

Viewfinders

*Next Club Meeting: Wednesday January 3rd, 2007, 7:30 - 9:30pm
Cupertino Room, Quinlan Center, 10185 N. Stelling Rd., Cupertino, CA*

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AMMA 2007 Convention

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January Club Meeting

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Club Commercial

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November Meeting Highlights

Our last meeting of 2006 was a full, entertaining and enjoyable one. All attendees were presented, on arrival, with a small camcorder lens cloth and a "Cheat Sheet for Videographers," both compliments of Videomaker Magazine.

*We elected new Club officers for the upcoming year, presented a whole lot of awards to Club members in recognition of their recent videography efforts, screened five award winning movies produced by our Club members, enjoyed some delicious cake and refreshments hosted again this year by **Fred & JoAnn Pfost**, and gave away a bunch of door prizes. Some of the 24 Club members in attendance brought along their spouses and/or friends to help us top-off a very remarkable and fruitful year in amateur videography for the Viewfinders.*

Election of Officers

After some brief remarks by Club President, **Stan Morest**, and introductions of a number of guests and visitors for the evening, Stan conducted the election of Club officers for 2007. By unanimous vote the following officers were elected:

- President: **Bob Meacham**
- Vice-President: **Brian Lucas**
- Secretary: **Fred Pfost**
- Treasurer: **Frank Swanson**

Regarding the position as Club Newsletter Editor, which in the past has been one of the duties of the Club Secretary, this coming year Brian Lucas' wife, Gailynne, has volunteered for this job. With her writing expertise and Brian's background in graphic artistry, we should expect to see some new things beginning with this January issue.

2006 Annual Club Video Contest

After the elections, Stan made the award presentations to the top three winners of our **Annual Club Video Contest for 2006** held last month:

- 1st Place: **Mary Johnson** for *"Don't Bite the Dust"*
- 2nd Place: **Brian Lucas** for *"A Stroll through Venice"*
- 3rd Place: **Bart Wittekind** for *"The Erawan Museum"*

This was **Mary Johnson's** third consecutive year in winning the top award and she stands alone with this most impressive distinction of consistently producing entertaining and well-done movies. This year Mary's movie, written by the late Club member **Steve Magyar**, was about how technological advances can go awry and require human intervention to correct. Assisting Mary in the production were other Club members **Bernie Wood** and **Gordon Peterson**.



"Don't Bite the Dust"



"A Stroll Through Venice"



"The Erawan Museum"



"Ngorongoro 2004"



"Maybe Today"

November Meeting Highlights

Continued from page 1.

For **Brian Lucas** and **Bart Wittekind** this was their first break into the top three movies of the year with a photographic stills documentary of Venice, Italy, and a tour of a historical Bangkok museum with voiceover, respectively. In addition to these awards, Stan presented *Honorable Mention Certificates* to the following eight movie runner-ups:

Jack Gorham for
"Happy Birthday Helga"

Janet Holl for
"Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival"

Bob Meacham for
"Big Rock Tour"

Ralph Nobles for
"Moki Dugway"

Fred Pfost for
"Blooming Amaryllis"

Betty Pickett for
"Fleet Week"

Frank Swanson for
"Tennis Center"

Irv Webster for
"Backyard Refuge"

All eleven of these movies will be put onto a single DVD by **Frank Swanson** and placed into our Club Video Library for members to check-out next year. Movies from past years' contests and other events are currently available from the library as well. Following the award presentations, we screened all three of the winning movies.

Award Winners for Other Contests

After a short networking break with time to get a piece of cake and something to drink, we moved into the portion of the program featuring movies produced by club members that recently received significant recognition in contests outside of our club. First, **Virginia Misoff's** movie "Ngorongoro 2004" was recently

selected as one of the winners in the Ten Best of the West Contest held at the *Amateur Movie Makers Association Convention/Festival* in Las Vegas this past October. This documentary movie featured the scenery and wildlife enclosed within the Ngorongoro Crater in Africa. **Bernie Wood**, the *10BoFW* Contest's coordinator, presented Virginia with her award plaque and then we screened her movie.

Highly significant and extraordinary, our club's 2006 movie "Maybe Today" was honored with several award presentations. First, the *Northern California Council of Amateur Movie Clubs Contest*, recently held in San Jose, selected our movie as the best amateur production for 2006 in a field of five club movies made in Northern California this year. **Bob Meacham**, the movie's writer/director, accepted the award by the *NCCAMC* on behalf of the Viewfinders. Second, **Bernie Wood** presented the Viewfinders with an award plaque for our movie being chosen as one of the winners in the aforementioned *Ten Best of the West Contest* in Las Vegas amongst 38 entries. Third and perhaps most impressive, at the *AMMA Convention/Festival* in Las Vegas, *The American Motion Picture Society* awarded our movie 3rd Place in their *International Film and Video Festival* out of 78 entries. **Bernie Wood** presented the large plaque to Bob and the movie's cast and crew who were called-up to the front of the room. (Note: the top two movies were entered from Switzerland and the UK.) Also, "Maybe Today" was judged as the joint-winner of the *Festival's Best Story Award* along with "Flowers for Father" by the club from Switzerland. And finally, our movie was voted the second most-liked movie in the viewer's poll of all the movies screened at the three-day festival. **Ned Cordery**, the *AMPS* President, said "Good films leave a resonance and these (including "Maybe Today") are good films." The Festival's judges'

remarks included, "A riveting film ... whose success is the refined scripting that is superbly interpreted by the director and the actors, served by expert technicians in all departments, lighting, photography, sound, music selection and editing ... a deeply satisfying film with a resonance that stayed long after the picture had faded ... the subject of much discussion between the judges ... a world class production." The cast and crew of "Maybe Today" were **Bob Meacham, Brian Lucas, John & Rita Dietrich, Franz Helbig, Fred Pfost, Mary Johnson, Jack Gorham, Bill Mannion, Frank Swanson, Gordon Peterson, Frank Yap, Mandy Harris, Becky Marinshaw** and **Josie Vannucci**. The movie is available on DVD to everyone for \$5 to cover production costs – contact Frank Swanson if you'd like a copy.

Door Prizes

After screening our award-winning movie "Maybe Today", **Frank Swanson** awarded door prizes to each and every club member in attendance: complimentary 1-year subscriptions of *Videomaker Magazine* to **Fred Pfost, Bart Wittekind, Mary Johnson** and two others; complimentary 3-year annual subscriptions of *Camcorder & Computer Video Magazine* to **Glenn Mooty, Betty Pickett, and Virginia Misoff**; a case of Meritline DVD cases to **Bernie Wood**, a Steadicam T-shirt to **Jack Gorham**, and the current monthly issues of *Videomaker* and *Camcorder* magazines to all of the other club member attendees. So, all in all, I think everyone had a fun evening of recognition, celebration and entertainment, and I'm looking forward to 2007 as another memorable year with videography and the Viewfinders.

Frank Swanson,
Outgoing Newsletter Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I always think this time of the year is exciting. With the holidays comes a new year and with that come all of the "comfort" things we have grown to like and know. It is a time to partake in traditional, favorite holiday foods and sample some new ones as well. It gets us to holiday parties to catch up with old friends and even meet some new acquaintances. We close out the old year and have high hopes and expectations for the new one. It is a time for familiar things with a hope of newness. It is a great time of year.

I start the New Year as the incoming President for our club and bring with me that same spirit of old and new. I think we all like the warm comfort of the familiar, but it's the excitement brought by the opportunity offered by the new, that keeps us motivated. Most of us are comfortable with the type or style of videos we produce but everyone wants to improve on their quality, to learn something different or new that will make us better at what we do. Woody Allen was once quoted as saying, "Relationships are like sharks, they need to keep moving forward or they will die." I think it applies to more than relationships. It is a big factor in occupations and hobbies as well.

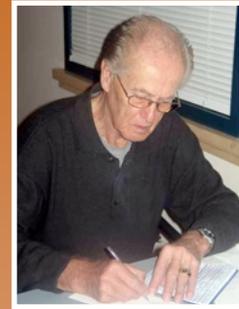
So, based on that belief I am changing the format for our monthly meetings slightly. I would like invite everyone to arrive early, around 7pm to be able to visit and socialize and, if the

room is available, get name tagged and settle in. I intend to start the meeting announcements no later than 7:35pm. Hopefully this will allow us to start our monthly program at 7:45pm, take a brief break for refreshments at 8:20pm, return from break to finish up our program and have time to do two more things. One will be a new feature called "The Monthly Tech Tips" and it will either be a 10 minute live presentation or a video clip that will provide you the chance to expand your knowledge of cameras, editing or production. Every month a new tip!

The other will be a dedicated time to show member's videos. I want to encourage our members to share their efforts with the other members to open up avenues for dialogue. If we understand what any particular member is doing with his or her work we can draw from their skills or provide positive feedback. That, my friends, is the social interaction that a club like ours is based upon. So, if you have something you would like to show at the monthly meetings please arrive early and get it to us before the meeting begins so we can plan time for it. And, if we have no member videos one month, we may all get to go home early.

As I had stated in one of last year's VP message, I think we are all here to grow, learn and interact with others who share a mutual interest in video. My job as your new President is to make efficient use of our time together to help each of you to reach that goal.

I hope you will find 2007 a good year and we can all approach next year's holidays with renewed excitement.



TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2006

Bank Account Beginning 2006	\$ 172.82
Income Total	\$ 1,534.75
Dues	\$ 1,351.00
DVD sales	\$ 95.00
Bank adjustments	\$ 88.75
Expenses Total	\$ 1,199.42
Room rental	\$ 660.00
Newsletters	\$ 55.83
DVD production	\$ 92.00
Bank charges	\$ 88.75
Club website	\$ 104.68
Name tags	\$ 79.29
Contest awards	\$ 32.44
Contest fees	\$ 29.77
Refreshments	\$ 31.66
AMMA dues	\$ 25.00
Bank Account Ending 2006	\$ 508.15

Jim Visser, Treasurer for 2006

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

One of the hats worn by the Vice President is one that says "Membership Chairman." This entails keeping an eye on our membership total and doing one's best to increase it. Well, I have good news. During 2006, under the guidance of our new president to whom this task fell, we did, indeed, increase our membership. That's pretty darned good in the face of steadily dwindling amateur movie makers clubs around the country. We now stand at 34 paid up members, very few clubs can boast that number. It is up to the new board, including yours truly, to keep the momentum going. The question is, how to do it?

One way is for all of us to encourage friends and relatives to catch the video-making bug and join us. We have a lot to offer, including knowledgeable members who are more than willing to share their expertise

in all aspects of the craft; the chance to work hands-on with a production crew; and the opportunity to gain knowledge through the club's informative seminars. And always there's a sympathetic audience to premiere one's efforts. Another is by example; making good videos as individual members and club videos that create interest and excitement, whether the topics are family events, documentaries or features.

My job includes handling club publicity; getting the word out by way of the media, bulletin boards and anything else I can come up with. Allied to publicity are projects earmarked for 2007 that include a fresh club look ranging from a new logo, stationery and press kit to our revamped website with the abilities for members to post their movies as well as provide a platform for useful articles, keep an updated club calendar and, eventually, containing a bulletin board and links to other clubs. If there are any website experts among us, I would be pleased to hear from them. I'd also like club members to submit ideas for



a new club logo, so get your pencils out and work up some rough sketches for me.

The start of a new year is always an exciting time, to take a new breath and plan fresh ideas and projects. I'll do my best, as your Vice President, to help the club flourish and continue to expand in the year ahead.

Brian Lucas

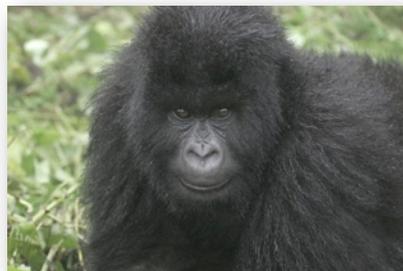
AROUND THE CLUBS

January 5th, 2007, San Jose Movie/Video Makers

Award winning videographer, **Fred Heiman**, will present "*Gorillas and Other Wildlife of Uganda and Rwanda.*"

Fred has won numerous awards for his films at national and international film and video festivals, including: the Merit Award for Amateur Wildlife Photography at the International Wildlife Film Festival, the Stan Waterman Award For Excellence In Underwater Videography, and the Grand Festival Awards at the Berkeley Film Festival.

He will also answer questions about making the move from Standard to High Definition video. **For more information contact Gordon Peterson, phone 408-266-0250, President.**



"Maybe Today" DVD's Available for Sale!

Want to treat the family to a movie? Here's your chance.

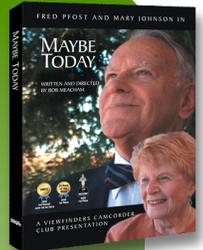
For a mere \$5.00 you can entertain the kids and in-laws

with your own copy of Viewfinders Video Productions' award-winning feature.

This gripping saga of one man's pursuit of companionship and future happiness is set against a menacing backdrop of the South Bay's mean streets and bus stops... Well, something like that.

You have a choice of two DVD versions: Version 1 has the movie alone and Version 2 also contains a trailer.

For your own copy of this remarkable production, please email Frank Swanson. He'll be pleased to take your order.



JANUARY MEETING, JAN 3RD



January's meeting will feature movie screenings from



the "10 Best of the West" and the NCCAMC yearly competitions. Members are also asked to bring videos for showing. At the end of the meeting Frank Swanson will

conduct our new "Tech Tips" segment. It will be a full evening.

The "10 Best of the West" competition is organized every year by an affiliate group of the Amateur Movie Makers Association, AMMA, and was headed up in 2006 by our own Bernie Wood. It is open to all moviemakers' clubs and individuals in the U.S. who reside west of the Mississippi, and residents of Canada's western provinces.

The NCCAMC competition is open to Northern California clubs and members. Viewfinders club is pleased that our production "Maybe Today" was winners in both competitions.

Throughout the year, a new feature at the end of monthly meetings will be "Tech Tips." This will be an instructive fifteen minutes, covering ideas and equipment to improve our movie-making skills. This month, Frank Swanson will be conducting it with assistance from the company Digital Juice.

Don't forget, we still want to see members' videos. If you have one that we haven't seen before, or if it is a long time since you last screened it, please bring it in. You'll have an appreciative audience.

AMMA 2007 CONVENTION



The 2007 Convention of Non-Commercial Movie Makers will be held on the cruise ship Crown Princess next October 6-13, 2007. The seven day New England Fall Cruise will be hosted by AMMA with invitations to all amateur movie making groups or individuals.

Embarkation is from New York to Halifax, Nova Scotia with stops at US and Canadian ports along the way.

Staterooms, offered at a special group rate, must be reserved by April 9, 2007, with final payment due by July 15.

Stateroom costs range from \$1185 to \$1555 per person double occupancy. (Single occupancy approx. double the above rate.)

For full information contact Convention Chairman Harold Cosgrove by mail (PO Box 474, Lewiston, NY 14092) or telephone (800-668-9041)

Proposed Itinerary

- Day 1: Sail from New York
- Day 2: At sea. Convention begins at 7:30 pm and continues through Day 6.
- Day 3: Halifax Nova Scotia
- Day 4: Saint John, New Brunswick
- Day 5: Bar Harbor, Maine
- Day 6: Boston, Massachusetts
- Day 7: Newport, Rhode Island
- Day 8: Return to New York

VIEWFINDERS VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

Club Commercial

VVP's current project in the works is a sixty-second commercial promoting the club. Designed to encourage neophyte video-makers who may be struggling with the craft and in need of assistance, the commercial spotlights Viewfinders as a source of knowledge and help. We plan to run it on our website and local TV stations wherever possible. DVD copies for distribution will also be made.

The production team is headed by Frans Helbig as Producer and Fred Pfof as Director and Writer. Other members are: Irv Webster, Designer; Frank Swanson, Assistant Director; Jack Gorham, Videographer; Bob Meacham, Video Editor; and Bill Mannion, who will provide additional video and stills. Several actors will also appear.

To date, Fred has drafted the working screenplay and some preliminary footage has already been shot. As the main footage is not expected to begin until after the holidays, the team is ahead of schedule and plans to complete the whole production and have it ready for viewing by late February.

The commercial should make a useful tool in our efforts to promote Viewfinders. To encourage new members, it stresses three important points:

- **Networking:** Our club is a place where new members can meet others of the same interest in a very friendly environment.
- **Skills:** Our membership is experienced, knowledgeable and willing to offer advice and assistance.
- **Exposure:** New members can screen their movies before a sympathetic audience.

CREDITS

Editor: Gaillyne Bouret
 Publisher: Brian Lucas
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Viewfinder Newsletter is published during the third week of each month for Viewfinders Camcorder Club of Cupertino members.

Please send announcements and articles for submission to the publisher during the two weeks previous to the following monthly issue.
 Send address and email corrections to the publisher.

MONTHLY CLUB MEETINGS

Held in the Cupertino Room, Quinlan Center. 10188 N. Stelling Road, Cupertino, California.
 Watch the calendar for programs updates. Admission is free.

OFFICERS

President: Bob Meacham
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Treasurer: Frank Swanson
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Secretary: Fred Pfof
fpost@aol.com

WEBSITE

www.viewfindersclub.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2007	
<p>JAN Jan 3 Meeting: "10 Best of the West" and NCCAMA movies screenings. Jan 5th San Jose Meeting: "Gorillas..."</p>	<p>FEB Feb 7 Meeting: TBA</p>
<p>MARCH March 14 Meeting: "Ask the Experts". A panel of our own members on video techniques.</p>	<p>APRIL April 4 Meeting: TBA</p>
<p>MAY May 2 Meeting: Club Member Video Screening Night.</p>	<p>JUNE</p>
<p>JULY MV Student Video Festival.</p>	<p>AUG</p>
<p>SEPT</p>	<p>Club Annual Video Contest. Screenings.</p>
<p>NOV Annual Gold DVD Awards and Social.</p>	<p>DEC</p>

