

August 2021 Beer Club

Hello, Old Friend. Sometimes, you see a brewery on repeat. And repeat. But other times, an old reliable or even semi-reliable suddenly goes missing. During the depths of the pandemic, that happened a LOT. Sadly, more than a few of those breweries went under. But -perusing the beer lists for this month- we saw the names of 'old friends': Stillwater, Fat Orange Cat, Backlash. We hope you enjoy those-and others-as much as we did. And for those who pick up between 5-7 PM on Monday, August 16, you'll be tasting Bissell Brothers and Norway Brewing from my recent trip to Portland.

Beer Club Mix Pack

Stillwater Extra Dry- We have not seen this gyppe brewer on the availability list from the distributor, plus the intense heat wave of late, means you need dry, delicious saison in your life! Brewed with the addition of rice and gently hopped with Citra, Hallertau Blanc and Sterling, this saison is light, bone dry and most refreshing on a hot summer day. The style was created to satiate the thirst of the Belgian farm worker (hence farmhouse ales) during the summer months, so this seemed appropriate.

Grimm Weisse- Another classic, refreshing style, this time from one of our favorite breweries outside of New England, Grimm. This take on Hefeweizen features a double decoction mash, a brewing technique that results in the amplification of the malt's contributions to the beer. The beer is also can-conditioned, meaning the carbonation was formed naturally using the existing yeast in the beer. This also means that just like with a bottle of Hefeweiss, this can will have yeast at the bottom. You can either pour carefully as to leave the yeast behind or, the traditional method, leave a small amount of beer at the bottom, swirl and pour the lees into your glass!

Barewolf Brewing Among the Wildflowers- Barewolf Brewing is based in Amesbury, MA and while they have brewed a lot of great hazy, hoppy offerings, they also continue to brew exemplary takes on classic styles. The twist Barewolf made to the style is the addition of the ancient precursor to wheat, spelt! Spelt has a similar flavor profile to wheat, but with the addition of mild, nutty, earthy tones balanced by light, tangy acidity.

Jackie O's Sing To the Sun- A new hazy, New England-style IPA coming from one of the best breweries in Ohio, Jackie O's. This IPA features Citra, Strata, and Mosaic, a hop combination responsible for an explosive bouquet of tropical fruit, citrus and dark berries.

Lone Pine Onesie Galaxy- The onesie IPA series from Lone Pine showcases the flavor profile of one singular hop. This onesie features one of the most popular hops right now, coming all the way from Australia, Galaxy! Galaxy hops are prized for their concentration of hop oils, frequently having the highest percentage of essential hop oils of any hop varietal in any given growing season. Expect big notes of mango, guava and passion fruit wrapped in a soft, dry body.

Moat Mountain Bone Shaker Brown- We close out with a style that will leave you thinking of the coming fall season. Bone shaker is Moat Mountain's take on the traditional english brown ale, which is softer and more sessionable than an American Brown. The beer features notes of toasted biscuits, nutty malts and a hint of earthy hop bitterness.

Beer Club Hop Heads

Hoof Hearted \$120 Nachos- Yes, that is a Liberace caricature on the label, but what else would you expect from a brewery named Hoof Hearted? Right off the bat, this is a triple IPA clocking in at 12% ABV, so we highly recommend clearing your schedule prior to cracking this can open because other than some slightly sweet heat on the finish, there is zero sign of the massive ABV. This has been "quadruple dry-hopped" with citra, so this is a giant citrus bomb with layers of grapefruit. You have been warned; enjoy!

Barewolf Brewing Kitty Four- The special New England-style IPA coming from Barewolf that was brewed for their 4th anniversary! This hazy features Citra and Nelson Sauvin hops. Nelson Sauvin hops are hard to come by; they're grown in New Zealand and are named as such to reflect the fact that they are grown in the same area as Sauvignon Blanc and even share a similar flavor profile. The citra will bring the familiar orange and grapefruit tones, where Nelson will add notes of gooseberry, white grape, pear and passion fruit.

Rising Tide Chebeague Island- This is named after the largest island in Casco Bay, originally a prized fishing location by the Abenaki tribe. This hazy IPA features a unique hop combination of Ekuanot and Hull Melon hops. Hull Melon is a new hop varietal from Germany featuring notes of strawberry and honeydew melon. Ekuanot brings notes of lime, apple, berry and melon.

Fat Orange Cat I Don't Like Mondays- Another brewery that has been absent from availability for us, so we finally brought them back and of course had to give the hop heads a taste. I don't like Mondays may be listed at 7.5% abv, but this is a lighter take on a hazy New England IPA, featuring a dryer body and less residual sweetness. Still significantly hopped with the studly hop trio of Galaxy, Mosaic and Simcoe, expect waves of refreshing citrus.

Backlash Decades- Another anniversary IPA! This time Backlash is making it a double, featuring Citra, Idaho 7 and Columbus hops! Ripe oranges and pineapple open up at first, with some herbal, danker tones coming in on the finish. Goes down smooth despite the 8% ABV.

Jackie O's Certainly Uncertain- We couldn't leave the hop heads without any love from the beer masters at Jackie O's! Here's a hazy double ipa featuring Strata, Mosaic and Simcoe hops. Big bright tropical notes of passion fruit and papaya upfront from the strata hops. Mosaic and Simcoe come in mid-palette and on the finish, bringing pink grapefruit, orange zest and hints of earthy, dark berries.