

# Malted Barley Appreciation Society

February 2016 Newsletter

The [Malted Barley Appreciation Society \(MBAS\)](#) meets in the back room (or back yard in summer) of [Mugs Ale House](#), 125 Bedford Avenue, Williamsburg, Brooklyn on the second Wednesday of each month. We feature at least one guest from the craft beer industry who shares samples of their beers with everyone there for the club meeting. Start time 7.30, but it is good to arrive a little earlier to secure a good seat. Mugs Ale House serves a full food menu, and always has a top beer list. Full Mugs review - <http://www.beerguidenyc.com/pubs.php?IDKEY=136>

## OUR NEXT MEETINGS

### Wednesday 10th February 2016

Triple-header! Our guests: Jason Sahler of the new Strong Rope Brewery, Al Duvall - head brewer at Brooklyn Brewery - with some unusual goodies, and last but not least Vinny Tamburri and John Fladung, the directors of Brewhouse Bullpen. Haven't heard of Brewhouse Bullpen? Turn up and find out...

### Wednesday 9th March 2016

We're looking to have Kyle Hurst of Big Alice Brewing as guest, and hopefully a second guest. Look for updates.

### Wednesday 13th April 2016

We're looking to have Olivia Cerio of Empire Brewery (rescheduled from January) and Shane O'Reilly of Sly Fox Brewery as guests.

## MALTED BARLEY APPRECIATION SOCIETY 2016 COMMITTEE

President: Alex Hall  
Webmaster and cartoonist: Bill Coleman  
Newsletter Editor: Warren Becker  
Treasurer: Eric Freberg  
Felice Wechsler  
Chris Cuzme  
Mary Izett  
B.R. Rolya  
Bob Weyersberg  
Lucy Zachman  
Ministers of Homebrew Security:  
Sophie the Poodle, Otto the Dachshund



## JANUARY MEETING RECAP

by Alex Hall

January's meeting should have been a double header with Krista Kilberg of Twelve Percent Imports and Olivia Cerio of Empire Brewery. Unfortunately Olivia had to postpone because of craziness with her work, but you will get to try her wares at our April meeting instead.

As luck would have it, our friend Ron Carlson was there with a bottle of Spencer 'Trappist Holiday Ale' (9.0%) which he generously shared with us before Krista's slot. This is a rich, dark brown festive offering from the monks at St. Joseph's Abbey, Spencer, Massachusetts. I found it warming and full bodied, bursting with deep vine fruit notes with some underlying spice. Ron has just landed a job with Spencer, and at the time of writing is set to move north before our February meeting. Many thanks Ron, we wish you all the very best for the future.

<http://www.ratebeer.com/beer/spencer-trappist-holiday-ale/377879/>

Krista brought four tasty beers to share with us as follows.

1. Stillwater 'A Saison Darkly' (8.0%) is an unusual dark brown ale brewed at Two Roads, Stratford, CT, with dark malts and burnt sugars, then lightly spiced with rose hips, hibiscus, & Schisandra berries. Medium bodied and malt dominated, I detected

some fruitiness. It was very pleasant, though can't really be compared with a regular saison.

<http://www.ratebeer.com/beer/stillwater-a-saison-darkly/129705/>

2. Off Color / Amager 'Dino Smores' (10.5%) is a great example of how innovative brewing has become in some circles. Brewed by Off Color in Chicago in collaboration with Amager, this is a bold 'Imperial Marshmallow Stout' brewed with the addition of Graham flaked malt, cocoa nibs, & vanilla beans. Totally black, this slick and rich beer delivered the intended mouthfeel magnificently. Krista rightly described Off Color as "a fun brewery".

<http://www.ratebeer.com/beer/off-color--amager-dinosmores/248855/>

3. Evil Twin / Westbrook 'The Perfect Nose' (10.2%) is a collaborative cognac barrel aged barleywine, bold and boozy with an assertive aroma and taste of cognac, wood, and caramel. Another top class brew courtesy of Twelve Percent. Serve in a snif(f)ter...

<http://www.ratebeer.com/beer/evil-twin--westbrook-the-perfect-nose/375760/>

4. Evil Twin 'Imperial Biscotti Break Bourbon Barrel Aged' (11.5%). This is a huge imperial porter aged in bourbon barrels for 9 months. Very dark brown, almost black, the richness of this beer is apparent on the palate with a boozy bourbon aspect and notes of wood and a touch of vanilla. Very complex and extremely enjoyable, it has a near perfect rating on ratebeer.com. Brewed at Westbrook in South Carolina, as was the previous beer, although this one is not a collaboration.

<http://www.ratebeer.com/beer/evil-twin-imperial-biscotti-break--bourbon-barrel/236752/>

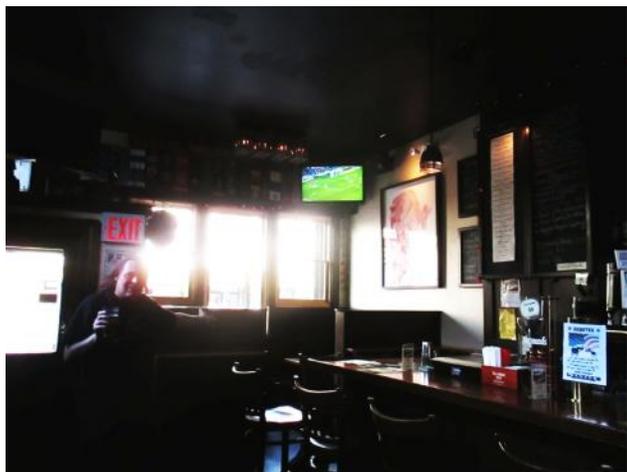
Many thanks to Krista for spoiling us all with these delights!



## LOCAL BEER NEWS

Only selected items will be listed here, for beer bar and brewery news check out <http://www.beerguidenyc.com/news.php> - and also <http://www.gotham-imbiber.com>.

Banter in Williamsburg has just installed a cask beer engine. This was being clamped onto the bar while I was the only customer there on a Friday afternoon (but the place is packed at weekends) watching my hometown football (soccer) team Brighton & Hove Albion win 3-0. Our friend Chris O'Leary, of [www.brewyorknewyork.com](http://www.brewyorknewyork.com), is famous for having media pounce on him for having a commercial flight (almost) to himself. But a whole empty bar for the duration, as they are installing cask line right in front of where I chose to sit, with a rare chance to watch my hometown team grind the opponents Brentford into the ground? Do I have a claim to rivalry, or does nobody else like Brighton here? Cheers Chris, we should share a flight (of beers) together soon!



Birthdays #1 and #2 - Chris Cuzme and Kate Dulcich on 4th February. Two NYC craft beer stalwarts celebrating on the same day, the Blind Tiger was the place to be! Oh, Blind Tiger owner Dave Brodrick's too, though I didn't see him.



Birthday #3 - MBAS co-founder Bill Coleman on 6th February. Some Old Salty bottles were arranged, the earliest from 2000. Coincidentally, Bill brewed the latest with aforementioned Chris Cuzme at 508 Gastrobrewery in 2014.



Big Alice Brewery has filled three casks, unusually (hopefully just unusually for the short term!), Sour One with Kiwi and Sour One with Pineapple will be at the brewery taproom 19th and 26th February respectively. The Kiwi will also escape in a firkin to Patrick Donagher's cask fest in NY Beer Week. Kyle from Big Alice has agreed to be our guest in March, probably with another guest TBA. Cheers Kyle!

Oh yes, the Beer Week 2016. Last but most certainly not least! <http://newyorkcitybrewersguild.com/beer-week/2016-beer-week/> Have a good one everybody, and major thanks to all involved!

### **FUN ANAGRAMS**

These are all names of hop varieties. Answers are at the end of this newsletter.

1. ELM TWIT ALE
2. DIG MY KOALA
3. PROF. IODIDE WRONG
4. BARNACLE AT HULL
5. ANY MARK
6. NINE OVAL SUNS
7. STRAPLESS LIST
8. HANGER CELL
9. GROWLER BEDS
10. SUMO CLUB
11. AUNT HAM
12. HOCK ION
13. MICE CAP FIG

14. A FEATHER MULLET, HURL IT
15. BRETHERN OR WREN
16. CATTLE BRICKS
17. MRS. GARLIC SNOB
18. MR. ASIA
19. DELEGATING KNOTS
20. BAD AVIAN MARINARA
21. GULL NET BEER
22. I COMPLY
23. I BALLSY
24. OH, TUN DOOM
25. MAKE OUT

### **TEN YEARS AGO REMEMBERED**

Alan Rice and his wife Pamela (both now admirably running City Swiggers) were newsletter editors 10 years ago. Cheers to you both! See [www.vivavegie.org](http://www.vivavegie.org) for, admirably in my opinion, what Pamela does in her spare time.

Steve Hindy, one of the founders of Brooklyn Brewery and still at the helm, had just published his book 'Beer School' to much acclaim.

Finally, it was the end of the road for the grossly underrated, but probably overstretched financially (at a guess, given the area) Times Square Brewery. Ten years later there are many good options in the tourist trap district to make up for the loss of their second location where commuter and tourist hell crosses over.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - MBAS EVENTS**

**Monday 15th February - East Village weekday bar crawl and roots-folk music night**

I know it's a work day for most, but please join us whenever you can if possible. Especially for the music and beer at Augurs Well.

**4.30 to 5.15 Jimmy's No.43**, 43 East 7th Street (at 2nd Avenue) - <http://www.beerguidenyc.com/pubs.php?IDKEY=222>

**5.15 to 6.00 Lions Beer Store**, 104 2nd Avenue (at E.6th Street) - <http://www.beerguidenyc.com/pubs.php?IDKEY=322>

**6.00 to 7.00 Proletariat**, 102 St. Marks Place between 1st and A - <http://www.beerguidenyc.com/pubs.php?IDKEY=223>

**7.00 to 10.00-ish Augurs Well**, 115 St. Marks Place between 1st and A - <http://www.beerguidenyc.com/pubs.php?IDKEY=317>

The reason for choosing to do this crawl on a Monday is that English folk and roots duo Naomi Bedford and Paul Simmonds are

playing live at Augurs Well from about 7.30, this is an extremely rare opportunity to see them outside Europe (and in close proximity, that place is small). The gig was arranged by your new president (of the MBAS, not the USA!). There is no cover charge, but please put a couple of dollars in the hat. If joining the crawl from or near the start, please pace yourself to fully enjoy the music. Naomi and Paul's lyrics are deep, generally emotionally charged, and need some serious attention span from the audience to be fully appreciated. This is a chance in a lifetime for this brilliant duo. Please don't talk in a loud voice when they are playing! Check out Naomi's website here - <http://naomibedford.com/> Oh, and if you don't know Augurs Well, it has a seriously good craft beer list.

In the works, date to be announced: Ridgewood bar and brewery crawl. We're also looking to do a trip to Two Roads Brewery in Connecticut. Watch this space.

Not an MBAS event, but co-founded and co-run by your president, is a serious cask beer and music festival in the UK -

**Glastonwick** (do not confuse with the Glastonbury Festival!). This will happen 3rd to 5th June 2016 near Brighton, England. There will be over 80 cask beers on offer, of which almost all will be rare, obscure, eclectic, or unique.

See <http://www.cask-ale.co.uk/> from February for full details. Any MBAS people making the effort to attend can be put on the guest list. The nearest town is Shoreham-by-Sea and the nearest city is Brighton, from where there will be a free shuttle bus. London Gatwick is the nearest airport. Public transport is easy, and Brighton is a seaside resort so has plenty of accommodation options (you can camp at the festival also). 2016 is the 20th anniversary of this unique event which encompasses the most eclectic cask beers and the most talented independent music artists (plus some radical poets) in the same environment.

Check out the 2015 festival photo album here - <http://www.cask-ale.co.uk/glastonwick2015.html> .

### **FRIENDS & OTHER WEBSITES ASSOCIATED WITH THE MBAS**

[Fuhmentaboutit](#) - Chris Cuzme and Mary Izett's homebrewing podcast.

[Beerhear](#) - B.R. Rolya and Bob Weyersburg's podcast.

[Beer Sessions Radio](#) - Craft beer podcast hosted by Jimmy Carbone.

[The Gotham Imbiber](#) - Alex Hall's 'from the street' NYC craft beer site.

[A New York Beer and Pub Guide](#) - [beerguidenyc.com](http://beerguidenyc.com) - Over 300 NYC beer destinations with multiple search options.

Chris O'Leary's BrewYorkNewYork - <http://brewyorknewyork.com/>

### **FUN ANAGRAMS - ANSWERS**

1. WILLAMETTE
2. YAKIMA GOLD
3. PRIDE OF RINGWOOD
4. HALLERTAU BLANC
5. MARYNKA
6. NELSON SAUVIN
7. STRISSELSPALT
8. CHALLENGER
9. BREWERS GOLD
10. COLUMBUS
11. AHTANUM
12. CHINOOK
13. PACIFIC GEM
14. HALLERTAU MITTELFRUEH
15. NORTHERN BREWER
16. STICKLEBRACKT
17. BRAMLING CROSS
18. ARAMIS
19. EAST KENT GOLDING
20. MANDARINA BAVARIA
21. GREEN BULLET
22. OLYMPIC
23. SYBILLA
24. MOUNT HOOD
25. MOTUEKA

