



Beer of the Month Club

This Month's Featured Brews



Mad River Brewing Company, Blue Lake, California

Brewmaster Bob Smith's dream to open a small brewery began in the late seventies. Seeking knowledge and help, Smith joined with a small number of individuals who were laying the foundation of the craft beer movement in California. With this group, Smith formed Mad River Brewing Company in 1989.

This month, two of our featured beers are from one of Northern California's best brewers, Mad River Brewing Company, for your sampling pleasure.

The Mad River Brewing Company is located in Blue Lake, way up in Northern California where the air is fresh and the rivers run clean.

There are several very good breweries in that neck of the woods, and if you get the chance to visit Northern California, be sure to give us a call and we will help you plan a fun pub crawl as part of your adventure.

Mad River Brewing Company is one of California's few breweries that still uses open fermenters and brews the hard way.

They brew about 10,000 barrels a year (a little over a half a million gallons) which keeps them solidly in the microbrewery category.

They started out in 1989 as a very small brewery, and have since evolved through four phases of growth to become the largest employer in the City of Blue Lake. Of course, Blue Lake isn't a very big town, so they are what we call a big fish in a little pond.

Brewmaster Bob Smith's dream to open a small brewery began in the late seventies and his dream finally became reality in 1989 when Mad River

opened its doors and started pouring some of the best beer in Northern California.

Now in their second decade of brewing, Mad River Brewing continues its commitment to produce very fine ales using an environmentally sound approach and a pure brewing process.

A few years back, they started up their own, self contained water treatment plant which cleans all the runoff that comes from the brewing process. It seems that a bunch of anglers from the Local Fisherman's Union were having too many drunk salmon fall off of their hooks while fishing in the river next to the brewery. The beers are as good as ever and their new water treatment plant will ensure that the beautiful Mad River runs clean and cold for years to come. It should also keep the fish out of AA meetings.

Mad River bottles several different beers and this month we are showcasing Jamaica Sunset IPA, and the brand new Steelhead Double IPA.

Sunset IPA is what Mad River calls their West Indies style IPA. It is not as hoppy or bold as a classic West Coast style IPA. Instead, it is characterized by a very sweet hoppy flavor that is nicely balanced by a solid malty backbone. This is a very nice and drinkable beers that is perfect for enjoying with just about any meal or barbeque.

Steelhead Double IPA is a completely different animal. Wow! This beer is over the top with hops, and at 8.6% alcohol, it ain't no lightweight either. If you are a hop-head (and you know if you are), then you are going to love this. It was recently voted as Beer on the Wall's new favorite beer!

Sacramento Brewing Company, Sacramento, California

Sacramento Brewing Company has been providing great beer and food in a fun, friendly, atmosphere since 1995.

Sam Petersen, the President and head Master Brewer, has been in the restaurant business since 1971 and graduated from the American Brewers Guild in 1995. Capm Petersen, their sales and marketing guru, spends most of his time on the road trying to get his beers into peoples mouths. We had a nice chat with him when he hand delivered our beer for this month's club members.

With two locations in Sacramento, CA, you can be sure that there will be a party at one of these places any night of the week! Both locations offer live entertainment nightly with features ranging from trivia nights to live music. The Sacramento Brewing Company Restaurant and Bar features great food

and atmosphere in a classic brew pub setting, while the Oasis features a wonderful Egyptian theme.

Although the food and entertainment in both of these establishments is top notch, their beers are even better! With 126 medals since 1995, Sac Brew's beers speak for themselves. They offer several beers in bottles year around, and this month we are proud to bring you the Hefeweizen for your sampling pleasure.

Sacramento Brewing Company's **Hefeweizen** is an authentic, unfiltered Bavarian wheat beer. Light and refreshing with a slight citrus flavor. Subtle hopping and a Munich yeast strain give this ale its unique character.

Drink this beer with a squeeze of lemon, or all by itself - it tastes great either way!