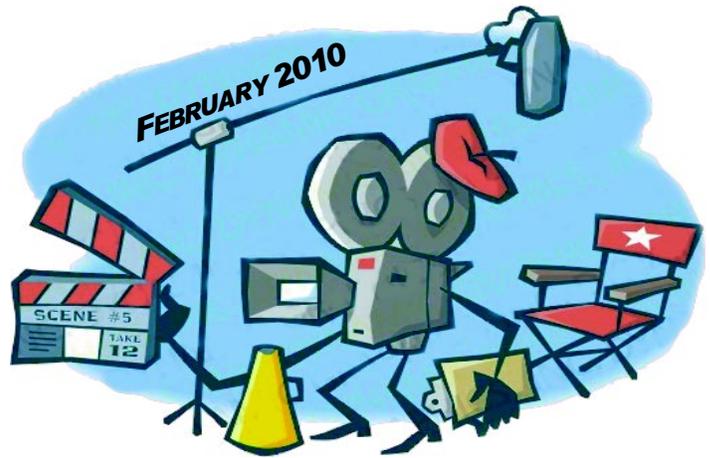


REEL NEWS

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Tel: 905-662-4406 • Check our Website at hvfm.ca



A NEW START - A NEW LOOK

January. The fresh start to a new year. Dan Copeland (*and a little bit of JR*) equals a new look to the meetings of the Hamilton Video/Film makers. Dan “the Man” (*and the club president*) started off the meeting with a loud bang, actually a loud amount of feedback, when the microphone volume was set too high. Dan, instead of using the normal club mic with the provided stand, brought in a wireless version so he could wander around the room without the hinderance of being tethered to the amplifier. I am not sure if that was to enable him to run quickly from the building in the event that things did not go well or just to allow him to get to the crowd who sit in the cheap seats furthest from the screen and are rarely heard from.

Anyway it worked and the meeting got going right away with an update from Dan on the clubs proposal to purchase a new High Definition player and projection system. He provided the group with details of what he had researched and the names of two or three models that were worthy of further exploration. It was decided



Dan Copeland is deep in thought wondering how his first program for 2010 is going to turn out.

to go with a Sony Playstation as the blu-ray player as it offers excellent quality and has several other attributes that do not exist in a normal stand alone player.

We were looking for a top quality unit at a reasonable price with a good lens, good picture, easy to service and easy to use. I thought that it should also make coffee, but Carolyn thought that was going overboard and she would continue to make the coffee in the old fashioned way. It was also important that all of the appropriate inputs were available for use under variable conditions. You will have to go to the end of the newsletter to see the model that was purchased and details about it... but not now, read the rest first.

A spirited discussion also dealt with the qualities of a High Definition screen, but it was decided to stick with the one we currently have until it dies of old age. You would be surprised at the number of people who are not aware that when you go HD projection you also need a better scenen. Many people were seen at the break gently caressing the current screen and I am sure that I heard some moans coming from that end of the room.



Jim Small tries to get a DVD loaded in the player.

**Meetings held the first Thursday every month at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall
12 King St. E., Stoney Creek • Videomaking Basics – 7:00 p.m., Regular Meeting – 7:30 p.m.**

So now, this means that those members who have not brought in work because our equipment (*in their opinion*) was not of a high enough quality no longer have an excuse. And by the way, only paid up members can show their work at the club. Make sure that you have your membership up to date. I am looking forward to work from those who shall be nameless (*but it sounds like Yon Look and Gorge Wrhoola*) and a probable discussion as to whether their productions are merely HD technical exercises or content driven productions. Stay tuned.

We were sorry to see that Les Carter was not with us this particular evening, but we were also glad he was not there. Les was suffering from a bad cold/flu/alien space sickness and was thoughtful enough to not want to give it to the rest of us which made us all happy. We look forward to seeing him in his usual spot next month cause nobody sells 50/50 tickets and entertains like Les does. Everyone was also very pleased to see the return of Ralph Trouten to the fold after a minor medical setback last month. Ralph has a very important job at the club in running the annual general meeting as well as persuading members to run for the executive and President positions. The doctors have been warned to keep Ralph going for several more years until a replacement can be found and trained.

Our first film showing of the night garnered more under the breath comments than out loud responses due to its content. **“The Wedding Reception”** by Jack Simpson started out in Black & White and I thought had a nice quality to it until the cord was reconnected correctly and we got the image in that glorious orange hue that permeates productions that are shot indoors without proper white balance or extraneous powerful light sources. At 16 minutes in length we got to see more than we wanted to. Understanding the difference between productions meant for a family showing and a club showing is very important. Your mother, brother, dog, neighbour, new car or whatever may be interesting to you and your relatives, but please bring a much shorter tighter edited version to the club. Weddings,

birthdays, family parties and pool outings are meant for just that, families. Maybe at a future meeting a discussion on this will be generated by the club members.

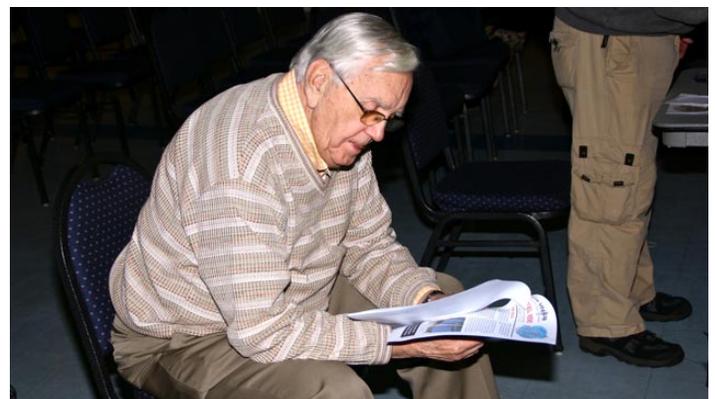
Second up was **“Signs of San Pedro”** by Rick Doelle. At two minutes this was a compilation of humorous and interesting signs hanging from roofs, walls and trees in Belize. Some required quick reading, but it is apparent to me that Rick did this so he got away with another production without narration. Your time will come, Rick.

“Mr. Potato Head” was a one minute ten second stop action animation of about 300 images by Johnathan Garfield. JR is experimenting with stop action at the moment and this is his first step in a possible series of productions with maybe interesting characters and a new look. JR does love to experiment and learn (*how to talk slower*).... a trait that some others in the club may wish to emulate some day. Reading and asking questions about things is nowhere near as much fun as actually doing it. Remember, a fear of failure is also a fear of success.

Next up was a lesson for all club members and videographers. But, you say, **“Polar Bear Dip”** was just a video record of idiots in bathing suits and other costumes and contraptions running into a freezing cold Lake Ontario at about noon on New Years Day 2010 with a bit of music and public announcement dialogue. Anyone would have to be a fool to do that... or interested in helping raise thousands of dollars for charity. The real lesson for club members is that Manfred Ernst went out with his camera in the COLD and got lots of shots. And his camera did not break. It did not freeze up. You can do things in the winter in Canada outside of the house and your equipment will take it.... well at least the electronic equipment will. There is no excuse to not be outside shooting winter scenes. Manfred got lots of shots of the swimmers (*or runners - in & out*) and in fact there were so many entrants this year that they had to let them into the water in three waves. Waves... get it. The production was six minutes long, but the cold lingered.



JR is astounded by Ingelberts jacket and wants to know where he can get one.



Ken Davy is deeply engrossed in the latest newsletter cause he forgot to read it at home on his computer.

Fifth movie of the night (14 minutes) was one we have seen before, but this time Harold Cosgrove re-edited the introduction to the film to put the main portion of it, in context. Titled **“King of Queens - A Conversation with Pam”** it now showed Pam Gilmore in her professional roll on a television sitcom. It put her in context of her work and skill and gave her authenticity when she talked about actors in amateur clubs. Harold then asked how clubs could make use of the information and she pointed out that when you are looking for good actors for one of your movies, make use of school clubs and amateur theatre to have readings in order to evaluate how good the wannabes are. There was a comment or two from the audience about using copyright material in a production. The basic rule for most film festivals is, copyright material must be credited or the film is disqualified. This rule also applies to the annual HV/FM contest entries.

The next half hour was the coffee break period which included lots of good conversation, questions asked & answered and once again Agnes Houston won the 50/50 draw.

The second half started with **“Lamplighter Short”**, a six minute docudrama interview with members of the Lamplighter theatre group as they prepared for a presentation in the Ball Falls Conservation Area barn. The production by Dan Copeland showed the history actors as they present plays in various historical houses in the Niagara Penninsula. It provided information, context, history and may have raised interest in a couple of members to attend a session.

Number seven was **“Summer Waterfront”**, a four minute short by future member Ingelbert Lievaart II.



(L to R) - John Cook, Jon Soyka and George Gerula (back to camera) discuss their HD differences while visitor Adrian van Halderan looks on thinking “These guys are nuts”.

It included shots of the Hamilton waterfront, tugs, skyline, fisherman and even Ingelbert himself. He shot it using an old camera that Dan Copeland did not want and had given to Ingelbert. However the hit of the night was how he had taken this unwanted unit and turned it into a digital recorder with a Pinnacle Capture Device for \$79.95 and a \$60.00 capture card. Ingelbert showed and explained the set-up to the audience and answered many questions about it. Fred Briggs, who has somewhere in the region of 7.98 billion film/video cameras in his house (*that is Carolyns estimate*) was as excited as he probably was on his wedding night at the thought of getting some of these old boat anchors to record digitally. Within hours Fred had ordered the necessary parts from a retailer in Burlington and was anxiously awaiting their arrival. Expect a full detailed write up in a future issue of the SCCA Panorama.

Numbers eight and nine were a couple of shorts taken from the movieola channel and gave everyone a good laugh. They were **“How to Make a Canadian Film”** and **“Shelf Life”**.

Does anyone remember the term - Stonestone News? Well, the night ended off with a replay of the Stonestone News 1985 SCCA Annual Convention promo film. It was shot by Eckhard Kries mainly, but included Jim Small and the shot everyone enjoyed, Fred Briggs climbing into a waste can in Gore Park and trying to grab one of the passing girl singers. Jim Small shot the promo and transferred it from Super 8mm film to DVD.

At 10:15 p.m. the lights were turned on, the chairs put away, and the equipment packed up. The reprobrates went over to Crabby Joes for nourishment and everyone else went home, at least that is what they say they did.



Ingelbert Lievaart II (L) shows Fred Briggs how his homemade camera recorder works while everyone else in the room backs away as they expect a nuclear design explosion if the two sweaters should happen to touch each other.

THE SHORTEST MEETING OF THE YEAR OR JUST THE SHORTEST MONTH?

The February program will be run by Nestor Rosa (or Dan if there is more than 27 meters of snow between Hamilton and Simcoe on February 4th) with Evelyn Rosa promising not to heckle too much. We plan to have a guest speaker as well as hope for a total lack of snow and cold weather. Steven Passmore from Grimsby is the intended guinea pig for the evening and has been invited to stand before us and explain what he does, why he does it and how he does it along with possibly his director Bill Reilly. Oh yeah, he is an independent film maker and just like us he works at the "Microbudget" level (no studio involvement, no grants). Final touches are being put on his "Nickle" production as we read this, but I am sure all will be complete in time.

Bring your own productions as well (even in HD) and we should be in for a great evening.

Les Carter will sell 50/50 tickets, Carolyn & Agnes will make the coffee and bring the treats, Manfred Ernst will take more great fly on the wall photos, Jon Soyka will write his newsletter notes, Ralph Trouten will chase members to join the executive and heaven knows what else will happen. Be there and experience the event.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL GOOD MEN AND WOMEN -

Each year Ralph Trouten asks every paid up club member if they would like to run for a position on the HV/FM executive. Every time there is someone who says . . . I'm too busy this year . . . I don't have anything to offer . . . nobody listens to me . . . I won't know what to do

. . . I should do it, but I am not sure . . . and, my favourite, "maybe next year . . .". Well next year is here. Now. The executive does not replace every member - just three of the nine - which means there are always experienced people to learn from. You get to see the Briggs Film Emporium, Carolyn makes treats and coffee, etc., and you help YOUR club grow.

This year talk to Ralph at one of the regular meetings or call and leave a message on his answering machine at **905-385-5127** and tell him that you are interested in running for a position on the executive (*no email address is available*). You can also nominate another member, but remember that you must have their permission first.

If you are worried about not being successful and you would find that embarrassing, then remember, "*In any moment of decision the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing.*" — **Theodore Roosevelt**,

"*Apply yourself. Get all the education you can, but then, by God, do something. Don't just stand there - make it happen.*" — **Lee Iacocca**

"*Courage is doing what you're afraid to do. There can be no courage unless you're scared.*" — **Eddie Rickenbacker**

"*Service is the rent we pay for being. It is the very purpose of life, and not something you do in your spare time.*" — **Marian Wright Edelman**

"*We are here to add what we can to life, not to get what we can from life.*" — **Sir William Osler**



Visitor Adrian van Halderan grins knowing "these guys are nuts" as he watches Fred Briggs (left), unaware he forgot the microphone, try to interview Ralph Trouten (right).



Evelyn Rosa (left) and Ralph Trouten (right) watch Nestor Rosa, with eyes closed, as he tries to count to five using the fingers of both hands.

A REQUEST FROM JOHNATHAN GARFIELD -

I am seeking 2 paid up club members to ASSIST me in the PRODUCTION phase of a short movie that I will begin shooting in Mid February. The production has to be complete in time to be entered into the year end awards. This is a volunteer position. There is no pay, but a credit as an assistant in the film.

The following is what is expected of the assistants:

- 1) their own transportation to and from the Westdale area in West Hamilton
- 2) be available for long periods of time (weekdays, nights and weekends when their available)
- 3) extreme amount of patience
- 4) ability to take direction well
- 5) appreciate attention to detail
- 6) loves the production phase of filmmaking

I will be providing the essential foods and drinks that are required (water, coffee, tea, juice...) Although the ideal candidates will not be needed every day of production, they will need to be able to keep their word when they commit to any given day(s). This position best suits individuals who have little or no experience in filmmaking and would love to get experience. There is no lifting, pushing, pulling or other physically stressful acts required by the assistants. The entire shoot will be indoors in a comfortable climate. The assistant(s) are also invited to the post production occasionally if they are interested in watching and asking questions.

If anyone can believe they would fit this role and wants to know more, feel free to email me at www.johnathangarfield.com by Feb 1st, 2010. Thank you for your consideration.



JR (right) is ticked he missed the last donut and is ready to grab Jon Soykas while Rick Doelle (left) stares in amazement.

NEW GEAR ON THE HORIZON -

Optoma HD20 DLP Home Theater Projector

The Optoma HD20 brings a new level of flexibility to your high-definition home theater multi-media experience. With true 1080p resolution, the HD20 delivers excellent color saturation and subtle details for superior image quality. With its sleek design and weight of 6.4 lbs, the Optoma HD20 is perfect for sharing big-screen movies, sporting events and concerts...or for taking your video gaming to the next level by connecting the HD20 to your favorite game console.

Specifications

Resolution: 1920 x 1080

Native Resolution: 1080p (1920 x 1080)

Brightness: 1700 ANSI Lumens

Contrast Ratio: 4000:1

No. of Colors: 16.7 million

Native Aspect Ratio: 16:9 Widescreen

Display Technology: DLP (0.65" DMD)

Data Signals: XGA, SVGA, SXGA, UXGA, SXGA+
HD, VGA, WXGA

Video Signals: HDTV (720p, 1080i/p)

Inputs: Composite

HDMI

Component

VGA

Lens: F=2.55-2.87, f=22.4-26.8mm

Zoom: 1.2 X Zoom

Image Size: 37.6" - 301.1" diagonal

Throw Distance: 1.5 - 1.8:1

Keystone Correction: ±5 Vertical

Power Supply: 100-240V

Power Consumption: 308 Watts

Audible Noise: 32 dB

Lamp Type: 230W

Lamp Life Expectancy: 3000/4000 Hours

Remote Control: Included

Dimensions: 12.76" x 3.82" x 9.21"

Weight: 6.4 lbs.

Projection Technology: DLP

Projector Type: Business Projector

Condition: New

Detailed Features:

- Bright at 1700 ANSI lumens and contrast ratio of 4000:1
- Up to 300" screen size for large group viewing
- Perfect for connecting to any home entertainment device with HDMI, component, composite video and VGA
- Backlit IR remote control
- Features Texas Instruments 1080p DLP® chipset and BrilliantColor™ technology