

# The Charlie Tuna Show



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**Genre:** Beach, Island, sunshine Oldies & Radio Chat

Charlie Tuna was born in Kearney, Nebraska. He was a high school athlete and sports editor of his school newspaper. At age 16, Ferguson began working at his hometown's radio station, KGFW. Then, he went to work at KLEO in Wichita, Kansas for a year with the air name Billy O'Day. He then worked for KOMA Radio in Oklahoma City in 1966, where he was given his Charlie Tuna pseudonym taking over the moniker from Chuck Riley who had used it for one show the week prior to Ferguson's arrival. Ferguson then moved on to WMEX in Boston for the first 9 months of 1967.

In late 1967, KHJ in Los Angeles offered Charlie the 9 to noon slot where he debuted on Thanksgiving Day 1967, and Charlie has worked in the LA area ever since. On February 9, 1971 at 6:00 a.m. he had just commenced his morning show on KHJ when the San Fernando Earthquake occurred. In 1972, he became one of the original DJs at KROQ AM, a new Top 40 station (formerly Country KBBQ). Charlie was also Program Director and morning personality at 102.7 KKDJ when its call letters were changed to KIIS-FM when he presided over its 1975 on air wedding to KIIS-AM. Therefore, Charlie became the very first DJ at KIIS-FM, as it began its AM-FM simulcast. Among the other stations he worked at were KTNQ, KHTZ (later KBZT), KRLA, KODJ (later KCBS-FM), KMPC, KIKF, and KLAC.

He most recently worked at KBIG 104.3 where he hosted a show Charlie Tuna in the Morning which aired from 5 to 10 am. His last show aired on September 17, 2007, when the station flipped to a non-rhythmic-based adult contemporary format, as 104.3 My FM. He returned to radio February 9, 2008 when he became the weekend personality on Los Angeles oldies station K-Earth 101.

Tuna served as announcer for Casey Kasem on his 1980's television program America's Top 10. Two decades later, on the weekends of October 8/9, 2005 and August 12/13, 2006 Tuna stepped into Kasem's role for his radio programs American Top 20 and American Top 10 for the weekend. In addition to filling in for Kasem, he also co-hosted Your Good Time Oldies Magazine from 1992 to 1995, and he produced and hosted Back to the 70s. Only 52 episodes of Back to the 70s were produced, but reruns continued to air on stations across the country until 2008, even though Tuna had long since left the program.

Tuna had a year long run in 2009, of a 5 hour classic hits daily and weekend show, syndicated through United States Radio Network in New York. Tuna joined Black Card Radio in Los Angeles March 1, 2010, as host of a new 5 hour weekend show Charlie Tuna - The 70's, which is distributed nationally and

internationally, and added a 5 hour daily and weekend show for all radio formats on June 14, 2010. Tuna also moved his radio station voice imaging business to Black Card Radio on October 25, 2010, with clients nationwide. On January 3, 2011, Charlie introduced his newest syndicated feature available through Black Card Radio, "Charlie Tuna's Hollywood Minute", 4 to 5 top entertainment stories each day in a fast paced, fully produced headline stories, plus "audio" clips one minute radio feature! Charlie reunited with United States Radio Network in New York January 1, 2013 to do the ad sales for his Black Card Radio shows.

Tuna has a significant distinction for his 25-year run (1971-1996) of approximately 6,000 radio shows on the American Forces Radio Network.

We are thrilled to have Charlie from 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM weekdays Monday through Friday here on Surf 97.3 FM.

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