



Comet Club

208 Gaffney Road, Fairbanks, AK (907) 456-6321

License Issued: December 1957 to Dorothy Crabtree

CLOSED March 1, 2015

Amenities: Pool table, darts, TV, jukebox, occasional live entertainment

Web site: Facebook; Foursquare

History and Notoriety: On October 18, 1957, a bar known as the Totem Club was heavily damaged by a fire. The bar had been having financial problems, and the fire dealt the final blow. The liquor license was transferred to Dorothy Crabtree, whose husband Tom owned the building. Repairs were quickly made and the bar reopened two months later as the Comet Club, with Nat Baker as manager. At that time, the Comet Club was the last bar on Gaffney Road before entering the Ladd Air Force Base; it is still the last bar on Gaffney before entering Fort Wainwright.

In October of 1958, Jim and Mable Reed became the new owners. The Reed's catered mainly to the servicemen, and offered an amusement known as "the bowling game." Dorothy Sullivan took over in 1963, and then sold the bar to Jim Green in 1967. Jim turned the bar into a haven for country music lovers, importing groups from the Lower 48.

The bar even featured a house band known appropriately as “The Comets.” In 1971, Jim and Richard Lundhagen became partners in an establishment known as The Hillside on Chena Hot Springs Road just outside of Fairbanks. Richard took full control of the Comet Club that same year.

The Chanticleer Society, which describes itself as a “Worldwide Organization of Cocktail Enthusiasts” recommends visiting the Comet Club and describes the bar as ”... a no frills establishment where the blue-collar locals hang out...”

Visiting the Comet Club: Airport Way replaced Gaffney Road as the primary thoroughfare back in the 1970’s, so you’ll need to use Noble Street to access the Comet Club. This is a nice place to escape to, where you can relax, shoot some pool or play darts. There are several framed posters advertising events at the Glacier Brew House in Anchorage (a personal favorite of the author). The annual Halloween party, dubbed “Pimps and Hos,” is a popular event.

THE
Comet
CLUB

OPENING TOMORROW
Saturday, Dec. 14th

OUT OF THE SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION
OF THE TOTEM CLUB COMES A NEW
COMET!

OPENING UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Regular Hours
10 A.M. to 2 A.M.

Nat Baker invites all military and Fairbanks
to stop in and enjoy the fun and atmosphere
that's out of this world!

JUST OUTSIDE LADD GATE
208 GAFFNEY ROAD

Fairbanks Daily News Miner – December 13, 1957

**THE
COMET CLUB**

208 GAFFNEY ROAD

**Is Now
Under New Management
JIM & MABLE REED**

OPEN 2 P.M. TO 2 A.M.

Fairbanks Daily News Miner – October 8, 1958

The Completely New
COMET CLUB
Now Open

JUKE BOX FEATURES COUNTRY MUSIC
JIM GREEN, Your Host

208 Gaffney

10 a.m. to 2 a.m.

Fairbanks Daily News Miner – November 24, 1967

GRAND RE-OPENING

SUNDAY, DEC. 3rd, 2 P.M. TO 2 A.M.

Live Music featuring "Ray Mefford"

at the Beautiful New

COMET CLUB

NOW OPEN – JIM GREEN, YOUR HOST

208 Gaffney

10 a.m. to 2 a.m.

Fairbanks Daily News Miner – December 2, 1967

Jim Green's

COMET CLUB

Alaska's new home of Country Music

featuring nightly Tues. thru Sun.

the Sensational COMETS

AND . . . HELD OVER BY POPULAR DEMAND
For a Very Limited Time

Del & Sue Smart

West Coast's Favorites—Recording Artists

NO COVER CHARGE

JAM SESSION EVERY SUNDAY 3:00 P.M.

Visit Fairbanks' finest and newest club

208 GAFFNEY

PHONE 456-6321

IN PERSON



Del & Sue Smart

- Grand Ole Opry
- Ernest Tubbs Show
- Bobby Lord T.V. Shows
- Buck Owens Shows
and many others

Fairbanks Daily News Miner – March 13, 1968

JIM GREEN'S

COMET CLUB

ALASKA'S HOME OF COUNTRY MUSIC

Live Music — Tues. thru Sun.

Appearing Nitely

JOHNNY COLLINGSWORTH

and The Country Capers

Continuous Entertainment 9 p.m. - 2 a.m.

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

308 Gaffney 456-6321

In Person
Johnny
Collingsworth

Fairbanks Daily News Miner – September 21, 1968



Interior of the Comet Club – 2011
Photo by Doug Vandegraft