

REGULAR JOE'S GUIDE

A FT. WORTH AREA (NORTHEAST TARRANT COUNTY) AND DENVER BASED RESTAURANT GUIDE FOR EVERYDAY PEOPLE. WHERE THE TERM "OLD SCHOOL" IS HELD IN HIGH REGARD. COME HERE FOR YOUR RETRO-FUTURISM RESTAURANT NEEDS!

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2009

Flip's Patio Grill, Sports Bar, Grapevine, TX

If you're a weary traveler staying near DFW airport, there's a good chance that you'll find yourself tempted to dine on the TX-114 corridor in Grapevine (may we suggest Tolbert's instead for a more "local" experience?). The Main Street and William B Tate exits are a shrine to corporate eateries, many of them publicly traded on the stock exchanges back in NEW YORK CITY (get a rope). Other than the Dallas based Tex-Mex institution known as El Fenix (and probably its worst location at that), the majority of your choices are places you've seen in Anytown, Anystate.

The only exception to this, at least for restaurants you can actually see from the highway itself, is Flip's Patio Grill, the lone locally owned* restaurant in the area. It wasn't always that way, as Flip's was once a thriving Tony Roma's - a place that seemed to fit perfectly with the locale.

*- Sort of, as it's owned by industry veteran Steve Hartnett, who also founded the Fox & Hound as well as the Cool River Cafe (and the Bob's Steak and Chop House in Grapevine).

Flip's has a pretty good reputation for having one of the best burgers around. But readers of the RJG aren't likely to be impressed if they've ventured to some of our local recommendations including Kincaid's, Johnny B's (both close enough to TX-114 to at least give them a try instead), Molly's, Freddy's, Five Guys, etc... Still, that doesn't mean Flip's isn't worth trying, and for what they attempt to do, they end up being quite adept. Like many sports bars, their menu has as many choices as the screens have games, so it can be a bit daunting on what to get. Locals swear by the blue cheese burger, and to be fair, the RJG has never acquired a taste for this most moldy of all cheeses.

So if I'm stranded at the local Hampton Inn, and I want a cold one and a big juicy burger to go with my game of choice, then Flip's would most certainly meet that need. We've only been a couple of times, and we haven't even begun to dig into the vast array of choices on the menu, so it's a bit unfair to state that Flip's doesn't have anything special or unique to recommend. We like it, but we don't love it, get it?

As of this writing, they are opening a new Flip's in North Ft. Worth at Western Center and I-35W.

Food: B (for what we've tried - primarily burgers, fries and the like, we are pleased. But there's better in NE Tarrant.)

Atmosphere: C+ (Renovated Tony Roma's with televisions everywhere. Nice, but not special)

POSTED BY RJG AT 6:40 PM