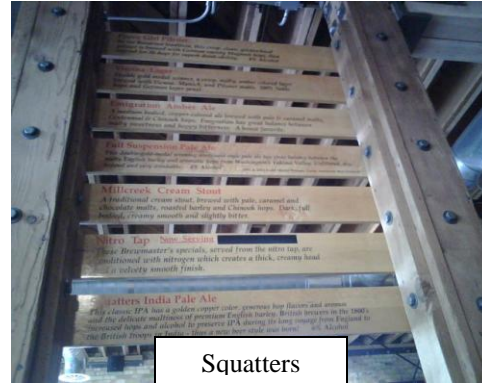


Suds in Salt Lake

Utah and Salt Lake City never seemed like a beer destination to me, but considering the founding religion is less than beer-friendly, some are surprised the city hosts three brewpubs in the immediate downtown area and two micros that bottle a wide range of brews. Curious isn't it? Polygamy and alcoholic abstinence always appeared diametrically opposed. Picture yourself with a gaggle of spouses and unable to drink. Yes, Utah has beer for the rest of us, even if most of it is less potent than anything we are used to (you could drink two at a time, but that is also against the law). But things aren't too dire, in Utah alcohol content is measured by weight not volume, so the 3.2% ABW limitation you will find that relates to draft actually corresponds to a slightly more reasonable 4% ABV. Bottles and cans of 3.2% ABW beer can be purchased at supermarkets and convenience stores, but for the best selection and



higher alcohol brews you have to head to one of the many State liquor stores, several of which are found downtown (the beers they carry and prices are available on the internet). While brewpubs are open to anyone theoretically, pubs or bars are considered private clubs, although gaining entry is as easy as paying for a \$4 temporary membership (good for two weeks in case you return).

Staying in downtown Salt Lake gives you access to three easily accessible brewpubs and several worthwhile pubs (private clubs). Squatters on Broadway is the city's oldest brewpub with a good selection of food and a wide range of 4% beers on tap and a few higher alcohol selections in bottles including a 6% IPA. Shock the neighbors with a Polygamy Porter... "you can't have just one" T-shirt. The beers were all very flavorful despite the limitations. In my very subjective opinion these were the best beers I found. Even if you only stop through the airport in transit you will find a Squatters tap house with both draft and the higher alcohol bottle beers. Roughly four blocks away, mind you these are really long blocks (the Mormon founders wanted roads wide enough for a horse and buggy to make u-turns on), you will find Red Rock Brewing Company, another great brewpub with a wide selection. They don't bottle any higher alcohol brews, but they do well all things considered. Within walking distance of Red Rock and Squatters is Port O' Call private club with a wide selection of micros that included four or five Uinta varieties, as well as several Wasatch and other Rocky Mountain and West Coast offerings. Jumping on a trolley a few blocks away can take you



to the end of the line and Trolley Square where you will find Desert Edge Brewpub, the most relaxed of the three. Unfortunately I visited two days after the complex was shot up by a wacko and the brewpub wasn't yet ready to open. A fourth brewpub is located slightly further outside of the main downtown area. I didn't make it to the Bohemian Brewery and Grill, although I was told they produce all lagers and have a very quaint old world setting. If you have a car, a short drive and not far from the airport in the warehouse area is Uinta Brewing. I drove by but didn't stop in. Luckily I did pick up some of their barleywine.

Brother Gavin McBeerstalker