



Rockland Buzz

Experiment in Community Media

Issue 193, December 4, 2020, Rockland, Maine

MAINE COAST.tv
COMMUNITY TELEVISION
On cable channel 7,
MaineCoast.tv & Roku.

The Old School
Fellowship Education



Totally Tami-Lyn the Lady of the 80s Fridays 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Hi, I am Tami-Lyn Sears and I have lived in this area since 1985!! I work for the Bay View Collection, Interior & exterior sub contractor painter, Assistant League Operator for the Triploli Pool out of Riverside Billiards in Waldoboro. I am also a fundraiser for local families & children's organizations, for which I have raised over \$30k for our community!

I am a mother of 3 beautiful daughters, Jarica, Ashtyn, and Lenigha, and a loving Auntie to the best niece, Cierra.

I love music of MOST genres, but I am a Classic Rock Lady! It is my escape. I am excited to be volunteering & doing a program of the 80s for WRFR!



American Legion Post #1, a WRFR sponsor



Old School Board Meeting On-the Air!

by Joe Steinberger

Rockland's low-power community radio station, WRFR, has been broadcasting locally produced music and talk programs for over eighteen years.

Our origins go back to the year 2000 when I was on the City Council and Steve Carroll was volunteering as the camera man for our meetings, which were broadcast over the City's cable tv channel. Steve proposed that the channel could be used not just for the meetings, but also to broadcast debates on issues before the city. Steve organized a debate on the pay-per-bag trash issue then current. The debate was held, and filmed, but never aired. The Mayor nixed it - apparently the wrong side won the debate. Steve and I agreed the project was hopeless.

A few months later I read that the Federal Communications Commission was concerned that the consolidation of radio stations by a few big corporations was depriving communities of local radio. In response, they were planning to license a new breed of local low-power FM stations.

I thought this would be a great opportunity for Rockland, and Steve agreed. We were excited to imagine an independent local radio station where members of our community would be able to express their views, and their art, free of censorship.

Community support was strong. We easily raised \$10,000 from "100 founders," local individuals and businesses who contributed \$100 each. Steve and I both had some experience with radio and some carpentry and electronics skills, and I had my experience as a lawyer to help us through the application process. One of the requirements was that the station be licensed to a non-profit educational organization. I was then on the board of Penobscot School and managed to convince them to be the applicant. The whole story is too long to relate here, but suffice to say that we applied and were granted the license, and we built the station in the former garage at 20 Gay Street where we remain to this day, and from which we have been broadcasting 24/7 since 2002.

In 2014 the license was transferred from Penobscot School, which had held it as an accommodation, to The Old School, a non-profit organization developed with the specific mission of overseeing the station and related education and communications projects - such as The Buzz.

Since our beginnings WRFR has been the only local radio station in Knox County. Other stations have antenna here, but none has a studio here, none is producing local programming.

This is largely because, with the evolution of communications technology, local radio, except in "major markets," cannot support its expenses, let alone be profitable. We learned that at WRFR. In our first year we hired someone to manage the station, but that proved to be unsupportable without shifting our energies into full-time fundraising mode, which we were loath to do.

Our solution has been our all-volunteer model. This has kept our expenses low, and has also had the salutary effect of empowering all of us who are the volunteers - we are our own bosses, responsible for administering ourselves. It is a challenge, of course, but so far we have been managing to share the work (some of which none of us really wants to do) but which we do because we believe in our mission.

The ultimate authority is the Board of Directors of the Old School, currently six of us station volunteers. But the role of the board is very much affected by our all-volunteer model. When a board of directors has a paid staff they can tell that staff what to do, but it is harder to tell volunteers what to do. The real power, in the end, is in the volunteers themselves - nothing will happen unless they want to do it. Perhaps there could be times when the board settles some dispute or insists on a rule that it feels necessary, but so far our mission and our rules have been quite clear and disputes rare.

We have room (please note this, dear reader) in our schedule for more volunteers to do more shows, we have room in The Buzz for more volunteer content. We don't need a committee to decide who can do what. Our policy is to be open to everyone - to a diversity of opinion and to all sorts of music and art. Come, do! We have two simple rules: do not violate the FCC's decency standards, and always treat everyone in our community with respect.

Given all this, the role of the board is not so much to command as to inspire. All of us board members are active volunteers, not only doing radio shows, but also helping with the (sometimes less fun) administrative chores. It is our job to offer the example and the vision for an even more useful future for our modest venture.

This is all the more important in these Covid times when our usual volunteer meetings over food and drink have been suspended. For this reason, and perhaps out of a desire to continue our tradition of being untraditional, we six board members have agreed to hold this year's annual meeting over Zoom, and on the air.

Please listen in on WRFR, or watch on MaineCoast.tv, this Wednesday, December 9, from 5 to 6 pm. We hope to inspire you to join us as a volunteer in our unique project.

Please forgive me for adding here that none of this would be possible without the support of our local business sponsors, more than eighty of them. Our expenses are low because we do not pay ourselves, but we nevertheless must maintain our studios and equipment, pay for our heat and electricity, internet, music licensing fees, paper and toner, etc. Local media and local businesses and organizations have in common a struggle to maintain our existence and independence in this age of increasing centralization. Together, we hope to continue to fan the embers of creative and independent local community, the campfire that is the foundation of our democracy.



Even on Thanksgiving Day robo calls and scammers ring our landline looking for victims. They go to voicemail or "missed calls" that average 21 a day. I get so frustrated but there is no way to block these calls. But I like to answer the phony "Spectrum" callers from India attempting to access confidential data by giving them fake information. Part of me feels chagrined by my ploy as we have East Indian/American friends. I attribute my behavior to a reversion to juvenile behavior. As a tween, my friends and I used to phone people or businesses and harass them with corny jokes or rude noises. We were able to be anonymous in those days of no caller ID. I get no scammers on my cell. Yet.

Up early on Black Friday, in which I've never participated - ever. It just seems like consumer chaotic greed to the max. This year it seems more than obscene, given so many have so little.

I'm greeted by Venus' bold beauty hovering over the Head of the Bay like an early Christmas decoration light. The sun rises and its warmth sends steam rising from the bark of The Big Maple wet from Thanksgiving Day's rain.

Just read a Free Press article with photos about a rare albino crow sighting in Owls Head. Besides its completely white plumage, it has pink feet, a pink beak and pinkish-red eyes. It seems to prefer feeding along the shoreline, so the chances of it turning up at the crow breakfast buffet at our house are probably quite slim.

Just read an article in the online Guardian that research determines human beds have far, far more microbes than chimps' beds. Chimps make a fresh bed every day of sticks and leaves and microbes were barely discernable, whereas humans use the same sheets over and over. Some quotes: "One third of the weight of a person's pillow could be comprised of dead skin, dust mites and their feces. A duvet could contain 20,000 mites (and their feces) and a typical mattress could hold up to 10 million." The moral of the story seems to be that unless you're the Queen of England, whose sheets are changed daily, we're all rolling around in a LOT of our own skin and creepy crawlies and their dirt while asleep or engaged in other on-mattress activities. OMG. Why did I read this article? I've always changed sheets at least once a week but between this article and covid I may become a laundry fanatic.

I find my eyes suddenly tearing up for no apparent reason or I'm trying to hold back weeping. Nothing remarkable has changed in my life or my spouse's. I feel an inexplicable sadness that seems to follow me around, sits on my shoulder or sneaks up on me. Is it a delayed reaction to sheltering-in-place? Is it thinking about the massive numbers of people in America and around the world who are covid victims? Is it lack of intense exercise? Is it an unsure covid future? I just speculate with no clear answers, hoping this sadness will pass.



Contemplating the joys of a cozy wood fire

by Steve Carroll

As the days get shorter and winter's touch pervades the air I think about the coming season and the thought that this year there will be more time spent at home and few visits afield. My thoughts take me back to winters past and how often sitting by a cozy wood fire has brought much comfort and joy to my life.

Yes, there is something extra special about a wood fire that sets it apart from other heat sources like gas or electric, oil fired hot water, hot air or even in floor radiant heat with I particularly enjoy. As the old time Mainers would say "wood hearts ya three times, when you cut it when you split it and when you burn it." Of course I think they might have skipped a few like when you haul it and when you stack it. In any event it certainly heats you many times and that heat has a way of tenderly warming your body & your soul.

Not only do I love the way a wood fire makes you feel, I love the smell. When you first walk into anyone's home that burns wood, you are greeted by this glorious smell and you are even allowed the opportunity to bring a little charm home with you as it lingers on your clothes.

I am however painfully aware there are those that do not have the same appreciation for a wood fire. My wife is one, she doesn't like the smell and all the dust & dirt that is all a part of burning wood. Well, in my mind it just goes with the territory.

There is another joy I have not mentioned and that is spending hours just watching the flames. Now tell me where else can you do this. In my youth I was a Boy Scout and my father loved to go camping. We spent every weekend trotting off to a different campground, to Northern Maine, Canada, and of course the White Mountains. Every evening we would sit around the camp fire, tell stories and enjoy a burnt hot dog or those luxurious s'mores. For many years I went on hunting and fishing trips to the North woods hunting lodges & cabins in the back country. Each evening we would gather round the fire and share stories. So many fond memories throughout the years, so many campfires, and so many hours spent by the fire.

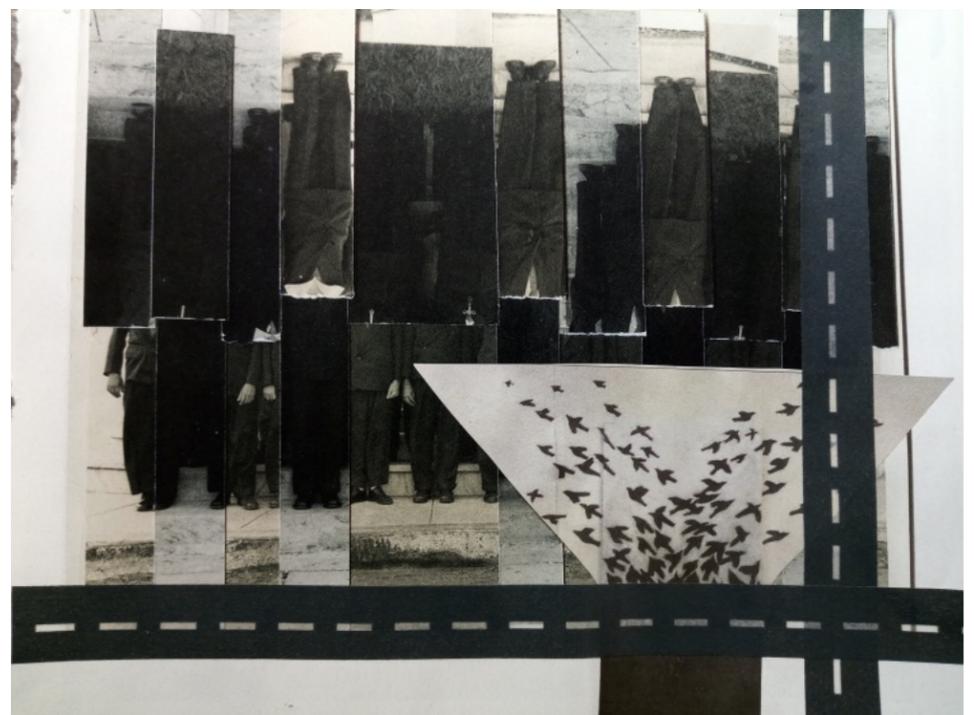
How can I ever thank you for all you have given me over the years? I guess I cannot, so I will just throw another log on the fire, sit back in my easy chair, and enjoy your many gifts once again.

Join our Buzz and WRFR team.

Host a radio show, contribute your ideas and your art. We are all volunteers and we need your help.

Visit wrfr.org

Email Joe: steinberger@gwi.net



WRFR and The Buzz are supported by these local business sponsors. Please give them your custom!

American Legion Post 1 • Apache Boat Works • The Apprenticeshop • Astrology with Ananur • Bar Harbour Bank & Trust • Blues Festival • Brio Promotions • Brooks Trap Mill • Bufflehead Sailing Charters • Burpee, Carpenter & Hutchins Funeral Home • Cafe Miranda • Camden Conference • Camden Harbor Cruises • Camden National Bank • Camden Opera House • C'est la Vie Consignment • Chartrand Imports • Courier Publications • Dead River Company • Dowling Walsh Gallery • Eastern Tire • Eric Gabrielsen • First National Bank • Frantz Furniture • The Free Press • Genuine Automotive • Gilman Electrical Company • The Good Tern Co-op & Café • The Grasshopper Shop • Guini Ridge Farm • Hall's Funeral Home • Hoffman's Thomaston • Home Kitchen Cafe • Jensen's Pharmacy • Jess's Market • K & P Speed Shop • Knox Village Soup • Lyman Morse • Maine Street Meats • Maine Coast TV • Maritime Energy • Mountainside Services • Mid-Knight Auto • Monhegan Boat Line • Peaceful Passage • Pen Bay Pilot • Pen Bay Medical Center • Red Bird Acupuncture • Rhumb Line Restaurant • The Ripple Initiative • Rock City Employee Cooperative • Rockland Savings Bank • Sammy's Deluxe • Samoset Resort • Schooner Bay Printing • Side Country Sports • Southend Grocery • State of Maine Cheese • Strand Theatre • Swan Restorations • Suzuki's Sushi Bar • Tea Printers • Toshie Ichianagi Tesler, CPA • Viking Lumber • Wayfinder School • Willow Bake Shop • The Zack Shack

Get The Buzz at these Rockand locations: Good Tern Co-op • Dunkin' Donuts • Jensen's Pharmacy • Rock City Cafe • Southend Grocery

The Buzz is composed and printed by the Fellows of The Old School at the WRFR studios, 20 Gay Street, Rockland. Email: wrfr93.3@gmail.com