KPFA: America’s First Listener Sponsored Radio Station Celebrates 75 Years

From KPFA Management:

KPFA’s 75th Birthday is not just a commemoration; it reaffirms our enduring mission and the deep connections we’ve forged with our listeners. Our rich history as the...
nation’s first listener-supported radio station, founded by visionary Lew Hill, has been unwavering in our commitment to broadcasting ideas freely, without fear or favor. This legacy, shaped by our listener-only support, inspires, and excites us. From April 15th, 1949, to today, we’ve forged deep connections with our listeners…For 75 years, KPFA has featured progressive voices and heroes who presented their initiatives and spoke truth to power. Today, our ultimate goal is strengthening KPFA’s partnership with its listeners and like-minded supporters. In the next 75 years, we will continue providing thought-provoking, fact-based information to encourage positive social change.

Read more on KPFA from Ursula Ruedenberg

Then, in November, 2023, a small group of newly-engaged local volunteers, inspired by committed WXPI President Curtis Musheno, decided to save the station. They took quick action—applying for and winning an LPFM license, launching a diverse selection of local music programs, renewing affiliation with Pacifica, planning fundraising activities, all with the support of the wider community and particularly with the support of the entrepreneurs and artists who work out of Williamsport’s Pajama Factory, a 300,000 square foot historic industrial building turned community hub that the station calls home.

Read Diane Reinhardt's interview with Station Manager/Program Director Michael Lundy, Chaos Coordinator Cita Waltz, and Associate Manager Justin Mackenzie.

Neil Young Partners with Rev. Billy & Choir for LOVE EARTH Tour

They are rocking for a free earth.

Reverend Billy & the Stop Shopping Choir say they are honored to be the

Solar Powered Radio Discussion

RF Engineer Pete Tridish talks about solar power and more in our April round-table meeting.
opening act for classic rocker Neil Young and Crazy Horse's Love Earth Tour.

According to Rev. Billy's press release, "During the Love Earth tour, Reverend Billy and the Stop Shopping Choir plan to dedicate their time on stage to delivering radical environmentalism to the masses through song, humor, love, and a healthy dose of faux-religiosity. They also plan to connect with local activists along the tour path, getting involved in direct actions to truly embody their love for the earth and the people that live on it."

You can find the first dispatch from the tour under Earth Riot Radio, in AudioPort. Episode 115.

In a place where energy is scarce, Tridish has built a partnership with KCAW, a station in Sitka, Alaska, where most electricity is run by generators. Together, they are working to bring power to local radio stations via solar, wind, and modernized transmitters, often in towns that can only be reached by boat or plane.

Tridish is heartened by a recent amendment to the Inflation Reduction Act which allows non-profit organizations to get a 50-70% refund from the IRS for solar power installation.

Featured in AudioPort

Understanding Israel Palestine Half Hour

"Understanding Israel Palestine is a weekly radio program that educates listeners about the realities behind the headlines."

Modern Jet Set Hour

"Come fly the fancy skies! Modern Jetset is a weekly round-the-world trip through music from soul to synthpop, reggae to R&B, Latin to lounge, and more. With

What a Long Strange Trip it's Been Hour

"Americana music that includes Folk, Rock, Blues, Country."
“Interviews scholars, policy experts, journalists, activists and human rights experts to elicit informed perspectives about a conflict often ignored or misrepresented in the mainstream media.”

Produced and hosted by Margot Patterson and co-hosted by Eamon Ormseth at KKFI in Kansas City, MO.

“Modern Jetset also has a strong focus on new and recent releases, connecting the dots between fresh new favorites and the vintage sounds and retro selections that inspire today’s independent music landscape.”

Produced and hosted by DJ & Operations Manager Iris Berkeley, at KGNU radio in Boulder, CO, Bluegrass, Reggae and more.

“This is the show that has some new music, some old music, some songs from artists you’ve never heard of before and a few that’ll trigger a flash from the past.”

Produced and Hosted by Wally Bowen, from KOCF in Fern Ridge, Oregon.

Pacifica Network
816 Clark Ave, 50010, Ames
ursula@pacific.org

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