

nightclubs

NEWS FROM THE SCENE



JASON JANIK/Special Contributor

Bar keeps it casual

With swanky lounges all over town, there's room to loosen up a bit. Try cheap canned beer, boxed wine, servers wearing mechanic shirt uniforms and wood paneling on the walls.

The Blue Collar Bar stays true to its name. The bar, which opened Nov. 20, holds its own on a tiny corner lot of the booming Henderson Avenue neighborhood.

You'll find a few real blue-collar types — like a gentleman proudly sporting a mullet and bobbing

UP ALL NIGHT

his head to the music — along with the more fashionable ones.

Regardless, it's fun: On a recent Saturday night, we discovered that our bartender could do more than just open beers. He let loose with some juggling drink stunts and some tasty beverages, including the Jack Hammer Headshot and Apricot Jack Collins.

We tested these creations on some friends, and they were soon tearing up the dance floor like Michael Jackson.

Now that's a good drink.

Renee Benson

The scene: Twenty- and thirtysomething singles drinking, mingling and sometimes breaking out in random group dances. (Journey seems to have that effect in Dallas). A granite bar and sleek black leather seating may be lacking in blue-collar appeal, but the Jack Daniel's patio tables, Velcro-sealed menus and boxed wine add that working man's charm.

The vibe: Very laid-back with plenty of regulars. The patrons are largely white-collar, but it's an escape of sorts. The itty-bitty front patio is a prime spot to socialize with strangers in warmer weather.

The music: We heard everything from "Brick House" to Prince to 2Pac's "California Love." We couldn't help but sing along. Tuesday is '80s for the Ladies Night.

What people are wearing: The men seemed to have coordinated their wardrobes, almost exclusively in black or dark-gray dress shirts and sweaters. Dress shirts were always untucked. Ladies were in tight jeans, heels and slinky tops with long necklaces. We're not sure how they stay warm in the winter — we didn't see many coats.

Smoke factor: Smoking is permitted inside the bar, but it's not overwhelming.

The drink: The bar features a specialty cocktail menu with delightful Jack Daniel's concoctions (like the All Jacked Up Martini — Jack shaken with Chambord). But as the bartenders and customers will tell you, beer in a can is the way to go. If you must have a draft, the bar has five rotating St. Arnold beers.

The food: It's a sinful, State Fair-inspired menu. Choose from cheesy tornado taters or corn fritters for an appetizer. Move on to the sloppy Jose, or fried bologna sandwich for a main course. Top it off with a fried Twinkie.

The parking: Parking is located behind the bar. \$5 valet Thursday through Saturday beginning at 8 p.m. and free parking the rest of the week.

Overheard: Customer to bartender: "Do you guys have any more of those insulated paper bags for the cans?"

The bottom line: You'll have a good time, no matter the color of your collar.

Details

Blue Collar Bar, 1924 Henderson Ave. Monday-Friday from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m., Saturday noon to 2 a.m., Sunday noon to midnight. No cover. 214-826-2164. bluecollarbar.net.

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