

NIGHTLIFE

Wrangling the Queer Community with a Twang and a Twirl

Line dancing has been unfortunately associated with hillbilly hangouts and small towns without a lot of options. Even when stigma doesn't keep the cool kids away, there has not necessarily been a large space for queers in the genre. But somehow, the barn dance has two-stepped its way into the city, and into the hearts of dance-loving homos.

Underground happenings have included square dancing, barn dancing, lessons and other country-music-based celebration. But Emily Herring's monthly **Light in the Ropers** event, hosted by the E Room, is Portland's first ever live band queer country dance night.

As the centerpiece to an evening out for folks to see queer musicians performing country music, singer-strummer Herring is just right. Alternately upbeat and bluesy, she brings a bespectacled chic to her unique yet authentic Texas country twang. Emitting gritty growls without being grating, Herring dons a nonchalantly fashionable straw hat and melds pretty high notes and skillful plucking with a strong American roots base.

Herring is also emphatic about making sure that **Light in the Ropers** is an inclusive



Emily Herring

event. Though it showcases queer musicians, the evening welcomes anyone who wants to enjoy country in a friendly alternative atmosphere. And though the Egyptian is typically a lesbian bar, Ropers encourages gay men and trans folk to saddle up to the southeast watering hole.

The set list includes everything from Loretta Lynn to Miranda Lambert, George Jones to Brad Paisley, a far cry from the soundtracks of more "traditional" gay dance parties. But Herring believes they can become an intrinsic part of queer parties:

"We hope to push the envelope regarding what a gay dance night means for people in PDX. Live music? Two-step? These aren't the usual connotations for gay events. But they can be!"

And if none of this convinces you to step out of your thumping house beat comfort zone, remember, boots, vests, Stetsons, spurs, and of course cowboys themselves have always been the height of western hotness.

—Alley Hector

Thurs., Aug. 20, 9 p.m. at the Egyptian Room, 3701 SE Division, \$5, www.emilyherring.net.

PHOTO: MTS/SPACE.COM

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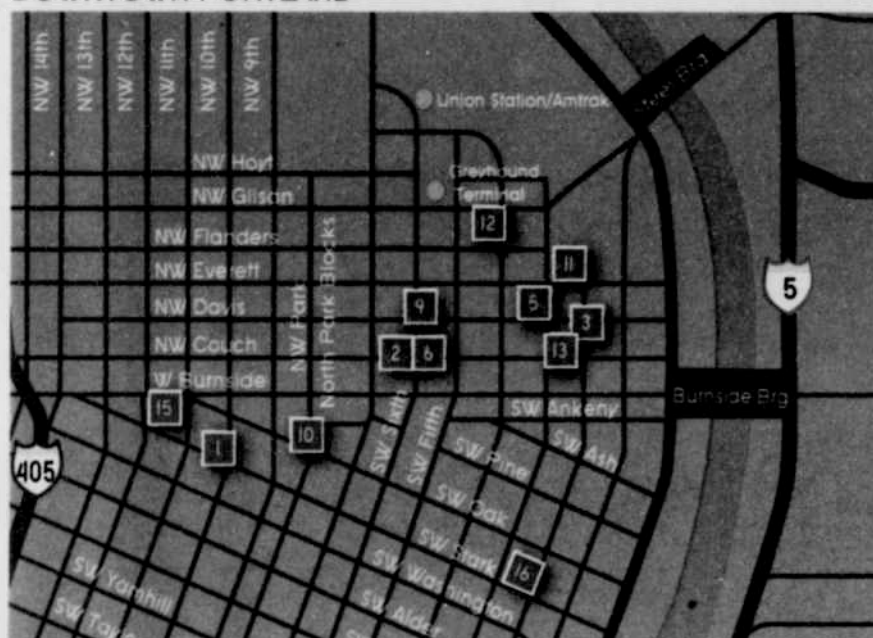
EAGLE PORTLAND

(503) 283-9734 835 N Lombard St.

the 3 B's of summer:
Burgers. Brews. & Bears

eagleportland.com

DOWNTOWN PORTLAND



NEW LISTING! INVASION CAFE

412 SW 4th Ave. (between Stark and Washington Streets) • 503-226-7777
Atomic lounge in downtown Portland, serving coffee and pastries in the a.m. and continental tapas in the afternoon. Also featuring innovative cocktails.

1 BOXES/FISH GROTT/RED CAP GARAGE
1035 SW Stark St. • 503-226-4171
Boxes/Red Cap Garage is the only two-in-one gay club in the city.

2 CASEY'S
610 NW Couch St. • 503-224-9062
"All-inclusive" nightclub and lounge in Old Town.

3 C.C. SLAUGHTERS
219 NW Davis St. • 503-248-9135
C.C. Slaughters is a great hangout. Come feel like "Norm" or shake your booty all night long to the best sound, lights and laser shows in Portland.

4 CRUSH
1400 SE Morrison St. • 503-235-8150
Crush features specialty martinis and cocktails and serves a full food menu.

5 DARCELLE XV SHOWPLACE
208 NW Third Ave. • 503-222-5338
World-famous female impersonators Darcelle XV & Company have been entertaining audiences from all walks of life for more than 37 years with Las Vegas-style cabaret revues of glitz, glamour and comedy.

6 THE EAGLE PDX
27 NW Sixth Ave. • 503-241-0105
Portland's original masculine men's bar. Open Thurs-Sat 8pm.

7 THE EAGLE PORTLAND
835 N Lombard St. • 503-283-9734
Portland's rugged bar for masculine men. This laid-back hangout is home to numerous leather events, "Bear Naked Billiards" and Portland's Sunday Bear-B-Que and is the official den of the Oregon Bears.

8 EGYPTIAN CLUB
3701 SE Division St. • 503-236-8689
The 7,000-square-foot Egyptian Club, located in a former milk plant, features three different rooms.

9 EMBERS AVENUE
110 NW Broadway • 503-222-3082

10 ESCAPE
333 SW Park Ave. • 503-227-0830
Portland's only all-ages gay nightclub.

11 FOX & HOUNDS
217 NW Second Ave. • 503-243-5530
According to *BarFly*, this "cheery, kicked-back pub draws a convivial, mostly mature crowd to its somewhat countrified environs."

12 DIRTY DUCK TAVERN
439 NW 3rd Ave. • 503-224-8446
Portland's oldest single-location gay bar offers cold beverages, free popcorn, and many events, ranging from Broadway nights (Mondays), free pool (Tuesdays), country music (Thursdays), free doughnuts & parties (Friday), parties & charity events (Saturdays), and live music (Sundays). Open 3-12 Sun-Thurs. 3-2:30 Fri-Sat. dirtyducktavern.net

13 HOBOS
120 NW Third Ave. • 503-224-3285
Hobo's has been an integral part of Portland's dining and lounge experience for more than 25 years. Located in the heart of Old Town, it provides a friendly atmo-

sphere of casual elegance and serves outstanding cuisine from its dinner menu and lounge menus.

14 JOQ'S
2512 NE Broadway • 503-287-4210
Enjoy a good time and make a new friend at this entertaining neighborhood bar!
NORTHBANK
106 W Sixth St., Vancouver • 360-695-3862
Southwest Washington's first and only gay bar. Now smoke-free!

15 SCANDALS
1125 SW Stark St. • 503-227-5887
Scandals, one of Portland's most established gay men's bars, has been a fixture on the ever-changing Stark Street for going on 30 years. It provides a cruisy streetside setting with great drinks and a "more than friendly" bar staff.

16 SILVERADO
318 SW Third Ave. • 503-224-4493
Claims to be Portland's only gay-owned and -operated gay nightclub, Portland's favorite gay bar and Portland's "original" premier gay nightclub.

17 STARKY'S
2913 SE Stark St. • 503-230-7980
"Everyday people" video bar with great martinis, two large patios, Oregon Lottery games, WiFi and private parties.

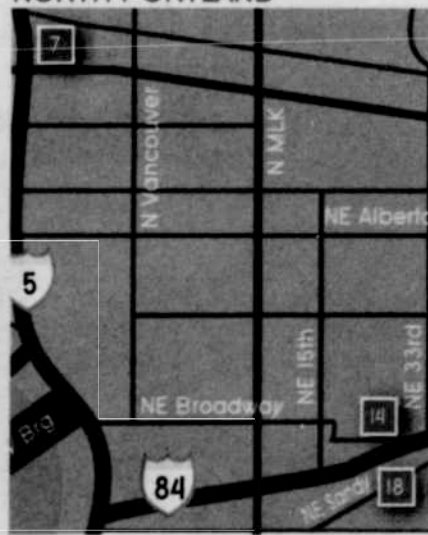
18 STEAM
2885 NE Sandy Blvd. • 503-736-9999
Portland's hottest all-male experience.

SALEM SOUTHSIDE SPEAKEASY
3529 Fairview Industrial Dr. SE. • 503-362-1139
Southside Speakeasy is THE place in Salem and the central Willamette Valley for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community to meet & hang out.

SOUTHEAST PORTLAND



NORTH PORTLAND



Daily Lunch & Dinner Specials
Happy Hour weekdays at 4PM
Open 11AM-2AM M-F
Brunch at 10AM Sat & Sun

217 NW 2nd Ave
503-243-5530

Fox & Hounds



Get a **FREE TEST** for HIV, syphilis, or hepatitis C!

★ Fri. August 14 **Scandals**

Thurs. September 3 **CC Slaughters**

9-11:30pm ★

Come and get it!

Multnomah County Health Department