

Bar Exam

by Brian Francis Smith / Philly EDGE Correspondent

Blue Comet Bar and Grill
 106 S. Easton Rd.
 Glenside
 Hours: Mon. -Sat.
 11 a.m. to 2 a.m.
 Sun. - 3 p.m. to mid.
 215.572.9780
 www.bluecometbarandgrill.com



Confidential

Scene: With an old chrome cash register, rotary phone and checkerboard floor, the Blue Comet Bar in Glenside boasts a distinctly retro feel. The walls of the Comet are adorned with advertisements for long defunct products like Wings cigarettes (“*New Wings are King!*”) and Philly’s own Ortlieb’s beer. Low booths line the edges of this narrow bar. Barstools funnel to the back wall where a one-step stage is situated. The stage hosts all kinds of acts from to bluesy roots rockers and jazzy dinner crooners, to the practitioners of what is know as the Comet’s signature sound: *rockabilly*.

Staff: The barkeep serves a stiff one, and the hot waitresses, all poured into sleek black dresses, dance through the crowd delivering drinks with a smile.

Food: Happy Hour (Mon. – Fri., 5 to 7 p.m.) features drink specials and ALL YOU CAN EAT wings. Aside from the regular bar nosh, the kitchen serves up savory dinner entrées like Steak, Mussels and Vegetable Stir-Fry.

Sounds: On weeknights, warm jazz records are piped through speakers while a muted television plays black

and white cartoons on a constant loop. A second television is defiantly turned off, with a sign slapped across the screen containing a directive: “TALK TO THE PERSON NEXT TO YOU.” Most people do. Saturday night finds one-time Young Rumbler and guitar ace Tommy Conwell tastefully strumming standards and requests for the dinner crowd. On Sunday night, the rockabilly regulars roll in for their weekly revival. The music, a hybrid of hillbilly and hepcat, has been the mainstay of the Blue Comet for the past 10 years. Bands from around the world have jammed on the Comet’s tiny stage and rockabilly’s reigning king, Brian Setzer, has been known to pop in for a session. Sunday nights mean fire-breathing, swing dancing, tattoos and poodle skirts. Think *Happy Days* meets the *Sex Pistols*.

Parking: Spaces along Easton Road are scarce. The money spot: Glenside Station on the corner of Easton Rd. and Glenside Ave. offers plentiful parking.

Most Popular Drink: While Yuengling Lagers abound, the three dollar rockabilly night special consisting of a *can* of Pabst Blue Ribbon and a shot of Kamikaze is the best bet for those seeking immediate inebriation.

Cost: Drafts \$2.50, bottles \$3.50. With drink specials, free food and no cover charge for music, the Comet caters to the funky and the frugal.



Drink of the Week

Pabst Blue Ribbon

12 oz. can

Served by bartenders
 Clint Anderson and Monica Ponzek.