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The Downtown Lions Club meets every Friday at noon at the Petroleum Club, 3636 Linden Ave., LB. Those occasions when we do not meet or meet elsewhere are noted either on the web site or this weekly bulletin.

**CLUB OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**  
Mailing address: 4712 East 2nd Street #434  
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Long Beach Downtown Lions Club  
4712 East 2nd Street #434  
Long Beach, California 90803



Vol. 94 Friday, Feb. 23, 2018, noon No. 31

**RON MCCOY, KNAC RADIO:  
CONFESSIONS OF A ROCK AND  
ROLL DISK JOCKEY**

In Ron McCoy's early life, he had been a child country performer and recorded on RCA Victor under producer Chet Atkins in Nashville, Tennessee. Throughout an active childhood in a brother and sister act called The McCoys, there were a myriad of performances including the "Grand Ol' Opry" and others. They made it to live network television on the "Ozark Jubilee", toured with Johnny Horton (*Battle of New Orleans*) and many others. Eventually Ron fell into radio because it felt like home. He attended Elkins Institute in Dallas and was off and running with his mouth to the microphone. His first job, KBEL Idabel, Oklahoma, a town of 3000 people, hogs, cattle and other creatures. Before long it was back to his hometown of Dallas.



A Texas transplant, Ron McCoy arrived in California in late 1969 with hopes of busting into LA radio since he had enjoyed quite a bit of success in the Dallas-Fort Worth market. He also was host of a local TV Show with live bands (Panther- A-GO-GO).

LA turned out to be a different animal. Upon hitting the pavement and knocking on the doors of 70 radio stations, it was discouraging to discover no one knew him...and they didn't seem to want to. As the circle of searching for employment widened, Long Beach came into view. A lonely little middle of the road station seemed like a horrible idea since he was living in Glendale, but it was radio and they did give him a weekend on the air job.

Then the miracle...Jim and Claudia Harden bought KNAC and decided the Texan would be their new program director. The magic began to happen as the old format was dumped and the decision to go for a full-on Free Form style that embraced the music that the Top 40 stations did not play.

KNAC went directly to album tracks featuring the artist who were beginning to explode on the music scene: Hendrix, Stones, Cream...and the list goes on. KNAC was a hit and enjoyed many years of success and Ron McCoy was saved from the ravages of LA.

Ron now lives in Rancho Palos Verdes and owns recording studios in North Hollywood. The Hardens are still talking to him.'

**PETROLEUM CLUB  
3636 LINDEN AVE.  
562-427-7966**  
Presiding: VAL LERCH  
Invocation: CHARLIE QUAIFFE  
Program Arranged by:  
STEVE HUHTA

**Guests  
welcome!**

**CLAUDIA  
HARDEN  
COD**  
JIM and CLAUDIA  
HARDEN purchased  
KNAC in 1969 from a

group of local Long Beach businessmen, who by their

own admission, had no clue what they were doing. The station was a Class A FM, meant to be a community operation with limited power. The Harden's worked hard to get the station upgraded so the signal reached most of the LA market. Ron McCoy was already a part time disc jockey when the Harden's



purchased the station and was quickly moved up to

full time and eventually to program director. The station changed from a middle of the road format to rock under McCoy's leadership. The station was heavily invested in Long Beach and a policy of promoting local talent and new talent lead to the success of KNAC.

**RETROSPECTIVE, FEBRUARY 9, 2018**

Petroleum Club, PP MERLIN THIMLAR presiding. Invocation: CHARLIE QUAIPE. Song/salute: PP MARILYN RUSSELL BITTLE. Piano: ROB NICHOLS. Announcements: VAL noted that the club has spent about \$25,000 on eyeglasses for youth and adults year to date. LEANN JOHNSON Greta MACIAS. She is doing well but still in therapy. CLAUDIA HARDEN noted the Feb. 23 program will focus on KNAC radio and DJ Ron McCoy. PP GARTH PHILLIPS clarified dates and times for the Toshiba Classic, see him to help. He also needs attendees for the Lakewood visitation Feb 22., 6:30pm. Also, the Montebello visitation will be the Zone Student Speakers contest. PP YOURS TRULY reminded all of the MELVIN JONES luncheon, Feb. 25, Rio Hondo Country Club. MERLIN has tickets for Theater Night, April 26. Sell a bunch of them, bring raffle items. The play is Peter and the Starcatcher, a prelude to Peter and the Wolf. PP MEL NUTTER intro'd the February birthdays. Tail Twister CLAUDIA cadged a buck or two money from YOURS TRULY (UCLA beat Arizona in Arizona); MARILYN (liked the Super Bowl outcome); LINCOLN (thanks to all who showed up for Flag

Day, VAL did a great job, LINCOLN also announced a field trip to Lyon Air Museum, on March 9, \$8 admission, more to follow); PP LINDA WEINGARTNER (loves the annual family President's Day outing to Big Bear); MERLIN (passed driver's license test); MELINDA LANKFORD (daughter has been elected an RA at college, her parents are there right now for Grandparent's Day); DARRYL SEXTON (son elected to national engineer's society); RICK PINSON (Michigan State defeated previously unbeaten Purdue.) MARILYN reminded all of the Chinese Dinner and Auction, scheduled for June 14. The cost is \$45. It is okay to bring your gifts now. The 50/50, run by DONNA KELLY, was won by Alice SEXTON. COD STEVE HUHTA had fun and raised money by suggesting all present "just put a buck in the pot". He intro'd City Prosecutor Doug Haubert. Doug outlined the major functions of his office (prosecuting misdemeanors) and his special foci: teen truancy, gang banging and mentoring. He noted the hours given by community service last year put 100,000 hours of community service into cleaning beaches, wetlands and parks.



**CALENDAR**

**Mar. 2—MIKE LIEPPMAN—Eye, Health care today**  
 Program Manager— STEVE HUHTA  
 Mar. 9—Lyon Air Museum Tour

**COMING UP...**

- Signal Hill Lions Student Speaker, Wilson High, Room 309, Feb 22, 6:30PM\*
- MELVIN JONES Luncheon, Feb. 25, 1pm, Rio Honda Country Club.
- Lyon Air Museum Trip, Mar.9
- Night at the Theater, April 26.
- Chinese Dinner and Auction, June 14.
- \*CHRIS OHRMUND hopes we can attend, she might be the only Lion there!

**FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

4	SANDY GJONOVICH
11	GLORIA FOLKENS
18	BONNIE STOEPELMAN
31	PP LINCOLN ODELL



**February**

- 19—President's Day
- 22—Signal Hill Student Speakers
- 25—Melvin Jones Luncheon

**March**

- 6—Membership Committee
- 8—Montebello Pancake Breakfast
- 9—Lyon Air Museum trip
- 13—Board meeting
- 16—St. Patrick's Day

**April**

- 3—Membership Committee
- 4—Annual business meeting \*\* No guests, please\*\*
- 7—District meeting; Student Speaker District contest
- 10—Board meeting
- 26—Night at the Theater

**May**

- 1—Membership Committee
- 8—Board meeting
- 25—Dark!
- 28—Memorial Day

**June**

- 5—Membership Committee
- 14—Chinese Dinner and Auction
- 12—Board meeting
- 29—July 3—International Convention, Las Vegas

**July**

- 3—Membership Committee
- 4—Independence Day
- 6—Dark!
- 10—Board meeting

**August**

- 7—Membership Committee
- 14—Board meeting
- 31—Dark!

**September**

- 3—Labor Day
- 4—Membership Committee
- 11—Board meeting

**October**

- 2—Membership Committee
- 9—Board meeting

**November**

- 6—Membership Committee