



Fairfax Public Access

FPA Playback



Spring Mixer at FPA!

FPA members should circle the date April 17 on their calendars and plan to attend the Spring Mixer and open house at the station. Starting at 6pm, the event will feature the formal dedication of the new equipment and a number of notable presentations recognizing the work of many of our more prolific and long-standing producers. Other activities include the taping of a cooking show featuring Cooking and Company (who will be catering the mixer), live on-air breaks from the facility on Channel 10, and demonstrations of the new cameras and switcher for members who have not yet had a chance to work with them. Add to that special gifts for anyone who signs up for training classes that night, a number of great door prizes and the opportunity to catch up with other producers, volunteers and Board members, and you have what promises to be a very special evening.

Formal invitations have already been sent to members, but if for any reason you have not received yours, you may RSVP by phone with Martha Payne at extension 1101, or by e-mail at brucer@fcac.org. Each member is allowed one guest, but space and parking are limited, so

Closings

Spring Quarter '05

FPA will be closed to members and the general public on the following dates:

Monday, May 30
for
Memorial Day

Monday, July 4
through
Friday, July 8

for
Independence
Day &

Program Renewals Due

Deadline date for show renewal forms is Monday May 2. Every producer who plans to continue using FPA's equipment and/or facilities in the next programming season (July through December) must turn in a

Television Production Renewal Form, with their request for studio reservations listed. As printed on the renewal form, priority for studio time is allotted in the following order:

- 1) FPA Training Department
- 2) Live shows
- 3) Time-sensitive programs
- 4) Taped evergreen programs

Within those prioritized tiers, advantage is given to established programs. Current producers should look forward to receiving renewal forms in the mail by Mid-April at the latest. Forms should be returned to the equipment room no later than Monday, May 2. If you have not received a renewal form by mail, or need extras, forms can be found at

the equipment room or in the reception area.

Newly certified producers, or those who have not yet begun to produce programming must first fill out a Television and Radio Produc-

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FPA to Host Non-Profit Day

On Wednesday, April 27, representatives from area non-profit organizations are encouraged to attend FPA's Non-Profit Day to learn what resources are available in order to help them get their messages out to the community. There will be two different sessions available, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, where station representatives will explain the many options open to groups looking for exposure. Among the topics covered will be: getting your press releases on the community bulletin board, creating and airing a video or radio PSA, appearing as a guest on member produced shows, training your organization to produce their own programs and a wealth of other information specifically targeted toward the non-profit community. So if you know a member of a non-profit group who needs to increase their awareness among Fairfax County residents or could benefit from partnering with FPA, have them contact Martha Payne at extension 1101. There is no charge for the seminars, but space for each session is limited.

From the Training Department

Upcoming Training Workshops to be held at FPA:

April 12 - Tips & Tricks for Field Shooting 7 - 10pm Cost: \$ 10.00

Producer Bert Morgan will share his knowledge of field production for movies and documentaries, and offer advice on what to do (and not to do). Bert, through his company BLM Productions, has spent the last 8 years working on Civil War documentaries "The Battle of Cedar Creek", and "The Battle of Manassas", for which he won a Bronze Telly and a Communicator Award. He is currently wrapping post-production on the independent film "The Battle of Chantilly".

April 26 - Field Package Refresher 7 - 10pm Cost: FREE

FPA instructor Jerry Ferguson will host a seminar to review training and discuss problems encountered with and ways to improve your field productions. Registrants must be certified in either Field Package, GL-1 or DVC-Pro to qualify for this seminar.

May 25 - Studio Package Refresher 7 - 10pm Cost: FREE

FPA producer/director Rick Sapp will conduct an overview of the studio and control room equipment, including the new studio cameras and the Synergy 100 switcher. Anyone interested in doing chroma-key shoots should plan to attend, as Rick is familiar with the capabilities of the new switcher and will be able to impart some helpful hints and advice. Registrants must be certified in Studio Package to qualify for this seminar.

If you are interested in attending or learning more about these seminars or any of FPA's training

From Jim Southworth, President and Chairman, FPA Board of Directors**Open Letter to the Members**

I hope everyone of you makes a trip to our studios over the next few weeks, especially to attend our “Open House” Spring Mixer. Your elected and appointed board of directors, and all who have served

in the immediate past, have worked with the staff some very long hours, particularly over the last two years, to renovate the facilities, the attitude and the financing of FCAC. The results can be seen in

new equipment, including the digital HDTV-capable cameras and switchers and renovations like the removal of the bars in the equipment room and the new glass wall in the Studio A control room. These changes are intended to bring the station, staff and technology closer and more accessible to you - the existing and even potential members. So far, the compliments from users, members, and visitors have been glowing and constant.

Two years ago the FPA board made the decision to take a visionary leadership role and specifically deal at the long-term strategic level, allowing staff to work through tactical and personnel issues that have hindered us in the past. This is not to say the board has not been there to help work through issues, but our goal has been to support and advise rather than run the day to day operations. As a direct result, the hours of monthly production both by members and staff are on the way upward. Our financial situation is better than it has been in recent years and improving, and the re-finance of the building’s mortgage has been the cornerstone of our financial strategy.

There are other improvements that are not so obvious. First is the further integration of our organization’s full ISP services and Internet capabilities. One of these changes is that the entire studio complex now has wireless 802.11 hot spot connectivity. Producers wishing to have internet access from their portable computers, either in studio or other parts of the facility, are no longer limited to the internet Kiosk area. Many shows have already started making use of this feature.

Second, a new Digital VoIP (voice over internet protocol) phone system has recently been installed. Besides cutting operating costs, this system has features such as at least four call-in lines *each* for all TV and Radio studios, and allows guests and callers to conduct interviews with the highest level broadcast-quality telephone connections. Along with direct dial, there is now the capability to extend our call-in lines as well as station internal extension lines over standard broadband connections like DSL and cable modems to off-site shows/locations. Also, as part of this phone system upgrade, control rooms will soon find new digital “phone line-hybrid patch and bridge” equipment to handle the additional virtual direct dial lines, replacing the 18 year old single line analog equipment and the feed-back and complexity they have added in the past. This also means we can offer no-cost call-in over the internet for our web-cast listeners using their computers and VoIP software. One of FPA’s newest shows has many local listeners regularly calling in from northern Virginia and 15 other states across the US, and even from Europe/Scandinavia.

Most of you may have noticed that we have been broadcasting all night on Channel 10 from DVD



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Board of Directors

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Open Letter to the Members

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Expect to see more of our ability to both cable-cast and web-cast our own content, eventually directly from computer hard disk and advanced DVD media. This is the first step in the integration of the best features that the FPA studios can provide, allowing members and producers the flexibility to do their own editing at home or off-site on standard PC and MAC computers.

These are but a few of the upgrades and enhancements installed at FPA. As members, you can expect our efforts to continue moving this organization forward into this 21st century as a relatively state-of-the-art facility. We board members realize that with the trust you have given us, the mandate we have is to anticipate your needs as a continuous drive for improvement, not just to maintain a "status-quo".

Again, let me encourage you to attend our open house on Sunday April 17th. Please drag along all those former members and friends you know to see the improvements in technology, operations, staffing, and most of all the attitude of your extended FPA family. We expect county officials, Cox Cable executives, and most of your Board of Directors to be there to meet you.

Thanks for your trust and continuous cooperation,

James B. Southworth
President and Chairman

From the Production Department

Some producers have seen new on-air spots promoting their shows, all part of the "new look" roll-out. If you are a producer without a promo spot, or relying on old or outdated ones, the production department will gladly create one for you. If, however, you have specific ideas about what you want, then you'll need to provide a 30 second script, specific footage, pictures or graphics (including fonts and/or logos) and a detailed EDL that matches your script.

Along similar lines, if you use old openings for your programs that contrast terribly in comparison with the look of the new cameras, then consider having them re-do your opening as well. There is no cost to producers to have either a promo spot or an opening created for them, but all requests are

"There is a simple truism about television; the eye always predominates over the ear when there is a fundamental clash between the two" - Sam Donaldson