



Beer of the Month Club

This Month's Featured Brews

BEER
on the wall

Lost Coast Brewing Company, Eureka, California

From its name, the Lost Coast Brewery may sound as if it were exactly that — lost on the Northern coast of California. But for many residents of Humboldt County, the restaurant and brewery has a definite place on the local map.

Eureka is a cool little town way up in Northern California, an area home to several very good microbreweries including the Lost Coast Brewing Company.

Since its opening in 1990, the brewery has been a popular spot for beer lovers and fans of their famous buffalo wings, and also serves a variety of other dishes for those who come just for the food and atmosphere.

Brewery owner Barbara Groom said the popularity of the homegrown beers drew local residents into the brewery first and the restaurant came second.

After a law was passed in 1984 allowing small breweries to make beer, Groom and a friend started working on learning to brew and saving enough money to start a business.

It took six years, but it was worth the wait. The Lost Coast Brewery and Café opened its doors in 1990 and has been busy ever since.

Groom said the popularity of their beer gained momentum and by the brewery's second year in business, beer was being hand-bottled out of the restaurant.

The brewery's success didn't stop there.

"By the third year, we were selling so much we had to move the brewery out of the restaurant and into a warehouse," Groom said. "And once we got into the warehouse, we just started shipping all over the West Coast."

Beer fans up and down the coast fell in love with the brewery's dark, medium and light beers, which include the popular Downtown Brown, Alley Cat Amber, Eight-Ball Stout and Great White beers.

As far as we know, it is the only brewery in California owned by two women - Barbara Groom & Wendy Pound. In 1986 they thought to themselves, "What could be better than making your own beer?" Well, making your own beer and selling it!

They got their hops in a row and walked away from their 9 to 5 jobs as a marriage & family counselor and a pharmacist to pursue their beer brewing dreams.

After much brewing and planning, including many visits to pubs in England and Wales, Wendy and Barbara opened the Lost Coast Brewery and Café in

Eureka.

"I've always loved beer," says Barbara, "But having my own brewery just seemed like a dream."

Located in a beautiful building that is over 100 years old in downtown Eureka, the brewpub has a comfortable, funky feeling about it complete with a cool bar and fast & friendly restaurant. Both the beer & the food served there are superb - We recommend the Fish & Chips.

A look around their restaurant as well as their peculiar beer labels will give you strange Picasso flashbacks. The artist, we understand, is pretty well known around Eureka, as evidenced by several of his wall murals on buildings around town.

After ten years in business, they added a second bottling and brewing facility a few blocks from the brew pub. If you are in the area, just ask one of the bartenders and they will give directions. If you ask nicely, they are usually happy to give you a quick tour of the brewery.

This month we have two of their flagship beers and their winter seasonal for our club members to enjoy.

Great White is Lost Coast's spin on a traditional Belgian White Ale. A lightly spiced, crisp beer with a hint of citrus and a secret blend of herbs found around Humboldt county. The exact recipe of this beer is a closely guarded secret, but if you were to buy, say, 10 cases from us, we may be enticed into spilling the beans.

Alley Cat Amber Ale is a wonderful all-around drinking beer that goes great by itself or with just about any dish you can whip up. It is probably Lost Coast's smoothest and easiest drinking beer, but by no means the least tasty. A full flavored ale made with roasted caramel malt and cascade hops, this beer is sure to please.

WinterBraun is definitely a winter warmer. This seasonal beer is only brewed during the colder months of the year, as its name implies. It is a full-bodied brown ale with a rich chocolate taste created from a secret blend of roasted chocolate and caramel malts, combined with just the right amount of Czech Saaz hops - aromatic and spicy.

Take a bottle with you to the dinner table tonight and you be the judge! The Alley cat Amber goes great as a starter, and the WinterBraun will leave a warm, comfy taste in your mouth.

All three of these beers ROCK! They have all won numerous awards over the years - way too many to list here. We hope you enjoy your beers!