



# Dracut Access Television

Delivering a Town Voice

DRACUT CABLE CHANNELS 8, 10, 22

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

SPRING/SUMMER 2011



As the new school year begins we reluctantly come to the realization that the summer is in its winding down phase and I hope that you have been able to enjoy many days filled with sunny skies, warm breezes, and frozen treats!

Here at DATV we ran our annual week-long Summer Camp for teens which is just one of The ways that we provide outreach to our younger members. We also made another significant investment in our technology by upgrading to 3 robotic cameras in our studio, one of which is equipped with a teleprompter, giving our program hosts the ability to really polish their on-camera delivery! This installation happened just in time for our latest 3-week Studio Basic I course, giving this group of members the first opportunity to train on our new state-of-the-art equipment!

We've also made great strides with the video on demand section of our website, putting many more hours of locally produced content at your fingertips...at your convenience.

I am hoping to see many of you at our upcoming annual member meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup>, when we'll have the opportunity to socialize over good food, report on the state of your corporation, and showcase our new equipment giving you a first-hand look at your TV studio!

*Gary Meuse,  
Executive Director*



**-Office Hours-**  
**Monday-Thursday**  
**12pm - 9pm**  
**Friday**  
**10am - 6pm**  
**Saturday**  
**9am - 1pm**

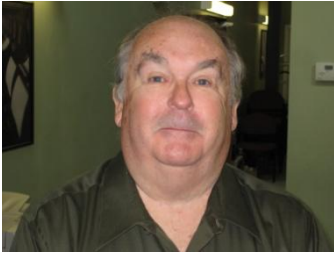
Check out our website at [dracuttv.org](http://dracuttv.org) to get our cablecast schedule, enhanced "video on demand" & more!

Call us at 978-957-5522 for more information.

## Member Highlights



**Mike Poitras** has been a DATV member for several years and is always quick to put a smile on people's faces with his infectious, friendly attitude! Mike has covered numerous events in town including Dracut Old Home Day, Pop Warner Football, and Dracut High Graduation exercises just to name a few. Mike leads a busy life as a self-employed business man while raising a large family but still manages to find time to help put more entertaining programming on the DATV channels!



**Len Tarmey** is one of our newest members who has been instrumental in getting several of the "bicycled" programs that we cablecast such as Gr. Lowell Tech. School Committee meetings, Lowell City Council Meetings, etc. to DATV from various locations. Len has also been a long time and dedicated member of the Lowell Lions Club & works to provide informative programming to DATV about the good work that Lions Clubs do worldwide.

## DATV Show Spotlight



**UCANPC:** Produced by Louis Darvirris and Brian Rondeau, was previously taped in their basements using a single camera and no crew. The program went into a hiatus and then came back into production this past spring as an in-studio series! Each week Lou and Brian concentrate on different aspects of getting the most from your home computer system looking at topics such as: wireless routers, modems, operating system and software upgrades, etc. They even run occasional give-a-way contests giving DATV viewers a chance to win cool stuff!

UCANPC is shot in front of our green screen and each week a different background is electronically "chroma keyed" in just like TV weather reports! *(Pictures to the left: Top- before the key is inserted and Bottom- after with the final effect.)*



The guys even shot an episode of UCANPC recently at Dracut Old Home Day and decided just for fun to try using a "natural" green background while relaxing in the sun *(pictured below)*! In the near future UCANPC plans to take their show on the road and into people's homes to help correct technical problems.

Lou is also a member of the DATV Board of Directors and often lends his expertise to our corporation whenever we require assistance with any of our computer-related needs. Be sure to check out UCANPC on DATV channel 8 as well as ON-DEMAND on [www.dracuttv.org](http://www.dracuttv.org)





Hello everyone! This summer was truly a time for new things! Personally, it was the first summer with my son where he was old enough to really get out and explore. The experiences of fatherhood, from Veteran's Park to the Dillon-McAnespie Park, to the zoo, to ice cream and more, has really made this the best summer! Those aren't the only things going on in Dracut however! DATV has REALLY stepped it up in the tech department. In my personal opinion, having visited surrounding town's access centers, Dracut has truly been in the utmost tier regarding technological advancement. That is not to say we have a never ending budget, but in order to ensure that our members and residents have the highest quality experience as well as programming, we must constantly evolve with the tides of new technology. Plus, new technology is fun! If you read on to the following pages, you'll see some of the new items we have here at DATV. I mean, right now a single person, although challenging, can control all three studio cameras, switch the show, put up graphics, play video clips, and much more all at the same time!

I hope that many of you will come down to the studio in the upcoming months and get your hands on some of this awesome stuff. In the meantime, I look forward to seeing everyone at the members meeting, and let's get ready for all the great winter programming!

*David Paquette*  
*Senior Production Technician*

## DATV Equipment Upgrades – New Robotic Studio Cameras!



Here at DATV we strive to provide the latest technology to our members, and this summer was no exception! We've upgraded our studio cameras to 3 new Sony BRC-Z700 robotic cameras. These are 3-chip, HD upgradeable cameras that puts DATV in great position should we want to make the leap to high def sometime down the road. Connected to our cameras at the control room end is our new Vaddio Precision Camera Controller. This unit allows the operator to pan, tilt, and zoom the cameras and also provides iris, white balance, and focus control. It is also equipped with several preset assignments per camera allowing you to set up various shots for each camera. Making the move to robotic cameras made perfect sense for us since producers find it difficult to get enough crew members in to help out with their shows.

To compliment the new cameras we've also added tally lights that indicate which camera is "live" at any time. We have also outfitted one camera with an Ikan Teleprompter that allows the talent to read their scripted intros, outros, etc. while looking right into the lens of the camera...just like news anchors!

Lastly we've taken our previous studio cameras (Panasonic HVX200) and reassigned them as our advanced field cameras. They can shoot in HD and record to both miniDV tape as well as memory cards providing our members with our 1st "tapeless" field cameras! If you've previously taken our Field 1 class with the Canon GL2 then you are welcome to sign up for the new Field 2 Class that uses these Panasonic cameras! Come check them out!!





This summer has been a very busy one for me, between moving, lots of family events, and so on! My favorite part about this summer was getting back into my passion, photography. Back in April, my husband bought the camera I had been longing for, the Nikon D7000, as an early birthday gift. It's my first DSLR, and I absolutely love it. My creative juices are flowing again and I continue to learn more and improve every day.

Here at DATV, aside from all of the video software and equipment, we do also have Photoshop CS4 and Photoshop Elements available for member use and training. Whether you're an avid photographer just looking for some tips and tricks, or a beginner with a new camera of any kind, come on down and check out these programs, especially if you're considering purchasing them! I'm also available to show you some basics to using your camera or to answer any questions you may have about advanced features, so you can have as much fun with photography as I do.

*Heather Littlefield*  
*Production Technician*



The fall is fast approaching and things have truly been crazy for me over the past several weeks! I am excited to be in the home stretch as I work to earn my masters degree in Mechanical Engineering from UMass Lowell this December. Being a research assistant and getting all of my ducks in a row is really taking a lot of focus and energy but will be well worth it in the end!

I am excited about DATV's latest equipment upgrades that will really enable our members to produce sweet looking programming in our state-of-the-art studio! Now is really the time to become a DATV member or come back to reacquaint yourself with the latest technology that we have to offer.

If you haven't been in lately or know some friends or family members who would enjoy what DATV has to offer then don't delay! I look forward to seeing you.

*Chris Pitocchelli*  
*Production Technician*

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**  
**THE DATV ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING**  
**THU. OCTOBER 20TH 6:00PM**  
**91 MILL ST. SUITE 7, DRACUT**  
**FOOD, RAFFLES, ELECTIONS AND GOOD COMPANY!**



I am proud to be the newest part of the DATV Team! I graduated from American International College with a Bachelors degree in Communications this past May and I am very happy to have been given the opportunity to work here after being an intern during the summer of 2010.

We have recently been able to get all of our shows and municipal meetings on our website under the web-on-demand section. All of our current program series have been brought up to date so you can watch any episode that has been produced this year...as well as many municipal meetings online! For those of you who took part in any past special events from 2010 we are working to get those up online as well! Video-On-Demand, Program Schedules, and Training Class Information are just some of the useful things our website has to offer. Check us out at [www.dracuttv.org](http://www.dracuttv.org)

*Meaghan Gagnon*  
*Production Technician*

### Current DATV studio-based program series

*All About Music*

*Business As Usual*

*DSF Presents*

*For the Young at Heart*

*Hypnosis and You*

*Inside Dracut Politics*

*Tae Kwon Do Training*

*Talking About Health*

*UCANPC*

### Current DATV field-based program series and meetings

*Adventures with Farmer Dave*

*DHS Behind the Scenes*

*Discovering Dracut*

*Dracut Housing Authority Meetings*

*Grace Bible Church Services*

*Groom-U*

### Current DATV Harmony Hall-based "Live" meetings

*Dracut Board of Selectmen Meetings*

*Dracut Planning Board Meetings*

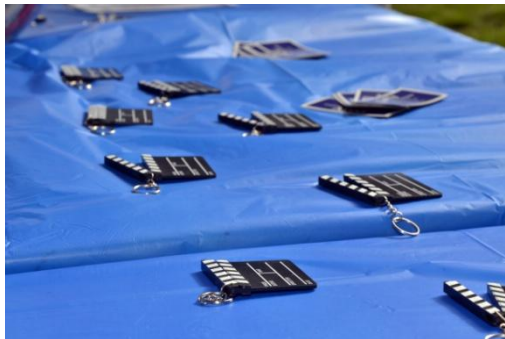
*Dracut School Committee Meetings*

*Dracut Zoning Board of Appeals Meetings*



*\*Plus many special events covered by Bob & Gay Corey as well as several other DATV members!*

**\*DATV at Dracut Old Home Day 2011\*** photos by Heather Littlefield Photography



# DATV TRAINING COURSES!

## Course Schedule (by appointment and pre-scheduled)

### **Studio Basic 1**

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

### **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 Production 1**

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

### **Field Production 2**

Includes the necessary training on DATV's advanced field camera package including: Panasonic HVX200 HD camera, tripod, battery & AC power, microphones, 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!***

### **Broadcast Pix**

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

### **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, tripods, 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".

***Kevin Willett-***

Kevin chairs the By-laws and Membership & Training committees and sits on the Community/Municipal Relations committee. Kevin produces/hosts the program "Business as Usual".

**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. Heather graduated Cum Laude from Fitchburg State College earning a BS in Communications Media with a concentration in Video Production. She has recently rekindled her passion for photography and is enjoying her brand new DSLR camera very much!

***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.

***Meaghan Gagnon-*** Part-time Production Technician. Meaghan joined DATV in the spring of 2011. She has focused on improving or website's video on demand section and has made great strides! Meaghan has a BA from American International College.

***Contact Information:***

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*Email - [DATV@dracuttv.org](mailto:DATV@dracuttv.org)*

*Fax - (978) 957-4243*



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Dracut, MA 01826  
(978)957-5522

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