



San Francisco Speed Rack Recap

On Sunday, January 8, Speed Rack hit the City by the Bay for our first stop on the Speed Rack tour in 2012, and boy did we start the year with a bang! Held at Brick & Mortar Music Hall in San Francisco's historic Mission neighborhood, 18 ladies from Northern California vied for the top eight spots as they faced off in the preliminaries. The competition was extremely intense, as women from the best bars and restaurants in the Bay Area brought their A game. The top eight girls who qualified to compete were: Claire Sprouse (Rickhouse), Jennifer Ackrill (Rye), Jennifer Colliau (Slanted Door/Small Hands Foods), Jill Webster (Laszlo), Keli Rivers (Hotsy Totsy), Kim Roselle (Flora/Dona Tomas), Lauren Steele (Rickhouse/Bourbon & Branch) and Tina Ross (Rickhouse).

With a line down the block, doors opened to the public at 3pm and guests were treated to sponsors' punches and cocktails, as well as beer and gourmet sandwiches from Beretta. Host Erick Castro kept the show running as DJ Ryan Fitzgerald (also the bar manager at Beretta) 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 gift certificates from Hotsy Totsy, Rickhouse, Laszlo/Foreign Cinema and other well known San Francisco establishments, as well as gift baskets from Pur Likor, Fair Trade Spirits, Sutton winery vermouths, and many more.

In front of a packed house of over 300 people, the competition began. Judges included locals Debbie Zachareas (Partner/Owner of Ferry Plaza Wine Merchant and Oxbow Wine & Cheese), Charlotte Voisey (William Grant Portfolio Ambassador), Camper English (Alcademics.com) and New York bar owner Julie Reiner (Clover Club, Lani Kai), who many don't know got her start in the business in San Francisco. 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 in a battle of San Fran versus Oakland: Jill Webster against Keli Rivers. In a tight and competitive final round, Jill emerged victorious by one of the closest margins in the competition so far. She will join the winners of the other nine cities and six wildcards at the finals in NYC in May.

In one of the most high energy and well-attended of Speed Rack events so far, \$7,300 was raised for breast cancer research, education and prevention – the highest grossing

event to date! Catch us on our next stop in Houston, TX on January 22, 2012 at Gallery M Squared at 5pm.

Full list of competitors

Speed Rack Competitor

Brooke Arthur
Claire Sprouse
Gabrielle Barnes
Gail Izaguirre,
Jennifer Ackrill
Jennifer Colliau
Jessica Maria
Jill Webster
Keli Rivers
Kim Rosselle
Lauren Steele
Lucia Creed Gonzales
Melissa Boyd
Rhachel Shaw
Tina Ross
Yael Amyra

Place of work

Ho Wing
Rickhouse
Cantina
Laszlo
Rye
Slanted Door/Small Hands Foods
Hotsy Totsy Club
Lazlo
Hotsy Totsy
Flora/ Dona Tomas
Rickhouse/Bourbon and Branch
Prizefighter
Beretta
Rye
Rickhouse
The New Easy

Photos



The finals: Jill Webster vs. Keli Rivers. More photos available:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/lushlifeproductions/sets/72157628913326389/show/>