

Oregon AM Radio Station Recovers After Tower Suffers Crop-Duster Strike

KLAD(AM) in Klamath Falls was knocked off the air last week

By [Nick Langan](#) ·



A crop-duster aircraft crashed into the primary broadcast tower for an AM radio station in Klamath Falls, Ore., last week.

[Basin Mediaactive](#)'s KLAD(AM) 960 is licensed to Klamath Falls and transmits from one tower in a four-tower array along the Lost River, about five miles southeast of Altamont. It runs 5 kW during the day and 26 watts at night from the site.

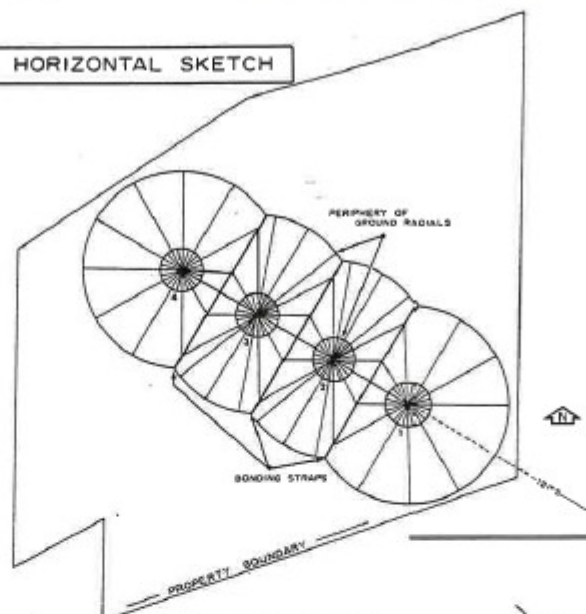
The station runs a sports-talk format and is also heard on a 104.3 FM translator.

Four towers stand at the site, though the station only uses one to broadcast both day and night. According to Basin Mediaactive General Manager Rob Siems, the plane struck KLAD's primary daytime structure, designated as Tower #3 in the array.

PROPOSED ANTENNA AND GROUND SYSTEM

HORIZONTAL SKETCH

Ground system, shown schematically, consists of 120 copper wire radials spaced at 5° intervals from the base of each tower, and extended a distance of 250 feet, except within the transverse areas between towers where the radials will be shortened and bonded to a copper strap. In addition, 120 radials 50 feet in length will be interspersed between the longer radials. All radials will be buried in the ground approximately twelve inches.



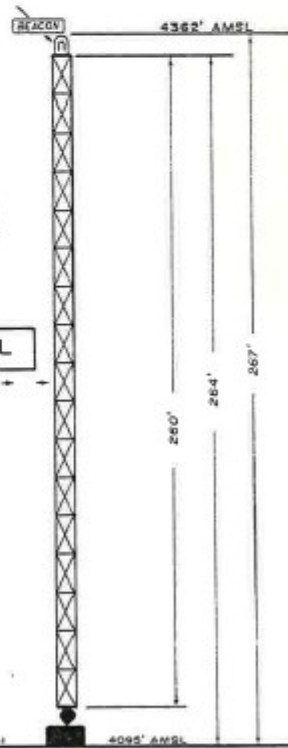
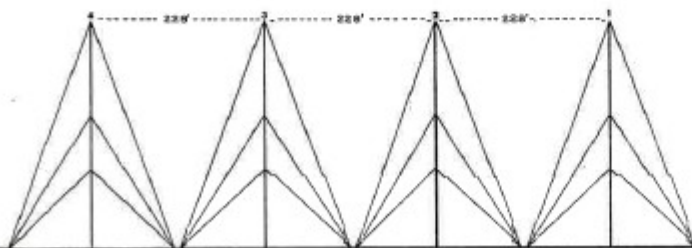
GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES (Center of Array)
 42° 09' 42" North Latitude
 121° 33' 05" West Longitude

CECIL LYNN, CONSULTING ENGINEER
 AMESBROOK, CALIFORNIA

ATTACHMENT #3. KLAB ANTENNA PROOF OF PERFORMANCE
 File BP-19,618 12/15/80

TOWER DETAIL

VERTICAL SKETCH



960 RADIO, INC. (KLAB)
 KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON

FIGURE 1

ANTENNA OPERATING: 960 KHz - 100 KHz - 100 KHz - 100 KHz - 100 KHz

The station is in the process of coming back on the air using one other towers at the site, Siems told us.

[According to Basin Mediactive's mybasin.com](#), Klamath County Sheriff's Office deputies and fire personnel were dispatched to the area of Hill Road and Crystal Springs Road following the report of an aircraft crash.

A single-engine, fixed-wing crop-duster aircraft, piloted by Gus Macy, was conducting an agricultural pesticide application flight when the aircraft struck the Basin Mediactive tower, mybasin.com reported.

The aircraft subsequently crashed to the ground and caught fire. A nearby witness pulled Macy away from the wreckage before emergency responders arrived. Macy sustained major injuries and was transported to Sky Lakes Medical Center for treatment.

The circumstances surrounding the crash remain under investigation, mybasin.com reported.

The four-tower site has stood since 1981. KLAD itself was first licensed on 900 AM in 1955, according to its FCC history card.

The Klamath Falls-based Basin Mediactive also owns KAGO(AM/FM), KFXX(FM), KHIC(FM) and KLAD(FM).

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[Nick Langan](#)

The author is a content producer and staff writer for Radio World, having joined the editorial team in 2024. He has a lifelong passion for long-distance FM radio propagation and is a faculty advisor for 89.1 WXVU(FM). He is also the creator of RadioLand, an FM radio location mobile app, which he completed for his Villanova University graduate thesis.