

BARS & BANDS 8

ATLANTIC CITY 26

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May 1-7, 2009

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SUMMER WARMUP

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Your Entertainment Guide to the Jersey Shore

ISLAND'S OPEN-DOOR POLICY



Beach Club, LBI venues warm up to summer '09

By **LAURA GOOLEY**
Correspondent

If recent weather is any indication, summer is just around the corner. And with the warmer temps come visitors to the shore, as well as emerging locals, all eager for the start of all the Island has to offer in the realm of entertainment. Bars kept shut tight throughout the cold months are beginning to open, and most expect to be in full swing by the end of May.

One of the biggest openings this weekend is the Surf City Hotel's Beach Club, with its standard pre-Cinco de Mayo party and the Bill and Andy Show for entertainment.

"It's kind of a tradition here that we celebrate Cinco de Mayo on our opening weekend," owner Tom Gentry said, stating that they focus on that particular event to get a head start and be different from the many other bars that open Memorial weekend.

Starting Friday at 5 p.m. and lasting throughout the weekend, the bar will serve Mexican food, including buy-one get-one half-price entrées, and margarita and Corona drink specials. Bill Hadam and Andy Hladek, the duo that has found their summer home at the Hotel, will be performing both Friday and Saturday nights, keeping with the theme.

"We have a bunch of Mexican parodies that we'll mix in," Hladek said, which they will perform in a "very light, parody type of way" while wearing Mexican-print Hawaiian shirts and their new oversized sombreros brought out at the "appropriate or not so appropriate time." The two are well-known for their goofy, audience-participating, unpredictable performance that includes props, giveaways, trivia and sing-alongs, and their shows this weekend will be no different.

"We have a very energetic, danceable sing-along planned," Hladek said, with themed promotions, new melodies and props, including musical instrument shaped kazoos, and surprises even for folks who frequent the guys' shows over the summer.

On Saturday, the Hotel will have a Kentucky Derby party starting at noon, and Bill and Andy will return. Although they are still sticking with the Mexican theme, Hladek wants to

reassure their potential audience that if they go both days this weekend, they're not going to see the same show. This is, in part, because of the fact that "a lot of the show is driven by requests," he said, so it depends what the audience wants to hear. Requests also develop the duo's song list, now approaching 300 tunes.

Despite the musicians being constantly moving, equipped to travel throughout the bar area to interact with the audience, don't expect all the activity to wear these two out. Hadam and Hladek's usual routine involves zero breaks, giving them about three and a half hours to entertain, starting promptly at 8 p.m. on Friday and 9 p.m. on Saturday.

This marks the third year that the Bill and Andy Show will open the Hotel, after being discovered playing a particularly impressive show at the Grapevine, where the two will perform next Saturday, May 9. They took over Jackie Vee and Paul Presto's legendary Sunday time slot at the Hotel following their retirement.

"Every year seems like we're doing better," Hladek said, with new people coming out to see them in addition to the fans that return.

"Bill and Andy are a couple of fun guys," Gentry said. "Everyone has a lot of fun. People enjoy them." Beginning this weekend, the Hotel's Beach Club will be open Fridays and Saturdays, as well as Mother's Day for a brunch and all of Memorial weekend. The Bill and Andy Show is scheduled to perform on Sunday during Memorial weekend, as well as most Sundays in July and August except for one during which Jackie and Paul will return. The Hotel has their full lineup set for the summer, including the 4th Long Beach Idol Competition starting July 1 with a slightly altered format this year. Not only will they be giving away a big-screen television, the Hotel has recently installed some 32-inch and 52-inch big-screen HDTVs.

"I think our customers will enjoy that," Gentry said. "We're really looking forward to the season."*

For more info on the Bill and Andy Show, visit billandandyshow.com. For more on the Surf City Hotel, visit surfcityhotel.com.



This weekend the Surf City Hotel's Beach Club opens with its pre-Cinco de Mayo party and the Bill and Andy Show for entertainment. (ISLANDER FILE PHOTO)

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Ship Bottom
joepops.com

Marlin Restaurant and Bar
Beach Haven

Surf City Hotel
Surf City
surfcityhotel.com

MID-MAY
Ketch
Beach Haven

Nardi's Tavern
Haven Beach (May 15 with Shorty Long)
nardistavern.com

Rick's American Cafe
Barnegat Light

Sea Shell
Beach Haven (May 14)
seashellclub.com

Daddy O
Brant Beach (open Memorial weekend and then steadily from the second to last week of June)
daddyohotel.com