Wheeler Named KBUL PD

Veteran programmer and personality Cleveland Wheeler is the new PD/middayer at Citadel Country KBUL/Reno. He fills the roles held by Tom Jordan, who retired in early November after 14 years with the station.

Best known for programming WRBQ (Q105)/Tampa in its Top 40 heyday, Wheeler programmed an XM 60’s channel from 2000-2004. He’s been out of radio and living in Chattanooga the last couple of years. Wheeler arrived in Reno today and will start officially next week. Nick Elliott, PD of Citadel/Reno sisters KWYL and KNEV, has overseen the Bull since Jordan’s departure.

New Year, New Owners

A number of Country outlets changed hands while you were unwrapping presents and ringing in the New Year. Among them:

Country WWWW/Ann Arbor, MI was one of eight stations Clear Channel swapped for Cumulus’ Rock WRQK/Canton, OH. In addition to W4, Cumulus acquired WTKA-AM & WQKL-FM/Ann Arbor and WBCK-AM, WBFN-AM & WBXX-FM/Battle Creek, WRCC-FM/ Marshall in the Battle Creek market and WLBY-AM/Saline in the Ann Arbor market. After the transaction, Cumulus donated Sports WBFN-AM to Family Life Communications, which also owns Christian WUFS-FM/Battle Creek.

Country KKYY/Sioux City, IA, along with Hot AC sister KZSR, were sold by NRG Media to Powell Broadcasting, which also owns Sioux City Country KSUX.

Country combo KWTO-AM & KWYY-FM/Casper, WY were among 11 stations Clear Channel sold to Blue Point Media. Also in the deal were KCGY, KGAB-AM, KIGN, KLEN & KOWB-AM/ Cheyenne and KKTL-AM, KMGW, KRVK & KTRS/Casper.

Country KZKX/Lincoln, NB and three of its Clear Channel market sisters -- KIBZ, KLMY & KTGL -- were sold to Three Eagles Communications.

WDBW-AM to Family Life Communications, which also owns Christian WUFS-FM/Battle Creek.

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Rick & Bubba Jump To WZZK/Birmingham

Cox Country WZZK/Birmingham, AL is the new flagship for syndicated morning team Rick & Bubba who have exited crosstown Citadel AC WYSF after a seven year run. Rick & Bubba replace the Cash & Kari morning show, though Keith “Cash” Connors, Kari Powell and Benjie Wright remain Cox employees according to WZZK PD Justin Case.

The Rick & Bubba deal with Cox is for five years and though terms have not been disclosed, it is likely worth more than $2.2 million per year that WYSF VP/GM Dale Daniels told the Birmingham News his company offered. Clear Channel also made an offer for the show, according to the paper. The Rick & Bubba website currently lists 25 affiliates, including Country outlets KBXB/Cape Girardeau, MO and WLAY/Florence, AL.

Digital Murdock Returns To KIAI

Clear Channel KIAI/Mason City, IA PD/morning co-host Gary Murdock, reportedly leaving the station at year end for a new PD gig in West Tennessee, will continue with KIAI, via the internet, for the foreseeable future. Murdock has already relocated to Covington, TN, but will continue to handle music and voice track his airshift for KIAI from there. Details on the new Country station he’s programming are still being worked out. Reach him at garymurdock17@yahoo.com or at his new employer, Covington Broadcasting, at 901-476-7129.

Shanachie Steps Into Country

Independent record label Shanachie Entertainment will be expanding into country this year, with the first single release being Daryle Singletary’s “I Still Sing This Way.” The song is from Singletary’s forthcoming album Straight From The Heart due in February. Additional releases are expected from David Ball and Confederate Railroad. Bill Cason is the label’s VP/ Media & Artist Development and will be overseeing its radio efforts as well. Reach him at 516-627-3682 or bcason@shanachie.com.

Radio News

Personalities: Former KEGA/Salt Lake City personality AJ Maguire will join KWJJ (The Wolf)/Portland, OR on January 8 for nights. AJ has howled before -- he spent some time at KPLX (The Wolf)/Dallas.

WBAM/Montgomery, AL is adding Bear O’Brian to the Bama Country Morning Show. O’Brian was previously with WSTH/Columbus, GA, and has prior stops at WMCZ/Montgomery, WHHY/Montgomery, and even WBAM from 1994-1995.

WCTK/Providence has hired Chris Reed from Hall Communications’ Country sister WOKO/Burlington, VT as morning co-host. On Jan. 22 he’ll join Chris Whitten for a newly-christened wake-up show. Reed spent the last seven years with WOKO - the last two in nights -- while Whitten has been with WCTK for nine years, the last six as morning co-host.
Birthdays

**Wednesday (1/3) - Nikki Nelson**

**Thursday (1/4) - Patty Loveless, Deana Carter, Kathy Forester**

**Friday (1/5) - Mark Nesler, Dave Dame (dave.dame@sonybmg.com), the late Sam Phillips, Shane Jemelka (shane@jemelkaent.com)**

**Saturday (1/6) - Earl Scruggs, Jett Williams, Tim Wall (wall@wilhiteandwall.com)**

**Sunday (1/7) - John Rich**

**Monday (1/8) - the late Luther Perkins, the late Elvis Presley, Monty Gregg, Chris Huff (chris.huff@abc.com), Jack Purcell (jack.purcell@bigmachinemail.com), Bob Reeves (bob.reeves@wbr.com), Joyce Thompson**

Send birthdays to [news@countryaircheck.com](mailto:news@countryaircheck.com).

Satellites & Syndication: Montgomery Gentry will be interviewed regarding their video “Some People Change” by poet, author and activist [Dr. Maya Angelou](http://www.mayaangelou.com) on XM Radio’s Oprah & Friends channel (156) on Jan. 16.

**Awards:** The ACM is accepting submissions for its Radio Station and On-Air Personality awards at [www.acmcountry.com](http://www.acmcountry.com). The deadline is 6pm PT on Jan. 30. This year’s CBS telecast airs May 15 from the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

**Events:** WKIS/Miami is holding its 22nd Annual KISS Country Chili Cookoff on Jan. 28. Montgomery Gentry, Trace Adkins, Sugarland, Jo Dee Messina, Darryl Worley and Taylor Swift will perform.

**Entercom Settles For $4.25m**

Entercom Communications settled with the State of New York on Dec. 27, agreeing to pay $4.25 million in costs and toward music education while undertaking a series of reforms to resolve pay for play allegations. The company has agreed to stop taking payment from record labels for airplay, halt payments from independent promoters, hire a compliance officer and to implement a system for detecting future abuses. Entercom has also pledged to inform radio monitoring services when songs are played through its CD Preview and CD Challenge spin programs.

**Country Music DJ & Radio Hall Reminder**

CRS-38 opens Feb. 27 at the Country Music DJ and Radio Hall of Fame Dinner and Awards Ceremony at the Nashville Convention Center.
Tickets are $85 and seating is limited, so visit www.crb.org and be sure you’re on hand as Larry Daniels, Bob Moody, Les Acree, Joe Ladd and Big John Trimble get their due.

Record News

Show Dog Nashville Label Coordinator Tracy Arnold has been promoted to Product Manager and Coordinator/Sales & Marketing. Heather Mills has been elevated to Manager/Sales & Marketing, while also adding responsibilities for all online and New Media label initiatives.

Music News

Lyric Street has signed American Idol 5 finalist Bucky Covington. His first single “A Different World” has a Jan. 16 impact date. Sawyer Brown’s Mark Miller is producing Covington’s debut album, set for an April 17 release.

The RIAA has issued gold certification for Jimmy Buffett’s Take The Weather With You.

Industry News

CMT is holding a casting call on Saturday (1/6) for a new special tentatively titled Karaoke-Dokey. Contestants will compete at creating the best impersonation of either Dolly Parton or Shania Twain for a panel of judges. Auditions will require a one-minute performance of a Parton or Twain song, and dressing up is encouraged. Oh, and contestants must be 18, and can be either male or female. Details at www.cmt.com/shows/be_on_tv/.

The Recording Academy has partnered with Hard Rock International, Verizon and USA Today for Grammy Telecast Viewing Parties hosted by regional chapters including Nashville. The parties will be staged at Hard Rock Cafes in 11 markets on Grammy night, Feb. 11.

Artist News

Travis Tritt will perform at the inauguration for Georgia Lt. Governor Casey Cagle in Atlanta on Sunday (1/7).

Jo Dee Messina embarks on her first USO tour on Friday (1/5), visiting Naples, Venice and Vicenza, Italy over five days.
Heidi Newfield has launched a website at www.heidinewfield.com to promote her recently launched solo career. Her Asylum/Curb solo debut is expected this year.

Milestones
Sincerest condolences to the family and friends of ACM Executive Director Bob Romeo on the passing of his mother, Martha Jane Romeo, on Dec. 26, just two days before her 81st birthday. The Funeral Mass and services will be celebrated Thursday, January 4, at 10:00AM at Christ The King Catholic Church, Omaha. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be sent to “Don and Martha Romeo 4-H Scholarship Fund,” 15332 Old Mormon Bridge Road, Crescent, IA 51526.

Condolences are extended to family and friends of Opry star Del Reeves, who passed Jan. 1 at his Centerville, TN home. He was 73. Reeves’ hits include “Looking At The World Through A Windshield,” “A Dime At A Time” and “Good Time Charlie’s.”

Condolences are also extended to family and friends of songwriter Dennis Linde, who passed Dec. 22 at the age of 63. Linde’s compositions include Elvis Presley’s “Burning Love,” Garth Brooks’ “Callin’ Baton Rouge” and the Dixie Chicks’ “Goodbye Earl.”

- Lon Helton, lon@countryaircheck.com
Chuck Aly, chuck@countryaircheck.com
(615) 244-4484

January 8
ALAN JACKSON/A Woman’s Love (Arista)
ALISON KRAUSS w/ JOHN WAITE/Missing You (Rounder)
SUGARLAND/Settlin’ (Mercury)

January 16
BUCKY COVINGTON/A Different World (Lyric Street)
HEARTLAND/Built To Last (Lofton Creek)
JEFF CARSON/When You Said You Love Me (Curb/Asylum)

January 22
COLE DEGGS/I Got More (Columbia)
ERIC CHURCH/Guys Like Me (Capitol)
JASON MEADOWS/100% Cowboy (Baccerstick/CO5)
JOAN OSBORNE/Who Divided (Vanguard)
RICK TREVINO/ Separate Ways (Warner Bros.)

January 29
LAURA BRYNA/I Don’t Have A Thing To Wear (Equity)
RASCAL FLATTS/Stand (Lyric Street)

CMT
CHRIS THILE/Dead Leaves On The Dirty Ground (Sugar Hill)
SHOOTER JENNINGS/It Ain’t Easy (Universal South)
SUGARLAND/ Settlin’ (Mercury)
TIM MCGRAW/Last Dollar (Fly Away) (Curb)

CMT Pure Country
SHOOTER JENNINGS/It Ain’t Easy (Universal South)

GAC
TIM MCGRAW/Last Dollar (Fly Away) (Curb)

Tracy Lawrence
“Find Out Who Your Friends Are”
MONSTER MEDIABASE NATIONAL CALLOUT!
#5 OVERALL! • #5 W/ FEMALES!
From the forthcoming CD, "For the Love". Street Date January 30.

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM TRACY LAWRENCE AND YOUR FRIENDS AT CO5 NASHVILLE.
Aircheck Weights

Here are the new weights for Country Aircheck/Mediabase Country Reporters. The weights are calculated by this formula: Market rank is multiplied by 10 and then added to the station’s AQH Persons. A station’s weight is determined by dividing that adjusted AQH by the station's AQH Persons. A station’s weight is determined by dividing that adjusted AQH by the station’s AQH. For this ratings period, that station is WXTU/Philadelphia with an AQH of 39,760. Station Weight = AQH Persons + (market rank X 10) divided by 39,760 (WXTU AQH).

These new weights are effective immediately and will be reflected in the Country Aircheck/Mediabase Chart on Jan. 8, 2007.

KAJA/San Antonio 3.7
KASE/Austin, TX 3.1
KATM/Modesto, CA 4.7
KBEQ/Kansas City 2.6
KBQI/Albuquerque, NM 1.3
KCCY/Colorado Springs, CO 2.1
KCYE/Las Vegas 1.5
KDRK/Spokane 1.0
KEEY/Minneapolis 6.7
KFDI/Wichita 2.4
KFKF/Kansas City 2.3
KFRG/Riverside-San Bernardino 4.1
KHOL/El Paso 1.1
KHJK/Des Moines, IA 1.2
KJMM/Tucson 2.6
KUIC/Houston 6.3
KXZ/Spokane 1.1
KIZN/Boise, ID 1.4
KJY/Des Moines, IA 1.5
KJUG/Visalia, CA 1.4
KKBQ/Houston 5.3
KKCIC/Atlanta 2.1
KWWQ/Seattle 4.1
KMDL/Lafayette, LA 1.4
KMLE/Phoenix 4.6
KMPX/Portland, OR 5.7
KNCI/Sacramento 3.9
KUPL/Atlanta 4.5
KPLX/Dallas 5.6
KQCQ/Boise, ID .9
KRST/Albuquerque, NM 1.4
KRTY/San Jose, CA 2.8
KSCS/Dallas 6.4
KSD/St. Louis 3.0
KSNS/Fresno, CA 2.7
KSON/San Diego 4.3
KSOX/Salt Lake City 1.2
KSTP/Glenside, PA 1.9
KTEX/McAllen, TX 2.9
KTOM/Monterey, CA 2.8
KTSF/Oklahoma City 2.3
KUBL/Salt Lake City 2.5
KUPL/Portland, OR 4.3
KUSS/San Diego 2.1
KUZZ/Bakersfield, CA 2.2
KVQO/Tulsa 2.0
KWJ/Portland, OR 3.5
KWRN/Las Vegas 2.7
KKXK/Lafayette, LA 1.5
KKXT/Omaha, NB 1.9
KYGJ/Denver 5.4
KZSN/Wichita 1.4
WAMZ/Louisville 3.3
WBBS/Syracuse, NY 2.6
WBCT/Grand Rapids, MI 3.1
WBEE/Rochester, NY 3.5
WKTU/Fl. Myers, FL .8
WCOL/Columbus, OH 3.6
WCOS/Columbia, SC 1.1
WCTK/Provence, RI 6.1
WCTO/Allentown, PA 3.9
WDSP/Pittsburgh 5.1
WDTW/Detroit 2.8
WESC/Greenville, SC 2.5
WEZL/Charleston, SC 1.8
WFMS/Indianapolis 4.5
W GAR/Cleveland 5.9
WGGY/Wilkes Barre-Scranton, PA 2.1
WGKX/Norfolk 3.1
WGXX/Memphis 3.0
WGNA/Albany, NY 3.2
WGNE/Jacksonville, FL 1.8
WGTY/York, PA 2.0
WIL/St. Louis 3.9
WIOV/Lancaster, PA 3.2
WIRK/West Palm Beach, FL 2.4
WITL/Lansing, MI 1.6
WIVK/Knoxville, TN 5.9
WKDF/Nashville 1.7
WKX/Atlanta 7.0
WKIS/Miami 4.2
WKKO/Toledo, OH 2.7
WKML/Milwaukee 4.3
WMQZ/Washington, DC 6.5
WNKT/Charlotte, Scranton 2.7
WQGL/WOGH, WQGH, WOGP/Pittsburgh 4.5
WOGK/Gainesville, FL 2.7
WPCV/Lakeland, FL 3.8
WPXK/Springfield, MA 1.8
WPOC/Baltimore 6.7
WQDR/Raleigh, NC 4.7
WQHK/Ft. Wayne, IN 1.5
WQMX/Akron, OH 2.6
WQYK/Tampa 5.0
WRBT/Harrisburg, PA 2.6
WRNS/Greenville, NC 2.4
WSIX/Nashville 2.0
WSJR/Wilkes Barre-Scranton, PA 1.0
WSLC/Roanoke, VA 1.8
WSM/Nashville 2.3
WSOC/Charlotte 2.5
WSSSL/Greenville, SC 2.5
WTQR/Greensboro-Winston Salem, NC 3.2
WUBE/Cincinnati 3.9
WUSN/Chicago 9.3
WUSY/Chattanooga, TN 2.7
WWGR/Ft. Myers, FL 1.5
WWNU/Columbia, SC .7
WWQM/Madison, WI 1.2
WWYH/Hartford 5.7
WXBB/Bristol-Johnson City, TN-VA 2.9
WXTU/Philadelphia 10.0
WYCD/Detroit 7.8
WYK/Baton Rouge, LA 2.0
WYPY/Baton Rouge, LA .9
WYRK/Buffalo 4.4

WKKT/Charlotte 2.8
WKL/Boston 6.5
WKSJ/Mobile, AL 2.1
WMLL/Milwaukee 4.3
WMQZ/Washington, DC 6.5
WNK/Charleston, SC .8
WQGL/WOGH, WQGH, WOGP/Pittsburgh 4.5
WOGK/Gainesville, FL 2.7
WPCV/Lakeland, FL 3.8
WPXK/Springfield, PA 1.8
WPOC/Baltimore 6.7
WQDR/Raleigh, NC 4.7
WQHK/Ft. Wayne, IN 1.5
WQMX/Akron, OH 2.6
WQYK/Tampa 5.0
WRBT/Harrisburg, PA 2.6
WRNS/Greenville, NC 2.4
WSIX/Nashville 2.0
WSJR/Wilkes Barre-Scranton, PA 1.0
WSLC/Roanoke, VA 1.8
WSM/Nashville 2.3
WSOC/Charlotte 2.5
WSSSL/Greenville, SC 2.5
WTQR/Greensboro-Winston Salem, NC 3.2
WUBE/Cincinnati 3.9
WUSN/Chicago 9.3
WUSY/Chattanooga, TN 2.7
WWGR/Ft. Myers, FL 1.5
WWNU/Columbia, SC .7
WWQM/Madison, WI 1.2
WWYH/Hartford 5.7
WXBB/Bristol-Johnson City, TN-VA 2.9
WXTU/Philadelphia 10.0
WYCD/Detroit 7.8
WYK/Baton Rouge, LA 2.0
WYPY/Baton Rouge, LA .9
WYRK/Buffalo 4.4
Country Aircheck Activator Panel

Country Aircheck’s new Activator Chart will debut next Monday, Jan. 8, 2007. Here are the new Activator Reporters, with those stations monitored by Mediabase in Bold.

Mediabase monitored stations can report adds and non-monitored stations can enter adds and playlists each week at airplayaddboard.com starting each Thursday morning and ending Monday afternoon at 3pm ET-Noon PT. If you need your User Name or Password, please email Lon Helton at lon@countryaircheck.com.

KAFF/Flagstaff, AZ
KBUL/Reno, NV
KGKL/San Angelo, TX
KGNC/Amarillo, TX
KHKK/Odessa-Midland, TX
KIAJ/Mason City, IA
KIQX/Joplin, MO
KJLO/Monroe, LA
KKCB/Duluth-Superior, MN-WI
KKIX/Fayetteville, AR
KKJG/San Luis Obispo, CA
KKNU/Eugene, OR
KLLL/Lubbock, TX
KNUE/Tyler, TX
KOUT/Rapid City, SD
KPLM/Palm Springs, CA
KRAZ/Santa Barbara, CA
KRRV/Alexandria, LA
KKWQ/Eden Prairie, MN
KYSU/Sioux City, IA
KTTS/Springfield, MO
KUAD/Beaumont, TX
KUUR/Beaumont, TX
KVOX/Fargo-Moorhead, ND-MN
KXDB/Yakima, WA
KKKS/Shreveport, LA
KVKR/Beaumont, TX
KYSM/Mankato, MN
KZKS/Minneapolis, MN
WACO/Waco, TX
WAYZ/Hagerstown, MD
WBAM/Montgomery, AL
WBBN/Laurel-Hattiesburg, MS
WBFL/Shelby, WI
WBUL/Lexington, KY
WBWN/Bloomington, IL
WBYT/South Bend, IN
WCEN/Saginaw
WCTY/New London, CT
WDEZ/Wausau-Stevens Point, WI
WEGX/Florence, SC
WFBE/Flint, MI
WFLS/Fredericksburg, VA
WFRG/Utica-Rome, NY
WFRE/Frederick, MD
WFYR/Peoria, IL
WGSO/Cookeville, TN
WGTR/Myrtle Beach, SC
WHKK/Bluefield, WV
WHKK/Binghamton, NY
WIBL/Augusta, GA
WIBW/Topeka, KS
WILQ/Williamsport, PA
WIXY/Champaign, IL
WJLS/Beckley, WV
WKCQ/Saginaw, MI
WKDQ/Evansville, IN
WKML/Fayetteville, NC
WKOA/Lafayette, IN
WKSF/Asheville, NC
WKXQ/Augusta, GA
WLLR/Quad Cities, IL-IA
WMDM/Muncie-Marion, IN
WMRF/Jackson, MS
WMUS/Muskegon, MI
WNCY/Appleton, WI
WNMN/Kalamazoo, MI
WOKK/Meridian, MS
WOKO/Burlington, VT
WOKQ/Portsmouth, NH
WOVV/Wheeling, WV
WPAP/Panama City, FL
WPOV/Portland, ME
WPRU/Atlantic City, NJ
WQBE/Charleston, WV
WQRB/Eau Claire, WI
WRSF/Columbia, NC
WRWD/Poughkeepsie, NY
WTCA/Traverse City, MI
WTCH/Toledo, OH
WTVY/Dothan, AL
WUSJ/Jackson, MS
WUSQ/Huntington, VA
WWFG/Salisbury-Ocean City, MD
WWWW/Ann Arbor, MI
WWZD/Tupelo, MS
WXBM/Pensacola, FL
WXFL/Florence, AL
WXTA/Erie, PA
WYCT/Pensacola, FL
WZKK/Gulfport, MS

XM Satellite Radio: Highway 16
Sirius Satellite: New Country
Jones Radio: US Country
Jones Radio: CD Country
Dial-Global: Hot Country

This Song is UNFORGETTABLE from the First Listen!
- Clayton Allen / KAJA

“Get to” Blue County

Adds Include:
KEEY, WIRK, WQYK, WXBG, WBEE, WPCV, WNKT, KIZN, KDRK, KQFC, KXXK, WQHK, KJUG

“A Positive Song from two of the hardest working guys in the format… you don’t have to play Blue County, You Get To!” - Craig Allen, KXXK