

Bar Hoppin' With Hops
The Second Century Tour
Hops MacBarley's 2013
Key West Bar Boondoggle

Bar 117:

Tower Bar

1 Lands End Village

www.turtlekraals.com

Monday, 17 June 2013, 6:30 PM

Yuengling (bottle) \$2.00 HH

The Tower Bar Hop was a short bar hop. Catching the tail end of HH was the main motivation. B&J and I were heading off to other pursuits, but we wanted to get this one in the books.

It certainly wasn't an inaugural visit for any of us. In fact, the photo of the Turtle Races in the Turtle Kraals hop (#88) was actually taken on an evening when we were here between Tours.



You get a great view of the "hahbah" from up here, and the breeze pours through like a cool river, especially in the shade under that roof. When you



look over the back railing, you're looking almost straight down on a couple of bocce courts that they've recently built. When I saw them, they were jussst about finished, and, of course, it was Neil Mellies who was doing the fine tuning of the clay.

That guy puts so much into KW bocce, it's amazing. SoMo Bocce is the largest bocce league in the known world (and Canada), and the two seasons cover about 14 months out of the year. Those courts are packed Monday thru Thursday all Spring and Fall, plus weekends for the playoffs. Neil doesn't run it all by himself, but he always seems to be at the head of things. He puts in a LOT of hours.



A couple of years ago, Neil and his SMB board rallied enough donations to transform those muddy, rotted-wood courts into a mega-cool concrete deck that will last till the apocalypse and beyond. Satan's minions will have a worthy bocce venue.

The new courts behind Tower Bar are not exactly regulation. In fact, they are way short. Neil said that it'll be no-windup bowling round

here. Still, a nice touch to add to the bar. Bocce is a good, fun, competitive game that is easy to drink to. There is plenty of time between your turns to knock back some sud, or to dash upstairs for another round. You never get winded, either. If you're a drop-n-roll kinda guy like me, rather than a rear-back-and-gun-it type, your heart rate probably varies about two beats the whole match.

This particular evening, a tall and friendly dude was manning the Tower Bar. Every seat was taken, and most of the tables were full too. Servers kept scurrying around, carrying those compact buckets of ribs past me. They (the ribs) were looking mighty tasty. Next time, for sure.

My bottle of Yuengling cost \$2.00. TWO freaking dollars. That is so awesome. Gotta love Happy Hour. Back when I was in my twenties, Massachusetts (where I resided at the time) outlawed Happy Hours. Ugh, what **dipshits**, huh? I may not be able to go to Sox or Patriots games any more, but I do get my 2-4-1's on a regular basis, all over town. And that's a good trade.



Our barkeep did something that we all admired too. At 6:58, he hit up all his customers to see who wanted to get one more at HH pricing. Nobly done, my good man. Some keeps vanish or occupy themselves with odd tasks in those closing minutes, forcing you get your next one just a tick too late, and pay the regular price. Those keeps need a good slappin'.

Now, some would say that I'm cheating by including Tower Bar since it's part of Turtle Kraals, which has already been hopped. To those people I say, *bite me, bitches*. My Tour, my rules.

