

# The Mecklenburg Missile

Comin' Atcha

Kiwanis Club of Mecklenburg, Charlotte, Inc.

P. O. Box 33573, Charlotte, NC 28233-3573

Organized August 5, 1952

Missile Launcher: Bob Swanson

**Meeting Monday, December 17, 2012**

**Next Meeting: Monday, January 7, 2013**

## Today's Meeting

A "project" meeting today, on location at Levine Children's Hospital. We take literally the Kiwanis motto, "Serving the Children of the World."

The meeting was on the "Panthers" floor. Judging from the picture here, I'm not sure who had the best time: Kiwanians or the kids!



Thanks to Valerie for the picture.

## A Mecklenburg Kiwanis Notable

In 1975-1976 our Club President was Dr. F. A. "Al" Mathes, a retired Presbyterian Minister. He had been a Kiwanian while ministering in Coral Gables, Florida. After accepting a call to be Senior Pastor at Huntersville Presbyterian and moving to that community, he joined Mecklenburg Kiwanis, and commuted weekly (at that time) to meetings..

Al was notable among the clergy in his own right. He graduated college with an engineering degree, but switched to ministry and later received a DD. He and Jacqueline (Jackie) had four very talented daughters, the oldest of whom was Rachel. Rachel Mathes was well-known in the music world, having sung professionally with the Metropolitan Opera in many operatic (and other) roles world-wide. We also enjoyed her singing right here, as she visited our Club more than once and sang for us. What treats those programs were!

Rachel "retired" from the traveling circuit, joined UAB (the University of Alabama, Birmingham), and still is teaching voice there. Other members of the Mathes family soon moved back to their "hometown" to join her.

I believe I am correct in stating that Al Mathes was the first member of our Club to receive a Kiwanis Life Membership. His family bought it for him and presented it at a gala Club meeting in April, 1983. Both Al and Jackie have passed from this life, Al in 1992. Al also had a twin brother, Ed.

Visit this web site to learn many more interesting facts about Rachel Mathes:

<http://www.music.uab.edu/site2/mathesbio.htm>

## William L. ("Mans") McLeod, Jr.

The Charlotte Observer on Sunday & Monday, December 16 & 17, carried an obituary for this young man. He was just 54. Mans was a member of Mecklenburg Kiwanis for a number of years, serving as President in 1989/1990.

Mans was the son of the late, well-known, Dr. Jonnie McLeod. While the obit doesn't specify, we can deduce from the "Thanks" offered that he died of a brain tumor.

No mention was made of his Kiwanis presidency, nor even his membership.

**Meets 12 Noon, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays: Villa Antonio Ristorante, 4707 South Boulevard**

Web Site: <http://www.mecklenburgkiwanis.org>