

## **Clay's Corner for October 2022**

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

Hello and welcome to Fall. Lots of interesting stuff this past month –

For some time we have been wondering if our twice-a-year clock setting would go away and we would end up with a new 'Standard Time'. It's looking like this is not likely to happen anytime soon and one of the reasons has a broadcast connection. Switching to 'Day Light Time' year around would shift the clocks in such a way that Day Time Only AM Broadcasters would, effectively, lose a good portion of their morning ability to operate and they have been pressing the issue with Congress. At first look, I have to wonder how Daytime only AM's, with an ever-smaller part of the Radio audience, could impact this. Seems to me this is a classic case of the 'Tail wagging the Dog'. Certainly, this is not the only group that has been pushing back on this effort, there are others. Bottom line, we may well be switching our clocks, twice a year, for some time to come

Recently, Bill Putney (Local broadcast engineer that recently re-located from Pt Townsend to the Portland area) made mention in a popular Remailer of the classic Carl and Jerry stories that ran in the magazine Popular Electronics.



For me, this brought back a flood of memories of when I was just getting interested in electronics. I recall finding the magazine at a local store and convinced my folks to purchase it. This was in 1954 when Vol 1 of the magazine came out. I was hooked! I became a subscriber. I have to give credit to not only Popular Electronics, but to the writer of the Carl and Jerry stories for my long career, as well as interest in Ham Radio. You can read more about it via the links I have provided here.

[Carl and Jerry: Wired Wireless, January 1962 Popular Electronics - RF Cafe](#)

From 1954 through 1964, Popular Electronics published 119 adventures of Carl and Jerry, two teen boys with a passion for electronics and a knack for getting into and out of trouble with haywire lashups built in Jerry's basement. Better still, the boys explained how it all worked, and in doing so, launched countless young people into careers in science and technology. Now, for the first time ever, the full run of Carl and Jerry yarns by John T. Frye are available again, in five authorized anthologies that include the full text and all illustrations.

<https://www.amazon.com/Jerry-Complete-Adventures-Popular-Electronics/dp/B009JTZL70>

Thankfully, you can read these stories today.

Once again, it's the time of year that we all become more interested in Weather and start wondering what kind of winter we might have. I recall, many years ago, that Jack Hegseth would be asking this question with one of betting as to when we thought we might see the first snowfall. (The loser had to buy the pizza)

Before we get into the predictions...a look at this past summer. A record-breaker in a number of areas.

The following picture, from KOMO-TV pretty well sums it up - Hot and, at times, smokey ...



KING-TV created a number of visuals that quickly underscore how this was, indeed, a record setter – First, this one that shows how we only received ½ inch of rain the whole time. This is a good one for those, elsewhere, that know for sure, it rains – all the time – in this area.

### **DRIEST SUMMERS AT SEA-TAC (JUN 21st-SEP 21st)**

<b>1.</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>0.50"</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>0.52"</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>1.28"</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>1987</b>	<b>1.33"</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>1.36"</b>

This one underscores that not only was it dry, but it was hot too –

### **DAYS AT OR ABOVE 90° AT SEA-TAC**

<b>1.</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>1958</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>1988, 2017, 2021</b>	<b>8</b>

Summer was, except for a couple of days of smoke, pretty nice. Thankfully, none of those 100 degree temps we had last year. Granted it took a while to get started (Normal) but once it did – Wow! At this writing, we are nearing the end of September and things are looking pretty nice with a chance of light rain in the forecast and then another week + of summer.

In other parts of the country summer has also been hot and dry. In the Southwest the issue is the drying-up of water supplies. In a classic case of where politicians ignored good science, those that depend on the Colorado River are learning a very painful lesson with not only a lack of water, but a shortage of electricity that the dams on that river produced. I know a number of people that have left the PNW for the land of sunshine and imported water. I have to believe we will be seeing a 'reverse-migration in years ahead. Not liking rain is one thing, not having water is another!

In areas that don't have a surplus of electric power...The heat created some interesting issues. This headline from Colorado –

## **22,000 smart thermostats in Colorado locked over 'energy emergency,' sparking outrage**

*"Big Brother is controlling your thermostat,"* screamed one right-wing headline

And this sign over a freeway in California –



Government officials in California were the subject of many comments on talk shows due their timing announcing that all cars are to be electric in future years, quickly followed with pleas not to charge your EV between certain hours as it may cause the power-grid to crash. One solution to the crisis – 'Rolling Black Outs'

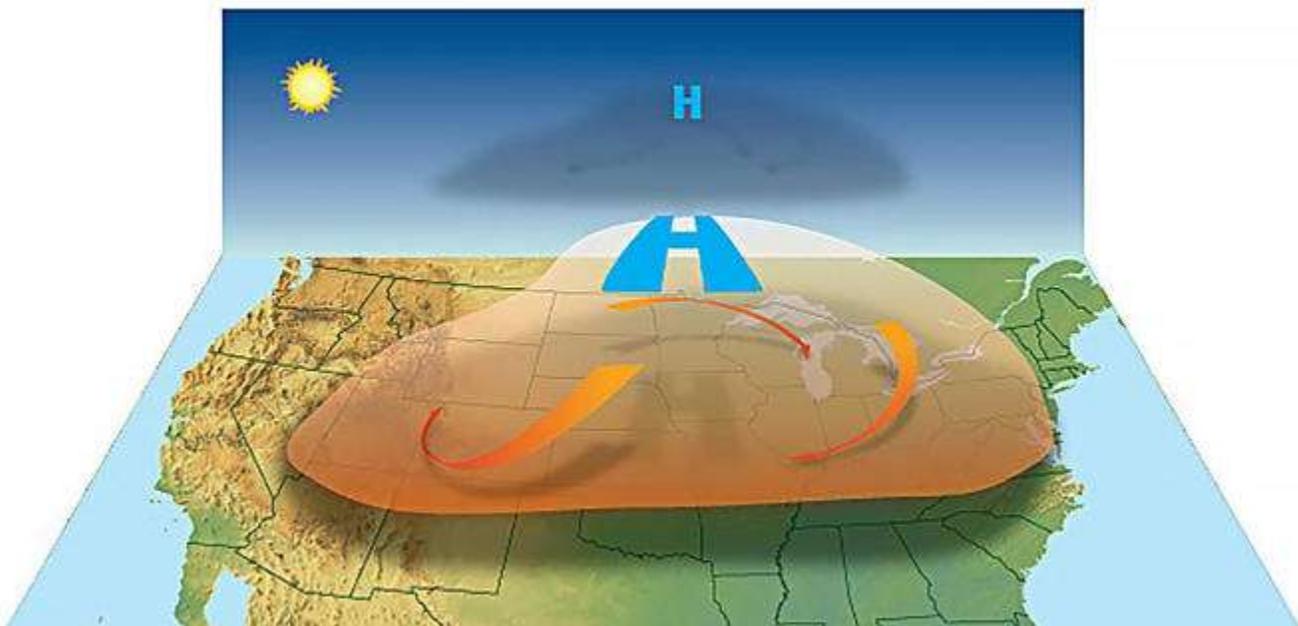
There were some records set in several states –

- California's state capital of Sacramento hit an all-time high of 116F (46.7C), breaking a 97-year-old record.
- Santa Rosa hit 115 degrees (46C)
- Reno Nevada made it up to 106 (41C) breaking a 1944 record.
- Salt Lake City was 20 degrees above normal, hitting 105f (40.5C)

Oh yes, the Great Salt Lake is not as great as it once one with news reports that it was rapidly shrinking.

Those that have been saying that climate change is a hoax are likely finding it hard to get new believers.

The National Weather Service explained all of this by telling us of an historic 'Head Dome'. The following graphic from Popular Science-



We aren't the only ones ...Europe is dealing with a historic drought too with record high temperatures and major rivers drying up.

Meanwhile, Mother Nature dumped loads of water on Puerto Rico thanks to Hurricane Fiona as It headed up the coast to soak the Maritimes. There, the whole island was without power due to too much wind and water. Some broadcasters stayed on the air providing emergency information. Then it was time for Ian to hit the west coast of the 'Southeast Sandspit' with what some are calling the worst ever.

Here in our area, forest fires were spreading smoke into the Seattle area. Twice this past month we had the honor (??) of having the worst air – IN THE WORLD. Stevens Pass was closed for a couple of weeks due to the fire just west of there. The good news is the wind shifted from out of the west blowing the smoke over to the east side of the mountains

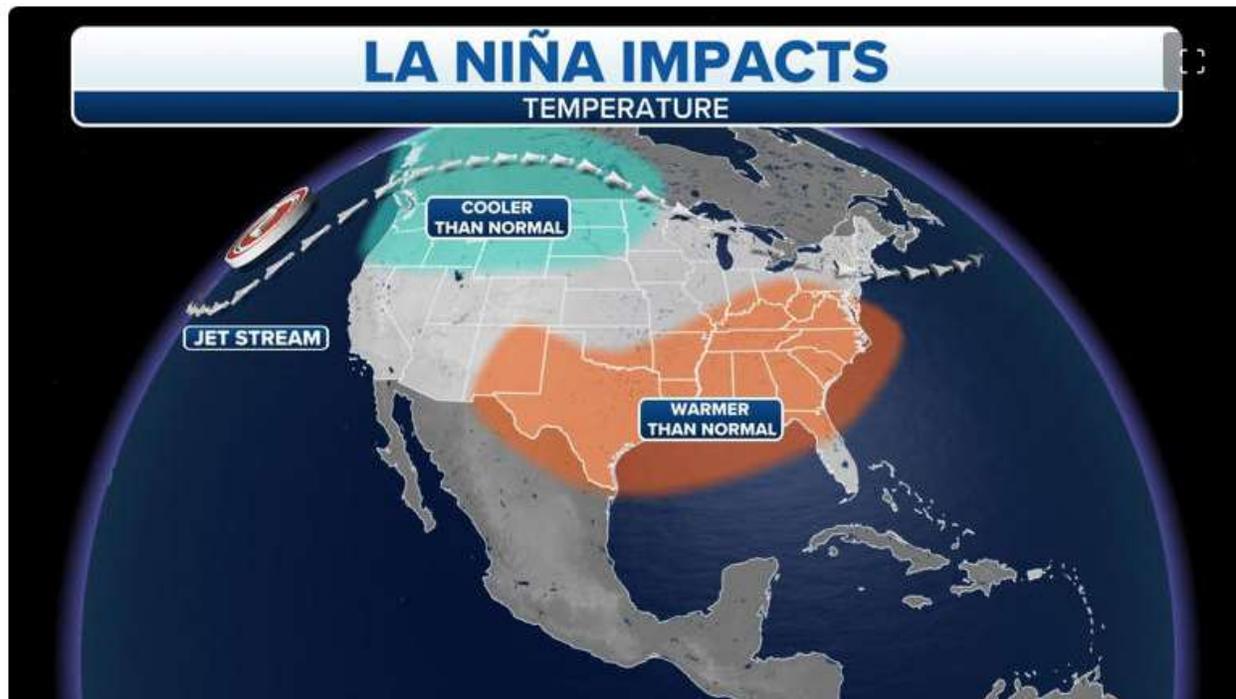
Forest Fires are a scary matter for many Broadcasters that have their transmitting equipment on mountain tops as the following picture shows. Our broadcast sites on Cougar, West Tiger, Capital Peak and South Mountain are certainly not immune. For those of us that have responsibilities up there – the Rain can't come too soon.



So, what are the 'crystal balls' saying about this coming winter? First of all, we are hearing about something called a 'Triple dip' La Nina. (No this not a desert). Meteorologists are telling us one is coming.

According to the experts – parts of the world could expect to experience severe weather for the rest of this year and into the next. A "triple-dip" La Niña is a multiyear cooling of the surface temperature of the equatorial Pacific Ocean, which can cause droughts, fierce winds and heavy rainfall.

So what does this mean for us ? Looking at the following graphic – It appears that we will be cooler than normal. As those of us that have lived here a long time know...the next question is 'How much Cooler'?



Another source of weather guessing is – Accuweather....

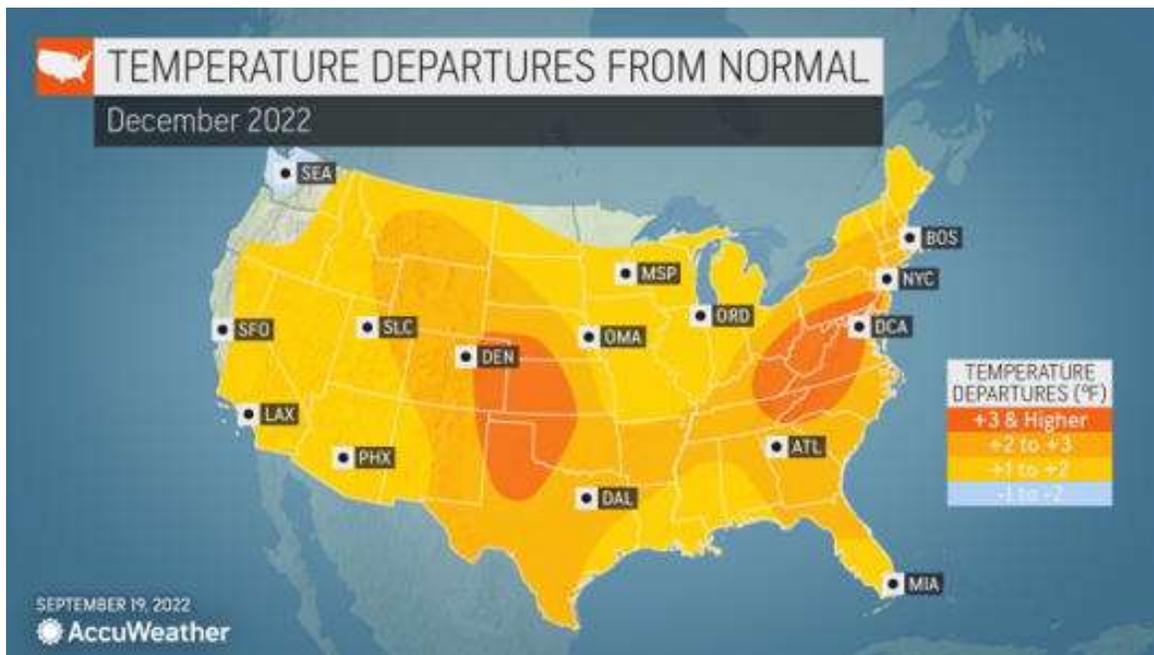
Their view is similar – Cooler.

Look at the following maps and the parts where I zoomed in on 'our neck of the woods'



Looks like snowfall in the lowlands will be normal, but higher in the mountains





Temperatures will be cooler.



Meanwhile, this item was seen at a local Costco on Sept 8<sup>th</sup> Makes me wonder where they are getting their advanced forecast information?



The bottom line is that no-one really knows. Will we have snow before Christmas? Anyone want to bet a pizza on it?

I could not help but notice that the Georgia Association of Broadcasters recently named recipients of an Engineering Award. Here is they way their notice expressed it -

***“This award recognizes exceptional broadcast engineers who have had a lasting impact on the radio and television stations in the state of Georgia,” the association said.***

***“Beyond their own stations that they have kept on the air, they must also demonstrate professionalism among their colleagues and a willingness to help and support other engineers in the support of the industry.”***

They'll be honored during the [annual convention](#) of the Georgia Association of Broadcasters next month. Kudo's to the GAB for recognizing Broadcast Engineers. To bad other associations don't do the same !

Anyone remember the satellite service called Light Squared?. There was a degree of consternation the last time that firm proposed a terrestrial service adjacent to our GPS systems.

Well, they are back, this time with a new name – Ligado- and once again, they are maintaining there won't be any negative issues with GPS. The military is not so sure – You can read more here.

<https://www.defensenews.com/pentagon/2022/09/09/ligado-5g-could-be-harmful-to-older-pentagon-satellites-report-says/>

One by one, the Soaps are being shuffled off their networks. The latest was the move of Days of our Lives from NBC (KING-5 in the Seattle area) to the Peacock Streaming platform. Interesting how, early on, streaming was enemy. Now, the major networks are seeing it as 'another' channel where they can sell spots.

I recently received word from old friend Doug Irwin that Dave Grytness has passed. He's been with UW doing TV production. Doug, as you may know, has been working in the LA area for the past several years after a stint with Iheart Media in Seattle. Here's a picture of Dave behind the camera.



The FCC has not been making many friends with their proposal to increase fees with push-back from NAB as well as many other stations and groups. Perhaps good news, the increases will not be as much as first proposed. The FCC said broadcasters fail to recognize the fundamental task they face. In the end, the largest FM stations, in the largest markets will be paying \$22,390, down from \$23,585 as first proposed (Guess this is a reduction?). Big AM's in big markets will be paying \$17,945 rather than \$18,885. Note that these are markets larger than Seattle. Here's a table that shows the Radio Fee's (I can only imagine what TV looks like)

<b>FY 2022 RADIO STATION REGULATORY FEES</b>						
<b>Population Served</b>	<b>AM Class A</b>	<b>AM Class B</b>	<b>AM Class C</b>	<b>AM Class D</b>	<b>FM Classes A, B1 &amp; C3</b>	<b>FM Classes B, C, C0, C1 &amp; C2</b>
<b>&lt;=25,000</b>	\$1,050	\$755	\$655	\$720	\$1,145	\$1,310
<b>25,001 – 75,000</b>	\$1,575	\$1,135	\$985	\$1,080	\$1,720	\$1,965
<b>75,001 – 150,000</b>	\$2,365	\$1,700	\$1,475	\$1,620	\$2,575	\$2,950
<b>150,001 – 500,000</b>	\$3,550	\$2,550	\$2,215	\$2,435	\$3,870	\$4,430
<b>500,001 – 1,200,000</b>	\$5,315	\$3,820	\$3,315	\$3,645	\$5,795	\$6,630
<b>1,200,001 – 3,000,000</b>	\$7,980	\$5,740	\$4,980	\$5,470	\$8,700	\$9,955
<b>3,000,001 – 6,000,000</b>	\$11,960	\$8,600	\$7,460	\$8,200	\$13,040	\$14,920
<b>&gt;6,000,000</b>	\$17,945	\$12,905	\$11,195	\$12,305	\$19,570	\$22,390

Kudo's to YouTube as they recently revealed some of the methods they will be using to combat the spread of mis-information ahead of the midterm elections. As my readers know, I have been very outspoken on this topic. We can see how misinformation is being used within Russia regarding the Ukraine conflict. We, as a society, should do all we can to insist that those that spread lies in our country are punished for doing so. People are very gullible and, as history has shown, are quick to swallow misinformation.

Single Frequency Networks or Co-Channel Boosters have been around in FM Broadcasting for some time. In the last couple of years, a firm called Geo Broadcast Solutions has been actively promoting the idea. A couple of years ago, Bustos Media had one of their systems operating with the goal of filling in weak signal areas from the Bustos 99.3 FM on South Mountain.

Geo has been promoting the idea of not just having co-channel boosters in weak-signal areas, but enabling those boosters to run spots targeted to the area of the booster. They call it FM geo-targeting. Geo has been trying to get the FCC to permit their scheme. This has caused a number of objections to surface. One of the, NAB, made this statement –

***“NAB believes that Mr. Devine’s track record requires the commission to examine the underlying information carefully and reject his petition,”***

NAB has also stated –

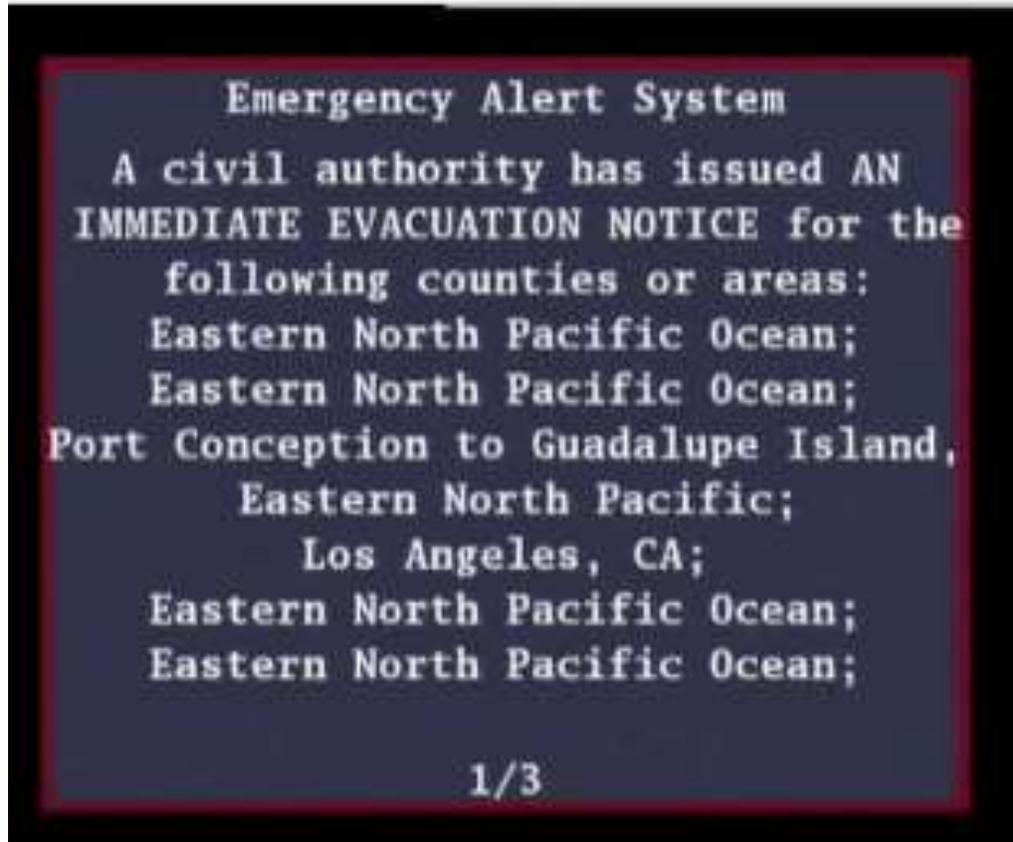
***“inevitably damage radio technical integrity and serve as a lever for advertisers to force radio broadcasters to reduce their advertising rates,”***

Geo has responded with their own comments on the NAB position –

***“NAB’s tabloid filing” and “a desperate attempt at character assassination.”***

The bottom line – There is a lot of fur-flying and dust in the air over this one....Time will tell how it will end.

Occasionally, misinformation is the result of a mistake or accident as was recently demonstrated in Los Angeles where the County accidentally sent out an evacuation order.



This was forwarded by local broadcasters to citizens who were, justifiably, alarmed in light of all of the wildfires.

Found a pretty good article on NBC News about this:

[Evacuation order telling residents to leave L.A. was broadcast on TV 'in error,' authorities say \(nbcnews.com\)](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/evacuation-order-telling-residents-leave-l-a-was-broadcast-tv-in-error-authorities-say-nbcnews.com)

One would think that an alert for the 'Eastern North Pacific Ocean (a pretty big place) would have triggered a lot of questions. Again we need to understand that many of these messages are relayed by automatic means that don't have the IQ to weed out misinformation.

Speaking of emergencies – Washingtons Governor has official ended the COVID-19 state of emergency.

If you want a real-emergency – Consider Ian and it's impact on Tampa-St Petersburg in Florida – on the 27<sup>th</sup> ... 2.5 million were told to evacuate! Thanks, I like it here.

Townsquare Media, who operates as number of stations in Washington State has launched what they call The Washington State News News Network. Here is their news release –

**SEP 1, 2022**

**TOWNSQUARE MEDIA LAUNCHES WASHINGTON STATE NEWS NETWORK**

**Tri-Cities, WA – September 1, 2022** – Townsquare Media Inc. announced today that the Company has launched the Washington State News Network (“WSNN”). WSNN is the only source of local, regional, and statewide news that is available to broadcasters and listeners in the State of Washington. Short form news reports will broadcast on select Townsquare Washington radio stations, including KONA-AM 610 (Tri-Cities), KFLD-AM 870 (Tri-Cities), KIT-AM 1280 (Yakima), and KPQ-AM 560 (Wenatchee), as well as third party affiliates throughout Washington State. These short form news reports will come in the form of eight 90-second reports per day, Monday – Friday. Breaking news stories will also be available online at <https://washingtonstatenews.net> and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/washingtonstatenewsnetwork>.

“We are thrilled to bring quality local, regional and statewide news to the many communities in Washington State that are starving for more local information in their communities. Many broadcasters were forced to cut news staff and content during the pandemic and we couldn’t be more excited to fill that void for both broadcasters in need of the service and listeners wanting the latest breaking news,” commented Kevin O’Rorke, Vice President of News & Ag Networks – Western Region for Townsquare Media



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Here’s my observations on the latest, 6+ Seattle-Tacoma Radio Ratings –

- KJEB (perhaps our newest call letters) has moved into the #1 slot. Again, proving that, with PPM technology, call letters don't matter.
- Audacy's AC, KSWD moved up to #2
- What has to be something that we've not seen in a long-long time, KIRO-AM is slightly ahead of KIRO-FM. This likely due to the success of the Mariners this year.
- Our areas two Country Music stations are now tied.
- Alternative ways of listening are growing – There are now 5 HD-2's and 4 Streaming listings.
- Little KEXP continues their winning ways coming in at #9 perhaps proving that larger coverage does not always equal success.

The following was posted on the State EAS Remailer by SECC Chair, Ted Buehner -

*Additional WA-PAWS tabs have been posted on the webpage - <https://mil.wa.gov/wa-paws>*

*Tab B5 - the 2023 SECC Meeting Schedule.....the posting is in addition to the current 2022 meeting schedule. Once the Nov meeting concludes, then the 2022 version will be deleted. (Note: **the Nov meeting has been postponed** one week to the 15th avoid a conflict with election day)*

*Tab C7 - the cable system tab is done and posted. I anticipate additional cable services across the state may wish to add to this tab over time, and that feedback is most welcome.*

Near the end of the Month the FCC was in the news by responding to an NPRM that the Washington State SECC responded to over a year ago – Here are some of the highlights –

- No National Test this year
- We will likely have one next-year and it may have a new Event Code that will tell us the United States Government is sending the message
- No one supported the idea of having alerts automatically repeats. If the sender thinks it should be repeated, they can send it again.
- One change raises a number of questions. If a broadcaster receives an alert via legacy EAS, and a CAP duplicate is available (within 10 seconds) they should run the latter.

It's not clear to me how this would work, especially, if the broadcast station is un-attended. Even if it's manned, who is going to drop-everything when the alert comes in and, within 10 seconds, make the decision to switch sources? I suspect we have not heard the last about this issue.

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Kent Randles reported that about 35 attended the recent Portland BBQ at the Sylvan Tower Site



I previously wrote about the new FM station to be licensed to Napavine. An update to this story – The owners of the CP, Threshold Communications is selling the, un-built, 92.9 FM to Premier Broadcasters who currently operate KITI AM & FM in the Centralia-Chehalis market.

No word on whether they will keep the KVNW Call letters and whether or not it will be constructed at the location of its Construction Permit, Crego Hill.

Here's another item that is sure to get some feedback. Kentucky Senator, Rand Paul has introduced a Bill that would repeal broadcast station ownership limits. Apparently, the goal is to help broadcasters better compete with what's termed 'Big Tech'. According to a press release, the bill would exempt print, broadcast and digital news organizations from federal antitrust laws.

NAB has already let their position be known -

***“In today’s media landscape, local news outlets are at the mercy of a handful of Big Tech gatekeepers that dictate the terms by which their content appears online. This legislation would level the playing field by enabling fair negotiations between news publishers and dominant digital platforms for the market value of their local content.”***

Whereas Congress has 'bigger fish to fry' (Not to mention the mid-term elections) it's not likely that this bill will move forward.

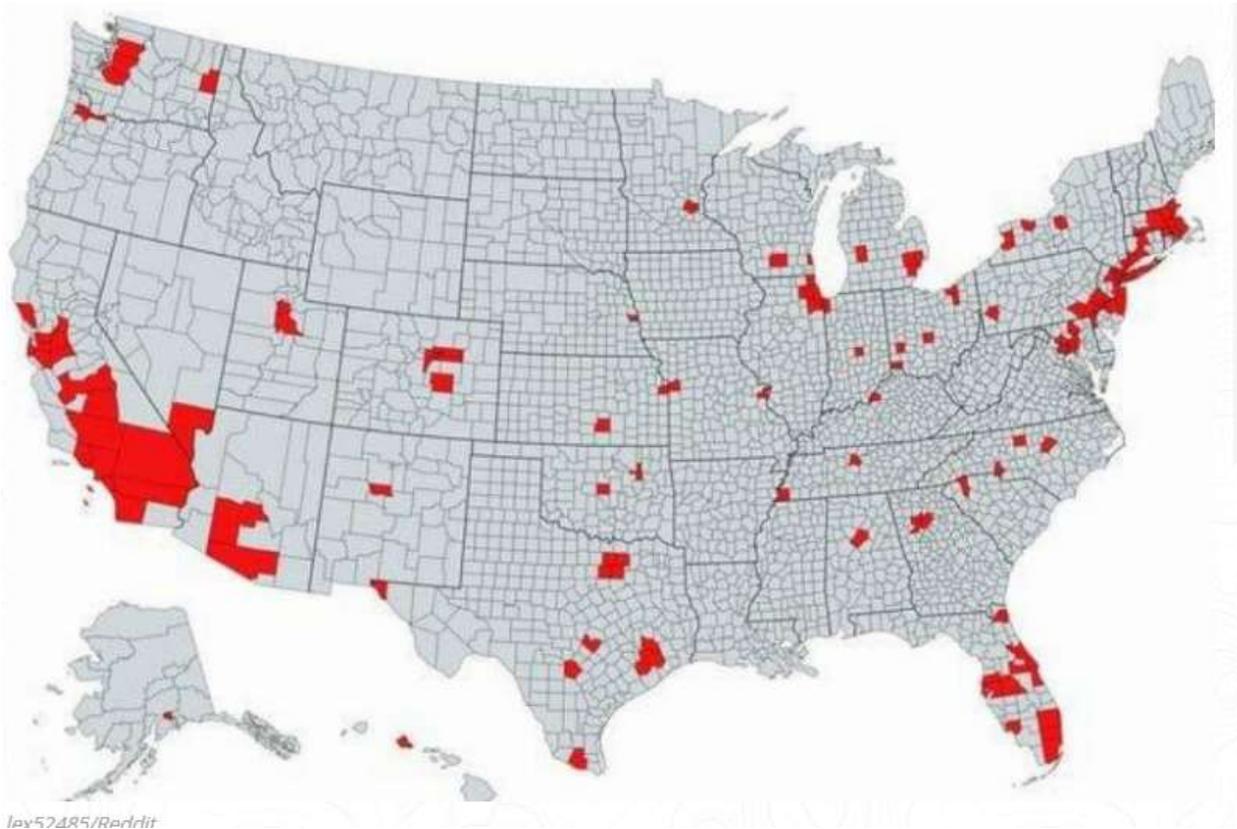
Another statistic out this month – The Median household income in Seattle is now \$110,000. Seattle now ranks as the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in this category among the top 50 most populous cities.

According to a new report from HSH.com, home buyers in the Seattle metro area need a salary of \$121,402 to afford the principal, interest, taxes and insurance payments on a median-priced home in the area. This calculation is based on a down payment of 20%. For borrowers who put 10% down. Assuming the average home price in the Seattle Metro Area of \$706,964, a 20% down payment (\$141,392), and the current [30-year fixed-rate mortgage](#) rate of 3.55% your mortgage payments would be \$2,547 per month. Alternatively, if you put down a 10% down payment (\$70,696), your monthly payments would be \$2,865.

Attracting a person to come here to live and work, the cost of living (and buying a house) is certain to be part of the equation. I wonder how many jobs in broadcasting are paying enough?

I found the following map interesting. There are more people living in the 'Red Areas' than the Gray. In Washington State, you can see how Snohomish, King and Pierce, and to the east, Spokane Counties are where the greater population resides. In Oregon, Multnomah County is

the only one in Red. States like, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming are in great contrast to California where the southern part of that state has a huge population (and lack of water)



## **Nick Holonyak Jr., who made an LED breakthrough, dies at 93**

Nick Holonyak Jr., whose development in 1962 of the first practical visible-spectrum light-emitting diode, or LED, proved a breakthrough that now has countless practical applications, including lightbulbs, mobile phones, TV sets and microscopic surgical equipment that can save lives, died Sept. 18 in Urbana, Ill. He was 93.



Here are some related links -

[Nick Holonyak Jr., who made an LED breakthrough, dies at 93 \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/nick-holonyak-jr-who-made-an-led-breakthrough-dies-at-93)

[Nick Holonyak Jr., creator of light-emitting diodes, died this month at 93 \(theintelligencer.com\)](https://www.theintelligencer.com/story/news/technology/2018/10/24/nick-holonyak-jr-creator-of-light-emitting-diodes-died-this-month-at-93/)

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Nick-Holonyak-Jr>

It could certainly be argued that the LED is one of the most significant inventions of our time, perhaps right along with the transistor.

Thinking about how the LED has changed things in broadcasting. I can well recall the chore of replacing all those little incandescent lamps under buttons on Switchers, Audio Consoles and machines of all kinds. Then there was the 'Pilot Light'... Usually a #47, 1829 or #327 lamp that indicated that the attached equipment had its power on. I still have, somewhere in my garage, a box of these lamps. Why I've kept them is a mystery 😊

The September issue of TV Tech (Page 18) has a great article written by Bruce Aleksander regarding the ongoing evolution of the LED studio lighting. This was written prior to the death of its inventor.

The motor vehicle industry has been quick to adopt the LED. Just look at the front of today's cars. Their designers are, obviously, in love with the LED with a dazzling array of DRL's (Daytime Running Lights)

Look at the changes in street lighting – The Mercury Vapors are going away with LED's the new standard. Even at home, we've – quickly- transitioned from Incandescent to CFL to LED.

The list goes on – The LED, where would we be without them?

Speaking of my collection of old Lamps – I recently ran across this Item -



**2x Beau Cinch S304CCT Jones 4 Pin Socket 38331-8004 Connector Cable Clamp Top**  
★★★★☆ Be the first to [write a review](#)

Condition: **New**  
Quantity:  More than 10 lots available (2 items per lot) / **154 sold**

Price: **US \$24.99**

[Buy It Now](#)  
[Add to cart](#)  
[Add to Watchlist](#)

**154 sold**   Returns accepted   32 watchers

Just like the incandescent lamp – the Cinch Jones connector was a 'main-stay' for many electronic devices in and out of broadcasting. I recall the one shown here being used by Regency for a power connector for their historic 6 and 2 meter ham equipment. Just as with the Lamps in my garage, somewhere I have a box of Jones Plugs. The question that comes to mind is....Is there anyone out there that would lay-out \$24.99 for one of these historic connectors? If you know of anyone looking for Jones Plugs...Send them my way 😊

Thanks to Jason Royals at NWPB – This picture from the base of the KNWR Tower at Naneum Ridge... Near Mission Ridge, site of KNWR. At over 6600 feet above sea-level, this is one of the highest broadcast sites in the State.



Following are a couple of additional pictures of the site I found, on-line. Immediately adjacent to this tower is the old, no long used, fire lookout



On the right side of the tower are the 3 bays for KNWR. Part of NWPB.

Access to this site is very an extremely challenging road, popular with Jeep owners. Due to its elevation, much of the year access is limited to 'over the snow' vehicles, known as vehicles with 'Tracks'



Here's a look at the Naneum Site from some distance away.

The following is a view of Mt Rainier from West Tiger Mt . Note the little peak to the left....This is called Little Tahoma. At 11,138 feet it's actually the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in Washington State. Compared to Rainiers 14,411, it looks pretty small.



Here's a close up of 'Little Tahoma'



And here's Mt Hood, the highest point in Oregon



The height assigned to Mount Hood's snow-covered peak has varied over its history. Modern sources point to three different heights: 11,249 feet (3,429 m), a 1991 adjustment of a 1986 measurement by the U.S. National Geodetic Survey (NGS),<sup>[1]</sup> 11,240 feet (3,426 m) based on a 1993 scientific expedition,<sup>[6]</sup> and 11,239 feet (3,425.6 m)<sup>[7]</sup> of slightly older origin.

The difference ? Mt Hood is 111 feet higher. And Mt Rainer is a whole-lot bigger!!

The financial news about Audacy (formally known as Entercom) are not good. It's reported they have lost \$1 Billion in income since 2018.

Looking at their stock price on the 25<sup>th</sup> – It was down to 40 Cents per share. The last time it was above a dollar was back on July 5<sup>th</sup> which triggered a warning from the NYSE. They have 6 months to get the stock price back up before being de-listed. Perhaps a factor in why the recently laid off 5% of their staff?

Audacy could do, as other broadcast companies, like Cumulus, have done and do a reverse split that would increase the per share price.

Meanwhile downsizing of the Audacy operation in Portland continues as they, reportedly, move from a facility with 15 studios to one with 6, likely in an effort to reduce expenses. A similar thing had taken place with the I-Heart operation in Seattle

The following from Michael Brown – Catching KING-5 with an interesting graphic –



Uhhh – What day of the week is that?

And from Dwight Small....This Gem

She asked for a new mixer in the kitchen.  
I can't understand why she's not talking  
to me now?



Those of us that continue to drive vehicles with a Manual Transmission know well that they are a wonderful anti-theft device as fewer people today know how to drive a '3-Peddle' vehicle.

I spotted this item recently – Perhaps a window sticker to warn those that would like to take yours that it's, perhaps, too complicated for them to comprehend?



Then there is this, home-brew, WiFi or cellular antenna –



If you have been driving SR-18 for a long time, I've been doing it since I started work at West Tiger back in 1986, you know how the road, once known as the Echo Lake Cutoff, started out as a two lane road from Auburn to I-90. Over the years it's become a divided highway/freeway from I-5 in Federal Way to the Issaquah Hobart Road where the improvements have been stalled for many years.

This is about to change and will take place in two phases –

Phase one will see the I-90/SR-18 junction receive some major upgrades that will go a long way toward reducing the congestion in that area. This will include a second, parallel, span over the Raging River.

The next phase will address the portion going up and over Tiger Summit. This will mean some changes for those of us that work up there as the following rendering from WSDOT illustrates –



Presently there is a left turn lane permitting east-bound traffic to turn into the parking area and access the road going to the broadcast sites. The new configuration will eliminate this capability with the access becoming a 'Right-in / Right-out' arrangement. This means if you are going east on SR-18, and want to go to West Tiger, you will have to drive all the way to I-90 and turn around. For those going the other way, accessing the site from the I-90 side, to return to eastbound SR-18 will require driving west to the Issaquah Hobart Road. Why not an over or under-pass? According to DOT, not enough traffic to warrant it.

As the Earth wobbles, the Sun appears to be moving south...and once again I will be able to see evening sunsets from my Southwest facing back deck. This one taken on Sept 24th



The same night, Dwight Small had this view –



If you have a picture to share- Please send it my way !!

And finally ....If you are a Ham, or electronics buff. Now that the Pandemic is behind us, we have events returning – The following is a link to many of them in our area.

[Pacific Northwest Hamfairs \(n7cfo.com\)](http://n7cfo.com)

Hope to catch you here next month

Clay, K7CR, CPBE

SBE Member # 714

Since March 1968