

Another Round: More Words of Wisdom About Beer

By Scott Laird



"The true enthusiast is probably happiest drinking from an opaque container. It does not allow

him to see the small imperfections in the appearance of the beer."-- Joy of Cooking

"What do they know?!"--Another Round

Mark Your Calendar for the 18th Annual Hillsdale Brewfest-- This is the original McMenamins' beer festival, held at the site of the original McMenamins' Brewery. Twenty of McMenamins' brewers bring their favorite batch of beer each year and compete for bragging rights inside the McMenamins' Kingdom, and a tap at the prestigious Oregon Brewers Festival this summer-- you, the taster, get to vote for your favorites. All different styles of brews will be showcased as patrons order "trays" of samples. It's held on Saturday, February 26th, starting at 11:00 A.M.; the Hillsdale Brewery & Public House is located at 1505 SW Sunset Boulevard in Portland, just north of SW Capital Highway.

Since the audience gets to vote for the winner, and because the brewers really work the crowd for their votes, we're giving a special shout for our friend and Vernonia resident, Brady Romtvedt, a brewer at the Cornelius House Roadhouse. Romtvedt is entering his "Dark Star," which he describes as "a Cascadian Dark Ale that is a big, hoppy beer at 8% ABV, very black in color, bursting with hops, with a hint of roasted malts for flavor." We got an early preview and this beer should really be great once the day of the festival rolls around. So why not stop by the Hillsdale



Festival, give Brady's Dark Star a taste, and if you like it, support a local brewer with your vote.

Beer Glasses-- Recently I was with a friend, tasting some beer, and the conversation turned to the many different styles of beer glasses. Over the years, I have seen beer served in many different shapes, sizes and styles of glasswear. Is there a reason beer glasses are created in different shapes? I actually hadn't really given it much thought.

I like beer in a nice heavy glass mug, but really any kind of glass is fine as long as I can examine and appreciate the color of my beer. Actually, come to think of it, I really don't mind if my beer is served in those big plastic red cups, or really, any kind of cup. And beer in a bottle isn't so bad either. But, if given a choice--a glass mug would be my preference.

Anyway, back to styles of glass wear-- my friend took some time to explain to me that there were purposes for the different shapes of beer glasses and I found the conversation very informative. And so we thought we should share some of our new-found knowledge with our readers-- after all, knowledge is wisdom and this column is supposed to be about beer wisdom.

Let's start with my favorite-- the **MUG**. Sturdy and large, a mug can hold lots of beer. The handle is handy, and a mug is very versatile-- just about any kind of beer can-- and should-- be consumed from it. Mugs come in all shapes and sizes-- I now have sixteen different glass mugs in my collection.



The **PILSNER** glass is tall and slender and tapers out at the top-- an inverted cone or trumpet shape. This shape helps focus the hops aroma and benefits retention of the robust head of Pilsners and Lagers. Pilsner glasses tend to hold about 250 to 330 milliliters.



For Weizenbiere (wheat beers), there is a specially shaped **WEIZEN** glass, with bowed-out sides to accommodate the big head and narrower top to focus the yeasty aroma. Weizen glasses are often larger, holding up to 500 milliliters of volume.



A **GOBLET**, or **CHALIS** is a fishbowl-shaped, large glass with a stem. Often

beautiful pieces of work, the difference is the goblet is often made of thinner, more delicate glass; the Chalis is usually a thicker-walled glass. Goblets are designed to maintain the head on your beer and are good for drinking big malty beers, like heavy Belgian Ales or Bock beers that don't feature such a big hops aroma. Goblets come in many different sizes.



For those really aromatic beers, try a **SNIFTER**. The smaller opening accentuates the nose and the big bowl allows for swirling to agitate and produce intense aromas. A red wine glass can act as a substitute if a snifter is not available when tasting IPA's, Barleywines, and Imperials of any style. Snifters can also come in a variety of sizes.



The tall and cylindrical **STANGE** is a traditional German glass often used to drink Kolsch and Bock beers. A smaller glass, a Stange holds about 200-300 milliliters.



And last but not least, we come to the **PINT** glass. There are traditionally two sizes of pint glasses-- the 16-ounce pint and the 20-ounce Imperial Pint. Pints are sturdy, nearly cylindrical, but slightly tapered; the Imperial Pint has a slight ridge at the top. A good, all-purpose glass, the pint is generally used to serve porters, stouts and bitter beers, but will work for any style beer.



There are several other types of specialty beer glasses in use. One other glass I just have to mention is the **YARD** glass. A very tall glass-- about one yard tall-- with a bulbous bottom and widening top, the Yard holds approximately three Imperial Pints of beer. It is often used in pub games in England, Australia and New Zealand with the idea being to see how fast someone can consume the yard. They also can be found in half-yards. I actually own a yard glass, although it's been quite a while since I found a reason to get it out of storage. But I'm sure feeling the urge right now.

So now we all know a little bit more about why there are so many different styles of beer glass-- it wasn't just someone getting bored with the mug or pint and wanting to get creative.

Hopefully, our readers will find this information as useful and interesting as we did.



Something to Try-- We recently came upon these tasty treats that we thought we should pass along as suggestions. **Old Growth Imperial Stout from Caldera Brewing Company in Ashland** is extra malty and robust with a hint of licorice under the 8.8% ABV. This big and bold brew pours with a rich dark brown head and is part of the Caldera Kettle Series-- a Limited Small Batch Seasonal Release. Get it while you can, it's worth the few extra bucks they're charging.

Creek Ale, part of Rogue Brewing's **Chatoe Rogue Series** is malty, light, fruity and somewhat refreshing with a reddish brown color. Brewed with cherries, this complex brew is like a barleywine, only lighter and not as strong. The Chatoe Rogue Series are GYO brews-- which stands for Grow Your Own-- Rogue grows their own hops and barleys right here in Oregon for these brews. Look for the rest of their Chatoe Rogue series as well-- Dirty Black Lager, OREGasmic Ale, Single Malt Ale, and Wet Hop Ale.

See you next time for Another Round!

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