



Dracut Access Television

Delivering a Town Voice



CABLE CHANNELS 8, 10, 22

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER 2010-2011



Time certainly does fly! It's hard to believe that over a year has passed since I came in to head your community access television facility. I've had the pleasure of seeing many familiar faces and have met many new friends. Over the past year our total Individual/Family membership has grown by 54% to over 120! Our caring staff has had the pleasure of training and mentoring people of all ages exposing many of you to the world of television production.

We have more town municipal meetings being covered than ever before and a dozen studio-based programs produced by our members! I'm also happy to see more involvement from our school students. Rebecca Duda who teaches and heads up the Jr. National Honor Society at the Lakeview Jr. High has a new group of students who have been trained in field production and editing as they produce a new season of "Discovering Dracut". Many students also help with the annual Dracut Scholarship Foundation Telethon in March. It is outreach like this that really strengthens our organization because our teens and young adults are especially excited about the cutting edge technology that DATV offers!

Please drop by and take advantage of your facility. I wish you and your families a happy and healthy new year!

*Gary Meuse,
Executive Director*



-Office Hours-

Monday-Thursday

12pm - 9pm

Friday

10am - 6pm

Saturday

9am - 1pm

Check out our website at dracuttv.org to get our TV cablecast schedule, view programs "on demand" & more!
Call us at 978-957-5522 for more information.

Volunteer Highlights



Sue Koufogazos joined DATV in the spring of 2010. She wasted no time in taking advantage of the many resources that we have to offer. Sue has crewed several of our Harmony Hall-based municipal meetings that are cablecast “live” over channel 10. Sue along with her sons Tim and Chris have also taken advantage of our newest training courses including the 3-week Studio Basic as well as the 2-week Harmony Hall. We are excited to have new members like Sue playing an active role in all of the exciting things we have going on at DATV!



Bob & Gay Corey are DATV’s “Dynamic Duo” and no strangers in town! They volunteer countless hours by covering many events throughout Dracut, indoor and outdoor, rain or shine! Many recognize Gay as the on-camera host while Bob is behind the camera capturing all of the entertaining action. Bob also serves on DATV’s board of directors helping to oversee our organization. We salute our tireless, valuable husband and wife team!

Dave Patenaude & Jon Webster are part of the Grace Bible Church organizational membership at DATV. They took part in a Field camera class and quickly began to produce the weekly Sunday services that their church offers. Dave is the primary cameraman who tapes the services and then Jon takes over as the editor. These guys make up Grace Bible Church’s primary production team and they provide a tremendous service to the community, especially for those people who may have difficulty venturing out on Sunday mornings.

2010 Membership Meeting (9-16-2010)



DATV Show Spotlight



Business As Usual: Business As Usual, produced by Kevin Willett, pictured left with some guests from Pets in Need, started taping in the Fall of 2007. The show usually tapes bi-weekly in the DATV studio, depending on the demand of guests to come on the show. So far, there have been 58 episodes of Business As Usual taped here at DATV! Kevin originally started the show to highlight the local business community, but it evolved into promoting local non-profits and their fund-raising events. He usually has the guests on near the time of their fundraisers so they can reach out to the community.

We asked Kevin what the future holds for his show, and he said, “We plan on returning to our roots and reaching out to the business community to have them appear on the show. We may consider a spinoff of the show that will focus on the business community. I am looking forward to taping episode #100 of Business As Usual!”

If you would like to appear on Business As Usual, you can send an email to: kevin@friendsofkevin.com.



Well everybody, the holidays are over! During the holiday season DATV was extremely busy turning over programs for the public to view! Although DATV's staff works very hard to ensure all of these programs are shot, edited, and broadcasted, we are nothing without our volunteers! The staff would once again like to thank everyone that helped make all of these programs available. Also, I'd like to remind everyone that we have copies available at the studio!

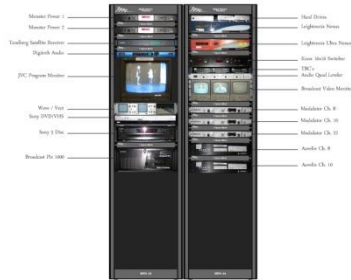
With the new year come new opportunities to learn and have fun using some amazing technology! DATV has recently installed our new studio control room equipment! With the addition of a Broadcast Pix Switcher and two nice large flat screen monitors, members can really experience new techniques!

Also, we've been holding more training classes! For those that are interested, we've successfully completed group studio basics and group harmony hall training classes, and will continue to offer these courses! We've received a great response from the attendees and look forward to training more!

We always have something new down at the studio, so please make it a point to stop in whenever you can! Our door is always open and we can't wait to see you soon!

David Paquette
Senior Production Technician

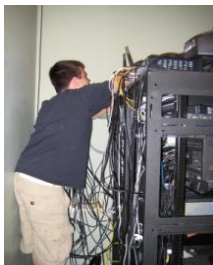
DATV Equipment Upgrades – DATV’s New Control Room and More!



With any new renovation project, It's nice to have a concept image to go by. To the far left you can see the concept that was created for the new control room, as well as the new consolidated equipment racks to the immediate left.

We needed to squeeze 4 tall racks full of equipment into a 2 rack space. Not an easy feat! When moving equipment that is vital to ensuring that shows can be produced as well as cablecast without interruption, it's important to have a good plan in place before moving things around!

Much of our work was spread out over a week's time, taking advantage of opportunities throughout the days when we could disconnect something and move it without severing any kind of signal. It was quite the puzzle! And that was only the first stage. The second stage of a major overhaul such as this involves dissecting the intricate cabling behind the racks! Over the years it is inevitable that with many pieces of equipment being put in and taken out, that a cluster of cables evolves as you can see in the picture of Chris to the left.



The end result of this project was a control room upgraded from two 19" multiview monitors sitting in a 4-bay rack to a pair of wall-mounted 46" LCD monitors in a more open environment, greatly enhancing our control room production experience!

Thanks to Access A/V who installed our new monitors, new work surface, and all of the necessary cables to configure this arrangement with our Broadcast Pix production switcher system. Your control room is truly state of the art!



DATV has also changed the way editing projects are stored. We recently purchased 12 G-Tech 320GB mini drives for our members. This will allow you to conveniently take your projects to any of our 3 Final Cut Pro edit suites.

We recently installed a new 37" LED monitor on a rolling mount. This is designed to add another component to the look of our shows because it is actually part of the set! Producers can insert visuals such as animations, stills, computer signals, etc. Whether you feed your show's logo, or content specific video, the addition of this new piece of equipment is sure to enhance the overall look of any show!





Taking on a large scale project like the Control Room overhaul meant that all staff members were hands on. We were all involved with the dismantling, rewiring, and removal of the old equipment in preparation for the new, which meant breaking out the power tools. That's right; someone let me, one of the clumsiest people on the planet, use a power drill... And no, I did not break anything, or hurt myself! It was actually a lot of fun.

Now that we are up and running, don't hesitate to stop by and check out or use our new, state of the art control room! We've made everything easier and more streamlined, so it's user friendly for everyone. Come down and create your own show with graphics, video and more, or volunteer on a currently produced show!

Heather Littlefield
Production Technician



The fall season is finally over and winter has begun! We have been braving through all of this snow to bring you the high quality and thrilling local television that you watch and contribute to! There have been an abundance of changes already and future advances to make our in-house television productions even more appealing.

Our new control room makes it even easier to produce your own production or volunteer on another program. Keeping track of your production's editing process has become even easier with our new labeled G-Drives. If you are looking to add a little extra spice to your in-house show, there is a portable monitor in the works to add a little extra flare to a plain background.

You and your friends should come check out the new set-up! Have some fun and make a new production and take advantage of our new features and advances!

Chris Pitocchelli
Production Technician

DATV would like to recognize and thank all of our armed forces, active or veterans. If you know of someone who has served in the United States Military and would like to spotlight them on a bulletin board page, please contact DATV!

DATV OFFERS ALL KINDS OF TRAINING!

Course Schedule (by appointment and pre-scheduled)

Studio Basic

Includes the necessary training for basic studio production including: camera, audio, and Broadcast Pix special effects generator/graphics operation.

Harmony Hall

Includes the necessary training to produce live/taped municipal meetings and events from Harmony Hall including: 4 robotic cameras, switcher, Compix graphics, audio, etc.

Field Camera package 1

Includes the necessary training on DATV's standard field camera package including: Canon GL2 camera, tripod, battery & AC power, and microphones.

Broadcast Pix

Focuses on all of the functions of the Broadcast Pix special effects generator including: transitions, keyers, clips, CG, etc.



If we are not currently offering a course that you are interested in give us a call to set-up one-on-one class time!

Electronic Field Production

Includes the necessary training to produce live/taped multi-camera events in the field using: Sony Anycast Production SEG, Canon GL2 cameras, microphones, etc.

Adobe Photoshop

Learning to create, manipulate, and adjust digital images is lots of fun and lets you be more creative in editing and desktop publishing.

GarageBand

Allows you to create themes or background music for your show in no time.

Final Cut Pro

Final Cut Pro is a professional non-linear editing software application developed by Macromedia Inc. The software logs and captures video onto a hard drive (internal or external), where it can be edited and processed.

iDVD

iDVD allows the user to add QuickTime Movies, MP3 music, and digital photos to a DVD that can then be played on a commercial DVD player.

Apple Motion

Motion is used to create and edit motion graphics, titling for video and film production, and 2D and 3D compositing for visual effects.

Livetype

Learn to use this motion graphics program, which comes bundled with Final Cut Pro to create exciting and colorful graphics, and then synchronize them with music.

DATV Board of Directors:

Jack Lyons, President-

As Board President Jack is an official member of all DATV committees. He oversees the full board and maintains close contact with the Executive Director.

Bob Corey, Clerk-

Bob sits on the Membership & Training committee as well as the Nominating committee. He and his wife Gay are among DATV's most active members shooting many special events year round!

Michael McNamara, Treasurer-

Michael maintains all of DATV's financial records and provides regular reports to the board. Michael chairs both the Nominating and Education & Programming committees and sits on the Facilities & Equipment and Personnel committees.

Lou Darvirris-

Lou chairs the Facilities and Equipment committee. Lou also sits on the Membership and Training committee and is DATV's computer expert.

John Zimini-

John chairs DATV's Personnel Committee. John is also a member of the Community, School & Municipal Relations Committee.

Glenn Mello-

Glenn chairs the Community, School and Municipal Relations committee. Glenn is also a member of the Finance & Fundraising committee. He hosts the program "DSF Presents".

Pete Wilde-

Pete chairs the Membership & Training committee and sits on the Personnel committee. Pete produces/hosts the program "Dracut Democrat".

DATV Staff:

Gary Meuse-

Executive Director. Gary took over the helm of DATV in the fall of 2009 and has over 26 years of experience in the video/television industry. He returns to familiar territory having previously managed local access TV in Dracut for a decade in the '80's and 90's. Gary and his wife Kristy have three beautiful young daughters who keep them very active. Gary sits on the board of directors for the Dracut Scholarship Foundation whose annual Telethon he has produced/directed since its inception in 1984.

David Paquette-

Senior Production Technician. Dave has been with DATV from the start and is a graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy NY earning a BA in Electronic Media Arts & Communication. He is a talented artist and photographer and uses his creativity to develop new ideas and keep DATV fresh. Dave is also an avid pool player.

Heather Littlefield-

Production Technician. Heather joined DATV in early 2009. Previously she was with 7 News in Boston where she was a Video Editor and Live News Truck Operator/Field Technician. Heather graduated Cum Laude from Fitchburg State College earning a BS in Communications Media with a concentration in Video Production and Cinematography. She is also recently married and enjoying life as a newlywed.

Chris Pitocchelli-

Part-time Production Technician. Chris joined DATV in August 2008. He has contributed greatly to the current growth of DATV. Chris has a BS in Mechanical Engineering from UMass Lowell.

Contact Information:

Phone - (978) 957-5522

Address - 91 Mill St. Suite 7, Dracut, MA 01826

Email - DATV@dracuttv.org

Fax - (978) 957-4243



91 Mill Street Suite 7
Dracut, MA 01826
(978)957-5522

-Office Hours-

Monday-Thursday

12pm - 9pm

Friday

10am - 6pm

Saturday

9am - 1pm

Cable Television Channels 8, 10, 22

Delivering a Town Voice

www.dracuttv.org

