

Clay's Corner for March 2022

**Providing news and views from a broadcast
engineers perspective since September 1986**

Daylight saving time is just around the corner. This year, it begins at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 13, which means later sunsets, longer-days and the biannual hassle of changing the time on old-school clocks. Why did they tease us into thinking that this bi-annual switch would go away?

Who would have predicted that the news-cycle that has been, pretty much, wall-to-wall Covid-19 would suddenly change to the Russian invasion of Ukraine? Like previous events of this type this will very likely give a boost to those outlets that are aimed at news/talk and information. I suspect that we will see a shift in those numbers the next time around.

Perhaps what's different this time around is all the video feeds we are able to see, not to mention the effect Social Media has added.

In the meantime, if you recently purchased a gas-gulping truck or SUV...The impact that this crisis will be having on the price of fuel is going to hit those folks pretty hard. Vehicle dealers, that sell Hybrids or Electric vehicles are likely very pleased.... Those that own them now are going to be pretty 'smug'.

This is a very rapidly changing dynamic, one where electronic distribution of news and information is, once again, proving to be superior. Unlike anything since the Cuban Missile Crisis, there is a lot of nail biting going on. Like WW1 & WW2, Europe seems to be at the center of it all.

The support for Ukraine is impressive, as is the number of countries that are vowing to support them. This is not a small backward country in the desert, but rather a large one with some 40+ Million residents.

Many from Ukraine had moved to the US in recent years, perhaps knowing the threat that was their neighbor? This is very close to home for me, in fact, Next Door. The house next door was recently purchased by a family from Ukraine. I've not had a chance to speak to them about this situation...But, when the time is right, I will and will likely give them a big hug.

The support is evident in our area is a couple of major ways...The color of the lighting on some of our major attractions showing Blue and Yellow – The colors of Ukraine

The Space Needle -



And the big wheel -



With events like these we are hearing words that we likely did not learn in school or use in everyday conversation –

Oligarch [ˈäləˌgärk] or [ol-i-garch]

A very rich business leader with a great deal of political influence.

Oligarchy is a form of power structure in which power rests with a small number of people. These people may or may not be distinguished by one or several characteristics, such as nobility, fame, wealth, education, or corporate, religious, political, or military control. Throughout history, oligarchies have often been tyrannical, relying on public obedience or oppression...

Coming from the Greek word oligarkhes, meaning “few governing,” an oligarchy is any power structure controlled by a small number of people called oligarchs. Oligarchs may be distinguished and related by their wealth, family ties, nobility, corporate interests, religion, politics, or military power.

Oligarchs are opportunists. They aim to create and exploit dynamic, unfolding situations that open more doors for them.

There is one, Ukraine, related story I'd like to add. There are reports that the AN225 has been destroyed in the fighting. A couple of things about this, one of a kind, aircraft –

It was the world's largest, operational, aircraft.

It was made in Ukraine

It landed at in Seattle - [FS2004 An-225 Mriya Landing in Seattle - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjAMavpXEAw)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjAMavpXEAw>



What a shame!

It's not often a Seattle Radio gets a lot of attention, sure KEXP has had some recent attention due to them turning 50 years old. What I'm talking about is the relationship of KUOW (94.9) and some Seattle area owners of Mazda vehicles early in February.

The way I understand it, some Mazda owners were, suddenly, confronted with the fact that their car radios are locking on 94.9 MHz leaving them unable to change the tuner. The only models affected are 2014–2017 Mazdas equipped with factory-installed HD Radios.

This event caused a number of folks to get involved – The automaker, Mazda, Xperi, the firm behind HD Radio...and, of course, the Engineering Department at the Radio station.

As an indication that the issue may have something to do with these receivers, the auto maker, reportedly, was issuing service alerts to their dealers which is usually a prelude to the arrival of repair parts and/or new computer code etc. Some have suggested that the Station broadcaster sent image files (computer code that drives the displays in many radios) minus a file extension.

The radio station issued these statements -

A KUOW spokesperson said the HD Radio system in the vehicles “pulls images from an NPR tool and uses the KUOW logo when there is nothing from NPR to use.” It’s unclear how widespread the problem is, according to the radio station.

“KUOW is aware of an apparent issue between our signal and some Mazda infotainment systems, causing radios to reboot when they connect to KUOW’s 94.9 FM signal. We have been in contact with Xperi, the company who owns the technology behind HD Radio, and have given them complete access to our transmitters to investigate what is causing this issue.

“Our operations team is doing everything they can to support them in finding a quick resolution. We also appreciate the assistance of listeners who helped alert KUOW to this issue and have provided additional information to aid the investigation.”

I've not heard if they have, positively, identified the cause as of this writing. Whatever has been going on came on the heels of my previous column where I wrote about how the 'car radio' of today was likely fully integrated into other vehicle systems.

Meanwhile, many other vehicle owners are about to experience some changes that will likely catch them by surprise. The fact is that all of the major wireless carriers are moving forward with plans to shut down their 3G networks. There are going to be a number of telematic systems out there that will stop working. These are not just old clunkers, but some pretty new vehicles. There are going to be a number of vehicle owners that will feel blind-sided by this move and will likely be headed to their favorite vehicle repair shop asking that it be repaired. Those vehicle systems that relay on 4G, LTE or 5G Networks will be OK, as will those that don't rely on a wireless system to fully function.

Another sale in the news this past month...Standard General, an investment firm, is going to acquire Tegna (Think KING & KONG-TV) for 8.6 Billion Bucks Including some 3.2 Billion in debt. Not sure what this will mean locally other than the Tegna name will go away from a lot of letterhead (Do people still use letterhead?) The Tegna sale also involves - KREM 2 and KSKN 22 in Spokane, KGW 8 in Portland and KTVB 7 in Boise, Idaho.

The FCC has been busy updating a number of technical rules for Radio. Rather than add my spin on these changes- Here is what was printed in Inside Radio –

To broadcasters, a series of changes just adopted by the Federal Communications Commission will mean time and money saved. For the FCC, the updates to its radio regulatory rulebook are about eliminating potential confusion with rules that it admits are often redundant, outdated or even in conflict with other requirements on the books.

The order ([MB Docket No. 21-263](#)) will update six rules --

Eliminate Transmitter Power Limit Rule For AMs.

- ***The FCC has concluded the rule is “outdated and unnecessary” given its current reliance on actual operating antenna input power as the most accurate and effective means of ensuring that AM stations adhere to their authorized power limits. The FCC also agreed with comments filed by the***

National Association of Broadcasters that said the elimination of the technical restriction will allow AMs of any class to use transmitters of any rated power. That, it says, will benefit all AMs by broadening the market of transmitters, enhancing the secondary market for AM transmitters, and reducing the number of transmitters that need to be disposed of.

Clarify AM Fill-in Area Definition

- *The FCC amended the definition of an “AM fill-in area” used when an FM translator simulcasts an AM station. The FCC says its change will “create consistency” across different rules governing fill-in translator transmitter siting and make it clear what an “AM fill-in area” is. The rules have said that an FM translator rebroadcasting an AM broadcast station must be located such that the 60dBu contour is contained within the greater of either the 2 mV/m daytime contour of the AM station, or a 25-mile radius centered at the AM station’s transmitter site. The FCC agrees with the NAB that the rule may inadvertently prevent many AM stations from operating FM translators within their 2 mV/m contour.*

Update Border FM Rules

- *The FCC amended the allocation and power limitations for broadcast stations within 320 kilometers of the Mexican and Canadian borders which it says is needed to comply with new agreements signed between the FCC and its Canadian and Mexican counterparts.*
- *The NAB had asked that the FCC ensure that existing U.S. stations near the Canadian border do not inadvertently become short-spaced. It says a 1997 agreement between the two countries increased the required separation distances involving Class A FMs. And in the order, the FCC does that. “We clarify that no facility modifications will be ordered because of the administrative updates to the distance separation requirements and that any Class A FM station may continue to operate under its licensed parameters,” it says. However, the order also states that any application to modify the technical parameters in the station’s license must include a showing that the proposed facilities satisfy the treaty.*
- *At the urging of the NAB, the order also clarifies that Class C0 FMs will be considered to be Class C FMs when allotments and assignments are considered near the Mexican border. But the FCC states that FM translators near the Mexican border will be subject to a contour overlap-based spacing methodology, and not distance separation rules. It opted not to change the rules for translators and booster stations near the Canadian border.*

Updating Noncommercial FM Community Of License Coverage Rules

- *In a change the FCC says will “create consistency across different rules” regarding the requirement for community coverage for noncommercial FM, it replaces the requirement that stations reach 50% of their community of license or 50% of the population in their community. It is replaced with the more general requirement that a station covers “at least a portion of the community.”*
- *The FCC also reaffirms the 60dBu contour-based coverage standard for noncommercial stations’ coverage requirement, rather than the 70dBu standard for commercial FMs. It says it represents a “carefully considered balance” between the rules and the service, technical, and financial realities of operating noncommercial FMs.*

New Overlap Rules For Noncommercial Class D Stations

- *The FCC updated the signal strength contour overlap requirements for noncommercial Class D FMs to bring the rules in line with the contour overlap requirements for all other noncommercial FMs. The FCC says less restrictive requirements have proven effective for other FM classes, and there is “no reason to continue treating Class D stations differently.” It also says that the change will give Class Ds “greater site flexibility” and will create opportunities for stations to increase power and coverage.*

Protections End For Grandfathered Common Carriers In Alaska

- *The FCC eliminated four “obsolete” rule provisions for broadcasters to protect grandfathered common carrier services in Alaska operating in the 76-100 MHz frequency band. “Our licensing databases indicate that there are no common carrier services remaining in this band in Alaska,” the order says. The rule dates to 1982 when the Commission reallocated the 76-100 MHz band in Alaska from government and non-government fixed services to broadcast services.*

Every since Sinclair purchased Fishers Radio and TV stations in Seattle, it’s been pretty clear, Sinclair, was not really interested in running Radio stations. Then came the sale of those stationa to Lotus and with that transfer came word that Sinclair liked the call letters KOMO-TV and was not interested in seeing them used by Lotus with their Radio Station.

So, it happened – After more years that anyone alive today could remember (95 years) KOMO-AM-1000 was swept into the dust bin of history on February 2nd.

Here’s one last look –

The Old and Historic -



And the new Logo -



Gone (from 1000 AM anyway) are the 'pronounceable' call letters – KO-MO. Perhaps you could now say – Ken-Wen ?

Listening to the Station now the terms – KOMO-News has been replaced with Northwest News. Adding a bit to the confusion is the fact that they are still airing stories from KOMO-TV Reporters where they credit the source as KOMO. So, you still hear a bit of KOMO, here and there. The only place I've heard KNWN is during their official ID near the top of the hour.

This change has stirred a lot of memories of when I was with KMO in Tacoma. During that time if I mentioned I worked for KMO the response would be – 'Oh, KOMO?' In the end, the owner of KMO thru in the towel and elected to end the call letter confusion and switched their historic 3-Letter call to KAMT (AM-Tacoma). Back in those days we could only dream that KOMO would change their call letters ☺

Meanwhile, over on Eastlake Ave - KIRO-Radio has dusted off their old saying. (Remember how it used to be KIRO News Radio 710 ?) And started calling itself '**Your Northwest News Station**'. The fact that a former KOMO-Radio person is now pulling some strings at KIRO Radio might be a factor. Looks like, once again, a couple of area broadcasters are going to be going toe-to-toe. This will be fun to watch. Note their 'revised' art-work below



In my time around here, I recall the days when the same owners operated radio and TV stations using the same call letters –

Tribune Publishing operated –

KTNT-TV – Ch 11

KTNT-AM - 1400

KTNT-FM – 97.3

- The TV was sold off and became KSTW
- The AM was sold and moved to Kitsap County (KITZ?)
- The FM call was changed to KNBQ and then sold to Viacom to become KBSG, which is now – KIRO-FM

KING Broadcasting operated

KING-TV – Ch 5

KING-AM – 1090

KING-FM – 98.1

- KING-TV is now owned by Tegna
- KING-AM (Now KFNQ) owned by iHeart
- KING-FM is now a non-commercial station still using KING-FM

Bonneville operated

KIRO-TV – Ch 7

KIRO-AM- 710

KIRO-FM – 100.7

- KIRO-TV is now owned by Cox
- KIRO-AM, after a stint with Entercom is once again owned by Bonneville
- KIRO-FM is now the call letters for 97.3 back with Bonneville. (100.7 was, at one time, KIRO-FM, that frequency is now operated by Audacy as KKWF)

Fisher, then Sinclair operated

KOMO-TV-Ch 4

KOMO-AM – 1000

KOMO-FM – 97.7

Perhaps call letters and their related frequencies no longer have the meaning they once did?

Here's an interesting exercise – [Google 1090 AM Seattle](#) – and guess what pops up?



Huh? I thought that KJR was on 950.

OK – Now [Google 950AM Seattle](#)



iHeart has made another move in this market, this time involving KUBE on 93.3. They've moved the stations, hip-hop, FM format to their HD2. Perhaps what makes this interesting is the recognition that HD2 is viable. They even have a specific logo for it.



KEXP has turned 50 years old. A lot of Radio Stations have turned 50, but not many have been recognized for it in the Seattle Times or KING-TV. This is a great story about a little radio station that started out at U-Dub running flea-power (They are still operating with a fraction of the power and/or coverage of the big FMs in the area). Despite their size, they have been doing amazingly well. The little Radio Station that could...And still does, to the amazement of many.

Here's another station in the area with humble beginnings that has gone on to do great things. I'm talking about 88.5 KNKX (Formally KPLU). Both of these stations are non-commercial whose programming has attracted a significant following. Unlike KEXP, KNKX has studios in Tacoma and Seattle and broadcasts from West Tiger Mountain with coverage equal to the 'big guns' in the market. On the subject of KNKX – They have a job opening in their Engineering Department – Read on -

Studio Engineer

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

This full-time position is responsible for keeping the technology functioning in all of our studios, and ensuring that our on-air staff have the tools and training they need to produce news and music content for multiplatform broadcast (FM, HD, stream, digital and transmitter). We use Audiovault, NewsBoss, Marketron, Wheatstone boards and other support and processing equipment for audio and data paths. The Studio Engineer is responsible for keeping all of these systems updated and running effectively, and constantly scanning the technology landscape for new tools and processes we can integrate into our strategy, planning and operations. You will work with reporters, news hosts and on-air music staff on a daily basis.

KNKX has offices in both Seattle and Tacoma, and the Studio Engineer will be expected to work in both offices on a regular basis. The salary range for this position is \$62,000 - \$70,000 per year. All KNKX employees must provide proof of full COVID-19 vaccination prior to the job start date.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- ***Install, monitor and perform maintenance on control consoles, audio routers, recording equipment, microphones, digital audio systems, meters, control systems, and remote equipment, including accurate record keeping.***
- ***Maintain and troubleshoot technical aspects of the broadcast and studio equipment. Ensure that all production systems are online and operating properly.***
- ***Work with IT to maintain, troubleshoot, and repair local computer infrastructure as it pertains to the broadcast and content chain, including home and office workstations. Schedule, test and verify backup operations.***
- ***Provide training on radio operations to content staff as needed.***
- ***Monitors broadcast operations after hours and fields calls and troubleshoots when programming is interrupted.***

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

- ***Experience in computer-based broadcast automation technologies.***
- ***Experience with studio equipment and operations, audio routing and distribution of analog, digital and audio-over-IP protocols, EAS, satellite receivers, studio telephones and broadcast IT systems.***
- ***Strong analytical and problem-solving skills, and the ability to balance sometimes competing demands.***
- ***Communication and interpersonal skills necessary to assist generally non-technical people in a positive manner.***

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- ***Experience with automation playout systems for radio, including Audiovault, Newsboss, Selector, and Marketron.***
- ***Experience with Wheatstone AoIP and related technologies***
- ***Proficiency in AoIP, A/V routing and transcoding, broadcast automation, and other modern video, audio and broadcast technologies. Knowledge of current and developing trends in radio.***
- ***A Degree in Electrical Engineering or related field, a certificate or two-year associate's degree in broadcast engineering, or a minimum of three years professional experience***
- ***Knowledge of radio (public or commercial) organizational structures, workflows, systems, and operating procedures.***
- ***Ability to oversee, coordinate, and support the execution of continuous broadcast schedules on a 24x7 basis.***
- ***Physical requirements: the ability to lift at least 50 pounds, climb ladders, grasp objects and sit or stand for extended periods of time.***

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- ***Knowledgeable of public radio principles and standards, as well as FCC and other regulations a plus.***

- ***Knowledge, experience and interest in RF (radio-frequency) engineering, to help maintain KNKX's transmitter/translator infrastructure and other technologies. This position works closely with the KNKX Chief Engineer in maintaining our broadcast infrastructure.***

FM Translators are a big thing in Radio these days as evidenced by the prices being paid for them. Recently two of these systems in the Seattle Tacoma market were sold for \$875,000 to Iglesia Pentecostal Vispera Del Fin. One licensed to Redmond on 98.5 and the other in Auburn on 102.1. When the deal closes, its my understanding they will be broadcasting the same programming as KMIA-AM-1210. Which could be described as Latino Christian. This past year, the organizations built new studios in the Bustos Media building in Kent.

Here's a question for you - - What cities in the US have the fastest job growth in the U.S.
---Hint, #1 and #2 are in the PNW.

If you were thinking Seattle or Bellevue, sorry!

#1 is Boise, Idaho > Job growth since Feb. 2020: +94.8% > Unemployment rate in Dec. 2021: 2.3%

#2 is Spokane, WA > Job growth since Feb. 2020: +90.8% > Unemployment rate in Dec. 2021: 3.9%

Washington, D.C. -- The National Association of Broadcasters announced the 50 finalists for the 35th annual NAB Crystal Radio Awards. Since 1987, the NAB Crystal Radio Awards have recognized radio stations for their outstanding year-round commitment to community service. Winners will be [announced](#) on Tuesday, April 26 at the 2022 NAB Show in Las Vegas.

Among this year's finalists are 3 stations from our area – KIRO-FM, KJR-FM and KRWM-FM

There are reports that the C-Band re-pack is progressing smoothly. This process calls for the moving of broadcast and cable systems out of 300 MHz of that band making room for 5G use. I understand the shift will be completed by the end of next year, ahead of the original completion date in 2025.

As our use of spectrum increases you hear of an ever-increasing amount of interference to something. The latest one to come to my attention involved complaints by a Vancouver

recording studio regarding a nearby Rogers cell tower. Apparently, an investigation showed Rogers was operating properly. Anyone in broadcasting will have stories to tell about how a licensed, and legally operating broadcast station has caused grief to systems that are not designed to receive radio signals.

Apparently, the Cellular emissions are getting into the Studios microphones and they have been unable to filter it out. Rogers suggested the studio replace all the microphones that are picking up the interference.

This is a similar situation to where a homeowner receives radio signals on his telephone. The result is the same – finger pointing and blaming. Anyone hears how this one turns out, please let me know.

The Pandemic has impacted the sale of broadcast properties in the U.S. According to a recent report only \$4.72 Billion worth of deals went down in 2021. Apparently only 77 stations were sold last year compared to 145 in 2020. Most of this dollar amount was for TV Stations, only 4% was for radio stations trading hands.

As the Pandemic is (hopefully) winding down, more plans are being made for offices to reopen...Plans are being made for a 'Real' NAB convention in Las Vegas...

Looks like we will – really- have an NAB show in Vegas this year/ From what I hear, vendors are eager for the event as this is the premiere event to meet and greet and show off what's new. Hard to believe its been 3 years!

Even the 'SeaPac' Amateur Radio gathering is planning on taking place in Seaside, Oregon this year



**June 3-5 2022 - On the beautiful Pacific Ocean beach
Seaside Convention Center**

Closer to home – The Mike and Key Amateur Radio Club is planning on holding their event this year –

ANNOUNCING THE 40th ANNUAL MIKE AND KEY ELECTRONICS SHOW & SWAP MEET

March 12, 2022

Pavilion Exhibition Hall Washington State Fairgrounds

110 9th Avenue SW, Puyallup, WA

ADMISSION \$10 (under 16 free with adult)

TWO FLOORS WITH 44,000 Sq FEET OF EXHIBITION SPACE

TALKIN 146.82/22 (PL 103.5)

ARRL LICENSE EXAMS

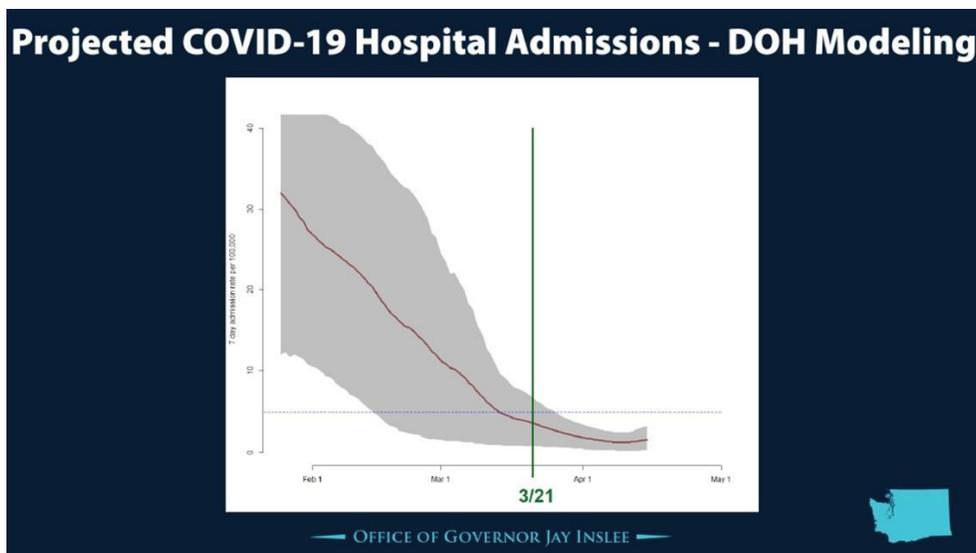
RADIO GEAR * COMPUTERS * PARTS * CLUB TABLES * SNACK BAR

FREE PARKING * CONSIGNMENTS * OVERNIGHT SC/RV Available



In years past, many of us have gathered for breakfast at Odd Fellas in Auburn at 7AM for some fellowship before car-pooling to Puyallup for the event. Hopefully, this year, we can do it again!

The CDC, on February 25th released new guidance on mask-wearing...Meanwhile, the Washington Governor is holding firm on his March 21st date. Many, who are tired of wearing these things, questioned why was this date chosen? The answer can be found by looking at the graph that shows the number of hospital admissions forecasted to drop to 5 per 100,000 residents by that time.



Assuming we don't have another variant...Many are wondering what life will be like dealing with this virus.

Some are saying - COVID Won't End Up Like the Flu. It Will Be Like Smoking. So says Benjamin Mazer writing in The Atlantic.

The “new normal” will arrive when we acknowledge that COVID’s risks have become more in line with those of smoking cigarettes—and that many COVID deaths, like many smoking-related deaths, could be prevented with a single intervention, ie, getting vaccinated.

Mr Mazer makes a number of interesting points. Here are some of them-

The pandemic's greatest source of danger has transformed from a pathogen into a behavior. Choosing not to get vaccinated against COVID is, right now, a modifiable health risk on par with smoking, which kills more than [400,000 people](#) each year in the United States.

The COVID vaccines are, without exaggeration, among the safest and most effective therapies in all of modern medicine. An unvaccinated adult is an astonishing [68 times more likely](#) to die from COVID than a boosted one. Yet widespread vaccine hesitancy in the United States has caused more than [163,000 preventable deaths](#) and [counting](#). Because too few people are vaccinated, COVID surges still [overwhelm hospitals](#)—interfering with routine medical services and leading to [thousands of lives lost](#) from other conditions. If everyone who is eligible were triply vaccinated, our health-care system would be functioning normally again

The same arguments apply to tobacco: Smokers are [15 to 30 times](#) more likely to develop lung cancer. Quitting the habit is akin to receiving a staggeringly powerful medicine, one that [wipes out](#) most of this excess risk. Yet smokers, like those who now refuse vaccines, often continue their dangerous lifestyle in the face of aggressive attempts to persuade them otherwise. Even in absolute numbers, America's unvaccinated and current-smoker populations seem to match up rather well: Right now, the CDC pegs them at [13 percent](#) and [14 percent](#) of all U.S. adults.

Anti-COVID actions, much like anti-smoking policies, will be limited not by their effectiveness but by the degree to which they are politically palatable.

On the personal side, my wife needs a knee replacement according to her Orthopedic Doctor, our insurance company has approved. We are now waiting for the number of Pandemic related cases to fall to the point that she can have the process done. Many are in the same boat. They have been unable to get their procedure don't because the hospitals have been full dealing with Covid cases. Obviously has had considerable influence on my thinking about this topic.

If you would like to do a deeper-dive into the Pandemic that we are, hopefully getting near the end of, I highly recommend you pick up a copy of the March issue of Scientific American, Yes, I am a subscriber.



From time to time I have written about the rise in Sea-Level and how this will impact our area, in particular, some of the AM Transmitter sites in this area, especially – 1360 at Browns Point/Tacoma, and KVI on the eastern shore of Vashon. New projections are now showing sea level could go up 3 feet by 2100. This is a rise in Sea-Level – King Tides and storms will certainly push the envelope. Perhaps these stations will be forced to erect a 'sea-wall' around their antennas and install pumps?

I hope the owners of these stations plan accordingly.

If you've driven out I-90 to Issaquah recently, and looked at the North side of the freeway, you must have noticed the construction of a new office building and adjacent parking garage. Perhaps you did not know that this is the new Costco HQ.



When completed, it will look something like this-



What learned recently about Costco-

They have 273,000 Employees

Annual revenue of \$166.76 (2020)

They are the 3rd largest retailer (Only Walmart and Kroger are bigger)

They have 741 Stores

88.9 Million Card Holders

Not counting the direct-mail and coupons their members receive, they don't advertise.

Costco has been, for some time, developing their own 'private label'...Kirkland. That effort, alone, pulled in \$58 Billion in sales...or about 1/4 of their revenue. The name 'Kirkland', in terms of sales, is now bigger than Hershey, Campbell Soup or Kellogg.

When they set out to have a 'Private Label' It was suggested they use 'Issaquah'...but not everyone could spell it. So they adopted the name of where the company was born...Kirkland. Which those of us who live around here know is the name of the city north of Bellevue.

With the Russian/Ukraine situation having a major impact on gas prices, have you noticed the lines at your local Costco Gas Station? Wow! Saving 30-40 cents a gallon is very attractive these days.

Cutting the cord is a term that you hear from time to time as people discover that you can actually get Television without paying for it. The trick is to use an antenna. If you have been confronted with the question – What should I buy? – Perhaps referring the person to this site can answer your questions -

[Antenna Man - YouTube](#)

Several elected representatives were not pleased with the recent 5G mess that involved aviation.

“There’s no excuse for us to be in this situation,” Rep. Garret Graves, R-La., said at a hearing of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation. “It’s embarrassing. ... It’s ridiculous and inexcusable.”

Committee Chair Peter A. DeFazio, D-Ore., similarly criticized the “extraordinary lack of communication and coordination between the FCC and the FAA” leading up to the deployment of 5G near airports.

Apparently the Telecoms, FCC and FAA have made peace, at least they are talking....NOW! Some of the wireless carriers have agreed to not to deploy these systems for a while until it gets fully sorted out.

If you’ve been around this game for a long time ...You recall the headphones of old and perhaps the name ‘Koss’. John Koss was attributed to inventing the modern stereo earphones back in 1958. The world has never been the same. John Koss passed away recently, he was 91.



Another passing to announce - I received a message from Russ Hill on the 5th informing me that Ray Swalley had passed...



The first time I met Ray was at Channel 13 when they were in the north end of Tacoma where he was Chief Engineer. A wonderfully kind man. In addition to being a broadcast engineer, Ray also served his country as a pilot during WW II. Check out the references to Ray's accomplishments in the following link.

[One Last Mission | A&E | 425magazine.com](http://www.425magazine.com)

Ray was 99 years old at the time of his passing.

Russ added a number of stories about Ray – Read on-

Wow where to start with Ray Swalley, what an amazing guy. He and I spent 280 hours just in the month of Oct 1980 building the KCPQ site at Gold Mt. Went on air Nov 4, 1980. He told me so many war stories I could write a chapter for a book. I even had the pleasure of transferring much of his 16mm gun camera film from his dog fights in the war to tape. I first met Ray at KCPQ site at North 35th st in Tacoma back in 1967 we were looking for a translator site for KPEC-TV (ch56). I was working with Frank Jensen. Our shop took care of the translators and CATV systems in the Clover Park schools. Bill Evans and Al Bednarczyk were at the Lakewood station (but you know that).

Ray told me he first started at Ch 13 when it was owned by McCaw (I think they were the first) One of the several owners went bankrupt and Ray actually paid the workers out of his own pocket. He told me after the war he and some other pilot buddies owned motorcycles and rode them hard and fast. I guess the flying of fighter planes in dog fights has a certain addiction to speed.

One of the stories he told that stuck was he was flying cover for bombers and they were leaving the combat area when he said something at his wingtip caused him to look. It was an unexploded flak shell flying parallel to his wingtip. Without thinking and out of instinct he rolled his plane to the side as it exploded blowing shrapnel holes in his wing and fuselage. When he landed the plane on the carrier, it was so badly damaged they pushed it over the side.

Yes, he still lived there on Chambers Creek (In Lakewood). His son Mark lives about 2 miles from me near Gig Harbor. Ray retired from KCPQ in 1990. I don't know his exact age but I was told by someone that he would have turned 100 this Oct. There are numerous pictures of him on the internet. In 2007 he was in a documentary about the Marine fighter unit he was in. The movie was called the Blue Devils. He flew Corsairs in combat.

Ray also told me about the time he got bit in one of the transmitters at N35 (I think when it was owned by Clover Park). He had a screwdriver operating the door interlock and when he leaned in to remove a plate cap on a tube he energised the high voltage (10KV) darn near killed him.

I really regret not going over to see him after he retired.

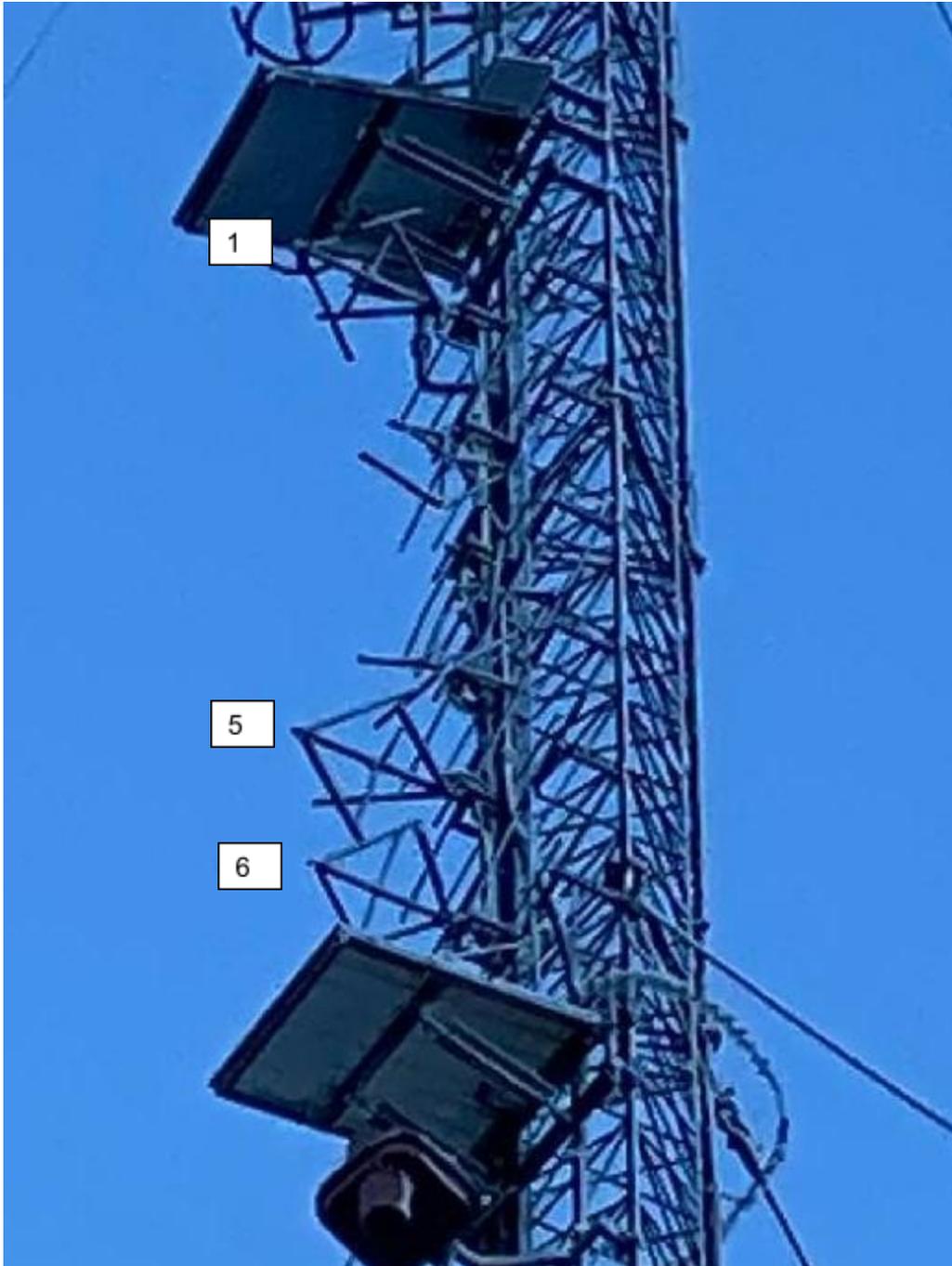
For many years Antennas have been designed using computer modeling...However the technique has not always been accepted by the FCC...Now, this might change. The FCC has a proposal out (MB Docket # 21-422) that would allow stations to use computer modeling to verify the performance of directional antennas used by FM Stations rather than the present method that requires physical measurement. I should point out that some manufacturers use scale-models while others use full-size antennas for their physical measurements. Interestingly, the FCC allows computer modeling for AM and Digital TV. The NAB has applauded the FCC's move. One maker, ERI, has expressed concerns.

On the topic of FM Antennas – A couple of FM Stations have had major disruption's to their operations –

The Bustos KZTM/102.9 on Capital Peak experience a major burn-out of their antenna with resulting damage to their transmission line, according to Doug Fisher. This station lost several weeks of broadcasting.

Meanwhile over at South Mountain, winter weather has caused major damage to one of the stations there. I understand this may be the antenna for KLSY/93.7.

In this picture (Courtesy of Doug Fisher) you can see Bays 2, 3 and 4 of their 6 Bay antenna had been destroyed.



Here's a great picture of the road leading up to the South Mountain Site and that 400 foot tower shown in the previous close up.



Well, are you going to do it? I mean make the jump from Windows 10 to 11? If you are a Microsoft customer, you have been receiving messages encouraging you to make the change. Here are some of the highlights of the new O.S. –

The roll out will be in phases.

They will still support Windows 10 until 2025

(Shocker) the 'Start Button' will move to the center. (Yes, you can move it back if you want)

If you use Teams – this will be integrated into the Task Bar (sorry Zoom users)

The FCC has recently cancelled a couple licenses – One in Seattle and the other in Omak.

LOW POWER FM APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSE TO COVER LICENSE CANCELLED 95.3 MHZ , SEATTLE E WA License to cover. License cancelled and callsign deleted 2/2/2022 for failure to file a renewal application. No letter sent. KMIH.ORG RADIO BOOSTER CLUB DKDXB-LP 192777 W

OMAK 105.9 MHZ E WA License to cover. License cancelled and callsign deleted 2/2/2022 for failure to file a renewal application. No letter sent. DK290BD DIVINE MERCY BROADCASTING 148938 W

Another station is going to get a hearing – In this case, an AM in Idaho who the FCC says was off the air for 80% of a 2-1/2 year period. The station, KPCQ (Yes, I did a double take on that one) is in Chubbuck, Idaho. If you are like me you thought, where? Well, it's more than a wide spot in the road, with about 15,000 residents, immediately adjacent to Pocatello. According to the report I read, the station had experienced a number of Tower/Antenna issues. Sounds like the FCC has a lot of questions they'd like answered.

It's no secret that it's become very difficult to fill jobs on the technical side of broadcasting. The Nebraska Association of Broadcaster has decided to do something about it. The NBA has joined with SBE's effort to bring new talent into our industry.

The SBE created this program last year, responding to the need for new blood in the technical side of our business. The NBA will cover the cost for up to 12 enrollees on a first come, first serve basis. The president of the NBA noted that engineers are retiring faster than they can be replaced.

Perhaps I should point out that this is not just a problem in Nebraska, but a nationwide issue. Back when I went to school for this line of work (in the middle of the last century) Broadcasting was a sought-after career. As time has gone by, the salaries offered at broadcast stations has not kept up with other careers causing many to make the change. One of the major factors has been consolidation. Having more than one station under the same roof was an opportunity for management to take advantage of the situation, job losses were the result. Today the number of engineers employed by broadcasters is, perhaps, at an all time low. When someone retires, or moves, to a different industry an opening is created. Today, it's not usual for a local broadcaster to be forced to do a nation-wide search for a new engineer. I commend the NBA and sincerely hope their efforts succeed and the idea spreads elsewhere. If the compensation offered is competitive with other, comparable, work we might be able to dig our selves out of this hole.

On the 24th, Toyota made an interesting announcement. Going forward, all models will come with HD Radios as standard equipment. Here in the Seattle area, all but a handful of small Radio signals or rim-shots are running HD. The same can't be said for smaller markets where many Radio broadcasters are content to run FM only and remain 'unconvinced' of the viability of the mode.

Xperi CEO Jon Kirchner added –

“I think this represents a decision recognizing the importance of HD Radio in the broader infotainment suite and thus the decision to moving forward, put it in all the vehicles,” Kirchner told investors and analysts on Xperi’s fourth quarter results call. “I think it’s representative of the continued progress we continue to make with the HD Radio ecosystem in North America and obviously, it lays the foundation as well for follow-on next generation entertainment features, which kind of ties into what we’re doing with AutoStage and others. But we’re certainly pleased and value the relationship with Toyota significantly.”

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Time, once again, to look at the Seattle-Tacoma Radio Ratings.

KIRO-FM is, once again, in the #1 position with a 6.9 share

KRWM (Warm) is #2

KUOW is #3

#4 is KZOK

#5 is KNWN (formally KOMO)

Perhaps its worth noting that 3 of the top 5 don't air music, but rather 'The Spoken Word'

Looking to the South at Portland –

#1, with a 10.1 share is KOPB

#2–KKCW air Adult Contemporary

#3–KLTH with Classic Hits

#4- KXL with News/Talk

#5 is a cluster of 4 signals airing Classical Music

There too, the Spoken Word seems to be doing well. As I mentioned earlier, there is nothing like an international crisis to boost the 'numbers' for News and Talk formatted radio stations.

I suspect that certain cable news channels too will be seeing a big jump in viewers.

Picture time. First off – Kudo’s to the Seattle Times for this rather unique shot of Seattle taken at sunset. Not often you see a picture looking at the city from the NE. Here you can see the Floating Bridges on the left. On the right, Lake Union and, of course, the downtown collection of highrise buildings. Near the top right, you can see all of Vashon Island and to the South Maury.



No Clay's Corner would be complete without a picture from Dwight Small look out to the NW from his place on 'The Lake'



Or a sunset from my back deck –



I shot this one as I was coming down from KNWP at Striped Peak, West of Port Angeles. Here we are looking West down the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The point of land is called Tongue Point. The Beach area, where you see the waves, is the Salt Creek Recreational Area



Ok, one more sunset from my back deck. The days are coming that I will no longer be able to see these magnificent displays due to a grove of firs, just visible on the right.



While up at Striped Peak – I shot this looking up one of the towers. The 3 gray ‘pods’ are the transmit antenna for NWPB’s KNWP. Below it...the 3 brown ‘pods’ are for KVIX which broadcasts the same programming at KNKX in Seattle.

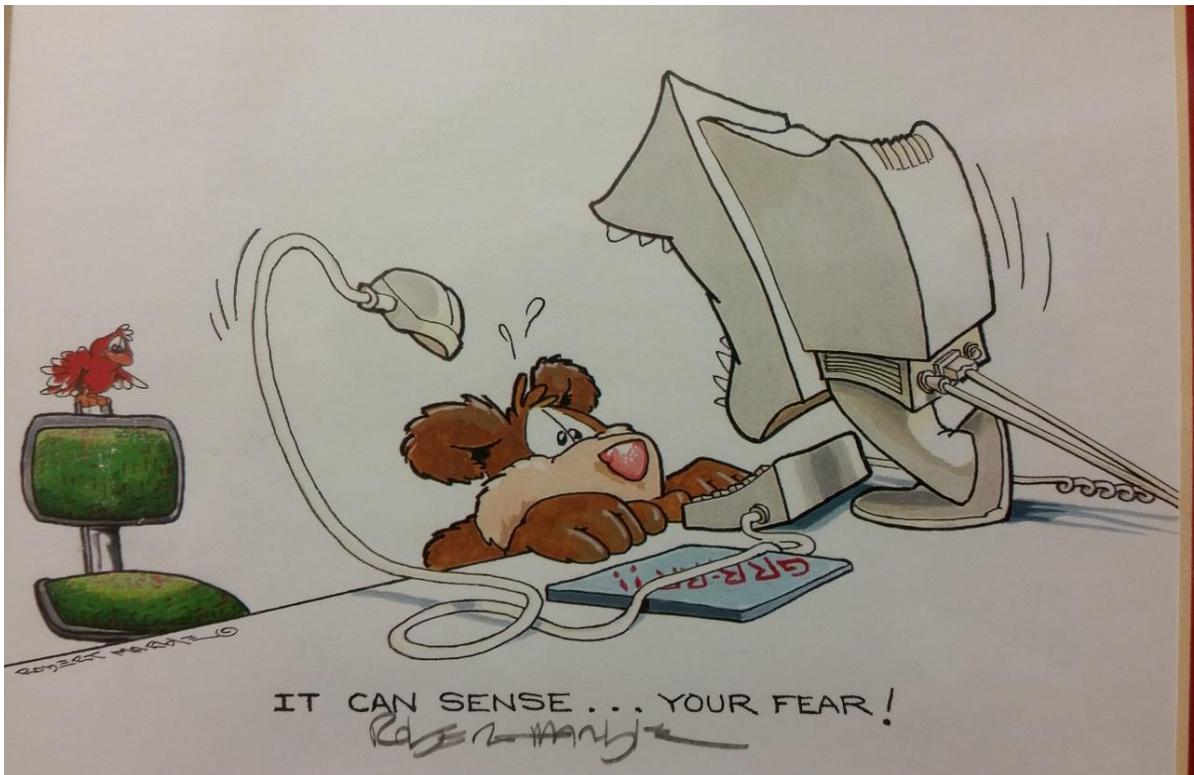


Giving credit to where it’s due....This came from my #2 Son

**If anyone gets a message from me
about canned meat,
don't open it.**

It's Spam.

On the wall of the IT Department at CPTC (Cute!)



Ok, I can't resist – One more sunset picture from my back deck



Television shopping in 1974 – Note the prices (That was a lot of money in 1974!) This was back when having a 21 inch set was cool. Bet it's been a long time since anyone displayed a set with Color Bars.



A Phillips fridge from 1956 with a built-in radio. Today you might find a fridge with a built-in flat panel display. Obviously, this was back when kitchens all had a radio.



Hope to catch you here next month

Clay, K7CR, CPBE

An SBE Fellow

SBE Member # 714

Since March 1968