

## Annual Reports and Agenda

SIGN IN + INTRODUCTIONS + REVIEW OF 2015 MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES:

TREASURERS REPORT:

ADMIN & TECH SUPPORT REPORT:

### Year In Review:

- Database. A new version of Filemaker, purchased in March and managed now by Border Pete, Tracy and Ginger should help to keep us all looking good and up to date. We need your current info and email addresses.
- Updates to the audio streaming software ( early February by Mark P) improved audio quality and consistency.
- A third permanent microphone is now installed at the broadcast console making interviews and musical participation way easier and more fun.
- An **EAS** compliance tuner was purchased and set up in the fall of 2015 along with antenna and ENDEC box making us more ready for emergency alert response.
- We now have a **WOOL EBay** account. We are aiming to complement our Annual Silent Auction with on line offerings.
- Innumerable other tweaks, restarts, repairs, maintenance and updates with much care and feeding of our website and aging equipment while withstanding use by our collection of volunteers and unpredictable circumstance. We owe a HUGE debt of gratitude to **Mark P** for his ALL volunteer efforts in keeping us on the air. We couldn't do it without you. Thank you Mark!



### On going and Upcoming:

- UPS replacements purchased for the encoder/streamer. Hoping to install them soon; the station will have to go off-air at the time of installation. Clean up of the Studio tower rack and cabling is intended at the same time to exorcise the historical & confusing wire clutter.
- Our internet streaming broadcast server locked up (RIP) just last week after 10+ years of 24/7 service. Tony Elliot & our tech support are investigating solid state replacement options for our streaming and archiving needs. We hope to be back streaming again wicked soon.
- Public Files and phasing in of online records. All stations will need to comply with the new online public file rule by March 1, 2018. Updates will need to be made quarterly on the FCC website.



--We are still considering a wireless connection from the Studio to the mountain to provide us two ways to get information to and from the mountain. This is a longer term effort intended to bypass or replace the sometimes unpredictable internet connection to the mountain via Comcast.

--Intermittently regular broadcast drops still happen. Untimely snippets of dead air result, and yup, they are vexing. It's not a conspiracy. We're investigating.

-- Sometimes it may seem like our biggest annual accomplishment is that we're still here. Like democracy this community thing and community radio thing works best when you're involved. Avoid the couch. Volunteer. Participate. Stay tuned. And We get back what we put in.

## PROGRAMMING REPORT:

### Year In Review:

--February 17, 2016 **Homeless Marathon** broadcast aired on WOOL (Mark, Etienne & Tim).

--Assorted additions and updates to syndicated programming via **Pacifica** & other sources.

--**New Local and Live Programs** added to our lineup include: Daniel Hartigan, Etienne DuPourque/Mystery Train, KMO, Ralston Blair/"Island Jammin ", Monster's and Hampsters /back from hiatus!, Rachel Spigel /"More Than Music" & a more. See the online program list.

### Up and Coming - Local:

--Gail Golec/"I Do Not Think It Means What You Think It Means" and a show by Lisa Nash/YTB.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

### Year In Review:

--2015-2016 held steady in membership. At last count about 130 regular and sustaining combined. But more would always be better. And with more participation? We could do more.

## PUBLICITY BRANDING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT:

### Year In Review:

--2016 June – **Roots On The River**. WOOL was a festival sponsor again this year. Volunteers (Holly, Charlie, Mark, Pete, Ellen, and...) manned the Black Sheep Gazebo, heard some great music and Mark P gathered a fine collection of interviews on YouTube.

Just web search "WOOL-FM" + "Roots On The River" or go to:

<http://www.vermontfestivalsllc.com/interviews-and-music>

**Roots On The River Artist Interviews** include: Joe Crookston, The Milkhouse Heaters, Dave Alvin, The Young Novelists, Brock Zeman, Della Mae, The Ballroom Thieves, Izzy Serebrov, Lara Herscovitch, Spuyten Duyvil, Roger Marin, Lula Wiles, Mary Gauthier and Bobby Dove. WOW.

--Hey, we now have spiffy new T-shirts with the spiffy and awesomely cool new Black Sheep logo. Thank you's to Gary, Melissa and Border Pete for efforts in updating our graphics and attire.



--Rumor has it that a round of new Hats are in the works.....

--2016 April –**BF Community Bike Project Silent Auction** –WOOL provided PA and other assists.

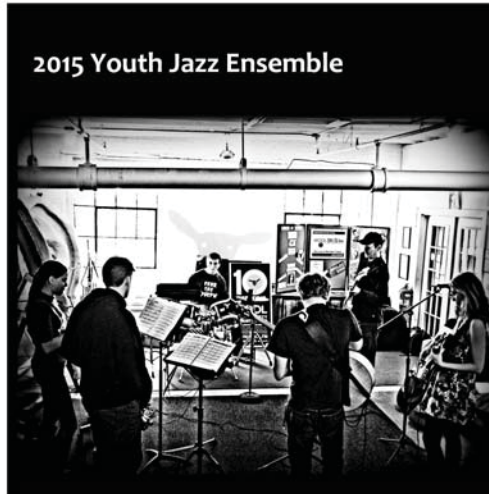
--2015 November –WOOL Annual Silent Auction+ **Bellows Falls Farmer's Market**=symbiotic serendipity @ 33 Bridge and a great night. There's a formula here we should encourage more.

1. Introductions  
 2. A La Mode  
 3. Blue Bossa  
 4. Someday My Prince Will Come  
 5. Long Ago And Far Away  
 6. Moanin'  
 7. Outro

Dylan Chambers (tenor sax)  
 Ellie Guyon (trumpet)  
 Eric McCoy (guitar)  
 Christian Terry (percussion)  
 Gabby Walton (guitar/vocals)  
 Draa Hobbs (bass)

recorded at the Black Sheep Radio Studio 7/25/15  
 engineering & electron wrangling by mark piepkorn & bill holtz

**WOOL 91.5**  
 BLACK SHEEP RADIO  
 community radio for the  
 southern Vermont and New Hampshire borderlands  
 www.wool.fm



--2015 October **Youth Jazz Ensemble**. In-studio performances by local Youth Jazz Ensemble produced recordings for the musicians & use by WOOL DJs. Support by Mark and Bill. Ensemble Director Draa Hobbs donated a sweet Mackie mixing console WOOL in gratitude. Very Nice.

*Accolades and Huzzahs to Draa and the Youth Jazz Ensemble.*

--2015 September – Live broadcasts and community outreach with the **Steampunk Festival** in Springfield, VT. Indeed an eclectic and exciting event. Perhaps we should do it again.

--2015 **Annual Block Party**. Music and barbecue with Sonny Lowdown, Suzanne Waldren and The Mas Leo Band, Acoustic Sool, Peggy's Cue, Charlie Brady and Joe Stacey . It was Such a Night, we'll do it again.

**GFCBC BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATION AND APPROVAL:**

Current slate of directors for 2016-2017:

Melissa Berry Brown	Tracy Klonowski	Gary Smith
Dickie Colo	Patrick Matteau	Bruce Sterling
Ginger Driscoll	Mark Piepkorn	
Bill Holtz	Cheryl Gay Sherwin	

--additional nominations opened to the floor.

--Acting secretary to cast one vote for the new slate of Board of Directors

**NEW BUSINESS:**

--FACT-TV & WOOL are exploring options for collaborations. Wanna help?

--Vermont Life planning a WOOL feature article Autumn 2016 Edition. Stay tuned.

**Upcoming REAL SOON in 2016:**

--Pizza Night WOOL Benefit @ Orchard Hill Breadworks: Tuesday July 5<sup>th</sup>. 5-8pm. Music by Charlie Brady & Jeffree Starratt. **WOOL needs to provide a minimum of 7 helpers from 4 PM sharp until 8:30 for prep, operations & cleanup.**

<https://www.facebook.com/pizzanightOHB/>

--Black Sheep Radio Annual Block Party: August 13<sup>th</sup> at the Waypoint Center in Bellows Falls. BBQ and Music including Willy & The Heartbeats. 3<sup>rd</sup> Rail. Moxley Union. Sool.

--Performing-Arts Variety Show @ 33 Bridge Street  
Susan McNeil, (Southern Vermont Idol) is proposing a series of events at 33 Bridge Street. Kicking things off with a Dance Party with music by DJ Skar and a cash bar. WOOL would provide the staff. [www.stage33live.com](http://www.stage33live.com)



--Other NEW BUSINESS Topics ??



*Our rent, electricity, and heat are donated by the **Island Corporation**. Our internet connectivity is contributed by **Sovernet**. And all our in-house production and programming is offered free of charge by the voices you hear on the air. Just for contrast, VPR and NHPR, two important contributors to the radio landscape, each pay more than Three Million Dollars in salaries, annually. We don't pretend to operate on the same scale as those non-profits but consider for a moment what **WOOL** brings to our local radio dial at **91.5**, right next to these public radio juggernauts; ALL of it is contributed by volunteers and by people like you whose membership is the most significant portion of our funding.*

*Why do we all work so hard to make this happen? Because protecting a corner of the media for our community is worth all the effort. And because we've built something wonderful. Visit the station's website at [www.wool.fm](http://www.wool.fm). Have a look at the wide ranging and carefully created programming. These are perspectives not heard elsewhere on the dial. Our purpose is not to bring you everything but to let you hear uncommon ideas you might not hear elsewhere. That goes for both the talk shows and the music we play. While contemplating the very serious job we do at WOOL, don't forget just how much fun we offer our listeners and our radio hosts alike. Life isn't just difficult decisions, money, and commitment; it's entertainment, it's the unmitigated joy of an amazing guitar solo, and it's the great feelings one gets from offering and supporting community service.*

*Thanks for renewing your membership and for spreading the word about this great station, WOOL, now the most powerful independent and community-owned station in New Hampshire and Vermont.*