

# Another Round: More Words of Wisdom About Beer

By Scott Laird

**“Yung sing”** - To honor the start of the Summer Olympics in Beijing, a Chinese toast which means “drink and win.”

**Greetings From the Oregon Brewers Festival** - This month I had the opportunity to spend Thursday afternoon at the Oregon Brewers Fest (OBF), one of the nations longest running and premier beer festivals. This year was the twenty-first for the OBF, and they chose as a theme to celebrated the Twenty-first Amendment, which repealed prohibition in 1933.

The festival attracted seventy-two breweries, each pouring a single beer (I did not sample them all!), from seventeen states. There were twenty-one beer styles represented (I did not sample them all!), with the most popular being India Pale Ales (IPA) at twelve (I don't enjoy IPA's so I did not sample any!).

Oregonians, and especially Portlanders, love their craft beers, in fact they love it so much that three years ago the Governor named the entire month of July “Oregon Craft Beer Month.” What a state! According to the Oregon Brewers Guild, there are currently sixty brewing companies operating in Oregon. Thirty of those are in Portland, more than any other city in the **world!** The Portland metro area has the largest craft brewing market-selling more than any other city in the country, even though we rank twenty-third in population. One last fact, thirty-eight percent of beer consumed in Oregon is brewed in Oregon. Like I said, Oregon loves it's craft beer.

So what did I sample at the OBF. Since this is a summer festival, most brewers stick to summer style beers: Lagers, Goldens, Wheats, Fruit beers, Pale Ales, and of course the very hoppy IPA's. Because Oregon grows so many hops, it has become a signature of Oregon Breweries to make the hoppiest IPA's they can; a style I just don't enjoy. Some people enjoy Porters and Stouts with low levels of hops for flavor and more malts (Me!) and others enjoy lots of hops (Not Me!). There were still lot's of options. One thing that was evident, many brewers brought many different styles and appear to be experimenting with European styles this season; Belgians, Kolsch, Witbier, Pilsners and even a couple of Bocks. Here are some of my Oregon favorites from this year's OBF:

- **Hopworks Urban Brewery (Portland) - HUB Lager, Czech Pilsner** - Rich and smooth, with honey flavoring, this organic golden was a delight. Lot's of character and flavorful, it won a Silver medal at the 2008 World Beer Cup. My favorite this year.
- **Golden Valley Brewery (McMinnville) - Cote d'Or, Belgian Style Golden Ale** - A tasty summer ale, that was barrel aged, with a hint of vanilla. Cote d'Or is French for “golden slope”, and this is another winner from this brewery in Yamhill County.
- **Pelican Pub and Brewery (Pacific City) - Surfer's Summer Ale, English Style Summer Ale** - This one was full bodied and crisp, but the hops flavor came through a little to strong. I usually like Pelican brews, and if your a hophead you might enjoy this one.
- **Roots Organic Brewing Co. (Portland) - Calypso Ale, Hybrid** - This fresh and lively fruit ale had a very spicy finish, due to the scotch bonnet peppers in the recipe. A lot going on in this complex ale.
- **Wildfire Brewing Co. (Bend) - Wildfire Summer Seasonal, Golden Blonde Ale** - the low alcohol content makes this a good beer for long summer afternoons. Balanced and flavorful, the honey malt base comes through, with a slightly bitter finish.

One last note of interest - **The Collaborator Project** is a joint venture that brings homebrewers from the Oregon Brew Crew together with Widmer Brewing. Winners of a homebrew contest are selected, and brewed by Widmer for limited release, giving some amateurs a chance to see their recipes poured for the public. Started in 1997, the first beer selected was a milk stout, which Widmer has continued to produce as their Snowplow Milk Stout. Each year a Collaborator is served at the OBF- this years submission was **Resurrection Rye, an American Pale Ale** created by Portland homebrewer Patrick Miller. The Collaborator Project is a great tradition at the OBF, another reason why this is such a great festival, and why Oregon is such a great place for craft beers. *See you next time from another round!*

# Stargazer

By Esther Arce

As the sun makes its annual trip through the sign of Leo, we'll have plenty of opportunity to show strength and to have the courage of our convictions. It's through confidence, not physical reliance that we'll succeed. Part of the challenge of this time period is about coming to terms with self worth. It won't matter what others think, as long as you believe in yourself.

The middle of the month can test our abilities to communicate. Cold, hard facts will emerge. Whether that's good or bad remains to be seen. There needs to be care and accuracy taken along with organized and well-thought out plans. Towards the end of the month we move into a great time for planning for the future. Whatever new relationships and projects we take on will require effort and diligence. It's not the best time for taking chances if you want or expect quick results and rewards. Long-term stability with later, greater rewards is more available.

## Aries

Reaching out to others is just as important as having a strong will. Extending yourself to others can have many rewards such as new friends or new opportunities. Set aside any aggressive and overbearing behavior in favor of unity and camaraderie. This is a good time for you to stand out and shine. A smile can open unexpected doors.

## Taurus

There will be a few challenging moments for you this month. Keep your ego in check and remain flexible. It can be easy to let things get out of hand, but using simple, receptive innocence will get any situation on track. This is a time for overcoming fears through gentleness.

## Gemini

You must press on or the status quo will remain. Use your voice to state your case. If the cause is just and your communications are clear, you will be heard by those who understand, thus giving you the potential to create important changes. Hold your ground no matter which way the wind blows.

## Cancer

Don't sacrifice your wants and needs for others. They may not appreciate you for doing it anyway, and you don't want to be a doormat by doing more than your share. Make sure to nurture yourself even if that means taking time away from something you love. You'll be in a much better place when you return.

## Leo

Showing determination, confidence and hope for the future encourages yourself and others. Inner poise is more important than outer appearances; otherwise it's just bravado with no real courage backing it up. No matter what you do this month, it's important to think from the heart and not from the head; it's your greatest chance for success.

## Pisces

It's time for a reality check, and you will be faced with situations that challenge your maturity level. You'll succeed if you proceed with caution and follow the wisdom of your elders. If you attempt to ignore or escape, it will all soon catch up with you. Don't be afraid to make a decision and stick with it.

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## Capricorn

You're on a roll. It may be a slow roll, but at least things are moving. With cooperation there can be great success. You're looking to grow and expand, and you can only do it by clearing out what doesn't fit anymore. It's time to clear out cluttered minds, spaces and rooms. No use wasting time holding on to old, outworn things and memories.

## Libra

There can be feelings of wasting energy and thoughts of failure, but don't be discouraged. Maintain a sense of purpose and reconnect with what is available and possible in the situation, and you will get back on track. With courage we always return with greater wisdom and understanding.

## Scorpio

Don't allow dull routines to overcome you. You may be holding back your ideas because you think it has all been done before, but it is yet to be done your way. Bring out something new, and it will revitalize you and those around you. Yours is a passionate and intense nature that needs to experience life in a very deep, connected way.

## Sagittarius

It's time to socialize and be friendly with strangers. Anything foreign or exotic will satisfy your taste buds. Be adventurous and try something you thought you'd never do. That way you keep them all guessing, and you never get bored. The end of the month brings some challenges, and you may need to let go and find new depths to your ways of relating.

## Aquarius

Your rational and emotional responses can conflict at times. Fickleness and insecurity can throw off your normally cool exterior, and you may be put in a position of having to decide between the heart and social obligations. Luckily you have a great ability to chop or grind away at something to get to the essential truth, potential or reality.

## Virgo

It's time to look into your future and go over your five-year-plan. Even if you can't get it all figured out, at least you can make some decisions now that will put you on the way towards your desired goal. Those with similar interests will be able to join with you to achieve a mutually desired end.

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