



Pittsburgh BrewMasters 2008 Beer Tasting Recaps

Gathering #1 Introduction to Belgian Beers January 16, 2008

Beer Tasting Results: (Scale: 1 = Yick! What is this crap?; 5 = Yum! Gimme more!)

1. **Chimay Cinq Cents** - 3.73 average rating
2. **Lindemans Cassis** - 3.64
3. **Grimbergen Double** - 3.61
4. **De Koninck Amber** - 3.32
5. **Witkap Pater Single** - 3.25
6. **Wittekerke Witbier** - 2.97

Gathering #2 Barley Wines February 20, 2008

Beer Tasting Results: (Scale: 1 = Yick! What is this crap?; 5 = Yum! Gimme more!)

1. **Weyerbacher Blithering Idiot** - 3.70 average rating
2. **Anchor Old Foghorn** - 3.48
3. **Sierra Nevada Bigfoot** - 3.44
4. **Gulden Draak** - 3.38
5. **Clipper City Below Decks** - 3.31
6. **Bell's 3rd Coast Old Ale** - 3.27



Gathering #3
"Something German"
March 19, 2008

Thanks to Tony Knipling from [Vecenie Distributing Co.](#) for sharing his expertise with us! And, thanks to Pittsburgh BrewMasters member Sheila for sharing her colorful critiques, as posted below.

Beer Tasting Results: (Scale: 1 = Yick! What is this crap?; 5 = Yum! Gimme more!)

1. **Weltenburger Hefe-Weizen** - 3.87 average rating
"Light, not bad. Doesn't taste like much, which I like in a beer."
2. **Hacker Pschorr Dunkel Weisse** - 3.68
"Furry, like a caterpillar on my tongue."
3. **Weltenburger Asam Double Bock** - 3.46
"Kak-ptoo!"
4. **Weltenburger Barock Dunkel** - 3.40
Iced tea beer. Has that slightly tangy, sweet taste like English breakfast tea. Looks like spit-chew."
5. **Mahr's Unfiltered Lager** - 3.03
"Not bad. Slightly sour, warm lemon."
6. **Kulmbacher Edelhell** - 2.96
"Unremarkable. A slight bite."
7. **"Bonus Beer" Eisenbahn Defumada** - 2.70
"A Brazilian surprise, like charred bacon."



Gathering #4
"Hops, Hops and More Hops"
April 16, 2008

Thanks again to Pittsburgh BrewMasters member Sheila for sharing her colorful critiques, as posted below. Keep in mind, Hart said the hops make you goofy.

Beer Tasting Results: (Scale 1 = Yick! What is this crap?; 5 = Yum! Gimme more!)

1. **Bell's 2 Hearted Ale** - 4.27 average rating
"Kegh - agh - blegh! Oh ... eww!" Shows what she knows ... she didn't like the #1 pick?
2. **Weyerbacher Double Simcoe** - 4.19
"Heehh! Furry!"
3. **Anchor Liberty Ale** - 3.63
"I licked a brick once. It tasted like this."
4. **Victory Prima Pils** - 3.36
Sharp and zingy! I wouldn't mind this."
5. **Dogfish Head Aprihop** - 3.13
"Not bad. I can taste the apricots."
6. **Sharp Edge Over the Edge** - 3.00
"Ouch!"



Gathering #5
"Summer Brews"
May 21, 2008

Thanks to all who attended and trampled on integrity and tradition! In Sheila's unfortunate absence, we have a few anonymous critiques.

Beer Tasting Results: (Scale 1 = Yick! What is this crap?; 5 = Yum! Gimme more!)

1. **Franiskaner Hefe Weisse** - 4.14 average rating
"Banana, baby! Kind to my palate."
2. **Saison Dupont** - 4.12
"Angels dancing on the top of my tongue."
3. **Bell's Oberon** - 3.97
"Looks like crap, but tastes yummy!"
4. **Lion Stout** - 3.75
"Very tasty. Can I have this for breakfast?"
5. **(tie) Eisenbahn Dourada** - 3.17
"Smokey, heavy, crisp ... like a stale piece of bark."
6. **(tie) Troeg's Sunshine Pils** - 3.17
"Damn yummy!"



Gathering #6
"Mystery Brews"
June 18, 2008

You guys rock! Thanks to everyone for turning out last night (especially Danielle, Melissa and Mike who came through two tunnels on a school night!). What a great time! Sheila's back. We actually found a couple of beers she likes!

Beer Tasting Results: (Scale 1 = Yick! What is this crap?; 5 = Yum! Gimme more!)

1. **Gouden Carolus XXX** - 3.73 average rating
"Wow! I could drink the entire glass!"
2. **(tie) Bornem Triple** - 3.62
"Not sure. Let me taste it again. Hmm. Still not sure. Better try some more ... yum!"
3. **(tie) East End Double Trouble** - 3.62
"This was so bad it actually sent chills down my spine."
4. **Kostritzer Black Lager** - 3.37
"Tastes as bad as it smells. I guess real beer aficionados will love it!"
5. **Bear Republic Racer 5** - 3.29
"Can't comment. Couldn't drink it. Heuugh."
Another BrewMasters member was overheard saying, *"I hope my face doesn't freeze this way!"*
6. **Smithwicks Irish Ale** - 2.59
"Where's the flavor? Is this Coors Light?"



Gathering #7
"Summer Brews II"
July 16, 2008

Woohoo! We finally made it outside! Of course, Mother Nature still laughed at us by making it so hot and humid. Thanks for the record attendance! Sheila's comments follow.

Beer Tasting Results: (Scale 1 = Yick! What is this crap?; 5 = Yum! Gimme more!)

1. **Troeg's Dreamweaver Wheat** - 3.67 average rating
"Mmmmm. Nom. Nom. Nom."
Also overheard, *"I'm going bananas for this banana citrus beer!"*
2. **Clipper City Red Sky at Night** - 3.53
"I am uninspired. Really."
Also overheard, *"This one wins the strongman competition!"*
3. **Jenlain Blonde** - 3.38
"Furry with a surprising sassy aftertaste. Thumbs up."
4. **(tie) Blanche de Bruxelles** - 3.26
"... not so much. Blanche de NO."
Also overheard, *"Good mowing the grass beer."*
5. **(tie) Cooper's Sparkling Ale** - 3.26
"Heugh! I'm sure this is what cat food tastes like!"
6. **Rodenbach Grand Cru** - 2.69
"She likes it! Hey! Mikey!"



Gathering #8
"Journey to the U.K."
August 20, 2008

Was it me, or was it a strange night? Thanks to Mindy for participating in our "Get to Know You" segment at half time! Sheila's reviews follow. Thanks to all of you who added your comments ... some of them were a bit too much for a family-oriented website!

Beer Tasting Results: (Scale 1 = Yick! What is this crap?; 5 = Yum! Gimme more!)

1. **Fuller's ESB** - 3.89 average rating
"Bitter but bearable. Like a long anticipated breakup."
2. **Sam Smith Nut Brown Ale** - 3.86
"Unremarkable. Reminds me of a power bar ... not gross, not good."
Also overheard, *"Great flavor, aroma. Best of all the tester beers to this point. I want more!"*
3. **Flag Porter** - 3.38
"Tastes like really old coffee."
Also overheard, *"It's a great kick butt beer!"*
4. **Young's Double Chocolate Stout (aka Yoohoo! beer)** - 3.05
"It's as if someone took low-grade dark chocolate and boiled it in water. I didn't like it."
5. **Old Speckled Hen** - 2.94 (Sorry Mark!)
"Hhawwwwww. Heugh!"
6. **Sam Smith Organic Lager** - 2.83
"England wins the bronze here for all around tastiness!"
Also overheard, *"Missing the pesticides!"*



Gathering #9
"Oktoberfest!"
September 17, 2008

Wow! What an awesome time! Thanks to all of you for supporting our little beer tasting group and for participating in the raffle. And, special thanks to the [Sharp Edge](#) and [Vecenie Distributing](#) for providing the prizes. I hope you enjoyed "Meeting Jess"! Isn't she awesome? Don't forget ... for access to the "Beer Olympics 2008" video, you have to register for the [Pittsburgh BrewMasters forum](#). In Sheila's absence last night, we have a collection of comments from other members. Who's that chick in the red shirt in all the pictures?

Beer Tasting Results: (Scale 1 = Yick! What is this crap?; 5 = Yum! Gimme more!)

1. **Spaten Oktoberfest** - 4.35 average rating
"The only one with taste and character."
2. **Hacker Pschorr Oktoberfest** - 4.04
"Yah, ist goot bier! Wonderbar!" Whatever that's supposed to mean!
3. **Great Lakes Oktoberfest** - 3.69
"Cleveland sucks!"
Also overheard, *"Weak flavor. No substance."*
4. **Penn Oktoberfest** - 3.42
"Looovved it! Gotta go to the Penn Oktoberfest. When is it?"
5. **Victory Festbier** - 3.38
"Probably the best Victory I've tasted. OK to Victory!"
6. **Ayinger Oktoberfest** - 3.26
"Like pond water ... but, not horrible."



Gathering #10
"Salute to Fall Beers"
October 15, 2008

Surprise, surprise! Out on the deck again! Who would have thought the middle of October would bring such mild weather? If this is global warming, bring it on! Thanks to everyone who came out last night! I know it was tough pulling you all away from the final Presidential debate. (I taped it and was up till 1:30am watching.) Thanks also to Betsy for filling the "Get to Know You" portion of our evening. And, last but certainly not least, thanks to Nick for filling in for Hart. In Sheila's absence last night (some lame excuse about family being in town), we have a collection of comments from other members. Wow! I really slacked off the pictures last night. Guess I was having too good a time socializing with all of you! Don't forget ... register for the [Pittsburgh BrewMasters forum](#).

Beer Tasting Results: (Scale 1 = Yick! What is this crap?; 5 = Yum! Gimme more!)

1. **Unibroue Trois Pistoles** - 3.82 average rating
"Partly cloudy, but mostly tasty."
Also overheard, *"Definitely the most flavorful of the lot."*
Also overheard, *"Tastes like apple cider in a barrel."*
2. Bear Republic Hop Rod Rye - 3.48
"Really great flavor." Also overheard, *"I'm not a fan of hops, but not too bad."*
3. **(tie) Ommegang Chocolate Indulgence** - 3.31
"Very different. Kind of like baker's powdered unsweetened chocolate."
4. **(tie) Buffalo Bill's Pumpkin Beer** - 3.31
"Light. Easy drinking."
Also overheard, *"Too plain and mild."*
5. **Rogue Mocha Porter** - 2.96
"Pretty good. Tasted like Cheat River water."
6. **Dogfish Head Punkin Ale** - 2.89
"Ew! Like getting an apple for trick-or-treat."



Gathering #11
"Something Malty"
November 19, 2008

First, let me apologize for anything I may have done to make a fool out of myself. It was a rough couple of weeks and I really needed to relax with some good friends and good beers. Thanks for tolerating me! Thanks also to our new friend Garth for daring to field our questions during the "Get to Know You" segment. Sheila's back with some of her trademark reviews, and we've included others that were overheard. As you'll see, there's just no accounting for people's taste! Don't forget ... register for the [Pittsburgh BrewMasters forum](#).

Beer Tasting Results: (Scale 1 = Yick! What is this crap?; 5 = Yum! Gimme more!)

1. **Orkney Skullsplitter** - 3.82 average rating
"If it's not Scottish, it's crap." Not so sure I agree.
Also overheard, *"A bourbon shot in a beer!"*
2. **North Coast Old Stock Ale 2007 Vintage** - 3.60
"Kind of ashy."
Also overheard, *"Best flavor of the bunch."*
Also overheard, *"Is that beer or liquor? I don't know, but fill the glass!"*
3. **Spaten Optimator** - 3.48
"Concentrated goat sweat."
Also overheard, *"Yum ... Yum ... Yum."*
Also overheard, *"The grain flavor is almost overwhelming, disappointing."*
4. **(tie) Kasteel Donker (XX Abbey)** - 3.44
"Entirely too sweet."
Also overheard, *"Scrumptious! And dangerous."*
5. **(tie) Ommegang XX Abbey** - 3.44
"Imagine holding a penny in your mouth for a while."
Also overheard, *"Reminds me of a mouth full of vegetables."*
Also overheard, *"Best of the night!"*
6. **East End Black Strap** - 2.96
"You could take the paint off a car with this."
Also overheard, *"Strapalicious!"*
Also overheard, *"Hit me with that strap one more time!"*
Also overheard, *"Nothing to this; dry, bitter. East End loses again."*



Gathering #12
"Christmas Beers! Yum!"
December 17, 2008

Holy cow! Sorry for posting the update so late ... like two weeks late! That illness of mine really floored me, and then the holiday mayhem just got out of control. Hope everyone is enjoying the holidays! Thanks to Hart for running the show! I'm just glad he decided not to do his pole dance in lieu of our "Get to Know You" segment. Sheila was MIA again, so the comments are random, from many of our members. Thanks to Amanda for taking some photos! Don't forget ... register for the [Pittsburgh BrewMasters forum](#).

Beer Tasting Results: (Scale 1 = Yick! What is this crap?; 5 = Yum! Gimme more!)

1. **Corsendonk Christmas Ale** - 4.15 average rating
"Spicy! Salright ..."
"Good but very sweet. Eggnog or nutmeg flavor."
2. **Anchor Christmas Ale** - 3.56
"Very nutty, flavorful, spicy, good."
"A very pleasant nose! A lingering sour taste, but not too bad in sips."
"Tastes like a Christmas tree air freshener. Blah!"
3. **Ridgeway Bad Elf** - 3.51
"My favorite so far. Just a tad hoppy."
"Very good, smooth. Nice finish. Goes down easy."
"Yummy!"
4. **Brooklyn Black Chocolate Stout** - 3.47
"Strong, overwhelming, but a hell of a trip!"
"Malty, heavy, rich."
"Mix it with a cherry lambic and you have a chocolate covered cherry beer! Yum!"
5. **Sam Smith Winter Welcome** - 3.33
"Light and easy to drink."
"Clean, light. Slightly hoppy."
"A lovely hop. Not overwhelming in the slightest!"
6. **Hook Norton 12 Days of Christmas** - 3.12
"Dry. Nice roasted malt."
"Ehh - not a fan."

