

# Another Round: More Words of Wisdom About Beer

By Scott Laird



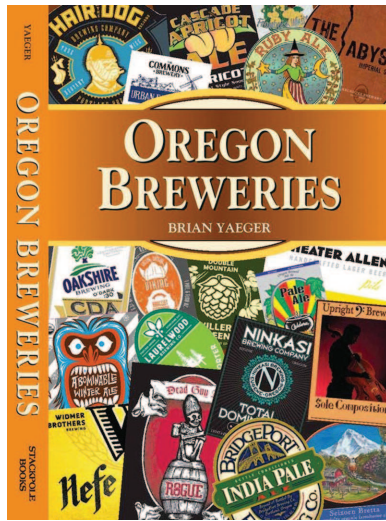
**Oregon Breweries Guidebook** – I recently stumbled upon a book, *Oregon Breweries* by Brian Yaeger, that is a must read for all beer lovers, especially anyone interested in drinking beer brewed in Oregon.

Yaeger has written what appears to be the definitive and most comprehensive guidebook for Oregon beer that includes 190 breweries and brewpubs all across the state. Oregon, often referred to as “Beervana,” is glorified around the world for its proliferation of brewpubs, breweries, and quality of beer. Our state is hailed as ground zero for the U.S. microbrew revolution that was launched by the McMenamin Brothers at their Hillsdale Brewery in 1984. Yaeger captures all this and more in his all-encompassing tome.

A cross between a travel guide, a directory, and a field guide, and chock-full of interesting facts, information and descriptions, Yaeger’s compendium is designed with the content arranged geographically with a map showing the location of each entry. It’s like a hiking trail guidebook for beer lovers! Yaeger discusses the prevalence of beer culture in Portland, how to best design a “beercation” around Oregon,

and focuses on the many innovations that Oregon craft brewers have built a worldwide reputation around.

Each brewery is given one to three pages, and in addition to their physical address, phone number and web page listing, write ups include details like a history of the business, the property where they are located, stories about the owners, the beers they make and the food they serve, or whatever else Yaeger found interesting. Yaeger goes a step further and provides the opening date, names of the brewers, annual production in barrels, his favorite brew, and more interesting factoids about each listing.



In addition to the write ups for individual breweries, Yaeger has also compiled lists of beer festivals (by month), bottle shops and taprooms, cheesemakers and cideries around the state, and coffee roasters in Portland. He even includes a list of “Breweries to Come,” noting that when he started his

project there were 150 breweries in Oregon, by late 2014 there were close to 200, and that he expects there will soon be 250.

Yaeger lives in Portland and is also the author of *Red, White and Brew: An American Beer Odyssey*. He covers beer for Portland Monthly, Willamette Week, and DrinkPortland and has a Master in Professional Writing from the Uni-

versity of Southern California (his thesis was on beer!). He and his wife run Inn Beervana Bed & Beer in Portland (Inn-Beervana.com).

While the brewery scene in Oregon remains constantly changing, Yaeger’s guidebook was published in 2014 and appears to be fairly accurate and up to date and makes a great companion as you wander the state in search of more beers and a better beer experience. It will soon be available at the Vernonia Library. Check it out!

**More Beer to Try** – Here’s a nice variety of styles and flavors of beers you might want to try to find and give a taste:

**Full Sail Wassail** – This limited release seasonal winter ale is dark red in color. It’s mellow and easy drinking with hints of caramel, and a nice blend of malt and hops. Brewed for the holidays, hurry, you still might find some on the shelves.

**Deschutes Fresh Squeezed IPA** – With a strong citrus front, a distinct fresh hops

middle from the hops being squeezed directly into the bottle, and a slightly bitter finish, this brew rated high during our tasting.

**Deschutes Red Chair NWPA** – This North West Pale Ale was rich amber colored and lightly hopped. Crisp, refreshing and very drinkable.

**Widmer Steel Bridge Porter** – Very dark in color, this porter was somewhat sweet and kind of smoky with a very distinct flavor. The winner of Widmer Brothers annual homebrew competition, this limited release Collaborator beer is only available in the Portland area.

**Laurelwood Tree Hugger Porter** – Brewed with 100% organically grown malt this is a personal favorite. A good solid porter without any frills, Tree Hugger is available on tap at the brewpub on Sandy Blvd. in Portland but Laurelwood only bottles it occasionally—we were recently lucky enough to grab some.

*My “permed” mullet man is still looking fine at 40...*



*Happy Birthday Babe!*



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