

More volunteers join Amrac

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television.

Mad River TV volunteers Jim MacGilvary and John Seitz will bring cameras on their trip to Romania next week. MacGilvary, a Winsted resident and one of the original volunteers, joined after seeing an advertisement in a local newspaper.

"I (joined) because it was a way of being able to say things that were on my mind without being censored," he said.

MacGilvary has since met a variety of interesting people because of his affiliation with the station. He recently finished a show on gliders that will air soon.

"Cable TV is kind of like specialty magazines of TV. If there's a show that's just for fishermen, that's fine," he said. "We don't try to have mass appeal."

Much of the programming now is based in Winsted.

For some reason other towns in the franchise — Colebrook, Barkhamsted, Harwinton, Goshen and New Hartford — have not

taken advantage of the service, Rasmussen said.

Most of the local programming occurs Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday evenings, but the channel is not into a set schedule. When its own programming is not being aired, a bulletin board announcing community events and upcoming cablecasts runs continuously. Channel 13 also offers community college courses five hours a day.

Rasmussen, a Winsted resident, acts as liaison between Amrac and public access. In addition to training volunteers, he ensures that the volunteers receive everything they are entitled to under state law.

Currently, the two studio cameras are broken, and Rasmussen is trying to buy two new cameras, but finding inexpensive ones is difficult. Good cameras cost \$25,000 to \$70,000. Rasmussen wants to spend \$7,000.

Community lawyer Charlene LaVole is looking into making the public access channel a non-profit organization, thus able to accept donations, Rasmussen said.