

Vermont Association of Broadcasters

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ROKER VISITS BRATTLEBORO

It was a short visit, but NBC's Today show weatherman Al Roker made good on his pledge to stop off in Brattleboro as part of "Rokerthon 2."



Roker was in town Nov. 12, the sixth day of his attempt to visit all 50 states within one week.

Roker joined WPTZ/WNNE meteorologist Tom Messner at Pliny Park for a live forecast. Roker broke his own world record, covering 17,000 miles over seven days. The event is a fundraiser for the charitable group, "Feeding America."

MARRS NEW GM AT FOX 44

A belated welcome to Craig Marrs, the new GM and VP of WFFF-TV and WVNY-TV.



Craig Marrs

Marrs began his broadcast career in Oklahoma City as an Assignment Editor and Producer at KOCO-TV, and later News Director for KWTW-TV. From 2000 - 2006, he served as VP/ Station Manager of KRON-TV in San Francisco. He then became GM of WHNT-TV in Huntsville, AL and KTEN Media in Sherman, TX.

Most recently, Marrs was the VP and GM of KMIR-TV and KPSE-TV in Palm Desert, CA. He also founded NorthWest Cable News (NWCN) in Seattle. Welcome to the Champlain Valley, Craig!

VAB AWARDS BANQUET IS "SOLD OUT"

A crowd of 300 is expected to attend the 21st annual VAB Hall of Fame Awards Banquet this Saturday evening at the Hilton Burlington.

The December 5 event starts with a cocktail hour at 5:30 p.m. This year, every registrant will receive three complimentary drink tickets. Cash bar will also be available. Dinner starts at 7 p.m. with the award ceremonies starting shortly thereafter.

Hall of Fame honorees this year include VOX AM/FM owner and General Manager Ken Barlow, Local 22/Local 44 Operations Director Ken Kasz and WJOY radio personality Ginny McGehee.

The Broadcaster of the Year award will be presented to the WPTZ-TV news team for their coverage of the Dannemora escapes. Stewart Ledbetter of WPTZ is this year's winner of the Distinguished Service Award.

WSYB-AM in Rutland will receive the Alan Noyes Community Service Award for their annual Christmas Fund campaign. Joe Tymecki, Chief Engineer for VPR, will receive the Snyder-Teffner Award for excellence behind the scenes. We hope to see you Saturday at the Hilton!

WTSA's TIM JOHNSON TO SIGN OFF AT END OF YEAR

WTSA News Director Tim Johnson has probably attended more local government meetings than any reporter in Vermont. Add in his years as Town Moderator of Vernon, his hometown, and he's racked up thousands of hours at civic meetings since starting his radio career at WKVT in 1973.

But now Johnson, whose real name is Tim Arsenault, plans to leave WTSA in Brattleboro to pursue a full-time job at Vernon Town Hall as Town Clerk. Johnson was inducted into the VAB Hall of Fame in 2014 and won the VAB's Distinguished Service Award in 2009. This year, he was also named Citizen of the Year by the Brattleboro Area Chamber of Commerce. Good luck, Tim!



FREE 2015 Political Broadcasting Seminar & Webcast

Presented by

Bobby Baker, Federal Communications Commission

David Oxenford, Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP

Wednesday, December 16 2 P.M. Eastern

It's that time again! Time to start making sure that you are 100% compliant with political broadcasting rules and regulations. The Vermont Association of Broadcasters, in partnership with the Michigan Association of Broadcasters, is here to help you clarify the rules and understand what your station's legal responsibilities are.



David Oxenford

Bobby Baker and David Oxenford will present a two hour webcast from the campus of Michigan State University on Wednesday, December 16 from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Eastern. Topics covered will include lowest unit rate, third party issue advertising, reasonable access and equal opportunities, sponsorship identification and public file requirements...and more.

The presentation will be webcast live, with an email available for questions. The webcast will be archived online and accessible to registered participants for six months. To register, simply email Jim Condon at vab@vab.org and indicate your interest in taking part in the webinar.

RADIO STATIONS GO ALL OUT TO HELP OUT FOR THANKSGIVING

More than a dozen radio stations around Vermont went all out to help feed the hungry in November, raising donations of cash and food for their local food shelters.

WLVB-FM in Morrisville, Barre's WRFK-FM (Frank 107.1) and Hall Communications stations WIZN-FM and WBTZ-FM have won Community Service Awards from the VAB for their annual food drives, and once again the station groups did what they could to help their neighbors. WLVB morning man Roland Lajoie again helped organize "Chris' Challenge Turkey Drive," collecting hundreds of turkeys for Lamoille County Food Share. Meanwhile, Frank FM collected nearly 19 tons of non-perishable food items in their 14th annual "Stuff-a-Truck" food drive.

Vermont Broadcast Associates stations helped collect tons of food for food shelves in St. Johnsbury and Lyndonville. Brattleboro's WKVT raised enough food in their Top the Truck event to fill the seats at both the Bellows Falls Opera House and the Lachis Theatre with bags of groceries. Catamount Radio in Rutland collected thousands of food items in their annual "Stuff-a-Bus" food drive. The work these and many other stations do is a great testament to the community-minded spirit of our local broadcasters!



Clockwise from upper left: The Goldwing Motorcycle group drops off donations for WJJR's "Stuff-a-Bus" drive; WIZN and WBTZ collect food at Costco and Hannafords; Frank FM's TJ Michaels and JD Green help "Stuff-a-Truck;" Dominique Jacqueline and WLVB's Roland Lajoie celebrate a successful "Chris' Challenge" turkey drive.