Club Alaskan

901 Old Steese Highway, Fairbanks, AK (907) 456-6777
64°51’07”N 147°41’20”W

License Issued: December 1960 to James Gunning **CLOSED 2021**

Amenities: Pool tables, darts, TV’s, jukebox.

Web site: None

History and Notoriety: Club Alaskan opened in December 1960 on the same city lot as the Club Cab Bar, which had been there since 1956. According to the early ads, Jim Gunning served as the “Host, Mixologist & Bottle Washer.” Jim also hired rock and roll bands to keep his customers dancing, and even created a *Mural Room* where people could relax in semi-quiet. Jim passed away in 1964 at the early age of 44, leaving his wife Lois in charge until she sold the bar to Jerald and Lois Tekete in 1971. Lois Tekete passed away four years later, and Jerry took on Jim and Gloria Lefevre as partners in 1978.

Gloria Lefevre shared with me a photo of Club Alaskan as it looked in 1980. The building was in such a state of disrepair that it was easy to see why the LeFevre’ decided to have the Fairbanks Fire Department destroy it with a controlled burn. The Club

Alaskan customers stood and watched while the old bar went up in flames. The new Club Alaskan rose from the ashes of the old, with a large fireplace and adding a fence in 1987 so that customers could enjoy their libations outdoors on those warm sunny days.

Visiting Club Alaskan: This is a popular neighborhood bar that is open every day of the year. In addition to T-shirts, it is one of the few bars in Alaska that still sells and accepts tokens.

Author's Note: Jim LeFevre died suddenly in 1983, and his wife Gloria owned and ran the Club Alaskan until 2021 when she sold the bar. The new owners did extensive renovations and changed the name to **The Cabin**, which opened in August 2022. Gloria LeFevre passed way in September 2022.

From the *Fairbanks Daily News Miner* – February 25, 1961

The Club Alaskan in 1980.
That same year, it was destroyed with a controlled burn by the Fairbanks Fire Dept.
Photo courtesy of Gloria LeFevre.

Interior of the Club Alaskan - May 18, 2011.
Photo by the author.