

ON THE BEATEN PATH

The Dexter Lake Club revives its history BY SHANNON FINNELL

To everyone who ever had a crush on Patrick Swazye or giggled uproariously at the raunchy antics of *Animal House*, the American roadhouse is a familiar institution. Whether it's the plates heaped with down-home cooking in a comfy diner, the local lore or the energetic bar scene where your waitress jumps aside for a few seconds of dancing once the drinks are served, a roadhouse can offer a lot — and the Dexter Lake Club does all of that.

The club cemented its place in Lane County history when scenes from *National Lampoon's Animal House* — when Delta Tau Chi met up with the band that played its toga party — were filmed there. Since then, it's changed hands a number of times and been everything from a bar to a craft store. When in late 2011 it fell into the hands of owners Gregg and Shannon Stewart, they had a lot of work to do.

The 1949-built structure needed a new bar, a complete renovation of the café and some exterior work that the Stewarts have planned for drier weather. “Not only did we come in and make (the design) cleaner,” Stewart says, “but we thickened up the vibe of the whole place.”

The bar side now projects quite the vibe, with the zebra-print wall and *Animal House* neon sign. The staff encourages visitors to take pictures in the patterned booth the Stewarts replicated from the movie.

Gregg Stewart says that his wife, Shannon, developed the menu, based mostly in home-cooked American comfort food. “My wife’s approach was to do our own mashed potatoes, soups, bases and stocks,” Stewart says, the same way diner food was cooked when less pre-made fare was available. Burgers have been a popular option so far, as have the sweet potato fries and pizzas.

Stewart is busy developing a roadhouse music scene for the bar, including guest bands, a house band he plays in with some old friends, and jam and songwriters’ nights. “It’s country; it’s rockabilly; it’s ‘70s classic rock and blues,” he says, describing the spot-on music mix of a roadhouse. ■

Dexter Lake Club is located at 39128 Dexter Rd., Dexter, 937-4050, www.dexterlakeclub.com



PHOTO BY TRASK BEDORTHA



GREGG AND SHANNON STEWART

PHOTO BY TODD COOPER

Whirled Pies

pizzas • slices • calzones • salads & more!
local meats & organic greens from sweet leaf farms
house roasted chicken & sausage
bottles to go

HAPPY HOUR 3-6PM DAILY
11am-10pm everyday

541.636.3737 • 1123 Monroe Street • Eugene

Sweet Creek Foods

We use Local Produce

Organic

Enchilada Sauce

Gluten Free

Look for us at your Natural Foods Grocery
Elmira, Oregon www.sweetcreekfoods.com 541-935-1615

พิตมัย

Tasty Thai Kitchen

Authentic Thai Cuisine

SOUTH EUGENE

BEST THAI FOOD

DAILY DELIVERY 4:30-9:00pm
MON-FRI 11am-9:30pm
SAT & SUN 9:30am-9:30pm
80 E. 29th & Willamette 541-302-6444

พิตมัย

Tasty Thai Campus

Authentic Thai Cuisine

BUBBLE TEA

BEST LUNCH BARGAINS

DELIVERY AVAILABLE 4:30-9:00pm
Open Daily: 11am-9:30pm
1308 Hilyard • 541-343-0165

Jameson's

Bar and Lounge

4PM - 2:30AM DAILY
Happy Hour 4-9pm

MARTINI SPECIALS & FREE POOL

115 W. BROADWAY

jamesons-bar.com