

# The Oregonian

## Portland Craft Beer Fest is Portland's best new festival

By [John Foyston](#) | [Special to The Oregonian/OregonLive](#)  
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Portland Craft Beer Fest organizer Joseph Sundberg figured about 10,000 people came through the gates for the recent three-day weekend – and in five years, most of those folks will be remembering:

a) how hot that first festival was

b) wasn't it great that there were no lines at all, that you could just step up and get a beer?

I think that the Portland Craft Beer Fest is going to become a welcome and popular addition to Portland's already-crowded beer-event calendar, something I wasn't entirely convinced of when I first heard plans for a new beer fest. But I was quickly won over by the venue on the edge of the Pearl, the gorgeous weather, and the great opportunity to try all those Portland-brewed beers that I'd been meaning to sample but somehow hadn't, such as ExNovo Pre-Prohibition Lager and Baerlic's Eastside Oatmeal Lager. Plus it was great chance to reconnect with old favorites, such as Upright Engelberg Pilsner and Upright Four, and to sample completely new creations such as Old Town's Get the Money Pre-Pro Cream Ale (excellent!) and Widmer's Nordlander Pilsner --- and yes, I was deep in the kolsch/saison/pilsner selections – it was that kind of day.

And if a person was up for a hop onslaught, there were no fewer than two dozen of Portland's finest IPAs on tap, plus several formidable pale ales. The only hole in the taplist was in the big/dark area, and that makes perfect sense for a festival held on 90-plus-degree days. Luckily, there were seats and tables in a shaded pavilion and two misting tents were set up – that's where I spent a considerable chunk of time, in the mist and blessed breeze, happily sipping my latest beer and not worrying much at all that it might be getting slightly diluted.

--[John Foyston](#)

