

KPRL Paso Robles CA 1230 kHz

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Date: Thu, 19 Jan 2006 10:31:30 -0800
To: mika@makelainen.com
From: Joe Benson <oaktree@fix.net>
Subject: KPRL Radio in Finland



Mika -

Since I don't have a bumper sticker to send at this time, something maybe a little more unique ... and frameable.

I've sent many a QSL card and information on various radio stations in the past -- but never a radio "story" for our newscasts for tomorrow morning and noon.

This is something special for you that I hope you will enjoy. If I can record it, I will send you a copy.

For now, please enjoy this ... and know that at 6:10 Pacific Time tomorrow morning ... you will be proudly mentioned in our hourly news.

Here's what I've written ...

Regards,

Joe Benson
News Director
KPRL Radio
Paso Robles, CA 93447 USA

The mighty 1000 watt blowtorch ... in Finland!

It's Friday ... and many times we like to end the week on a positive, sometimes unique and often funny note.

This non-news report is just one of those ... but, actually, one of considerable interest to those of us who love radio ... and especially, those people who love to listen to it ... especially if that means listening to KPRL wherever you may be.

Now, we know that when the sun goes down, it seems in the winter that KPRL sounds like, say, Radio Finland ... in portions of Atascadero, just 10 miles away ... or, like nothing but static in Morro Bay, first thing in the morning, until the sun comes up.

Then, the 1000 watt blowtorch we know and love as KPRL is pretty much easily heard up towards King City and to the Cuesta Grade.

But now...we're proud to say ... that at least for the moment ... the radio voice of the

North County has a family of fans ... in Finland ... right outside of Helsinki, the nation's capital.

And, no ... it's not on the Internet. Listen...it's KPRL in Finland just a few days ago ... on the 5th of January...thanks to a big radio receiver and a very very long wire antenna...

(KPRL dx 0119 Q: Doug Limmerick)

While most of us sleep at 2 a.m on the West Coast. ... someone in Finland ... Mika Makelainen, had some idle time twirling the radio dial during her daytime hours... and found us deep in the static and fading in and out of radioland.

Our new radio friend is a reporter for the Finnish version of Public Broadcasting ... YLE television and has also reported worldwide for CNN on all things Finnish ... like reindeer and such, I imagine. Finland, after all, is in the news here ... about as much as Paso Robles is in Finland.

We received a wonderful two page letter and tape yesterday, complete with family picture ... and it gave both Kevin and me cause to stop a moment to reflect on just how radio really does work ... even small stations in small communities in a big world.

To those many of our home area ... we are very grateful for you joining us each day ... and we may not tell you that enough.

To those who can't listen to us on the Internet ... we sure would like to, but thanks to "regulations" ... it's a huge challenge.

And to those ... in Finland ... like Mika ... who were as amazed as we were ... our thanks for sharing a few seconds of who we are ... before we faded into the ether of static and noise...for you to hear.

And to those really into this kind of stuff ... realize that somewhere, somehow, out there in the cosmos above ... what you hear today won't be heard on distant planets for years, yet ... and stargazers won't hear from us for light years.

In Finland, we hope to pop back into your atmosphere again soon.

We're out there. Somewhere. And we thank you.

We come in peace.

KPRL News time is ... 6:17.