



Comcast Update

- We will need to negotiate the moving of our direct fiber optic feed from the current studio location to a new one - I have put in a request to find out if Comcast will pay to move a feed to Rod & Gun Club Rd.

Space

- Black River Rod & Gun Club - at the last meeting, Jean Morrill brought it to my attention that Rod & Gun Club was looking to lease its building for a nominal rent - I have since explored this
 - the building was some redeeming qualities (size, floor plan, price) so I have move forward to get more info. - we are waiting on some rough estimates for renovation & construction costs from Ted Stryhas Builder
 - the club is eager to work with us but is hoping for us to make a decision within the next month or so
 - before we could decide, we obviously need to know the construction costs (there would need to be some extensive work inside, with partitioning, insulating, flooring, painting, and electrical)
 - we also need to know if we would be responsible to pay for a portion of the move of the fiber optic cable feed to Comcast (more on that below, under "Comcast"), and how much our share would be
- Kermit Upton is waiting on a decision from us- he needs to know which way we are leaning
 - we have discussed some terms of a potential lease and the monthly rent - he is looking at giving us approx. 1500 square feet for about \$1500 per mo. (\$12 per sq ft), which is over our budget
 - long term "triple net" lease would be subject to review and annual increases based on variability of property taxes, insurance, & other expenses
- The Proctorsville Green building owned by John Filipowicz will be for sale by mid-month (Feb) - it has been advised that if we are serious about this building to do any preliminary work now, bc the feeling is that it will go quickly

Vermont Access Network (VAN) & Vermont Media Exchange (VMX) Update

- There has not been any activity on our VMX sharing system for the for past 2 months while some technical work was being completed, and updates were being worked on
- All other systems (we are 1 of 9 statewide on the VMX network) have resumed activity on VMX as of 3 weeks ago - LPCTV's update was not completed bc when the work was being scheduled (back in early December), our cable modem was down and we had to wait on a replacement from Comcast
 - I am now waiting for Emily Frazier (the VMX guru and our IT person) to schedule our update, which she will do remotely, and hopefully within the next couple of weeks.
- There has been growing excitement around VMX, particularly in & around the Statehouse
 - last month several legislators were interviewed about their awareness for & support of PEG Access TV
 - I personally interviewed Reps. Ernie Shand and Dennis Devereux, as well as Sen. Nitka, all of whom expressed support for initiatives such as statewide programming from the Statehouse
 - Speaker of the House Gaye Symington's Office is producing a new weekly program throughout the legislative session ("Inside Your Statehouse"), in conjunction with a group of other legislators
 - I used a recent conversation with Springfield Rep. Cynthia Martin, who is involved with the distribution of the program to plug VMX - there is now a buzz around using VMX for distribution of the program to access stations throughout the State - this is the sort of alliance we want to build, as we look towards long-term sustainability of the network and explore potential funding sources
- I attended a VAN special meeting in Rutland in December that was held specifically to discuss VMX, which has become VAN's central issue - we discussed different concepts for mobilizing support, financial sustainability, writing a business plan, and branding (VMX will be VAN's "brand", it's main visible component to those on the outside)

Outreach / Fundraising

- We have had a moderately-successful underwriting campaign this year- we have generated \$850 in donations from local businesses so far...improvement already from last year
 - letter went out 1st week of December to all local businesses on the Rotary Club's mailing list (we spent \$275 in postage for the mailing, plus the envelopes and postcards (which came to another \$50), plus staff time

(approx. 10 hours total - we also had some volunteer help)

- I hope to get more over the next few months - we were helped a bit by a mass email reminder sent out by the Chamber of Commerce...another small little push / reminder might turn out another \$250 - 500 and get us over the \$1000 mark, which was our goal
- if any board members could help out in this effort it could be helpful (perhaps select a small list of business owners to talk to directly about the offer)
- the larger businesses (such as Okemo, Jeld Wen, etc) could be targeted specifically and "sold" on the \$500 ("Patron") sponsor level (which includes a customized 15 second video acknowledgement)
- I have submitted requests for continuing Town appropriations from Ludlow & Cavendish for FY 08-09
 - I went in front of the Cavendish Selectboard in early January to discuss our request

Video Club

- The video club has been meeting every Tuesday from 4 - 5:30 since November - it consists of a small group of 12 + 13 year olds
- Participants have produced 2 short videos so far - 1 is currently running on TV and on the website and the other should be finished within the week
- There has been a small but steady growth in interest in the club among this age group, largely from the support of the Ludlow After School Program - we do have 1 home-schooler from Cavendish, 1 CTES student, and a Woodstock HS 8th grader.

Programming & Production

- Activity in the studio has been on the rise since the Fall - there are more regular programs being produced both in and out of the studio
- There has been a big increase in field production and equipment use due to sports coverage
 - volunteer camera man Bruce Perry (who shot most of the BRHS boys & girls soccer games this past Fall) is back at it again, this time with basketball - he is shooting all games (both boys & girls, both home & away), traveling on the bus during away games, and getting the tapes to us in a timely manner so that we can get games on ASAP ..he only misses a game when there is a conflict - boys & girls playing on same night
 - Michelle Stinson has been shooting Pleasant Valley hockey games and some Keene State men's basketball games
- Jay Jurkoic has resumed production of his show, Hard Telling, now that the legislature is back in session
- As for in-house production, I have been working with Emma Coldwell from Belmont-based Volunteers for Peace on an update of their promotional video - VFP will be hiring LPCTV to edit this year's promo video and we are discussing plans for future partnerships