



Backyard Beer Panel

This month we attacked the Craft Beer Expo at the Rivers Edge Convention Center with military precision. There were 60 breweries, 10 of the finest backyard beer panelist and a 4 oz glass. Each of the panelists had 6 of the breweries to rate each based on number of beers at the expo, presentation (how it looked) and overall experience with the brewery assigned. Each of the panelists was also tasked to pick one of their breweries beers as their favorite. Each had to find me and turn this in before they could play with others. This seems like a lot of work to do but the team accepted this daunting task with smiles, joy and elation. Success for me, we hit all 60 breweries with out a hitch or a broken glass.

Here are the stats from the panel:

Who brought the most brews	Brewery located:	Rater	
Crispin/Fox Barrel	Minneapolis MN	Spencor	7
McCaans Food and Brew	St Cloud MN	Pat	7
Brau Brothers Brewing Company	Lucan MN	Telal	6
Artinsinal Imports	European Beer Importer	Telal	5
Great Lakes Brewing Company	Cleveland OH	Spencor	5
Herkimer Pub & Brewery	Minneapolis MN	Mike	5
Lagunitas Brewing Company	Petaluma CA	Telal	5
Leech Lake Brewing Company	Walker MN	Dan	5
Liljas	Black River Falls WI	DOC	5
New Belgium Brewing Company	Fort Collins CO	Mike	5
Schell's Brewing Company	New Ulm MN	Damien	5
Sprecher Brewing Company	Glendale WI	Telal	5
Summit Brewing Company	St Paul MN	Dan	5

Presentation of name and beers	Brewery located:	Rater	
Brooklyn Brewery	Brooklyn NY	Christine	5
Crispin/Fox Barrel	Minneapolis MN	Spencor	5
Granite City	St Louis Park MN	DOC	5
Harriet Brewing Company	Minneapolis MN	Pat	5
Liftbridge Brewing Company	Stillwater MN	Christine	5
Sprecher Brewing Company	Glendale WI	Telal	5

Orval

Belgium

Tim

4.5

How was the overall experience	Brewery located:	Rater	
Boulder Beer Company	Boulder CO	Pat	5
Brau Brothers Brewing Company	Lucan MN	Telal	5
Brooklyn Brewery	Brookly NY	Christine	5
Granite City	St Louis Park MN	DOC	5
Liftbridge Brewing Company	Stillwater MN	DOC	5
Leinenkugels	Chippewa Falls WI	Tim	4.5
Sprecher Brewing Company	Glendale WI	Telal	4.5

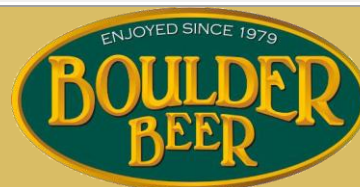
Overall Winner Was:

Odell Brewing Company's Coconut Milk Porter (firkin offering)

Our Favorites

Pat Best

Boulder Beer Co Boulder CO
Planet Porter w/ Coco nibs and lactose



Mike St Marie

New Belgium Brewing Co Fort Collins CO
1554 Black Lager -smooth and caramel



Telal AlRafai

Lagunitas Brewing Co Petaluma CA
Maximus IPA- Beautifully balanced and very hoppy



Dan (Strackman) Strack

Summit Brewery St Paul MN
Summit Pilsners- smooth crisp and clean



Tim Gilbert
Leinenkugel Brewery Chippewa Falls WI
Big Eddy - Russian Imperial Stout



Christine Vorpahl
Brooklyn Brewery Brooklyn NY
Brooklyn Blast Double IPA



Duane (DOC) Counter
Granite City St Louis Park MN
Two Pull of Brother Benedicts Bock and
Northern Lager
WOW



Bill Bettendorf
Cold Spring Brewery Cold Spring MN
John Henry 3 Lick Spiker Ale



Spencor Loehrer
Big Sky Brewing Co Missoula MT
Bobo's Robust Porter - Chocolate and Delicious



Damien Loehrer
Great River Brewing Co Davenport IA
Red Band Stout - Coffee, coffee, coffee, loved it



Special Thanks to Bob and Linda for this opportunity to drink beer on their behalf. (Thank you and love you)

A Big thanks to the Rivers Edge Convention Center for putting on this event again this year. I did not have to wait to get in (great planning) had a chance to look at the breweries and talk to the staff before I swilled down their fares (Rating homework). The venue was wide open with plenty of room to move around and not feel crowded (2000 more people than last year). I think the only change I would make is to have it be 6 hours long and have a nice little nap area for a mid drink rest or a jogging area for the more energetic of us.

I counted 210 different beers provided by the vendors WOW. The participants were the most well behaved mob I have ever seen. The only ruckus I witnessed was a very large groan from the crowd when someone dropped a glass. It was almost as if it was everyone's favorite glass in the world and when it broke we all lost a little best friend. Great job beer drinkers and vendors.

This is truly a event you can support your local and craft brew makers so go forth and enjoy your beer.

Beer Friend Extraordinaire,
Pat Best
