

## **Manci's Antique Club**

The corner of Main Street and Belrose Ave in Daphne has been the sight of the icon, the tradition, and the landmark known as Manci's Antique Club for ninety-one years. While going through some mutations over the years it became a tavern in 1967 and started serving food in 1995. It is simply a must see destination when visiting the Eastern Shore.

The "Antique" portion of its name can easily be identified. Its walls are displayed with amazing and unique memorabilia. In fact it holds the world's largest display of Jim Beam decanters on display. Traditionally, it has been the location for the best Seafood Po-Boys, Hamburgers, and Bloody Mary's on the Eastern. Manci's has been featured in Southern Living and Coastal Living magazines as well as Diners, Drive-In's & Dives and Burgers Near and Far TV shows.

Long time restaurateur Harry Johnson teamed up with John Thompson and purchased the restaurant earlier this year from the Manci family. Their goal was to maintain the history of Manci's while injecting the menu and music of John's, Callaghan's Irish Social Club. The upgrades that Harry and JT have made look great and it is fast becoming the destination for great live music on the Eastern Shore. It is truly a fun place to enjoy a few hours, grab a cold beverage and/or an entree, listen to some great entertainment, and enjoy the atmosphere.

The night the Chamber was there we got to use the Buster's Town Hall & Venue Party Room which made it one of the most successful Burger Night events to date. I recommend using the room for your next party. I also want to plug Harry and JT for helping the Chamber acquire some kick butt entertainment for the late September Jubilee Festival. It's going to be a great weekend.

The menu has taken on a new look while still maintaining some of the original items they are known for. They still maintain a variety of hamburger options but have added some great new appetizers, salads, and sandwich items. The smoked tuna dip was mentioned as a delightful appetizer.

While still having multiple burgers to choose from they also, from time to time, even feature some specialty burgers. On our Chamber night they were featuring a specialty burger that I just had to try – the "Quattro Formaggi". It started with a 7oz. Angus Beef patty with a splash of Worcestershire and seasoned to order. It was topped with four cheeses (Swiss, Pepper jack, Feta, and Cheddar) along with crispy French fried onions, balsamic aioli, and Arcadian lettuce. It was a truly unique blend of flavors and a great burger eating experience.

Manci's in old town Daphne is a great place to spend some time. Whether it is the atmosphere, food, drink or great bands, it's well worth a visit!! I applaud Harry and JT for bringing new energy to downtown. Old Town Daphne is really starting to take off as a place to shop and dine.

Our Burger night was made even more special by the fantastic turnout from our Chamber members this month. I invite all of our members to check out Burger Night – it is becoming a must participate in type of event. Come join us next month Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00pm at Fairhope's Grill & Bar.