

# WIOX<sup>91.3FM</sup> in the Catskills

### WIOX Radio 91.3 FM

2335 Co Rd 41 | Roxbury, NY



Contributed photos

From Left Bonnie Mitchell, Chris Hensley, Office Manager Nanci Panuccio, Mike Teitelbaum and Joe Piasek.



WIOX is run from the rented second story of this 1884 Masonic Lodge in Roxbury.

Jonathan Ment | For Columbia-Greene Media

Just what is WIOX?

Community. ... Drop the mic.

But seriously, that one word is the foundation for Roxbury-based WIOX Community Radio, broadcasting at 91.3 FM, streaming online and simulcast on MTC Channel 20.

What would become WIOX started with a 'micro-transmitter' discarded by a be-hemoth broadcaster and tested atop a silo owned by founder and future Station Manager Joe Piasek, circa 2002.

After three years broadcasting under different call letters, WIOX launched with an FCC license in 2010 granted to the Town of Roxbury, according to Piasek, an instructor at SUNY Delhi known in media circles for his decades in radio and television. WSKG Public Media, which acquired the station in 2014, will transfer the license to WIOX, Inc. this spring.

The station will also soon transmit from a new antenna at 3,000 feet, increasing its range up to tenfold. "We could reach as far as Windham," says Community Relations Manager Chris Hensley; while acknowledging the future of broadcasting is streaming, not terrestrial radio.

"We are the only licensed educational non-profit radio station in Delaware County. That means WIOX is judged on the strength of its relationships with the community," explains Hensley, who previously worked in artist development at RCA.

"We have over 85 hosts, 60-plus shows. They control the content. As long they comply with FCC requirements," says Hensley.

All are volunteers and even Volunteer Coordinator Bonnie Mitchell, who'd never considered hosting a show, found her love of music put her on the air too.

"Our partners ... all of these come together The powerhouse of collaboration or community, results in content for broadcast, money to pay the bills and a great deal of expertise and credibility. We find the radio station is providing a connective force," says Piasek.

WIOX is not a pay-to-play station. You can't buy time, or commercials. There are no pledge drives.

"Underwriter announcements are part of your show. We don't take 'breaks.' That's an invitation for listeners to go away," says Production Manager and show host Michael Teitelbaum.

Catskill Center for Conservation and Development Executive Director Jeff Senterman inherited his co-host seat for the long-running "Catskill Digest" from his predecessor.

"It's a talk show ... with guests that have experience in other areas, run organizations or are newsmakers. We try to have a low-key conversation about issues that are important to the Catskills," says Senterman.

Elsewhere on the schedule are programs on health, art, mythology, farming, diverse musical genres and more. Many are also podcast. The lineup can be found at [wioxradio.org](http://wioxradio.org).

Hosting three diverse shows is a sea change for retired mortgage banker Glen Pedersen; but a return to the radio, TV and film he studied before switching majors.

"I was sitting on the board of the Roxbury Arts Group with Joe Piasek ... He mentioned to me he wanted to start this ... and within 10 days of retirement I was the director of development and raised \$25,000 before we even went on the air," says Pedersen, also treasurer of WIOX Inc., adding, "I attribute that to the business community here. This is not a particularly rich area and they just got behind it. With over 80 volunteers for hosts, it's really remarkable, the quality of the radio station ... it's just incredible ... it is a community."

**WIOX Radio 91.3 FM | [www.wioxradio.org](http://www.wioxradio.org) | (607) 326-3900**