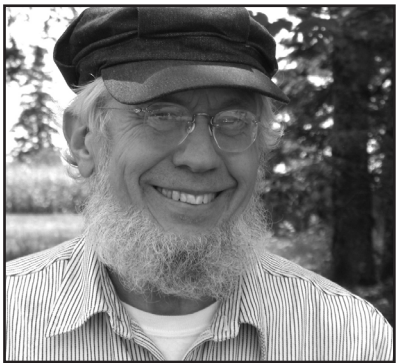


# WERU SALT AIR

WERU Community Radio News & Program Guide - Summer 2013 - **FREE!**  
89.9 FM Midcoast, Downeast & Central Maine - 99.9 FM Greater Bangor - Webcasting: <http://weru.org>

## WERU: "25 Years and Counting" – Salt Air Anniversary Edition



It was 25 years ago this May that WERU signed onto the airwaves at 89.9FM, broadcasting from the top of Blue Hill on the coast of Maine as an independent, full power, non-commercial, community-run radio station (see David Snyder's Welcome below from the first edition of Salt Air back in December of 1988).

In many ways the enterprise was an experiment – nobody really knew if a grassroots radio station belonging to the community, where volunteers would serve as broadcasters and thus maintain local control of the radio station's programming, would even work. It was to be a mixture of home grown music, spoken word, theater, news and poetry – an audio "stone soup" where everyone would contribute to the mix. It was to be "A Voice of Many Voices" that would be primarily funded by listener memberships. Radio that was volunteer in spirit and professional in execution. And, thanks to hundreds of volunteers, a small and dedicated staff, and thousands of members it has worked – for 25 years.

For long-time WERU members and listeners, the content of this Salt Air will be familiar, harkening back to the original version of the guide that was a bit more like a magazine than a newspaper. And like WERU itself, Salt Air can now be either analog (printable) or digital (viewed online wherever you are.)

Turning the pages of this Salt Air, you will find updated profiles of programmers featured in early editions, the original schedule (including the famous early blank block when the station would shut down in the middle of the day to do production work in the lone studio) as well as the most current one. Additionally, all the other past editions of the guide will be available on the web site to be read or printed so you can catch up with old friends, interviews, and fond memories.

But wait, this Salt Air is only part of the milestone celebration. There will be special 25th anniversary events throughout the year – open house, boat cruises, concerts, and auctions and more. On the webs site ([www.weru.org](http://www.weru.org)) there will be a plethora of audio interviews, hundreds of volunteer photos, and special programs from the archives. On-air you will find special programming – short features on Thursdays and longer programs at 10am on Wednesdays.

Over the past quarter century the technology has changed – our venerable 24 year old tube transmitter was replaced just last year by a thoroughly modern solid state model, and audio editing is now done electronically instead with razorblades slicing magnetic tape. Computers and the Internet have found their way into the studio – replacing the clunky 8-track cartridge players and ensuring that weather reports no longer depend on the prompt delivery of the *Bangor Daily News*. mp3 downloads have joined vinyl and CDs, and while you can still hear WERU on the original wireless signal at 89.9 and 99.9, now if you are on the road or "from away" you can also listen live or bring an on demand stream to your laptop or smart phone. And the station now broadcasts 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The one thing that has not changed is that after 25 years WERU is still volunteer powered, independent, nimble, quirky, community based, locally focused and community supported radio.

As Emmylou Harris once said about WERU – "You never know what you are going to hear and that's what radio is all about!" and we have you to thank for that. Thank you!

*Greg Rossel is the Chair of the Board of Directors of Salt Pond Community Broadcasting which holds the license to WERU-FM.*

### Hello and thank you!

IN DECEMBER of 1982 a couple of friends asked me "How badly do you want to be an animator?" (Their way of saying "How'd you like to take on a career change?") They had been supporting an effort to start a new radio station, but because there was no one individual overseeing the project, not much was happening. I had worked in radio before and shared their opinion that something was seriously lacking on the airwaves. They said it would take six months to put a station on the air, so I took off my animator's hat, put on my radio hat and jumped right in. About a ton and a half of paper work took up those first six months and it was quite clear that dealing with the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) was going to be a case of hurry-up-and-wait, so we decided to do a concert or two to generate interest in the idea of a non-commercial, alternative radio station.

Four years and about thirty concerts later the green light came from Washington and from that point it took another twenty three months to actually get on the air. There are many harrowing stories: last minute rushes to the Federal Express depot in Bangor to meet filing deadlines, construction on the mountain top in late December. But to make an extremely long story short, it all came together on May 1, 1988 with a modest celebration party here at the henhouse. With only one false start (just for practice) a ceremonial switch was thrown by several young volunteers from the crowd which had gathered for the festivities and which chimed in for the first official station identification at 89.9 megahertz, "WERU-FM, Blue Hill."

That is the beginning of the story. The chapters that follow are filled with fun, merriment and an occasional tear. There have been difficult moments, almost entirely of a technical nature, but all in all it has been a tremendously successful and rewarding first six months. The growth, both of individual volunteers and the station as a whole continues. Expansion into the afternoon hours and improvements to the programming are goals we'll continue to strive for.

I have refrained from defining what WERU-FM is or how it differs from other stations. You probably already appreciate all



of that. However, the point that should be made is that the key ingredient to the whole picture is you, the listener. You are the most important consideration in the matrix that is WERU-FM. Don't be bashful. If you have a comment, good or bad, we want to hear it. Your feedback and ideas are as important to WERU as your monetary contributions. Thank you for being a part of the WERU community.

Thank-yous must also be expressed to all those who over the past six years put in time, money, and lots of energy to make this station possible. Some of them are:

Noel Paul Stookey	Philo Hutchins	Andrew Bisulca
Reg Bennett	Steve Hanson	Jerry Hudson
Terry Phillips	Louise Stevens	Hugh Bowden
Walter LaPointe	Jackie Michaud	Jack Drew
Hoy Richards	Duncan Smith	Don McKillop
Reginald Couture	Tony Giunta	Dan McGraw
Lucy Poulin	Mary Dinora	Morgan McNeven
Jim Duncan	Jeffrey Jones	Andy Berry
Stu Davis	Stephanie Sommer	Lee Smith
Melanie Maniscalco	Stuart Mitchell	Louise Frederick
Chris Maniscalco		

*David J. Snyder*

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The final broadcast from the Henhouse, 1997: (left to right): David Snyder, Paul Sullivan, Jim Campbell, Lisa Farrar, Karen Frangoulis



WERU'S MISSION

WERU provides a community-based non-commercial radio service; WERU broadcasts programs designed to serve the needs of those not fully served by other broadcast media in the areas covered by the WERU signal; WERU is a "voice of many voices" offering a wide variety of people an opportunity to share their experiences, concerns, perspectives and information with their neighbors over the airwaves and Internet.

WERU-FM broadcasts 24 hours a day from the top of Blue Hill Mountain in the town of Blue Hill at **89.9 FM** and **99.9 FM** to greater Bangor and is webcasting at <http://weru.org/>. WERU is a member of Maine Association of Broadcasters, Maine Association of Nonprofits, National Federation of Community Broadcasters, and the Grassroots Radio Coalition.

Contact WERU (any way you want to!)

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East Orland, ME 04431

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Studio: (207) 469-0500  
Fax: (207) 469-8961

E-mail: [info@weru.org](mailto:info@weru.org)  
Webcasting:  
<http://weru.org/>

## A (Very) Brief History of WERU's (Very) Early Days

Although WERU officially began broadcasting on May 1, 1988, there was a whole lot that went on before that date as the station proceeded from a gleam in the eye of a small group of people to a real community radio station. A variety of historians have observed that it is more difficult to know where you are going if you don't know where you've been. In that spirit, here is a bit of history to help us all know a little bit more about where WERU came from, as we all help to move the station into its next quarter-century.

As David Snyder's Welcome from the first edition of Salt Air back in 1988 (see page 1) indicates, work on securing an FCC license was a long, drawn out affair that began back in 1982. That's when David began being a "radio guy" at Noel Stookey's Henhouse, and when a small group of community people formed up a non-profit corporation known as Salt Pond Community Broadcasting, which was named after the Salt Pond in Blue Hill Falls. Though certainty fades as the years go by, the consensus is that the idea for the station first 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 accent the positive in community life, and that would provide music and other types of programs that were otherwise not readily available on the radio airwaves in the local area.

As David noted, it took years to obtain a broadcast license, and, not surprisingly, there was much hoop-jumping over those years. While all of the flurry of paperwork went back and forth, the early volunteers decided to generate interest in the station through a series of concerts in area venues featuring the likes of Bruce Cockburn, Tom Paxton, Chris Hillman, and 25 others, many of whom were friends of Noel Stookey and were happy to bring attention to the soon-to-be station.

The station finally received its FCC construction permit in 1986, and had 18 months to complete the process of getting on the air. In one of those nice touches, the permit would expire at 3 a.m. on December 25, 1987.

Putting a radio station on the air is a very expensive proposition. The early Board of Directors applied for a grant from the Public Telecommunications Facilities Program (PTFP) to supply much of the funding that would be needed to purchase and install a transmitter atop Blue Hill, to build a broadcast quality studio in the Henhouse, and to get the signal from the Henhouse to Blue Hill.

In September of 1987, the Board received word

that it did not receive a grant. That was a big blow, and time was fast running out. David, Jim Campbell, and others began scrambling on two fronts. The first was to get the Construction Permit extended, no small feat in those days. That required some magic from Washington attorney Stephanie Summers who was hired to shepherd the appeal for an extension through the FCC bureaucracy. (The word "magic" here is not used loosely.)

The other front involved finances. With support from Noel Stookey's Public Domain Foundation, a small grant or two, and individuals being willing to put up their personal funds as collateral, the station convinced Bar Harbor Bank and Trust to provide a loan that enabled the purchase of a transmitter and studio equipment.

The story from there is perhaps better known than these very early events. A helicopter hauled the transmitter, ancillary equipment, and building supplies to the top of Blue Hill where a crew of volunteers built a transmitter shack, and engineers got the transmitter operating. Another crew of engineers from Philadelphia came and installed a studio in the Henhouse.

On sign-on day, May 1, 1988, as the 3 p.m. sign-on time approached, the license had still not arrived. At 2:40 p.m., Stephanie Summers came wheeling up in a rented car with a license in hand, and the rest is (more current) history. (For much more history, go to [www.weru.org/](http://www.weru.org/).)

### The Broadcast Schedule from the Very First Salt Air

# WERU-FM • 89.9 • Program Schedule

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY		
7 am	"Morning Maine Magazine" with hosts Jim Campbell and Karen Frangoulis (Mon., Tues., Wed.) or Mark Baldwin and Cathy Kaelin (Thur., Fri.)					"Saturday Morning Coffeehouse" Ken Gross and other various Hosts	"Rock of Life" Steve Ginn	7 am	
9 am							"Small Green Island" Mark Letizia	8 am	
10 am	"Patchwork" Folk	"Folk Music with Cousin Phil"	"Patchwork" Folk	"Folk Music with Cousin Phil"	"Patchwork" Folk	"Musical Folk Tales"			
11 am	"New Dimensions"	"Consider Alternatives" "Poetry" /Mark Baldwin	10 O'Clock Block	"Conversations"	"The Weekly Planet"				
1 pm	"On The Wing" with hosts David J. Snyder (Mon., Wed., Fri.) or Rich Hilsinger (Tues., Thur., Sat.) Jazz ★ Folk ★ Blues ★ Rock ★ Bluegrass ★ Gospel ★ New Age					"Reach Reflections" Brian Kearns		11 am	
	Off the air					"Consider Alternatives" Environmental Notebook	"New Dimensions"	3 pm	
						"Arcane Chicanery" Lorenzo Mitchell	Reading	4 pm	
							"Tell Me A Story"	5 pm	
						"New Potatoes" George Fowler		6 pm	
6 pm	"Jazz" Nadine Gordon	"The Jazz Review" Eric Anderson	"Shadowjazz" Lisa Bunch	"Downeast Dixie" Scott Jensen	"Departure" Kim Mitchell	"Juke Box Saturday Night" Rick Foster			
7 pm	"Women's Windows" Kay Gardener & Catherine Reid		"Old-Timey Traditional & Country Music" Carl Solander	"Bronze Wound" Paul Anderson	"Complete Control" Michael Overton				
8 pm	"Concert Grand" recorded live	"Blues-Jazz Progression" Mark Kanter				"Secrets of Scotland Yard" "Jack Flanders"	"Pressure Drop" Steve Bailey Reggae and Afrobeat	8 pm	
9 pm	"Blues" Anita Babson	"Barefoot Blues Hour" Mike Joyce	"Bronzewound Blues" Paul Anderson	"Mixed Bag" Patrick J.					
10 pm	"On The Edge" Eric Marcus	"Anything Goes" Mark Archer	"Back of the Rack" Mike Joyce	"Out of Limits" Steve Ginn		"New Age Music Radio" Jim Bean		10 pm	
12 am				"Not the Top 40" Richard Simis	12 am				



# Volunteer Profiles

Over its first quarter century, volunteers have made WERU into what it is today, a true “Voice of Many Voices.” In this special 25th Anniversary Issue, volunteer and Board member Sara Trunzo caught up with a half dozen volunteers who were profiled in Salt Air articles back in 1998-89, and talked with them about what they are up to 25 years later, and what WERU meant to them then, and means to them now.

## Paul Anderson

Paul Anderson settled down with his guitar, pulled out a pack of strings, and began the restringing process when something caught his eye. “Bronzewound” is a common description for steel instrument strings where a bronze wire is wrapped, or wound, around a thin steel wire. Though he’d seen the word frequently in his years as a musician, this time was different because Paul was looking for a signature title for his bluegrass program on a scruffy, new radio station that had just started down the road.

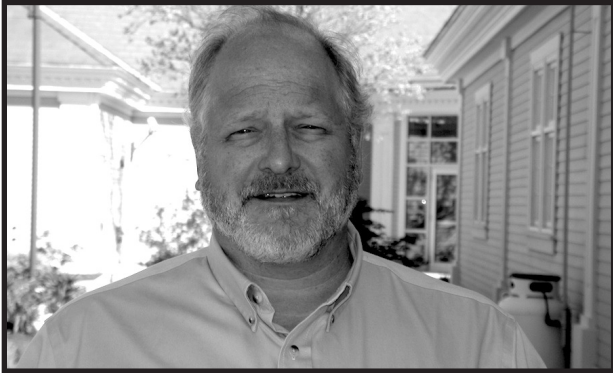
The year was 1988, the station was WERU, and the program, of course, was *Bronzewound*. Paul, who had learned the basics of radio at WMEB while studying at the University of Maine, was deeply into “bluegrass, the Grateful Dead, and all kinds of alternative music.” He also had some experience with organizing festivals and approached WERU’s David Snyder with the idea of supporting the new radio station in that way.

What was needed more, however, was on-air music programmers. Paul jumped right in, making a show demo

tape with many of his own bluegrass records. The show worked well and filled the Thursday evening 8-10 p.m. slot, right where it is today. “I went on to donate a ton of those LPs to the station’s library,” says Paul, who still acts as a substitute host when the need arises.

Anderson, who also acted as an early interviewer, says that having a recorder and a press pass from WERU was a passport of sorts as he spoke with musicians around the country. At festivals from Colorado to North Carolina, Paul was able to interview the likes of Laurie Lewis, Alison Krauss, and Del McCoury. The artists were “always willing to talk when they saw I was from community radio,” he says.

Paul’s interviewing skills got exercised at home when musicians would travel to the listening area to perform. “We’d often have an opportunity to interview them on Saturday after a Friday show at Left Bank Café” in Blue Hill or other venues. An especially memorable interview



happened when Arlo Guthrie’s pinkish, Greyhound-style tour bus rolled into the station. Staffer Cathy Melio called Paul at work; he was able to break away and make an exciting interview with Guthrie happen in short order. Paul remembers Arlo Guthrie asking, “why’s everything for sale up here?” on his way up the coast.

One of Paul’s most memorable WERU moments came when musician Rick Danko, of The Band, played with singer-songwriter Eric Andersen and Jonas Feld during an early morning visit to the studio. He remembers “looking through the glass in the production booth,” and thinking, “Pinch me!” as he managed the recording.

Interviews with Greg Brown and Dan Fogelberg loom large in this long-time programmer’s memory, as well.

These days Paul, director of Sea Grant at the University of Maine, father, avid gardener, and multi-instrumentalist, isn’t getting called out of work to interview world-renowned musicians. He is an occasional guest host and “one of those dinosaurs who know how to use most of the gear,” he laughs. But when asked how WERU has impacted his life, he is more serious. Longtime **Bronzewound** listeners became friends and part of his community, he says.

WERU is radio that is created by “real people” says Anderson. “Members have told me that they pledge because we make mistakes. You can hear our voices.” A pause, an imperfection, and a sense of risk add to the authenticity that makes the station “sparkle” 25 years after its inception.

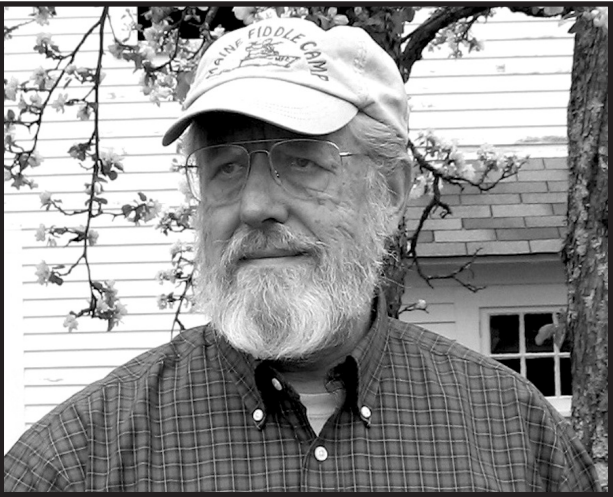
“With all the [music listening] options out there,” says Anderson, “people still choose to turn on this FM thing and bring WERU into their kitchens. And that’s because it all comes back to community.”

## George Fowler

“Hey, are you the guy from *New Potatoes*?” This is a question George Fowler sometimes hears when he is at the market or about town.

And it’s an appropriate question for someone whose voice has been going out over the airwaves for the past 25 years. Both casual and committed Celtic music fans tune into *New Potatoes* for sounds inspired by the Scottish, Irish, and English traditions and presented by hosts who know the music inside and out.

It all started in 1988 when George received a call from



David Snyder, who was looking for some ideas about the types of music programs to fit the tastes of the listening area for an upstart radio station. With a love of folk and New England dance music, George had just the show in mind, and knew he wasn’t alone. “We are surrounded by the Maritime Provinces of Canada. We share a lot of musical roots” and common ancestors, he says.

Within the first year, the show grew from one hour to one-and-a-half hours, and then to two hours. And then to two hosts! Fowler, a pharmacist by trade, brought fellow pharmacist and musician Kathleen Rybarz into the mix. This addition, he says, not only gave him some needed production support, but also brought complimentary elements and musical taste into the program.

Celtic music offers, “a familiar idiom,” says Fowler, which is the foundation for our ballads, country and western music, and American folk tunes. This is why *New Potatoes* appeals to so many in the WERU audience. This also explains why Celtic music finds its way onto other programs with folk or eclectic themes. For George, this music is “part of [his] environment” and he is “thinking about it all the time.”

Fowler is deeply involved with this music as a player, as well an enthusiastic listener. Fiddling at contra dances and other events has made him, and thereby made the station, well connected in the Celtic music scene. “The music community is amazingly small,” he says, which is why he has been able to cultivate a network of musicians who often come to the station or are able to share information and

material over our airwaves. “One thing we do really well at is making people aware of the live music community in Maine,” he says.

George’s wife, Pat Fowler, is a dedicated station volunteer as well, and he says they have made many lifelong friendships through their work with WERU. “The impact is far wider than the artifact” of any particular playlist or interview, he says. “It’s been amazing to watch the station grow like a child. Sure, we went through some adolescent years. But we’ve matured into something we can all be proud of,” he says.

Major format changes in media that have taken place over the last 25 years have not slowed down the flow of *New Potatoes*. Recalling the early years, Fowler says it was “quite a task to cue up three turntables and get clean transitions with vinyl” among the other challenges of running a weekly show. In fact, he says, much of the “new technology makes life in the studio easier” such as the computerized system and use of CDs or mp3s.

He does note that some things at WERU haven’t wavered a bit. “The ethos, the reason we’re all here has not changed,” he says. While the product has “gotten richer and is executed better” than in the past, offering alternative radio to a diverse community keeps Fowler and his listeners coming back to the radio each Sunday.

With modesty in that familiar voice, George shares that he is glad to have put his “bit of oar in the water” with all the other volunteers and staff that have helped the station grow up.

## Karen Frangoulis

When WERU signed on the air on May 1, 1988, Karen Frangoulis was riding around in an ambulance as an on-duty emergency responder. She and her fellow ambulance workers stopped in at WERU’s outdoor sign-on party. That experience is emblematic of how Karen has chosen to live—being part of, and serving, the community she lives in.

Karen knew that WERU was coming. Back in 1988, she was working as a secretary for Noel Stookey at the Henhouse in Blue Hill Falls, which became WERU’s first home. After the station went on the air, she listened at home and found that “they were playing music I loved,” and “it was so exciting to have a radio station in our community.”

She stopped by the Henhouse and said that she didn’t know exactly how, but that she would like to be part of WERU. Twenty-five years later, she still is, and though she is on a “sabbatical” at the moment, she has been on the air for 22 of WERU’s 25 years.

Most listeners know of Karen’s on-air work as a host of *Morning Maine*. When she first stopped in to the station, she was encouraged to sit in on *Morning Maine Magazine*. “First I was asked to read a little



announcement, then to read some more, and then to be a co-host three days a week!”

Just a month after the station went on the air, she indeed found herself one of the co-hosts of *Morning Maine Magazine*. As the program evolved into *Morning Maine* with a single host, Karen became the long-time Thursday morning host, first at the Henhouse and then at the station’s current location in East Orland. For 22 years, she rose at “zero o’clock” to get the day started for two or

three generations of listeners.

Karen has been active off the air, too. She served three terms as co-chair of the Full Circle Summer Fair, a year round volunteer job that required weekly meetings and lots of work. But working on the Fair also gave her an opportunity to meet many musicians and speakers who came to the Fair, one of the highlights of her years at WERU. She also served on the station’s Programming Advisory Committee which helps the station decide what programs should be in the WERU on-air schedule.

The variety of roles she has played at the station reflects the variety of occupations in her personal life. Karen is a well known local caterer, cares for young children, has been a secretary, made holiday wreaths commercially, grown and sold seedlings, and the list goes on. These days she spends a good deal of her time helping to care for her grandson.

When asked for a one sentence description of WERU, Karen replied: “People at their best – in community.”

That is not only a description of WERU in general but also an accurate description of Karen’s involvement with her community—and her radio station, WERU.



A Highly Selective (well, actually, a random) Photo  
(many more at ww





**to Gallery from WERU's First Quarter Century**  
([www.weru.org](http://www.weru.org))

## A Little Quizzette (Just for Fun)

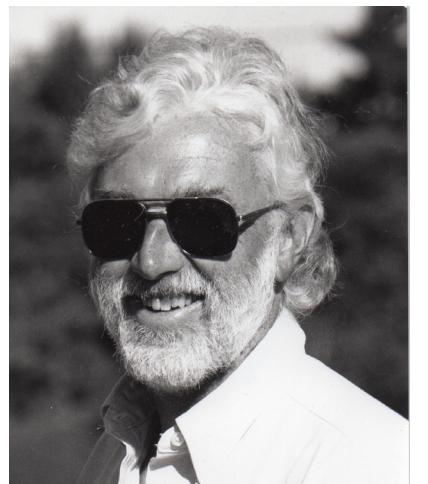
Here is a list of the people in the pictures on this page in no particular order. See if you can identify them. Everyone here is either a Volunteer from the past 25 years, or a musical visitor. The answers will be online at [www.weru.org](http://www.weru.org) in mid-July. Here we go.

**WERU Visitors:**

Arlo Guthrie  
Bill Staines  
Erica Wheeler  
Rambli' Jack Elliot  
Amy Goodman  
Peter, Paul and Mary  
The Persuasions  
Cibdy Kallett  
Oscar Brand  
Noel Paul Stookey  
Chris Smither

## WERU People

Paula Greatorex  
Royce Dixon (Ro Di)  
Deborah Wiggs  
Claudia Luchetti  
David Snyder  
Allyn Storer  
David Koenka  
Becky Nichols  
Byron Greatorex  
Catherine Reid  
Phill Norris (Cousin Phil)  
Rick Pomilia  
Don McKillop  
Brian Kearns  
Jeff Kobock  
Cathy Melio  
Mike Domrad  
Lorraine Brown  
Lisa Farrar  
Matt Murphy  
Pauline Boyce  
Denis Howard  
Cherie Mason  
Dave Piszcz  
Becky McCall  
Seth Kearns  
Pauline Domrad  
Ron Beard  
Mary Kellett





Deborah Wiggs

Deborah Wiggs is a brave woman. In 1988, she was recruited to be the president of WERU’s very first board despite the fact that she “didn’t know anything about radio,” she says. She was, however, willing to try it and learn along the way. And she reports that the experience was “one of the most exciting projects of [her] life.”

Wiggs explains that the early board focused a lot on planning, visioning, and fundraising. “We were just figuring out what we wanted to be” and carving a path to that vision, she says. Volunteers with more technical know-how, such as David Snyder and Jim Campbell, gave her the freedom and confidence to focus on the organizational structure while they solved more nuts and bolts broadcast challenges.

During this same time period, Wiggs was the co-owner and operator of Pie In The Sky Pizza, a local restaurant business. “We may have been the first underwriters,” says Wiggs of her two simultaneous creative endeavors.

Besides fundraising and managing resources, the station’s first board of directors were determined to have a diverse and balanced slate of voices on the air, she says, which may account for the high number of female programmers since the station’s inception. Women, who are often a minority in broadcasting, held the majority of seats in the earliest versions of the board.

Wiggs shares that a group of women from the early years still get together a couple times each year to talk, relax, and share a meal.

In an organization that has so many on-air opportunities for volunteers, it was often “hard to get people involved at the board level” or on administrative projects, she says. The



fact that Wiggs is “a little shy, but very passionate and a hard worker” was a blessing at a time when the developing station needed behind the scenes support as much as (or more than) it needed programmers.

That’s not to say she was never on the air, though! Deborah spent several Thanksgivings taking part in a special broadcast during “Cousin Phil” Norris’ regular Thursday program. Norris, who has been a long-time volunteer and folk programmer, is also Wiggs’ husband.

A memorable on air experience for Deborah, also came

when she had the opportunity to interview her “great hero” and a prominent feminist musician, Holly Near. Near, an accomplished singer-songwriter, activist, and member of the HARP Band (along with Arlo Guthrie, Ronnie Gilbert, and Pete Seeger) captured the spirit of the emerging station with both her folk sound and her message of social justice and equality.

WERU’s ability to provide a platform to community movements, needs, and voices is what keeps Wiggs excited about the station. Having access to a community radio station “gives us more personal power” and has “enlarged the community by increasing the connections,” she says.

These days, Wiggs can be found working at home on her organic vegetable and fruit farm or cooking up a vegetarian meal for a client of her small catering business. Her interaction with WERU is mostly as a listener. The music has changed over the years and both the music and the overall sound has evolved, she says.

“If it didn’t evolve it’d be dead,” she says of the station. “We gave birth to it and it’s maturing. I’m delighted it’s carrying on 25 years later and I feel lucky to have worked with so many amazing people at the station over the years.”

Radio, restaurants, and farming are businesses that are not for the faint of heart nor those afraid to get their hands dirty. Wiggs is neither and she recognizes that community is at the heart of each of these enterprises. “What keeps me in this area is community,” she says, “and WERU is an important part of that community spirit.”

Rich Hilsinger

Like many of the early programmers who walked into WERU’s studio, Rich Hilsinger, of Brooklin, had no prior experience with radio. However, what he lacked in experience, he made up for with enthusiasm for all types of music and a commitment to the audience experience. He was also the owner of a very large record collection, which, as legend has it, was bigger than the station’s music library in 1988.



“I’m not sure if that’s true,” Rich laughs. “But for me, music is much more than background noise. It’s part of my daily life,” he says. Listeners to *On the Wing* can still recognize that attention to detail through his program

“flow” if they tune in during the Tuesday morning block.

Hilsinger, who was one of the founding *On the Wing* hosts, helped to develop the “all encompassing” format that is its signature. “Its best quality is its great diversity,” he says. Rich continued to host “*On the Wing*” steadily for 12 years, which gave him the time to truly “explore all kinds of music- folk, world, soul, bluegrass, rock and roll- and incorporate them into the show,” he says.

It was especially exciting for him when the station’s growing reputation helped the record library expand by way of artists sending in their new records. “That was an education for me when music came through the door,” says Rich, and it was “a challenge to find a way to weave it together to create a cohesive show.” Sometimes Rich follows a certain theme or sound through musical pieces, he says, and other times he doesn’t “know exactly where [he’s] going. Kind of on a wing and a prayer.”

Hilsinger is a longtime staff member and current director of WoodenBoat School, an organization that has been supportive of the station and his volunteerism because “they value WERU as part of the community,” he says.

“Creativity is what WERU is all about,” says Rich of the number of crafts people, artisans, and artists (specifically boat builders!) who are involved with the station. “We benefit from the input of talented programmers and listeners. The station itself is a real art form,” he says. “WERU is an alternative to mainstream media and I think it’s a natural match for many who choose a lifestyle that is an alternative

to the mainstream, too.”

After Rich’s 12 year stint, his life got busy and kept him away from the studio more and more. “It was a very difficult decision,” he says, “but my plate was just too full and I had to give up the show.” Once his kids grew and he was ready to be back on the air, Rich waited patiently for 3 years until a slot opened up that was a fit for his schedule. When he returned to *On the Wing* in 2011, he felt that he “owed the station the best, most diverse program possible, touching on all the bases.”

The listener feedback, he says, has been plentiful and encouraging. One memorable call came to the station when Rich played a song that a listening couple hadn’t heard since their wedding reception. “They called to say that they just *had* to get up and dance,” he laughs. Recently, a call came from a farmhouse kitchen, where a member of the farm’s work crew was making lunch for the others. “He’d been smiling and dancing” his way through meal preparations thanks to *On the Wing*, says Rich. “You never know what somebody is going to relate to.”

25 years after that first program, Rich is still- perhaps more than ever- energized about bringing the listeners fresh and unexpected sounds. “We’re all lucky to have WERU in this community,” he says, “but I think the programmers are even luckier.” Earnestly, he says, “I just want to say ‘Thank you’ to all the people who make the station go: supporters, volunteers, listeners. I feel very fortunate to be a part of this.”

Cathy Melio

A boisterous concert early in 1988 was WERU’s first official fundraiser. It was also an introduction to the station for longtime programmer, staffer, community member, Cathy Melio of Stockton Springs. Cathy came to the event to play bass with the rock trio, Synergy, but left with an interest in getting more involved with community radio.

With a deep love of creativity and community organizing, the connection was a natural one for Cathy, and soon she was contributing to programs such as *Weekly Planet* (with co-host Allyn Storer), *Morning Maine Magazine*, and *On the Wing*. Arts programs such as *Art Matters*, *Audio Art Appreciation*, and *The Art Room* (a humorous take on art criticism) also enjoyed Cathy’s voice.

This musician’s experience with recording and sound equipment gave her a leg up as she started working with WERU as a volunteer, but she was essentially, “learning to make radio and making radio at same time,” says Cathy. In October of 1988, she joined the staff as the training and production supervisor, a role that included engineering a variety of programs, pulling together news and interviews, and managing archival recording. In 1995, Melio became the station’s general manager and saw the huge potential for radio to grow connectivity within and among communities.

“Community radio fosters involvement and activism and art and education,” she says. “Through community

radio, we’ve made friends all around the country. Every state has at least one community radio station” and Maine is well represented in this national community by WERU.

Cathy completed her employment at WERU in 1999, but has stayed involved as a volunteer programmer, supporter, and member. She remained an “*On the Wing*” programmer for 20 years, sharing her interpretation called *On the Wing /Off the Cuff*.

Because she sees the station as the “heart of our community,” Cathy has continued to connect with WERU in her more recent endeavors. She regularly brought college students into the studio during her five years of adjunct instructing at Unity College. Her community arts and education skills honed at WERU have been also put to use through Cathy’s professional work with the Center for Maine Contemporary Art and Penobscot Marine Museum.

In her current position as a Maine Community Foundation program officer for the mid-coast and down east regions, Melio says she sees the thread of community running through her work. Maine Community Foundation, a state-wide philanthropic non-profit, has collaborated with WERU as the station established an endowment fund and pursued other major projects.

“Community is something I care deeply about and WERU played a role in that.” Still an avid listener, Melio says she can often be found “listening at work with [her]

headphones on” because WERU continues to “connect community members to each other, events, and information.”



Many moons after that fundraising concert, Melio says that WERU “continues to thrive because it matters to so many people.” This is not because the station has remained unchanged through the years, but rather because it is so dynamic. “The station has evolved over time as it needed to,” she says, “and I am so glad it’s still here and still loved.”

Celebrating 25 years of radio, community, and creativity is, says Cathy Melio, in a word “heart-warming.”



MUSICAL MEMORIES: What WERU Was Playing in the First Year on the Air

Well, only *SOME* of what WERU was playing because WERU was, and still is, the most musically eclectic station on the airwaves in our area. Salt Air picked the memories of a few of WERU's first year programmers to see what listeners were listening to back in the early days. In no particular order, here is a selection of tunes they remember spinning (back then, vinyl still ruled):

- David Mallett: *Garden Song*  
Stevie Wonder: *Hotter Than July*  
Tom Paxton: *You Are Love*  
Joan Baez: *The Nashville City Limits*  
Dolly Parton: *Coat of Many Colors*  
Louis Armstrong: *What A Wonderful World*  
Judy Collins: *Song for Duke*  
Kate Wolf: *Slender Thread*  
Altan: *Ceol a Phiobaire*  
County Down: *Bright Morning Stars*  
Noel Paul Stookey: *Building Block*  
Leadbelly: *(Early) Good Morning Blues*  
Bonnie Raitt: *Ain't Nobody Home*  
Paul Winter: *Icarus*  
DeDannan: *Song for Ireland*  
Bruce Cockburn: *Joy Will Find A Way*  
Wendy Waldman: *Spring Is Here*  
Christine Lavin: *Ballad of a Ballgame*  
Peter, Paul & Mary: *Right Field*  
Pierre Bensusan: *Climats Doux Et Tempérés*  
Magical Strings: *Elf Walk*  
John McCutcheon: *Gone, Gonna Rise Again*  
Stan Rogers: *Rise Again*  
Maddy Prior: *Geordie*  
George Winston: *Rag*  
Mick Moloney: *Kilkelly*

- Bruce Springsteen: *Open All Night*  
Clannad (w/ Bono): *In A Lifetime*  
Wende Zako: *The Real Sounds*  
David Lindley: *Turning Point*  
John Gorka: *Branching Out*  
Cindy Kallet: *Working on Wings to Fly*  
Metamora: *Little Potato*  
Paul Simon: *American Tune*  
Greg Brown: *Daughters*  
Touchstone: *Jack Haggerty*  
Boys of the Lough: *To Welcome Paddy Home*  
Mary Black: *Isle of St. Helena*  
Clancy Bros. & Tommy Makem: *Ballad of St. Anne's Reel*  
Battlefield Band: *We Work the Black Seam*  
Robbie O'Connell: *There Were Roses*  
Christy Moore: *St. Brendan's Voyage*  
Dolores Keane: *Caledonia*  
Steeleye Span: *Twa Corbies*  
Various: *Pachelbel's Canon in D*  
Elmer Beal & Different Shoes: *More Weather*  
Max Morath: *Sentimental Rag*  
Pentangle: *Sweet Child*  
Bob Marley & The Whalers: *Stiff Necked Fools*  
Jonathan Edwards: *Girl From The Canyon*  
Eubie Blake: *Blues, Why Don't You Let Me Alone?*  
Cathy Fink: *When The Rain Comes Down*  
Jean Redpath & Lisa Neustadt: *Turn Your Radio On*  
John Philip Sousa: *Hands Across The Sea*  
Different Shoes: *Tree of Life*  
Sun Women Ensemble: *Castle In The Mist*  
Miriam Makeba: *The Click Song*

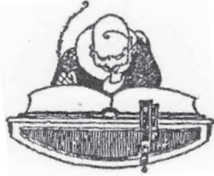
A few memories for long-time listeners and volunteer programmers, and a pretty good playlist for anyone.

In Memoriam

Volunteers are the heart and soul of WERU and have been since the station's beginning. Some of those who have helped make WERU what it is today are no longer with us. We bow our heads and remember them and their contributions with gratitude (let us know if we missed anyone):

- John Babcock**—Long time *On the Wing* host  
**David Demere**—Committees, Full Circle Fair volunteer  
**Royce Dixon** ("Ro Di")—*Reggae Reprieve* host, trainer of new volunteers, Full Circle Fair volunteer  
**Patrick Elshaw** ("Patrick J")—*Mixed Bag* host, Fair volunteer, carpentry volunteer  
**Rhona Frey**—original host of *Wabanaki Windows*  
**Don Furth**—creator and maintainer of membership databases, Finance Committee, Fair treasurer  
**Magnus Johnstone**—*Da Vibes* originator and host, Public Affairs producer, *The Matrix* originator and host  
**Diane Lee**—Jill of all (off-air) trades: office help, Fair help, cleaning  
**Rusell Libby**—Public Affairs producer of programs on food and agriculture  
**Charlie Oldham**—the inimitable originator and host of *Stacks of Tracks*  
**Dave Piszcz**—another inimitable originator and host of *Talking Furniture*, Public Affairs Director, Program Director, producer of award winning (and very funny) promos  
**Deborah Pulliam**—Salt Air writer, Fair volunteer, several Committees  
**Carl Solander**—the earliest host of old time music programs on WERU

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# SUMMER 2013

PROGRAM SCHEDULE for WERU 89.9FM/99.9FM and online at: <http://weru.org/>

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
5 AM	COUNTRY <i>Downhome Country</i> Doc Morrill	INSTRUMENTAL & NEW AGE <i>Sunrise Service</i>					"Book Waves" 5-5:30	PUBLIC AFFAIRS "Ecoshock"	5 AM
6	FOLK and Short Features	ECLECTIC MIX OF AMERICANA Plus News, Weather, Community & Performing Arts Calendars, & Short Features					FOLK and Short Features	6	
	<i>Sunday Morning Coffeehouse</i> Jane Gerlach Mary Kellett Holly McMartin Rosa Livonius	<i>Morning Maine</i>  Allison Watters   John "Vern" McVeigh   John Hillman-Waters   Brother Al   Denis Howard					<i>Saturday Morning Coffeehouse</i> Phil Norris Jim Bahoosh Chuck Markowitz Robin Mendenhall		
9		MUSIC/SATIRE <i>Scouting the Perimeters</i> Joneford <small>Comedy Hour last Mon. of Month John Greenman &amp; Arthur Morison</small>	FOLK <i>Front Porch Folk</i> Phreddie	ROCK/BLUES <i>Barefoot Blues Hour</i> Mike Joyce	COUNTRY <i>Downhome Country</i> Doc Morrill	DYLAN <i>Highway 61</i> Doc Dufour		9	
10	PHILOSOPHY <i>New Dimensions</i>	INFORMATION & PUBLIC AFFAIRS*					CHILDREN WERU Family Radio Hour (Scot Cannon) & Circle Time (Lonya Julin) plus national programs	10	
11	CAJUN/ACADIAN <i>Acadia Highway</i> Sister Moxie & Sam Spruce	ECLECTIC CONTEMPORARY MUSIC (Singer-songwriter, Folk, Rock, World, Jazz, & More!) <i>On The Wing</i>					LATIN and Short Features <i>Gracias a la Vida</i> <i>Susana Diaz, Sara Elena Chiri, Luz Kogson, Jim Fisher, William Ryan, Cheo</i>	11	
12	ROCK <i>Woodstock Nation</i> Charlie Bickford & Dan Deluca						REGGAE <i>Reggae Reprieve</i> Selecta Heat Prince I Gwaan	1 PM	
1 PM	RADIO THEATER <i>The General Store</i>	Elaine Shute Corey Paradise	Rich Hilsinger	Melisenda Ellis	Mark Dyer	Joel Raymond	ECLECTIC COVERS <i>Under Cover</i> Charlie Pizzarello	1 PM	
2	GOSPEL/CLASSICAL <i>Maine Sunday's Best</i> Karen Nelson	ECLECTIC <i>Off the Charts</i> Max Langstaff	ROOTS <i>Rhythm Ranch</i> Jay Peterson	BLUES <i>Blues Station</i> Fritz Homans	R & B <i>X-Large Soul Show</i> Alan Sprague	SOUL <i>Soul Food</i> Soel Mann		2	
4								3	
5	CELTIC <i>New Potatoes</i> George Fowler Kathleen Rybarz	<i>This Way Out</i>	<i>The WERU News Report*</i>		<i>RadioActive*</i>	<i>Counterspin</i>	APPALACHIAN <i>High on a Mountain</i> Sean Gambrel	4	
6		<i>Free Speech Radio News</i>					LOCAL/ME MUSIC <i>Wicked Good Music Hour</i>	5	
8	WORLD <i>A World of Music</i> Greg Rossel	JAZZ  <i>The Jazz Scene</i> <i>Jazz Alchemy</i> <i>Jazz Straight Ahead</i> <i>Groove Shop</i> Jeri Spurling   June Sendrowski   Larry Stahlberg   Holbrook Williams				ALT/INDIE ROCK <i>Departure</i> Joe Fisher Cheryl Morin	ROCK/ECLECTIC <i>Daydream Nation</i> Kristie Billings Andy Buckley	6	
10	ECLECTIC & SPOKEN WORD <i>Women's Windows</i> Magdalen Linda Washburn Peaches & Indigo	BLUES <i>Blues the Healer</i> Paula Greatorex & John Blaisdell	LATIN/ZYDECO/ DELTA BLUES <i>A Southern Wind</i> Ric Pomilia	REGGAE WERU <i>Drive Thru</i> Roots Controller	BLUEGRASS <i>Bronzewound</i> Darwin Davidson, David Manski, Marilyn Ryan	HIP HOP/ ELECTRONICA <i>Da Vibe</i> DJ Marquard Sam West	INDIE ROCK <i>The Junk Drawer</i> Pip	8	
11	SOUTHERN ECLECTIC <i>Southern Connection</i> Ted Guerry	ECLECTIC <i>Night Fly</i> Sanguine Fromage	ECLECTIC/WORLD <i>Northern Journeys</i> Jeff Ellis Kevin Carman	MODERN ROCK <i>Modern Moonlight</i> Neal Harkness	JAM BANDS <i>Huggies's Hippy Hour</i> Huggie	ALT DANCE <i>The Knix Mix</i> Karen Nix	METAL/HARD ROCK <i>Head Rush</i> Brother Luv Alice Madd Hatter Lonesome Willie	10	
12	SATIRE <i>Le Show</i> w/ Harry Shearer	PUNK/SURF <i>Cat Beast Party</i> WFRN	R&B/SOUL <i>Mama Popcorn</i> Mark Elwin	ECLECTIC <i>All Mixed Up</i> WBAI	ROCK <i>R &amp; R Omnibus</i> WRFN	ELECTRONICA <i>Trance on the Porch</i> KZGM	ZAPPA <i>Conceptual Continuity</i> Howie Zowie	12 AM	
1 AM	SOUL/R&B <i>Juke in the Back</i> KZMG							1 AM	
2 AM	PUBLIC AFFAIRS <i>Guns &amp; Butter</i>	PUBLIC AFFAIRS <i>Law &amp; Disorder</i>	PUBLIC AFFAIRS <i>Cultural Baggage</i> PUBLIC AFFAIRS <i>Century of Lies</i>	PUBLIC AFFAIRS <i>The Michael Slate</i> Schow	PUBLIC AFFAIRS <i>Monitor</i>	PUBLIC AFFAIRS <i>Economic Update</i>	PUBLIC AFFAIRS <i>Truth Dig</i>	2 AM	
3 AM	PUBLIC AFFAIRS <i>Talk Nation</i>	PUBLIC AFFAIRS <i>Building Bridges</i>	PUBLIC AFFAIRS <i>First Voices</i> <i>Indigenous Radio</i>	PUBLIC AFFAIRS WINGS	PUBLIC AFFAIRS TUC Radio	PUBLIC AFFAIRS Writers Voice	PUBLIC AFFAIRS <i>Your Own Health &amp; Ftness</i>	3 AM	
4 AM	PUBLIC AFFAIRS <i>Sprouts</i>	PUBLIC AFFAIRS <i>Food Sleuth</i>		PUBLIC AFFAIRS <i>Radio Curious</i>	PUBLIC AFFAIRS <i>Sea Change</i>			4 AM	
5 AM	PUBLIC AFFAIRS <i>Making Contact</i>	PUBLIC AFFAIRS <i>Flashpoints</i>					PUBLIC AFFAIRS <i>Alternative Radio</i>	5 AM	
	PUBLIC AFFAIRS <i>Between the Lines</i>								

## DETAILED PUBLIC AFFAIRS

### WEEKDAY NEWS & FEATURES Morning AM

**6:00 - 6:05** *National Native News* (M-F)  
**6:30 - 6:35** Short Spoken Word Features  
Mon: *TBA*  
Tues: *Esoterica\**  
Wed: *Dog Noir*  
Thurs: *Natural Remedies\**  
Fri: *Sustainable Sketchbook\**  
**7:00 - 7:05** *Workers Independent News* (M-F)  
**7:30 - 7:35** Short Spoken Word Features  
Mon: *A Word in Edgewise\**  
Tues: *Outside the Box\**  
Wed: *World Ocean Radio\**  
Thurs: *Hear Again\**  
Fri: *Awanadjo Almanack\**

**7:45 - 8:00** Featured Artist of the Week (M-F)  
**8:00 - 8:15** *Democracy Now!* Headlines (M-F)  
**8:30 - 8:35** *Hightower Radio* (M-F)

### Afternoon PM

**4:00 - 4:28** Grassroots News/Features  
**Mon.:** *This Way Out*  
**Tues:** *WERU News Report (with Peace Time)\**  
**Wed:** *WERU News Report\**  
**Thurs:** *RadioActive\**  
**Fri:** *CounterSpin*  
**4:28 - 8:00** *Hightower Radio* (M-F)  
**4:30 - 5:00** *Free Speech Radio News* (M-F)  
**5:00 - 6:00** *Democracy Now!* (M-F)

### MONTHLY 10-11 AM PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**Monday** *Alternative Radio* or local specials

**Tuesday**  
1st: *Conversations thru the Ism Prism\**  
2nd: *BoatTalk\**  
3rd: *Wabanaki Windows\**  
4th: *Maine Arts Alive\**  
5th: *Local Specials\**

**Wednesday**  
1st: *Healthy Options\**  
2nd: *Hear Again*  
3rd: *Common Health\**  
4th: *Baby Talk\**  
5th: *Your Own Health & Fitness*

**Thursday**  
1st: *Bangor Area Commons\**  
2nd: *Writers' Forum\**  
3rd: *WERU Soap Box\**  
4th: *Dog Talk\**

**Friday**  
1st: *Common Ground\**  
2nd: *Talk of the Towns\**  
3rd: *Midcoast Currents\**  
4th: *Talk of the Towns\**  
5th: *WERU Review\**

### WEEKEND AM PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**6:30 - 6:35** *Isla Earth* (Sat. & Sun.)  
**7:30 - 7:35** Short Spoken Word Features  
Sat: *Earthwise\**  
Sun: *Pet Sounds\**  
**8:30 - 8:35** Short Spoken Word Features  
Sat: *The World Around Us\**  
Sun: *Awanadjo Almanack\**  
**10:00 - 11:00** Grassroots News/Features  
Sat: *Imagination Station, Story Land, Circle Time* (3rd Sat.), or *WERU Family Radio Hour* (1st Sat.),\*  
Sun: *New Dimensions*  
**11:30 - 11:35** *U.S. - El Salvador Report\** (Sat)

\*LOCALLY PRODUCED PROGRAMMING:  
All of which are archived online for you to listen to, download and forward completely free of charge at: <http://archives.weru.org/>

## FEED BACK, MOVE FORWARD-WERU: "25 YEARS AND COUNTING"

You, WERU listeners, members and anyone reading this special edition of Salt Air, can help create WERU's next 25 years by sending your thoughts and ideas about WERU's future. Please consider the following questions and email your responses to [info@weru.org](mailto:info@weru.org). Your ideas are very important and will help WERU to serve you and

the community to the very best of the station's ability.  
*What are your main concerns, for you and for your community?*  
*What are the most important issues faced by your community?*  
*What are the greatest needs in your community?*  
*What is important to you with*

*regard to music, the performing arts, literature, and the arts in general?*  
And, of course, you can volunteer (as over 1200 people from all walks of life already have) to be on the air or be "behind the scenes" serving on a committee, cataloging and filing new music in the library, answering phones during pledge drives, helping

to maintain WERU's studio and office building, and more.  
Volunteer Orientation is held on **the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month from 6 to 8 pm** right here at the station in East Orland!  
**If Interested, please contact Chris at 469-6600 or send an e-mail to [info@weru.org](mailto:info@weru.org).**

