

## WEVL: A Brief History

### *45 Years of Independent, Listener-supported Volunteer Radio*

1976 was a memorable year. The country celebrated the Bicentennial, Jimmy Carter was elected president, new music trends like disco and punk were emerging, and in Memphis, a new volunteer radio station went on the air.

It was in April of that year when WEVL first signed on the air from an old two-story house in the 1300 block of Court Avenue. The station had a mere 10 watts of power and could only be heard in the Midtown area.

WEVL knew it would never be much of a factor in Memphis radio with only 10 watts, so the station applied to the FCC to raise its power. This request was granted; however, it took several years for the station to raise the money to buy a tower, transmitter, and all the necessary equipment. WEVL even had to go off the air for a period of time while still trying to raise funds.

Finally, in February 1986, the station returned to the airwaves at higher power with a coverage area of 50 miles. At last, the entire Memphis metro area could hear WEVL!

It was also in 1986 that volunteer and Board member Judy Dorsey took over as station manager. Under Dorsey, WEVL was able to develop a real membership base, increase fundraising events, and begin holding pledge drives. These on-air drives held twice a year have been by far the most important source of income for the station.

Over the years, WEVL also produced many benefit concerts at different venues, including multiple shows at the legendary Antenna Club with such icons of Memphis rock as Alex Chilton and Tav Falco's Panther Burns. In 1989 WEVL had the first of many Blues On The Bluff® concerts overlooking the Mississippi River, with Lee Baker & The Agitators and Joyce Cobb's Blues Band.

From the old house on Court to the Exchange Building, WEVL has had multiple studio locations over the years, but in November 1990, the station moved to its current location in the South Main Arts District. The station

has been proud to be a pioneer in the redevelopment of the south end of downtown Memphis.

From the very start, WEVL offered the most diverse music programming of any radio station in Memphis, and was the only station to play such important genres as blues and rockabilly. The station has always heavily featured Memphis music and invited musicians from Memphis and around the world to play to live in the studio.

Popular volunteer DJs from the station's early days who are still on air today include Memphis Music icon Joyce Cobb and Jim "Ridge Runner" Lillard.

Our all-time most popular DJ, Dee "Cap'n Pete" Henderson, walked into the station in 1982 when we were having a "Bluesathon." Several of the volunteers convinced him he could do a show, so the *Blues Cruise* on Friday nights was born. Sadly, Dee died in 2008, but fortunately the station has an archive of his programs, so we are able to con-

tinue to air them every Friday night at 9:00.

Another of our most acclaimed programs has been Bashful Bob's *Sho-Nuff Country* program that started in 1997. Although Bob passed away a few years ago, we continue to air archived programs every Wednesday morning at 10:00.

The most exciting change over the years, however, has been the ability to stream the signal on the Internet, allowing listeners anywhere in the world to enjoy WEVL. The station now has listeners and members from Japan to the U.K.

As WEVL enters its 46th year, we remain the only independent listener-supported station in Memphis. Not owned, operated or influenced by any government agency, university, school system, or commercial entity, WEVL's funding comes primarily from our listeners. Our achievements to date reflect 45 years of growth, countless volunteer hours of effort, and millions of dollars in listener donations. And we continue to work toward making WEVL even better, thanks to our members and volunteers.

—Brian Craig, WEVL Program Director



**Mission Statement**  
The mission of WEVL is to entertain and inform its audience through diverse music programming with an emphasis on the culture of Memphis and the South.

**Operating Info**  
WEVL broadcasts to the Greater Memphis area at 89.9 FM and is licensed to Southern Communication Volunteers, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational corporation.

In its fundraising practices, WEVL complies with the laws and regulations of the IRS, the Communications Act, the laws of the State of Tennessee, and the regulations of the United States Postal Service.

**Listen Online**  
www.wevl.org

**Mailing Address**  
WEVL  
P.O. Box 40952  
Memphis, TN 38174

**How to Reach Us**  
DJ Line: 901-528-1990  
Office: 901-528-0560  
E-mail: info@wevl.org  
Website: https://wevl.org  
Facebook & Instagram: @wevl89.9  
Twitter: @wevl

**Staff**  
Judy Dorsey, Station Manager  
Brian Craig, Program Director

**SCV Board of Directors**  
Steffen Schreiner, President  
Ted Cashion  
Joyce Cobb  
Brian Craig, Secretary  
Kenneth Ward, Vice President  
Bryson Whitney

**Program Guide**  
The WEVL Program Guide is published four times a year.  
Editor: Judy Dorsey  
Design & Production: Stacy Hesson

Follow  
WEVL on  
Social Media

Facebook: @WEVL89.9

Instagram: @wevl89.9

Twitter: @WEVL

## Sunday

6-10 am  
**The Best of Singing Down in Dixie**  
Southern gospel quartet music from the WEVL archives with Charlie May.

10 am-Noon  
**Off the Record**  
Rock from the last 20 years, hosted by Jessica.

## Monday

6-8 am  
**Welcome to the Working Week**  
John B. jump-starts the work week with a dose of good old rock 'n' roll.

8-10 am  
**The Deep Blues Show**  
Classical and traditional blues with Steve.

10 am-Noon  
**Mood Swings** **NEW**  
Whether Lee's mood shifts to R&B, soul, pop, rock or psychedelic, expect a heavy dose of Memphis artists from the '60s to today.

## Tuesday

6-8 am  
**My Pet Rock Show**  
Rock and roll with Chad.

8-9 am  
**The Portable Dead** **NEW**  
Hayden takes you on a long, strange trip through 30 year of Grateful Dead history. Not for Deadheads only.

9-10 am  
**The Many Moods of Ben Vaughn**  
Ben plays a variety of music from across the decades.

10-11 am  
**Varied Programs**

## Wednesday

6-8 am  
**My Morning Mixtape**  
The best in new, classic, and undiscovered indie and modern rock, hosted by Jesse.

8-10 am  
**Folk Song Fiesta**  
A wide variety of folk music with Bruce.

10 am-2 pm  
**The Best of Sho-Nuff Country**  
Country music from the WEVL archives with the late Bashful Bob.

## Thursday

6-8 am  
**River City Reveille**  
Country, rock and blues with Melanie.

8-10 am  
**Memphis Mystery Train**  
A musical mix hosted by Virginia.

10 am-11 am  
**eTown**  
Music from the historic Boulder Theatre in Boulder, Colorado along with interviews and information about our environment.

11 am-Noon  
**WEVL Album Feature**

## Friday

6-8 am  
**The Modern World**  
Punk, post-punk & new wave from the late '70s through the '80s along with current Memphis music carrying on the tradition, with Lee.

8-10 am  
**Blues Today**  
Contemporary, up-tempo blues with Chuck Porter.

10 am-Noon  
**Down in the Alley**  
Rhythm & Blues from the '40s to the '70s, hosted by Eddie Hankins.

## Saturday

6-10 am  
**Bluff City Barn Dance**  
Bluegrass and old-time from way back then to here and now. With the Ridge Runner.

10 am-1 pm  
**Strands of the Celtic Knot**  
Folk music and culture of Scotland, Ireland, Britain, and Wales, hosted by Robert Campbell.

1-3 pm  
**Through the Cracks**  
Contemporary folk, alternative country, adult rock and everything in between. Presented by Ed.

3-4 pm  
**eTown**  
Music from the historic Boulder Theatre in Boulder, Colorado along with interviews and information about our environment.

4-6 pm  
**Pajama Party**  
Eclectic selections of listening confections. From the Velvet Underground to the Velvet Fog to Golden Smog, etc. Hosted by Rebecca.

### MORNING



### AFTERNOON



### EVENING



Noon-2 pm  
**The 1st Church of Rock!**  
A Sunday service of hard rock, metal, punk and psychedelic hymns of the past 40-odd years from here and abroad. Praise the Loud!

2-4 pm  
**Reggae Millennium**  
Classic and contemporary reggae roots music with a splash of dub and dancehall. Presented by DJ Cush.

4-6 pm  
**World Music Dance Party**  
Music meant for dancing, from every corner of the world.

Noon-2 pm  
**Acoustic Café**  
Mostly "unplugged" rock, folk and blues. Interviews too! Rob Reinhart is your host.

2-4 pm  
**Modern Girl**  
Liz plays music by women across genre and era, for everybody (and every body).

4-6 pm  
**Car Tunes**  
A little bit of everything that twangs with Nancy Apple.

11 am-Noon  
**Music for Movies**  
Soundtracks, scores and other film related goodies with Adam.

Noon-2 pm  
**Varied Programs**

2-4 pm  
**Voices**  
Vocal selections, presented by Memphis singer Joyce Cobb.

4-6 pm  
**River City Reveille**  
Country, rock and blues with Melanie.

2-3 pm  
**Hillbilly Jazz**  
The Ridge Runner showcases the best new bluegrass releases.

3-4 pm  
**Old-Time Country Music Hour**  
Judy presents Southern string bands, white boys singing the blues, comic songs, and fiddle favorites from the '20s and '30s.

4-6 pm  
**Through the Cracks**  
Contemporary folk, alternative country, adult rock and everything in between. Presented by Ed.

Noon-2 pm  
**Back to the Country**  
Country music with Ken Ward.

2-4 pm  
**The Clinic**  
Rock, blues, soul and other music with The Doctor.

4-6 pm  
**Off the Record**  
Rock from the last 20 years hosted by Jessica.

Noon-2 pm  
**Out on the Side**  
Traversing the back waters of 40 years' worth of pop music: garage, folk, punk, country and R&B-oriented rock with Jeremy.

2-4 pm  
**In the Basement**  
Rhythm and blues, soul & funk with Eric

4-6 pm  
**New Orleans Big Beat**  
Musical selections from the Crescent City with Tom.

6-8 pm  
**What Fun Life Was**  
'90s shoegaze, indie pop, post-rock and more with Vanessa.

8-10 pm  
**Out on the Side**  
Traversing the back waters of 40 years' worth of pop music: garage, folk, punk, country and R&B-oriented rock with Jeremy.

10 pm-Midnight  
**Varied Programs**

6-8 pm  
**FlowRadio**  
An eclectic trickle of musical textures and soundscapes from around the world and somewhere just beyond the horizon. Mary Jane is your host.

8 pm-Midnight  
**Into the Deep**  
Progressive ambient beat, electronica, ethereal, and space with Allan Bogle.

6-8 pm  
**South Main Soul Club**  
Soul, funk and blues by classic and emerging artists with Bryson Whitney. Voted Best of Memphis.

8-10 pm  
**Bebe's Berserkathon**  
Bebe plays whatever the voices command him to play.

10-11 pm  
**Recursive Excursions**  
Kip takes you on a journey through the looking glass, playing new and old transmissions from the psychedelic cosmos.

11 pm-Midnight  
**Nightbeat**  
Late night music with Ben Vaughn, exclusively on WEVL.

6-8 pm  
**Swing Shift Shuffle**  
Punch in for the best swing, jazz and big band from the '30s and '40s with Tim.

8-10 pm  
**Songs for My Father**  
Mellow jazz with Joyce Cobb.

10 pm-Midnight  
**In the Basement**  
Rhythm and blues, soul & funk with Eric.

6-8 pm  
**The Deep Blues Show**  
Classic and traditional blues with Steve.

8-8:30 pm  
**Varied Programs**

8:30-9 pm  
**Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Music**

9 pm-Midnight  
**Night Train**  
Blues, jazz, folk and rock with Steffen.

6-7 pm  
**The Many Moods of Ben Vaughn**  
Ben plays a variety of music from across the decades.

7-9 pm  
**Rock House**  
Classic rockabilly with Lonnie.

9 pm-Midnight  
**The Best of Cap'n Pete's Blues Cruise**  
Stone cold blues from the WEVL archives, hosted by the late Dee "Cap'n Pete" Henderson. Winner of the Blues Foundation's Keeping the Blues Alive Award.

6-9 pm  
**Soul Stew**  
Blues, rock, rhythm and soul with Brett Fleming.

9-11 pm  
**Against the Grain**  
Independent punk and hardcore from the late '70s and early '80s with Uncle Roy.

11 pm-Midnight  
**Rapper's Delight**  
Hip hop with Andria.

# Vehicle Donation Program



Turn your old car, truck, boat, or motorcycle into cash for WEVL!

Call 877-WEVLCAR or visit [www.wevl.org](http://www.wevl.org) for more information.

## Membership/Change of Address Form

I want to support WEVL today. Sign me up.  
 I am already supporting WEVL, but my address has changed. New Address below.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  \$500 Benefactor  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  \$120 Patron  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  \$75 Family  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  \$40 Individual  
FAVORITE PROGRAMS / COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_  \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other  
CREDIT CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_  Discover  
 VISA  
 MasterCard

### Double Your Contribution to WEVL!

*If you work for or are retired from one of the companies listed below, your employer may match your donation of \$25 or more.*

Acxiom Corp., Aetna, AT&T, AutoZone, Bank of America, BD Corp., BP, Black & Decker, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, CarMax, CIGNA, CPI Corp., Deluxe Corp., Equitable Life Assurance, First Tennessee Bank (50% match, \$50 min.), GEICO, General Electric, Hyde Family Foundations, Illinois Tool Works, Kraft Foods, MAPCO, Morgan Keegan, NCR, Nike, Nissan Motor Corp., Philip Morris Companies, Pittway Corp., Prudential, Regions Financial Corp., R.R. Donnelley & Sons Co. & Subsidiaries, Sara Lee, United Parcel Service, Verizon, Williams Companies.

*See your employment or personnel office or company website to obtain a matching gift form.*

### What Members Receive

For 45 years WEVL has been providing the Mid-South with volunteer programming that is diverse, educational, fun, and different from anything else you will hear on the air. Become a member of WEVL and support an alternative voice in Memphis area radio by making a donation of \$40 or more. In return, you will receive a WEVL bumper sticker and a year's subscription to the WEVL Program Guide—plus your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Send in your membership today!

### For Members Only

Help WEVL save \$\$ and trees! Get the program guide by e-mail as an attached PDF file. Just send a message to [wevl@wevl.org](mailto:wevl@wevl.org) with *Email Program Guide* as the subject.

**WEVL • P.O. Box 40952 • Memphis, TN 38174 • (901) 528-0560**

*If you move, please return the form above with your new address. The Post Office will not forward guides and will charge us to return the guide with a corrected address.*

89.9 [wevl.org](http://wevl.org)



**WEVL**

August-September 2021

SOUTHERN COMMUNICATION VOLUNTEERS, INC.

P.O. Box 40952  
 Memphis, TN 38174

*Return Service Requested*

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