

DOG HOUSE LOUNGE

BY RICH BELMONT



Every husband knows or should know there is a primary rule of marriage that states: no man should ever interfere with his wife's hair styling appointment. So imagine my chagrin when I caused Margie to be late for her hair appointment with Molly Lynch at J. Van Natta's Salon. For this transgression I was immediately banished to the dog house.

So how's this for a coincidence? The very next day I received an E-mail from Sandi Hough who suggested I should check out the Dog House Lounge on Asbury Road in Dubuque. She said the food is really good. What she didn't say was her husband, Sam, runs the place. But that's ok, though, because she was right about the food, it is really good!

I quickly discovered if I had to be in the Dog House this one was at least very comfortable and friendly! The drinks are reasonably priced, there is free Wi-Fi and I can play pool, darts and even golf on the Golden Tee Electronic Golf Game.



There has been a bar in this location for almost 50 years. A long time ago it was called John Henry. Then Bob Klauer purchased it and brought in his brother, Jim, to run it. They decided to change the bar's name so Jim went to Chicago to see if he could find an appropriate name at a used outdoor sign dealer. He discovered the Dog House sign in their lot, purchased it and brought it back to Dubuque. For the next 15 years or so he operated the Dog House Lounge. Then Robert "Bub" Leytem came to Dubuque and offered to buy it from the two brothers. Now Bub was no stranger to the bar business. He was a native of Cascade, Iowa and started running a bar called the Cellar Door when he was only 22 years old. Later, he managed the Rose Garden and operated La Bamba both of which were in nearby Maquoketa.

After Bub took over the Dog House it quickly became his pride and joy. He nurtured it and slowly built a loyal group of regular customers. Many of these regulars belong to Dog House Pool, Dart, Bowling and Softball Leagues. The Dog House also sponsors a volley ball team and a dragon boat team.

Bub ran the Dog House for 28 years and during that time he bought out adjoining businesses and added on to the premises which now includes a cozy pool room and a nice private party room that comfortably accommodates 50 guests. In July 2012 Bub passed away at age 56; way too soon after a courageous battle with cancer.



Today Dog House Lounge is owned by Bub's widow, Sheri. She handles all the administrative duties and she sometimes comes in to work behind the bar. That's an easy part of the job for her. She has been doing it for

almost 32 years! Her brother, Sam Hough (pronounced Huff), has been here for 30 years and is also chief cook.



CARMICHAEL

Sam and Sheri are lucky to have some very experienced and friendly people on their staff who have been with them for many years. These include daytime bar maids Molly Weidenbacher and Robin Arthofer and night time bartender Tony Knopp.

There are four beers on tap: Bud Light, Miller Lite, Blue Moon and Amber Bock. Old Milwaukee, Pabst and Old Style beer are available in cans. All other beers are served in bottles. Surely they have a beer you like, there are over 25 choices!



There is a nice assortment of appetizers to munch on. The Chicken Fingers are good but if you want to try something a little different I recommend the Peppered Chicken Fingers. These have a crunchier coating seasoned with black pepper. The Cheese Nuggets are deep fried cheese curds. The Hot Wings and Chicken Drumsticks are really good too. The Hot Wings are spicy

and include both wings and drumsticks. The Drumsticks are honey battered drumsticks. When I feel like nibbling on something I prefer the variety of a Combo Basket. The basket usually includes Chicken Fingers, Mushrooms, Onion Rings, French Fries and Munchers. These are potato rounds filled with cheese. You can request substitutions so you can customize your Combo Basket.

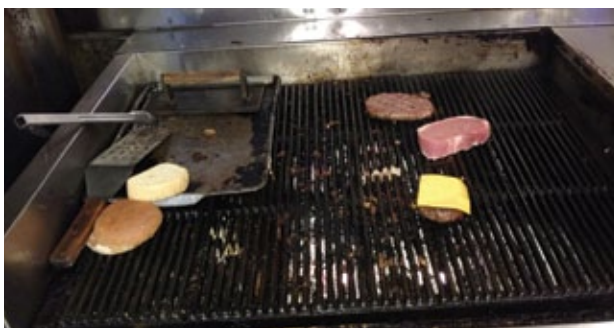


When I visit the Dog House now I always try to remember to order soup. Now that the cold weather is back there are usually two to choose from. One is always Chicken Tortilla which is delicious and the other changes from day to day. For example, you might find Bacon Potato, Tomato Dill, Chicken Enchilada or if it's your lucky day Lasagna Soup. This is an excellent combination of everything you get in a lasagna: noodles and ground beef in a tomato base. It is served with a wonderful slice of garlic toast. Chili is served all year so order some in a bowl or on top of a great all beef Quarter Pound Hot Dog.



Food is served all day at the Dog House. Deep Fried choices are the Chicken Sandwich, Fish Sandwich, Shrimp Basket with Fries and Pork Fritter Sandwich. Margie's favorite is this last one. It is a quarter pound pork tenderloin sandwich to which she adds lettuce and tomato. Margie has also

gone back with me two more times just to have the Tuna Salad Sandwich. It is made fresh daily and is prepared with relish and mayonnaise.



OPEN FACE ROAST BEEF WITH MASHED POTATOES AND CORN



The Hamburgers are all outstanding. They are 1/3 pound or you can order a half pounder when you are really hungry. The beef is supplied by Cremer's Grocery in Dubuque. Cremer's specializes in hand-cut-to-order meats, sausages and turkey and dressing.

The Dog House's number one best seller is the Carmichael. This specially seasoned beef patty is covered with a combination of Swiss and American cheese. It is placed on a bun with your choice of lettuce, pickle, tomato, onion and mayo. In my opinion this Carmichael is the best in the entire Dubuque area. I asked Sam why it is so good and he says it is because nobody else has a charbroiler as well seasoned as his. It has been in continuous operation for 50 years!



The Pork Loin is hand-cut fresh and charbroiled on a bun with your choice of toppings. The Quarter Pound all Beef Chili Dog is really good. My favorite sandwich after the Carmichael is the Beef Tenderloin Steak Sandwich. It is a very tasty piece of steak for a very reasonable price!

Weekday Lunch Specials are a good deal at Dog House Lounge. The current daily specials are:

- Monday - Chicken Quesadilla
- Tuesday - Open Face Roast Beef with Mashed Potatoes and Corn
- Wednesday - Carmichael
- Thursday - Pork Loin
- Friday - Bacon Cheeseburger

Happy Hours are 4:30 to 6:00 pm Monday through Friday. Friday's Happy Hour is really a good deal because you get Free Brats!

Saturday Night is live entertainment night.

Then on Sundays Dog House Lounge lures you back because they have the NFL Pack and the Sunday Special is a Chili Dog for only \$1.00.

So Margie, you should know from now on you can send me to the Dog House any time. I kind of like it!

DOG HOUSE LOUNGE

1646 ASBURY ROAD, DUBUQUE, IA 52001
563-556-7611
FACEBOOK.COM/DOGHOUSEDUBUQUE

Hours: Every day: 11 AM-2 AM

Dining Style: Come as you are

Noise Level: Conversational

Recommendations: Combo Appetizer Basket, Carmichael, Chicken Tortilla Soup, Lasagna Soup, Burgers, Grilled Chicken, Fried Chicken Sandwich, Pork Fritter Sandwich, Shrimp Basket, Pork Loin Sandwich, Steak Sandwich, Chili Dog, Tuna Salad Sandwich

Liquor Service: Full Bar

Prices: \$3.50 to \$7.25

Pay Options: Cash, Debit, MasterCard, Visa, Discover, No Checks

Accessibility: Front Door

Kids Policy: Menu: No, Highchair: No, Booster: Yes

Reservations: Call Ahead • **Catering:** No

Take Out: Yes • **Delivery:** No

Parking: Large Upper Level and Lower Level