

Clay's Corner for April 2023

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

Welcome to Spring! At long last the days are getting longer and things are, again, turning green. Not to forget we jumped to Daylight Time. Wonder if that debate will ever end?

The Sun is getting a lot more active – with some predicting power outages and other solar related disasters. Will be interesting to see if there are some impacts on all of the new communications systems we've developed in the last few years. Some are predicting it will mess-with GPS!

For Hams ... This is great news as the 10 Meter Band has been open all day for some fantastic, low power, DX. Reminds me of back in the 50's when my school ham station was a popular place. We had a 3 element Yagi on 10 meters and had a blast. BTW, the Club Call was W7SBE! (Back then the phonetics were Sugar-Baker-Easy) According to the experts, the sun is going to be at a peak for some time. If you are a ham, time to dust off the old gear and get on the air. If you are not... You can still enjoy the light show with some predicted stunning auroras. All you need is – Clear sky and a view to the North.

The big news these days seems to be all about 'AI'. Many are racing to see just how this technology can be put to work in broadcasting. Certainly, the NAB show will be filled with some examples of not only what you can do with it. Certainly there are some interesting products coming. Many are concerned that this will have a negative impact on jobs, probably at the same time employers are wondering if it will save money.

One of the more interesting developments has been the ability of a 'machine' to communicate with not only us, but with each other. I keep thinking about how they communicated with 'Computer' on Star Trek. Here we are folks!

We've all watched how text-readers have advanced in our daily lives. My Vehicle will read text messages to me with remarkable accuracy. My smart phone will do the reverse, turning my voice into text messages. Who would have thought this possible a couple of years ago? I can see Radio stations having a machine reading all those spots with someone choosing the type of voice they would like to have on the air. The classic 'booth announcer' will be software. The possibilities are endless. Remember when it was a requirement to announce whether a program was pre-recorded? This reminds me of'Live from _____'. Let's face it, nothing is 'Live' anymore...I mean nothing is in real time, everything is delayed, by milliseconds or more. Real is going the same route.

The NAB show is celebrating 100 years this year. Time does go fast. This year the newly constructed - 1.4 mega-sq.ft - West Hall will be put to full use. Seems not that long ago they opened the South Hall....The one that was on the other side of the highway. I will not be there this year as I no longer have someone to represent and pay the bills.

The move to eliminate AM Radio from vehicles has certainly raised a lot of stink. One comment I thought was interesting wasIf Mr. Musk can figure out how to launch spacecraft, you'd think they could figure out how to eliminate RFI in their vehicles. I suspect that this is more about saving a few bucks in the cost of a car which is all based on the notion that AM Radio is dead. It may not be dead, but it's certainly not as popular as it once was. What's interesting is how this has become a mission for some politicians. Representative Josh Gottheimer has gone as far as calling on the National Highway Safety Administration to require all automakers, including those that make EV's to include AM radios. Too bad the congressman does not feel the same way about having the FCC enforce their own rules regarding devices that create radio interference. FEMA is on board with this as they have been investing a lot of money beefing up their PEP system. I wrote about that a while back about what they did for KIRO-AM.

Here's a question for the brain-trust....I know that Tesla and Ford (and perhaps others) have been in the news for dropping AM from their vehicle radios....What about off-shore makers? Seems to me that there are electric vehicles being made by various firms – Are they dropping AM as well, or have they figured out how to make it work?

Something by a politician I found a bit disturbing. The effort by a politician from a certain party that's trying to eliminate federal funding for public radio and TV. Apparently, he does not agree with the political position of these outlets and has determined the way to silence them is to get Congress to yank their funding. The Congressman, Ronny Jackson, from Texas goes as far as to state that this amounts to "Taxpayer funded fake news". Wonder where that term came from?

In a recent Staff Meeting at WSU's NWPB some anniversaries were announced – Among them the fact that I've been working for NWPB now for 13 years. Brady Aldrich has passed 5 years.

For you that are going to the NAB Convention and are SBE Members a couple of reminders

SBE Membership Meeting, Reception and More at 2023 NAB Show



The SBE Spring Membership Meeting will take place on Monday, April 17 at 5 p.m. at the Las Vegas Convention Center (LVCC) in Rooms W216-W218. By attending, you have a chance to win a Blackmagic Design Studio Camera 6K Pro along with a number of other prizes. The first 125 people in the door will receive a pair of SBE-logoed luggage tags. The meeting is being sponsored by Blackmagic Design.

Following the Membership Meeting will be the annual SBE Member Reception in W226 of the LVCC. Members and friends of the SBE are welcome to this one-hour informal gathering that includes free beverages and appetizers. Reservations are not required. A bevy of prizes will be given away, including gift cards and broadcast hardware, courtesy of the reception sponsors.

The SBE booth, LN4, will be located in the North Hall Lobby, just off the Grand Lobby near Lucky's Restaurant. Booth sponsors include Blackmagic Design, Nermal

Electronics and Linkup Communications. A full rundown of SBE meetings and events held during the NAB Show is available on the SBE website.

Dwight Small noted that, apparently, Amateur Radio hobbyists overheard Russian pilots talking about recovering the drone that was recently downed in the Black Sea. Leading me to wonder why military communications are not scrambled or encrypted? Perhaps this is similar to the reports that the Ukrainian were able to target Russian assets because they were using their cellphones?

A summary of NAB event dates -

[Public Radio Engineering Conference \(PREC\)](#), Apr. 13-14, Tuscan Suites, Las Vegas, Nev.

[APRE Engineering Awards Dinner](#), Apr. 14, Lawry's Las Vegas, Las Vegas, Nev.

[Society of Broadcast Engineers Ennes Workshop](#), Apr. 14-15, Westgate Resort and Casino, Las Vegas, Nev.

[National Association of Broadcasters \(NAB\) Show](#), Apr. 15-19, Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nev.

I spotted this item on a popular remailer -

Commercial radio is an ADVERTISING business.

Most, if not all of the listeners and even some of the station employees are not aware of, or forget this fact.

My favorite question for new hires at the station is "who are our customers".

It's scary how many get it wrong.

They all say listeners.

Listeners are the product.

Advertisers are the customers.

Get that right and you are half-way towards being successful. Get that wrong and you aren't going to make it.

For those of you into Morse Code, there is a new book out called 'The CW way of Life'. Authored by a resident of Oregon, Chris Rutowski, NW6V. According to those that given it a read....It's more than just a history of the original digital-mode. The author goes into the mechanics of Morse and how it interacts with the human brain and how we are able to turn the dits and dahs into letters, words and thoughts. You can get it at Amazon. From my own experience with Morse, I remember watching what I was hearing – automatically- come out of my pencil. I find it interesting, despite the FCC no longer requiring Morse proficiency, the mode continues to be very popular.

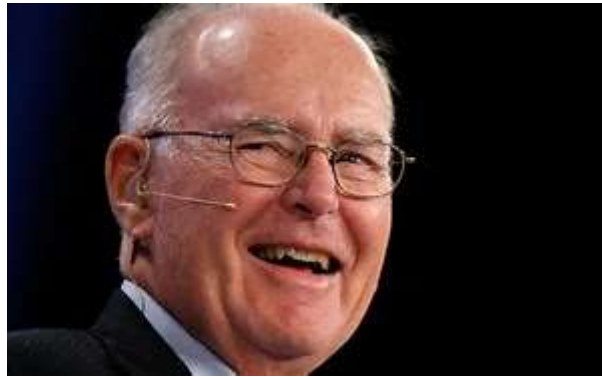
KGY has been broadcasting from a unique location in Olympia for many years. News is this might not last – Go here for more on that story –

[Broadcasting from a beach in Olympia | king5.com](http://king5.com)

The Seattle Times recently ran a piece called ' Tough Times for Seattle's Taverns. In it they mention the old 'Dog House' For you new to the area, the historic eatery had a room in the back called the 'W 7 Room'. The walls were lined with Amateur Radio QSL Cards. Not only that, many credit the Dog House as being the birthplace of the Seattle Chapter of SBE. 7th and Bell if I recall. (Yes, I ate there)

The FCC is not pleased with a North Carolina FM. Apparently, they have not been paying their annual fee to the Commish for the past 12 or so years. The FCC expects to be paid and not doing so could well cost the station their license to broadcast. Hard for me to understand how they would not know that. Perhaps they are operating like some of the pirate radios when they are fined by the FCC – Ignore and don't pay and they will go away ?

Audacy (formally Entercom) appears to be on an economic bind. At last check, their stock price, was 11 Cents per share. You can Google 'AUD Price' and read all the details. Audacy owns 5 FM's in the Seattle market.



Gordon Moore recently passed. He was the co-founder of Intel in 1968. Moore was very well educated having a PhD in Chemistry and Physics. Intel, by most measures, has been a very successful company. He is, perhaps, most famous for observing the number of transistors on microchips had, roughly, doubled every year since they were invented. That prediction became known as 'Moore's Law'.

From March 13th, the following job posting – (No idea if it's still open)

TV Engineering Manager

NPG of Oregon Inc., a cluster of television stations that includes NBC, FOX, The CW, and Telemundo affiliates in Bend, Oregon is seeking a dynamic, technically advanced, and self-motivated Engineering Manager. NPG of Oregon is the market news leader for the community with a long-standing tradition of service to the citizens of Central Oregon.

This position requires total responsibility for the station's technical operations and facilities maintenance, including studio, on-air, news, remote operations, production, power, and video/IT systems as well as installation and maintenance of equipment at the transmitter site and translator(s). The Engineering Manager will direct the development and administration of departmental budget, operating plans, capital projects, service agreements and will administer guidelines to assure the proper maintenance and functionality of all equipment and systems.

Candidates must possess sound leadership abilities, strong collaboration skills, excellent verbal and written communication and a proven record in project-planning and implementation. At least two years' experience in broadcast television engineering or related field is required, with extensive knowledge of troubleshooting and repair of equipment preferred. A valid Oregon Drivers' License is required.

NPG offers a competitive compensation package that includes a comprehensive benefits plan (medical/dental/vision/life/short-term and long-term disability, 125C and 401K with employer match, etc.). We work in a challenging, live environment and have opportunities for learning.

Please apply online at the Careers page, listed under the About Us tab, on KTVZ.com.

**[https://recruiting.adp.com/srccar/public/RTI.home?c=1059541&d=External-Corporate&city=%22Bend%22#/
/](https://recruiting.adp.com/srccar/public/RTI.home?c=1059541&d=External-Corporate&city=%22Bend%22#/)**

Candidates must pass a drug test and background check.

NewsChannel 21 is an equal opportunity employer.

62990 O.B. Riley Rd. Bend, OR 97703 Office: 541.383.2121 Fax: 541.382.1616

If you are looking for something closer to home

**Broadcast Engineer
KING 5 Seattle, WA Full-Time**

KING5 in Seattle is looking for a Broadcast Engineer who will be responsible for the day-to-day hands-on maintenance of the station's technical infrastructure. The position is responsible for the integration, maintenance, operation, and support of broadcast and business information technology

systems, and reports to the Supervisor of Technology & Operations. The position will support broadcast-centric software and hardware as well as traditional desktop and file and print services. They will respond quickly to provide technical support for News, Sales, Creative Services and Local Programming departments.

Responsibilities:

- Support day-to-day operations of broadcast information technology systems, software, and equipment.
- Maintain, upgrade, and support systems throughout the station including the studio and transmitter facilities.
- Troubleshoot and repair computer hardware, software, and peripherals, including network servers, storage, network operating systems, PCs and applications, LAN cabling, system security and virus protection.
- Create and maintain wiring documentation, and system configuration documentation.
- Work closely with the Technology Team and with corporate IT support. You will effectively communicate the status of problems, provide updates to progress on projects, and offer solutions to technical issues.
- Maintain knowledge and stay current on technological advances including computer software and hardware, media and entertainment technologies, television broadcasting, studio production and workstation products.
- Other duties as directed.

Job Requirements:

Requirements:

- Experience with, or knowledge of Windows Server, and Active Directory in a complex LAN and WAN computing environment. Support network security, network rights, naming standards, login scripts, and software upgrades.
- Work Environment Set - Moderate risk: Involves moderate risks or discomforts that require special safety precautions.
- Physical Demands Set - Medium work: Involves standing prolonged hours, stooping, bending, lifting/pushing up to 25 lbs.
- Training will be provided as needed on IT-centric broadcast systems and maintenance to service all aspects of the television environment.

Travel: Rarely: less than 10%

Work Environment Set: Moderate risk: involves moderate risks or discomforts that require special safety precautions

Physical Demands Set: Medium work: Involves standing prolonged hours, stooping, bending, lifting/pushing up to 25 lbs.

Budgeted Compensation Range: \$57,000 - \$78,500

And, somewhat related –

The sale of Tegna to Standard General has been anything but a smooth sailing transaction due to a lot of regulatory reviews. Even the NAB has weighed in expressing concerns as the process has drug on for about a year. Tegna owns KING & KONG TV in the Seattle Market.

[Also Read: Tegna Stock Plunges After FCC Sends Standard General Deal to Judge](#)

From the - Did You Know Dept –

Did you know that Washington State has the ‘deadliest national park in the country?’

If you are like me, you’d figure that distinction belonged to some place with creatures that kill etc.

According to NBC News, the deadliest national park is North Cascades National Park with the highest death rate of them all. This park, just south of the Canadian border, in our State, only has about 25,000 visitor per year....However, with very little infrastructure and lots of steep peaks to climb, it has earn this category based on a percentage of visitors.

If you clean ‘touch-screens’ you might be interested in the fact that GM has a new patent that uses ultraviolet LED emitters and a photocatalytic coating to clean and disinfect touch screens.

As you know, buttons are ‘old-school’ and touch screens are ‘in’. Can you imagine a smart phone with ‘buttons’ ? Look at the Nautel transmitters –The whole thing is controlled with a touch. Will be interesting to see where this one goes.

Scientists at Stanford have come up with a way to make solar panels more efficient. They have added thermoelectric devices into the panels. This way, when the sun goes down, the heat that radiated from the panels generates additional electricity.

Every once in a while you run across an ad where the picture was likely not chosen by a person having any technical knowledge. Here's an example of what I mean –

SOLID STATE AM TRANSMITTERS



Why would you show a picture of a cell-site when marketing AM Transmitters?

[SOLID STATE AM TRANSMITTERS – sender.cl](http://sender.cl)

The company is based in Miguel, Santiago, Chile.

Every wonder why keyboards are not laid out in alphabetical order? Just like why the standard gauge for railroad tracks ... The answer to this goes way back. In this case, to the mechanical device known as a typewriter.

[Why Isn't The Keyboard In Alphabetical Order? \(We Know!\) - TechTreatBox](#)

Back in the days, you 'Picked up' a radio station or signal. What better to 'pick up' radio waves than a 'Wave Magnet'? Spotted this recently at the Puyallup electronic flea market.



I'm one of those people that's always wondering why something is the way it is.

Thankfully we've come a long way since the days of the typewriter....There are other things in the past that we have moved beyond. Like 'Wire Wrap'. Not much of anything left of this technology



Occasionally something comes along to solve a myriad of issues. Like this item – **A truly universal mounting bracket**. Suitable for mounting almost anything to anything. In this example, the bracket is made of stainless steel making it ideal for outdoor use in severe environment conditions.



Picture time...March 8th from my back-deck



Meanwhile, at West Tiger Mountain – No one had driven up there in a while



This beauty taken at 630PM on the 26th from the AccelNet Cougar Mt Tower camera.



Or this one, taken about 715 PM



From March 15th. It was about 830 AM and I had just left Forks, heading East on 101.



Later that morning, just south of SR-112 on the Joyce - Piedmont Road. Had to stop for traffic.



And from Dwight Small - Welcome to March at the Lake



That's it for this month.

Lord willing, I'll see you here next month.

Clay, K7CR, CPBE

SBE Member # 714

Since March 1968 / 55 years.