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## Why do we go to Russells?

Posted by Mike Peterson - 2009/03/16 07:24

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Russell's has horrible food, We can't pick a better opening night for the Hotdog run season.

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## Re:Why do we go to Russells?

Posted by Paul Burkett - 2009/03/16 08:10

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Because of the tradition, because of the heritage, because the weather is normally crappy in March and November.

The food is not my favorite, but people ask for it and it qualifies with "good food, good parking and clean bathrooms".

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## Re:Why do we go to Russells?

Posted by Mike Peterson - 2009/03/16 08:35

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Paul Burkett wrote:

Because of the tradition, because of the heritage, because the weather is normally crappy in March and November.

The food is not my favorite, but people ask for it and it qualifies with "good food, good parking and clean bathrooms".

Paul, I beg to differ the food is dreadful ! The only thing going for it is they don't through are asses out when we have our board meetings there and hang around till closing. Aside from that Russells has no other redeeming value... the ribs are crap, the beef sandwich is like leather, chicken is greasy.... well they do have beer...

Tradition or not we need to rethink this place.

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## Re:Why do we go to Russells?

Posted by Kurt Bihler - 2009/03/18 03:56

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I missed this one, but I for one like Russel's. It's not really ribs, but whatever they are are good in there own way. And everyone has to admit Russel's is unique, like them or not.

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## Re:Why do we go to Russells?

Posted by Mike Peterson - 2009/03/19 16:14

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I missed this one, but I for one like Russel's. It's not really ribs, but whatever they are are good in there own way. And everyone has to admit Russel's is unique, like them or not.

Oh Please... maybe 30 years ago ! Now pretty much everything on the menu is crap the current owners have cheapened everything down to the barest minimum...

Oh I had the pork sandwich \$6.99... awful :angry:

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## Re:Why do we go to Russells?

Posted by Carey Caldwell - 2009/03/19 16:34

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What little experience I have had with Russels does not impress me and I too had the pork sandwich for \$6.99 and it was worth maybe \$3.99 for the quantity of pork they put on it. Whatever. I hear good barbecue at the national? What I would like to see done is to leverage these locations by letting them know that "we" are considering having a Hot Dog night at their location and before we put them on the schedule, we need to know what type of a special they will offer considering we may have as many as 30 people or more, show up, that they wouldn't have had if we decided not to choose their location. I think I got that right. Certainly no dis to Paul Burkett on the great job he has done getting this set up and spreading out the locations (Paul, are you getting a little side action going with these guys:dry: ) I say lean on these guys! Maybe it is just my profession as a sales rep that gets beat up every day on prices and discounts, that gives me these ideas. Power and safety in numbers is my motto.

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## Re:Why do we go to Russells?

Posted by Jerry Sjostrom - 2009/03/20 10:20

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I've heard of Monday morning quarterbacking...  
This sounds like Tuesday morning barbequeing.....:unsure:

Why are you complaining now? Paul asks for feedback on the choices throughout the year and especially at the beginning of the year when he is drawing up the list, so we can have the list posted and available for plans ahead of time.

Most of the names come from suggestions and Paul has added or subtracted from time to time in response to suggestions both and negative--- or as has happened, places close their doors mid-season.

In the case of Russell's I (&Paul) haven't heard much criticism in the past-- it has been a great indoor spot and ideal for a cool weather gathering-- we can stay as long as we want and pull tables together unlike most other places. Some people (not me) think that say, Gene& Jude's is great-- but don't think there would be people hanging around for 1 1/2 hours standing on the asphalt outside that place in 50 degree weather- which has no tables & no bathrooms.Many indoor places have fixed booths and would not have accomodated the more than 30 people at Russell's in such a comfortable arrangement. Looked like a real party :woohoo:

I do think it would be fun to incorporate objective ratings into this event-- and provide some useful feedback to Paul (and all of us food fans) - for dogs and circus. Yahoogroups has a polling function-- perhaps this can be done with our forum. A lot of places elicit both strong positive and negative support so getting a good cross section would be important-- Maybe we could give some feedback to the owners.  
Maybe a rating questionnaire-- of course someone other than Paul would need to handle the tallying-any volunteers?

I think ordinarily Paul contacts the places to let them know we're coming-especially the smaller places.

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## Re:Why do we go to Russells?

Posted by Mike Peterson - 2009/03/20 10:32

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Jerry Sjostrom wrote:  
I've heard of Monday morning quarterbacking...  
This sounds like Tuesday morning barbequeing.....:unsure:

Why are you complaining now?

I started this LAST YEAR and this thread Sunday!

The food is Awful!

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## Re:Why do we go to Russells?

Posted by Jerry Sjostrom - 2009/03/20 11:11

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Can we do polling on this forum? or would we have to use (egad!!!) Yahoogroups?

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## Re:Why do we go to Russells?

Posted by Tim Colburn - 2009/03/22 13:46

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Just my \$.02 worth. I haven't been to any of our venues that has truly inedible food (then again, I'm not known for being especially picky in that dept!). For me, the reason for going is less about the meal and more about the socializing - and the ride of course, providing it doesn't take me a week to get there!

See you in Tinley tomorrow....

Tim

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## Re:Why do we go to Russells?

Posted by Tom Brown - 2009/03/23 15:47

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Mike:

I had a real nice meal...something sort of healthy as I recall. It wasn't memorable, but it wasn't bad. I like the place, with woods around but right there is N. Ave. I know it's gone "downhill" since the good old days, but it's still as good as many of the joints we go to and, as someone else said, it's great for our size group... you can move tables around, it's casual and has a bit of history to it. If they still made everything like the old days, we'd be paying \$25 a head to eat there.

I was pretty surprised to hear from a food critic on an even like this. It's HOT DOG NIGHT, not "Gormet Night". I know a lot better places to eat if you have the money and want to dress up a little. Is that really the point. Sorry about your pork sandwich. The guy across from me with the ribs looked very happy.

-TB

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## Re:Why do we go to Russells?

Posted by Mike Peterson - 2009/03/25 17:46

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Tom Brown wrote:

I was pretty surprised to hear from a food critic on an even like this. It's HOT DOG NIGHT, not "Gormet Night". I know a lot better places to eat if you have the money and want to dress up a little. Is that really the point. Sorry about your pork sandwich. The guy across from me with the ribs looked very happy.

-TB

Im happy that your meal was to your liking and I couldn't agree with you more... It's HOT DOG NIGHT Russells doesn't even sell HOT DOGS !

Look, All I saying is there must be 10,000 Hot Dog joints in the Chicago Metro Area we got 300 some members and we can't do better than Russells for our OPENER

Rather than collecting names on who shows up why don't we ask attendees what THEY like and where there favorite Hot Dog Joints are and take it from there. This the most popular and most fun event we do. Lets not fall into the "Same Old" trap of doing the same thing year after year after year...

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## Re:Why do we go to Russells?

Posted by Paul Burkett - 2009/03/25 20:30

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Every year I make several requests for suggestions in the news letter and I know that it is also mentioned at the club meetings. People know that I am in charge of the HD night, they have my e-mail address and phone number, both home

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and cell, but I only receive about six responses per year. Some recommend restaurants that they have never been to but it looks good from the outside, others are good and we go there, some have a brass poll to be used for entertainment, and that is not a joke, I got one of those as a suggestion. And of course there is always Hot Dougs who closes at 4:00PM and there is always Gene and Judes, which although they may be a hot ticket as far as being a "favorite among many", it doesn't meet any of the criterion of our HD night standards. If you will find a better substitute that can handle 40 people indoors with good heat, better food, movable tables and a central location for a HD season kick off, just let me know and I will meet you there and we will progress from there to see what can be done to make HD night more of a success than it already is.

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## Re:Why do we go to Russells?

Posted by Mike Peterson - 2009/03/26 07:05

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Paul Burkett wrote:

If you will find a better substitute that can handle 40 people indoors with good heat, better food, movable tables and a central location for a HD season kick off, just let me know and I will meet you there and we will progress from there to see what can be done to make HD night more of a success than it already is.

Well the first one that comes to mind is any Portillo's (30 locations in the chicago area) Great food, large venus private rooms and they even have Hot Dogs and good ones at that...!  
<http://www.portillos.com/portillos/locations/>

I'm sure I could come up more If I put my mind to it...  
My point is why is it static? Lets mix it up. Have some fun with it.

All of those things are part of it, the ride, the people, the place... BUT SO IS THE FOOD! and we should not reward places who have crapy service and worst of all crapy food.

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## Re:Why do we go to Russells?

Posted by Steve Blaylock - 2009/04/22 18:25

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Back in the early 90's I dated the owners daughter. Free was OK but I would never pay for their menu.....:laugh:  
Paul, I appreciate your efforts!

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## Re:Why do we go to Russells?

Posted by michael florian - 2009/04/22 21:14

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Maybe I'm dumb and missing something here, but jeez, one unhappy camper bitchin' out of 300 members ain't bad where I come from. Ifin' someone really wanted to sound smart, he might comment that hot dogs are about as bad a food as you can injest, so why are a bunch of intelligent BMW riders eating this crap anyway. Hey, Bill and I had just the coffee, it was hot, refills were free and it was cheap. Ate a good meal before I came. Sometimes I guess you gotta decide if you are there for the food or for the ride and commraderie.

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## Re:Why do we go to Russells?

Posted by Paul Burkett - 2009/04/24 12:23

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Case closed?

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## Re:Why do we go to Russells?

Posted by Tim Colburn - 2009/04/24 20:45

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Yeah. When do we eat?

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