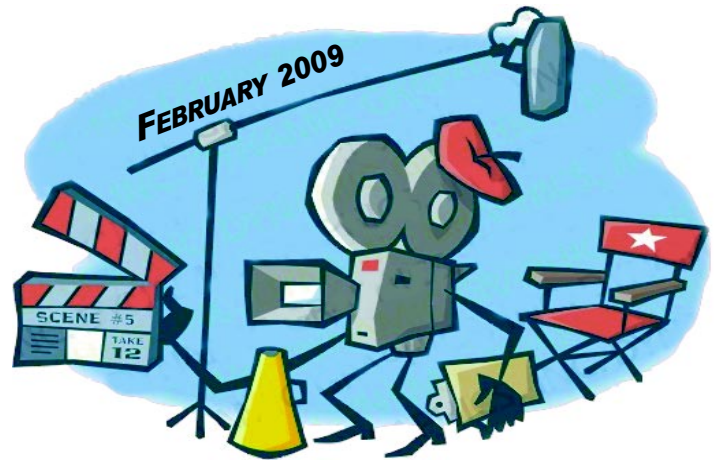




REEL NEWS

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THE PAST:

Every one is a critic.... thank goodness. Judging by all of the comments offered by club members after the January meeting, dubbed "Critics Night", some of our members very much enjoyed being critics and some of them enjoyed being critiqued. Jon Soyka used print-outs from Wikipedia and the Free On-Line Dictionary to define the meaning of the terms and sort of set the tone for the evening. Personally I was concerned as to how the members would react to the concept and I must admit I was very pleasantly surprised at both the turnout and the number of entries. With a load of trade news releases being submitted between the film entries the evening was a major night of information and knowledge. Constructive critiques were the objective for the evening..... throwing of rotten tomatoes was frowned on. Not forbidden, just frowned on.

First up was Jon Soyka with his clients version of "Elton - Courir de Mardi Gras", a six minute look at the rural Mardi Gras traditions of western Louisiana. It was only fair that Jon started events as it was his idea to do the critique night after comments made from a club member. The objective was to show a production, then have the creator stand at the front and field questions and comments and critiques from the club members. No blood was drawn. Jon was not happy with the production he presented as it was the clients "cut" and the intention was to show Jon's version at the end of the night - but time ran out. It will be shown at another meeting. Up next was Rick Doelle with his entry "The Flying Trapeze", a two minute example of the first attempts by a young lady to act like a pro on the trapeze at a holiday resort. Rick fielded all the comments with grace and has learned useful ideas for the next time he tries this type of production. Of course the challenge now will be for Rick to

include footage of himself performing on the trapeze with one hand on the bar and the other holding the camera. Good luck Rick.

The third entry was titled "Cove News", ran for eight minutes and was entered by Harold Cosgrove. It was his first finished film, shot in 1958, and included segments on the Toronto Canadian National Exhibition, motorcycle racing and Winter in Niagara. It involved a load of nostalgia as well as a subject to critique. It was made before Harold joined his first movie club (The Welland Movie Makers). Entry number four was three minutes and thirty seconds of "The Waterfront" by Alex Szatmary. It was winter shots of ice and Lake Ontario waves at a beach in Cobourg set to the music of John Lee Hooker. Next time Alex, bring warm summer videos to the winter meetings and cold winter videos to the summer meetings. New member Robert Prince offered entry number five which was titled "Fueled". It was the first narrative of the night and got a good reception from the crowd. I think that Robert learned a lot and may have reached a few members who would be happy to work with him on future projects. The story involved two brothers at an unknown location (a corner of Roberts backyard) where they tried to avoid death at the hands of an unseen sniper while they did their best to protect a silver case with unknown but valuable contents. If you want to know more you will have to see the film.

A family affair entitled "An Academic Librarian's Plan" was the entry provided by Barron Thompson. It was shot over one weekend at Mohawk College by Barron and featured his wife Cynthia as the hostess. It was a three minute example of what she does at work and is intended to be available to other librarians on an existing web site. It was an interesting example and Barron came ready for an expected pelting of rotten tomatoes with his own list of five problems with the film. Variety is the spice of life and

***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.***

with the Hamilton Video/Film Makers you will get variety. Entry number seven was from Evelyn Rosa and was a 2006 production of the “Supercities Walk for MS” in Simcoe. Evelyn has shot two more productions on the same subject and as the result of comments made the club will look forward to seeing this years version. Of course these productions walk the fine line between entertaining the club members and meeting the requirements of the client who commissioned the work. Guess who gets top priority.

The eighth and final entry for the evening was from Dan Copeland. It was a three minute music video of 9 Elvis impersonators shot at the King of Kitchener music festival. Titled “Looking For Trouble” the editing involved one common song sung by each of the contestants and included scenes where all nine of them were on screen at the same time as well as individual shots. It was not done in 3D and no glasses were offered by Dan this evening. There were two other entries but due to the late hour they will be held over to another night.

As the club members left the hall several asked when they could expect to see another night like this. It was generally accepted as the best club night program in a long time.

Members comments included..... So, last Thursday was a success. Will we be seeing more of them? :) Positive criticism - always a good exercise - for learning and sharing - content was the key focus - as it probably should be! Liked the format - some good comments offered during evening - should encourage improving work - a good objective for the club! But no one said anything about all of the bad edits I did and did not say anything about the Green Flash Frames. I was expecting more criticism that what I got..... I think it went well and people enjoyed it. The critics were fairly tame this time and probably need a couple of more meetings to get warmed up!! I really enjoyed it and actually felt that many of us had learned something new that will definitely improve our video making in the future. We had lots of good natured fun and I doubt if anyone’s feelings were hurt. If we do this type of meeting more often, maybe we will get the expertise to even catch Dan’s green edits..... Oh well I guess you can’t please every one..... I don’t think we learn anything from seeing just footage shot but not edited. Anyone can do that. Lots more of the “Critic” meetings please! I think it was just great and very educational..... All in all it was in my eyes a great success. **I think this idea of critiquing our videos was a great one and I found it very educational. Lets keep up the good work.**

As usual the “nighthawks” of the club retired to Crabby Joes food centre on Centennial Parkway and imbibed alcohol and coffee as well as mouthfuls of nourishment, finally retiring to their abodes after 1:00 a.m. Fun was had by all.

THE FUTURE:

The February meeting will involve the current future. Harold Cosgrove will talk about the trend in new cameras and where the path is that the new recording media will take. If you are thinking about buying a new or just another camera this is the meeting you should be at—wait a minute, you should be at all of them.

Jon Soyka will lead a discussion about the state of HD (high definition) and some of its misconceptions and developments. Jon will also spend a couple of moments on archives and making donations to the “Keepers of History”. It all kind of links in a weird and complicated way so be there take take part in this amazing experience.

And finally..... have you considered “Volunteering” to help out at the club. We need back-ups for a couple of positions. These are not replacement positions but back-up help for when the regulars are not able to get to the meetings. We are looking for a photographer and a ticket seller. If you are interested let Jon Soyka know by e-mail at jonsoyka@mountaincable.net or at the next meeting.

