14th Anniversary
The Computer Corner Radio Show

Not many specialized radio shows last these days, but this one did. Computer Corner started on WCOJ 14 years ago and it has an interesting history and its still on.

Gene Mitchell started at WCOJ in 2003 after then owner Lloyd Roach approached him to do remote engineering and operate the board for the Phillies games and Sunday Church broadcasts. Mitchell did broadcast engineering and hosting at the college radio station in Valparaiso, Indiana (Valparaiso Technical Institute). Mitchell quickly suggested a computer show, but Lloyd responded that everything that goes on the air must be sponsored. The idea sat on the back burner till WCOJ hired a consultant to come up with ways to increase listeners. One of those ways suggested was to have a computer show. Since Mitchell was already there and had a computer shop at the time, Roach asked Mitchell if he was serious about doing a show. Mitchell said yes, and it was scheduled for the first Wednesday in October when the Phillies games were finished. The show became a hit with listeners. A special computer was made available at the audio board so emails could be received and answered on air during the show. During the first 4 years, Mitchell had a sidekick, Joe Hubler, another computer guru, who Mitchell asked to accompany him in case he froze up. Turns out, Lloyd suggested to Gene to keep a second host.

The format of the show is lots of computer news and information, sometimes, special topics, and then listener email and call-ins.

The show lasted exactly 4 years till WCOJ was sold to the Catholic Radio network at the end of September of 2008. Mitchell was bombarded at his shop in Frazer with queries about continuing the show.   He quickly came up with the idea of starting an internet radio station to do just that. One of his listeners put up the $1500 needed for an audio board and phone hybrid. Missing only a week from when WCOJ went dark,

Mitchell created what he called the Fifth Dimension Radio Network or www.5DRadio.com to stream the show. The name came from the BBS or Computer Bulletin Board he started back in the early 80's.

Bee-Net, a local Chester County ISP, has given 5DRadio and free web page, an email address, and even space for all 14 years of the podcasts.

Mitchell had the internet station up and running, only to find there were so many listeners on the stream, that the free software kept crashing. That was fixed the following week with a professional version of the software. The Streaming software could record the number of listeners and week 2 showed over 700 listeners.

Hubler was not interested in continuing to co-host the show, so Mitchell asked Joe Myshko, a security consultant who came in once a month to be his co-host. Myshko has been on the show with Mitchell for the last 10 years. There is no formal advertising, only

the callers and visitors to Mitchell's shop. Interestingly, the show has listeners from many states, who occasionally listen in and pass on comments.

Within a month or so, WCHE's Bill Mason contacted Mitchell about carrying the show on real radio, 1520AM. Mitchell agreed and the show returned to the real airwaves adding countless additional listeners. Mitchell had quite a following. He had his customers, friends of the many rotary clubs where he had membership, his ham radio friends, and he had friends from the former roller rink he used to run in Kimberton.

The show was broadcast from his store in Frazer from 2008 for about 6 months till Mitchell sold the Store and shop. The shop and studio then moved to his house. He used a construction trailer as his studio.

Mitchell formerly retired in 2016, but still does the show because his listeners still want it. He hasn't been paid for any broadcasting since he left WCOJ. He used the show to promote his computer sales and repair business. Mitchell spends about an hour a day researching news and information for the show and that keeps him busy.

In the last month, the show has had so many listeners on the stream, that the streaming server had to be replaced with a more powerful one, a quad-core Intel.

Mitchell has recorded every show from the very first one and they are available as podcasts on iTunes and Google's podcast site at 5DRadio.blogspot.com