



MAKING WAVES

A Documentary by Michael Lahey

SYNOPSIS

What do a public access TV personality, an electronics engineer, a Vietnam vet, a libertarian congressional candidate, and a retired millionaire have in common? They're all operating unlicensed, low-power, 'pirate' radio stations in Tucson, Arizona. *Making Waves* follows their uphill struggle to be heard on our publicly-owned but corporate-controlled airwaves.

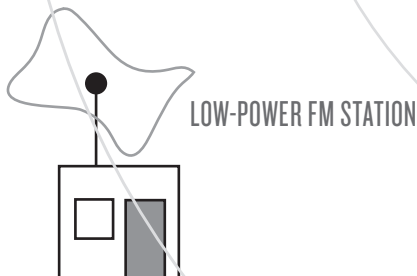
The National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) argues that low-power radio interferes with business, creating 'chaos on the airwaves'; low-power advocates say the NAB interferes with democracy. Meanwhile, due to loosened regulations passed by Congress, big business has seized the airwaves and driven the independent station owner to near extinction.

Armed with low-cost micro-radio equipment, the First Amendment, even a how-to video by a Michigan pastor, the Tucson pirates use unlicensed radio as a form of civil disobedience, protesting the lack of individual expression and diversity on the airwaves and the FCC regulations that make getting licensed next to impossible. For one station, this means providing the real alternative to 'alternative' music. For the others, it means educating the public about its Constitutional rights.

Making Waves reveals the pirates' personal and political passions that compel them to defy the FCC. As they confront the difficulties and risks of running an unlicensed station and take their fight for free speech into the open, the film invites the viewer to ask, 'If the public took back the airwaves, what would they sound like?'

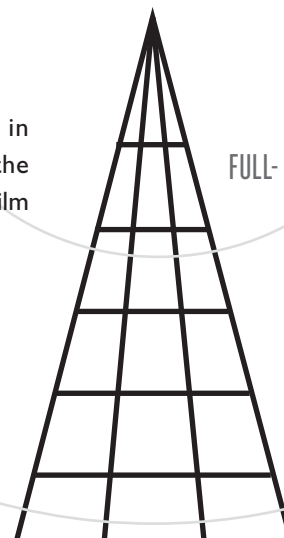
ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Michael Lahey is an independent filmmaker based in Minneapolis, MN. His first documentary, *Tugs Untied*, won the Best of Arizona Award in the 2000 Arizona International Film Festival. *Making Waves* is his second film.



LOW-POWER FM STATION

93.3 FM



FULL-POWER FM STATION

93.5 FM

Michael Lahey
2748 Johnson St. NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418
612.724.5202
mlahey22@yahoo.com
www.jumpcutfilms.com