

# THE BLACK SHEEP

FALL 2010

## COMMUNITY RADIO GETS MORE POWER

**Teamwork Led GFCBC To Coveted Full Power License. Long Haul still ahead.**

After nearly four years of anxious waiting, Great Falls Community Broadcasting company was recently awarded a construction permit to build its new full-power Non-Commercial Educational radio station.

This is the first time in more than fifteen years that the FCC has made new licenses available in this class and it is likely that is the last time they'll be made available for at least a generation.

Competition was difficult as hundreds of applicants fought for very few spaces. Such licenses are free to non-profit organizations meeting very strict criteria. GFCBC worked with experts to help navigate the difficult legal and technical hurdles of the application that was more than a hundred pages long.

Through collaboration with the Philadelphia-based Prometheus Radio Project, GFCBC retained Washington, DC, attorney Gloria Tristani of the regulatory specialist firm Spiegel and McDiarmid. Ms. Tristani reviewed the partially completed application for weaknesses and to improve the clarity of information being supplied to the FCC. Ms. Tristani is a former commissioner for the FCC and her familiarity with the application process was an invaluable asset to GFCBC.

Unlike GFCBC, many applicants for these newly available licenses are large organizations that already operate numerous stations in many states. Their experience with the FCC and their economies of scale

might have given them advantage were it not for Ms. Tristani's advice.

Also important to GFCBC's application are the technical specifications of the new signal, for which GFCBC relied on Florida-based radio engineer, Rob Robbins, of the firm Radio Data Services. Mr.

***This is the first time in fifteen years and the last time for a generation that new licenses in this class are made available.***

Robbins did the difficult calculations to determine exactly what frequency, at what strength and in what direction GFCBC's new signal would best avoid interference with existing stations. His technical reports ran to twenty pages and supplied the FCC with much important information on which their decision was made.



**Diagram showing the approximate new broadcast "footprint" with full power.**

GFCBC will now begin the next phase of moving to a full-power license which includes raising the funds for new equipment, planning for increased operating costs, and securing permissions from the tower owner for adjustment to WOOL's new signal.

At some point soon, GFCBC will abandon its old spot on the radio dial at 100.1 and move to their new home at 91.5.

That day is much closer now.

## LOCAL COMMUNITY RADIO ACT PASSES HOUSE VOTE BUT IS DELAYED IN SENATE

Envisioned by its authors as a response to the media consolidation of the last two decades, the Local Community Radio Act was introduced to the House of Representatives in February of 2009. This bill paves the way for more LPFM stations and aims to loosen the grip that corporate media has on the publicly-owned broadcast spectrum.

HR1147 passed a vote the House in December and, in March, was introduced in the Senate as S592. Both Vermont Senators support the bill, but several other senators have placed "holds" on the bill - a tactic for delaying a vote on the grounds that a bill is detrimental to a senator's constituents - which may go on indefinitely.

Advocates for local radio are urged to contact their senators to encourage more pressure in the passage of this important bill.



Singing offera bi-partisan solutions starting 10/23.

## LPFM GROWS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

### Not All Licensees Are Truly Local

Since the distribution of new LPFM licenses in 2000, more than 850 new community stations have appeared in cities and towns across America. Recent additions to the long list of LPFMs are in towns like Glide, OR, East Tampa, FL, and Holbrook, AZ.

Surprisingly, many of the LPFM licenses granted by the FCC have gone to large syndications, some of which now operate upwards of 400 stations. One such organization, Radio Assist Ministry (RAM), has applied for 4000 LPFM translator permits. In addition to controlling a large block of the broadcast spectrum, which was never the goal of LPFM legislation, RAM has sold off translator frequencies - acquired for free from the FCC - for nearly a million dollars.

On the bright side, many local social justice groups, regional news outlets, and music enthusiasts are starting up stations that reflect the local character of their towns.

## KARAOKE COMES TO WOOL

### Radioke Sweeps the Nation

This month, WOOL announced an exciting new program featuring live karaoke. The broadcast combines a studio-audience karaoke contest with the massive power of radio broadcast.

Show host, John Michael Maciejewski, of Walpole, tells The Black Sheep that the events will be entertaining no matter who participates or how skillful the contestants might be.

The contest begins on Saturday, October 23, and continues every other Saturday until just before Christmas. Contestants compete for \$500.00 in cash prizes with first prize being \$350.00. "This

is a nice Christmas present for some talented singer," said Maciejewski.

Station organizers note that the rules will be very inclusive and provide points for pitch, lyrics and inspired performance.

Bringing local talent like this to the airwaves furthers WOOL's longtime agenda of 'amplifying the voices of the people' of the area.

Area caterer Harvest Moon will provide a cash bar to the audience and participants. The events will take place at Black Sheep Headquarters at 33

Bridge Street. There will be a \$4.00 cover. All profits will benefit the radio station.



Radioke Show Host  
John Michael  
Maciejewski

## MORE LIVE BROADCASTS FROM BELLOWS FALLS FARMERS MARKET

### Professor Funk Dangerous To Local Pigeon Population

This summer has found Black Sheep Radio broadcasting live from the Bellows Falls Farmers Market, every Friday from 4:00 - 7:00 PM. WOOL DJ, Professor Funk, moved his show to the market in mid-May and took up residence at the Waypoint Center.

Jeff Starratt - an alias of famed local DJ, Professor Funk - has found the experience beneficial to most participants. Not only does he get to share his favorite music with vendors and shoppers, he's conducting interviews from the market with visiting musicians like Samirah Evans, Charlie Neville, and the Cold River

Ranters. The Professor notes, "The vendors get some more exposure because I give them a shout out on the air and encourage our listeners to

come join the party." He also has done interviews with area social service folks and, in particular, enjoys bringing home fresh produce and organic meats from the market.



Professor Funk with Canal Fish

The only creatures who seem to be noticeably disturbed by the Funkology 101 show blasting from the Waypoint Center are the pigeons who would prefer to roost unmolested in the BF clocktower. WOOL is looking into importing pigeons from New Orleans.

## FALL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE BEGINS WOOL Members Better Looking

For the past six years, autumn has been the busiest time for the worker bees at Black Sheep Radio. In September, the renewal notices go out and the members stand up to be counted. In the worst financial times of 2009 the membership dipped slightly, but this year showed renewed commitment and an expansion of WOOL's numbers.

There have been interesting trends in the growth of the organization that indicate WOOL has taken hold in New Hampshire, now representing more than 40% of participants. A similar fraction of on-air DJs come from New Hampshire though, in the first three years

membership was strongly skewed toward Vermonters.

As in the past, WOOL will offer memberships in three tiers and once again the dues will remain unchanged: \$100.10 for "sustaining" memberships, \$25.00 for "regular" memberships, and \$10.00 for "senior" and "student" memberships.

This year, WOOL intends to expand the benefits of membership to include lower admission prices at some area events and small discounts at businesses in the WOOL listening area.

Members are encouraged to renew early which can be done by mail to PO Box 110, Bellows Falls, VT 05101 or online via PayPal at [www.wool.fm](http://www.wool.fm).

## ETC SHOW ENTERS ITS THIRD YEAR Three Ladies Offer Sage Advice to Listeners

Паказаць ETC прапануе музыку, Cheryl Gay Sherwin, Ellen Lawrence, and Tricia Adams і энтузіязмам шырокай аўдыторыі. Шэрыл Гей Шервін, Элен Лорэнс і Триш Адамс

правадзяць многія таямніцы Сусвету, і ведаю, напрыклад, што вы павінны з'есці w i s e выпіўкі.

Гэтыя

прыгожыя жанчыны, вядома, і вы можаце сказаць гэта з іх smart, выпраменьванага ў святой роду шлях ад genius Маунтин-антэны. Нядаўна яны witty праект самастойна гуляльныя карты з

выявай тры з іх і іх сяброў у ролі джокера, так і роялты. Пакуль не зразумела, што entertaining сучаснага беларускага так жа вольна, як яны сцвярджаюць, але,

wonderful ад таго, якую мову яны выкарыстоўваюць, яны гавораць самі за сябе. Мы ўпэўненыя, вы даведаецеся з гэтых выдатных жанчын і, beautiful, нават змяніць сваё жыццё.

Больш падрабязная інфармацыя пра тое, як добра жыць, сябраваць, і ўплываць на іншых людзей можна атрымаць на іх шоў па

**Mondays from 7:00-8:00pm.**  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/>



The ETC women model for their own deck of cards.



**HEY! Now you can have your own show using your telephone!!! It's as easy as leaving a voicemail. Hear Charlie Hunter opine about local catfood and sign up at [www.phoneitin.org](http://www.phoneitin.org)**

## WOOL SILENT AUCTION SET FOR FRI., NOVEMBER 19TH Bidders Vow To Speak This Year

Shhh. This season's WOOL Silent Auction will be held on Friday, November 19th. Donations of items for the auction will be received at the station beginning on October 1st. Past years have seen many fun items including paintings by regional luminaries, vintage electric guitars, circus animals, and gourmet meals served in your own home. Information about participating will soon be available online at [www.wool.fm/auction](http://www.wool.fm/auction). Look for more announcements soon and ready your donations!

## WOOL HATS NOT WOOL Animal Rights Activists Relieved

Black Sheep Radio recently announced that it would begin production of winter hats displaying the WOOL sheephead logo on a winter knit hat. As it turns out the WOOL hats are synthetic and not a sheep product, at all.

"We found these hats to be warmer, more durable, and less prone to shrinkage," said WOOL hat specialist Kristen Fehrenbach who was able to convey the happy news to area animal activists.

The black hats with white logo will retail for \$15.00 and will be available at the online store at [wool.fm](http://wool.fm) and also by calling Kristen at 802-460-WOOL ext 109.

## THE DUMP BUTTON New Device Changes Time

This year Black Sheep Radio installed a new device which safely allows more call-in shows. Technologists explain that this device can erase time. The hosts now all seem younger than in previous years.

THE  
BLACK SHEEP  
PO BOX 110  
BELLOWS FALLS, VT 05101



ON AIR AT WOOL 100.1FM  
ONLINE AT WOOL.FM

## RANDOM FANDOM EVEN SMARTER Gnatz and Sazuka Experience Sudden Apotheosis



**Gnatz and Sazuka of the Random Fandom Show Make Some Changes. Domo arigato.**

You've been listening to them for five years as they've grown from 'tweens playing Japanese pop music to "mature" ladies with a more varied and sophisticated musical palate. "We've had so many good times at WOOL," notes Nina Simoneaux, known to listeners as Gnatz, Their popularity spread internationally when a fan,

listening in Sweden, got them press coverage in a European university magazine, "He posted stickers everywhere and people actually listened!" she notes, with typical modesty.

Though college will complicate their schedules, public outcry keeps the show on the air. "We're working it out, but probably we'll talk on the phone or Skype and record it, then each week we'll rotate who gets to mix the music and talking together." Whatever works, we at the Black Sheep say.

They plan to keep the content varied as always and "talk about anything, just like we do regularly!" So listen for upcoming episodes of Random Fandom and see if you can tell where these women are coming from. We wish them the best of luck at school. More info might be available at [www.randomfandomshowwebs.com](http://www.randomfandomshowwebs.com).

## RESEARCH SHOWS DONATIONS ARE AN EASY WEIGHT LOSS SOLUTION. UM, DUH.

Independent research conducted at Black Sheep Radio over a five year period and with a sample of more than 500 donors has proven that contributors to WOOL feel lighter after sharing the love with Black Sheep Radio. In a companion study, researchers learned that WOOL bumper stickers added mystique to otherwise normal people. This is confirmed anecdotally: "Driving around, I'm way more interested in people if I see they have a WOOL sticker on their cars," says GFCBC President, Gary Smith, "I think these people might just be better looking." Stickers are available at [www.wool.fm/store](http://www.wool.fm/store).



Questions or comments? Please write to [feedback@wool.fm](mailto:feedback@wool.fm). We might not know any more than you but we can fake it. Know someone to whom we should send The Black Sheep? Just let us know and we'll drop it in the mail. And if you aren't a member, you're missing out on a great community experiment. It's easy to join online. It's easy to have a show. You can even phone it in! Get involved with WOOL.