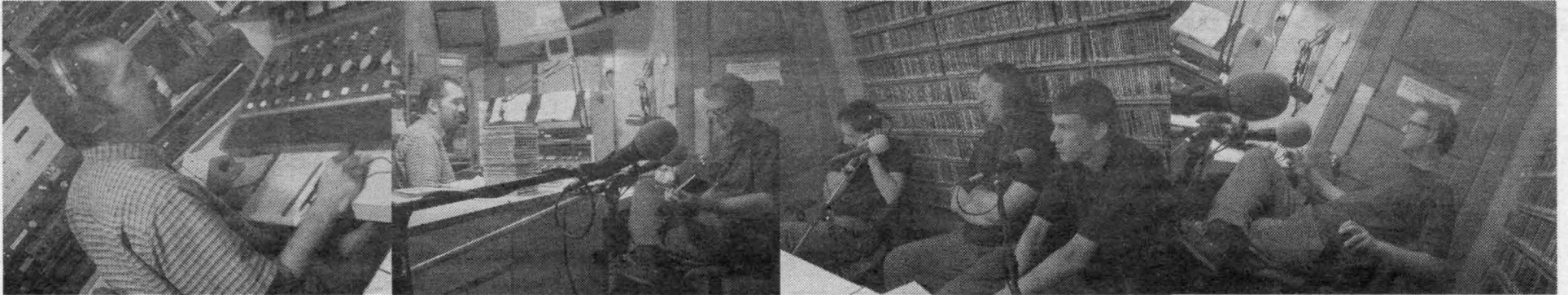


PHOTOS BY JAMIE MANSER



## KXCI's *Locals Only* Show Turns Four

A CONVERSATION WITH DISC JOCKEY DON JENNINGS

BY JAMIE MANSER

This month marks the four year anniversary for KXCI's *Locals Only* Monday night radio show. Notable for the support the show gives to local musicians and bands, *Locals Only* has survived program cancellations, continues to garner new listeners and has grown into a two hour program with the second hour featuring live performances from Tucson and, occasionally, Phoenix musicians. Following is an interview with the show's 30-year-old founder and co-host, Don Jennings.

**Before you became a disc jockey for KXCI, you took their DJ class. When was that and what prompted you to take the class?**

I was a regular KXCI listener and enjoyed the variety of music that the station played. I heard one of their promos mentioning the DJ training class and I thought it would be something interesting to do. My goal all along was to do a show focusing on the local scene, so it just happened at the right time. I think I took the class around January/February of 1998 and started the show that May.

**How did the show get rolling?**

I had submitted a demo tape and program proposal to the program director at that time (Mike Landwehr) and when an overnight spot opened up, he gave it to me - a 2-5:30 a.m. slot on Thursday mornings. At the time, I was working a graveyard shift and that was one of my days off, so it worked well.

**When did the show move to Monday nights?**

I think it was in September of that year. It's been on Mondays ever since then, but it's bounced around in a few different time slots. When we moved to Mondays, it became a one hour show, until last July, when they decided to expand our show to two hours, with the second hour consisting of an in-studio performance.

**Why were you interested in featuring local music?**

I've always been a fan of live/local music. I didn't feel like there was enough fan support of the local music scene at the time, so I wanted to try to expose more people to the talented musicians here in Tucson. You know, to try to get more people out to the clubs to see the local bands.

**What requirements do you have for bands that want their music played on the show - for both the recorded material and live performances?**

We want good quality recordings for the first hour of the show; EPs, full-length albums, 7" records, we've even used cassettes a couple of times. As long as the song quality is good enough to be broadcast on the air. As far as the live performance, we are always hearing from bands/musicians that are interested in coming on the show. Of course, we try to get out and see the bands perform live to determine if it's somebody that we'd like to have on the show. It helps if they have an event coming up, a CD release party or several local gigs, that we can help promote when they're on the show. We try to keep the live performances diverse so that it covers several different genres of music, although primarily we feature artists that are active in the local music scene.

**What difficulties do you or have you run into doing the live segment?**

The kinks have mostly been worked out of the live segment. [Music director] Duncan [Hudson] does a great job with the sound. Mostly any problems that come up now are if the performers show up late and don't give themselves enough time to set up and sound check or if they use profanity on the air.

**What happens if someone uses profanity on the air?**

If the band cusses on the air, well, nothing we can do about it if it's live - which is why, starting at the beginning of June, we're going to pre-record all the live segments. I know, that's a bit of a contradiction in terms, but it helps to avoid the language issue, and any technical problems that might arise.

**Is there pressure during the pledge drives at all? Do you have donation goals that your show needs to fulfill?**

There aren't any set goals for our show, but you want to do the best you can to help the station out. *Locals Only* fans have come through pretty good for us in the past. We've got another drive starting on May 7th. [Co-host] Jason [LeValley] and I have a couple ideas for raising additional funds for KXCI in the name of *Locals Only*. We'd like to put together a compilation CD of local bands from performances on *Locals Only*, with proceeds from the CD going to the station.

**That sounds pretty groovy. Are these ideas actually in the works or are you still at the drawing board stage?**

We're very early in the process right now. We'll probably do another two months or so of live performances

before we begin the challenging task of picking the tracks for the CD. I'd like to shoot for a fall release.

**Do you have any memorable moments from a live segment?**

Umm... Sam Bikov Duo. The dude is an accordion player from the Ukraine. Doesn't speak a lick of English, but somehow him and Jimmy Carr (on drums) perform as a duo. Jimmy did all the talking when they were on the show. At one point, Sam did a song by himself. He closed his eyes while he was playing, and kept going on with this accordion solo for like 10 minutes. Jimmy kept trying to get his attention to tell him to stop, but he just kept playing and playing, with his eyes closed, and this blissful look on his face. When he WOULD open his eyes, he'd see Jimmy gesturing to him, and he'd smile and nod, and then close his eyes and keep playing. When he finally finished, Jimmy asked him if there was anything he wanted to say to the listening audience... he proceeded to talk for about a minute in his native language is. It was pretty funny at the time!

*Locals Only* airs Monday nights on 91.3FM. KXCI is located at 220 S. 4th Ave. You can reach the station at 623-1000.



Above Left to Right: Host Don Jennings; host and co-host; guests Duane Hollis, Joe Peña, and Glen Corey of Greyhound Soul; co-host Jason LeValley

## Did You Know?

The idea of KXCI community radio was conceived in 1979 by two gentlemen in a cantina in Mexico. Who were they? Paul Bear (now Executive Director of the Rialto Theatre Foundation) and Roger Greer (KXCI's current Program Director). About a week later Frank Milan joined the discussion and by 1983 with virtually no money, they were on air broadcasting.