

May 7, 2011 Site Visit American Society for Quality Columbia Basin Section 614



JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL TOUR AND LUNCH SATURDAY, MAY 7



KIMO'S RESTAURANT RATTLESNAKE MOUNTAIN BREWING COMPANY Richland, Washington

For our last section meeting of this fiscal "year," we invite members and spouses/guests to join us for an interesting, educational and sure-to-be FUN site visit to a local brewery and restaurant. This is a great opportunity to hear, see (and taste) how quality principles apply to making beer.

Kimo's is a sports bar and restaurant, featuring a full service menu and also brewing their own beer under the Rattlesnake Mountain Brewing Company (RMBC) label. They offer a variety of microbrews, including Honey Red Ale, Hickory Smoked Porter, Oatmeal Stout, Helluva Hefe, and (during hockey season) The Americans Amber.

Founded by Steve & Renea Metzger in 1997, RMBC opened on July 4th of that year and quickly grew to be a local favorite hangout because of the great food, beer, view and personality given to the business by Steve & Renea.

RMBC also became "the place to go" for great live music. Indoor and outdoor concerts ranging from country, rock, blues, and (even once) a Pink Floyd tribute band. This built Rattlesnake's reputation for supporting local bands. Some bands that played there back in the nineties still perform there today.

Steve eventually took a job at Fluor Hanford, and the Metzgers sold the business to Kimo in 2002. Renea remained with the business to help run the restaurant for the new owner until surgery on an injured ankle forced her to also leave.

In 2005, Kimo and the other owners decided to update the aging building. The doors were closed in February of that year, and the inside was gutted. Four months later the new and improved "Kimo's" opened, and was an immediate hit.

Everything about the restaurant was changed except for the beer and the brewery, which remains intact and continues to make many of the recipes created by Steve Metzger. The same brewer that worked with Steve at the beginning still works there now.

For Kimo's, their first year of business was an interesting one. The owner, Kimo von Oelhoffen, won a Super Bowl ring playing for the Pittsburgh Steelers against the Seattle Seahawks. Hopefully all is forgiven.

Saturday May 7, 2011

LOCATION: Kimo's 2696 N. Columbia Center Blvd. Richland, Washington (509) 783-5747

10:14 a.m. – Check in **10:30 a.m.** – Tour **11:30 a.m.** (approx) – Lunch

After the tour, lunch can be ordered from the menu.

Please be sure to indicate when making your reservation if you will be staying for lunch.

Cost: Price of your meal!

For planning purposes, reservations must be received by **April 29.** E-mail <u>panda_2@charter.net</u> with your name, phone number, company affiliation, and type of reservation, or call Alvin at 371-2221.

Location:

Kimo's is located at the corner of Columbia Center Boulevard and Columbia Park Trail - just down the street from Columbia Center Mall.