

RESTAURANT REVIEW 56 TEXAS ROADHOUSE BALLWIN September 4, 2017

**FOOD RESTAURANT REVIEW: TEXAS ROADHOUSE BALLWIN:** I don't want to sound bias, but I have been to the Texas Roadhouse restaurants in Kirkwood and in Arnold. I liked them both with a couple exceptions that had nothing to do with the food.

I found both of them to have good service and good food if you order carefull. They are popular and of course would like to turn the tables over quickly. They are open from just 4pm to 10 pm weekdays, 11-to-11 on Saturdays and 11-to 10 on Sundays.

They have discounted meals seven days a week from 4pm-to-6pm regardless of your age.



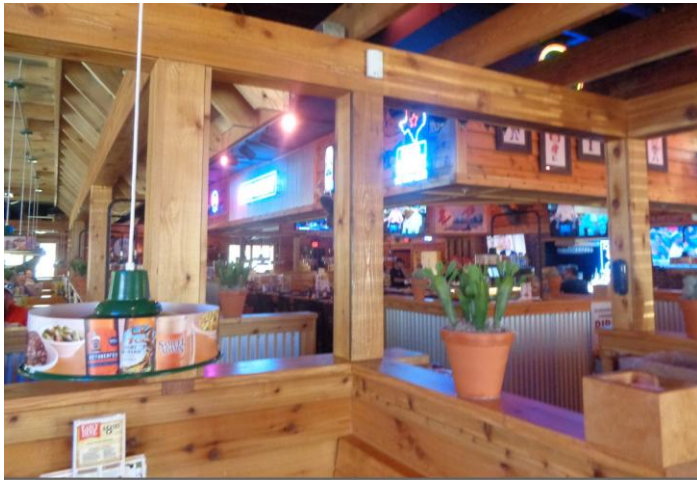
I'll get the three negative things about Texas Roadhouse out of the way right away. They claim they are a "Texas Roadhouse" but they don't served Dr. Pepper. Dr. Pepper is the soft drink of Texas. Every real Texas joint sells Dr. Pepper. Even though these guys appear to have a contract with Coke, they should still at least offer cold bottles of Dr. Pepper just in case a real Texan walks in.

Secondly they still make the waitress and waiters do a boot scooting dance, where they have to stop working and shake it every hour. I kind-of liked the Ballwin Texas Roadhouse as the wait staff was all wearing long jeans. I used to feel bad for the 22-year-old single mother working as a waitress in Arnold having to "shake it" wearing shorts in front of strangers every hour or so. We were at the Ballwin Roadhouse for

almost 90 minutes and didn't have to see the staff stop and do a line-dance. But we were told they still do them several times a night.

Finally the corporate headquarters for TEXAS ROADHOUSE is in LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY!

The interior layout of the Roadhouse's I have been to are almost identical.



If you have to wait, the waiting area has a barrel of peanuts in the shell and you throw shells on the floor like Jacks of Better or Ground Round did in the 1970s before the County Health Department put a stop to it. The Roadhouse avoids this as the waiting area is before you enter the restaurant. At each table there is a bucket of peanuts and an empty bucket for the shells. I'll give the Roadhouse powers to be a tip of the cap. You would think free peanuts might fill people up and cut down on orders, but it is a nice gesture. This really is more of an eating place than a drinking place.



Free peanuts, cold bar drinks, but no soft drink of Texas, Dr. Pepper

They have big screen TVs over the bar area and on Labor Day they had both the Cardinals-Padres game on and the Cubs game on. Nice touch even if it is not much of a pennant race yet.

Now on to the positives! I don't think too many cardiologists would have the Roadhouse on an approved dining list, but they have the calorie count of every menu item listed.

The beer was cold and my wife's Patrou (Tequilla) \$6 was with a \$2 kicker of more booze. It produced a reorder.

The water and soft drink glasses are huge!

The first thing to arrive at your table are the rolls that are just out of the oven with a honey glaze on them.



The rolls that arrived before we ordered were plenty large, but look at the size of the replacement rolls after we finished the first four.

**EARLY DINE** **\$8.99\*\***

Availability varies by store location.  
Visit [TexasRoadhouse.com/locations](http://TexasRoadhouse.com/locations)  
for dates and times at a specific location.

**FEATURING 11 ENTRÉES**  
See entrée listings inside menu for calorie content.

• 6 oz. Sirloin Steak Dinner*	• Pulled Pork Dinner
• 10 oz. Road Kill Dinner*	• Grilled Pork Chop (Single Chop)*
• Country Fried Sirloin Dinner	• Grilled Chicken Salad
• Grilled BBQ Chicken Dinner	• Chicken Caesar Salad
• Country Fried Chicken Dinner	• Chicken Critter® Salad
• Chicken Critters® Dinner	

Everyone at the table ordered the \$8.99 4pm-

to-6 pm dinner special.

All the meals, even the 4-6 Specials come with 2-sides. Everyone ordering a meal got a salad. Nobody was cheated.



Here are the \$8.99 orders. First was a Country Fried Streak with white gravy and mashed potatoes and more white gravy.



Next was the Texas Road Kill, which was a 10 oz ground beef patty smothered in brown gravy with onions and mushrooms. This came with a green bean side.



I was interested in trying the chicken tenders as they are hand breaded on site. I should have gotten an appetizer listed under "Ranger Meals" for \$6.99. However, a recent

weight loss has had nothing to do with me watching what I eat. I just don't have the "fat guy" appetite I used to now that I'm taking a lot of the heart meds twice a day. This meal was a combination of breakfast, lunch and dinner for me. And of course I'm at a steak house, so I better order a steak.

I got the 6 oz sirloin (250 calories). I did indulge myself and my side was mashed potatoes with white gravy and an extra side of gravy.

I also ordered the \$5.00 add-on of ribs for my wife who was not ordering a full dinner.



My steak was perfect, the potatoes were hot and the gravy was delicious down to the last drop.

The only low point might have been the ribs. They arrived off the bone, which was fine as it cuts down on soil shirts, sticky fingers and it allows the staff to flip a table quicker. The meat had just the right amount of sauce, but it was dry. I would go back to the Bricktop's for ribs before ordering them at the Roadhouse, however that said the add-on was only \$5.

You can spend \$23 for a huge piece of meat at the Roadhouse, but you can also get a very tasty meal off the Early Menu for \$10 counting tax.

The one thing that I was really impressed with was that the Ballwin Texas Roadhouse had been open for less than a month and the food was every bit as good as the food at the other two locations. If there were any start up bugs they were over before week three.

My question is what West County steakhouse along Manchester Road will Texas Roadhouse hurt the most. I hope it is not Tuckers, which still have weeknight specials, lunch specials and a loyal staff who has been there for some time, plus very loyal customers. If I had to guess I would think that nearby Applebee's will take a hit and the Outback Steakhouse further west on Manchester will take a big hit from the Texas Roadhouse being competition.