

NYC CRAFT BEER ACTIVITIES

Switch off your TV and pull out the plug. Put your iPod away. Now go out and taste, learn, enjoy...

Homebrewing & Local Beer Clubs

The catalyst that sparked today's revolution in beer is without a shadow of a doubt the legalization of homebrewing by President Carter in the 1970s. Almost every brewmaster in every new wave craft brewery started out as a homebrewer, and sought to pursue a career brewing commercially. The principles and methods are identical (with full-mash brewing, not malt extract), just the scale is many times larger.

Several prime examples of homebrewers turned pro-brewers can be reeled off. The Malted Barley Appreciation Society (MBAS), a Brooklyn-based craft beer and homebrewing club, boasts George de Piro as a past president. George is brewmaster at an upstate brewpub with a rather long name, C.H. Evans Brewing Company at the Albany Pump Station, and on the side acts as a professional beer consultant via his website www.professorbeer.com. Other notables include Brooklyn brewmaster Garrett Oliver, who was president of the New York City Homebrewers Guild a decade ago. 2007's Guild president, Chris Post, is launching the Wandering Star Craft Brewery in late 2009; your author/webmaster is on Wandering Star's small team and just happened to be president of the above-mentioned MBAS in 2006.

So, if homebrewing interests you or you're simply inquisitive, check out New York City's thriving beer clubs – just turn up to any of their monthly meetings, which are quite informal and present a great opportunity to learn and socialize with great beer as the focal point. You never know, five or ten years from now you just might be brewing 50 barrel batches commercially with the honor of having YOUR beer in bars, stores, and restaurants all over the city and beyond.



HOMEBREWING SUPPLIES LOCALLY

Brooklyn Homebrew

465 56th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11220
Tel. 1 718 309 4267

(Address is for pick-up of pre-ordered items only)

<http://www.brooklyn-homebrew.com/>
<http://brooklynhomebrew.blogspot.com/>

Brooklyn Brewshop

<http://brooklynbrewshop.com/>

Order through the web

Collect pre-ordered goods from the Brooklyn Flea

Saturdays in Fort Greene:

Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School, on Lafayette Avenue between Clermont and Vanderbilt Avenues

Sundays in Brooklyn Heights / DUMBO:

Water Street under the Brooklyn Bridge

East Coast Hydroponics Inc.

14649 Horace Harding Expressway
Flushing, NY 11367
Tel. 1 718 762 8880

Malted Barley Appreciation Society (MBAS)

Regular monthly event: This homebrewing and general beer enthusiasts club meets at Mugs Ale House on the second Wednesday of each month, 7.30pm start. There is usually a guest brewer, importer, or wholesaler with samples from their portfolio.

Occasional events: Pub crawls; day trips.

Website: <http://hbd.org/mbas>



New York City Homebrewers Guild (NYCHG)

Regular monthly event: The club meets at Burp Castle the third Tuesday of each month, 7.30pm start. There is sometimes a guest brewer, importer, or wholesaler with samples from their portfolio.

Occasional events: Annual homebrewing competition; Beer Judge Certification Program classes and exam (information: www.bjcp.org).

Website: <http://hbd.org/nychg>



New York City Beer Meetup Group

Regular monthly event: At various times and places roughly once a month, plus at local beer festivals whenever they occur. Register on the website for full details.

Website: <http://beer.meetup.com/2/>

New York City Beer Festivals

Major festivals – pay on or prior to entry
(free small sample measures)

Brewtopia - Great World Beer Festival

Annually in September or October.

Organized by The Beer Brothers.

Location: Park Avenue Armory, Manhattan.

Website: <http://www.brewtopiafest.com>



Cask ale festivals – free entry, pay as you go (half and pint measures)

‘Cask Head’ Tri-Annual Cask Ale Festival

February, May, and November.

Next one at the time of writing will be 6th to 8th November 2009.

Organized by Alex Hall & Lou Sones.

Location: The Brazen Head, 228 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn.

Website: www.gotham-imbiber.com / <http://www.brazenheadbrooklyn.com/>



“I ain’t warm and I ain’t flat”

The 2009 Gotham Cask Festival

11th to 13th September 2009 – New York Craft Beer Week Grand Launch

Organized by Alex Hall

Location: Multiple locations

Website: www.gotham-imbiber.com and <http://www.nycbeerweek.com>



Also, various regular or occasional festivals and promotions are held at the city's best beer bars - including The Blind Tiger, Rattle 'n' Hum, The Gate, Hop Devil Grill, The East Village Tavern, Spuyten Duyvil, Barcade, Jimmy's No.43, Mugs Ale House, The Spring Lounge, Dive Bar, and Luckydog.

New York Craft Beer Week

MULTIPLE EVENTS!

11th to 20th September 2009

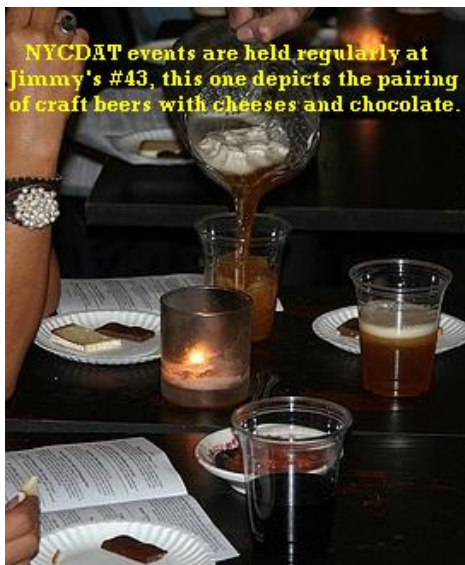
Organized by Josh Schaffner

Location: 83 locations across the five boroughs!

Website: <http://www.nycbeerweek.com>



Beer & Food Pairing: N.Y.C.D.A.T.



NYCDAT events are held regularly at Jimmy's #43, this one depicts the pairing of craft beers with cheeses and chocolate.

New York City Degustation Advisory Team

Regular monthly event:

Beer and food pairings at Jimmy's No.43, usually on the first Tuesday of the month, 6.30pm / 8.30pm starts. Check the website for forthcoming dates and full details. RSVP required for pairing events.

Occasional events: Beer and food pairings elsewhere.

Website: <http://www.nycdat.com/>



Places listed in Beer Demystifier
are now mapped online - go to
<http://tinyurl.com/59zudl>

Pub Crawls

New York City is rich with areas where pub crawls of bars with great beer selections can be undertaken with much flexibility. The best areas include The East Village & Lower East Side, Greenwich / West Village, Williamsburg & Greenpoint, Park Slope, and Downtown Brooklyn & Cobble Hill.

Create your own crawl using the top beer destinations on this site.

Go to <http://tinyurl.com/59zudl> to map out your craft beer crawl.

Recommended Resources Online

(Other than The Gotham Imbiber and the related Cask Ale site)

<http://www.beermenus.com>

The logo for BEERMENUS, with the word 'BEERMENUS' in a bold, sans-serif font. The 'B' and 'M' are in a light brown color, while the 'E', 'E', 'R', 'M', 'E', 'N', 'U', 'S' are in a darker brown color.

A major project attempting to list the beer ranges, including prices, of all New York City bars and restaurants. Very useful in tracking down the less common beers listed here.

<http://beeradvocate.com>

The logo for Beeradvocate, featuring the word 'Beeradvocate' in a bold, sans-serif font. The 'B' is in yellow, and the rest of the word is in white on a black background.

Beer and bar ratings, reviews, forums, articles, events listings, plus Beer Advocate magazine. The site includes a local New York City forum.

<http://www.ratebeer.com>

The logo for ratebeer, with the word 'ratebeer' in a lowercase, sans-serif font. 'rate' is in a light blue color and 'beer' is in a yellow color.

Another beer rating site, more international than Beer Advocate and more for dedicated 'beer geeks'. Some areas require premium membership.

<http://www.greatbrewers.com>

The logo for GREAT BREWERS, featuring the words 'GREAT BREWERS' in a bold, sans-serif font. The 'G' and 'B' are in white, and the rest of the words are in black. A glass of beer is positioned between the words.

Run by Union Beer Distributors, this useful resource allows you to find and learn about the beers in their portfolio.

<http://www.brewingnews.com>

The logo for BREWING NEWS, featuring the words 'BREWING NEWS' in a bold, serif font. The 'B' and 'N' are in a light brown color, and the rest of the words are in a darker brown color. Two glasses of beer are positioned on either side of the text.

Beer newspapers published nationally in seven different regional publications. The website includes a useful mapping feature.

<http://www.alestreetonline.com>

The logo for ALE STREET NEWS, featuring the words 'ALE STREET NEWS' in a bold, serif font. The 'A' and 'S' are in a light brown color, and the rest of the words are in a darker brown color. The text is set against a background of a stylized street scene.

Craft beer news, articles, regular features, and beer goddesses.

<http://www.nycbeerevents.com>

A useful calendar of beer events in the city.

The logo for NYC BeerEvents.com, featuring the letters 'NYC' in large, colorful circles (N is purple, Y is red, C is blue) followed by the text 'BeerEvents.com' in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the text is the tagline 'New York City's Local Beer Calendar'.



Craft Beer in Motion

<http://beeramerica.tv>

Episodes of craft beer.



<http://www.craftbeerradio.com>

Podcasting all about great beer.

MURPHGUIDE.com

Connecting the fun
to the fun people

<http://www.murphguide.com>

Find bars and restaurants by type, and there's a useful events calendar.

The Foaming Head

<http://www.thefoaminghead.com>

Based in Ulster County, this is a NY State-dedicated beer fan site with reviews, articles, etc.

Days Out to Breweries & Brewpubs

Brooklyn Brewery and Chelsea Brewery are popular local destinations, but it is easy to get to a number of craft beer destinations outside the city by public transport.

Captain Lawrence Brewery – catch the Metro-North Harlem Line train to Pleasantville, the brewery is a 10 minute walk away from the station. Open for tastings and tours Fridays 4pm-7pm, Saturdays noon to 6pm.

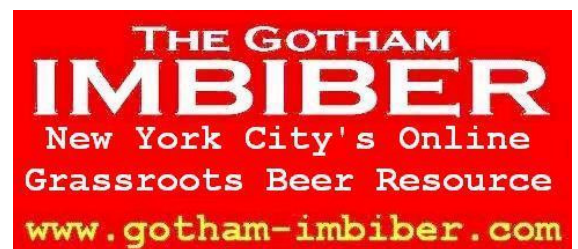
Defiant Brewery – catch the Metro-North / New Jersey Transit Pascack Valley Line train to Pearl River, the brewery is right by the station. Express trains leave at 5.22pm weekdays, 3.08pm weekends from Penn Station (change at Secaucus); return trains are at 9.25pm weekdays, 6.19pm / 7.28pm / 8.22pm weekends. Open Sundays noon to 8pm, Mondays to Thursdays 2pm to 10pm, Fridays and Saturdays 2pm to midnight.

Harvest Moon Brewpub – catch a New Jersey Transit train to New Brunswick, the brewpub is around the corner from the station on George Street.

Brick House Brewpub – catch the Long Island Rail Road train to Patchogue, the brewpub is a 10 minute walk northwards from the station, turn right on Main Street. Also in Patchogue is **Blue Point Brewery** (10 minutes walk west from the station) which has a tasting room open at weekends.

Other suggestions for days out include *Philadelphia, PA*, for **Earth Bread + Brewery**, **Manayunk Brewery**, **Nodding Head**, **Triumph**, **Philadelphia Brewing**, and **Yards**; *Lafayette Hill, PA*, for **General Lafayette Inn and Brewery**; *Princeton, NJ*, for **Triumph**; *Peekskill, NY*, for **Peekskill Brewery**; *Pinelawn Station (Farmingdale)* for **Black Forest Brew Haus**; *Southampton, NY*, for **Southampton Publick House**; *Greenport* for **Greenport Harbor Brewing**; *Stamford, CT*, for **Southport Brewing Co.**; *South Orange, NJ*, for **Gaslight Brewery**.

Organized coach trips to breweries, brewpubs, and beer festivals are arranged on a regular basis by **Rattle 'n' Hum** and **The Pony Bar** – look out for notices of forthcoming trips in those bars.



Join the craft beer revolution.
You'll enjoy it.