

= Starky 's =

Starky 's Restaurant and Bar , or simply Starky 's (sometimes stylized as Starkys) , was a gay bar and restaurant in Portland , Oregon 's Kerns neighborhood , in the United States . Established in 1984 , the venue became a fixture in Portland 's gay community before closing in 2015 . It hosted LGBT events and served as a gathering space for leather enthusiasts and the Oregon Bears , among other groups . Starky 's received a generally positive reception and was most known for its Bloody Marys , brunch , and outdoor seating .

= = Description and history = =

Starky 's , located at 2913 Southeast Stark Street , was a gay bar and restaurant in Portland 's Kerns neighborhood . It was established in 1984 and housed in a building that was constructed in 1935 . Starky 's was known for its patio and outdoor seating , in addition to serving American cuisine , including burgers and steak . Joe Waldroff and Greg Simshaw purchased the bar in September 2004 .

In 2015 , Willamette Week described the establishment as a " patioed mountain chalet with homestyle food that seems as domestic as Grandpa 's house , with busy Thursday karaoke , ' bottomless ' mimosas at its essential Sunday brunch , and a charmingly dirty @-@ avuncular bartender who seems to have an answer for everything " . Following its closure , the newspaper 's Matthew Korfage called Starky 's a " little mountain chalet " and " friendly little neighborhood bar catering to longtime regulars in the gay community with raucous karaoke , home @-@ style food and a Sunday brunch that offered up bottomless cheap @-@ bubbly mimosas unless you misbehaved " .

Beginning in late 2014 , Waldroff and Simshaw listed the building and business for sale intermittently , and sold Starky 's for \$ 1 @. @ 2 million in March 2015 . The duo planned to retire and expressed a willingness to sell the rights to the name and business . The bar and restaurant closed on September 13 , 2015 , after operating for 28 years . The building that housed Starky 's was demolished during November ? December 2015 , and was replaced by a three @-@ story apartment building .

= = = Events = = =

Starky 's was a longtime fixture in Portland 's gay community . It served as a gathering space for groups such as Blackout Leather Productions , a nonprofit organization and volunteer group of leather enthusiasts in Oregon and southwest Washington , and the Oregon Bears . Historically , Starky 's sold tickets to Portland Gay Men 's Chorus performances and hosted (or was as a starting location for) gay pride events . The venue also hosted special events such as : a 2009 celebration and fundraiser to send eight musicians from the Rose City Gay Freedom Band to perform at Barack Obama 's inauguration , a 2013 PQ Monthly press party , Oregon Bears ' 2013 car wash fundraiser for Our House and other nonprofits , the Red Dress Party , and " Civic Pride " , which was presented by City Club of Portland in June 2014 to commemorate gay pride and LGBT Pride Month . The latter event featured guests from local organizations including : Basic Rights Oregon , Cascade AIDS Project , Equity Foundation , GLSEN Oregon , Oregon Gay and Lesbian Law Association , Oregon Safe Schools and Communities Coalition , PFLAG Portland and the PFLAG Black Chapter , Portland Latino Gay Pride , and Rosetown Ramblers .

= = Reception = =

Starky 's received a generally positive reception and was most known for its Bloody Marys , brunch , and outdoor seating . In 2013 , Jaime Dunkle of the Daily Vanguard , Portland State University 's student newspaper , included Starky 's as one of the " Top 5 Gay Clubs / Bars in Portland , " writing : " For maxing and relaxing : Starky 's is the best outdoor gay bar . Word on the street is that they

make a killer Bloody Mary and have a yummy brunch menu . They 're old school and have been in Portland since 1984 . Check it out if you want to get away from the throbbing , meat @-@ market discos . " In 2014 , GoLocalPDX contributor Byron Beck included Starky 's in his list of the " Top 12 Gay Clubs in Portland " , writing : " Starky 's is for those who remember that brunch is best served on Sunday with a Bloody Mary . This true original is more restaurant than bar but that doesn 't stop people from coming here for some of the stiffest drinks in town . " In 2015 , Willamette Week contributors included Starky 's in their list of favorite Portland gay bars .