

# Internet radio keeps Wendland up at night

One of the most vivid memories from my childhood is falling asleep in the wee hours of the night while listening to the radio. From my bedroom, with a little plastic earphone plugged into my transistor radio so my parents wouldn't know I was still awake, I'd listen to far off stations.

I knew by heart their call letters, frequencies and even their jingles.

There was WBZ in Boston. WOVO in Indiana. WLS in Chicago. Sometimes, if the ionosphere was charged just right, there'd be even more distant stations to hear amidst the static and squeals and fading signals, stations from St. Louis, New York City, Nashville.

It was all quite wonderful and adventurous. Just like frontier kids dreamed of far away places listening to train whistles in the night, my pre-teen late night radio tuning took me to cities and towns I could only imagine before.

As a boy of 11 or 12, I was

dizzy with the excitement of it all. It was as if I were a privileged cave-dropper on the world, and for this day, four decades later, I vividly remember the thrill I got every time I tuned in these long distance stations.

So it was with a sense of deja vu that I discovered several of Internet Web sites the other day that do even better than my boyhood nine-volt battery-powered transistor radio.

With these Web sites, there is no static. No fading signals. No interference. And they are available all the time, not just at night and no matter what the atmospheric conditions happen to be doing to radio waves.

And these sites open a listening window on the entire world, not just a region a dozen states across.

My current favorite site is a



MIKE WENDLAND

Web site called Earth Tuner ([www.earthtuner.com](http://www.earthtuner.com)), a sort of radio "jukebox" that contains direct links to more than 1,000 different radio stations, from the BBC to Radio South Africa to Caribbean Radio. Just scroll through a list of the stations and click on the hyperlink and there's the broadcast, playing right through the speakers on your PC using the RealAudio streaming sound player.

Now to use this, you need to download a small file. You can use it free for a couple of weeks but eventually, they want \$22.95 if you plan to keep it. And keep it you will want to do because the program lets you click on a place anywhere on the globe and hear a radio station from that area.

I listened to "Radioactive" in Bogota last week as they covered the devastation from the massive earthquake in Columbia. My Spanish was just good enough to give me a chilling first hand report that

the local papers and broadcast media couldn't begin to supply.

Then, on the day the Pope visited St. Louis, I used Earth Tuner to listen to KTRS in St. Louis as it covered the departure of the Pope from that city's Lambert Field.

After I heard the Pope, I clicked on to BBC Radio 5 in London and heard a show called "Late Night Live" cover the story of a writer found murdered after he wrote a book about the IRA.

Amazing. All this from my house...with no static. It's a good thing I didn't have this back in Bay City these many years ago. I never would have gotten any sleep.

Here are some other Internet sites that offer radio programming over the World Wide Web.

■ TalkSpot ([www.talkspot.com](http://www.talkspot.com)) - TalkSpot.com offers an interactive Web-only broadcasting, with three channels of news and entertainment con-

tent. It sounds just like radio but it's Net-only. You can chat with the on-air host and other TalkSpot viewers, participate in interactive polls, or just sit back and watch through a WebCam.

■ International Radio (<http://goan.com/radio.html>) - From Aruba to Zimbabwe, this mega site specializes in live International radio stations. It's not shortwave stations, but local stations, even college campus stations.

■ Live Radio on the Internet (<http://www.frodo.unet.com/radio.htm>) - This is the biggest site yet, with 2,000 links that are maintained. That means when they no longer work, they're removed. That assures you that if the station's listed, you can listen.

I need to address a question here about my radio show on WXYT. I get asked all the time why WXYT doesn't broadcast my computer show or, like WJR, WYUR, WRIF and many other local radio stations, make

its programming available on the Net. I'm sure this column will result in more questions.

I can only say that when I ask this question of station execs, I'm told it is the policy of the station's owner, CBS, not to broadcast on the Internet.

Personally, I think that's a shortsighted policy. That it limits us from a wider reach. But, hey, I don't own the station.

So, for now, you'll still need a radio to hear my PC Talk show.

Mike Wendland covers technology and the Internet for NBC Television stations coast-to-coast and is heard talking about computers every Saturday and Sunday from 4-6PM on AM1270, WXYT in Detroit. He is the author of six books on the Internet and can be reached through his Web site at [www.pemike.com](http://www.pemike.com)

## OBITUARIES

**OLGA A. STEAD**  
Olga Andrea Stead, 97, died Jan. 28.

Mrs. Stead was a homemaker and a lifelong member of St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Detroit. She enjoyed crossword puzzles, handwork and reading.

She is survived by children, Doris Beals and Larry (Barbara) Muszyn; one sister, 10 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 1, at St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Detroit. Visitation will be held 3-9 p.m. today, Jan. 31, at McCabe Funeral Home in Farmington Hills.

Memorial contributions may be sent to St. Olaf Church in Detroit.

**ELLEN F. PETRARCA**  
Ellen Florence Petrarca, 75, of Farmington died Jan. 26 at University Hospital in Ann Arbor. She is survived by husband,

Carl; sisters, Alma Partin, Doris Bowen and Patricia Lalley; and brothers, William and Thomas Terrian.

Funeral services were held Jan. 30 at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Farmington with the Rev. David West officiating. Arrangements were made by Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington.

**LILLIAN I. BOWDEN**  
Lillian Irene Bowden, 96, of Farmington died Jan. 26 at William Beaumont Hospital. She is survived by sons, Kenneth (Carol) of Redford and Travis (Sue) of Port Austin; sister, Margaret Symonowich of Ocala, Fla.; nine grandchildren; and 23 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Jan. 28 at Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Neil Ellison officiating.

### Arthritis Today

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#### THE EYE AND ARTHRITIS

A relation exists between the eye and arthritis. The Arthritis occurs because of errors in immunity that target joints. However because of an overlap of immune dysfunction the eye also becomes inflamed.

The most common interaction between arthritic joints and the eye is Sjogren's syndrome. In this disorder your eye loses the ability to make tears. Your eyes feel gritty, with pain, a complication if the dryness involves your cornea. The condition of spondylitis-an arthritis of the back-is associated with inflammation of the anterior part of the eye. The reason for this association of eye and back inflammation is, in some, but not all patients with spondylitis, is unknown.

In Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, the blood vessels in the back of the eye are at risk for inflammation that can impair vision. In a number of rare arthritis problems such as Wegener's Granulomatosis, Polycondritis, Behcet's disease, and Cogan's syndrome eye inflammation may be an early sign, presenting even before the underlying condition makes its presence known.

The only arthritic drug implicated in causing eye problems is plaquemil, a medication frequently used in rheumatoid and lupus arthritis. However periodic examinations by an ophthalmologist allow you to stop the drug before it brings to your sight organs.

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**Den in the 90s**  
by Herbert M. Gardner, D.D.S.

### WHITER TEETH

If you want to know if you are a good candidate for professional teeth bleaching, ask yourself if your teeth were whiter when you were younger. If the answer is "yes" then chances are quite good that the dentist can return your teeth to a whiter brighter smile. Most teeth yellow as they age, and bleaching works best on these age-related discolorations. If teeth have a gray or brown cast to them, however they may have internal tooth stains which sometimes occur due to exposure to antibiotics as a child, or because of trauma. Because internal stains are a structural part of the tooth enamel, they are not likely to respond well to bleach and are best remedied by bonding or veneers.

Let us help you decide if bleaching your teeth is the right option for you. At LIVONIA VILLAGE DENTAL ASSOCIATES, a cosmetic dentist is just one of the services we offer. Our entire staff operates as a team, and we take great pride in each staff member's training and capabilities. We strive to provide the very best dental care possible for our patients so that each of you may achieve optimal dental health throughout your lifetime. Please call 478-2110 to schedule an appointment. We're located at 19171 Merriman Road, where our goal is to make each visit to our office a comfortable and positive experience. Smiles are our business.

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