

Probable Cause

By Joy Sen

The Pastimes Sports Bar, 22605 N.E. Halsey in Fairview, presented Probable Cause to "Dance 'til ya Drop" recently and this writer and date were lucky enough to be there.

The friendly open room is comfortable, clean, friendly and busy. Owner James Lee was more than happy to serve dinner from the new menu that Lee and his great and very experienced cook Dick Carstensen just designed. The new menu is fabulous with selections to fill many moods and tastes, such as their famous Boston pizza, a complete deli section, dinner entrees and daily specials for only \$5.95.

These diners chose the daily special of T-bone steak dinner that came with a crisp, fresh, green salad, giant onion rings; and a perfectly cooked baked potato; and the taco salad which had authentic taste and real freshness. Attending every need was Lee's lovely and busy bartender Anna, who was mixing from the full service bar (with many flavors of favorite brews on tap as well).

For enjoyment, you can play pool on one of the four pool tables

(Lee is thinking of removing one to allow more room for dance floor). There are also other ways to have fun at Pastimes, like video poker, darts and a free juke box (when there is no live music), Karaoke, or sports televised events.

You can catch Karaoke on Tuesdays and Wednesdays with

Tim Freed, and Thursdays DJ 'Big Steve' spins sounds.

This night, the jumpin' rock and roll band Probable Cause performed. Greg Dawson, founder of the group 12 years ago, has built a good song list and combined that with solid players. Most importantly imbued the spirit of having a good time into the effort and it shows. Could you expect less from a band whose logo is "Dance 'til ya Drop!"? A great time was had by all.

Dawson's wife Sharon is part of the crew. She minds the mailing list sign up sheet, checks for sound, gets the people dancing, sells the shirts (and soon the CDs) and is a powerful positive force behind this band.

Soundman Chuck Ashley takes care of balance for this dynamic group. He sets a cool mix for the band that plays to the acoustics of the room and the crowd.

Probable Cause is a four-piece guitar band, with Dawson on rhythm guitar and lead vocals, Marv Slifman on bass, Dana Watson on drums and Mark McDermott on lead guitar. On this occasion, the expert stylings of McDermott were unavailable because he was out with an injury. Long time Portland lead guitarist, Steve Coates was at the helm. The band opened with a very tastefully done Stormy Monday at a volume appropriate for the room and crowd.

These guys play very well together, mostly good time rock and roll with a lot of heart and soul. The strong rhythm section of Slifman and Watson held a firm ground for the soaring guitar leads of Steve Coates and the defined and edgy vocals of Greg

Dawson. When they started to play Mustang Sally, it was hard to keep from dancing.

Probable Cause puts on an entertaining show. They provided a dance contest this night and often have more than one audience participation contest nightly. This brought more focus to the event and eventually most in the room were up dancing!

The band has a nice looking and smart web site, www.probablecause.com (Dawson is a web master by day). You can get all the info on booking the band, where and when they will be performing and sign up for their mailing list. They are currently working on a CD project and hope to have it available soon for sale at gigs and from the web site.

You can see Probable Cause at The West Side Bar and Grill on February 15-16.

Pastimes will present the live sounds of Marquee the weekend of Feb. 8-9.

Do yourself a favor and set out to Pastimes soon for some food, fun, music and dancing. Also catch the live rock sounds of Probable Cause and "Dance 'til ya Drop!"

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