

Incomplete Guide to Sports Bars, Part I

Written by Mark Shaffer

Tuesday, 09 November 2010 13:36



In the interest of full disclosure I have to admit that I'm not usually a big fan of sports bars. In my experience (particularly in major cities) they tend to be overblown in almost every conceivable way. They're too big, too noisy, too chaotic and almost always way too expensive. During a trip to Atlanta last spring we met friends out at a sports bar roughly the size of Turner Field only with fewer bathrooms. We proceeded to spend a relaxing evening screaming trivia answers across the table at one another surrounded by giant banks of video monitors, attended by servers in the usual skimpy pseudo-referee uniforms. How original.

And that's exactly what we're looking for in a sports bar – some sort of originality. Hell, the place doesn't even actually have to be a sports bar (there are a couple in this group). It just has to be a place where we'd actually want to go and watch sports and have some fun with friends. I had help with my friend, Richard Brooks, on these expeditions. In fact, in true sports bar fashion, we occasionally had fun while our teams folded like cheap lawn chairs.

South of the Broad: Bluffton

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A guy walks into a bar, part 1

A guy walks into a bar in Cork, Ireland, and asks the barman: "What's the quickest way to get to Dublin?"

"Are you walking or driving?" asks the barman.

"Driving," says the man.

"That's the quickest way," says the barman.

Jocks

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On a hill overlooking the town of Ocean Grove, New Jersey, is a small, cozy sports bar, Ocean Grove's only Irish pub and the coolest little bar in town, the

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gave me a lot of insight into the world of sports bars. I was particularly interested in the way that the bars are run, and the way that the patrons interact with each other. I was also interested in the way that the bars are decorated, and the way that they use sports memorabilia to create a sense of community.

Bill, a regular at the bar, told me that the bar was a great place to go if you were looking for a good time. He said that the bar was always busy, and that there was always something going on. He also said that the bar was a great place to go if you were looking for a good drink.

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