

# New York Woodstock Community Video

It's not the great youth camp acclaimed in some historical fantasies of the 60's—simply it's rural suburbia. As a Northeastern upper-middle American habitat Woodstock is similar to many communities in this nation. It is dissimilar in that it has been an art colony for some 75 years and has attracted to its foothill Catskill Mountain environment a variety of life-stylists with significant contributions to make and tourist bandwagoners with significant consumptions to make. A closely located IBM plant helps populate the town of 5000 with red-blooded engineers and executives who rub noses with settled down rock stars, urban refugee writers and actors and town folk with roots dating back to the origins of this country.

Woodstock is a town where local programming is a task demanding responsiveness to Firehouse bazaars, ecological group actions, town government, women's civic and lib groups, musicians, straights, long-hairs, culture-vultures, snowmobilers, etc.

The above agreement with Kingston Cablevision marked a first in this town. On May 29, 1972 the first 2 hour program went out to some 1800 cabled homes. Every week about 2 hours of locally produced documentaries about the town can be seen on Wednesday nights from 7:30 to 9:30.

For us, the video programmer, once pursuing the allusions of our rhetoric about alternate media ideals, the task has now become tedious, sometimes monotonous but always and consistently satisfying. Day-to-day programming is not the sort of thing conceived by rhetoricians. Weekly taped programming is no celebrated task for media revolutionaries. The only models to look to for direction are the rhetorically defined enemy—the networks—who also are the models for the audience. The changes seem more in the revolutionary than in the establishment.

Electronic media to date doesn't provide for computer access, info-economics, electronic democracy, etc. Things no doubt in the future but today the media soldier with his semi-home consumer—not so pro 1/2" armory can only approximate a TV subculture acting like a mini-network programmer. No disillusionment intended.

The media person of 1/2" video can now discern between ideology and the *real*—the day-to-day process of taped programming to an audience within a provincial environment with a homespun consciousness. Settling into a community, accepting day-to-day realities of it and ourselves, bridging gaps of miscomprehension around and within us will serve eventual user rehabilitation and that "revolution" of electronic media technology. This will depend on the willingness, patience and perseverance of media activists.

May 18, 1972

Mr. Kenneth Marsh, Director  
Woodstock Community Video  
Woodstock, New York 12498

Dear Mr. Marsh:

This will confirm the conversation with you Tuesday, May 2nd, regarding the non-commercial use on a non-exclusive basis of an unused channel on Kingston Cablevision's Woodstock CATV system for the presentation of programming produced by Woodstock Community Video. The following constitutes the ground rules mutually agreed upon:

1. Kingston Cablevision will make available its Woodstock system transmission facilities to Woodstock Community Video for the cablecasting of taped community-oriented, non-commercial, television programs on a mutually agreed upon day/evening each week for up to two hours duration on a channel which Kingston will designate as a "public access" channel.
2. Woodstock Community Video will be responsible for furnishing and maintaining the tape recorder(s) and related equipment required for the cablecasts.
3. Kingston Cablevision will furnish a qualified individual to supervise the cablecasting at the Woodstock system's headend and handle the interfacing functions.
4. Woodstock Community Video will submit to Kingston Cablevision the tapes of the programs to be cablecast each week at least 48 hours before air time in order that Kingston Cablevision may satisfy itself that the programs meet acceptable broadcast standards and legal requirements. Kingston Cablevision shall have the right to refuse to cablecast any programs which fail to meet these standards or requirements.
5. At the end of each program to be cablecast, Woodstock Community Video will provide the following disclaimer: This program was produced by Woodstock Community Video and does not necessarily reflect the views of Kingston Cablevision, Inc.
6. If any of the programs produced by Woodstock Community Video contain commercial announcements, Kingston Cablevision will charge Woodstock Community Video for the use of its Woodstock CATV facilities as it would any other party to whom it would make available time for commercial leased channel operations.

The foregoing conditions are subject to all local, state, and federal regulations and the parties agree to modify or change these conditions if at any time they are not consistent with such regulations.

Accepted   
WOODSTOCK COMMUNITY VIDEO

  
KINGSTON CABLEVISION



new york state  
video grange