

= Steve Dahl =

Steven Robert Dahl ( born November 20 , 1954 in Pasadena , California ) is an American radio personality and humorist . He is the owner and operator of the Steve Dahl Network , a subscription @-@ based podcasting network as well as the host of The Steve Dahl Show which airs weekdays on WLS @-@ AM .

Originally , Dahl broadcast with Detroit stations WABX and WWWW and later with Chicago stations WCKG , WDAI , WLUP , WMVP and WLS . He also served as a columnist for the Chicago Tribune in their Live section as the resident " vice advisor " until November 2010 . Additionally , Dahl has served on the Board of Trustees at Columbia College Chicago .

Dahl 's radio show takes an " every guy " approach to life in Chicago and Dahl often tells bucolic stories about his life and family on the air . Dahl is also well known in Chicago for his song parodies and his impressions . He is considered a pioneer in talk radio and has been influential for many other radio personalities . He gained a measure of national attention after the Disco Demolition Night promotion at Comiskey Park , and he is also known in Chicago for his longstanding former role as one half of the " Steve and Garry " team ( with Garry Meier ) .

In addition to his radio career , Dahl is a singer , songwriter , and guitarist . His band , Teenage Radiation , recorded and performed a number of song parodies ( which he often played on his show throughout the 1980s ) and since 1990 he has performed and recorded as Steve Dahl and the Dahlfins . Dahl has also dabbled in acting , appearing in the 1984 cult classic , Grandview , U.S.A. with John and Joan Cusack . He also appeared in the 2004 film Outing Riley , and in the 2006 indie comedy I Want Someone to Eat Cheese With ( which was written and directed by Chicago native Jeff Garlin ) .

= = Early life = =

Dahl grew up in La Cañada , California , a Los Angeles suburb northwest of Pasadena . He is the son of Roger and Carolyn Dahl , an electronics parts manufacturer 's representative and a homemaker .

= = Radio career = =

= = = Early radio career = = =

In the 9th grade , Dahl began hanging around a local underground radio station , KPCC @-@ FM , in his home state of California . At the age of sixteen , after he starting working at the radio station full @-@ time , he unofficially dropped out of high school . Dahl later explained , " I convinced my parents and the school that I would do an independent work @-@ study thing . I never got around to it . " At the age of eighteen , he obtained his GED and briefly married a woman he met after she called him on @-@ air to request Suzanne , a song by Leonard Cohen which told a tale of a troubled relationship . Dahl later explained his short @-@ lived marriage by commenting , " I should have paid more attention to that song . "

Dahl was told by radio executives that he 'd never make it in radio because his voice was too high . At one point , Dahl was so discouraged that he quit for about six months and attempted to pursue a career as a recording engineer . However , this never amounted to anything more than making mix tapes of popular songs for play on airplanes . Throughout this time period , he was making efforts to reconcile with his ex @-@ wife , who by then was dating the program director at the Los Angeles radio station where she worked . He later admitted to stalking her by sleeping in his Subaru outside her house .

In 1976 , Dahl 's ex @-@ wife told him about an opening for a morning show in Detroit , Michigan on WABX @-@ FM . He managed to secure the job , despite the fact that he did not think he was good enough for it ( he later learned that the station was owned by the same company his ex @-@

wife worked for ) . At WABX , Dahl learned as much as he could about what constituted " good radio " and also began experimenting with his content . His popularity increased to the point that he achieved a 7 @. @ 2 market share .

During his time at WABX , Dahl was introduced to Janet , a junior high school English and drama teacher in a Detroit suburb , who was casually dating a friend of his and was also a listener of his show . The two hit it off after Dahl invited her to a " hump day " broadcast he was doing from the camel area of the Detroit Zoo .

WDAI executives in Chicago , attracted by Dahl 's 7 @. @ 1 share , approached him and offered to double his salary to \$ 50 @, @ 000 a year . However , Janet did not want to leave her family in Detroit and he did not want to leave her . This prompted Dahl to ask his bosses for \$ 35 @, @ 000 a year to stay in Detroit . They flatly refused by telling him to " Go fuck yourself . Go to Chicago . Fall on your fat face . " In 1978 , after Janet accepted his marriage proposal , Dahl left Detroit for WDAI in Chicago . The pair eventually married in 1980 .

= = = Rude Awakening = = =

Dahl began at WDAI Chicago on February 23 , 1978 with his solo " Steve Dahl 's Rude Awakening " show , but it never achieved solid ratings despite media attention . Ten months later , on Christmas Eve , 1978 , WDAI changed formats from rock to disco and fired Dahl .

= = = Steve and Garry = = =

In March 1979 , after a few months without a job , Dahl was hired to do a morning show at WLUP where he met overnight DJ Garry Meier ( who was then broadcasting under the pseudonym of " Matthew Meier " ) . Shortly thereafter , the two began a cross talk that eventually led to Meier being teamed up with Dahl as both sidekick and newsman . Dahl effectively forced Meier to use his actual name by calling him " Garry " on @-@ air accidentally . After openly discussing the subject , again , on @-@ air , Meier officially dropped his pseudonym .

= = = = Disco Demolition Night = = = =

In response to Dahl 's firing from WDAI , Dahl and Meier mocked and heaped scorn on disco records and WDAI ( calling it " Disco @-@ D.I.E. " mocking the station 's slogan , " Disco @-@ D.A.I. " ) on the air . Dahl even recorded and started playing a parody of Rod Stewart 's " Da Ya Think I 'm Sexy ? " , which he called " Do You Think I 'm Disco ? " . The song managed to crack the national charts to peak at # 58 on the Billboard Hot 100 and received airplay across the country .

During this same time period , Dahl and Meier , along with Mike Veeck ( son of then Chicago White Sox owner Bill Veeck ) , Jeff Schwartz of WLUP Sales and Dave Logan , the WLUP Promotions Director , came up with a radio promotion and tie @-@ in to the White Sox called Disco Demolition Night which took place on Thursday , July 12 , 1979 . The concept was to create an event to " end disco once and for all " in the center field of Comiskey Park that night by allowing people to get tickets at the box office if they brought \$ 0 @. @ 98 ( for WLUP @-@ FM 's 97 @. @ 9 location on the dial ) and at least one disco record . More than 50 @, @ 00 fans showed up , the records were collected , piled up on the field and blown up . Hundreds of rowdy fans stormed the field , refused to leave , and caused the second game of the doubleheader to be postponed . American League President Lee MacPhail later declared the second game of the doubleheader a forfeit victory for the visiting Detroit Tigers . Six people reported minor injuries , and thirty @-@ nine were arrested for disorderly conduct .

= = = = Height of collaboration = = = =

As a result of Disco Demolition Night , Dahl attained national recognition and his popularity increased significantly . He established a syndicate and the Steve and Garry show began airing in

Detroit and Milwaukee , where it performed well . However , in February 1981 , WLUP fired Dahl , citing " continued assaults on community standards . " " It was going on in El Paso and Los Angeles , like , on Monday , and on Friday they fired me , " Dahl later said . Meier was offered the opportunity to continue the show by himself , but he refused .

During the Iranian Hostage Crisis , Dahl , along with his backing band Teenage Radiation , recorded and released a parody of The Knack 's song " My Sharona , " called " Ayatollah . " He also made on @-@ the @-@ air prank phone calls to the " Islamic Fried Chicken " ( a play on Kentucky Fried Chicken ) , ordering buckets of chicken for the hostages in the US embassy , for which the State Department later reprimanded him . Dahl also parodied the John Wayne Gacy murders with his song " Another Kid in the Crawl " ( to the tune of Pink Floyd 's " Another Brick in the Wall " ) . The playing of the song was stopped after parents of the murdered children called to complain .

Dahl and Meier won a local Emmy award for a television special they did in 1981 called , Greetings from Graceland , which was a comedy spoof on the tourist shrine and featured Elvis Presley 's " Uncle Vester " selling Elvis cookbooks from the guardhouse . They briefly had a morning television show , called It 's Too Early on local Chicago station , WFBN @-@ TV , which nationally syndicated columnist Bob Greene called " the best program on television " , " amazing " , and " hypnotic " in his June 20 , 1983 column . The show was canceled after four weeks on the air because it was deemed " unsuitable for general viewing ... in particular for young children " after Dahl was shown fully clothed sitting on a toilet seat reading a newspaper .

In 1982 , he stated on the air that motorists could allegedly substitute Necco Wafers for coins in automatic toll booths on Chicago 's tollways . The Illinois Tollway System later said that approximately a dozen toll machines broke down due to people trying to use the candy to pay tolls .

Dahl decided to get a vasectomy in March 1989 , which was performed live on the air at a urologist 's office in Indiana . According to Arbitron ratings for that survey period , Dahl and Meier 's ratings jumped from a tie for seventh place in afternoons to a tie for third place .

According to Paul D. Colford , a former writer for Long Island Newsday , Howard Stern listened to tapes of Steve and Garry sent from Chicago by a friend of the chief engineer at WCCC Hartford . Colford claims Stern eventually developed his on @-@ air style as a result of these tapes . Later , Stern was hired at WWWW Detroit ( which Dahl had left when he moved to Chicago ) .

= = = End of collaboration = = =

Steve and Garry moved to WLS , but ultimately returned to WLUP where they stayed until their split in 1993 . The alleged reason for the break @-@ up was Dahl 's on @-@ the @-@ air comments about Meier 's new wife , commercial real @-@ estate broker Cynthia Fircak , while the new couple were on their honeymoon . Meier also blamed Dahl 's alcoholism and unpredictable behavior . Dahl , for his part , blamed Fircak for the split , once saying on air " When I met her , I knew the rules had just changed . "

In 2003 , Robert Feder , a columnist for the Chicago Sun @-@ Times , said , " It 's the divorce that just keeps on giving : A decade after Steve Dahl and Garry Meier severed their legendary radio partnership , their breakup remains a source of bitterness and anger for them ? and continuing fascination for their fans . "

After the team broke up , Dahl went to Sports Talk WMVP AM and teamed with Chicago sportscaster Bruce Wolf .

= = = WCKG years = = =

Dahl ended up on WCKG , broadcasting an afternoon show on that station . He eventually teamed up with Buzz Kilman , who was Dahl 's newsman starting in 1980 on WLUP , and the show was available as a podcast at Dahl 's website and streamed live on WCKG 's website . Dahl 's afternoon show was rated fifth ( 4 @. 1 ) among men 25 @-@ 54 in the winter 2006 @-@ 2007 ratings report . In 2007 , Dahl was named one of the ' 100 Most Important Radio Talk Show Hosts ' by Talkers Magazine .

On Friday , August 18 , 2006 , Dahl was doing a remote broadcast of his show at Oak Street Beachstro , a restaurant on Chicago 's Oak Street Beach . Coincidentally , Garry Meier was eating lunch there with friends . After Dahl learned of Meier 's presence there , he invited Meier to appear on the air with him , which Meier accepted . Meier wound up staying for the remainder of the show . This event was covered widely throughout the Chicago media that evening .

On April 2 , 2007 , Meier returned to Chicago radio , doing the 8 AM @-@ 11 AM show on WCKG . He appeared briefly on Dahl 's show that same day . They occasionally contributed to each other 's shows , and Meier spent the first hour and a half in studio during Dahl 's show on the 28th year anniversary of Disco Demolition Night , recounting the events of that night .

= = = Jack FM = = =

Dahl announced on October 29 , 2007 that he would move to mornings at WJMK on November 5 , 2007 as WCKG changed formats . He was the only live personality at the Jack FM outlet as the rest of the station was pre @-@ programmed and run by computer . Dahl 's son Matt was part of the regular WCKG lineup and hosted the show immediately following his father 's . However , the WCKG format change , from an FM talk station to an adult contemporary station was the end of Matt 's show on WCKG .

On December 5 , 2008 , Dahl announced the end of his show on Jack FM due to low ratings .

" They were saying , ' Well , do a couple of weeks , a farewell . ' " Dahl said . " I said , ' It 's not a farewell . You guys are taking me off the air . I 'm not retiring . ' ... " I still have two and a half years left on my deal so , quite frankly , I 'm not letting them out of it . " Dahl also said he was prepared to stay off the air for the remainder of his contract , which was to end in mid @-@ 2011 and was said to be worth more than \$ 1 million annually .

After the end of Dahl 's final broadcast , Howard Cogan , the normally sarcastic signature voice , Jack , heard on many Jack FM stations , delivered a sincere sendoff to Dahl followed by " Life 's Been Good " by Joe Walsh , a long @-@ time friend of Dahl .

= = = Back to WLS = = =

On October 7 , 2014 , media blogger Robert Feder reported that Dahl would be returning to terrestrial radio on WLS AM 890 . Feder wrote : " Dahl , 59 , will join the Cumulus Media news / talk station as afternoon personality , from 2 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday . If all goes as planned , Dahl would start in early November . Sources familiar with the deal said Dahl will continue his subscription podcast venture , with Cumulus Media becoming a partner in the Steve Dahl Network . Under the agreement , Cumulus would provide financial , technical and marketing support , while Dahl would continue to host a separate , 90 @-@ minute daily podcast for his paid subscribers . " Dahl confirmed Feder 's report on October 8 saying " he 's eager to get back on the air to become ' part of the daily conversation in Chicago ' " .

Dahl 's first day back on WLS was November 3 , 2014 . His show included an appearance by Ron Magers and a phone interview with Bob Odenkirk . Prior to the show , Dahl said in an email , " My plan for the show is to be funny and get good ratings . " Dahl also said that he sees his return as not only a good opportunity to try and re @-@ energize radio , but also as a way to turn people onto his podcast .

= = Podcasts = =

On September 8 , 2009 , Dahl began doing daily podcasts from a studio in the basement of his home . At the time , Dahl was still under contract with CBS , who had agreed in July 2009 to partner with him to produce a daily , hour long podcast complete with a few commercials . On August 1 , 2011 , Dahl , no longer under contract with CBS , began the Steve Dahl Network whose 11 unique weekly shows can be either downloaded or streamed via his official website and app or downloaded from iTunes . Originally , there was only just a daily podcast from Dahl ; the network , however , has

expanded and now includes podcasts by friends Kevin Matthews and Daniel Van Kirk among others

In addition to podcasting , Steve has maintained a presence with his fans through Facebook , Twitter , blogs , occasional newspaper articles ( he wrote a regular column for the Chicago Tribune up until 2011 ) as well as various television / radio appearances .

= = Musical career = =

In addition to recording parody songs for his radio show with his early band Teenage Radiation , Dahl began recording and playing live performance with a new band in 1990 , called Steve Dahl and the Dahlfins . This band has recorded and released several albums , including 1992 's " Tropical Tides " and 1997 's " Mai Tai Roa Ae " . In 2007 , backed by Des Moines , Iowa band The Nadas , Dahl embarked on a tour of Chicago @-@ area concert venues . In collaboration with record producer Joe Thomas , Dahl played a large role in the comeback of Beach Boy Brian Wilson . The three co @-@ wrote the song " Your Imagination " which appeared as a single and on Wilson 's 1998 album Imagination . Dahl provided backup vocals on the song as well . An alternate version of " Your Imagination " with slightly different lyrics and Steve Dahl singing lead is occasionally played on The Steve Dahl Show .

= = Honors = =

On November 9 , 2013 , Dahl and former partner Meier were both inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame in recognition of their work together on the " Steve and Garry Show . "

= = Personal life = =

Currently , Dahl resides in the western suburbs of Chicago with his wife Janet , a non @-@ practicing lawyer , whom he married in 1978 . Before law school , she taught junior high for seven years in Bloomfield Hills , Michigan . Dahl has three sons and six grandchildren .

Dahl is an avid Chicago sports fan , and holds season tickets for the Chicago Blackhawks .

Dahl has battled alcoholism throughout his adult life , which he has alluded to a number of times . He has been sober since 1995 , the day after a drinking bout at the White Sox home opener , achieving it cold turkey .

It was sort of prompted by the fact that I realized that Patrick ( eldest of his three sons ) was 14 and I was rapidly approaching a ' Do as I say , not as I do ' situation . I didn 't think I had a right to comment on [ my sons ' ] behavior based on my behavior . Plus , once I turned 40 ( in November 1994 ) some metabolic thing happened to me and I guess I just got old .

In 1999 , his wife filed a multi ? million dollar lawsuit against Mancow Muller over lewd comments Muller made about her on his show . In 2001 , the case was settled . Although the terms of the deal were not disclosed , it was reportedly seven figures .

Also in 1999 , Steve Dahl admitted secretly recording conversations among staffers at WCKG because he suspected they were talking about him behind his back . In snippets Dahl has played on his afternoon show , two station employees can be heard mocking him as " Steve Dull " and ridiculing his show . Dahl said , " I did it within my organization to confirm my suspicions . This was in a studio filled with microphones and cameras . Legally , I don 't feel they had any expectation of privacy in that case . "

Criminal suspect Drew Peterson and his lawyer , Joel Brodsky , called in to Dahl 's show on January 23 , 2008 . Dahl had been lampooning Peterson since the start of the former police officer 's notoriety . Brodsky suggested that Dahl host an on @-@ air " dating game " with Peterson the following day , but WJMK managers and Dahl later decided not to go through with it . "