



The

Broadcasters' Desktop Resource

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... edited by Barry Mishkind – the Eclectic Engineer

Tom Osenkowsky

1955 – 2017

Tom Osenkowsky passed away from Cancer on Sunday August 27, 2017. He was a warm broadcaster who was known for his expertise, sharing, and enjoyment of a chuckle or three. He was 62.



Thomas Gary Osenkowsky
January 27, 1955 – August 26, 2017

Son of Thomas and Mary Osenkowsky, Tom was born in New York City, moving to Brookfield, CT with his family. After graduation from Brookfield High School, Tom went on to attend Central Connecticut State University for a while, but after getting married, he went to work at Automation Industries, learning, as he said, about manufacturing.

Then, Tom broke into radio, as a news stringer for WINE in Brookfield. For a while, he was “Smokin’ Tom Gary on WLAD. From there, he went to Chief Engineer of WOWW (AM) in Naugatuck, then WAVZ/WKCI in New Haven, CT. Over the years, he redesigned a TV antenna and worked for WRCQ/WRCH, WNHU, WQAQ, WVOF, and WNTY. He even attracted some clients in the Carribean.

Tom enjoyed flying and computer programming, having authored a series of applications, including some to assist in the design and construction of AM Directionals in the 1970’s and 1980’s, and which are still used by some engineers. He often helped others solve problems. One legacy he left behind: Tom wrote up a number of his tips and tricks for maintaining some MW and SX transmitters (posted on www.olderadio.com), and which are still being accessed today.

Picked to assist in editing the NAB Engineering Handbook, Tom worked on at least two editions, including one just released in 2017.

Over the years, Tom wrote for several industry publications and was present in several on-line email lists. He was always ready to help someone who needed assistance in solving a problem. He also exhibited a sharp wit that often had readers asking if he was serious or joking. It was never mean or nasty, but we learned to pay attention to what Tom wrote, as there was always a gem hidden in there.

In later years, Tom developed renal failure, but kept going, personally caring for both his parents as they become infirm, until they passed away in 2007 and 2008. He participated in some chemo tests for his cancer, but finally decided he had enough and announced his discontinuing of the medications – so he could concentrate on enjoying his final weeks.

Tom's passing is a loss to the industry and he will be missed by many whom he touched over the years.

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