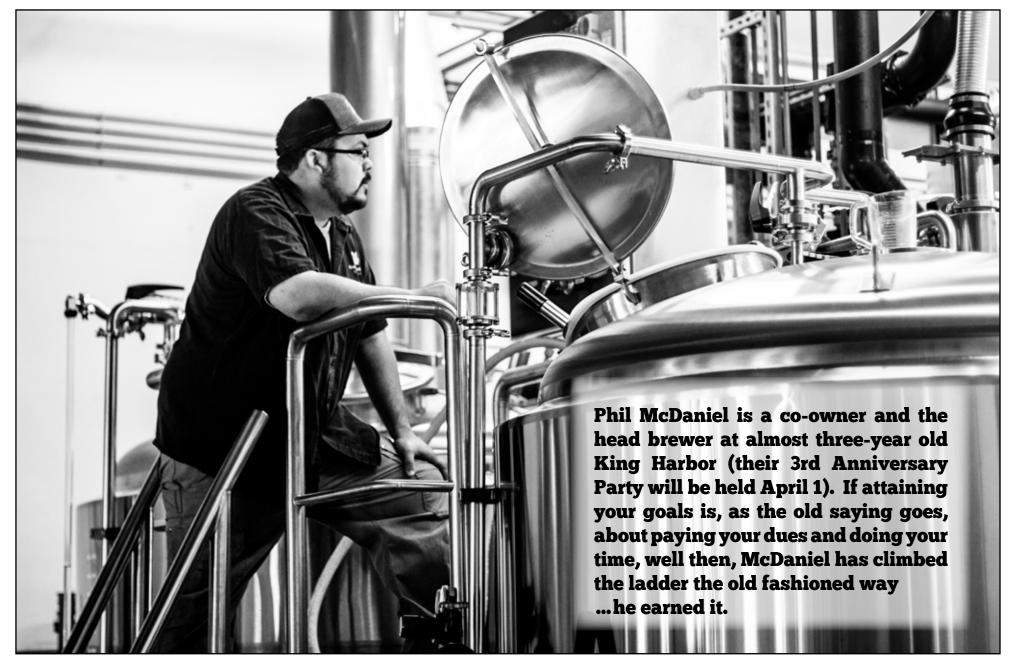
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Phil McDaniel Photo Credit: King Harbor Brewing

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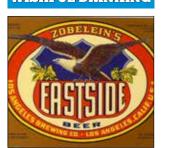


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PINTS & QUOTES

DOWNTOWN BREWERS GET ORGANIZED

By John M. Verive



DTLA Brewers meeting one Photo by John Verive

What's the craft capital of L.A.? Torrance held the crown in 2015, but over the last year downtown Los Angeles made a play for the hottest beer region in Los Angeles. It hasn't been easy for the handful of breweries though — from permitting issues and bureaucratic challenges to wary residents of neighborhoods fighting against gentrification — the small businesses working to brew downtown have tackled obstacles with some creative solutions. One particularly effective approach has been to take inspiration from L.A.'s early craft brewing pioneers and get organized.

On an afternoon in early December, 17 brewery workers gathered at Dry River Brewing's (nearly completed) brewery and tasting room near Boyle Heights for a meeting that was half holiday potluck and half strategizing session for a nascent organization known as DTLA Brewers United. Wearing festively hideous sweaters and bearing platters of cookies, pizzas, and, of course, several tubs worth of beer, beer folk from nearly all of downtown LA's breweries (veterans Bonaventure Brewing Co. and newcomers Karl Strauss were not in attendance) talked shop, debated brewing techniques and ingredient selection, and planned how to best ride the wave of craft beer that's finally come to Los Angeles.

One of the often cited reasons that Los Angeles was slow to the craft beer game is the sheer size of the metropolis (and its decentralized nature); in the early days of the L.A. beer scene you'd have to drive dozens of miles to visit two breweries. As the industry developed and clusters of brewers coalesced in the various corners of Los Angeles, a spirit of camaraderie among the people behind the new breweries developed into an energized and unified community. The number of breweries grew prodigiously, and in 2013 the de facto industry leaders organized the disparate group of entrepreneurs into the Los Angeles County Brewers Guild (LABG). The Guild itself has developed from a loose coalition of like-minded businesses into a federally-recognized non-profit that not only organizes the annual L.A. Beer Week and its attendant festival, but serves as a valuable resource providing knowledge, support, and advocacy for dozens small businesses.

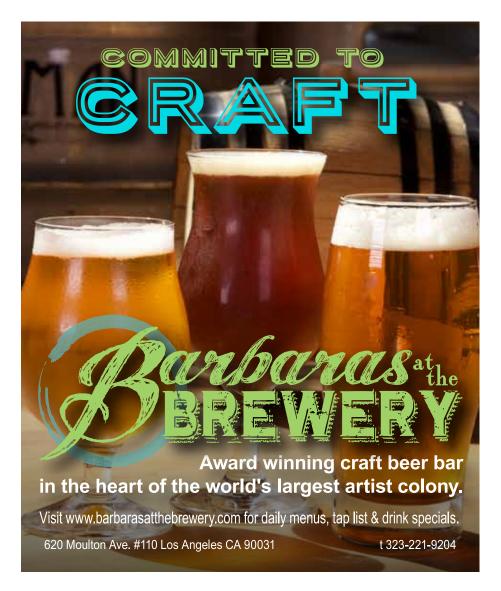
As of mid-December there are over 50 breweries in the LABG, and between the guild's broad mission and only a single staff member — Executive Director Frances Michelle Lopez — the organization is spread thin. A number of smaller coalitions have formed in some of the pockets of craft beer energy in the region, and these less formal mini-guilds are more focused on neighborhood issues, marketing support, and event promotion than the "mothership" LABG can afford to be. The DTLA Brewers United group is perhaps the most developed of these emergent organizations.

DTLA Brewers United formed in early 2016 when Dry River Brewing co-founder Naga Reshi sat down for some drinks with Jon Carpenter from Angel City Brewing. The two brewers thought that as the downtown scene developed, more open lines of communication were needed to discuss ways to not only bring more drinkers into downtown, but how each brewery could share in the rising popularity of downtown Los Angeles. Carpenter initially loved the idea of an organized front, but he doubted that much would come of his talk with Reshi. But Reshi wouldn't let him off the hook, and Carpenter says it only took a few more excited phone calls and pressing emails from Reshi before the initial meeting of the mini-guild was planned.

There are seven current members of DTLA United (Angel City Brewery, Arts District Brewing, Boomtown Brewery, Dry River Brewing, Indie Brewing, Iron Triangle Brewery, and Mumford Brewing) and, in the first few months after forming the group, they planned a free-for-riders bus that shuttled drinkers between the downtown breweries and, in October, hosted a beer festival to showcase the downtown scene. Now there are plans for more hop-on/hop-off beer shuttle days as well as another DTLA beer festival in spring. The group is also developing a "DTLA beer passport" that beer fans can have stamped at each brewery to earn rewards at the spring festival. In late 2017 Beer Advocate magazine is bringing their Extreme Beer Fest event to the west coast, and the DTLA brewers are already devising a collaboration brew to offer at the event that takes place on December 9th, 2017 at downtown's California Market center. "We should call the beer Extremely Prepared," joked Arts District's brewmaster Devon Randall as the brewers in attendance debated using locally-sourced ingredients or even attempting to capture wild yeast from the downtown landscape.

The craft beer tide in Los Angeles is still rising, and rising fast. It's easy for the small, less experienced businesses to be swamped — especially as more established breweries (Ballast Point, Modern Times, even Karl Strauss) look to L.A. as a wide-open market. Sharing experience, manpower and even ingredients has been important to the young breweries opening downtown, and the spirit of camaraderie established by the DTLA Brewers United group is a hopeful sign that even as the brewing industry in Los Angeles heats up and grows more competitive, the brewers will continue to support each other.

John M. Verive is dedicated to helping develop beer culture in Los Angeles, John is a freelance writer whose work appears in the Los Angeles Times, Craft Beer and Brewing Magazine, Draft Magazine and many places across the web. In Minding the Pints and Quotes, he digs through his beer-soaked notebooks for the little stories that might otherwise go untold.







OPINION

DON'T HAZE ME, BRO: THE YEAR THE NEW ENGLAND IPA CAME WEST

By Sarah Bennett

Every year since its humble beginnings in 2010, I've noticed that L.A. has discovered beer styles in waves. From the double black IPAs of 2011 to the crisp pilsners of 2013 to the petite saisons of 2015, I've watched as each year in craft beer here gets defined by the presence of a dominant new beer style, a usually experimental jumble of the same four ingredients that reflects the current state of customer palates and possibly the direction of #LAbeer as a whole.

This beer style du jour will inevitably be made in myriad of ways by multiple local breweries, dominating taplists across the city for an entire year. But, as with other similar flavor trends – from grilled cheese from a food truck to build-your-own poke bowls – can too much of an otherwise good thing lead to fatigue?

Consider 2016 the year of the New England IPA.

It all started in April when Torrance's Monkish released a collaboration with Other Half Brewing in Brooklyn called First Things First. Other Half is one of a dozen East Coast breweries known for their coveted 16-ounce "pounder" cans filled with a juicier, hazier, creamier, New England-bred take on the American IPA. Monkish is a small South Bay brewery that at the time was known for its Belgian-only beer mantra and a yeast-loving brewmaster who is also a freakishly effective barrel whisperer.

First Things First sold out in less than an hour. It's the moment L.A.'s haze craze began.

For those without a reference point on the style, New England IPAs (aka Northeast IPAs, Vermont IPAs, North Yeast IPAs, Juice Bombs, etc.) are about as similar to West Coast IPAs as Chicago Pizza is to New York Pizza. The general idea might be the same (in this case, make a beer with hop-forward loveliness), but the presentation is different (#hazefordays), there's the addition of distinctive ingredients (oats and wheat live in the grain bill), the use of an old-school yeast strain (British ale yeast ftw) and the fact that final products taste completely different from one another (and yes, the water still matters).

Instead of a tight and crisp (and clear!) West Coast IPA with its citrus-pine aroma and uncompromising bitterness, New England IPAs are touted as being more rounded. They bear a cloudy, almost murky looking pour (like a hef or witbier) offset by tropical fruit and melon notes from the yeast and come equipped with a roundhouse kick to the taste buds of juicy flavors like orange, grapefruit, peach and tangerine.

Despite being dry-hopped to hell with new-age aromatic hops like Galaxy, Motueka, Citra, Mosaic, Nelson and Mandarina, the result is a smooth, silky sip of what might as well be alcoholic POG (Passion fruit, Orange, Guava) juice. With little to no lingering bitterness, they are so dangerously sweet and easy to drink it's almost a shame to tag them as IPAs at all (see also: Ballast Point's fruit IPAs).

While unfiltered hoppy beers are nothing new, the style in its purest form is said to have originated half a decade ago in Vermont with The Alchemist's Heady Topper, a sort of Ur-beer for the national haze craze. Breweries first in Massachusetts (Trillium), then Virginia (The Veil), Pennsylvania (Tired Hands) and more soon picked up on the idea of canning their juiciest concoctions and selling them directly to customers from the brewery.

The Brewers Association has yet to recognize the New England IPA as its own beer style, but it is definitely distinct, and its rise in popularity over the last few years has brought with it a slow and steady increase in so-called haze chasers, next-level beer nerds who only drink cloudy IPAs. In L.A., the allure of West Coast hops with East Coast style was too great to simmer for years. The rise of New England IPA fans here, and the number of breweries that rose up to serve them, was almost immediate.

After the success of the Other Half collaboration, Monkish spent most of spring and summer mastering its take on the yeast-expressive style, rolling out a rapid-fire new IPA program that found them releasing a different canned New England-style IPA (or DIPA or pale ale) every weekend. Quickly, showing up to Monkish on a Saturday morning and finding a line of 250 local haze chasers became the norm; even today, there are many who are more than willing to line up as early as 6 a.m. for the chance to buy the limit of four-packs of Monkish's latest.

But the Northeast IPA wouldn't be a trend if it was just Monkish that was making them. In the wake of what I am now calling our "Hazy Summer," most of L.A.'s top-tier breweries now make some form of a juicy IPA and it's not uncommon to find a locally forged version on the draft list at insert-your-favorite-beer-bar-here.



Monkish cans

Photo by Sarah Bennett

Mumford Brewing in downtown L.A. leads the follow-up charge with no less than eight different hazy, cloudy, hoppy beers, including its reoccurring flagship Unpresidential, which can sometimes be found in cans. Highland Park snuck a few cloud monsters into its canned IPA lineup this year. Hop lords El Segundo got in on the fruity fun with Wayward IPA. So did barrel lovers Phantom Carriage with Opaque Minds, its recent canned collaboration with Alvarado St. Brewing in Monterey. And 2016 newcomers Santa Monica Brew Works (tasting room), Arrow Lodge Brewing and Homage Brewing have all now made a minimum of two juice bombs apiece.

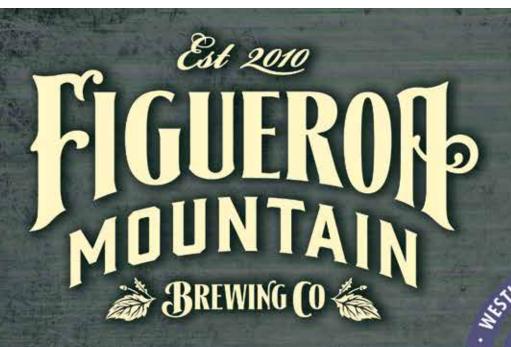
Andy Sparhawk, the Brewers Association's Craft Beer Program Coordinator, was quoted as saying that the obsession with hazy IPAs this year is merely "part of an overall trend toward bold, bursting hop flavor," which is to say a move away from bitterness without ever leaving Flavortown. I've started to see it as the beer equivalent of seeking out foods that have a nice spicy flavor rather than going for the quick fix of a burn-your-face-off spice. For fans of the style, the power lies in the style's distinctive mix of brashness and subtlety, which, I guess is a pretty apt description for L.A.'s beer scene as a whole.

The only problem with all of these New England-style beers flooding the market with a torrential downpour of juice for nearly a year is that everyone is essentially using the same basic grain bill, the same yeast strain and the same rotation of contemporary American and New Zealand hops. Even after an era of experimentation, the only real nuance between releases at this point lies in the ABV and the precise breakdown of the hop profile, leading to differences in aromatics and flavor that can be as subtle as the distinction between guava and mango notes in an all-tropical fruit smoothie.

So now that we've driven hundreds of miles down Juicy Lane (and reaped its glorious profits), is it too late to turn around? Or to possibly slow down? Or at least pretend we remember the days of West Coast's creative craft beer dominance and go back to trying to appreciate all the new and interesting beers being made that don't taste like they have fruit in them (again, see: Ballast Point's fruit IPAs)?

2016 might have been the year the New England IPA hit L.A. hard, but along with all the other crappy crap I'm hoping to leave behind in 2017 (#yousuck2016), I'm hoping we can let the redundant juiciness and haze for days of yet another "pounder" can release be one of them (I know, I know, #hazersgonnahaze).

Sarah Bennett is a freelance journalist covering craft beer, music, art, culture, travel and beyond. Follow her on Twitter @thesarahbennett.



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BREWER'S CORNER

THE MAKING OF A BREWER

By Rick Smets



Rick Smets

Photo credit: Niki Cram Photography

For many people craft beer is an ongoing adventure. For me, the love for craft beer and the passion for brewing started very early. In 1989, craft brewing was growing steadily in the Pacific Northwest. My uncle turned me on to the scene during my many trips to Oregon. I brewed my first all-grain batch of home brew with him at age 16. I was hooked. After returning home from that summer trip I fashioned my first home brew rig and began brewing on a weekly basis. It was fun and exciting to explore and brew various styles and enjoy the finished product; the fruits of my labor.

I traveled extensively and sought out craft been anywhere I could find it. Even as I watched the beer scene continue to grow, I never really considered brewing professionally as a career. Eventually I had to find a purpose. In seeking direction and searching for an area I could achieve fulfillment, brewing seemed to fall at the forefront. My passion for brewing was strong on a personal level, so I felt that it might also translate well in the commercial environment. In 2004, I decided to take the leap and applied to every brewery on the West Coast. I was fortunate and landed a cellar position with the newly opened Left Coast Brewing in San Clemente, California.

It was exciting to be moving into the realm of professional brewing. Being a longtime homebrewer, I imagined a seamless transition. I envisioned myself standing on the brew deck, paddle in hand; the stoic brewer. How wrong I was. My days were quickly filled with the glamorous duties of keg cleaning, drain cleaning, scrubbing tank feet, sweeping, polishing tanks, and every other mundane activity possibly imaginable in a brewery. With those unexciting sanitation-filled duties came discipline, along with some great mentors and role models. I was taught from the very start that brewing begins from the ground up. Good beer starts with a clean brewery.

But eagerness alone would not earn my place on the brew deck. I first had to pay my dues by cleaning. I realized that cleaning would be involved. I just wasn't expecting it to encompass all of my responsibilities. I was fortunate enough to be working under Tom Nickel (formerly of Oggi's and Pizza Port) who currently owns O'Briens Pub in San Diego and Nickel Beer Company. He taught me the importance of sanitation and helped me forge good habits in the brewery. I also learned the importance of knowing all of your raw materials; what they taste like and how they translate into recipe development. It takes time and repetition to become a proficient brewer. These basic skills are what set the foundation for becoming a true professional brewer. A step that is sometimes missed nowadays.

Eventually Tom left the brewery and I took over as Head Brewer. While comfortable in this role, I missed the level of coaching I had become accustomed to while working with Tom. I also began thinking about eventually owning my own brewery and set out to assure I could instruct, coach and mentor my newer less experienced staff. My years of training had paid off and I felt like I knew enough to do any brewing related activity that was necessary to run a successful craft brewery. It turns out that you never know enough. There is always room for improvement in anything we attempt or do in life no matter how long we do it. Brewing is no exception.

After serving as head brewer, it was a challenge to step back into the role of shift brewer. That is exactly what I did when I was blessed with the opportunity to work under the expert tutelage of the Firestone Walker Brewing Company team. It was a transition that took me by surprise. The level of commitment and attention to detail that was in place at Firestone was inspiring. It was simple; listen, learn, and work hard. Every part of the operation was accounted for and, through the process of working day-after-day, these operations became second nature to me. I learned the importance of discipline, sanitation, ingredients, taste, timing, and especially the willingness and absolute necessity not to serve anything that does not meet your standards or the standards of what has come to be expected by your clientele. Quality should not be sacrificed, even if it means dumping a batch or postponing a release. I have had to do both of these things at my own brewery (Stereo Brewing Company). I took these lessons to heart; the time spent learning them elevated my knowledge and work ethic. Simply put, I learned that consistency and high standards are the backbone of a good brewery.

As a result of all the experiences and training I have received from the world-class brewers I have worked with, I finally understand the importance and responsibilities required for running a brewery. I understand that consistent beer must remain the core value of my brewery. I have learned that patience aligned with skill and experience will pay off only if I follow through with the process every time without exception. I have learned that cutting corners never pays off. I strive to make clean, classic, flavorful beer styles. While many breweries seem to be jumping over each other to brew the next big thing on the scene, I maintain a belief that the next big thing to focus on is building a brewery and an environment where people can come to enjoy world-class reliable beer they can depend on. Today's brewer and today's beer drinker are in an unprecedented situation. We can choose from so many wonderful ingredients, beer styles, and breweries. Come see for yourself at Stereo Brewing Company. Cheers.

Rick Smets is the founder, owner and head brewer of Stereo Brewing in Placentia.



Rick Smets (center) hosting OC Brewers Guild meeting at Stereo Brewing Photo by Daniel Drennon



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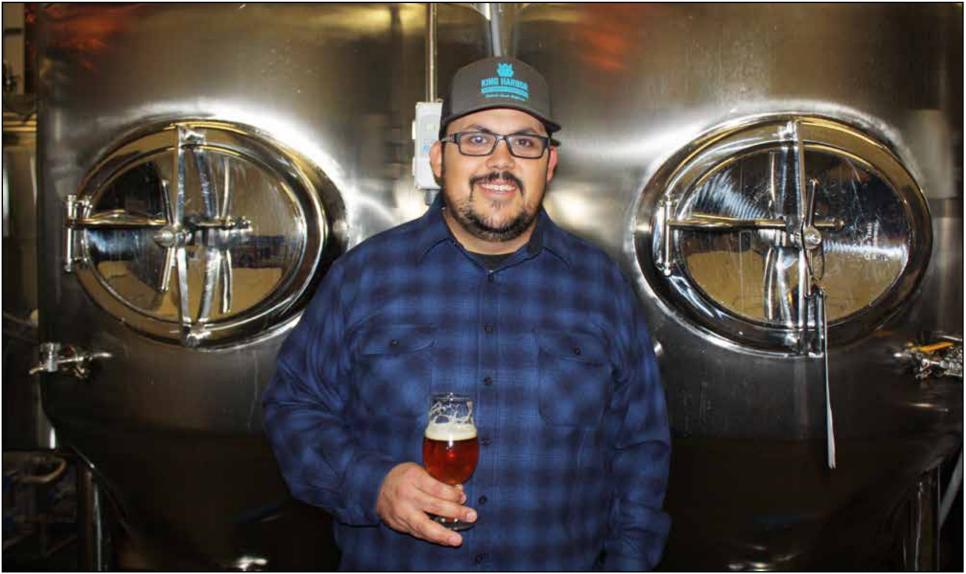
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COVER STORY

THE KING OF THE HARBOR

By Daniel Drennon



Phil McDaniel

Photo by Daniel Drennon

Phil McDaniel is a co-owner and the head brewer at almost three-year old King Harbor (their 3rd Anniversary Party will be held April 1). If attaining your goals is, as the old saying goes, about paying your dues and doing your time, well then, Phil McDaniel has climbed the ladder the old fashioned way...he earned it. Like most pro brewers, he began with a passion for homebrewing and, once he realized his dream was to one day become a pro brewer, he marched into Bootlegger's and basically volunteered to work for free to get his foot in the door. He washed kegs, worked on the bottling line, and did anything and everything to prove himself.

Then McDaniel got the opportunity of an aspiring brewer's lifetime: he got accepted to the 140-year old, world renown Siebel Institute in Chicago where students also spend time abroad perfecting their brewing knowledge and skills at the Doemens Academy in Munich, Germany.

After graduating from Siebel with an International Diploma in Brewing Science and Engineering, he returned to Bootlegger's as a full-fledged pro brewer. But it wasn't long before McDaniel's ambition led him to head south to mighty Stone Brewing. There he worked his way up the ladder from brewer to senior brewer to brewery trainer.

But after two years in San Diego, he missed LA. So when the chance to become the lead brewer at The Bruery in Placentia presented itself, McDaniel took another step forward.

I asked Tom Dunbabin, who co-founded King Harbor along with his buddy Will Daines, how they locked in on Phil McDaniel.

"Will and I were two pieces of a three-piece puzzle when we started to conceptualize the brewery. Will had the finance and business development experience. I had branding, marketing, and business development experience along with a background in engineering which gave us a general know how in designing and building systems. Who we needed was someone who was not just a bad ass professional brewer, but someone who had additional design/building knowledge and the desire to get his hands dirty at every chance we had."

Dunbabin continued, "When Phil responded to our post on probrewer.com we almost thought it was a joke. Here was a guy who had studied at the Seibel Institute, brewed at Stone, and was the lead brewer at The Bruery. We were already huge fans of the beers he had been doing. Our original discussions went like, 'You like that beer? I brewed it. You like this beer? I brewed it. You want to start a brewery? I'm in.' We didn't think someone of Phil's caliber would want to leave The Bruery to take a risk on a start up with a couple of knuckleheads like us. But after a couple nights of beer drinking and talking about our philosophy on beer we all realized this combination had the potential to pull it off.

DRENNON: Tell me about growing up. What were you into? How did it shape you into who you are now?

MCDANIEL: Growing up, I played sports and I was a tinkerer. I played a lot of schoolyard basketball with my buddies. I also played a ton of golf. I had a few friends to golf with before high school, but once I hit high school I was golfing a lot. I played for the school team and we would golf three to four times a week.

I also liked tinkering around. I would build things out of whatever I could find in the garage. I was notorious for messing up my dad's tools and leaving his workbench in a state of chaos. As soon as I hit 16 years of age and I was allowed behind the wheel of a car, I began tinkering with cars. It started with the stereo in my used sedan that I drove in high school. I bought the individual parts and built it myself. I had the loudest stereo in school. After high school I started working on the mechanical side of my cars. I maintained and souped up the performance of every car I owned. I had a 2002 VW GTI VR6, 1968 VW Beetle, 1987 VW GTI 16v, and a 1987 VW Scirocco 16v. Obviously, I really liked VWs. I actually loved all German cars, but I could only afford VWs. Someday I will be driving a sweet souped up 1990s Porsche.

Nowadays I am still a tinkerer. I need to understand how things work. Whether it is the equipment in my brewery, the ingredients I use, the flavor profiles I consider, the microbiology and chemistry at work in the beer making process, or the results of a brewing experiment.... I need to know how and why things are the way they are. If I feel that I do not fully understand what is going on, I will continue to investigate the topic until I do.

I notice there are a lot of brewers who are musicians. Any chance you're one of them?

I'm not. I definitely feel like I am the outlier from the general brewer population. I guess I am just a lame duck when it comes to music. The good thing is that I get to appreciate the awesome music that my buddies in the brewing industry produce. Mitch Steele, Jeremy Raub, Erick Garcia, Julian Shrago, Brian White, most of The Bruery crew, and many more are awesome musicians. It is a somewhat unknown, but awesome part of the brewing industry.

What were your favorite movies as a kid?

Star Wars, Back to the Future. Jurassic Park was pretty awesome when it first came out. Typical stuff.

What are your favorite movies now (if not the same)?

Band of Brothers is an awesome series. Saving Private Ryan. I like WWII stuff. I also like watching documentaries on Netflix.

What is/are your favorite food(s)?

BBQ is awesome. I love making it and eating it. BBQing at home on the weekend is hard to beat. You get to play with delicious ingredients, drink beer, watch sports, and play with fire. What else could a dude ask for? I also really like most Asian flavors. Thai, Pho, ramen, sushi, stir fry.... all delicious. Sesame oil is probably my favorite thing to use when cooking. Put it on everything... it's delicious! Shellfish is pretty dang amazing too. Crab, lobster, oyster, mussels, scallops... I love it all!

Do you follow any sports and, if so, who are your favorite teams and/or players?

Absolutely! I'm a typical LA guy...Dodgers, Lakers, UCLA basketball and football, and now the RAMS! USC is nothing but the University of Spoiled Children, and the Clippers don't even know what the term "DYNASTY" means.

Oh... I guess I should mention the "Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim." Will somebody please get the owner of that team a map.

If you could take a month off and do anything, what would you do?

Either a ton of golf, or drive off somewhere super remote in the mountains. I like camping and driving on offroad mountain trails in my truck.

If you could take a month off and travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?

Probably a golf trip to Scotland/Ireland /England. It doesn't hurt that it is great beer drinking country as well.

Who and/or what inspires you?

Ingenuity from other people, past and present. When I learn about amazing ideas that were had by a person (friends, colleagues, historical figures), it motivates me to continue to work hard to create my own great ideas.

Between talent and work ethic, which is more important?

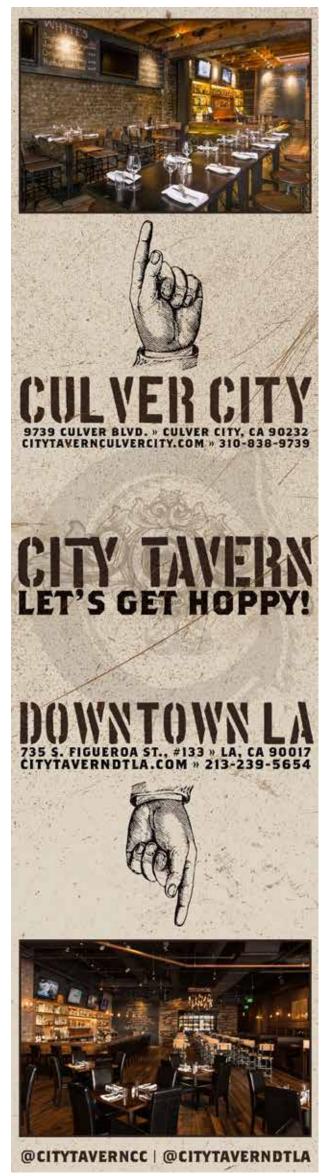
Work ethic creates talent.

If you weren't a brewer, what would you be?

Engineer for a racing team. Preferably Porsche or BMW.

If you had to describe yourself in one word or phrase, what would it be?

Curious.



WISHFUL DRINKING

LOOKING BACK AT LA BEER HISTORY – ON THE '7S

By Tomm Carroll

Hoppy Brew Beer! Usually at the dawn of a new year, it's customary for beer writers to look ahead at the next 12 months to provide information on brewery/bar openings, upcoming beers and industry developments, or to make predictions. But 2017 is no usual year. In fact, given our unprecedented, unpresidential president-elect, I find it extremely difficult to contemplate as far ahead as January 20, aka Inauguration Day.

So instead, I am looking back — not over the past year (there are enough beer columns doing that), but over the history of beer and brewing in the greater Los Angeles area. That, of course, would take a book to compile in its entirety (and it will, someday), so I am only doing it for every 10th year (mostly). In honor of 2017, following is an LA beer history lesson on the '75, if you will.

2007

Still a couple years away from the Great Craft Beer Boom in LA, the county saw the opening of a new, if short-lived, proto-craft brewery in the city of El Monte. Owner and brewer Phil Sutton's Skyscraper Brewing joined two other production breweries — Craftsman (founded 1995) and Angel City (1997), both still in existence — as well as several area brewpubs then in operation. Skyscraper's flagship was a California Common called Lug Nut Lager; other brews included Bulldozer Honeyweizen, Power Tool Pilsner and Backhoe Brown. Perhaps its beer most acclaimed by discriminating beer drinkers of the time was Requiem Espresso Stout, which was contract brewed for Gentleman Scholar, an early project of Martin Svab, best known today as co-owner of the Phantom Carriage brewery/blendery in Carson (who has hinted that Requiem might be resurrected). In 2012, Sutton announced the temporary closure of the facility for an intended move to a new, larger brewery space in City of Industry, but it never reopened.

This was the year that craft-forward beer bars and restaurants really started to take hold in the Southland, with the opening of Verdugo Bar in Glassell Park, which led the way in LA County, influencing many similar venues. As its neighbors to the south in Orange County were always ahead of the curve in breweries as well as bars and gastropubs, it's no surprise that Gabe Gordon's Beachwood BBQ opened the end of the year before in Seal Beach with a well-curated beer list you'd otherwise have to visit San Diego to find. Verdugo's Ryan Sweeney, along with his various partners, now known as the Goat Group (after their second beer bar, West Hollywood's Surly Goat), continue opening exemplary beers bars and restaurants in the Southland. From this year on, considerably better beer could be found at area bars — both new and old.

One of the darkest days for good beer occurred on August 30, when leading beer and whiskey writer Michael Jackson, who revolutionized beer appreciation around the world, died of a heart attack in London, England. He was 65 and had been suffering from Parkinson's disease.

1997

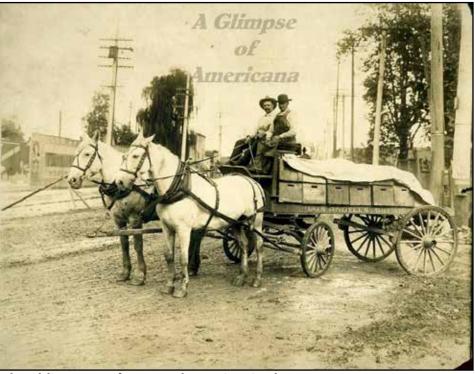
Award-winning homebrewer from local homebrew clubs the Maltose Falcons and Pacific Gravity, Michael Bowe launched Angel City Brewing out of a small warehouse space on Helms Avenue in Culver City. He contract brewed at Alpine Village Hofbrau in Torrance, which he eventually purchased (on eBay) in 2004. After a dispute with the Alpine Village complex owners, Bowe moved the brewery to the Arts District in DTLA in 2010, opening the taproom the following year, but never brewing a drop at the new location. Boston Beer Company's (Samuel Adams) wholly owned subsidiary Alchemy & Science bought the facility from Bowe in 2012 and re-opened it as a functioning brewery in 2013.

Maltose Falcons Maribeth Raines Casselman and husband Steve Casselman launched The Great Beer Co. in Chatsworth, contracting their Kölsch-style beer, Hollywood Blonde, at various breweries in the state. It is still being brewed to this day.

The here-and-gone GlenCastle Brewery and Restaurant opened on Brand Boulevard in Glendale a year earlier — when LA was still in its brewpub phase — but by 2007 reportedly had changed to Barney's Restaurant & Brewery and closed the following year.

Main Line Brewing Co., a pseudo-brewpub (for which beers were contract-brewed off-premise but kept in serving tanks in the pub) closed in Westwood after a two-year run. The 1996 opening of Westwood Brewing Co., the neighborhood's first bona fide brewpub, was undoubtedly a factor.

Downtown Long Beach's Rock Bottom brewpub opened three years after the original location was launched in Denver, Colorado, and is going strong. As is the original Yard House beercentric restaurant (250 taps) on the city's Shoreline Drive, which launched the corporate chain.



A beer delivery wagon for Los Angeles Brewing, circa late 1880s.

On the beer bar front, Lucky Baldwin's British Pub & Café, soon to specialize in Belgian beers, was opened in Old Town Pasadena by David Farnworth and Peggy Simonian a year earlier. Since then, sister pubs have opened in Sierra Madre and East Pasadena.

The Library Ale House, an upscale proto-craft beer bar/restaurant, opened on Main Street in Santa Monica two years prior, in 1995, and is still one of the city's main beer destinations today.

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The greater LA area's first contract brewing company, Angeles Brewing in Chatsworth, began operating commercially in a Chatsworth industrial park. Owner Richard Belliveau started brewing under his own brand, but soon found private-label brewing for Rhino Chaser and Shams, as well as "house beers" for restaurants, more profitable. The brewery closed in 1997.

The Southland's other major contract brewer, Alpine Village Hofbrau, was established a year later. See item on Angel City Brewing (1997) for more info.

Three of LA's pioneering brewpubs opened the following year as well: City of Angels in Santa Monica, Crown City Brewing in Pasadena, and Gorky's Russian Café and Brewery (the latter having been in operation since 1981, but didn't install a brewery until 1988). All are long gone.

Santa Monica gained another good beer destination when Phil McGovern, a Londoner of Scottish descent, transformed a dingy biker bar called the Orbit Lounge on Pico Boulevard into an import/craft beer and whiskey dive bar called the Daily Pint, which is still with us today.

LA's real progenitor of what is now known as a craft beer bar was the original Father's Office on Montana Avenue in Santa Monica, which, thanks to then-proprietor Lou Moench, switched to a good-local-beer-only policy two years earlier. Now owned by Chef Sang Yoon, FO and its sister bar/restaurant FO2 in Culver City are still prospering.

1977

Although there were no significant openings or closings this year, by now there were two beercentric restaurant landmarks that are still legends today — Stuffed Sandwich in San Gabriel (1976) and Ye Olde King's Head British Pub and Restaurant in Santa Monica (1974) — and one to come shortly: Naja's Place in Redondo Beach (1981).

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One year later, Zeb's World Famous Boathouse opened in Santa Ana in Orange County. The building was later condemned, and owner Zeb O'Breen re-opened in the mid-1980s in Costa Mesa with a new name — Zeb O'Breen's Henry 'n Harry's Goat Hill Tavern with its 141 tap handles. The dive bar still exists today.

The earliest good beer destination in the OC, however, predates the Boathouse. Hollingshead's Delicatessen in the city of Orange, with draught and bottled beer, was established in 1963 and is well into its fifth decade.

1947

After the end of WWII, there were many sake breweries that opened in California, several of them in LA. Both the Los Angeles Sake Brewing Co. on East 5th Street and the California Sake Brewing Co. on Burbank Boulevard in North Hollywood opened this year, followed in 1948 by Central Sake Brewing on South Central Avenue. All three of them lasted only two years.

1917

After the language of the 18th Amendment — which would result in Prohibition three years later — was introduced in August by the House and Senate in Washington, DC, the city of Los Angeles voted on the related Gandier Ordinance in November. The ordinance, which would close the city's more than 200 saloons, ban sales of strong liquor and severely limit where and when beverages containing even a small amount of alcohol could be sold, passed in a landslide by over 20,000 votes. It took effect April 1, 1918.

1907

George Zobelein, partner in the successful Maier and Zobelein Brewing on Aliso Street, had sued the Maier brothers (who inherited their father Joseph Maier's share in the brewery after he passed away in 1905) over stock manipulation and fraud. The court sided with the plaintiff, and Frederick and Edward Maier bought Zobelein out for \$500,000, and renamed the company Maier Brewing. Zobelein used the money to buy the 10-year-old Los Angeles Brewing Co. on the eastside of the Los Angeles River and produced beers under the Eastside brand. The remains of this brewery are now part of the Brewery Arts Colony in Lincoln Heights.

The Berlin Weiss Beer Brewing Co. opened on Avenue 39 in LA and remained in operation until 1912, although during the last year of its existence its name changed to California Weiss Beer Brewing Co.

1897

P. Max Kuehnrich and Edward Mathie opened the Los Angeles Brewing Co. on the eastern bank of the LA River. The brewery would go on to become one of the major players in the history of beer and brewing in Los Angeles.

1887

The New York Brewery, LA's first commercial brewery, which opened in 1854 at Third and Main Streets, closed. The brewing equipment was sold to the Anaheim Brewery. Frederick Stecker, its sole surviving partner, died early the next year on the eve of closing out the business. The facility became a lodging house.

1877

Commercial refrigeration was still a few years away from coming to LA breweries, but refrigerated railroad cars (called "reefers"), in which Adolphus Busch of Anheuser-Busch Brewing was an early investor, began transporting the St. Louisbrewed beer across the nation.

1867

George Zobelein left his hometown of Grafenberg in the Kingdom of Bavaria (now part of Germany) for California, ultimately settling in Los Angeles. He would go on to become one of the city's brewery moguls.

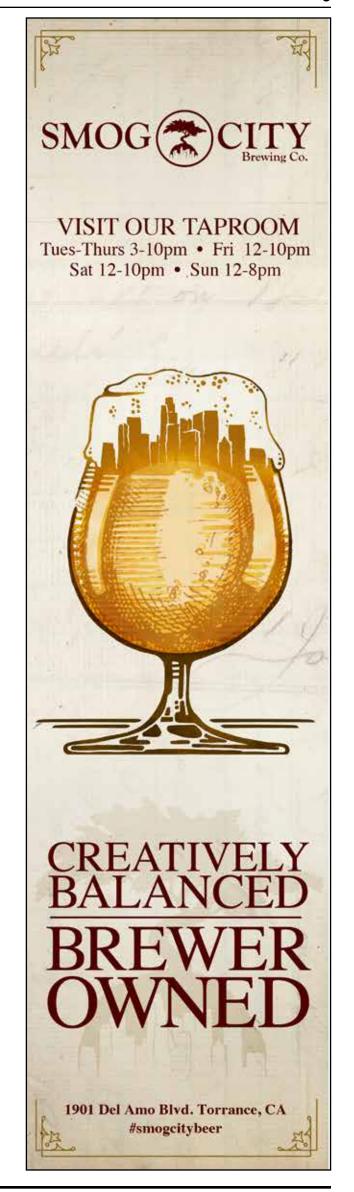
1857

This year, or late the previous one, LA's second brewery opened. Called Gambrinus (named for the European folk hero celebrated as the patron saint of beer), it was located at First and Los Angeles Streets. By early 1974, the brewery had changed proprietors, names (City Brewery and Saloon) and location (Second and Spring Streets), before closing the following year.

1847

Los Angeles, as well as all of "Alta California," was part of Mexico. The Mexican-American War, which began the year before and ended the year after, was won by the US, resulting in California becoming an American territory. Shortly before the end of the war, gold was discovered in Northern California. Not only was the territory granted statehood by 1850, but hordes of European immigrants to the US began migrating to the West Coast as part of the "gold rush," and many settled in LA. Among them were those from the German states, who brought with them their taste for beer, especially the recently created pale, Pilsner-style lager. And they began opening breweries...

In Wishful Drinking, Tomm Carroll opines and editorializes on trends, issues and general perceptions of the local craft beer movement and industry, as well as beer history. Feel free to let him know what you think (and drink); send comments, criticisms, kudos and even questions to beerscribe@earthlink.net.



HOLIDAY PARTY

Our good friends from The Beer Thirty Show reached out to us to appear on their year-end national podcast where we annually review the "Year in Beer." Host Dino Peterson suggested the show by held at a brewery this year to accommodate all of our shared brewery and industry pals. Given that it was also Arts District Brewing's One Year Anniversary, we collectively decided to hold a joint Naughty or Nice holiday party at their cool brewery (one of our favorites) --- and what a party it was! ADBC Head Brewer Devon Randall's wonderful house beers were aplenty and we had a remarkable guest tap list as well. We hope you were there but, in case you were not, here are some of the beer world luminaries who attended the red carpet event.



Lee Bakofsky & Erick Garcia



Evan Price, Brian Rauso, & Devon Randall



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Tori Stiles & Chris Rendon



Jeffers, Lenzo, Dino, ල Cody



Cathy Dolan, Jacob Bottoms, Kale Bittner, ত্থ Nathan Watkins



Vito Trautz and Evan Price



Kyle Manns, Gabe Gordon, and Gene Wagoner



Hodges, Schwalbachs, Jen Birch, Megan Hackney, Paul Brauner, & Brian Navarro



Kallie Berry and Morgan Madrid



Jonathan Chiusano, Evan Price, and Ian McCall



Steve Almaraz, Jon Stevens, Jacob Bottoms, Cathy Dolan, & Mike Fernandez





DRINKING WITH DRENNON

THE MONTHLY ADVENTURES OF LA'S MOST INFAMOUS BEER DRINKER

By Daniel Drennon

As most of you know, I hate being called Dan. I am retiring "Dan About Town" in favor of "Drinking With Drennon." You can rely on the same shenanigans. Me drinking anywhere and everywhere with the best brewers and beer people on the fucking planet. December was no exception.

December 5 – Highland Park beer dinner at 38 Degrees in Monrovia. Synopisis: Chef James Boyles killed it. Brewer Bob Kunz crushed it. Out of a possible 100, these two made it a score of 200. Phenomenal.

December 14 – Chef Andrea Machuca and her Culinary Underground team held a Festivus beer dinner at Barley Forge in Costa Mesa. Festive was indeed the holiday atmosphere and the fantastic meal complimented the Barley Forge beers perfectly.

December 13-16 – Beachwood celebrating their own 10 year anniversary at their Seal Beach spot by hosting the best breweries in the world every night for 10 nights. I went for Cascade, Crooked Stave and New Belgium...in other words, sour heaven.

December 17 – Perks of the job...got to sit in on New Belgium rock star Eric Salazar blending a beer with the Beachwood crew at the Blendery, narrowing 20 samples down to 6 that create a new blend.

December 20 – Jeffers Unplugged at The Propagator. Continuing the sour theme, the Firestone Walker Barrelworks Barrelmeister held court in Venice – dispensing knowledge like the professor of wild ales that he is.

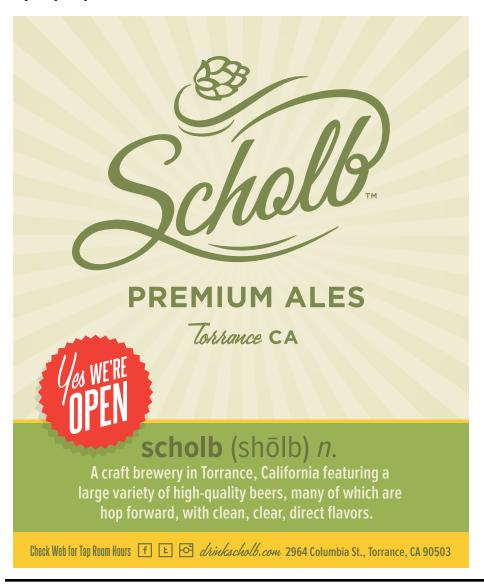
December 21 – Riip Beer Co Christmas Party. If you don't know IPA-factory Riip yet, why the Hell not? New brewer Trevor Walls (from Pizza Port San Clemente) should carry the hoppy torch onward and upward.

December 27 – Beers at Brew Kitchen Ale House. No occasion. Who needs and occasion to drink 28 taps of excellent beer?

December 29 – Industry soft opening of Smog City tasting room at SteelCraft in Long Beach. Long awaited. Highly anticipating. Laurie and Jonathan Porter did not disappoint (they never do). Beautiful open air space among converted shipping containers. Very, very, very cool.



Harrison McCabe, Gabe Gordon, Ryan Fields of Beachwood with Eric Salazar of New Belgium







Joe Maggiore, Shane Kral of Firestone Walker, and Sarah Brown at Brew Kitchen.

Photo by Tobin Hackney



Smog City opens at SteelCraft in Long Beach.

Photo by Megan Hackney



Alexandra Nowell of Three Weavers with Jeffers Richardson of Firestone Walker. Photo by Daniel Drennon



Gabe Gordon, Beachwood, and Chad Yakobson, Crooked Stave. Photo by Daniel Drennon

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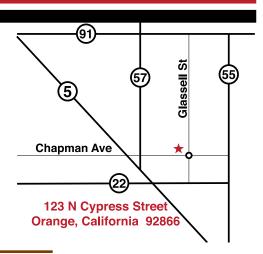






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Beer Belly 532 S Western Ave, Los Angeles www.beerbellyla.com

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Blue Palms Brewhouse 6124 Hollywood Blvd, Los Angeles bluepalmsbrewhouse.com

Brew Kitchen Ale House 10708 Los Alamitos Blvd, Los Alamitos brewkitchenalehouse.com

City Tavern 9739 Culver Blvd, Culver City citytavernculvercity.com

City Tavern 735 S Figueroa St, Los Angeles citytaverndtla.com

Cooper's House of Brew Masters 4823 Paramount Blvd, Lakewood

Far Bar 347 E 1st St, Los Angeles farbarla.com

Flights Beer Bar 5119 W El Segundo Blvd, Hawthorne flightsbeerbar.com Haven Gastropub 190 S Glassell St, Orange havengastropub.com

Haven & Portola 143 N Glassell St, Orange havengastropub.com

Hot's Kitchen 844 Hermosa Ave, Hermosa Beach hotskitchen.com

Linx Artisan Sausage and Craft Beer 238 Chapman Ave Orange linxdogs.com

Matt Denny's Ale House 145 Huntington Dr, Arcadia mattdennys.com

Monrovia Homebrew Shop 1945 S. Myrtle Ave Monrovia CA MonroviaHomebrewShop.com

Naja's Place King Harbor Marina Redondo Beach najasplace.com

Pitfire Artisan Pizza 401 Manhattan Beach Blvd Manhattan Beach pitfirepizza.com

Public Beer Wine Shop 121 W. 4th Street, Long Beach publicbeerwineshop.com

Ragin' Cajun Cafe 525 S Pacific Coast Hwy Redondo Beach ragincajun.com

Richmond Bar & Grill El Segundo 145 Richmond St, El Segundo richmondbarandgrill.com Riley's 5331 E 2nd St, Long Beach rileyson2nd.com

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Stout Burgers & Beers 1544 N. Cahuenga Blvd Hollywood stoutburgersandbeers.com

Stout Burgers & Beers 11262 Ventura Blvd Studio City stoutburgersandbeers.com

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The Stuffed Sandwich 1145 E Las Tunas Dr, San Gabriel, CA stuffedsandwich.com

The BrewHouse 31896 Plaza Dr #D San Juan Capistrano thebrewhousesjc.com

The Social List 2105 E 4th St, Long Beach, CA thesociallistlb.com

Unrestricted Brewing (homebrew supply) 24002 Via Fabricante #502, Mission Viejo unrestrictedbrewing.com

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El Segundo Brewing Company 140 Main St, El Segundo elsegundobrewing.com

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Bonaventure Brewing 404 S Figueroa St #418, Los Angeles bonaventurebrewing.com

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Riip Beer Company 17214 Pacific Coast Highway Huntington Beach, riipbeer.com

Stereo Brewing 950 S Vía Rodeo, Placentia stereobrewing.com

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Tustin Brewing Company 13011 Newport Ave #100, Tustin tustinbrewery.com

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Area 51 Craft Brewery 7123 Arlington Ave #A, Riverside Area51craftbrewery.com

Black Market Brewing Co. 41740 Enterprise Cir N #109 Temecula blackmarketbrew.com

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Stone Church Brewing 2785 Cabot Drive, Suite 160 Corona stonechurchbrewing.com

Wiens Brewing 27941 Diaz Rd, Temecula Wiensbrewing.com

Wild Donkey Brewing Co. 2351 W Lugonia Ave, Redlands facebook.com/DonkeyPunchBrewery

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