



OREGON COMMUNITY MEDIA

A Periodic Newsletter

OCM General Meeting and Trainings 9/12, 2:00-5:00 - via Zoom



Notes From the President

All of you are now more than familiar with the challenges and frustrations of trying to keep a volunteer-powered radio station on the air, sounding fresh and staying safe in this ongoing pandemic. We all have our stories, wins, and losses. OCM is also struggling to keep our organization going forward without the face-to-face gatherings that have kept breathing life into the group.

The decision to cancel our big Fall General Meeting in Astoria was not an easy one. The Board hated making it but it was the only responsible thing to do. We do not want a couple of dozen local community radio stations to become Corona virus hot spots all around Oregon. And we certainly don't want any of us to get sick.

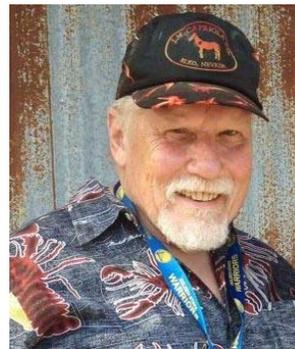
So our Fall Meeting will be virtual. The Board will meet via Zoom on Saturday, Sept 12, 10AM until noon-ish. Details will be available soon, including log-in info.

The big OCM Fall General Meeting will be a ZOOM event later Saturday, Sept.12th from 2:00pm until 5:00pm plus. I hope at least one person from each station will be joining in. Additional station participants will be welcome, but probably not a dozen or so per station. For this reason, an RSVP or head count in advance would be appreciated. Although the Board has been meeting by ZOOM, this will be our first shot at something so large and potentially cumbersome.

Our plan is to try to have a parallel streaming feed for folks who just want to watch. That is definitely a work in progress, so stay tuned.

We expect to start with roll call and BRIEF intros. Then, we'll have our virtual Keynote presentation by FCC Attorney Michael Couzens. After a short break, we'll do some OCM business (all are invited to join) followed by another short break.

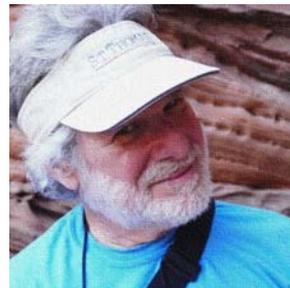
Trainings presenters:



Michael Couzens

Election broadcast potential pitfalls-IRS & FCC Regs AND Gearing up for FCC license Re-

newall: What ducks you need to get in a row before 2022.
Q&A.



Michael Brown

Recent FCC Rule Changes and Upcoming FCC NCE Band filing window.

Engineering Q&A.



Michael Johnson

October deadline for Sage ENDEC (EAS) firmware upgrade.

Engineering Q&A.

We will have both of our Engineering gurus, Mikes Brown and Johnson for some interesting new tech info and your "Ask an Engineer" questions. Send your engineering questions to Dave (dhammock@comcast.net) in advance. We hope to wrap up our official meeting by 5.

continued on page 4

Homegrown Radio—by Reverend Tim

Flashback: Summer, 2019

I jump into the cockpit, immediately feeling in the zone. The Beach Boys come blasting out of the studio speakers and Debby is already reaching for the first phone call. Classic Rock & Roll is a request show, and a group of regulars calls in almost every week asking for the tune they just have to hear. Now! Play it now! We got 15 to 20 calls every Sunday. Callers can be demanding and pissy when they don't get their way, but that's all part of the fun. I'm building momentum and sometimes The Carpenters just don't fit in. Two hours whip by in no time. Debby spends most of the show fielding the calls I don't have time for when I'm searching for the next three-minute song. The show is a rush, and I feel as if I've been on a rollercoaster ride. I take a deep breath and bail out.

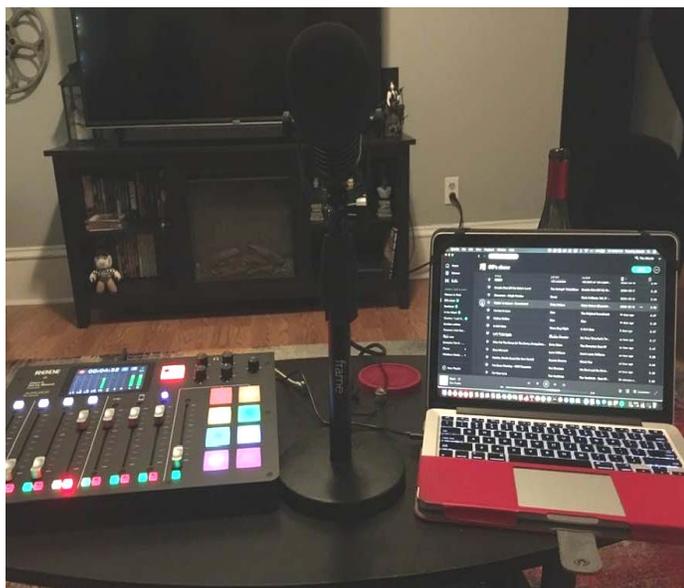
Summer, 2020

I'm sitting on my red leatherette futon wannabe couch. It's not very comfortable, but there's no chance I'll get drowsy. On the small table in front of me is my laptop and the StudioLive AR8 I use to record my shows. This will be the forty-fourth show I have done from home.

That's 88 hours of sitting here with my headphones on, pretending I have an audience in front of me and trying to keep up that energy level I have on Sundays when I'm live. 88 Hours. The same number of keys on a piano. There



Reverend Tim



Tim's Home Grown Studio

continued on page 4



Meet an OCM Affiliate



KSKQ serves all of Jackson County, Oregon, and a bit of Siskiyou County in California. The main tower is situated at 6125 ft on Table Mountain east of Ashland, and from a translator on Roxy Ann Peak east of Medford. KSKQ has a full power NCE license plus streams from www.kskq.org 24 hours a day 365 days a year. KSKQ runs primarily with volunteers with three very part time positions receiving small compensation.

KSKQ's story began in the year 2000 with a group of local citizens who were disgruntled because the local NPR affiliate refused to play "Democracy Now!" with Amy Goodman.

One Board member of the Multicultural Association of Southern Oregon (MCASO) submitted a collaborative application for a low power FM radio construction permit on behalf of MCASO and three other organizations. In December of 2004 the FCC granted the construction permit to MCASO and suddenly the organization was in the radio business--with really no radio expertise. But, fortunately there was a group of knowledgeable radio enthusiasts in Ashland and surrounds who happily ran with the opportunity and, on June 15th, 2005, KSKQ began streaming an irregular schedule of music shows from someone's garage.

There were many challenges to siting the LPFM antenna, but at last, a mere month before the FCC deadline in 2007, KSKQ raised its 100 watt antenna from the yard of a KSKQ Steering Committee member on *the far side of a mountain ridge* from the town Ashland. (ie, no line-of-site). The signal reached the antenna through telephone wires.

Even with the poor signal, KSKQ grew in the number of enthusiastic volunteers. A new volunteer with experience in two other community stations was quick to help the us develop the station. We began to play syndicated news and talk shows—of course starting with "Democracy Now!"

KSKQ volunteers tabled at local community events and in front of grocery stores, letting the world know that Ashland now had its own community station. The motto was "Home Grown Radio" and the logo was a windmill because the intent was to eventually run the station off the grid.

continued on page 5

Community Radio Pioneer Lorenzo Wilson Milam August/2/1933 - July 19/2020

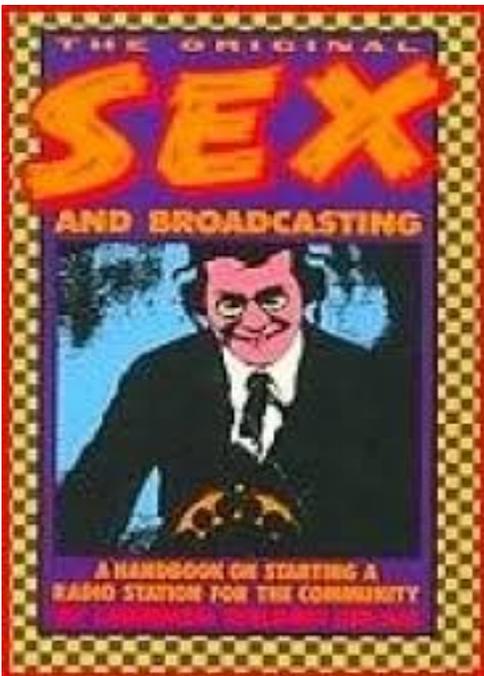
Lorenzo was a leader in disability rights, publishing and half a dozen other pursuits. But in community radio, Lorenzo was a legend in his own time. He inspired hundreds of people to start community radio stations all around the country....

Lorenzo was one of the most influential and inspiring characters ever to sit behind a microphone. Through his playful genius and uncompromising commitment to the First Amendment right of free speech, he was in large part responsible for creating a national movement that launched hundreds of grassroots stations, touched thousands of lives and warped the shape of public broadcasting forever....

In Seattle he was able to fulfill his dream of a freeform, anti-commercial station — KRAB.... With the help of gifted mad-scientist engineer Jeremy Lansman, KRAB went on the air in 1963 and was the first non-Pacific station to offer a really broad and quirky range of voices, music and culture over the airwaves....



Lorenzo produced a slim booklet called *Sex and Broadcasting: A Handbook on How to Start a Radio Station for the Community*. It was a straightforward step-by-step guide for how to find a frequency, set up a local organization, fill out the FCC application, wait a year for a construction permit, and then, once it was all assembled, put the most outrageous programming possible on the air....



In short order, local groups began to apply for radio licenses and be granted construction permits everywhere — including Portland OR — KBOO....

At the National Alternative Radio Konvention (NARK) Lorenzo shared his vision. “This is where the real community radio idea emerged:

one that depends on hordes of volunteers and constant influx with freeform rambunctious, tearing-up radio, finally torn away from the pale gray shadows that had encumbered educational radio in the United States for 40 years....”

Lorenzo and Jeremy were always looking for ways to poke the bureaucracy at the FCC and challenge the rules.

Continued on page 4

Oregon Community Media

Mission:

Oregon Community Media is an association of non-commercial Radio Stations working together to strengthen local independent media to better serve diverse communities.

OCM Vision:

Oregon Community Media supports members in being vibrant, active and respected community institutions who offer public service through high quality, interesting, creative and diverse content.

OCM Board of Directors

Dave Hammock, President, KMUZ
dhammock@comcast.net

David Christian, VP, KSHD
shadycoverradio@yahoo.com

Connie Saldana, Recording Secretary, KSKQ
connie.saldana@kskq.org

Jill Mahler, Treasurer, KPOV
jill@kpov.org

Susan Peterson, Corresponding Secretary, KMUN-
susan@coastradio.org

Betty McArdle, CMAP
betty@c-map.org

Sue Matters, KWSO-
sue.matters@wstribes.org

Don Senter, KSKQ
don@kskq.org

Erin Yanke, KBOO
eyanke@gmail.com

Be part of OCM!!

Go to OCM's website, <https://oregoncommunitymedia.org/>, to find the application form to become an OCM affiliate or associate. An OCM Associate is an individual or organization that supports Oregon community radio stations.

must be some kind of deep meaning there. Therefore, I will start this show with a rocking piano piece, maybe Little Richard or Jerry Lee Lewis. I can try standing on my futon as Jerry Lee did with his piano, but it will probably collapse.

It's as smooth and easy as cool jazz to use this equipment now, but it wasn't always this way. When I did my first homespun show, it took eight hours from the time I started until the program was safely uploaded to the station's audioshare site. Eight exhausting hours in which I freaked out multiple times, cursing and ranting around my apartment (once with the mic on), starting over too many times to count, and generally just screwing up. I hit the wrong buttons, forgot to set volume levels, sang along to songs with the mic still on, forgot to set a timer for my 59-minute segments. But I learned. I had to. Radio is my therapy. It satisfies my soul. I have to breathe; I have to eat; I have to do my shows. Simple as that. And I still make mistakes. I tend to leave them in my programs, now. Life's too short to worry about any mistake that isn't blatantly offensive to my sensitive rock and roll audience. Metaphorically, I went from the chaos of punk music to smooth jazz over the course of 88 hours.

As I finish writing this, I realize I need to do another show now. It's not at all daunting anymore. On comes the equipment, and I slide the headphones back onto my head. The sun is going down and I have a glass of red wine on the table next to my laptop. I see my audience across the room reflected in the black screen of my television. I smile to myself, crank up the volume to eleven and start my therapy session.

Reverend Tim's show is broadcast on KMUN, Astoria

it or not, they unleashed such a firestorm at the FCC that the Commission has still not recovered....

The FCC received more mail on Lorenzo and Jeremy's filing than any other in its history. Literally mil-



lions of form letters and postcards poured in from churchgoers around the country. There was also the false rumor that the notorious atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair was behind this plot to shut down religious radio....

To set the record straight in his own fashion, Lorenzo published The Petition Against God. Periodically even now the FCC receives new mounds of mail on this....

lions of form letters and postcards poured in from churchgoers around the country. There was also the false rumor that the notorious atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair was behind this plot to shut down religious radio....

Lorenzo did many other things with his life after he left community radio, but his greatest legacy will be that he inspired thousands of regular people to transform the airwaves and make them their own.

Excerpts from a recent article in Current by Nan Rubin, Community Media Services, <http://www.nanrubin.net/>. Go to <https://current.org/2020/08/lorenzo-milam-legendary-pioneer-of-community-radio-dies-at-86/#comment-120920> to read the entire article. Used with permission. Also, check another article at Reason, <https://reason.com/2020/07/23/the-death-of-a-radio-pioneer/>

THEN, since we can't all go to some local restaurant and terrorize the wait staff, we'll hold the ZOOM conference together for a BYO dinner on line. This is when we'll go 'round the group and have time for station updates - our "show & tell" session. Folks who need to drop out and do other things can go, but I hope enough of us will hang around and chat.

Please plan to join in September.

David Hammock
President OCM
KMUZ-FM, Turner (Salem)
dhammock@comcast.net

continued from page 2

KSKQ applied for a construction permit for its full-power license in 2007 and was granted in 2008. Thanks to the expertise and creative strategizing of Engineer Michael Brown, the KSKQ site was located on a mountain top, on private property surrounded by BLM land, with 560 watts and a contour shoe-horned between others. Incredibly the site has perfect line-of-site from the station, at that time on Hersey Street in Ashland. The next challenge came from the cell company that owned two towers on that site—one unused. They refused to communicate with KSKQ about renting or even donating antenna space. Again, in dramatic fashion, we were forced to find other solutions as the construction permit expiration date drew near.



There was an old retired wood fire watch tower on the property, as well. Fortunately the owner was a supportive business woman in Ashland. So, in the summer of 2011 KSKQ began broadcasting from the site at 18 watts, using a propane generator. Volunteers refurbished and grounded the tower, with the volunteer help of a structural engineer.

After months of researching all manner of alternative energy possibilities, the main issue was how to connect to electrical power. However, the transformer was controlled by that cell phone company that was still refusing to communicate with us. That didn't stop the "little station that could." KSKQ volunteers spent the summer with jackhammers, picks and shovels digging 30-inch trenches through solid rock around the tower for lightning protection and the 165 feet right up to the transformer. To make a long story short, once again, mere days before the FCC deadline, KSKQ triumphed. KSKQ volunteers stood as snow fell and watched as electricians and cell company technicians connected our cables to the transformer.

By that time, KSKQ had 40 volunteer programmers and a solid schedule. Without being able to afford a General Manager or Executive Director, KSKQ developed governance structure of a 5-person Management Committee and part time Station Manager, Program Director, Office Manager/Volunteer Coordinator. Station Directors of the Multicultural Association have fiscal oversight and "hire" the Station Manager and Manage-

ment Committee Members. Currently KSKQ has about 60 programmers and volunteers.

Some milestones since 2011: KSKQ was able to increase its power from the temporary 18 watts to its full 560 watts with a 2-bay directional antenna and to go from an exciter to a Nautel transmitter; to retire its hand-me-down musicians' mixing board and replace it with a real radio air board; replacing the RV generator, that had to be started by a human on-site, with a Generac that starts itself at the first twinge of power outage.

In 2016, Community Media Assistance Project (CMAP) installed a translator so KSKQ could reach into Medford, the largest city in our area, expanding our potential audience by 100,000. We rent that equipment from CMAP on an ongoing basis.

As with all community stations, there have been unexpected challenges that have knocked KSKQ off the air for hours or even days: power outages in the area of the mountain (pre-automatic-start generator); the landlord having the phone lines cut not realizing they were ours (this one during pledge drive); our power lines being cut by and repaired by an ODOT contractor in 2018 and that repair failing in 2020, costing thousands of scarce dollars to repair properly; having to move suddenly from our studio home of 14 years. And then there are the software glitches and programmer operator errors that create dead air for extended periods of time.

So far all challenges have been met head on and resolved. The little station that could is still chugging along. What we thought was a terrible, expensive calamity—having to move first to temporary quarters, then again—turned out to be a wonderful opportunity, landing



us in a beautiful spot, taking us from a small unit in the industrial area of Ashland to a nice professional building, raising KSKQ's visibility standard of living considerably. Programmers can actually see our tower up on Table Mountain from the window as they don their headphones, sit at the board and begin their shows.

KSKQ
89.5 fm
94.1 fm
www.kskq.org