



Whaler Bar & Grill (aka Alaskan Whaler)

171 Muldoon Road, Anchorage, AK (907) 522-1616

License Issued: October 5, 1979 to James Peot

CLOSED March 30, 2014

Amenities: Pool tables, darts, live music, DJ, juke box, Pull-Tabs, restaurant.

Web site: <http://www.whalerbar.com/>. Facebook.

History and Notoriety: The Whaler, and its neighbor the Cabin Tavern, have been the favorite places for Muldooners to party for years. Its proximity to the bases has made it a favorite military hangout as well. But like all Alaskan bars, the clientele varies with the seasons.

This bar is famous for its enormous cocktail known as The Whaler, of course. Served in a huge clamshell bowl, it is a delicious concoction of pineapple, orange and cranberry juices, 15 shots of both dark and light rum, and a splash of cherry brandy. If you aren't in the company of five friends, the bar will make you a single.

A feature of the bar during the 80's and 90's was a huge aquarium which contained a variety of tropical fish.

The Whaler was a favorite place to jam for “Sourdough” Mike McDonald, who was a legendary Alaska entertainer. Sourdough Mike was most famous for his roles in the *Whale Fat Follies* and other similar productions performed at the Fly-By-Night Club in Spenard during the 80’s and 90’s. He was a talented drummer with an awesome singing voice. I will never forget his rendition of the “Alaska’s Flag” song. When he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2001 and the bills started piling up, the Whaler held a benefit concert on Father’s Day, with eight bands performing. Sourdough Mike lost his battle with cancer and passed away in January 2002.

Visiting the Whaler: The Whaler is a great place to see live bands (rock) and to dance, sing karaoke, play pool, and throw darts. They also take pride in their food; if you like, you can grill your own steak. The Texas Hold-Em tournaments are popular, as are the St. Patrick’s Day parties.



The Whaler cocktail is served in a clamshell bowl