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Pool halls hustle up good times

By Allison Hamila
SPECIAL FOR METROMIX

Pool halls still conjure up images of dimly lit, smoke-filled rooms where locals meet to wager a few quarters, talk a little smack and imagine themselves to have something in common with Paul Newman in "The Hustler" or "The Color of Money." Here's a look at some of the places we can picture Fast Eddie Felson racking 'em up.

Mill Cue Club

607 S. Mill Ave., Tempe, 480-966-0068, millcueclub.com.

A Mill Avenue and Arizona State University nightlife institution since 1996, Mill Cue Club is the pool hall-nightclub hybrid. With four ladies' nights, dangerously inexpensive Long Islands, and blaring music, Mill Cue Club is the place to go even if you don't want to play pool. Despite the nightclub-looking line of patrons often outside, it's also a serious pool hall that hosts the Southern Comfort Pool Series each month.

The Sets

93 E. Southern Ave., Tempe, 480-829-1822, thesets.com.

With free billiards, shuffleboard and table tennis from open to close every day, the Sets will have you at the word free but keep you coming back for more. It has a long list of events and specials so frenetic that you'll never get bored. Where else can you see live music and karaoke, play beer pong, craps and poker, and get a $2 kamikaze?

Doc & Eddy's

909 E. Minton Drive, Tempe, 480-831-0635, myspace.com/docandeddys.

Doc & Eddy's is a sports bar, pool-hall hybrid, with 12 regulation tables and greasy food. Its MySpace page boasts the quote "Our house wine is Jager," so don't bring anyone who isn't down for a Jager bomb. With daily specials such as $2.50 Corona, Cuervo shots on Sundays and monthly pay-per-view Ultimate Fighting Championship fights, Doc & Eddy's will easily become an everyday hangout.

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akimsey123
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