

Alphabet city: ABC Club's Hub pub socials are letter-perfect

By Tenley Woodman | Tuesday, November 18, 2008 | <http://www.bostonherald.com> | Lifestyle

Learning your ABCs was never like this.

Roving social group The ABC Club of Boston, founded by Boston University alums Jessica Orndorff, 26, and Ashley Zolenski, 25, and friend Leslie Stachowiak, 26, was named for its goal: to eventually visit every Hub watering hole, A through Z. It's a continuous quest. They plan to hit Z in April, and then all over again.

"There were a lot of places we wanted to see," said Stachowiak. "All of our groups of friends live in different areas. It's a way to push people out of their comfort zones."

"Anyone can go out with people, but we've organized it to a level where people look forward to it," she said.

The three have crafted the ABC into an exclusive society, complete with charter and newsletter. The trio work in marketing and use their professional expertise to write up "The Morning After," which recaps the night's festivities. An official Web site, abcclubboston.com, is currently under construction.

The women began the Thursday night ritual in April with 20 friends.

When the Herald caught up with ABC late last month at Noir in Cambridge, membership had ballooned to more than 60.

Past outings have included Elephant & Castle near Downtown Crossing and Maluken in Kenmore Square.

Jana Ziegberman, 29, from the South End said she enjoys the escapism the club provides.

"I get to see the same group of people every two weeks," said Ziegberman, a pediatric audiologist at Boston Medical Center. "They are not people you see on an everyday basis."

The eclectic group of young professionals includes firefighters to bankers and doctoral candidates to marketing professionals.

"It was a really fun way for us to meet people in a comfortable way. It's not speed dating," said Stachowiak.

ABC meets two Thursday evenings a month. There is no membership fee, and newcomers are welcome.

So far the only obstacles ABC has faced is finding a place big enough to accommodate everyone.

"Another problem is coming up with a Q bar," said Stachowiak.

To learn more, e-mail abcclubboston@hotmail.com.

Article URL: <http://www.bostonherald.com/entertainment/lifestyle/view.bg?articleid=1133095>



Photo by Glen Cooper