

PHOENIX

A warm climate year-round, dry desert air, and a modest cost of living: Phoenix and surrounding areas have a lot going for them. What you may not know is that Arizona's major metropolis has a reputation within the gay community there as being among the most sexually open cities in the U.S.

Dann Carty

Located in central Arizona about 150 miles south of Flagstaff and 150 miles north of Tucson, Phoenix is situated on a broad, flat desert basin amid scattered barren rocky mountain peaks. The city's small downtown contains a few dozen high-rises. Surrounding them is a large metropolitan area that's expanded outward rather than upward. This sprawling city has largely encompassed the surrounding communities of Scottsdale, Mesa, Tempe, Glendale, and Sun City. Phoenix is now the nation's fifth-largest city and will soon feature a rail transit system.

Bars and clubs

The club scene in Phoenix is somewhat spread out. Bars are open till 1 a.m. serving liquor, and some stay open with after hour parties, without liquor.

If you like strippers, **Pumphouse II** (4132 E. McDowell) is a down-to-earth club featuring strippers on Thursday and Saturday nights. Join the Young Guns Male Revue for a night that you'll not forget. If you're into twinks and buff guys, you'll love this hot and sexy male revue. Just five minutes from Sky Harbor Airport and Arizona State University, Pumphouse II offers free pool most days, and on Thursdays they have an underwear party. Fridays and

Sundays now feature karaoke.

Pat O's Bunkhouse (4428 N. 7th Avenue) is the bar where everyone knows your name – or they will soon. Play pool or darts, check out the hot bartenders, and enjoy an outdoor patio with a fire pit. You can also look forward to Monday and Tuesday Poker Nights 7 to 10 p.m. Wednesday is Karaoke Night starting at 9 p.m., while Thursday features Underwear Night starting at 9 p.m. Sunday you can look forward to yummy burgers for \$3 and \$1 draft beers. Bunkhouse is open Monday-Saturday from 8 a.m., Sunday from 10 a.m. Daily Happy Hour runs until 8 p.m.

Charlie's (727 West Camelback Road) is a popular Western-themed bar with sister establishments in Denver and Chicago.

Cellblock (998 E. Indian School Road) is a leather/Levi venue that features pool tables, darts, a boot black station, a leather store open on weekends, a cage, a St. Andrews cross, and a cruise walk. Happy Hour is from 3 to 9 p.m. On Sundays, see Boys on Boxes at 6 p.m. and enjoy Bare Chest Night at 9 p.m. And don't forget Tuesday is Drop 'em and Drink Underwear Night with discounted drinks for those partying in their skivvies!

Other bars include **Amsterdam** (718 N. Central); **Apollo's** (5749 7th Street), a comfortable bar recently renovated – look for

Sunday brunch and Undie Mondays; **Cruisin' 7th** (3702 N. 7th Street), where Saturdays feature Boytoy strippers at 4 p.m. and the first Sunday of the month is Morning Madness, with bar specials.

Where to eat

All Star Grill (4531 N. 7th Street) is a sports bar with a varied menu and friendly atmosphere. Have a game of darts or pool, or watch the game on one of their nine monitors.

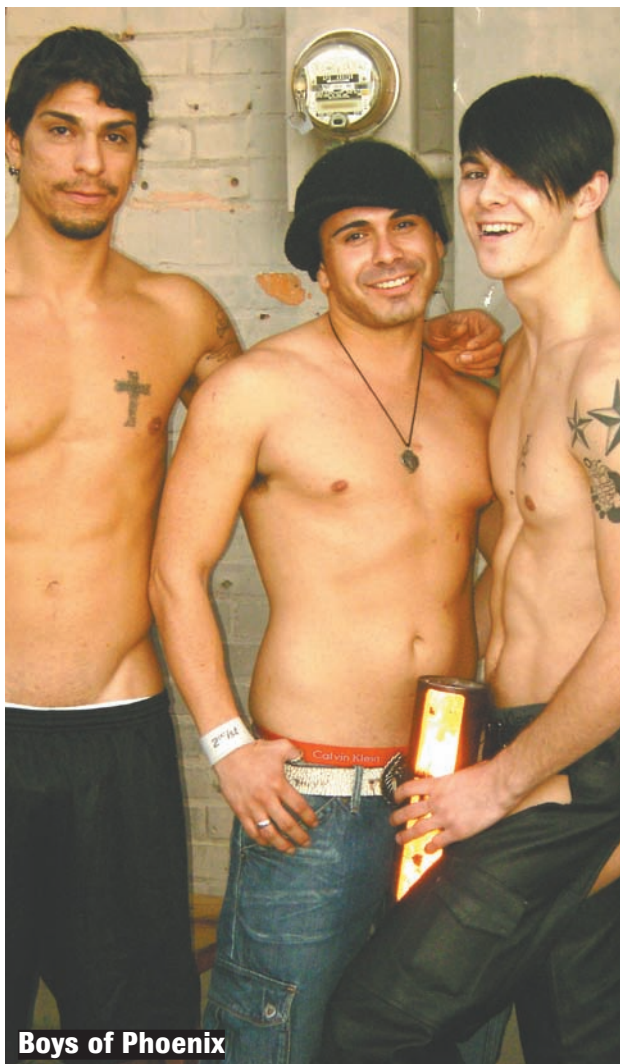
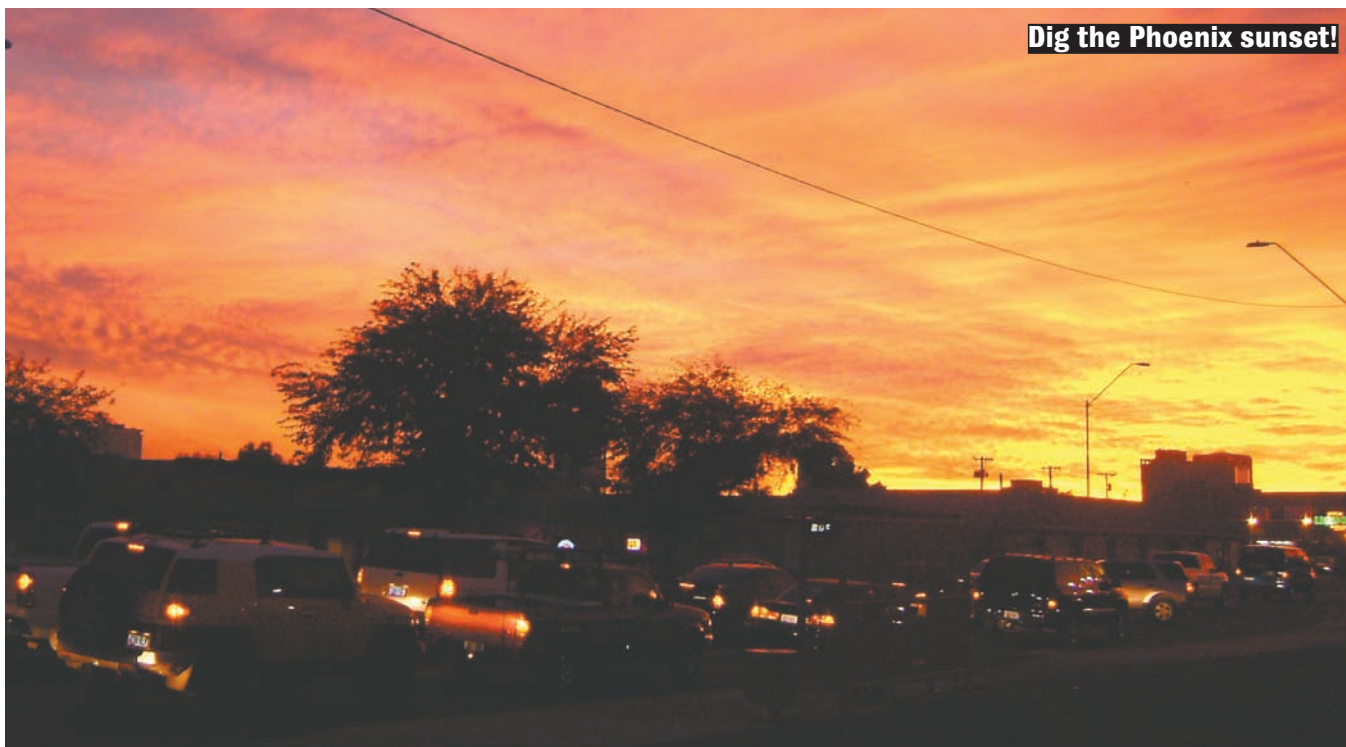
For an affordable Mexican meal stop by **Mi Patio** (3347 N. 7th Avenue) – good food and excellent service mean you'll leave feeling satisfied.

Baths

If you're looking for a bear or leatherman **The Chute** (1440 E. Indian School Road) is your place. A friendly atmosphere for all, Chute features Leather Night Saturdays and specials on Wednesdays. Sundays after 6 p.m. – with a donation of non-perishable food items, dry goods, or toiletries – you get \$5 off at the door. These items are then donated to VIDA, a local AIDS organization. With a gymnasium, steam shower, two leather sling rooms, and relaxation areas, The Chute enjoys a nice after-hours crowd.

Also check out **Off Chute Too** (4115 N. 7th Avenue), a store where you will find

Dig the Phoenix sunset!



Boys of Phoenix



Acell of
Bunkhouse



Brian & Charles
at Bunkhouse

cute undies, t-shirts, magazines, and kinky stuff, too.

Flex (1517 South Black Canyon Highway; Flexbaths.com/phoenix), serving Phoenix now for over 20 years, is also open 24 hours a day and seven days a week. They feature a pool, jacuzzi, steam room, gym, lockers, and private rooms. Mondays are Buddy Nights from 4 p.m. to midnight – one member gets a room or locker at regular price and the buddy gets a free locker. Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 4 p.m. till midnight, are half-price rooms. A similar special is offered on Wednesdays from noon till midnight. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays Flex features an early-bird (11 a.m. till 2 p.m.) special – just for members – who get \$5 off a locker. Learn more on their web site.

Where to stay

Book at **Claremont House B&B** (502 W. Claremont Avenue; 602-249-2974) and you will find yourself in a comfortable atmosphere coupled with a delightful patio with pool and hot tub. Make sure you reserve early, as popular dates get filled up quickly. ▼

Mike & Mike of Charlie's



Derick & Gage of Cruisin' on 7th



Frank, bartender at Cellblock

Hosts: Mike Garver
Robert Reif

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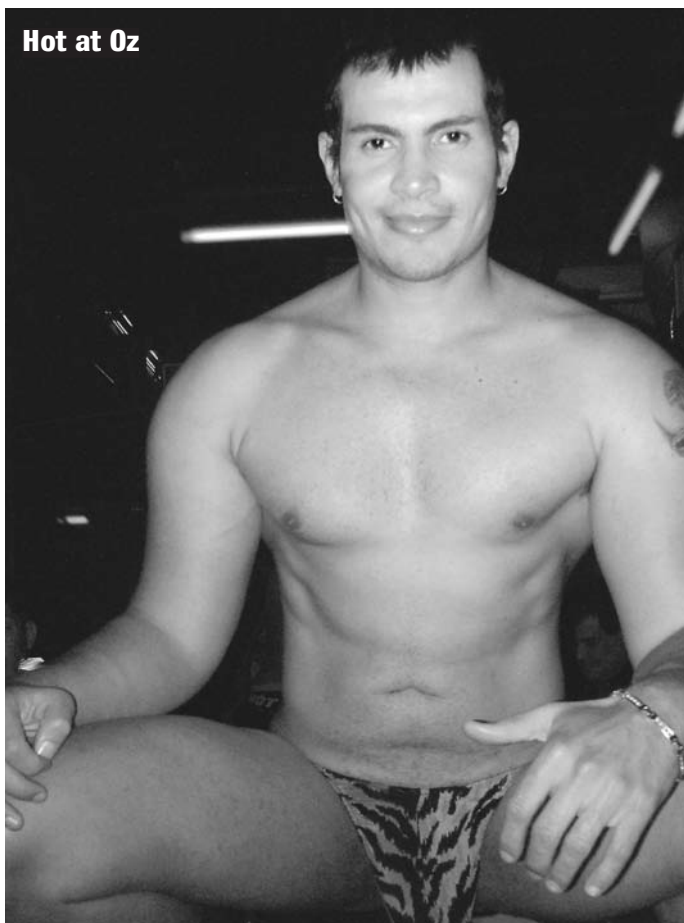


4115 North 7th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85013 (Next to Community Church of Hope)

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Staff of Rawhide

