

# McMenamin's Sand Trap

1157 Marion Avenue ■ Gearhart ■ [www.mcmenamins.com](http://www.mcmenamins.com)

■ STORY & PHOTO: NANCY MCCARTHY

## Beer and golf: traditions worth continuing McMenamins brew pubs among the oldest in Oregon

**L**ike the Gearhart Golf Links at McMenamins Gearhart Hotel, the craft beer served in the hotel's Sand Trap Pub is among the oldest craft beers in Oregon.

Granted, the golf course is 126 years old and McMenamins has been serving craft beer at its locations since only 1985, but the two traditions complement each other.

When the Oregon Legislature adopted a bill allowing breweries to serve their beer at their own establishments instead of requiring distributors to take it to other outlets, McMenamins created the first brew pub in its Hillsdale brewery, said Rob Vallance, the company's brewery general manager.

McMenamins brews its craft beer in 22 breweries throughout Oregon and Washington and serves it in 65 locations. The nine craft beers poured at the Sand Trap Pub are brewed at their flagship property, Edgefield, in Troutdale.

Customers drink more than 727,000 gallons of McMenamins' craft brews a year.

"We're in the hotbed of brewing in the country, and we're very much a part of the scene," Vallance said.

The Ruby, with its raspberry, fruity taste, is the most popular. McMenamins was the first to use fruit in its brews, according to Vallance. The IPAs are next in popularity.

"We let our brewers experiment with the IPAs," he added.

With 35 brewers, that means a lot of variety. They come up with names like "Grandma Betty's Quilted," "Heads or Tails," "Hippocampus" or "Izard of Pog" IPA.

But the beer in each McMenamins brewery is made in small batches, and it tends to reflect the

locations where it is brewed: Cascade Head, Concordia Oktoberfest, Vanport Gold, Edgefield Hefeweizen.

"We keep the local thing going," Vallance said. "The beers are the pride of the locals; they are very neighborly and family-friendly."

Although the company has 22 breweries, "at heart, we're a small brewery," he added. "We're not looking to expand to sell in other markets. Our beer is available only in our locations."

While there's no brewery at McMenamins Gearhart, the favorites — including Ruby, Terminator Stout and Hefeweizen — are there. Enjoy a brew on the patio overlooking the historic golf course or pair it with a burger or pizza in the pub inside the Gearhart Hotel.

Although the hotel isn't historical — it was built in 2001 — it is designed after the original Gearhart hotels; the first was built in the late 19th century, and after that burned down, it was replaced with another hotel in 1910, but the second one also burned down in 1915. A third Gearhart Hotel, near the golf course, was built in the 1920s and was razed in the 1970s to make way for condominiums.

The Pacific Northwest has been the craft beer leader for a long time and for good reasons, Vallance said. Most of the nation's hops are grown in the Northwest, as well as the grain. In addition, the leading yeast lab is in Hood River.

"The water here is fantastic for brewing," he said. "Everything is here."

Oregonians take pride in knowing that their beer is made in Oregon, Vallance added. Some craft beer connoisseurs like to say, "My local brewery is better than your local brewery," he said.

"I think we're really in the heart of it," Vallance added.

**The golf course  
at Gearhart Golf Links  
is 126 years old  
and McMenamins  
has been serving  
craft beer at  
its locations since  
only 1985, but the  
two traditions  
complement each other.**



### NOW ON TAP AT MCMENAMIN'S SAND TRAP

**Hammerhead:** 6.0% ABV ■ 30 IBU  
**Hawthorne Kolsch:** 5.03% ABV ■ 22 IBU  
**McMenamins Irish Stout:** 4.9% ABV ■ 38 IBU  
**Miami Weisse:** 5.42% ABV ■ 7 IBU  
**Needles and Pins IPA:** 6.58% ABV ■ 82 IBU

**Poolside Double IPA:** 8.13% ABV ■ 44 IBU  
**Ruby Ale:** 4.13% ABV ■ 5 IBU  
**Seaside Porter:** 6.45% ABV ■ 35 IBU  
**Terminator Stout:** 6.45% ABV ■ 35 IBU  
**Thundercone Fresh Hop Ale:** 6.19% ABV ■ 54 IBU

Enjoy a handcrafted ale in the Sand Trap Pub, on the patio or next to a crackling firepit.  
Featuring fresh specials for breakfast, lunch and dinner.  
Open daily from early 'til late.

### Four miles north of Seaside

1157 N. Marion Ave. • Gearhart • (503) 717-8159  
[mcmenamins.com](http://mcmenamins.com)