

Patrick's launches 14th fall season of comedy

GILFORD — Patrick's Pub & Eatery of Gilford hosted its first ever comedy show in the spring of 1995, testing the waters to see if there would be enough interest in the Lakes Region to support a comedy show. Now, 14 years later, Patrick's is the longest running comedy venue in New Hampshire.

Patrick's opens its fall season of comedy this week featuring headliner Mark Scalia. Scalia is a multi-talented entertainer, playing to thousands of people across the United States and Canada at the top comedy clubs, as well as comedic acting in theatre, film and television.

One of the big reasons for Patrick's success is the quality of comedians that come to perform. By hosting their shows on Thursday nights, as opposed to Fridays or Saturdays, there is more availability of quality comedians.

"This gives Patrick's the opportunity to get much better talent at a price that makes it affordable," according to Rob Steen, president of North Shore Comedy Productions.

As the booking agent for the shows, Steen explains that prices triple and more for comics on Friday and Saturday evenings, and the availability is much more limited.

We have comics playing at Patrick's who have played the Letterman and Leno shows, as well as MTV, Comedy Central and HBO shows simply because they're available on Thursday nights," he said. "If these guys have a free night and they're in the Boston area, they're happy to make the trip to the Lakes Region."

Patrick's will be hosting several new faces this fall season, including a special show featuring Jimmy "JJ" Walker from the hit TV show "Good Times." Named "Comedian of the Decade" in the '70s by Time Magazine, Jimmie is currently touring the country doing his stand-up comedy and also performs on late night TV and game shows. Jimmy will be at Patrick's on Oct. 22. Tickets for this special event are \$25 and are on sale now at Patrick's.

Beginning with this week's show on Sept. 17 and continuing on select nights, Patrick's will open up the first 30 minutes of every show with Stand Up or Shut Up Open Mic Comedy. If you think you're funny...come

on over to Patrick's and give it a try.

"This is really fun!" said co-owner Allan Beetle. "You really have no idea what you are getting yourself into with the open mic nights...it's a bit crazy and very exciting."

Top amateurs will be invited back for a contest in November where the funniest comedian will take home a cash prize and have a chance to open at a Headlin-

er's Comedy Club.

"The Open Mike portion of the show is a great way to loosen up the crowd before the pros come out," Beetle said. "It really helps people appreciate just how challenging it is to be a great comedian."

Comedy at Patrick's costs \$10, and there are \$3-off coupons available anytime you visit Patrick's. Patrick's, along with Meredith Village Savings Bank,

continues their "Comedy with a Cause" fundraiser through the fall. Comedy patrons simply tell their server which select community service organization they would like to donate ? of their cover charge to.

Patrick's is located at the junction of Rt 11 and Rt 11B in Gilford. All shows begin at 8 p.m. every Thursday. Reservations are accepted. Call Patrick's at 293-0841 or visit www.patrickspub.com

for details of upcoming shows.

Patrick's, along with Meredith Village Savings Bank are co-hosting "Comedy With a Cause," allowing patrons to choose to donate ? their admission to one of 10 local charitable organizations.



COURTESY PHOTO
Right: Comedian Mark Scalia will kick off Patrick's comedy season.

JAMBOREE

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Throughout the night rain falls, heavy at times, and all I can think is please don't rain tomorrow.

Saturday, Sept. 12, 6 a.m.

Camping with my 2-year-old who never lets me sleep past 7:30 a.m. anyway is awake earlier than usual due to the unfamiliar surroundings. I try to wipe the sleep from my eyes and look at it as a way to get up and start getting my game face on.

As an active member of the Concord Area Homebrewers, our club has to play an increased roll behind the scenes, running the gate from 9 a.m. till noon. Then throughout the entire event from 10 a.m. till 6 p.m. we must have some one on duty to pour our homebrew taps to the paying public. Then there are the kids games we are in charge of from 1-4 p.m.

Due to the full day of work ahead of me I use my daughter's early wake up as a way to get me motivated and gear up to help make the Jamboree an event people enjoy coming to. The more people we get there each year, the more we will be able to raise for Make-A-Wish kids.

8:40 a.m.

I assume the gate position and start selling admissions, checking IDs, giving out wristbands and door prize tickets, directing cars where to park and showing campers where they can find a space to set up.

10 a.m.

Event organizer Steve Ainsworth getting things kicked off with general announcements, some background music and a call for clubs to bring up additional "swag" they may have to donate. Many of the clubs involved from across New England take time throughout the year to ask local brew-



PHOTO BY EMILY KILLINGER
The White Mountain Fermenters from Whitefield had their Iron Brewer Competition beers on tap for attendees to vote on what they thought was the best use of the secret ingredient.

eries to donate any and all logo items, such as t-shirts, hats and glassware.

10 a.m. till end of the daytime events

Alongside the six other homebrewer clubs that set up tap lines along Brewers Alley, the White Mountain Fermenters from Whitefield set up a two tap system which is concealed in a trash can. Separate from their club tap lines, this is a chance for

Jamboree attendees to vote for who they think is the "Iron Brewer."

Back on July 26 the White Mountain Fermenters held their first annual Iron Brewer Competition. Two teams were randomly selected from eager participants of varying brew skills. Granite Cask sponsored the event and supply all ingredients, including the "secret ingredient" which each team much use in their brew. A first ever for both the White Mountain Fermenters and the NE Home-Brewers Jamboree, I

think many enjoyed getting to sample and place their vote for the one they liked best.

11 a.m.

I man the tap lines for our club. Most clubs have set up a jockey box, which has anywhere from two to seven taps running through a chiller plate inside a converted cooler with taps handles attached. Our club, however, has our four jockey box lines coming out of the side our club president's work van. Concord Area Homebrewers President Ed Ramshaw runs a tap line service business called Blueline and for the past two years has made his tap van part of the Jamboree festivities. Needless to say everyone thinks it is just the coolest thing to see beer pouring out of the side of a van.

Noon

Close of registration for competition entrees results in 157 entrees this year.

1 p.m.

Ed Ramshaw of the Concord Area Homebrewers gets the competition judging underway as he organizes the stewards. Stewards are the individuals whom deliver the entries to each judging table. Stewards then read a description of American Homebrewers Association guidelines for the particular brew each table is served. Ed put in many hours of work this year to redesign a more user-friendly score sheets.

3 p.m.

My club gets the kids games underway starting with the grain sack race, followed by a scavenger hunt, then a balloon kick relay. Then it's onto a burping contest, where participating kids user some caffeine-free root beer to help them perform. Finally the kids get a chance at the keg toss before prizes are awarded to all kids participating.

4 p.m.

I slip into the judging tent for the cider category, finding many tasty entries this year.

5-6 p.m.

Judging of the seven categories comes to an end and Deb Peterson calculates the final scores and determines the winners of this year's event.

6 p.m.

The winning raffle ticket for the Allagash barrel my husband got donated is picked, and the winner is Joe Wentworth.

The winner of the "People Choice - Club Brew" which participants were asked to vote on is tallied and announced. Third place goes to the White Mountain Fermenters with their Pumpkin Bret. Second place went to the South Shore Club with their Saison. The winner of bragging rights this year for the best club brew on Brewers Alley goes to the Concord Area Homebrewers for "Hop-notiq."

The judging scores are totaled and the awards are announced and medals given out to all seven categories. I see many of the usual winners alongside new first time winners and old school returning winners from when the event was still called the NH Homebrewers Jamboree. All in all there were many great entries and tons of great tastes to be enjoyed as the day comes to an end. Alas it is time to clean up and head back to make some dinner at our club site. This year just as in years past I enjoy the camaraderie of campfire talk and toasting of glasses as I make my way around to each club. I realize that it is these friendly faces that bring me back each year and have made me want to help make the Jamboree an event many come together for year after year, bringing together good drink and good times with a goal of helping those Wish kids.

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