <http://www.apple.com/itunes/>, press the red button labeled Free Download (see illustration above) and download either the Windows or Mac version of the software depending on which computer platform you are using. If you are using a Mac you will already have iTunes installed on your computer: however check the version number as you will need version 6.03 or later to get the video Podcasts. Earlier versions are only capable of accessing the audio Podcasts. If you are a Windows user who has previously downloaded iTunes you may also have to update your software to get the video Podcasts.



Install the software, then double click the iTunes icon to launch the program. Your copy of the interface will not look exactly like the diagram below. That's because I've clicked on the 2nd item in the column on the extreme left (The Source



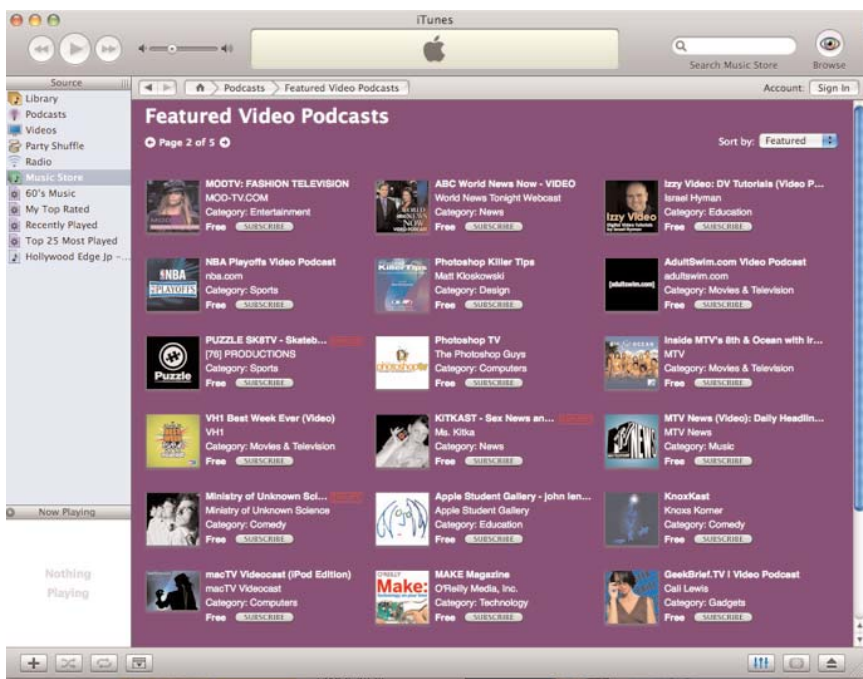
Window). I've chosen Podcasts from the list of items.

The items in the centre window are the listing for all the Podcasts I am currently subscribed to. Subscribing is free and you can unsubscribe if latter you no longer wish to be subscribed to a particular site. The items in bold are the episodes that have been sent to my hard drive where I can either keep them or discard them once I have viewed them.

The progress bar indicates that the 7th issue of VideoMaker TV is a little over 1/3 through the process of downloading. The downloading can only happen at a time when the iTunes program has been booted. So you will need to open iTunes periodically to receive the Podcasts you subscribe to that are waiting to download.

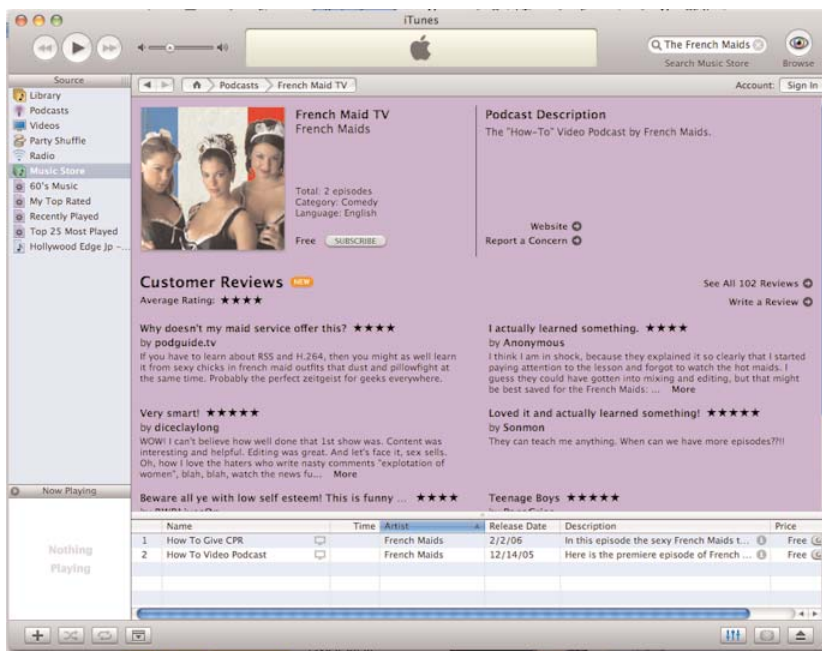
At the bottom left of the centre window there are 2 buttons. Click on the top button. The one labeled Podcast Directory. This brings up another window. (See illustration at bottom of previous page.) The centre window changes to show some featured items from the directory's content. The column on the right is a listing of the top 100 Podcast downloads for the day. CBC Radio as usual is doing pretty well. On some days CBC Radio 3 and Quirks and Quarks have been the 1 and 2 downloads in the world for that day. This particular day they are numbers 4 and 5 in the top 100. I've never seen them lower than 6.

However we really aren't interested in the popularity contest at the moment. What we are interested in are the Video Podcasts. We'll be clicking on the button with the kids wearing the 3D glasses. That's the button directly above the radiating Submit a Podcast button.



By clicking on the Video Podcasts Button we are transported to Featured Video Podcasts Page. This isn't all the Video Podcasts, simply the ones that they have decided to spotlight on a particular day. Photoshop TV seems to be absent this day although it appeared regularly the previous week.

Amazingly I've chosen to have a look at a new listing called The French Maids. Pressing that button the following page appears.



The centre window shows a photo of 3 very wholesome young ladies with customer reviews underneath. Everyone's giving this one 5 stars and rave reviews. Either these viewers are a bunch of very horny guys or there's something worth looking at here.

I read the Podcast Description in the upper right. It says "The how-to video by French Maids. Hmm I think I'll have to check this one out. At the bottom of the window is a listing of the episodes. This series is just getting under way and they only have two episodes in the can. The first was released on 14 Dec 05 and the second on 2 Feb 06. It's now March 26 hopefully they haven't run out of inspiration. I'm sure there are thousands of viewers eagerly awaiting further "How-To's". I'm giving this Podcast a 5 star rating as well.

Clicking on the circular icon to the right of the show's description opens a more detailed Podcast Information window. After reading the description, I decide that I definitely want to learn "How To Give CPR".

I click on the free subscribe and the Podcast downloads. After viewing "How To Do CPR" there's no question about whether or not download "How to Do Podcasts" I'm looking forward to



Continued on page 18

Finally, a Tapeless Camcorder system for the rest of us.

reported by Dave Hardy



Put Your iPod To Work!

This is a press release issued by L.A. based Bella Corporation at NAB (National Association of Broadcasters) regarding an inexpensive tapeless recording system that they will be releasing later this year named "Catapult". Although it is designed to record onto an iPod you can also use USB hard drives in the front mounted pouch on the device. It should be particularly appealing to event based video makers for its 3 hr. capacity as well as ability to begin recording before you press the camera's start button.

No need now to delay buying a new camera because you're waiting for that tapeless system with Blue Ray disk or memory card. This under \$300 device will work with both DV camcorders (mini DV or Digital 8) or HDV camcorders.

For up-to-date info go to, <http://www.bella-sa.com/Catapult.htm>

BELLA CORPORATION INTRODUCES CATAPULT LAS VEGAS, NV, NAB 2006, April 24, 2006:

Bella Corporation, known for its innovative and award-winning video editing keyboards, today introduced its newest product: Catapult. Catapult is the world's first device to allow capture of video footage from DV or HDV video cameras directly to iPods or virtually any USB drive, and begin editing immediately. A battery powered device not much larger than a Blackberry, the Catapult eliminates the time consuming and tedious task of digitizing video footage.

Unlimited Storage

By offering a standard USB 2.0 connection, the Catapult has been designed to take advantage of many popular storage devices. With this in mind, the Catapult has a convenient piggy-back neoprene pouch



designed to hold an iPod or even a 2 1/2" USB drive. For those with greater storage needs, virtually any USB 2.0 drive system can be connected, including multiple terabyte systems.

Advanced Features Expand Functionality



Catapult adds exciting features to capturing digital video including time lapse and trigger-based events, as well as pre and post record functionality – all of which are impossible to achieve with standard tape-based recording methods.

Time Lapse Recording

The completely configurable Time Lapse feature allows the recording of frames of video at specific intervals. For example, recording only a few frames per minute would show a flower blooming, while a longer duration could be used to document building at a construction site.

Remote Trigger Allows More Freedom in Filming

The Catapult offers Remote Trigger Recording, which allows either a remote switch or a motion detector to trigger recording on the Catapult. This can be particularly useful in recording nature and wildlife events, and also for surveillance operations.

Pre & Post Record

Pre-record and Post-record settings are two of the most exciting features of Catapult. With the Pre-record setting, users can set Catapult to begin record-

ing for a preset amount of time prior to actually hitting the "record" button on the camera. This is feature is great for use with live action, such as sporting events allowing you to capture that winning point every time.

The Post-record setting is useful when used in conjunction with a remote trigger, such as a motion detector. For example, to record hummingbirds visiting a feeder, the motion sensor would prompt the Catapult to begin recording, and the Post-record feature would allow recording to continue for a predetermined amount of time.

Extended Recording Time

Utilizing built-in rechargeable batteries, the Catapult is capable of continuous recording in excess of three hours. The Catapult can also be powered with the included AC adaptor.



Easily Set Up With Presets Included

The Catapult can be configured using either a Windows or Macintosh computer. The Catapult "Configurator" allows you to save settings for up to four presets that can easily be accessed "in the field" on the Catapult.

Broad Compatibility

The Catapult is designed to work with DV and HDV format cameras that include a FireWire connection, such as those from Sony, Canon, JVC, and Panasonic.

Pricing and Availability

The Catapult will be available in the second half of 2006 and will be priced under \$300.

About Bella Corporation

Bella Corporation is focused on designing and producing innovative products for the consumer and broadcast video markets. The company is headquartered in Burbank, California. For more information about Bella Corporation, please visit www.Bella-USA ■

WHAT'S *New* NEW IN High Definition TV (part 6)

Those Little Extras

This is a Post Script to my articles on buying a High Definition TV. As I mentioned in my last article, I bought the 50" Sony KDF-E50A10 which retails for \$3,000, plus I splurged for the Sony Digital Video Recorder RDR-HX715, another \$1,000 and to get the best sound I upgraded my Receiver to a Sony DA1000ES, another \$500. Then you have to add the new cables and speaker wires.

This is an unexpected expense so follow this carefully. First you will want the Home Theatre Surge Protector for \$150 and just to have the best of everything buy a new Coaxial cable for the cable outlet to your TV, (\$20) then comes the HDMI cable, a must if you want to get the best picture from the DVD Recorder to the TV, (\$200). Now you will need an Optical cable to carry the audio from DVD Recorder to TV to your Receiver (\$60) plus a longer Optical cable to carry the audio from your TV to your receiver. (\$70)

By now you might think you are done after spending \$500 on cables, but remember I mentioned speaker wires. Well, you need the best ones you can afford to connect your receiver to your front speakers and the center speakers and something a little thinner to connect up your rear speakers.

I needed 15 feet of the best speaker wire at \$2 per foot for my front and center speakers (add \$30) and 40 feet of thinner speaker wire at 50 cents a foot for my rear speakers (add \$20).

No, you are not done yet! You can't just stick the bare speaker into the rear of your receiver and the five speakers. You will need Twist Crimp connectors at each end. So add another \$50 for these.

Are you getting the message yet? Oh, and don't forget to add PST and GST to all of these prices. And I haven't even mentioned getting a sub woofer for about \$500. I decided not to get one.

So when you go shopping for your new HDTV remember all the extras. This would be the time to convince the salesman that you want a discount on everything, as the mark-up on cables

and wires is high.

I should point out that I went for Monster cables as "everyone" said they are the best. They certainly are the most expensive. One alternative is to go to Netlink at www.ncix.com and buy the Belkin cables for about half the price.

I almost forgot, did I mention a TV Stand? You could buy the Sony model SURG11M especially designed for the 50" Grand Wega TV for about \$500 with taxes, or do what I did and go to IKEA for a TV cabinet for half the price.

Post Mortem

This is my Post Mortem on the joys and frustrations of buying into the HDTV format. So what lessons did I learn that may prove useful for our members to know about? The first decision I had to make was what kind of display would I buy; Plasma, LCD, or DLP? Sony made this choice for me. They have stopped making Plasma TVs and they never did make the DLP display. So it came down to a simple choice between LCD and LCD rear projection. Here again the choice was fairly simple, I wanted a big screen and the largest flat panel LCD Sony made was 40" at a cost of \$4,500 while the smallest LCD rear projection TV was 42" at a cost of \$2,500. I could even go up to a 50" LCD rear projection for \$3,000. So it all seemed like a no-brainer to me. I also discovered that if the flat panel LCD died in 5/10 years that was the end of it, while the LCD rear projection had a replaceable bulb at \$200 that would bring the LCD back to life.

If you are deciding which size of TV you want, remember this. If you are watching standard TV in the 4 x 3 format a 42" Wide screen with display it at the same size as a 32" screen. Well, I already had a 32" CRT, so there wasn't much benefit in that, so I went for the 50" LCD which would give me a 40" display if I was watching a 4 x 3 broadcast. I should point out that Sony TVs have a Wega Gate program which allows you to squish, stretch, zoom, or widen any display to fill the screen as you choose and you soon get used to the slightly "thin" or "fat" people on the screen! So my choice of the 50" TV has

been a big success, especially with my grandchildren. And watching DVD's is a real treat, seeing "Lawrence of Arabia" is even better than seeing it in a theatre!

I think my choice of getting the Digital Video recorder was a good one too. With a 160 GB hard drive I can record 33 hours in HQ (the same quality as a commercial DVD) 67 hours at SP mode (almost as good as a DVD) or 100 hours at LP (about the same quality as VHS) or 269 hours at SEP, which I have never done and assume it would be unwatchable! The DVR also has a dual-layer DVD recorder. This can record in HQ for 2 hours in HQ, 3 1/2 hours in SP, 5 1/2 hours in LP and 14 1/2 hours in SEP.

The DVR also has a TV Guide built in which lists all the TV programs on all channels for the next week. It's just a matter of clicking onto the program you want to record and voila! Another thing I like is the versatility of the DVR. You can watch a live TV program or play a DVD while the hard drive is recording another program. Best of all is "chasing playback". This is really useful when the program you want to watch has already started before you get home. Assuming you have set the DVD to record that program you can simply start watching the program from the beginning as the DVR continues recording the program in real time. Another feature I really like is the "next" button on the remote. When you get to the commercials you press the "next" button and the DVR skips over the commercials and resumes the program. Really useful when watching CBC as I think they have more commercials than any other channel. ■

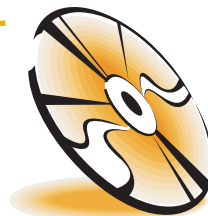
For feedback on this and other articles please contact Bryan Belfont at belfont@telus.net

This article adapted from REEL TALK of the Vancouver Video Production Club, with the permission of the author.

By Bryan Belfont



BURNING A COMPATIBLE DVD



Amateur video makers have had the capability of producing their own DVD's for about five years.

One of the penalties imposed by the competing technologies (-R/RW vs. +R/RW) has been the difficulty of finding the best combination of disk type, software and player to satisfy everyone who might be viewing the video.

You have probably made a DVD copy for a friend or relative only to discover that their particular player doesn't recognize the disk format. Or, you burned a disk for showing at your club meeting and had the same unpleasant experience. At the present time, we see an improvement over the earlier days.

DVD-R is compatible with about 83% of all players and DVD+R can now be played on about 79%. One major exception is set-top or standalone DVD "Recorder/Players". Many record and play back only one type of disk. This is related to license arrangements for the respective recording technology used.

But why do all the commercial DVD's and CD's you buy play in anybody's player almost without exception? That is because they are encoded during manufacture to a universal standard that all players recognize. This standard is referred to as "Book Type". The designation for read-only CD's (either music or data) is CD-ROM and the book type for purchased movies on DVD is DVD-ROM. The information which tells the player what kind of disk it is, is in the form of a four bit digital signal recorded at the beginning of the disk.

When writable disks came along, (CD-R, CD-RW etc.) additional four bit codes had to be introduced to instruct the player how to treat the disk. Early players, especially CD players in cars, could not always respond to the code for the newer disk formats. And of course when DVD was introduced, new

codes had to be assigned for the competing types, DVD-R/RW and DVD+R/RW. And once again we struggled to choose disks which would play back in the machines of our choice. When the dual layer DVD's are included, that means six new four digit codes for our players to recognize.

CHANGING THE BOOK TYPE

But there is a way to get around this dilemma. Newer DVD burners have the ability to re-write the instructions on some disks to mimic the code for commercial disks. In other words, a DVD+R/RW can have instructions re-written to identify the disk as a DVD-ROM! The player thinks it is looking at a "store-bought" disk.

The limitations are that only certain models of burner have the necessary firmware installed and only DVD+R/RW disks can be altered. By way of background, the problem with CD-R/RW and DVD-R/RW disks is that the book type code on those disks is physically embossed onto the disk and cannot be changed. This was part of an early attempt to make it difficult to copy commercial disks but I'm not sure how it was supposed to achieve that. The following will explain what is needed to take advantage of this technique.

GETTING STARTED

Does my burner work? There is no point in proceeding if your burner (DVD-R/W drive) settings cannot be changed. This is the first question you have to answer. Unfortunately there is not a comprehensive list of applicable burners available but there are several sources you can browse. The most complete is www.videohelp.com. You can scan for your burner and check the details as displayed at the bottom of this page.

If 'BitSetting' is indicated under the "Connection, Buffer, Bit" column, then

changing the "Book Type" (i.e. changing the bit setting) by Thom Speechley may be possible on that drive. There is a disclaimer however, which states that the information is as complete as possible but since site visitors provide most of the data, they recommend that you verify this information with the manufacturer of the drive.

There are other useful clues available from several sites and forums, listed below. These include reader experiences, data regarding the "firmware" (chipset) used on the drive and other information to help determine the status of your particular burner.


BIT SETTING SOFTWARE

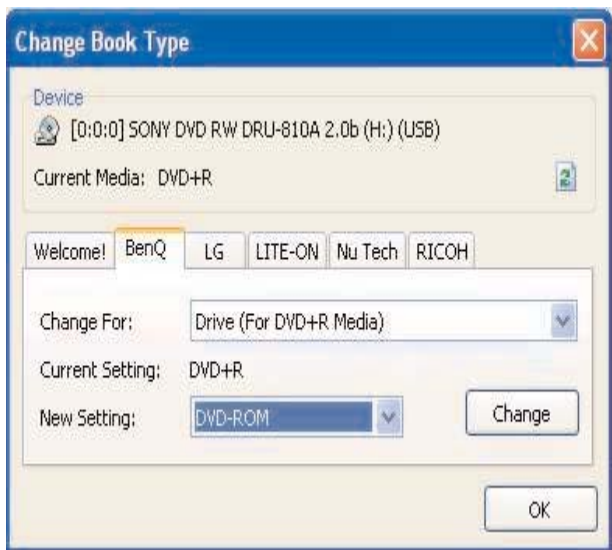
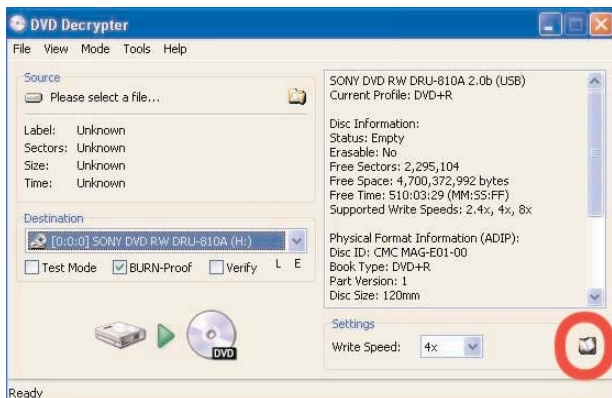
Some DVD burning programs such as "Nero Xpress" and "Nero Burning ROM" have such a utility as part of their package. However the utility is applicable to only Ricoh based burners. Manufacturers such as BenQ and HP offer such programs which can be downloaded from their websites but they are specific to burners made by those companies. Some of the links at the end of this article reference other sources. I use a free download called "DVD Decryptor". It has options for several brands of burner.

A QUICK TEST

The best way to determine if your burner can be tweaked is to install and run a bit setting program. With DVD Decryptor, place a DVD+R disk in your burner drive and open the program. Click the small 'book' icon in the lower right hand corner.

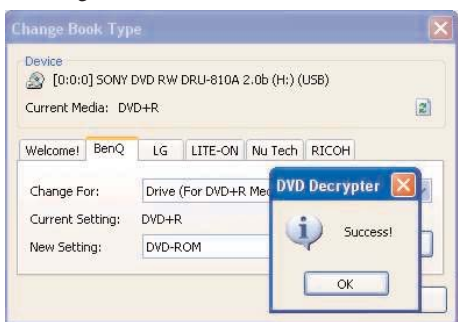
A burner selection page opens. From your previous research, select the tab for the product you believe applies to your burner. For example, my Sony burner is not listed here but I know that

DVD Writer ▼	Write support CDR/W,DVD+R/W/RAM		Read speed	Connection Buffer, Bit	Price ▼ Best	Rating ▼ Comments ▼
HP DVD Movie Writer DC3000  OEM: Philips or NEC Chipset: Philips? or NEC	16xCDR CLV 10xCDRW CLV	DVD-R DVD-RW DVD-RDL 4xDVD+R CLV 2.4xDVD+RW CLV DVD+RDL DVD-RAM	40xCD 12xDVD	USB2, Integrated Video Capture, 2MB BitSetting More info TECHNICAL	\$400	0.0 (9.0) 3 votes Read 3 comments (2112 views) Add comment



the operating chip is made by BenQ. I select that tab and follow the rest of the instructions.

After you have selected DVD+R as the disk you are using and then DVD-ROM for the new bit setting, click the "Change" button.



If you have a match, you will see the flag "Success". Otherwise it will indicate "Unknown (Failed)"

If you try all the tabs and still do not have 'success', it's probably safe to assume your burner will not support bit setting. However you could try some of the other bit setting programs.

With the Sony DRX 810UL, once set with "DVD Decrypter", the burner setting defaults to DVD-ROM as soon as a DVD+R disk is inserted. I assume that

it works this way with all burners but with other burners and bit setting programs it may be necessary to reset or at least recheck each time you burn.

READY TO BURN

If you have successfully re-set you burner, you can now proceed, using your existing software, to author and burn the disk. It might be advisable to go through the bit setting exercise each time you burn a disk, until you are confident that the setting "sticks". You can do this simply by "pausing" your authoring step long enough to invoke the bit setting, and then resuming the burning step. If you want to experiment with other settings or software, or if you want to back up your production before burning, you can save your video to your hard drive as the final step in your authoring program. Most burning software offers this option. This is

the facility to bit set as well as excellent burning features, I use that program for this final step.

GOOD LUCK!

It may seem like a lot of bother to get this far but I believe that this procedure will be very useful to most people producing their own videos. I have spent much of the past few weeks carrying about a test disk prepared as described above. I visited several electronics stores and annoyed a few clerks by asking them to play the disk in players rated to play only DVD-R disks. Many were frankly amazed when the disk played successfully in all but ONE model, a 2006 Panasonic DVDS29. (That's a 970 batting average.) I hope to test that machine again in another store. Here is the complete list of successful test players.

LG LDA530, NewImage AT2003, Koss ?, Toshiba SD1600, Toshiba SD1800, Toshiba RDXS52 (recorder), Toshiba SD3990, Cambridge DVD300, Cambridge 540F, Polaroid (portable) PDV700, Daytek DVR P30 (recorder), Koss KD260, Cyberhome CH-DVD300, Pioneer DV343, Pioneer DV285, Initial (portable) DVD9510, Apex AD1200, Nova Digital 411V1, Samsung P240, Philips DVP642, Sony DVD NS85P ■

the final page for Adobe "Premier Elements". You 'burn' to a folder rather than a disk.

BURNING THE DVD IMAGE

Depending upon how you saved the image file, you will now have your production in the form of ISO or VIDEO_TS. Your regular burning program should be able to recognize either or both of these formats after you are satisfied that you have successfully re-set the burner to DVD-ROM. Since "DVD Decrypter" has both



LINKS These are all excellent sources to not only help you understand the concept but to locate download sites for applicable software. Oh! Yes. I have included the Mac folks.
<http://www.k-probe.com/bitsetting-booktype-faq.php> Start here!
<http://www.videohelp.com/dvdwriters> Much more on DVD and video
<http://www.signvideo.com/btst-d.htm> Good description with helpful links
<http://www.dvdplusrw.org/> Another good description of the process
<http://www.plak.net/dvdplustool> Free bit setting tool for Mac OS X users
<http://www.creativecow.net/> Useful forum for Mac users
<http://forum.digital-digest.com/> Forum covering many topics
<http://www.booktypefaq.com/> Tutorial for bitsetting with Nero
<http://www.mrbass.org/dvdrip/> Link for downloading DVD Decrypter



by
Sam Spence

Digital camcorders and cameras have now been around for several years and anyone who is still stuck in the film age had better up and get with the present. In fact, I have heard it referred to as "film-less technology". I like that name. It gives the technology a more human feeling. It now seems that just about everyone has a digital camera or something digital such as DVD players, voice recorders or MP3 players so we are already embracing the technology in our own way. Many businesses have already embraced the technology and now find the digital camera has become an integral part of doing business.

The small sized cameras now come in encourage you to walk with it in your pocket or handbag and because of the instant viewing of your effort, there is no hesitation in snapping more pictures. Don't like that shot? Just hit erase!

But all the above is now old information to most of us, and at this stage we will not be repeating the obvious. What I would like to discuss briefly is the methods in which we preserve the images we do capture and want to keep, if not forever, at least a few years.



Memory Cards

We could keep buying memory sticks, smart-media cards, compact-flash cards or even floppies. Anything that fits our camera and as it fills up, we buy another. After all, this is what we use to do with film. That is, the roll is finished; we buy another, and hopefully save the processed negatives somewhere. The more organized of us will have those sleeves well labeled with the dates, and even a brief description of what's on those strips. Or, as I usually do, I throw them in a drawer to get around to one rainy day.

Since the various storage cards don't give too much room for labeling, we

CD Labeling Methods

could possibly keep them in a special folder, along with a written description of what's on each card. Good luck: mine are in the same drawer as the film strips.



Hard Drives

Many of us simply create a folder on our computer, which would then contain subfolders of each download from our memory card. This way, we can keep reusing the same card over and over. This method shows an excellent grasp of fiscal management procedures.

I have also used this method myself using the date and a very brief description in the name of the subfolder to jog my memory on the contents. I find nowadays that my memory needs more jogging than before, but that's another story.



CD/DVD

What many of us do is simply copy to a CD, or nowadays, a DVD disc, and then label the disc and again throw it in a drawer somewhere. Sorry, that's my method, i.e. throwing it in a drawer and waiting for that rainy day to arrive.

Finally, after all that rambling I have finally reached the topic this article is all about. How do we actually label our CD's?

There are several different methods for labeling CD's ranging from handwriting, adhesive labels and now even printers that will print directly on the disc. We will take a very brief look at some of these methods and hopefully generate some discussion about them.



Hand Writing

Write on the top surface of the disc. This is the laziest, simplest and quickest method. I would even suspect that it is the method used by the majority of those of us who copy to disc. Of course with every method used, we have to take due care. For instant, it is recommended by some (not sure who) that we should only use a soft fibre or felt-tipped perma-

nent marker. We are also reminded that some of the solvents used in these markers can eventually damage the disc.

We should also avoid using ball-point pens, pencils or other sharp instruments. Unfortunately, whenever you are ready to label that fresh CD, only those sharp instruments are around, so guess what.

Of course, now with the introduction of double-sided discs we no longer even have a full top surface to write on. Suddenly we are restricted to a small area (hub) just outside the hole in the CD. Doesn't this remind you of the area available on the memory card?



Labels

The most attractive way is to buy one of those "Stomper" CD labeling system. Usually, it's a complete kit that includes labels for the CD, center labels, jewel case labels and inserts. Along with the kit is the software for designing the labels on the computer and finally the "Stomper" or a positioning device for applying them perfectly centered on the CD disc.

I have used the Stomper to apply my labels and it's almost foolproof. Just remember to apply the label to the correct side of the CD. Don't laugh, it can happen to any one of us.

I recently got a CD from a friend where he tried to apply the label to the CD without using a Stomper. I could see where he missed the hole and had to trim off the "hang-over" with a razor blade.

Apparently, if the label is not properly centered it can potentially upset the balance of the disc. This can result in excessive noise, vibration and even data retrieval problems. Now you know why you shouldn't use those stamp size labels that are just on one side of the disc. It's a balance problem.

Proper storage of the CD is also very important once the label is applied. In fact, some manufactures of CD/DVD drives warn customers

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NEW ADDITIONS TO THE SCCA MUSIC LIBRARY

The SCCA has added three more CD's of Buyout Music to our Library for the use of our members.

No big collection here – just three CD's with some unique music.

The first is Acoustic by Big Dog Music Design.

big dog music design 

Big Dog Music Design is a company in Los Angeles and Chicago that produces original custom music for clients for their use in films, television, and commercials, and you can read about the company at their web site <http://bigdogmusicdesign.com/>. Without even inquiring, you know that service is beyond our budgets, but they also produce a "Custom Collection" of 7 CD's of Buyout Music for US\$225.00 or \$49.99 each. Most of this music (with the titles *Electronica*, *Ethnic*, *Jazz*, *Rock*, *Rockslide*, *Guitar Textures* and *TV Muse* – TV/Film 'Scapes') would probably not be suitable for most of the videos that most of us make most of the time, but there is one among them, *Acoustic*, that would be likely to fit into more of our productions, and that's the one the SCCA has purchased.



Most of this music is acoustic guitar with a percussion rhythm section, but there are five tracks that are very short pieces, guitar only, for transitions.

There isn't any point in describing this CD any further, because if you visit the site (now, or later when you are actually looking for some music) and click on *Custom Library*, and then on *Acoustic*, you can see a complete list of the 23 tracks on this CD, with a short description of the music and the playing time for each, and clicking on the titles will give you an opportunity to hear a sample of each track in MP3 quality. The music files on the CD are standard CDA, or CD Audio.

The other two CD's this month are something else again! Titled *Prime Cuts! Vol. A* and *Vol. B*, these two CD's, by GBA Music of Las Vegas, has a website, <http://gbamusic.com>, that features a chance to audition samples of every track on the CD's, but this music is more fully orchestrated than the Acoustic CD described above. Each Prime Cut CD contains 11 or 12 Full Length Themes, varying from 2:23 to 4:45, with additional 59 and 29 second versions. To quote from the web site, "The 59 and 29 second versions are not the typical down and dirty hard edits. Instead, the music is composed, and sometimes the tempo is slightly changed to fit the 59 and the 29 second lengths."

We also feature separate recordings of the elements that would be useable to a client: Openings, endings, stings, bumpers, tags, beds (no melody) and loops (no melody). Sound effects and percussion instruments are also recorded separately for many of the compositions.

In addition to all of this, each CD is

topped off with a "Misc. Good Stuff" section. These are short compositions we produced from 29 seconds to a little over a minute. As you will see and hear, "Misc. Good Stuff" covers a large cross section of genres."

On this site the tracks are not only described, timed, and available for you to hear samples, (click on Music Library Audio CD's and then on



Contents/Demo for either Vol.) but they may also be bought and downloaded individually, priced at US\$9.95, \$14.95, and \$19.95 for the 29 second, 59 second, and full length version respectively. The Stings, Tags, Loops Beds, and other Elements are only available on the CD's, which they sell for US\$29.00 each.

These 3 CD's (only 2 at a time) are available now to our Members in Good Standing with a Music Library Deposit of \$25 on the same terms as for the other CD's: a lending period up to 35 days, borrower reimburses the Library for the shipping, and prepays shipping back to the Library. See Page 13 in the Winter 2003 PANORAMA, and earlier issues referenced there, for full details, or contact us at scca@canada.com. And remember, if you no longer have the back issues of PANORAMA, you can find them on our web site at <http://s-c-c-a.ca>. ■

their next how to video.

However If you would rather watch VideoMaker or Photoshop TV rather than the instruction from The French Maids, then simply type VideoMaker or Photoshop into the window in the upper right hand corner labeled Search Music Store, and you'll be brought to the page to subscribe to that show.

Should you be inclined to produce a show that The French Maids might be interested in subscribing to have a look at their 1st show "How To Video Podcast".

PS: At the Vancouver Video Production Club's April 29 meeting, I did a short presentation on Podcasts. I transferred 3 short Podcasts to DVD so that members who had never seen a Podcast before would have an idea of what they were missing out on.

The first Podcast, or Vlog as they are also known, was an episode from the mother of all Vlogs, Peter Jackson's "King Kong Diaries" these were posted daily over a 14-month period while the film was in production, to fans eagerly awaiting the film's release. Weekly digests of the last 32 weeks before the films release can still be seen on Jackson's web site <http://www.kongisking.net/kong2005/proddiary/>

The second Podcast was episode 26 of Izzy Video "Exits and Entrances". This is a very well done ongoing series showing the tricks of the trade to make better amateur video productions. Other episodes include "The Rule of Thirds", "Depth of Field" and "Continuity". It's listed in iTunes Video Podcast section.

The third Podcast was from Ripple Training's Ripplecast series of Podcasts. The episode I showed was "To Vlog or not to Vlog". This Podcast gives you all the info you need to get your own Podcasts on the web and hosted for free.

Podcasts at the moment are the passion of video makers in the 15 to 35 year age range and naturally the content reflects mainly their interests. This will change over time. At the moment all the major TV networks are exploring how they can become involved in this phenomena as many see it as the successor to cable television. Young people like it because it is an interactive medium unlike broadcast television. Advertisers like it because they are able to do a soft sell to an audience that has a direct interest in their product. Photoshop TV is becoming a very slick production as a result of the sponsors it has picked up.

Podcasting seems to me a natural medium for an exchange of information on what amateur video clubs are doing. I think it could bring about a renewed interest in young people becoming members of their local video production club. Also for older video makers who may be concerned that folks might not be interested in turning up to see your film at a convention, I think the contrary would be the case: you would be a celebrity whose productions people admired and they would attend for the privilege of meeting you in person.

Happy Podcasting. ■

This article adapted from REEL TALK of the Vancouver Video Production Club, with the permission of the author.

ting) upon the shoulders of giants, and so able to see more and see farther than the ancients." And the more you know, the farther you can see, and the more opportunities there are for new ideas.

Another old axiom is "Necessity is the mother of invention", and this is quite true, though it doesn't have much relevance to artistic creativity. Or does it?

And how is any of this practical?

We make movies. It used to be on film, and now its on video (and an awful lot easier), but the big problem still remains "Creativity". Some of us make travel films, or documentaries, or tone poems, or whatever, but what we really want to do is make good entertaining story videos.

And that's the rub, because most of us aren't "creative". We can't come up with a story, a script, or even a good idea. Is there any solution?

There sure is!

When I was in High School, and Elvis was just getting started, one of my friends was moping around looking like a sick hound dog. When I asked him what the matter was, he told me that he had an assignment to write a composition in class, and after half an hour the teacher came around to each desk to see how they were all doing. All he had was a title: "Girls, Girls, Girls". I guess that was all he ever thought of at that age. Anyway, the teacher told him that he had to finish that composition by 4:00 PM or he would get a detention. And he was still coming up dry!

In less than 5 minutes I had the whole story for him! All I had was a challenge, a subject, a title, an inspiration, a need for an invention. Yet, just like most of us, when asked to write a script, a story, or make a video, with no requirement attached, I can't come up with anything!

And that's why I keep pushing the one Assigned Subject, the Intercities Trophy, in the SCCA Annual Competition. And because there's nothing more fun in movie making than making an entertaining scenario film, especially when you work with a group!

So, aside from the Assigned Subject Contest, the first thing you need is some kind of inspiration!

I was driving down the street one day and noticed that there was a Pet Hospital just a block or two from a regular Hospital, and suddenly I had an idea: why not have a woman, apparently pregnant and in labour, being driven to the hospital and go right past it, enter the Pet Hospital, and "deliver" her pet for treatment? How would I do it?

The pet should be under her coat so she looks pregnant. If she has to wear a coat, maybe it should be winter. If it's winter, maybe the car could be stuck in snow, and the husband makes her push the car! The ideas started flowing, and kept flowing during the shoot. She didn't have to push the car. Just let the audience think the husband was bringing her out of the car around to the back to push it, but all he wants is for her to sit on the trunk to give him more traction!

The only problem was finding the right pet. I kept think-

Continued on page 19

ing of the story of the little Spartan boy who had a poached fox under his shirt, and let the fox gnaw on his internal organs rather than let the owner of the fox catch him with it, and wondering what animal would be safe. Animals can be difficult to work with! It had to be about so big ...

A big fish bowl! With a brightly coloured red or blue Beta. They don't need aeration! And the round fish bowl is perfect!

How do we solve problems?

I'm a big believer in working backwards from where we want to be to where we are. When I was young enough to read comic books, they often had a puzzle page, with a maze. I soon reasoned that the mazes were difficult because that was the way they were designed; difficult to get to the center end point from the outside starting point. So, I used to start at the Goal and work back to the Start! And it still works!

If I'm looking for a route from A to B, I start at B and ask myself "Where would it be easy to get there from?" (Please pardon the poor grammar!)

This is very akin to the "black box"

Continued on page 20

against using adhesive labels because they claim, the adhesive label could delaminate and damage the drive. Heat, humidity, clumsy handling and even sunlight can affect the labels resulting in the label separating from the disc. On separating, it can take with it a piece of the disc's protective cover resulting in; you guessed it, loss of data.

If the data you copied to the disc is super important, remember that some of the adhesive used on some labels can eventually react with and damage the disc. This is compared to when framing a really important photograph we should make sure that the backing we use is "acid free": otherwise we will eventually see those brown spots appearing. When applying the label and trying to get out the air-bubbles, please do not press too hard. This could possibly cause stresses that can damage the disc.



Inkjet Printers

This technology has been around a long time. Everyone with a computer at home most likely has an inkjet printer. They sometimes even give them away free with the pur-

chase of bubble gum. Anything so you can start buying the ink. That's where the money is made.

An inkjet actually sprays ink from a print head onto the paper or other medium. Recently, they have started making inkjet printable CD's. These CD's have an extra coating called an Ink Absorption Layer (IAL). This layer allows the ink to remain in place until it dries. You can apparently print high-resolution full colour images on the surface.

Of course there is a down side to everything. High humidity or damp fingers can smudge these labels. They shouldn't be stored in or shipped in flexible plastic envelopes as the chemicals required to keep the package material supple can interact with the ink causing the label to stick to the sleeve. Storage of these in a jewel case is the best method.



Summary

So what have we learnt? Continue to use whatever of the above methods mentioned, but be aware of the consequences. ■

This article adapted from Shots&Angles of the Toronto Film and Video Club, with the permission of the author.

MEMBERSHIP FEES; June 1st 2006 to May 31st, 2007

Class "A" (voting)

GROUP Membership	.....(Clubs)	\$.075 per member -- Min. \$20	_____ members on April 30, 2006
INDIVIDUAL Membership	...(Repeat)	\$ 30.00 per year	
	(First time ever) ..	\$ 20.00 first year only	
FAMILY Membership	.....(Repeat)	\$ 35.00 per year	
	(First time ever) ..	\$ 25.00 first year only	
LIFE Membership	.....	\$ 600.00	
SUSTAINING Membership	...donation of	\$ 100.00 per year or more	(Tax receipts issued
PATRON of the SCCA	.....donation of	\$ 500.00 per year or more	for all donations)

Class "B" (non-voting)

STUDENT Membership	.....	\$ 15.00 per year	Age_____ School _____
ORGANIZATIONAL Membership	.....	\$ 30.00 per year	
INDUSTRIAL Membership	.....	\$ 50.00 per year	
<u>Special Donation to SCCA</u>	.....	\$ ???.00	(Tax receipts issued for ALL donations)

solution. When solving a technical problem I often say "It would be easy to do that if I just had a black box that would do this. And it would be easy to build that black box if I just had another black box that would do this." Until suddenly I have carried it to the point at which I can say "Wait a minute. I can build that black box!" That isn't theory. I've solved several technical problems that way.

But going back to film making ... We once were making a club project, and one of the members had written a very basic plot outline. It was my job to make it into a shooting script.

First, I analyzed what I would need to make the story work. And once I had identified the necessities, the inventions just flowed. The "hero" was

going to get his comeuppance at the end so the audience mustn't have any sympathy for him. I constructed a number of personality characteristics for him so the audience would grow to dislike him as the story unfolded. One of the characteristics was his chauvinism towards his wife, so I made his wife sympathetic. There were jokes all the way through the film, and they all contributed to our dislike of him, and our sympathy for his long suffering wife.

I remember being taught in school about writing - a strong opening paragraph, a strong middle, and a strong closing paragraph, and for each paragraph, a strong opening sentence, a strong middle, and a strong closing sentence, so that's what I did. Except it was worded differently!

To be continued in the Next Issue.

The Last Word...

I've just had a look at what Fred Briggs is up to in this issue. I certainly envy his energy. But I'm not ready to compete. We in Caledonia have been in too much limelight.

We need to slide back into oblivion. We need to be again the quiet place, where everything is under control, where the river is calm, and so are the people.

The birds are building. The geese have already brought a string of young goslings up to our part of the river. The fish are leaping out of the water, daring us to catch them. This Spring the water came up over our lawn, and for the first time stayed for several days. Now everything is back to normal. We just hope it stays that way.

I hope that everyone who suffered in the chilly days of winter are feeling renewed by Spring's promise of good weather --- and good times --- to come. Get out your camera and notebook and take on this fresh new warm weather. Just watch out for sunburn! ■

Joan Bochsler, Editor.



2006 - 2007 Membership Fees
are Due June 1st
SCCA Annual Competition
Closing Date June 15th
Entry Forms and Competition
Rules available at
<http://s-c-c-a.ca>

SCCA Annual General Meeting
Presentation of Winning
Contest Videos & Awards
Friday, September 22, 2006
Former Stoney Creek City Hall
Stoney Creek, ON

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL

MEMBER INFORMATION *Please print clearly*

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Classification

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