

Access TV - From Hobby to Video
By Richard Diaz

The strength of community programming lies in the freedom of expression - political, ideological, or personal - that it provides. Fancy wording aside, what I mean is if you care about it, you can make a show of it. So let's take a moment to focus on turning your hobby into a video.

First off, this should be easy to do, for several reasons. You have a passion for it (or it wouldn't be your hobby!) so the enthusiasm is there. The resources are there; MVCC has the cameras, editing equipment, studio and staff to make your vision happen. And the chance to share your hobby with others should be plenty of motivation. So now all you need to decide is what form your show will take.

Your show could be so many different things! As an example, I'll choose bike riding as a hobby (since we're hypothetically speaking, let's also imagine I'm a buff biker-dude who actually likes exercise) and start brainstorming. You could do a talk show in the studio featuring other bikers. It could also cover bike models and equipment (maybe ask some local bike stores to sponsor), and even the "biker lifestyle". You could take a camera out and show the area's bike trails, even interviewing some people on the path. You could fasten a camcorder to your bike and just ride for 30 minutes- so that people at home on their exercise bikes can imagine they're riding, too. Hey, you could Chromakey that footage for your talk show (like the weathermen do) just for a cool look. You can tape bike shows or biking competitions, or shoot people doing stunts and riding along and put it to music. You can analyze the role of bikes in TV and movies (does anyone remember Quicksilver with Kevin Bacon?). How about a documentary on the bike patrol of your local police department?

All these ideas came from just 15 minutes of brainstorming. You can come up with even more just by focusing on what makes your hobby fun to you. Visualize what you want, and don't initially rule out complicated ideas until you talk with MVCC staff. Follow these steps, and you'll soon have a video that not only expresses your enthusiasm, but may spark it in others.