

THE RADIO WAVE  
"Keeping Radio People in Touch"

5<sup>th</sup>. December 2004

Issue #34

Ian MacRae, Editor, radiowave@allaboutradio.net

-----  
By subscription only! Welcome to the thirty-fourth issue of  
THE RADIO WAVE  
You are receiving this because you requested a subscription.  
Unsubscribe instructions are at the end of this newsletter.  
-----

IN THIS ISSUE  
-----

- => Sponsorship Notice
- => G'Day
- => Fame for ED
- => Satellite Radio Becomes Even More listener Friendly
- => A Bit Over the Border
- => Work in UK Radio.
- => Cheap Shot Becomes Expensive
- => Radio Stunts Gone Wrong-a Continuing Series
- => Silence is Golden
- => A Broken Record
- => A Slap on the Wrist Should Fix Them
- => And Finally

-----  
SPONSORSHIP NOTICE (SHAMELESS PERSONAL PLUG)  
-----

FOR RADIO WAVE READERS WHO LIVE NEAR SYDNEY AUSTRALIA  
Radio schools are not all the same. As you investigate each  
school, it will become quite obvious that each school offers  
different levels of training in radio broadcasting.

Unfortunately, some radio schools, amount to nothing more  
than social gatherings with little or no time devoted to  
the student's true needs and expectations, often using outdated  
or poorly functioning equipment.

Whilst other schools, which may be affiliated with a university,  
are excellent, utilising today's equipment, but, beyond the  
reach of most students because of their limited annual intake,  
geographic location or high entry fees.

An interesting exercise is on the home page of our radio  
school site where you can "rate a radio school"

Weblink: [www.radioschool.biz](http://www.radioschool.biz)  
-----

G'DAY.  
-----

This is our final issue for 2004.

Encouragingly we've had a lot more subscribers signing on  
thanks to many of our reader's efforts in spreading the word.

This newsletter is aimed at people who'd like to be in radio,  
newbies who've just started and full-time professionals.

Any comments you have about anything you read here please let me have them.

If you'd like to contribute an article...you're welcome.

You can reach me at [ian@allaboutradio.net](mailto:ian@allaboutradio.net)

-----  
FAME FOR ED  
-----

Congratulations to Radio Wave subscriber ED DOOLAN who has become the first BBC Local Radio presenter to be entered into The Radio Academy's Hall of Fame.

This is the Radio Academy's tribute to people in the public eye who have made an outstanding contribution to the UK radio industry.

Ed delivers BBC-WM's consumer affairs programme every weekday from 10am to 1pm and has now presented over 4,500 episodes.

He also presents a programme every Sunday from 9am to 12 noon. Ed was awarded the MBE in 1998 and was the first person ever to be awarded Honorary Doctorates by all three Birmingham based Universities.

You can hear Ed's shows on-line at weblink:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/england/radiowm>

Click on "listen live".  
-----

SATELLITE RADIO BECOMES EVEN MORE LISTENER FRIENDLY  
-----

Sir Elton John is now on U.S. television flogging the benefits of the new MyFi hand-held XM radio receivers making satellite radio even more accessible to the masses.

The receiver, manufactured by Delphi, features time shifting, so you can listen to radio programs later. Listeners can use the MyFi in live or time-shifting "memory" mode, called "My XM," which allows the user to store five hours of content.

The MyFi retails for US\$349.99, including the 7-1/2 ounce receiver, rechargeable battery, headphones and a built-in XM antenna.

Other features include stock and sports "tickers," an alarm clock and a built-in wireless FM transmitter that "makes any FM radio an XM Radio."

This allows you to listen to XM radio through your existing FM radio when MyFi is stationary in your home kit cradle or vehicle kit cradle. It wirelessly transmits XM to your vehicle or home stereo through a selection of 8 FM Frequencies. When headphones are plugged-in to MyFi the FM transmitter automatically turns off.

Last month was the 50<sup>th</sup>. anniversary of the portable transistor radio. The device that basically reinvented radio and possibly saved it from near oblivion following the introduction of TV.

You've come a long way baby.

-----  
A BIT OVER THE BORDER  
-----

A radio station in Los Angeles has been given the OK for a massive power increase. In fact TEN times more than it used to be.

It went from 10 to 100 watts and can now be heard clearly well into downtown L.A., 14 miles northeast of the airport, and down through the SOUTH BAY towards LONG BEACH.

The radio broadcaster, in fact, is not a normal station but the Los Angeles International Airport's "Travellers Information" station that has just won a fight at the FCC with a station just over the Mexican border which occupies the adjacent 540 frequency and can be heard in much of metropolitan Los Angeles.

A bit of a Mexican stand-off.

-----  
WORK IN UK RADIO  
-----

If you're looking for radio work in the UK here's a site that will be of interest.

"WorkinRadio" says it offers an independent, confidential service to employees and employers based on many years' radio experience and a network of industry contacts.

They cover all positions including Managers, Presenters, Journalists, Engineers, Admin or Sales & Marketing.

Weblink: [www.workinradio.co.uk](http://www.workinradio.co.uk)

-----  
CHEAP SHOT BECOMES EXPENSIVE  
-----

Last month I had stories about two radio transmission towers in trouble. One demolished by a runaway truck and the other attacked by a Smokey the Bear hot air balloon.

Now we have WBYY-FM 98.7 "The Bay" in Portland, New Hampshire U.S.A. put off air by a bullet from a .22-caliber pistol.

The shot appeared to have been fired from a wooded area nearby.

During a routine maintenance check, on the Wednesday morning, workers found a small hole in the station's tower. Because the hole wasn't causing a problem, and the bullet couldn't be removed, the hole was patched and forgotten.

Station manager Rick Bean said: "As opposed to replacing the entire line we repaired the hole and everything seemed to be going well. Then winds started shaking the tower and caused the bullet to move."

Electrical wires inside the tower began hitting the bullet and caused a short circuit prohibiting the signal from reaching the top of the tower.

Because the high winds kept maintenance crews from climbing

the high tower, the station remained off the air from 10am 'till 6pm which, unfortunately, was right in the middle of the annual five-day canned food drive for local charities.

Bean said he was frustrated with the situation because it appeared that someone was "using the transmitter site for target practice. "I don't think there are too many moose 290 feet off the ground."

-----  
RADIO STUNTS GONE WRONG - A CONTINUING SERIES  
-----

As a joke breakfast show presenters Twitch, Mary Jane and Kyle announced to listeners of Z-103 in Lexington, Kentucky that the Urban County Council had passed an ordinance banning residents from smoking cigarettes in their vehicles.

Hundreds of angry callers, who believed the hoax, tied up telephone lines to the Lexington police and health departments, to City Hall and to the county attorney's office. As a result the city is filing a formal complaint with the Federal Communications Commission against the radio station.

Judging by the huge outbreak of angst amongst the public there must be a lot of really smelly car interiors in Lexington.

-----  
SILENCE IS GOLDEN  
-----

In Melbourne (Australia, not Miami) Magistrates Court, Ross and Nina Friedman were charged with 22 counts of obtaining property by deception. The said property being \$64,000 worth of prizes from radio stations.

The couple accessed and used confidential phone numbers to beat other callers to the stations' advertised competition lines.

The court heard the silent numbers -- which increase your chances of getting through to the radio station by up to 50 per cent -- are only known by Telstra and radio station engineers.

Guess who Ross baby used to work for? Telstra.

Among the stations they hit on was Gold 104.3. Listeners had to ring the station's competition line when they heard a specified five songs played in a row to win the money.

Police allege Mrs Friedman and her husband both rang the silent numbers when the five songs were played and she was selected as the winning listener.

The court was told Mrs Friedman gave her sister's name and was pronounced the winner before frantically ringing her sister and telling her to expect a call from Gold 104.3 and to act as if she had won the \$50,000.

The court was told that Ms Simmons collected the cheque and banked the money the next day before giving it to Mrs Friedman. Police allege Ms Simmons, who has since pleaded guilty to obtaining property by deception, was rewarded with \$5000 for her efforts.

What's got me scratching my head here is...a radio station would not normally use its silent numbers for competitions. Otherwise they wouldn't BE silent. So how come the on-air presenters appear to have taken, unquestioning, listeners calls on them?

-----  
A BROKEN RECORD  
-----

A new broadcasting record set by BBC Radio Cambridgeshire DJ MAX RUSHDEN was short lived as Streaming Radio DJ Roy Sandbrook then went ahead and beat the record for the longest radio show ever.

Roy broke the current claimed record of 121 hours and finally hung up his headphones after 131 hours - live on BBC Television.

This mammoth record breaking event saw him broadcast non-stop with a little over an hours sleep throughout the whole period. He also;

- \* Played 1,500 Records
- \* Received 2,000 emails
- \* 32 Back to Back - 4 hour shows
- \* 130 weather reports

During the effort Roy was raising money for Children In Need and other charities by taking requests through a specially set up text line whilst also receiving donations through the website.

When it was all over he commented that he was looking forward to a pint of Guinness and a shave!

Don't wanna be churlish here but should an internet station be accepted in such a challenge. After all...it's not REALLY radio.

Weblink: [www.streamingradio.co.uk](http://www.streamingradio.co.uk)

-----  
A SLAP ON THE WRIST SHOULD FIX THEM  
-----

Two talk-radio hosts at 2UE Sydney were found in breach of the anti-discrimination act and were told to publicly apologise.

JOHN LAWS and STEVE PRICE got into trouble after an on-air discussion about a TV reality show called The Block.

Steve Price referred to gay participants "renovating in their undies" who "could do all sorts of grubby things at about 1 o'clock at night" and John Laws spoke of the men as "young poofs ... doing it in their little knickers."

Steve also expressed his concern at how he was supposed to explain to his kids what homosexuals were. (Hell, they're still getting over the shock that a stork doesn't actually bring babies!)

Laws then added to the fun by directing comments about "pillow biters" and "pompous pansy prigs" at CARSON KRESSLEY of the TV show "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" who was in town as a guest at a racing carnival.

For that little outburst he had to publicly apologise for his anti-gay comments in an open letter to Gay and Lesbian Newspaper The Sydney Star Observer.

These men are both experienced operators who believe they say on air what their, somewhat ageing, audience want to hear. Personally I think they're a couple of dinosaurs who haven't caught up with the attitudes of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and woken up to the fact that radio and times have changed. So there.

-----  
AND FINALLY...  
-----

As mentioned, this is the final Radio Wave newsletter for 2004. The next, if all goes to plan, will be the February 2005 edition.

So all that remains is for me to wish you and yours the happiest Christmas you can manage and a truly Happy New Year...ALL year.

And a special thought to all of us in the industry who'll be working through the holiday break. Yes...SOMEONE'S gotta do it.

If there is anyone you know either in or outside the radio industry who would like to receive THE RADIO WAVE please get them to ask to be subscribed by simply sending a blank e-mail to:

[radiowave@allaboutradio.net](mailto:radiowave@allaboutradio.net)

As you know it's free and you can unsubscribe at any time.

-----  
Copyright 2004 Ian MacRae  
-----