

Astoria Brewing Co.

■ STORY: HEATHER DOUGLAS | PHOTO: CARL EARL

The Allen family's Wet Dog Cafe & Brewery opened its doors 22 years ago — long before the craft brewing industry hit Astoria full force. Serendipitously, in 2012 the family felt the purchase of the old "Andrew and Steve's" Restaurant was meant to be: father Steve and son Andrew spent almost two years renovating the location into a 15-barrel brewing system to add to their original 4-barrel system at the Wet Dog.

In 2008, The Astoria Brewing Company became a forerunner again when they earned the title of the 2nd Brewery in the State of Oregon to add solar energy to its operation. The Wet Dog brew pub uses solar heated water stored in 1,500 gallon tanks in the basement. Owner Karen Allen said, "The Wet Dog's brewery is the only one in Astoria that operates all of its heated water through solar power."

Allen said "using less energy means cleaner, greener beer."

Besides efficiency, The Wet Dog prides itself equally on being family-friendly for their customers by offering a classic brew pub experience. "Our main goal is to be family-friendly," said Allen.

"We continue to add merchandise for our beer enthusiasts and tourists; we also offer not only top notch beer and quality food, but an overall experience that will be remembered."

Head Brewer Shaun Barrick added, "We are family-friendly, super local and give people a low key place to hang out and have some good beers."

Beer is also featured in The Wet Dog's Brew Pub food, and recipes that contain beer are by far the most popular, like their halibut, cod and salmon fish and chips — hand dipped with beer batter made from their beer.

Family tradition is strong at The Wet Dog. All seven of the Allen children have worked in various capacities within the business. "Just this past summer our oldest grandchild was here to work, learn and support us," said Allen. "We are also proud of our employees, who we refer to as our extended family; many of them have worked for our family for years. We could not be successful without them."

A fairly new member to the Wet Dog's

extended family is Shaun Barrick, head brewer. At 21 he became passionate about home brewing as a side hobby. Deciding to take things to the next level, he gained serious experience at Alaskan Brewing and Ninkasi in Eugene — one of the biggest craft breweries in the Northwest — before landing at Astoria Brewing Company in Astoria.

Barrick enjoys his job: "It's this amazing place where creativity and science collide. You get to be an artist in some ways and an engineer in others. For me, it's a good mix of intellectual passion and creativity."

"Sessionable" is a beer term describing brews that are low alcohol, and not as aggressive on the palate. They are Barrick's favorites and he also enjoys offering other sessionable beers like a "kolsch" — a German style cross between an ale and a lager that finishes crisp and clean like a lager typically does.

Now that Astoria has become a beer destination, Barrick notes that Wet Dog's sessionable beers are highly appealing to a wide variety of beer drinkers. The Wet Dog's most popular beer — the "Strawberry Blonde" — is a uniquely bright and crisp fruit forward beer with a flavorful finish.

He added "most of our beers like our lagers are a good entry point into the Astoria mecca of beer that we have around here."

The Wet Dog's "extended family" branches out to Astoria's brewing community as well; they recently collaborated with the new Reach Break Brewing on an Imperial India Pale Lager called "Disassemble," which was available as a limited time keg release.

"One of the super fun parts of this industry is being able to collaborate in a small town like this. The brewer community in Astoria is super friendly. We're all different in our own ways but we bond over our love of beer. I really enjoy hanging out with other brewers," said Barrick.

Astoria Brewing Company also engages with the community; some of the events they sponsor are the Pacific Northwest Brew Cup 5k and the Great Columbia Crossing, and has provided the beer garden for the Scandinavian Festival for the past 15 years.

"We try to engage with our community whenever we can," said Barrick.

The Wet Dog's brewery is the only one in Astoria that operates all of its heated water through solar power.

Astoria Brewing Co. Taproom: 1196 Marine Drive ■ Astoria
Wet Dog Café: 144 11th Street ■ Astoria • wetdogcafe.com



WALTER E. NELSON CO.

Your local janitorial and paper supply...and much more!

Aura for Bath and Spa

Benjamin Moore

Interior Paints

Great for projects and kids!

CHALKBOARD

LATEX CHALKBOARD PAINT

AVAILABLE IN ANY COLOUR

ben.

Benjamin Moore

LET US HELP YOU COMPLETE YOUR HOME PROJECTS!

2240 Commercial Street
Astoria, Oregon
503.325.6362
www.WalterENelson.com
Monday-Friday 8 am to 5 pm

Pool, Spa & Fountain • Packing Materials • Cleaning Supplies for Ovens, Grills, Carpet & Upholstery • Vehicle Cleaning Products

NOW POURING AT ASTORIA BREWING CO.:

Lincoln Lager: 4.9% ABV ■ 10 IBU
Strawberry Blonde: 6.1% ABV ■ 10 IBU
Da Bomb Ale: 5.2% ABV ■ 17 IBU
Old Red Beard Ale: 5.4% ABV ■ 3 IBU
Bitter Bitch Imperial IPA: 6.2% ABV ■ 100+ IBU

Solar Dog IPA: 6.2% ABV ■ 69 IBU
Poop Deck Porter: 6.2% ABV ■ 35 IBU
Volkswissen: 6.3% ABV ■ 13 IBU
Trolley Stop Stout: 6.7% ABV ■ 40 IBU