

Another Round: More Words of Wisdom About Beer

By Scott Laird



uKeg: The New Answer to Carbonated Beer at Home- GrowlerWerks, a Portland based company is now taking orders for their uKeg growler, a pressurized beer storage system, that will keep your growler beer cold and fresh.

Tired of pouring the expensive contents of your growler, that has gone flat in the fridge overnight, down the drain? GrowlerWerks has created the solution.

Designed and funded through the second most funded project in Kickstarter's food category, uKeg generated 10,293 backers who pledged \$1.5 million to manufacture this new product.

GrowlerWerks LLC founder Shawn Huff hopes to revolutionize the craft beer industry by allowing all of us to enjoy our favorite beers where and when we want to.

"The craft beer world is growing fast, and we're solving the pain point," says Huff. "Every beer lover wants to take

their beer home and enjoy it over time."

The engineers at GrowlerWerks who designed the uKeg have created a stainless-steel and brass 64 ounce container which will sell for \$119 complete with vacuum sealed insulation, a bar styled tap handle, and innovative carbonation system. A 128 ounce version is also available.

Drink it at home, take it on the road for picnics or tailgates, or... bring it over to my place for a tasting party!



The first orders are expected to be shipped in July of 2015. You can find more information at growlerwerks.com.

Taps Around Town- Now that winter is officially here, you may want to stay a little closer to home to enjoy your favorite beverage.

The All In Pub and Eatery has eight beers on tap right here in Vernonia, five of them currently dedicated to Oregon craft beers. Leading the line up is Deschutes Black Butte Porter along with Deschutes Red Chair Northwest Pale Ale. Next in line is Eugene's Hop Valley Alpha Centauri Imperial IPA, a big,

hoppy beer that the bartenders all say has been very popular. The old stand-by, Widmer Hefeweizen is next, and the list is rounded out with Full Sail's Cascade Pilsner.


It's a pretty good mix of brews to go along with one of the All In's famous burgers, fries or one of their daily specials. Make sure you stop in and give them a try.



Consider all of the conditions before you drive this winter.

Winter weather in Oregon can make driving downright hazardous at times. But weather isn't the only condition that leads to challenging winter driving. Here are a few things to consider before you hit the road.

- **Weather conditions.** Check a weather website, such as www.weather.gov/forecasts/graphical/sectors/pacnorthwest.php, for driving conditions to help you decide when and if to hit the road, cross the mountains or go into the city.
- **Road conditions.** Oregon Department of Transportation continually updates www.tripcheck.org with road and weather conditions, construction zones and camera views.
- **Your car's condition.** How are your tires? Do you have chains? You should also be prepared with emergency supplies, a full tank of gas and a charged cell phone so you can call 9-1-1 in an emergency.
- **Your own condition.** Have you had enough rest? Or a few drinks? Honestly assess your own ability to drive safely before you get behind the wheel in winter's more challenging driving conditions.



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McMenamins Passport for the Cosmic Tripster- If you're like me, you enjoy a visit to one of the many McMenamins properties every now and then. With great beers, fantastic atmosphere and otherworldly decor and artwork, there is never a dull moment when you take a trip to a McMenamins.

And now they have made it even more fun to make the sojourn-the McMenamins Passport.

You can start your own epic quest to fill the McMenamins Passport while visiting your favorite pubs and discovering new ones. Get a unique stamp each time you visit a McMenamins location or attend an event. Along the way as you collect stamps you can earn free tots, burgers and fries, as well as win pint glasses, t-shirts and other exclusive passport merchandise; each stamp gets you closer to the prizes. Complete your entire passport and receive a grand prize package valued at over \$500.

The Passport is available at any McMenamins location for just \$25. For more info go to mcmennamins.com.

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