

INTERNET RADIO ON THE ROAD, SAFELY

A Learn in 30 presentation

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For PATACS+OPCUG

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Why you should be interested in this topic

- Internet radio stations provide an amazing variety of music styles.
- Many local stations can be received via internet.
- Learn how to find the internet stations of interest to you.
- Free apps for your phone and tablet provide access to the streaming audio from internet stations.
- Learn how to connect your phone or tablet to your car stereo for great sound quality in the car.

What this tech cannot do

- Turn your Android or Apple portable device into an AM/FM radio receiver

AGENDA

- How to find Internet radio stations.
- How to add those stations to an app on your phone or tablet.
- How to listen safely in the car, using simple app buttons to choose a station for listening
- How to connect your phone or tablet to your car stereo.

**PART 1:
FINDING
INTERNET RADIO
STATIONS**

FINDING STATIONS

- My own music interest is unusual: progressive rock, which dominated FM radio in the 70s.
- Examples: Yes, Genesis, ELP, Styx, Procol Harum, Pink Floyd, Moody Blues, Chicago, Kansas, Santana
- Some of these bands still exist, and other in that genre come and go.
- The internet makes it economical for stations to “narrowcast”, appealing to widely scattered audiences.
- Google is your friend for finding stations of interest to you.

My experience as an example

- During the 2000s, I had learned of one Internet station because the station sponsored a prog rock concert series I attended.
- Aural Moon: www.auralmoon.com
- A couple of years ago, I found on the Aural Moon web site a short list of other Internet radio stations playing the same genre of music.
- That find led me to Google-search for more Internet radio stations in this genre. I found more than a dozen.



Each station has a web site

- Aural Moon provided links to the web sites of other stations.
- The internet radio station sites typically provide URLs for a variety of player apps (WinAmp, Shoutcast, Windows Media Player, iTunes, etc)
- Hover the mouse on the app to see the URL
- A URL ending in PLS generally works best for listening using an app for phones and tablets.

PART 2.

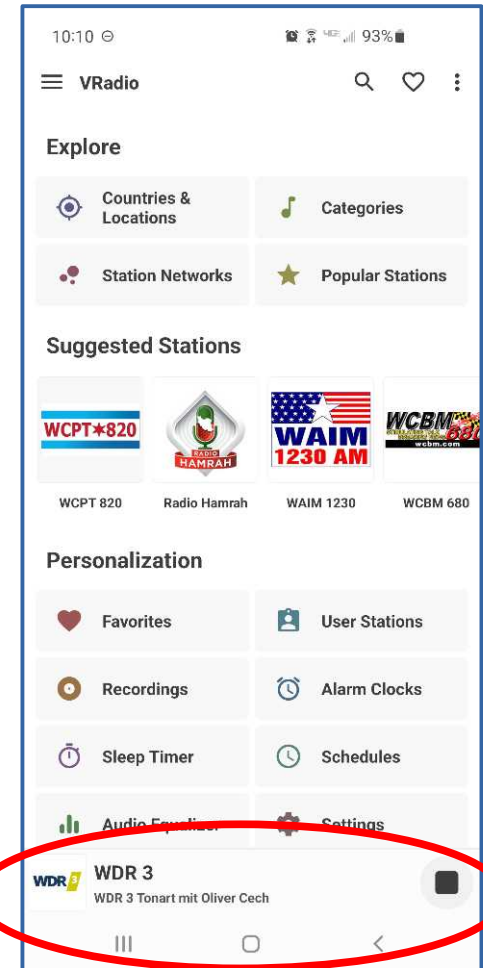
APPS

At the same time, I sought an app


- I wanted to listen anywhere, not just in front of a computer.
- It turned out that **VLC for Android**, which I had installed previously, could receive and play internet radio stations.
- I found that the VLC for Android user interface had two issues: unable to store more than 5 stations, and difficult to change stations while driving.

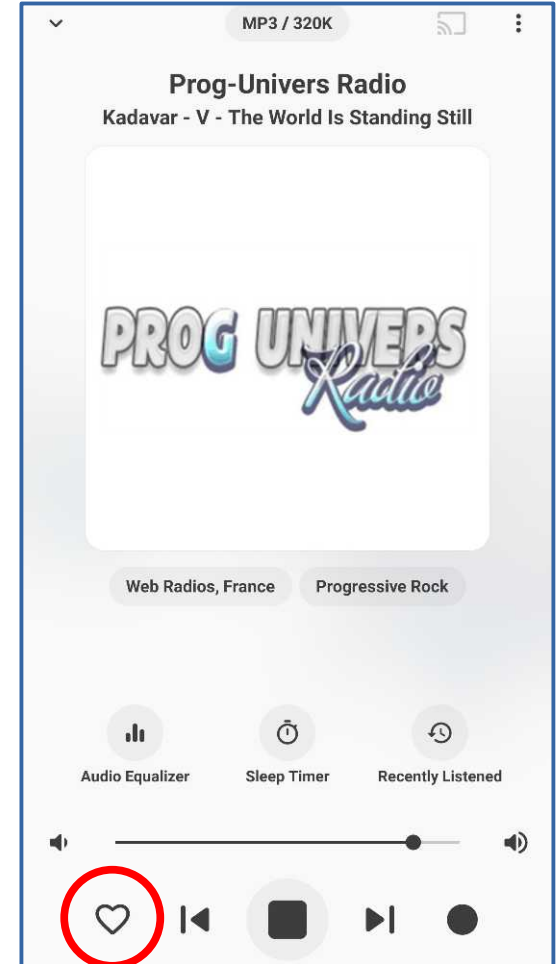
The VRadio app for Android

- This app provides several valuable capabilities.
- The main screen includes features we will explore: **User Stations, Favorites, and Categories.**
- The station currently playing is identified at the bottom, and includes a **■ Stop icon.**
- Tap the station name to see more info.



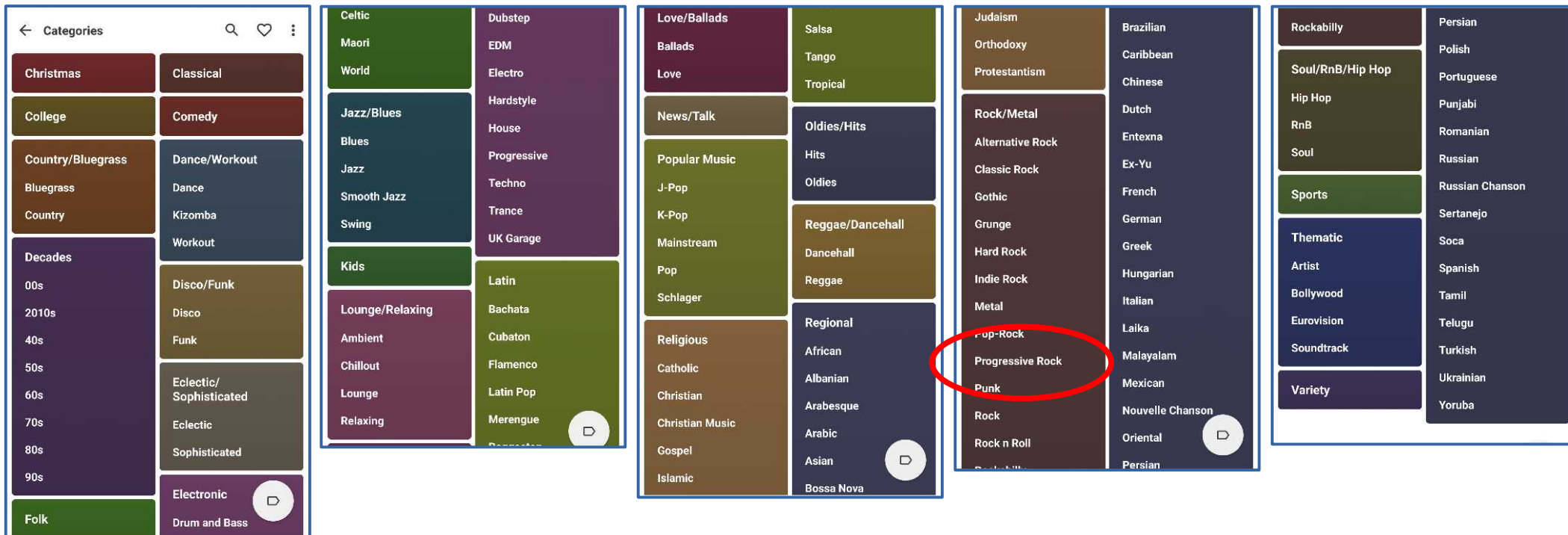
The VRadio app for Android

- The the **Station Info** screen is shown here.
- The screen includes not only the Stop icon, but also an  **Add to Favorites** icon.
- Tap that icon, and the station is added to the Favorites screen.
- If the station is already included in Favorites, then the Add to Favorites icon is black.



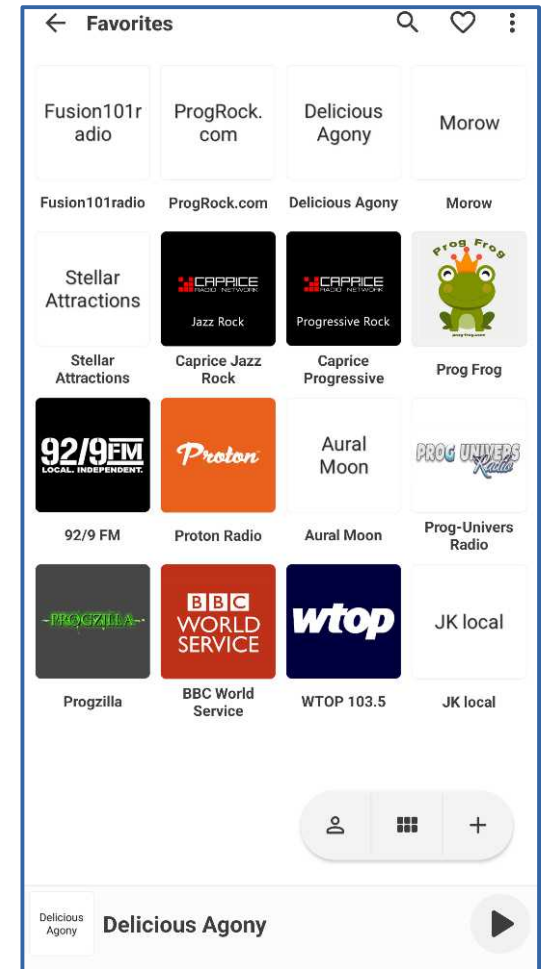
The VRadio app for Android

- The **Categories** screen is shown here. It is quite long.
- Tap any category to browse and audition stations.




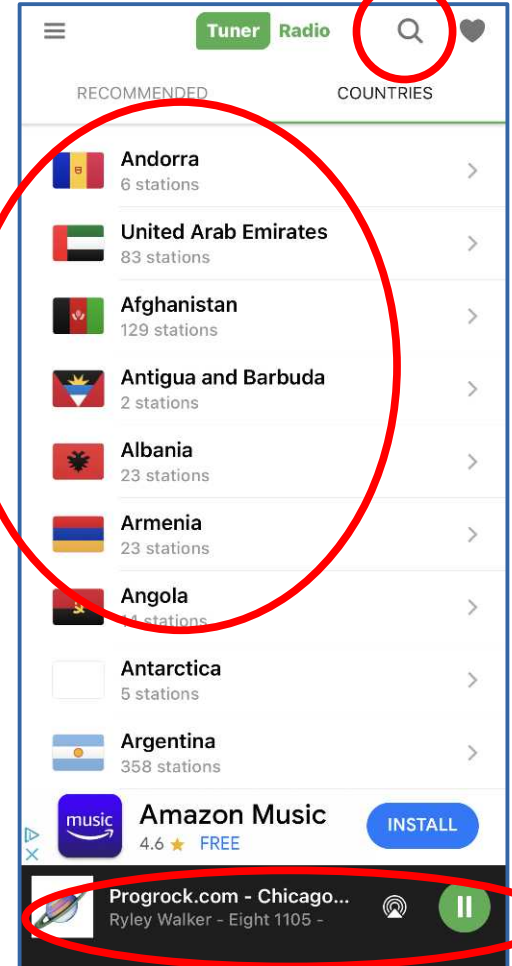
The VRadio app for Android

- The **Favorites** screen is shown here.
- This is the screen I use for listening on the road. Tap a button to hear a station.
- I think the buttons are major safety feature.
- Favorite stations chosen via the **Categories** screen include art in the station button, making those buttons easier to recognize at a glance.



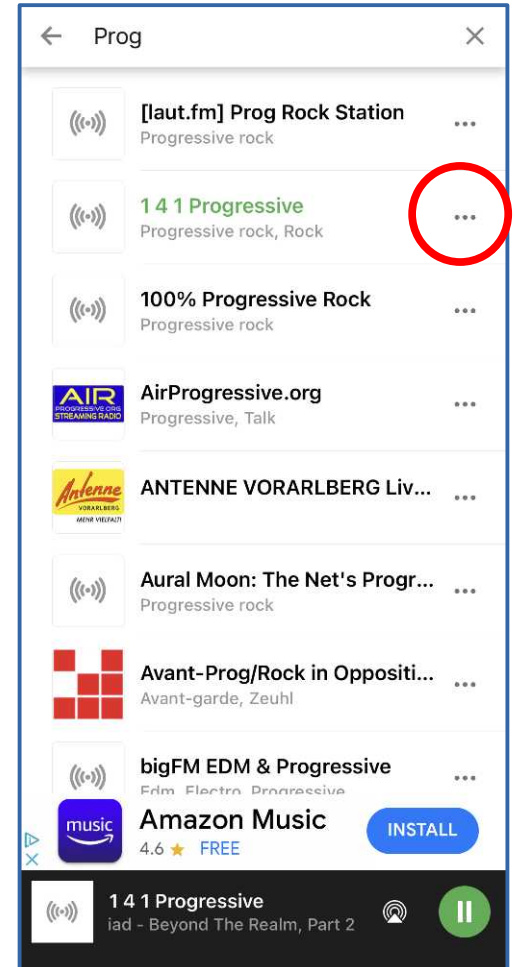
The Tuner app for iOS

- This app presents visual ads that ***do not interrupt*** the station being played.
- Some stations play their own audio ads.
- The station name, artist name and song title being played appear at the bottom of the screen.
- This app organizes stations by country rather than by music genre.
- The app provides a  **Search icon** in the upper right corner.



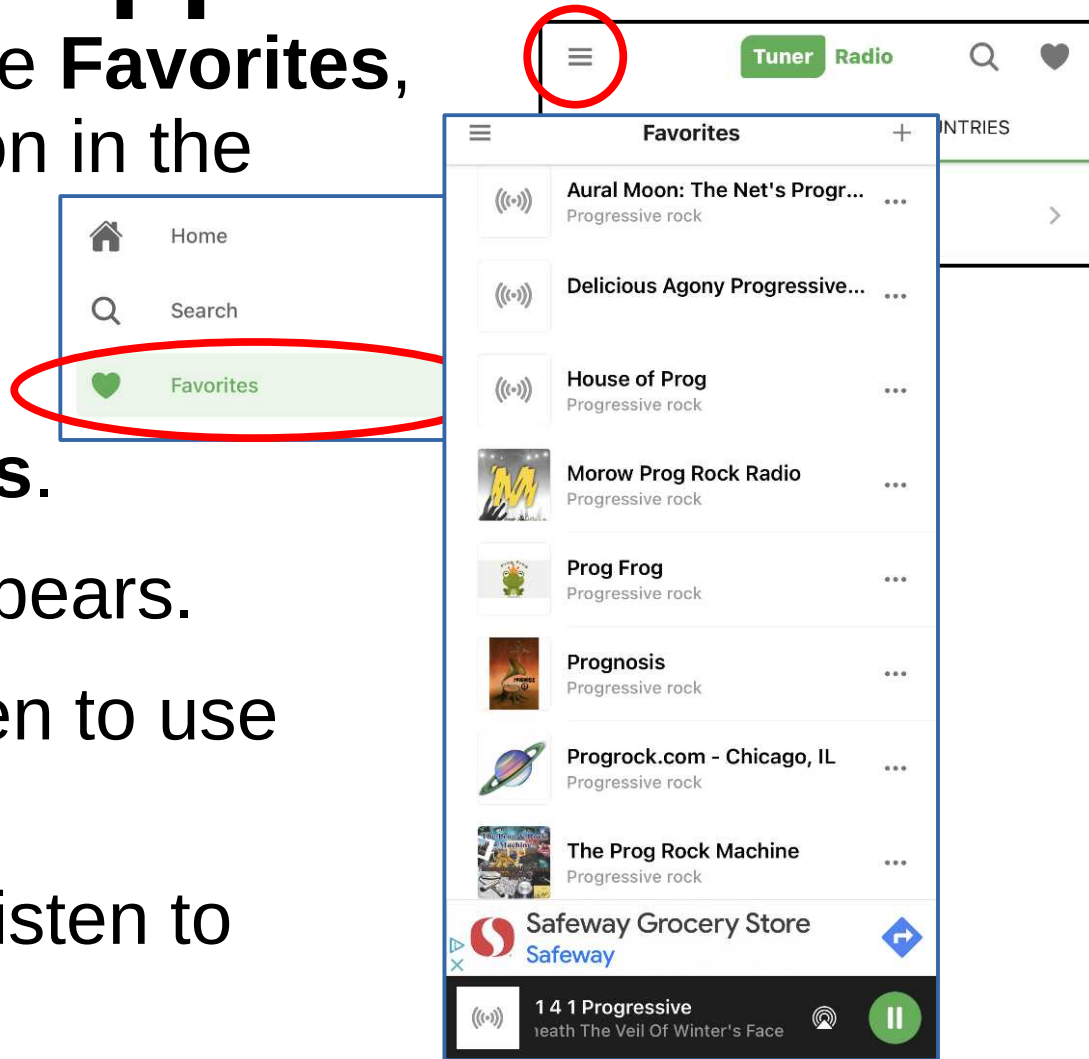
The Tuner app for iOS

- The **Search Results** screen can be very long.
- Tap a station name to listen to it.
- If you like the station, then tap the **... three-dot** icon to its right in Search Results.
- A popup appears. Tap the popup to add the station to Favorites.



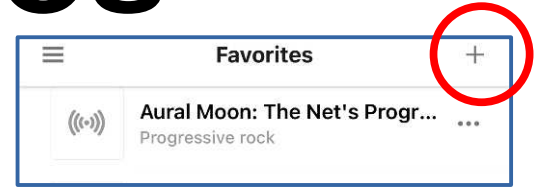
The Tuner app for iOS

- In the Home screen, to see **Favorites**, tap the **☰ Hamburger** icon in the upper left corner.
- A menu appears.
- In the menu, tap **Favorites**.
- The **Favorites** screen appears.
- Favorites is the best screen to use while driving.
- Tap any station button to listen to that station.



The Tuner app for iOS

- In the Favorites screen, tap the + icon to add stations found using Google.
- The **Add Station screen** appears.
- Fill in all you can. The station's stream URL is mandatory.
- The **Save button** in the upper right corner becomes active.
- Tap that button to add the station to Favorites.



PART 3.
CONNECTING TO
YOUR CAR STEREO

Using an AUX cable

- Your car stereo must have (1) a choice in its input menu for AUX or Auxiliary and (2) a round socket for receiving audio the old-fashioned way, meaning analog.
- An AUX cable has a stereo plug on each end.
- Plug one cable end into your phone's headphone socket, and another end into your car's AUX socket.
- My 2015 Toyota Prius AUX socket is located in the Console storage area between the two front seats.



Note about recent iPhones

- A few models back, Apple eliminated the headphone socket on iPhones.
- You can buy a **Lightning to headset adapter**.
- You can charge your phone with a wireless **phone charger** while your phone plays music.
- OR you can use Bluetooth without an audio cable, and still charge the phone with Lightning or wireless.



Using Bluetooth

- Your car stereo must have a Bluetooth choice in its inputs menu, and the ability to **pair** with another Bluetooth audio device.
- During the pairing process, one of the two devices (car stereo and phone) must be in **discoverable status**, and the other one must **search** for discoverable devices.
- It is probably easier to make your car stereo discoverable, like earbuds or portable speakers, and use your phone to search for discoverable devices.

Using Bluetooth

- The searching device reports that the discoverable device has been found, and asks for your permission to pair. Grant that permission.
- The car stereo may display a numeric code to type into your phone. If the phone asks for the code, then supply that code.
- After pairing is completed, you can select Bluetooth input of your car stereo, tell your phone to connect to your car stereo, and play music.

Supporting your phone in your car

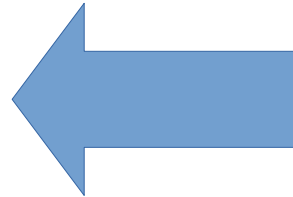
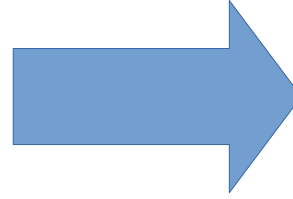
- Good options:
Support that sits in a cup holder
(I use this for my phone), and
Support that telescopes from the windshield
(I use this for my car GPS)
- Vent supports generally fail quickly.

Service limitations

- Cell phone towers are not available everywhere
- Intentionally limited in larger national parks to avoid marring the scenery (Yellowstone, for instance)
- Intentionally limited around Green Bank WV to minimize interference with radio-telescope operations
- Sometimes bandwidth is low when many people use a single low-bandwidth cell tower simultaneously
- Some mountainous rural areas have very few cell towers and low bandwidth per tower

Apps mentioned

Vradio app for Android
Scan the QR code to find
it in the Play Store



Tuner app for Apple
Scan this QR code to
find it in the App Store

Did you notice?

- One of the stations in my VRadio app Favorites is named **JK local**.
- I stream audio from my computer, using the VLC application for Windows, to play a VLC playlist.
- Any computer, iPhone or Android phone or tablet connected to my LAN can receive that station.
- How to stream audio from your computer to your LAN is the subject for another presentation!



PREVIEW OF COMING ATTRACTIONS

On Wednesday, May 11, at 7 PM, I will present

Intro to Digital Video Editing Plus

featuring Vegas Movie Studio 2022

for the Chesapeake Area Technology Society

You are cordially invited to attend via Zoom

To obtain a guest pass, write to
**chesapeakeareatechsocietyinfo@
gmail.com**



**Scan the QR code, and your email app
will open with the email already written for you!**

You must fill in your full name and user group name

THE END