

Wrestle Mania

Make tracks to the Lawrenceville Moose for amateur wrestling night.

By Elaine Vitone

Remember the days when you knew whom to root for—when the good guys were good, the bad guys were bad, and you could tell the difference because villains always wore black? Get a bit of that old feeling back at the Lawrenceville Moose Lodge on Sat., May 5, when Keystone State Wrestling Alliance (KSWA)—a Lawrenceville-based, independent wrestling federation—presents “Mayhem at the Moose.”

In true superhero fashion, the KSWA crew members live secret lives as average Joes working day jobs ranging from construction to accounting—until wrestling night, when they don spandex pants and aliases such as Justin Sane, The King and Zero. “I think that’s part of



Practice your heckling: You're going to see grown men in spandex at “Mayhem at the Moose.” Photo by Dylan Vitone

what our fans like about us—we’re everyday guys,” says wrestler Lou “Dr. Devastation” Martin. He and his friend Shawn “The Enforcer” Blanchard realized a shared childhood dream when they founded KSWA in 2000.

The crowd is an intergenerational mix. Children of the 1980s relive Hulk Hogan mania. Ankle-biters line up for their heroes’ autographs. A herd of 20-something hipsters, whom the wrestlers affectionately call “KSWA Krazies,” holler laugh-out-loud-funny heckles from the bar.

“Hey, Doctor Defecation!”
“Have it your way, Burger King!”
“Zero! Zero! You’re my hero!”

True, at times the fans’ reactions are enough to make a sailor blush, and some of the wrestlers aren’t exactly PC, either (one goes by the name Ali Kaida). But all in all, it’s an entertaining melodrama you can’t help but stand up and cheer for. Lawrenceville Moose, 120 51st St., Lawrenceville. 7:30 p.m. \$10; children, \$8. Tickets and info: 412/726-1762, kswa.net, myspace.com/ksawwrestling.