



Rudy's Bar-B-Q Relies on Venstar for Indoor Comfort, Remote Control and HVAC Equipment Management

Venstar's Skyport Cloud Services Enables Remote Changes in Minutes

CHATSWORTH, Calif., Jan. 15, 2020 — [Venstar®](#) today announced that its [Explorer®](#) connected Wi-Fi® thermostats, Wireless Temperature Sensors and [Skyport®](#) Cloud Services are being used at the Rudy's Bar-B-Q and Mighty Fine Burger chains to ensure indoor comfort, remote thermostat control and HVAC equipment management.

"Using Venstar's free Skyport Mobile App, I can view and control all of the restaurant thermostats, helping to preserve the health of our HVAC equipment," said Jay Andruk, Facilities and Fleet Manager at Austin-based K&N Management. K&N Management is the licensed operator and local area developer for Rudy's Bar-B-Q restaurants. It also owns the Mighty Fine Burger chain.

Challenge: Ensure Indoor Comfort and Preserve HVAC Equipment Health

Andruk oversees the facilities management for these popular restaurant chains as well as their office buildings and storage building. In choosing new thermostats, Andruk had three main goals:

- Preserve the health of the HVAC equipment
- Ensure indoor comfort for the guests
- Enable remote control of the thermostats

Solution: Venstar Explorer Thermostats and Remote Sensors

Andruk chose Venstar's Explorer (T4900) connected Wi-Fi thermostats with Wi-Fi modules and Venstar Remote Sensors (Model ACC-PSEN) along with Venstar's free Skyport Mobile App.

The thermostats are located in non-public areas, including kitchens and offices. The remote sensors allow monitoring of air temperatures in the areas where there are not any thermostats. Andruk also placed remote sensors in dining rooms, which are sensitive to temperature differences.

Having both thermostats and remote sensors enables temperature averaging across a wider space. This provides greater control of inside temperatures, helping to ensure a comfortable environment.

Using sensors rather than thermostats in public areas such as dining rooms also reduces the opportunity for guests to try to make adjustments.

Andruk uses Venstar's free Skyport Mobile App to remotely access the thermostats to check on or adjust temperatures in the restaurants. He can also turn on or off HVAC equipment so that it is not left on and running overnight, potentially damaging the HVAC units.

Using Venstar's free Skyport Mobile App is especially helpful after hours. For example, when a contractor let Andruk know that the humidity was too high for the grout to set overnight, Andruk was able to use the Skyport App from his mobile phone to reduce the temperature from 72 degrees to 67 degrees to allow the humidity to drop. This enabled the grout to set so the restaurant could open on time the next morning.

Because the kitchens can run hot, Andruk programmed the thermostats to give restaurant managers the ability to make minor temperature adjustments. This gives them some flexibility to ensure comfort in the kitchens while making sure that dining room guests aren't too cool.

Results: Comfortable Restaurants, Optimally Performing HVAC Equipment

Venstar's Explorer thermostats and Remote Sensors with free Skyport Cloud Services meet Andruk's goals of:

- Ensuring indoor comfort at the restaurants with consistent, comfortable temperatures;
- Enabling remote monitoring and control of thermostats; and
- Preserving the health of the HVAC equipment by using remote access to avoid air conditioning or heating being left on overnight.

As a bonus, using the app, Andruk and his team can remotely turn HVAC units on or off when contractors are making repairs, without having to physically go to the restaurants. Andruk also appreciates that the Venstar thermostats work with all types of HVAC systems.

"In the restaurants where we installed the Venstar systems, we have not had a single rooftop unit freeze up due to people overriding the system, lowering the thermostat and letting the AC run all night," Andruk said.

"Today, thanks to Venstar, no matter how hot or cold it is outside, Rudy's Bar-B-Q and Mighty Fine Burgers restaurants have consistent, comfortable temperatures," he added.

About K&N Management / Rudy's Bar-B-Q / Mighty Fine Burgers

K&N Management is the licensed area developer for the Austin-area Rudy's Country Store & Bar-B-Q locations and the creator and owner of Austin-based Mighty Fine Burgers, Fries and Shakes. The company started in 1994 and in 2010 was the recipient of both the Texas Award for Performance Excellence and the Malcolm Baldrige Award, the nation's highest recognition of organizational excellence. K&N Management's restaurants focus on guaranteeing guest delight each and every day through high quality food, attention to speed of service, cleanliness and genuine Texas Hospitality.

<https://knmanagement.com/>

<https://rudysbbq.com>

<https://mightyfineburgers.com/our-story>

About Venstar Inc.

[Venstar Inc.](#) is a leading thermostat and energy management system (EMS) manufacturer, known for providing value to its customers via ease of use and installation, proven cost savings, improved energy efficiency, quality and reliability. Founded in 1992, Venstar is one of the largest thermostat suppliers in the world and designs and produces Venstar-branded products, as well as OEM thermostat products for the biggest names in HVAC. Venstar's Surveyor is a leading energy management system, typically saving small-box retailers 20–35 percent of their energy costs, which translates to tens of millions of dollars in savings each year and dramatic reductions in CO₂ emissions. Surveyor currently controls the energy usage of 30,000+ retail locations across the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and Mexico.

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