

Radio **FREE** New York

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LONGTIME NY RADIO PIRATE BROADCASTERS RETURN TO THE AIR LEGALLY, BRINGING FREE RADIO, MUSIC, FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT TO THE SHORTWAVE BAND FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME.

BROOKLYN, NY: A group of radio pirates that have been a thorn in the FCC's side since 1975 have begun broadcasting their brand of "Free" radio to the entire nation as well as the world...this time without the fear of FCC break-in or government intervention!

The founders of **Radio FREE New York** (including founders of **Radio NewYork(sic) International**), have taken to the airwaves over radio station **WWCR** Nashville's 100,000 watt world wide signal, **Saturdays at 11PM ET**. For three hours each week, Radio FREE New York treats the world to their own brand of music and fun...a formula they have been honing since 1975.

Hank Hayes and **Jim Nazium** were first raided by the FCC as teenagers, operating radio station **WCPR** from the small bedroom of a NYC housing project. Since then, operating stations **WFAT**, **WGUT** and the legendary **WHOT** as well as being part of the infamous off-shore station **RNI**. Hank and Jim have suffered through **four** additional FCC raids, including a **sixteen state** dragnet. In 1979 the FCC formed a special unit of over 15 agents from eight field offices including agents stationed atop the World Trade Center in New York City and along the Eastern Seaboard in order to catch the pair in action. The final bust came in 1989 as the FCC and U.S. Marshals seized the entire cache of **WHOT** equipment at gunpoint.

Hayes and **Nazium**, along with fellow **RNI** alumni **Pete Sayek** and **Ivan Jefferies** have formed **Radio FREE New York** and are poised to change the face of American short wave radio. Joining them are record industry professional **Jay Fink**, pop culture historian **Steve Short**, former **WHOT** personalities **Terry Walker** and **Joe E. Reynolds**, along with newcomers **Will Power** and **John Parker**.

Their world wide broadcasts can be heard every **Saturday Night** on **WWCR Clear Channel 7520 kHz at 11:00 PM Eastern Time (0400 UTC)**.

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PARTIAL LIST OF HANK AND JIM "FREE" RADIO STATIONS

WCPR-AM (1620 kHz): On November 14th, 1975, WCPR began broadcasting to the Eastern Seaboard of the United States with less than 100 watts of power. For several weeks, "John Doe" and "Perry Harris" brought the music of The Beatles and live phone calls to the late night radio audience. Although short-lived, WCPR left a lasting impression many of its listeners. On the final broadcast of February 7, 1976, WCPR was raided and shut down by the FCC, live on the air.

WFAT-AM (1620 kHz): After nearly a two-year period of sporadic broadcasting, "Hal Hall" and "Larry McRae" boldly returned to regularly-scheduled broadcasts on December 31, 1977. Sensing a void in New York radio, they presented "the **only** locally-originated, AM, late-night, open-topic talk show" available at the time and built a huge following during the course of the station's sixteen-month on-air tenure. During most of this time, by either good fortune or sheer coincidence, WFAT avoided being caught in a massive FCC dragnet. The end came on April 19, 1979 when eight FCC agents (including the head of the New York field office) descended upon the station in mid-broadcast, resulting in court action and a cease-and-desist order.

WHOT-AM & FM (1620 kHz and 91-1/2 MHz): After a change in location and a heightened awareness of the need for secrecy, WHOT made its premiere broadcast on September 27, 1980, beginning a string of broadcasts that would eventually set a new endurance record for American underground broadcasting. What began as a low-power (three watts) community station serving the immediate vicinity ultimately became known as "the largest underground broadcast facility on the East Coast" on AM and FM boasting listeners in nineteen states and two Canadian Provinces spread over two time zones.

WHOT's programming combined talented personalities with an inherent love of radio with great music, a touch of humor, innovative audio processing, and classic jingles to produce a totally unique format and style. Listeners were treated to a nightly dose of high-energy wild fun that gave the legitimate stations a run for their money...and did so without ever airing a single commercial. T-shirts, stickers, pens and other assorted prizes were given away during the station's nine-year run, all paid for out of WHOT's pocket.

The party finally came to an end on July 6, 1989 when FCC agents, along with armed Federal Marshals burst into the studio and proceeded to confiscate over \$5,000 worth of equipment, which remains in government hands to this day. This experience is what ultimately convinced the pirates to "go legal".

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BIOGRAPHIES

Hank Hayes: One of the first questions FCC agents posed to Al Weiner and Ivan Jefferies on the deck of the MV Sarah was, "Where's Hank Hayes?". A member of the FCC's Ten Most Wanted List since his on-air debut in 1975, Hank has somehow managed to avoid serious trouble and/or jail time as of this writing. Now, a success in the world of ice cream retailing and co-owner of **HOT Productions** (a Brooklyn-based recording studio) Hank brings his 15 years of radio experience (both legal and otherwise) to Radio FREE New York.

Jim Nazium: As a young boy, Jim experimented with and built his own radio transmitters from scratch. His exploits in underground radio are well documented by both his listeners and the United States Government. Jim's radio stations have been the target of **five** FCC "raids": the last culminating in the arrest and seizure of over \$5,000 worth of equipment by armed federal marshals. In addition to being a swingin' DJ, Jim is an accomplished self-trained musician, recording artist and producer, inspired by his love of The Beatles. Now, Jim takes to the short wave band to be hard without fear of arrest.

Pete Sayek: In the world of pirate radio, there are few people as versatile as Pete. His talent and wit have graced the airwaves since 1983 when he joined the staff of **WHOT**. Apart from his successes in the world of radio, Pete is a baseball fanatic, a guitarist and a student of music in general (and The Beatles in particular). In addition, Pete collects classic 1960s and 70s radio jingles and airchecks as a hobby. Pete's love of classic radio shines through each one of his broadcasts.

Steve Short: Relatively new to the wonderful world of radio, Steve has been a serious student of pop music since his entry into the Beatles collecting world at the age of nine. Sixteen years later, Steve finds himself as Radio FREE New York's foremost authority on pop culture, including old TV shows, Warner Brothers cartoons and much more. Currently residing in Brooklyn's fashionable Sheepshead Bay area, Mr. Short is a pack rat of knowledge...and desperately seeks information about the old cartoon series, "DoDo, The Kid From Outer Space".

Terry Walker: Terence Alexander Walker III has been involved in radio for over a decade, both with **WHOT** and elsewhere. He has very strong opinions on the present state of the broadcast industry, and will not be afraid to speak his mind on Radio FREE New York.

John Parker: Following a long-running stint as WKRB-FM's morning man, John has embarked on a successful career in the music industry. He currently occupies a management position at Profile Records in New York, which gives him unique insight into the relationship between radio and the recording industry. John adds his unique personality and insight to Radio FREE New York's staff.

Ivan Jefferies: Ivan brings a wealth of music and radio knowledge to Radio FREE New York, as well as the fun-loving personality that made him a regular and favorite at **WHOT**. Ivan will be providing special reports on some of the biggest personalities in radios' past, as well as his usual "unique" commentary and insight.