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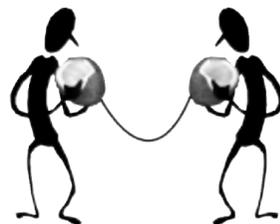
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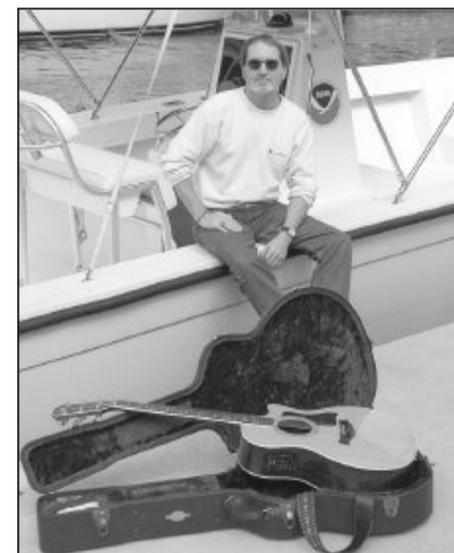


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Entertainer of the Month Paul Moen



officer in NOAA. "Few people realize that NOAA has a uniformed officer corps", Paul remarked. He was stationed in Key Largo from 1994 through 1998 as the Officer in Charge of the Key Largo Marine Sanctuary (now the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary). He left Key Largo for a new assignment in 1998, and at his going away party he

Story and photos by Rich Peine

A couple of years ago Rachel and I were having some food and a couple of beers at Sharkey's on a Thursday evening when the strains of John Prine's "Please Don't Bury Me" came across the table. I hadn't noticed that the Thursday night musician had even set up. Whoa, John Prine!!! One of my all time favorite musician/poets. The rest of the evening was a real treat. The Beatles, Neil Young, Van Morrison. The list goes on. I found out that the performer is Paul Moen, who has now been playing there on Thursday nights for over three years.

Paul spent most of his childhood in Michigan, St. Louis Missouri and Philadelphia, and then went to high school in Tennessee, where he learned to play the guitar from his best friend Bruce. "We were heavy into the Beatles back then. We learned to play most of their stuff. We just couldn't get enough", Paul said.

After school Paul wound up in college and after that spent 23 years as a uniformed

was playing guitar. Someone who heard the music asked him if he ever played professionally. Until that point it was a hobby, but it gave him pause to think, "Hey, maybe this could be a fun second career."

Paul retired to Key Largo in 2003 and kept playing music for fun until one of the owners of Sharkey's offered him a gig. With some help and support from Grateful Ted (another great local musician) he started his career. Paul also plays music from the Emerald Isle in the Key Largo Irish parade every St. Patrick's Day.

"I'm always expanding my repertoire. It's no fun just playing the same thing over and over. I've been playing some of my own stuff as well as music from the 1920's and some blues as well," explained Paul.

Stop by Sharkey's any Thursday night for a bite to eat, and enjoy the experience.

Interested in music for a private party? Check with Paul at Sharkey's, 522 Caribbean Drive, on the Port Canal or call him at 305-304-5978.

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