



Google Street View

Blues Central at the Chef's Inn

825 West Northern Lights Boulevard, Anchorage, AK (907) 272-1341

License Issued: September 1, 1964 to Dale & Sonia Moorman

CLOSED: February 22, 2014

Amenities: Restaurant, live music.

Web site: <http://bluescentral.org/> Facebook; YouTube videos.

History and Notoriety: This bar inside a restaurant was originally known simply as Chef's Inn. At the grand opening on 9/10/1964, national recording artist Chuck Miller sang his top 10 pop hit "House of Blue Lights" while a packed house took turns dancing at "the largest piano bar in Alaska." It quickly became popular for its sunken bar, raised piano-shaped dance floor (which many people fell off of) and "grill your own" New York steak dinners.

The Moorman' sold Chef's Inn to Robert & Fae Weel in 1974. In 1989, a fire gutted the interior of the club. The Weel family rebuilt, but Chef's Inn didn't bounce back. In fact, the bar had been struggling for about 10 years because a different kind of inferno, disco music, had lured away many of its nighttime customers.

Adrian Jaime took over in 1994, and it was he who started booking blues bands after trying a Sunday night blues jam which proved successful. Beginning in 1996, after the sun went down, Chef's Inn became Blues Central. In 1998, Jaime hooked up with Kim Jones of Sourdough Productions to start the *Blues on the Green Festival*. The inaugural festival was an instant hit, drawing 5,000 people with an all-star lineup that featured Bo Diddley, R.L. Burnside, Otis Rush and John Lee Hooker Jr.

In 1999, Frank Dahl, a real estate agent and former Chef's Inn patron, bought the bar. He and his daughter Liz have worked hard to turn Blues Central into a world-class blues club.

Visiting Blues Central at the Chef's Inn: The bar hasn't grown in size during its almost 50 years in business, and can only fit 100 people.

Check out the photos on the walls of artists who have played here like B.B. King, Bo Diddley, Coco Montoya, Guitar Shorty, Taj Mahal, John Lee Hooker Jr. and actor Jim Belushi. Also note the concert posters which plaster the hallway outside the bathroom.

The Sunday Jam sessions are still popular, and there is live music Wednesday – Saturday. If you visit in the evening, plan to be there by 8 PM so that you can get a table, avoid the entertainment cover charge, and have dinner. The French Dip is a well-known delight.



for delightful ENTERTAINMENT,
EXCELLENT FOOD (including finest Steaks) and Cocktails
it's

Chef's Inn

IN ANCHORAGE

featuring our Piano Bar—"largest in Alaska"

Tourists are always welcome
Your Host: DALE MOORMAN

825 West
Northern Lights Blvd.

The advertisement includes a black and white photograph of the interior of the piano bar, showing a long, curved bar with stools and a piano in the background.

Lou Jacobin's *Guide to Alaska and the Yukon* – 1971

<http://www.adn.com/article/20140217/blues-central-close-saturday>

<http://www.adn.com/anchorage/article/blues-central-iconic-anchorage-bar-close-good/2014/02/18/>





