



# Seal Beach Host Lions Club

## The Growl

Seal Beach, California

Volume 66 Number 7

January 2004

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Mike Narz  
Tom Ahrens

#### Membership:

Dave Hubbard

#### Tail Twister:

Kraig Bekke

#### Lion Tamers:

Chris Langlais  
Mike McFadden

#### Past President:

Carol Linehan

#### Leo Advisor:

Scott Newton

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Mike Narz

#### Growl Editor:

Herbert Groom

### The President's Message:



Happy New Year Fellow Lions,

It is indeed hard to believe that another year has gone by. I am starting to believe in the old adage that time flies as you get older. It has been a strange and yet wonderful year for all of

us. I personally thank my lucky stars that the cancer that entered my body unannounced seems to have exited as fast as it came. Two other members who were involved in accidents seem also to be recovering. I guess there is a reward for being good.

When I think back over the last six months it almost seems unreal the amount of charitable giving we as a club gave to our community. As I travel among the social circles in town and elsewhere, I am always proud to hear people say what a wonderful group the Lions are. Nothing could have been truer than in our last three wonderful events. The 'Xmas parade, 'Breakfast with Santa' and 'Storytelling Santa' were warmly received by all.

As most of you are aware we have set out this year to be club of the year. I truly believe we that all the hard work and dedication to our club will pay off when we go to convention. However, saying this we should not rest on our laurels. We need to continue serving our community in anyway we can. This next year we will see continued cooperation and collaboration with the American Legion, McGaugh School and the Boy Scouts. We will have a revamped Casino Night and a new emphasis on charitable giving. I will ask you to talk to your neighbors and friends about becoming a Lion. I truly hope all of you had a restful Christmas break and our ready to hit the bricks running from now until convention.

I hope you all had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year.

See you in January.

The Prez

**Meeting schedule:** First and Third Wednesday of the month. Meetings begin at 7pm sharp and are held at 'The Lone Star SteakHouse', 6575 E. Pacific Coast Highway, Long Beach, CA

**E-mail:** [President@SealBeachLions.com](mailto:President@SealBeachLions.com) - [Secretary@SealBeachLions.com](mailto:Secretary@SealBeachLions.com) - [Treasurer@SealBeachLions.com](mailto:Treasurer@SealBeachLions.com)



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### *The Secretary's Message:*

As a group, we have been busy little girls and boys of late! Reflecting back, the month of December generated a lot of activity. Reviewing the articles in this month's newsletter it is evident this team of Lions blanketed all four corners of the city.

For those individuals taking time out of their schedule to scribe a paragraph or two documenting an event, a fond tip of the hat to you. Much obliged for your making this YOUR Growl!

As we forge into the first quarter of Twenty-O-Four there will be plenty of opportunities to participate in and numerous events/activities to write about as we continue our quest for 'Club of the Year' honors. You're welcome and encouraged to join in the reporting.

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The December event that stood out most for me was 'Breakfast with Santa' and the subsequent visit to 'Casa Youth Shelter' for gift giving with Seaside Lions Marilyn Longoria, Emily Frazier, Jennifer Copen, Dottie Palaski and Seal Beach Lion Scott Newton. The children enjoyed receiving individual backpacks filled with items.

Spending quality time with the ever-inspiring Mildred Jones is always a treat. In an era of high priced crybaby sports figures and overpaid scandalous corporate executives, I know who my idol is and wish to emulate.

While at Casa Mildred was generous with her time, as she always is. After being provided a tour of the facility with her staff, Mildred and I shared a quiet moment together in the meditation garden. What a wonderful place the garden is.

Kid



More information & updates at - <http://SealBeachLions.com>



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### Club Calendar:

#### Thursday, January 1

- New Year's Day

#### Wednesday, January 7

- 7:00 pm -9:00 pm : Seal Beach Host Lions Gen. & Board meeting.

#### Sunday, January 11

- 5:00 pm -8:00 pm : Costa Mesa High school Leo club charter night

#### Sunday, January 18

- District Cabinet Meeting orange region

#### Wednesday, January 21

- 7:00 pm -9:00 pm : Seal Beach Host Lions Club Meeting & Program night

#### Friday, January 23

- 6:00 pm -10:00 pm : Melvin Jones dinner

#### Saturday, January 31

- 7:00 pm -10:00 pm : Stars in your eyes

**Where in the World are our Members now?**  
Clues:



**Be Confident  
Be Proud!!**



### The Pit Report

The narration below is true. None of the names have been changed to protect the innocent.

The Location: Seal Beach

The Time: 5:00 PM

The Event: Seal Beach Christmas Parade.

5:00 PM: Lion Dave Hubbard & myself rendezvous at Lion Jim Klisanin's Christmas Party.

5:20 PM: We leave to take up our station in "The PIT".

5:30 PM: The first Parade participants start arriving. I note that the Newfoundland dogs have already arrived and are in their normal staging area. I check them off my list.

5:35 PM: Football players from Los Alamitos High School show up. see page 4

Clues: Pacific Ocean, Garden Island, near the end of the road. Dewey, Carol, Mary and Eddie are disqualified from guessing.





### The Pit Report.. con't.

They have been sent down here. They are not on my list so I send them up top to find out where they are supposed to be.

5:40 PM: YMCA Adventure (Indian) Guides approach me asking where they are to stage. I send them up top.

5:45 PM: YMCA Adventure Guides return saying they were told to stage in the Pit. Lion Dave & I walk them up the ramp and send them to their area. School buses arrive and start unloading 2 bands. Lion Dave realizes they are in the wrong area and stays up top to get them moved to their correct area.

5:50 PM: I realize that I have to go (as in to the restroom) but I can hold it because Lion Dave will surely be back shortly.

5:55 PM: Well, they're back. I once again direct the Adventure Guides up to the park. The football players are back! What the hell is going on here! I ask the Lion at the top of the ramp and he says he's been told to send them to me.

6:05 PM: Man I've got to go! But participants are arriving so I can't leave. I'm sure Lion Dave will be back soon.

6:20 PM: WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON WITH THESE ADVENTURE GUIDES?! I'm ready to grab one by the lapels and drag his ass upstairs to the park! Jesus Christ I'm almost wetting my pants! Where the hell is Dave?

6:45 PM: We're getting close to start time and one third of my groups are not here BUT THOSE G—D--- ADVENTURE GUIDES ARE HERE! I think they've been sent by Satan to torment me. One of the Newfoundland dogs raised his leg and I almost reflexively wet my pants!

7:00 PM: I discover that the Seal Beach Republican Club should be up on Ocean so I tell them to start their cars and follow me up the ramp. An Adventure Guide approaches me. I shoot flames out of my eyes and he runs away in terror. As my bladder reaches the bursting point one thought crystallizes itself in my mind:.....

we're not done yet, on to page 6

### Veterans Corner:



In the fall of this year as a hurricane approached Washington the Congress declared that they would shut down the capital until the storm had passed. They in turn let the Defense department know that the military guard whose responsibility it was for guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier could be relieved of duty for that day.

The guards declined to take the day off in spite of the impending weather. They all stated that it was a duty and honor to guard such a memorial. During that day and a half they did their duty to their fallen comrade, many of them not knowing who they were guarding. Now wouldn't it be wonderful if we could get the rest of the country to think in those terms.



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**Striving for 'Club of the Year' honors, the group continued the momentum displayed throughout the year.**



### Santa's Holiday Party

otherwise known as the Seal Beach Holiday Parade, was held on Friday evening, December 5th. In the Photo, at right, City Mayor, Patty Cambell and the Seal Beach Chamber Parade Chairperson, Virginia Kling, cutting the ribbon. You can also barely see..



Lions Dino Syrengelas, Tom Ahrens, Eddie Maginnis, Scott Newton and Alan Chavez, just behind the scenes, getting things ready to go.



Pictured at left are Lions Tom Ahrens busy checking in parade participants. Lion Parade Chairperson, Lion Brad Barras, describing just how big the fish was and once again, now becoming a camera hog, Lion Dino Syrengelas.

At right. Look who came all the way from up from La Jolla just to say hello, Lion Bruce Gormley! Good to see his smiling face. Lion Dino, you don't have to be in every picture. I mean, you're just showing up



everywhere. You don't have to be in every shot OK!



Of course, from our point of view, the highlight of the parade is when our club President, Lion George Dooley, rolls down the parade route. Point of order. What's the deal with Lion Dino?



## Food Finders Project

On Friday November 21st, I delivered the food that was collected from my work at the North Orange County Community College District and our Lions Club.

The Food Finders charity organization was happy to see me when I delivered almost 1,000 canned goods and other various items to their store in Long Beach. With the recent fires a lot of the donations they would have normally received were redirected to the fire victims. They were most gracious and accepting of our donations. This is just another example of a project with a little hard work that will benefit many. Thanks to everyone.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lion President George Dooley



### The Pit Report.. con't. DAVE HUBBARD MUST DIE!

7:15 PM: I get the first five groups in my area lined up on the ramp and run to the restroom. Talk about relief? You bet! But while I've been gone the Animal Center group has been sent down into the pit by a misinformed Lion. I lead them back up the ramp, slapping aside Adventure Guides as I go and tell the Animal Center group that if anyone tells them to go down into the pit that they should say that Lion Bill said, "Go to hell!"

7:45 PM: The last group is in line. It is The Historical Society and Councilman Antos is involved. I got to speak to him. What a delightful personality. He's just a "laugh a minute" kind of guy and that hair piece is SO realistic. I'll bet he paid at least \$5.00 for it. Mr. Antos leaves because the miniature railroad car has not arrived yet and his time is too valuable to waste. What a loss. OH MY GOD! HERE COMES MORE ADVENTURE GUIDES! I put my fingers in the sign of the Cross and they slink away into the dark.

8:15 PM: The last group is up on Ocean so I join the rest of the Lions at Ocean & Main. Lion Dave approaches me and apologizes for leaving me down there but he had found that the band area North of Main was disorganized and he had to stay there to get them moving in the correct order. I take back everything I said about him tonight when he says his bladder almost burst too. We now consider ourselves Brothers of the Bladder.

8:30 PM: The parade is over and all of a sudden Adventure Guides are running all over the place. I duck into Hennessey's for a beer with a group of Lions. After the beer I peek outside and see that they're gone. Once again it is safe to walk the streets of Seal Beach. I meet my wife at Patty's Place and proceed to get hammered. Another Christmas Parade is history.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE!



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## Lions enjoying Parade night in Seal Beach.



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## **Toys for Shelter Project**

With a smile, my Santa hat and the sleigh (my Toyota) filled with toys, Diane and I set out to deliver toys to the shelters who care for the children and adults who have fallen upon hard times. Our first stop was at the 'Women's Transitional Center' for battered women. Unfortunately, during this period of the year there are always women and their children seeking shelter. The staff there warmly received us and although we are not allowed to see the families they assured us that big smiles, hugs and thank yous would guide us home. Our second stop was at 'Casa Youth Shelter' where Lucyann greeted us and told me how thankful they were that the Seal Beach Lions Club always remembered them throughout the year. With a touch of the gas the old sleigh was now at 'Interval House' in Seal Beach our final destination. With some help, we unloaded the final bags of toys. I had the nice opportunity to meet George who is a member of the Seaside Lions and on the board of Interval. It was a wonderful day and I want to thank both the staff at the North Orange County Community College School of Continuing Education and District Office and the members of the Seal Beach Lions Club who made some very happy children understand that they are not forgotten.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lion President George Dooley



## **Interval House Adopt-A-Family**

'Interval House' Adopt-A-Family for Christmas is a new service project and a wonderful experience for our Club. 'Interval House' is a shelter for abused women and children. This may be the only presents they receive for Christmas. Jinnee the Co-Coordinator from 'Interval House' in the picture with Lion Dewey Linehan accepting the gifts was wonderful to work with. She selected a family that we would adopt.

The mother, Linda, requested a gift certificate to a grocery store and movie tickets for the family. Megan, 12 years old, requested make-up, a CD player and a bathrobe. Brian, 8 years old, requested sweats, a Laser Gun that shoots goop and a miniature remote car. I was able to buy them everything they requested, plus more. Linda, because of her unselfishness also received a Blue Teal Sweater. The family also received 3 sets of Movie Tickets and \$10.00 with each set for popcorn and candy. Going out and doing the shopping made me feel like one of Santa's Elf's. Because of our fundraising we were able to participate in this worthwhile project for a needy family.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lion Carol Linehan



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(Editor's note: UNCLE SAM WANTS YOU!! If you haven't honored a "2 hour tour of duty" and would like to serve the many great HEROES of Freedom at the hospital, please contact Veterans Bingo Chairperson Lion George Dooley, or sign up at the recruitment table during a club meeting. You'll be glad you did!)

## Veterans Bingo

Vet's Bingo was a new experience for Lions Dewey and Carol. We also had prospective new member Mark Pritchard in attendance. Pres George was our Happy Elf for the evening. We met at the Long Beach Vets Hospital on 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Pres George brought the goodies. We had Pumpkin Pie with Whipped Cream, Chocolate Cake with Ice Cream and soda's.



Every Veteran received a Christmas Bag of goodies. We played 6 games of Bingo and the winners received Script to use at the Commissary Store. For those Vet's who couldn't play, Mark and I would play for them and then they received the prizes. Another way to make you feel like our club is out there in the community

Respectfully submitted,  
Lion Carol Linehan

## Storytelling Santa

On the evening of Monday, 15 December, the Club sponsored 'Storytelling Santa' at the Mary Wilson Library. This is the second year the Club arranged for the event.

With blankets and throw rugs, 20 to 25 children attended with their families. The gathering was treated to stories recited by Santa, juice and cookies.

The evening concluded with each child having the opportunity to sit with Santa and a Polaroid picture captured by Ann Horvatin, (wife of Lion Biff Horvatin) to take home of the occasion.

A warm thank you to Lion Bill Howes and Sony Pictures for providing the lovely chair that graced Santa. The evening wouldn't have been complete without it.





### **Youth Center Tree Lot Fundraiser**

Our Seal Beach Lions provided a total of 42 service hours in support of 'The Youth Center's' Tree lot fund-raising project. This was a new service project whereby our club sponsored 'three' nights of work on December 2nd, 8th and 9th. We sold trees, moved trees, cut trees, watered trees and unfortunately, had to carry trees. As it turned out, Tuesday nights are the tough ones - it's the night when all the 'new trees' get delivered and then need to be carried into the tent.

Our First night was December 2nd with Lion Mary Newton acting as supervisor. Lions Mark Newton and Eric Reese were her sidekicks. Eric (the youngest) did most of the heavy work, Mary handled sales and PR, and Mark supervised.

On December 8th, the Linehan's stole the show and were the only Lions on staff that night. Dewey, as usual, entertained all while Carol sold trees.

Lion Mike Haley was the hero on December 9th. We carried three hundred trees into the tree tent and I think Mike did most of them. Lions Brad and Dino also carried trees but I noticed that they took far more breaks than Mike. I'm just glad Bill Howes wasn't there - he would have tried to organize a 'tree workers union'. Lion Scot was smart and stayed focused on selling rather than carrying trees.

This was good exposure for our club and the Youth Center was very appreciative of our efforts.

In Lionism,  
Lion Scott Newton, Chairman





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## ***“Dinner with Santa”, at Shelter For The Homeless***

December 20th brought a motley crew of SBH Lions together to prepare dinner at the Shelter for the Homeless in Midway City. We were cooking for a pretty large group - 150 to be exact - but our resident chef, PDG Ellen was sure she had things under control.

Everything was going according to schedule. Lion Carrie was busy washing vegetables, Lion Ray was scrubbing potatoes and handing them off to almost-Lion Mark to wrap them for baking. We were not sure what our little elf on skates was doing but Lion Herb assured us he was actually helping.

We got the food prepared in record time with 150 pounds of prime rib in the oven, potatoes baked to perfection and carrots covered with butter and brown sugar. The salad was ready to go and the dessert was waiting to be dished out.

Then they arrived. All 30 of them. 10 year old Girl Scouts. In Ellen's kitchen. Need we say more?

She tried to lay down the rules. No crossing over the line where hot food was being handled. One way in and one way out of the kitchen. Listen up when instructions were being given so we didn't have to repeat the direction 30 times. Honestly, she tried.

Then it was show time. Now just imagine 30 Girl Scouts forgetting all the directions at once. We thought we would have to give CPR to PDG Ellen.

But somehow it all worked out. No one was hurt, no one died. We did have to pry Ellen's hands from the neck of one young girl but we hear she will recover. The Shelter was very impressed and thankful for our generosity. You made a group of needy folks very happy. They seldom get such a great meal and showed their appreciation with the many thank-you's passed to us that evening. Those of us who worked, felt good about being there and doing what Lions do best - SERVE.

Respectfully submitted,  
PDG Lion Ellen Liebherr



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