

# The Pit

11857 (Mile 3.5) Seward Highway, Seward  
(907) 224-3006

**License Issued:** 1956 to Irwin and Ethel Corbin

**CLOSED March 1, 2025**

**Amenities:** Pool tables, shuffleboard, horseshoes, TVs, occasional live music, liquor store

**Find them Online:** Facebook

**History and Notoriety:** The Pit began in a Quonset hut and is truly a Seward institution, although it is just outside the city limits. The bar is easily spotted because of the large neon sign of a brunette in a red dress reclining in a martini glass.

Irwin Corbin was a WWII vet who had previously owned the Surf Bar in Seward. In 1965, a man shot Irwin twice in the back of the head and then grabbed two hundred dollars before fleeing. Incredibly, Irwin survived and owned The Pit until 1977. Dennis and Davorie Kowalski bought the bar in 1981, having previously owned the Yukon Bar. The congenial couple kept The Pit going for twenty-three years. Tragically, both died young, Dennis in 1998 at age fifty and Davorie in 2004 at age forty-seven. Frank Dahl, who also owned Blues Central in Anchorage, bought the bar and added the log siding, which gives The Pit the look of an Alaskan roadhouse.

Because of its location, The Pit can stay open until five o'clock in the morning. This has made the bar very popular with the after-hours crowd, and particularly with cruise ship workers.

In 1996, I was at The Pit with fishing buddies including friends visiting from the Lower 48. As we were leaving, we encountered a situation where one man was at odds with several other men. I intervened, telling the men that the cornered man was with us, and that he was leaving with us. Our new friend seemed very grateful, until we put him in the back seat of a car seated between people who had just spent several hours at The Pit. He asked to be let out of the car as soon as we entered Seward.

**Visiting The Pit:** The Pit is much nicer sounding than its name. It is a large bar with lots of the traditional Alaskan bar amenities, including three decks and a huge backyard with horseshoe pits. Several massive charcoal grills churn out burgers during the summer months.





From the pitbarandliquor Facebook page – May 8, 2016