



## Let's Go!

Dining &  
Entertainment

06/23/00

Sandy Copperman column

### Sax on the Beach in tune with Florida lifestyle

*If you go, see below*

When I visited the Captain's Club at Englewood Beach on a recent Saturday afternoon, I was pleasantly surprised.

The club has a stylish-looking restaurant on the inside. Outside, overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway at Lemon Bay, you walk onto a spacious deck filled with comfortable chairs and tables topped with attractively thatched umbrellas. A sit-down tiki bar dominates the entrance.

The combination of the view of the water, the sunny skies, the greenery of the islands on the horizon and the boaters passing by made me feel happy.

The two managers as well as the attractive waitresses welcomed patrons as they arrived. When I opened the menu, I noticed a page filled with a list of tropical blended drinks. A complete lunch and dinner menu was also available.

The entertainment was provided by Mike Parshall, a musician also known as Sax on the Beach. He sings and plays saxophone with a background of synthesizer music. He stood on a wooden dock above the water as he performed.

The acoustics were just right. The scenic surroundings were a perfect background for the style of his music.

Parshall's music is easy and rhythmic and filled with contrast. He mixes ballads, rock & roll oldies and Caribbean tunes into an intoxicating tapestry of upbeat and blues melodies.

The deck quickly filled up with singles, couples, threesomes and foursomes. All of the clientele wore neat "Florida casual" attire that was matched by their sophisticated behavior. The people in this club were definitely tasteful and not rowdy, even though many of them were consuming alcoholic beverages.

Parshall's opening number was "Black Magic Woman" played to a Latin beat. This was followed



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by "Another Saturday Night" and "I Ain't Got Nobody," both with vocals and saxophone. He then performed a beautiful rendition of a blues melody that he had composed. The crowd loved it all and showed it with their applause.

Parshall followed this with a demonstration on the synthesizer of car engines roaring down the highway, which the audience enjoyed.

He next played and sang "In the Summertime," then a hot "Everybody Loves Rock and Roll," a crowd-pleasing "Margaritaville," the soulful "Blue Bayou," and the popular oldie, "Sea Cruise." He finished the

first set with three lilting Caribbean songs, "Red Red Wine," "My Brown Eyed Girl" and "Tequila Sunrise."

His rapport with the audience increased with his interesting and amusing banter between songs.

People were continuously getting up to leave tips in appreciation of this fine musician. If any musician could qualify as the musical representative of Southwest Florida, I think Mike Parshall fits the bill.

He says he's been a musician for 37 years, although he doesn't look it. He says he originally started performing in a club in Tampa.

Parshall also performs at the Holiday Inn in Venice and the Coral Rock Cafe in Nokomis.

According to his printed schedule, he is scheduled to appear this weekend at the Captain's Club and at the other clubs on weekends until July 15.

He has been appearing in the area for a long time, and we hope he continues to do so.

*You can e-mail Sandy Copperman at  
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### **If you go**

What: Sax on the Beach

When: 12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

Where: Captain's Club, 1855 Gulf Blvd., Englewood

Cost: No cover

Info: 475-3184