

Vermont Association of Broadcasters
 500A Dalton Drive
 Colchester, VT 05446
 (802) 655-5764
 Email: vab@vab.org
 Website: www.vab.org

The VAB Voice



CHEEK WINS FRICK AWARD



Tom and Shirley Cheek

Just four days after being inducted into the VAB Hall of Fame (see story & photos on page two), the Baseball Hall of Fame announced that Tom Cheek, the longtime radio voice of the Toronto Blue Jays, is the winner of the 2013 Ford C. Frick Award. The award is the highest honor given to sportscasters by the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY.

Cheek, who was a sportscaster and salesman at WEAV, WDOT, WJOY and WVMT, broadcast an amazing 4306 straight games for the Blue Jays. He passed away in 2005.

The vote by the 21-member awards committee marked the first time the winner of annual fan balloting has actually won the award. Cheek will be honored at the Hall of Fame's Awards Presentation on Saturday, July 27 in Cooperstown,

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OWNERSHIP MERRY-GO-ROUND AS NASSAU EXITS VERMONT



You may need a scorecard to keep track of all the radio stations that Nassau Broadcasting's bankruptcy and auction.

Nassau was forced to auction stations in Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire. Most of them (30) went to Bill Binnie's WBIN Media for \$12.5 million. Binnie then spun off 13 of the stations (eight in Vermont) to Jeff Shapiro's Vertical Capital Partners for \$4.4 million.



Bill Binnie

Binnie will keep two Vermont-licensed stations: WXL-FM (95.3 MHz, White River Junction) and WZLF-FM (107.1 MHz, Bellows Falls).

Shapiro had seven stations already operating under the Great Eastern Radio banner out of West Lebanon, NH, including Vermont signals WKKN-FM (101.9 MHz, Westminister) and WMXR-FM (93.9 MHz, Woodstock).

Shapiro picked up the following Vermont stations from Binnie:

- WEXP-FM (101.5 MHz, Brandon)
- WIKE-AM (1490 KHz, Newport)
- WMOO-FM (92.1 MHz, Derby Center)
- WORK-FM (107.1 MHz, Barre)
- WSNO-AM (1450 KHz, Barre)
- WTHK-FM (100.7 MHz, Wilmington)
- WWFY-FM (100.9 MHz, Berlin)
- WWOD-FM (104.3 MHz, Hartford)

Shapiro sold two of those stations, WMOO-FM and WIKE-AM, to Bruce James' Vermont Broadcast Associates. James, in turn, is selling WQJQ-FM (100.3 MHz, Barton) to Capital Broadcast Associates.

To stay under the ownership cap, Shapiro also sold two other stations (WEXP-FM and WWOD-FM) to Bill and Gail Goddard's Electromagnetic Company for \$600,000. WWOD had already won approval to move to Keeseville, NY in the Burlington market, so its assumed the new owners will pursue that move. And, as part of that transaction, WWOD will swap its call signs with Shapiro's WMXR.



Jeff Shapiro

There is another call sign change to note. WORK-FM, which will stay with the Great Eastern cluster, has changed to WRFK-FM.

In New Hampshire, Shapiro picked up: WLKZ-FM (104.9 MHz, Wolfeboro, NH) WWHQ-FM (101.5 MHz, Meredith, NH) WHDQ-FM (106.1 MHz, Claremont, NH) WTSV-AM (1230 KHz, Claremont, NH) WFYX-FM (96.3 MHz, Walpole, NH)

Besides the aforementioned WKKN and WMXR (now WWOD), Great Eastern already owned:

- WTSL-AM (1400 KHz, Hanover, NH)
- WGXL-FM (92.3 MHz, Hanover, NH)
- WTPL-FM (107.7 MHz, Hillsboro, NH)
- WXXK-FM (100.5 MHz, Lebanon, NH)
- WEEY-FM (93.5 MHz, Swanzey, NH)

All in all, a busy week in local radio!

December, 2012

BIG CROWD USHERS CHEEK, JAMES AND SANDS INTO VAB HALL OF FAME



Candis Leopold with Shirley Cheek

A crowd of more 220 people gathered December 1 at the Burlington Hilton to enjoy great food and great friends at the VAB's annual Awards Banquet.

The late sportscaster Tom Cheek, WPTZ-TV General Manager Paul Sands and Northeast Kingdom radio station owner Bruce James were all inducted into the VAB Hall of Fame.

Hall of Fame member George Commo presented the Hall of Fame trophy to Cheek's widow, Shirley Cheek.

Rick Davis, who owns radio stations in Maine, inducted Bruce James, a former business partner, into the Hall of Fame.



Bruce James

VPT President and Hall of Fame member John King inducted Paul Sands into the Hall. King's remarks followed a video tribute to Sands narrated by WPTZ meteorologist Tom Messner, a former VAB Distinguished Service Award winner.



Paul Sands

Radio Vermont's Eric Michaels, who is also in the VAB Hall of Fame and is the current VAB President, served as the evening's master of ceremonies. He presented former VAB President Judy Leech of WVNR-AM/WNYV-FM with the 2012 VAB Broadcaster of the Year Award.



Judy Leech



Sharon Meyer

WCAX President and General Manager Peter Martin presented a VAB Distinguished Service award to longtime Channel 3 weather forecaster Sharon Meyer.

VAB Executive Director Jim Condon and Radio Vermont's Ken Squier presented the other Distinguished Service Award to WDEV AM & FM talk show host Mark Johnson.



Mark Johnson

Community Service Awards were bestowed upon TJ Michaels of Barre radio stations WORK/WWFY/WSNO and to Ed Flanagan of Montpelier radio station WNCS-FM.



TJ Michaels



Ed Flanagan



Jon Noyes and Bruce Zeman

The Alan H. Noyes Community Service Award was presented to Bruce Zeman and Hobbes of WVTM-FM by Jon Noyes, son of the late Al Noyes, the longtime VAB Executive Director.

A special VAB "Friend of Broadcasters" award was presented to recently-retired Vermont National Guard Lt. Col. Lloyd Goodrow. And special recognition was given to longtime VAB Hall of Fame member Don Mullally, who is celebrating his 50th year on the air at WSTJ-AM in St. Johnsbury.



Lt. Col. Lloyd Goodrow

Our next major event will be the VAB's 58th Annual Convention, Thursday, May 16 at the Capitol Plaza in Montpelier. **Hope to see you there!**