



Miss Delanie Valentine looking lovely as always @ Sound Factory



Laurel working it out for the birthday girl @ Sound Factory



These two at it again for the best Ambush pic @ Jules Downtown



Sam & Jay, and finally a shot worth publishing...lol @ Jules Downtown



Jason & her Crew, least she thinks so @ Sound Factory



And now for the crowd around her @ Sound Factory



Hunter & his hot little man @ Jules Downtown



Jeff & Kenderick looking just lovely as always @ Jules Downtown



Mark & Garry checking out the crowd for the next one @ Sound Factory



TJ & his Ladies @ Sound Factory



Kacie & his hot daddy @ Jules Downtown



Now that's some true divas for you all @ Jules Downtown



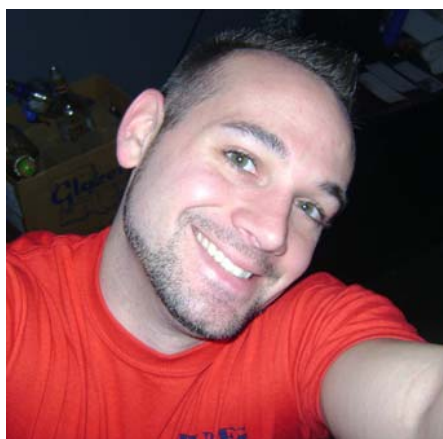
Adam saying, "Hey gal's and that's 'bout it" @ Sound Factory



Chris serving up some of the best drinks downtown @ Sound Factory



And these two were just adorable @ Jules Downtown



Justin, you can't take my camera next time @ Jules Downtown, lol



Beyoncea' Black being just divalicious @ Sound Factory



Cartier & Robert (Stephanie Stevens) @ Sound Factory



Jeremy & Tyler workin' it out @ Jules Downtown



Ms. Beverly...LOVE LOVE!!! @ Jules Downtown

THAT'S 'BOUT IT ~ LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA ~ PHOTO BY CHRIS PERKINS

Friday, Dec 18th

Winter Wonderland Party

**with Kofi & Company
performing the**

Christmas Show!



Sound Factory Hours:

Monday: Closed,
Tuesday - Saturday: 9pm-2am,
Sunday: 6pm-12 midnight
• 337.269.6011

BACK SIDE

Back Side Hours:

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• 337.269.0430

check online for other events and specials

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Olympus Bar

TUESDAY: Happy Hour All Day

WEDNESDAY: Karaoke

THURSDAY: Service Industry Night

FRIDAY: Drink Specials

SATURDAY: Drag Shows & Special Events

SUNDAY: Weekend Recovery

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Hours: Tuesday-Sunday 6pm-3am**

Saturdays 11:30pm

Showtime

★ **December 12th** ★
Ice Queen Pageant

★ **December 19th** ★
Christmas Show

★ **December 26th** ★
Christmas Show & Tell Nite

★ **Thurs., December 31st** ★
**New Years Eve' Spectacular
Staring Kofi!!!**



allons acadiana

by Chris Perkins, Lafayette, Louisiana
Email: keebler_6984@yahoo.com

So December's finally here and now with only two and a half weeks, are we ready for the day where it will not be about you, it will be or it should be about everyone else, and putting that smile on the faces of the ones that need it! Can the human population as we know it survive a day of selflessness, scary thought isn't it? Is it really that hard for us to give up one day out the entire year and dedicate it to someone that actually deserves and needs us? If it is, then we have some serious problems that need to

be addressed as soon as possible so we can get back to the life we want to live and be content!

Now just to shed a little light on the whole Mardi Gras scene, I am researching the two krewes we have in Lafayette, Apollo and R.O.U. I will start with Apollo in this article and will try and get R.O.U. in one of the next articles so that way all have some insight to "our" Mardi Gras krewes.

The Mystic Krewe of Apollo was founded in New Orleans in 1969 to foster brotherhood, unity and equality within the

gay community. The main function of the krewe was to stage an annual bal masque during Mardi Gras season. In 1976, Apollo became a unique organization with the introduction of a sister krewe, the Mystic Krewe of Apollo de Lafayette. The first bal masque for the Krewe of Apollo de Lafayette was held Mardi Gras 1977 at the Thomas Park Gymnasium. A packed house of 600 guests were entertained with the krewe's production of *Shady Ladies* and the coronation of King and Queen Apollo I.

Today's bal masque is held in the Heymann Convention Center to an excited audience of 1,200 plus guest. Each member invites his selected friends and relatives to be his honored guests and sit at his tables to enjoy the Mardi Gras production. Each year, the captain selects an appropriate theme for the bal masque, and members create original costumes to reflect the theme. These exquisite court costumes tower in height to fifteen feet tall,

constructed of ostrich plumes, sequins, rhinestone and any array of building materials. Through its thirty-four years of existence, the Krewe of Apollo has grown in membership and activities. At this date, the krewe has a membership of forty-seven men. The krewe holds monthly meetings and yearly events and participates in several community charitable activities. Apollo's history has established its reputation of splendor, creativeness and gaiety in Lafayette. Sound Factory and Jules are also great places to hang out as this krewe does frequent both places especially for their after parties for the events they host, some are hosted at the bar's themselves, so check them out.

So this was just a brief history of Apollo, and there is so much more to them and their history which is easy to find, online, or just asking one of the members, they will surely be much help just as they were for me to be able to give this information to all of you.

Until next time, grow in knowledge of what is around you, don't be ignorant to the obvious, and remember this is the time of year to be giving so by definition, give a gift of love to someone. Make the world a better place. It has to start somewhere, why not with you!!!!



hot tails of red stick

by Brad Benedict
Email: bradhottails@hotmail.com

'Tis The Season

It hardly seems possible that it is already December. This entire year has just gone by so quickly and with so many activities going on, it has made that time pass even faster – or so it would seem.

Ball season was exciting as usual with the many krewes putting on fabulous shows for everyone. And Mardi Gras, Easter, Southern Decadence, and Halloween all came and went in the same way. I think when you are younger, time goes by at a slower pace, or at least it seemed that way – back when I was hittin' the bars and being involved in so many club activities.

Now that Thanksgiving has passed, Christmas is upon us, and before you know it '09 will fade away as a new year comes into view. Life has a lot to offer, and it is best when shared with friends and loved ones. It is for this reason that I like to count my blessings.

Counting Blessings

Blessings can be both permanent and fleeting, here today and gone tomorrow. It is those steadfast friendships that mean so much, and the trust that comes with these connections is what makes everything in life worthwhile. Parents, children, siblings, and close relatives are important, but those really true friendships just can't be overlooked. They provide joy through caring and sharing, and I've so many to be thankful for – and so do you. Think about it.

I can't even recall where some of my "connections" got their start, but when you are out and about, it can happen quickly and before you realize it. With someone like Richard, it was a growing process. I'm not sure we liked each other at first. I was young and not the wisest when it came to nurturing a friendship, and Richard was somewhat of an upstart, out and about and upfront, all qualities that I learned to love. I believe he would agree with me. We have both known disappointments, had

disagreements, but what was left over was a kind of love and respect that only good friends can claim as their own. With me and Richard, I'd have to say that a lot of water has gone under that bridge, and a lot more is yet to come, but in all these years, I find a respect there that is not found in many friendships.

I think the same could be said of another wonderful human being who just happened into my life, and it certainly wasn't expected. I hadn't even met him until I took pictures at a Lords of Leather contest. I was a member at the time. He wasn't, but I think I recall him coming to our membership drive at the Phoenix. As you can see, I must not have been impressed at first, but the time would come when I fell into a deep respect and love of this guy. I sponsored Mark for Mr. Louisiana Leather, and he won the title for 2003. That was a year I hadn't expected, but it was a wonderful year, and one I will never forget. It continues to this day, and even though we aren't together that often, there is a respect there that will never go away. We are tied at the hip, so to speak.

I came to respect his other half too. John is perhaps one of the most honest and outgoing guys I've ever met. I think he is the one that Mark had searched for and had found hard to find. Then he walked into Lafitte's, and there he was. It was instant and gratifying, and it still is one of the strongest ties I know in all of gaydom. I personally think John is one of the sexiest men I've ever met, and, believe me, I've met quite a few. He is just a down to earth and generous human being that you can't help but love. Everyone needs a John in their life, but you just don't find them that often. I'm very fortunate to have him as a friend – and he gives such great hugs and kisses. My goodness!

When you grow old together, you also have a different kind of respect. Just because you have a best friend is no sign that you have to bed him. Sex isn't the factor in lots of friendships. There is a sincere connection and love here, but it is not in the form of a sexual nature. It is one of simple

caring and wishing for the best, a great way to form and keep a bond between you. Sam fits into this category for me, as does the feeling for several other guys. We travel together, dine together, go to plays and movies together, and even hit some of the bars together, but he goes home and I go home – and we are never together for any period of time unless we are out of town and staying at a hotel. This is the measure of a true friendship.

Probably Colla touched me on more of the friendship categories than anyone. I still think so highly of this beautiful guy, and I miss seeing him. We keep in touch but only meet up at parties or when he is occasionally in town. The good times were many, and the camaraderie was probably as sincere and meaningful as two people can acquire without moving in together. Maybe that's the way it should be. All I can say is that he is just one of the most spectacular friends anyone can have, and I treasure all my past memories of the good times. I can only hope for many more to come.

Brian and I go back a long way to New Orleans of several years ago. Our bonding was started on an afternoon upstairs at Lafitte's. Steve was the bartender. I had seen Brian before and knew where he worked, but I believe this was one of the first days we sat together and talked. It all turned out to be a rewarding afternoon. There was only one other guy at the bar sitting across from us, and he turned out to be the stunt guy for Lee Majors in that television series after *The Big Valley* – and not the *Six Million Dollar Man*. I can't even recall the name, but it was an interesting conversation, and it got even more interesting when this guy came in and asked Steve if he had left his G-string there the night before. He needed it for work that night at the Corner Pocket. I have to say that there were four shocked individuals there at the time. I never did learn if he located this brief piece of clothing or not, but it did make for a nice play that I wrote shortly after this incident occurred.

Another friend I don't see that often is Mina, who I have written up often in this column format. She is just one of those rare human beings – full of life and pride and love. I also met her through the Lords of Leather. In fact, I can look back and see so many of my friendships tied to this organization. Whether it is by phone or e-mail, we stay in touch, but I'm ready for a

big squeeze. Maybe that will happen soon.

Kevin is another one of my friends who I find to be just perfect in all respects. He is a great travel and dining companion, and he puts up with me. That is all I'll say about that. I have my ways, and he has his, and the two of us know how to agree and disagree. What comes forth is a kind of friendship you don't find that often. Kevin is a laid-back guy, who seems to not let too much bother him. If it does bother him, he has a way of covering it up so as not to be up front and in your face – like some people I've known. He is one of the few I enjoy just "dropping in" for a drink or just a chat about what's going on. He is an avid bird watcher who has gotten me interested in this, but then I'm got him acclimated to traveling into wineries. He watches while I sip. He is my built-in chauffeur. He is just one of the more caring guys I know, and I appreciate him more than he will ever know.

I could go on and on but you all know how much I care for Jeannie, Lance, Luther, Gerry, BC Boy, Little John, TTT, Corey, Michael, and so many others. They know how I feel, and they know how much I care for them. I am so lucky to have these people in my life.

Sharing The Joy

I often wonder how Michael can go home and not be totally "out of the season altogether." He is the manager of the Rudolph Christmas Store complex on Highland Road, and he is there for you all year. This year has been a little different as he took on extra work for his boss that got him out of the store for the first six months, but he is in full swing now. The bells have been ringing constantly since early summer, and he is often so exhausted, he just crashes the minute he gets home. With a loving relationship, things are good for him. Mark is good for him. He is a wonderful and faithful friend who I simply adore. When you are out getting your Christmas items, be sure to

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- ▶ Sat., Dec. 12th Red Party
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- ▶ Fri., Dec. 18th DJ Kyle
- ▶ Sat., Dec. 19th Naughty or Nice Christmas Party
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Every Tuesday Happy Hour
6pm-9pm Free Food!

Upcoming Events:

Sat Dec 12
Krewe of Divas 11 pm

Fri Dec 18
"Holy Shit It's Christmas" by
the Roughneck Cabaret 11 pm

Sat Dec 19
Turn-About: The Return
of the Georgettes! 11 pm

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