

CONNECTED CAM™ Captures Stunning Image Quality for Chris Koehn Documentaries

July 2020

The Customer:

Former newspaper journalist turned videographer, Chris Koehn, who currently works on TV and film documentaries, focused on travel and weather from locations around the world.



Chris Koehn capturing macro footage of methane bubbles trapped in the ice at Abraham Lake in Alberta, Canada. The JVC HC-900 survived -10-degree Celsius temperatures with ease and performed well in a variety of shooting conditions.
Photo Credit: Keith Moore Photography.



Photo Credit: Greg Scratchley.

The Challenge:

Koehn's ability to move fast in order to keep pace with the changing weather and lighting conditions for two recent projects: a documentary travel series featuring the landscape of David Thompson Country in West Central Alberta and a project focused on the atmospheric sciences of the Aurora (Northern Lights).

The Solution:

He utilized JVC's GY-HC900 CONNECTED CAM™, which is equipped with 2/3-inch CMOS image sensors that deliver high sensitivity, low noise and wide dynamic range. It also features a powerful communications engine for a streamlined workflow that's both reliable and cost-effective. The GY-HC900 is a unique and innovative broadcast camcorder that makes no compromises in image quality while offering a level of connectivity not found elsewhere

"We were filming landscape photographer Keith Moore as he captured the environment," explains Koehn. "The form factor of the GY-HC900 is great. I can just put it in the car, pick it up, throw it on a tripod, and shoot great image quality out of the box. I don't have to connect a lot of gear to make it work or worry about auxiliary batteries or a box of lenses or filters. It is a complete package that you can also just put on your shoulder and get going."

The Result:

For Koehn, the camera not only offered the "run-and-gun" maneuverability for which he was searching, but also the high-quality images necessary to showcase the naturescapes associated with his projects. "In this world of full frame sensors and 8K, the GY-HC900's three chips and 50-megabit data rate pulled out such great color. I had a few interesting high- and low-contrast situations and still captured precise detail. The images didn't get blown out. The integrated ND filters are also great, and the color is so good; there is no banding. It's a fantastic camera that delivers spectacular images without the exorbitant price tag."

With the GY-HC900, Koehn says his editing workflows were also easier. "What you're getting out of the camera far exceeds the current 1080p expectations. Typically, if you go the 4K route, you need more powerful computers for your workflow. With the JVC GY-HC900, I just pop the SDHC/SDXC card into my computer, and it just pulls up the data. There is no stuttering or anything. It delivers an amazingly high-quality file that is so small. You can use any computer to edit because it's such a small data footprint. It doesn't choke your system. I can quickly cut with it, and I don't need to adjust anything."

Koehn also found the build quality of the GY-HC900 to exceed his expectations. "We were outdoors on Abraham Lake in 15-degree weather for about six hours and the camera worked flawlessly. We were in wind, snow and ice, and had no issues at all. I actually had the camera pointed right down on the ice at one point in order to get a shot of the methane bubbles in the ice on the lake with the really cool macro lens that came with the camera, and it did not hiccup at all. In six freezing hours, there were no problems."