



Washington, DC/Philadelphia Speed Rack Recap

On Sunday, December 4, Speed Rack hit the Nation's Capital! Held at the amazing Jack Rose Dining Saloon in the trendy Adam's Morgan neighborhood, 20 ladies from DC, Philadelphia and the surrounding areas vied for the top eight spots as they faced off in the preliminaries. Considering the Repeal Day festivities the night before, the turnout was impressive for both competitors and guests. The top eight girls who qualified to compete were: Alexandra Bookless (The Passenger), Arleigh Incarvite (Founding Farmers), Debbie Anday (Lani Kai but lives in Philadelphia), Emily Stix (Graffiato), Julia Hirst (The Passenger), Jung-Ah Park (Jackie's Sidebar), Karin Stanley (representing The Fox, Raleigh, SC) and Monica Carroll (Restaurant Eve).

Doors opened to the public at 2pm and guests were treated to sponsors' punches and cocktails, as well as beer and non-alcoholic offerings served from the massive main bar at Jack Rose, which featured an impressive assortment of over 1,000 spirits on a floor-to-ceiling back bar. Guests snacked on small bites like pulled pork sliders and bacon wrapped figs from Jack Rose head chef Michael Hartzler. Hosts Simon Ford and Chris Patino kept the show running as DJ Nick Van Tiel had the house rocking in between rounds and set a high-energy mood by spinning fun songs for each bout. A raffle was held with great prizes for guests including a distillery tour of Catoctin Creek distillery in Virginia, a gift certificate for Sticky Fingers Sweets & Eats, a St-Germain gift pack, books for Tony Abu Ganim and Gaz Regan, 2 bottles of Brugal 1888 rum, a bottle of Jameson Gold Irish whiskey, and many more.

In front of a packed house of over 200 people, the competition began. Judges included locals Top Chef Mike Isabella and blogger/TV host Nycci Safier Nellis, who were joined by noted mixologist Aisha Sharpe and Francine Cohen of Inside F&B. The round began with the judges each calling out a drink for the girls to make. The contestants had to make the drinks as quickly – and as accurately – as possible. The judges then compared the girls' drinks side by side and issued penalty seconds to the girls for any mistakes made. The girl with the lowest time was declared the winner and moved on to the next round. 6 heated battles ensued, until we were down to the final two: Debbie Anday and Karin Stanley. In a tight and competitive final round, Karin emerged victorious. She will join the winners of the other nine cities and six wildcards at the finals in NYC in May.

A great time was had by all, and most importantly over \$3,600 was raised for breast cancer research, education and prevention. Catch us on our next stop in San Francisco, CA on January 8, 2012. Venue and time TBD.

Full list of competitors

COMPETITOR	PLACE OF WORK
Alexandra Bookless	The Passenger
Alexandra Nichols	Estadio
Analise Schneider	The Majestic
Arleigh Incarvite,	Founding Farmers DC
Chantal Tseng	Tabbard Inn
Christina Rando	The Franklin
Debbie Anday	Lani Kai
Elli Benchimol	Chef Geoff's
Emily Stix	Graffiato
Gina Chersevani	PS 7
Jac Beasley	Founding Farmers DC
Jade Aldrighette	The Passenger
Julia Ebell	The Passenger
Julia Hurst	The Passenger
Jung-Ah Park	Jackie's Sidebar
Karin Stanley	The Fox, Raleigh SC
Monica Carroll	Restaurant Eve
Phoebe Esmo	Farmers Cabinet, President of USBG Philadelphia
Sarah Stafford	Mio Restaurant
Sydney Ortega	The Majestic

Photos



Winner Karin Stanley with host Chris Patino and runner up Debbie Anday

More photos available here:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/66477489@N05/sets/72157628321718635>