

FOCUS

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*Editor in Chief,
Publisher*
Charles H. Washington

Editor
Larry J. Jackson, Sr.

Copy Editor
Joy Ramos

Business Manager
Gary Ann Taylor

Creative Director
Shawn Strahan

4747 NE Martin Luther
King, Jr., Blvd.
Portland, OR 97211

503-288-0033
Fax 503-288-0015

e-mail:
thefocus@portlandobserver.com
subscription@portlandobserver.com
ads@portlandobserver.com

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The Focus

Uncle Otto's Oktoberfest



*Those Darn
Accordions* will be
performing at
Oktoberfest in Portland,
one of the largest
Munich-like festivals in
the country from
September 15 through
September 17.

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

If you find yourself this September 15 through 17 in the company of thousands of sedate budweiser connoisseurs waltzing to lethargic tuba music, you're at the wrong party. But don't fret. Simply take a bearing on Portland Brewing headquarters and head at light-speed to Uncle Otto's Oktoberfest—the Oktoberfest with attitude. There, under the Big Top, you'll join an estimated 10,000 partygoers from Oregon and Southwest Washington dancing to the nation's most energizing lineup of Oktoberfest acts. The event will be held outdoors under the Big Top at Portland Brewing headquarter, located at NW 31st and Industrial.

"It's the most Oktoberfest fun this side of the Atlantic," says brewery advisor "Uncle" Ottomar Rudolf. "We've modeled our celebration after the great Munich festival, with lots of room for tabletop dancing and plenty of authentic Oktoberfest Marzen beer."

The all-ages celebration kicks-off Friday, September 15 with a stellar lineup of musical acts from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Headliners include The Texas Playboys (the legendary masters of western swing) and Roger Clyne and The Peacemakers (a rock/country/blues combo featuring ex members from the Refreshments and the Gin Blossoms).

The celebration continues on Saturday from noon to 10 p.m. Featured bands include Those Darn Accordions (a bizarre ensemble of big-haired rock accordion players who perform in silver suits and fishnet stockings) and The Derailers (a piston-driving, steam-whistle-blowing quartet of unadulterated, hard-working country).

Sunday – which is Family Fun Day – runs from noon to 6 p.m., with a full slate of kid-friendly activities and free hot dogs for youngsters 12 and under. Throughout the three-day event, 15 different bands will perform on two stages: the all-ages Rasmussen BMW Main Stage, and the 21 and over American Airlines Club Rocktoberfest.

Uncle Otto's Oktoberfest Celebration marks the release of Portland Brewing's fall seasonal beer, Uncle Otto's Oktoberfest Marzen. An authentic German style Marzen, Uncle Otto's is robust, assertively malty and exceptionally smooth-drinking.

The beer is crafted from a half-dozen select malts and a blend of Mt. Hood and Saaz Hops. After fermentation, Uncle Otto's undergoes two full months of lagering, which empowers the beer with complex flavors and a decidedly smooth finish. "To get an Oktoberfest Marzen this authentic, you'd have to travel to Bavaria," says the beer's namesake, Ottomar Rudolf.

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