



Just get a guitar and learn how to play
Cut up some jeans, come up with a name
When you're living in a world that you don't understand
Find a few good buddies, start a band

And all those girls (guys) that were too cool to talk to,
They'll be waiting in the line out back
Might get your picture in the hometown paper
Maybe buy your momma that Cadillac!

- "Start A Band," Brad Paisley (2008)

T.G.I.M

Thank Goodness It's Monday

A Are you guilty of secretly using your hairbrush for a microphone while singing your favorite song? Do you wonder if anyone other than your reflection in the mirror would be entertained? Or maybe you're just looking for something fun to do on one of the most dreaded days of the week – Monday. Open Mic Night at Palm Coast Coffee House just might be the solution you seek.

Open Mic Nights are popular throughout the country, offering amateur entertainers an opportunity to perform for a live audience, something they might not otherwise be able to do. Musicians Chad Clark and Jordan Edwards, members of the local band Cornpone Nation, are the collaborative pair responsible for the event. They spent countless hours sharing ideas and crafting a unique

Open Mic experience, one that would attract all performers, young or old, and would be entirely acoustic (no plug-and-play instruments allowed).

With format in hand, they needed a venue. Palm Coast in the Pier Village on St. Simons Island proved to be the perfect place. Owners Rachel and Eric Reagan originally vacationed on the island and quickly fell in love with the leisurely atmosphere, despite the dearth of good places to “hang out,” places where visitors could relax, meet new friends and enjoy a good cup of coffee.

The couple opened Palm Coast in 2005 to fill the void. The rocking chairs on the front porch are inviting and immediately make customers feel at home. Once past the red door, there are two big comfortable couches to curl up on with a book or your

laptop. Free Wi-Fi is available, as are less technical amusements, such as a game of checkers. The walls are covered with artwork by local artists. And entertainment is covered every Monday by local musicians testing their mettle on Open Mic Night.

Clark and Edwards debuted Open Mic Night in the summer of 2008 to a standing-room-only crowd. The stage is set up on a covered patio outside, which is ideal in the spring, summer and fall. Cold winter nights, which are very random in our area, are still busy nights and outdoor heaters keep the crowd warm. Regardless of the temperature, the event has proven to be a success.

“We have no trouble drawing a crowd and, surprisingly, need more performers as opposed to audience,” Clark says.