



Sam Malone and Michele Fisher of the "Sam Malone in the Morning" show on 96.5 have Sugar Land ties

# Radio's Dynamic Duo

## WHY SAM MALONE and MICHELE FISHER ARE SWEET ON SUGAR LAND

Two of the most popular radio personalities in Houston broadcasting have strong ties to the Sugar Land area.

Michele Fisher and Sam Malone preside over the hugely listened-to morning show, "Sam Malone in the Morning," on Radio Station KHMZ, 96.5. Both have made Sugar Land their home for many years, plus each has children that have been born and raised in the community. They have also not been reluctant to use their program to promote their "home" town.

Sam and Michele claim their work on radio is a "labor of love." "We meet so many nice people," says Malone. Not only do they meet listeners they enjoy, they have also met famous stars of the music world.

Written by Lee Butler  
Photography by Suzi Issa

“I met and interviewed one of the Beatles, Paul McCartney,” says the leader of the duo, Sam Malone. “I have met many others, including Barry Manilow, Olivia Newton John, and Jane Seymour, still sexy at age 58.”

“Among my favorites,” says Fisher, “are Hannah Montana, Bette Midler, Cher, and Aerosmith. Bette Midler and Cher are great ladies, and easy to interview,” she says.

## How it All Started

Fisher is a native of the greater Houston area, being raised in The Woodlands. She graduated from McCullough High School and attended Sam Houston State University in Huntsville. While at SHSU, she got an introduction to broadcasting working for a Huntsville radio station. She met her husband-to-be, Jason, while at Sam Houston and he got her interested in working in front of the mic because that was his college major. They are raising children, Emma, 9 and Jackson, 6 in Sugar Land. In addition, Michele has a step-daughter, Liza, who is a frequent visitor from Harlingen.

The duo’s bantering with each other has delighted their audience since they were first paired on the air in 2006. Their friendship goes back many more years, however, both having worked for another Houston radio station at the same time.

Malone has been a favorite voice in Houston for more than fifteen years. “Sam Malone in the Morning” has been waking Houstonians with the irreverent style of humor that quickly got his audience growing. His parting words, “See ya!” has become a popular phrase that can be heard all around the Houston area.



One of Sam’s favorite interviews was Paul McCartney

word. “It’s like living in a small town,” Michele says. “Everybody is so friendly. They care about each other and are concerned about one another; the schools are great.”

Both personalities were complimentary on the choices of places in Sugar Land to visit when they want to go out...especially with their kids. They were high in praise on the local park system and places for the kids to play. Listeners have been able over the years to keep up with the youth baseball team of Malone’s son, Jake.

## Where to Catch Sam & Michele on the Radio

“Sam Malone in the Morning” airs on 96.5 KHMX, Monday – Friday from 6–9 a.m.

Malone came to Houston from Philadelphia. A graduate of Temple University with a degree in Finance, he started working at Houston’s radio station KRBE in 1993. He has not had many idle days since. Married to the beautiful Denise, they have a 9 ½ year-old son, Jake, whose birth was loudly proclaimed on his radio program. Malone is also a founding investor in Founders Bank in Sugar Land. “I’ve put my money where my mouth is,” claims Malone.

## Why Sugar Land?

When asked what they liked about Sugar Land, they both immediately said “the people.” Malone continued, “When I first came to Houston, I drove around most of the communities nearby. I checked out the schools, civic organizations and particularly the police and fire departments. I found out in a hurry these guys and gals were professionals in every sense of the



Michele Fisher lives in Sugar Land with her family



Michele Fisher and Sam Malone at the station

## “SEE YA!”

Sam Malone coined the popular phrase that can be heard all around the greater Houston area.

### The Duo's Favorite SL Places

Malone says that eating at Jason's Deli and working with his son's baseball team are two of his favorite things to do in Sugar Land. His son, Jake, does not plan to follow dad into broadcasting. "He gets a kick out of having his dad on the radio," Sam says. "In fact, he even joins me from time to time on the program. He's a pretty funny little guy...but he has every intention of being a baseball player when he grows up." Jake likes to visit Skeeter's on Highway 6. Malone enjoys Perry's. "Their Danish baby back ribs are AWESOME!" he says.

Michele says her family is a tight unit that loves going out together. One of their favorites is Lupe Tortilla for the "best fajitas in town." They also enjoy Jason's Deli for fresh food and ice cream on the patio. She says that Sugar Land's Town Square has cool events, such as "Superstar." That's one of the things she likes most about Sugar Land... "families out together, enjoying all that SLTX has to offer."

Sugar Land... "It's like living in a small town. Everybody is so friendly. They care about each other and are concerned about one another; the schools are great." - Michele Fisher

"My kids have some mixed feeling about mom on the radio," Michele says. "I like it that my mom can get autographs, and I get to meet cool people," Emma says. "But, I don't like that she is not here in the morning." Her brother Jackson agrees. "I like hearing mom's voice every day," he says. Jackson also says the interviews are great...like when she talked to "Tommy," the Power Ranger, Jason David Frank. "That was awesome!" he says.

### Their Star Power Predictions

Malone says a lot of new artists show promise, but he expects much more from Hannah Montana/Miley Cyrus. He says everything she does is "golden."

Michele agrees about Miley Cyrus, or Hannah. "She's got that Disney staying power," she says. "But, the first artist to come to my mind when I start thinking of future promise is

Maroon 5. They are not really new, they have two albums, but they are definitely here to stay."

Both entertainers think broadcasting is a good career. And, both point out the changes in the past twenty years. Get your education," they advise. That's most important.

Fisher says, "Follow your dreams" to which Malone nods in agreement.

By the way, in case you didn't know, the program can be heard each morning, Monday through Friday, on 96.5 from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. SEE YA! **SLM**

*LEE BUTLER was a news reporter in print and on radio and television for over twenty-five years, mainly in Texas. He is the father of five sons and a veteran of the United States Marine Corps.*

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Sam and Michele's advice for success:  
"Get your education and follow your dreams."

Michele Fisher and Sam Malone mix it up in the studio



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