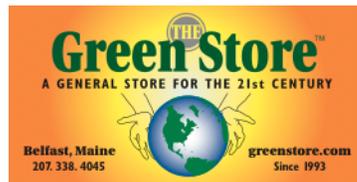


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WERU-FM

Celebrating 25 Years...



...And Counting!

WERU 25th Anniversary Celebration Concert Program

October 6, 2013
The Grand
Ellsworth, Maine



25th Anniversary Concert Program

Heidi Daub, Phil Norris, Bill Schubeck

Heidi and Bill were present at Sign On day with a baby on their backs, and they were among the first live performers to play on WERU. Now that baby is grown and a musician herself. Phil Norris (aka "Cousin Phil") not only got the flatbed truck that served as the stage on Sign On Day, he was one of WERU's first on the air programmers.

David Mallett

Whether writing in Nashville, TN or Sebec, ME, David Mallett's songs tell stories of everyday lives, often rural lives. His songs, whether sung by himself or by Pete Seeger, John Denver, Emmylou Harris, or many others, resonate in the heart and soul. Some, like *The Garden Song*, are so familiar that some people think they originated back in the mists of time. David recorded his first albums in Noel Paul Stookey's studio in The Henhouse, WERU's first home.

INTERMISSION

Tim Sample

It's a rare Maine resident (and many "from away") who haven't repeated a line from one of Tim Sample's performances, whether they know it or not. The quintessential Maine humorist, Tim is also an accomplished illustrator and author, and has been known to pick up a guitar from time to time. Whether on CBS, as he was for many years with his "Postcards from Maine," or on the back of a flatbed truck, as he was on WERU's Sign On Day, Tim helps people laugh – a lot!

Noel Paul Stookey

Peter, Paul, and Mary is one of the major musical forces of not only their own generation, but of their children's generations as well. In addition to being Paul, Noel has always pursued his own music and his own interests ranging from comedy (he started as a stand-up comedian and is still a pretty funny guy), to technology as he ponders how to produce and disseminate music in the Internet age. And then there was that other crucial interest – helping to bring a community radio station into existence. Not only was Noel there on WERU's Sign On Day, he was there for the years leading up to that day, and provided early financial backing through the Public Domain Foundation.

WERU Then...

WERU went on the air at 3 p.m. on a cold, wet Sunday, May 1, back in 1988. Volunteers had programs ready to go, community members shared snacks in colorful outfits and even brought a Maypole to the Henhouse parking lot in Blue Hill Falls. There was only one thing missing: a license to broadcast, which had to be physically in the control room studio for the station to legally go on the air. With less than 20 minutes to go, Stephanie Summers, the station's Washington attorney who had received the physical license from the FCC on Friday afternoon, personally flew to Bangor and came wheeling up in a rented car with the license in hand at 2:40 p.m.

The warmth of the community offset the cool weather as a giant wooden (pretend) switch was thrown in the parking lot by several children (twice!) to signal pressing the real electronic switch in the studio, and WERU filled the airwaves with the unique mix of diverse music and spoken word programs that have been WERU's hallmark for 25 years.

While Sign On Day began WERU's broadcast service, it also ended six years of work securing an FCC license, as well as the funds and equipment to get on the air. Though certainty fades as the years go by, Salt Pond Community Broadcasting, which was named after the Salt Pond in Blue Hill Falls, formed, we think, back in 1983. The consensus is that the original idea for the station came from a fellow named Reg Bennett, who is no longer with us. He suggested starting a local Christian music station, one that would bring a positive influence to the local airwaves.

Over time, that idea morphed into creating a station by and for the community, one that would emphasize the positive in community life, and that would provide music and information programs that were otherwise not readily available on the radio airwaves in the local area.

And that is a brief version of how WERU began.

...And Now

25 years later, WERU's mission remains the same: to be "a voice of many voices" enabling us to share concerns, experiences, music, and lots more with one another over the radio airwaves and now, over the Internet. Technology is changing the way we hear music and access news, but however technology evolves, WERU will keep its volunteer-powered, listener-supported spirit so that we all can contribute to, and listen to, "a voice of many voices" from and for our local "electronic neighborhood."

For more about WERU and the station's history and future, please check out the special 25th Anniversary section of the WERU web site at www.weru.org.