

Rotary
Club of
Charlotte



REPORTER

September 13, 2016

JOHN MARRINO

Olde Mecklenburg Brewery

Making The World A Better, Fresher-Beer-Drinking Place



In 2007, Charlotte was one of the last big cities in the country without its own brewery. Breweries had come and gone over the years, but none had been able to overthrow the tyrannical reign of the King of Beers. However, as Charlotte continued to grow, new residents from around the States and Europe started to change Charlotte's beer culture. One of those transplants was OMB's eventual founder, John Marrino, who came from Boston.

Prior to arriving in Charlotte, John spent 16 years working for a German-based advanced water treatment equipment manufacturer, and that experience included living in Germany for four years. As you'd imagine, John sampled his fair share of German beers during his stay, and saw the inside of more than one or two (let's call it "several") German Bierhalls. Those four years of authentic, hands-on "research," combined with his water treatment expertise (which would help him make the transition to brewing beer down the road) made John uniquely qualified to open his own German-style brewery in Charlotte. He just didn't know it yet.

Shortly after relocating his family to Charlotte in 2002, John became disillusioned with big corporate life and decided to move on. Having no plan B and some time on his hands, he rented an RV and embarked on a soul-searching three-month tour of North America with his wife and young daughter. Two months later, on a cool summer's night in Montana, he read an article about a man rebuilding the almost defunct Narragansett beer brand in New England. As he read, the proverbial "lightbulb" went on. He realized Charlotte didn't have a brewery. He thought about how much he missed the fantastic, fresh beer he drank in Düsseldorf, Herford and Munich. His conclusion? Return to Charlotte and open a brewery that specialized in world-class, fresh, German-style beer. He was convinced that if the people of Charlotte could taste the difference between an authentic German-style beer served fresh, versus the old, skunky German stuff you can buy in the grocery stores, or the bland, flavorless American light lagers, they would be converted.

In March 2009, The Olde Mecklenburg Brewery opened its doors, at the time Charlotte's only local brewery. Charlotteans embraced it with a bear hug (that was the authentic German beer talking) and OMB started to build a dedicated following that's never really stopped growing. Today, in a new, larger space that features a spectacular eight-acre German-style Biergarten, a state-of-the-art 60-barrel Brewery (largest locally owned craft brewhouse in the state), and a dine-in Brauhaus Charlotte's oldest brewery continues to grow while staying committed to fresh, local beer. And also offers the best brewery tour in America according to USA Today readers. As John Marrino says, "Not everything can be

local, but beer can and should be.” OMB looks forward to providing Charlotte with good times and its freshest beer for many years to come.

As seriously as we take the freshness and quality of our beer, we also realize that we work in a brewery, which is pretty fantastic. We try to infuse that enthusiasm into everything we do here at OMB, whether it’s showing you our amazing brewing facility during a tour, making you and your friends feel right at home in our Biergarten or carefully brewing each one of our specialty beers. If we’re having a great time making great beer, we figure you’ll have a great time being here to drink it. And that’s kind the whole idea.

When are your tours and what are the details?

We have FREE tours every Saturday 130p, 2p, 230p, 3p, 330p, and 4p. Plus, Sunday at 2p, 3p, and 4p. You do not need to register. The tour guide will come around the Brauhaus before tours and invite everyone to join. Because our tours are free, we encourage you to enjoy a flight of beer before the tour so you can decide on which pint or mug you would like to bring on the tour with you.

Is there a private event space at the brewery?

Yes! Our two Festhalle (party halls) are perfect for all types of occasions. Please email events@oldemeckbrew.com or visit the Festhalle page for more information.

How many barrels does OMB brew per year?

How many beers is that?

We’re growing. Here’s our history:

2009 – 1,045 barrels (bbls)

2010 – 2,407 bbls

2011 – 4,010 bbls

2012 – 7,032 bbls

2013 – 9,450 bbls

2014 – 14,500 bbls

2015 – 19,100 bbls

2016 – 23,000 bbls

A huge reason to celebrate for Charlotte’s Olde Mecklenburg Brewery.

OMB’s Mecktoberfest brew won top honors at one of the world’s largest beer competitions in Nuremburg, Germany. The local brewery won a gold medal in the German-style Märzen category. This is the first time a Charlotte-based brewery has won the prestigious honor. Only German breweries have been presented medals in this category since 2011.

Mecktoberfest brew impressed judges at the European Beer Star competition in Germany. It was a crowded competition of nearly two thousand brews from forty-five countries. “This is the highest recognition of our dedication to quality and traditional brewing methods – an outstanding confirmation for our entire team,” according to OMB founder John Marrino. “We’re an American brewery with German inspirations, so to compete in Germany for the first time and win Gold is the absolute highest honor we could achieve.”

Speaker Write-Up: John Galles

Head Table: John Rodgers, Katie Tyler, Harriman Jett, Kathy Boone; Invocation: Catherine Browning; Health, Happiness & History: Colleen Brannan; Guests & Visitors: Bill Bradley; AV: Jessica Dupree, Pete Marriott, Nikki Keith; Photos: Sandy Osborne; Piano: Em Syrewicze

CLUB NEWS

Edwin Peacock introduced **Parker Cains** as the club's newest Rotarian. Parker is director of sales for Katalyst, an organization that provides advanced networks, collaboration and data center solutions. Parker and his wife Devon are expecting their first child in January and he can be reached at pcains@katalystng.com.

Golf raffle ticket sales on Tuesday brought in \$1055 for our scholarship program. The last day to buy your tickets will be October 4, which is the day prizes are drawn.

The mayor appointed **Ed Pickett** to the Board of Directors of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Public Access TV station, Channel 21. This is a three year term last filled by **George Cochran**; as everyone knows, **Ron Kimble's** passion for the next 30 years to come is domestic violence prevention. In the fall, he will step away from his interim city manager role and devote his time to the Jamie Kimble Foundation for Courage. Thank you, Ron, for your outstanding leadership.

Plan on getting your Flu shot at next week's Rotary meeting. The clinic will be set up at 11:30; **Bill Nichols** has returned to work following his heart surgery and is doing well in cardiac rehab; **Bill Loftin SR.** is at Southminster Hospice House for an assessment. Mr. Loftin was a member of Charlotte Rotary from 1970 to 2009, served as president in 1986-1987, and was editor and publisher of The Charlotte Reporter for 29 years! The Loftin family has been an important of this club for many years. Best wishes and prayers for improvement.

Rotarian Kathryn Smith, Greater Anderson Rotary Club, will be speaking at Park Road Books on September 22, 7pm about her new book "The Gatekeeper." This is the first biography of Missy LeHand, personal secretary to Franklin D. Roosevelt. Missy believed in FDR's dream for a rehab center at Warm Springs and served as his hostess there, and handled all business related to Warm Springs and his polio foundation when he was in the White House. Smith and her book will be featured in an upcoming edition of The Rotarian magazine.

APPROVE FOR MEMBERSHIP (comments to Rotary office by 9/20/16)

Jeffrey R. Atkinson (Jeff)
Wingate University (Education, Private University)
Sponsor: Luther Moore
Endorsed: Phil Volponi, Chuck Howard

100 SERVICE PROJECTS

NEW PROJECTS in red

Victoria A. Bowler CPCC Memorial Scholarship – September 14 at Rooster's/SouthPark; 5:30-9PM. Admission \$25 per person (hors d'oeuvres, 2 drinks, music). Donations/admission to CPCC Foundation, Inc., Attn Ginny Hastings, PO Box 35009, Charlotte, NC 28235.

Hope Haven (3815 N. Tryon St.) is building a KaBOOM! Playground – September 17. Volunteers needed anytime between 8AM-3PM. Lunch is provided and no expertise needed. Registration is available here: <http://www.hopehaveninc.org/events/kaboom-playground-build/>. Rotary contact is Alice Harrison, aliceharrison@hopehaveninc.org.

Annual Duck Race and Youth Services Social – September 18 at Tailrace Marina, Mt. Holly; 2-6PM; Adopt a Duck: 1 duck for \$10; Quack pack for \$25; Flock for \$100. Chance to win \$2500 and a 2016 Chevy Camaro. See Sandra James to purchase your tickets.

2016 Walk to End Alzheimer's – September 24 at Symphony Park; registration at 9am; ceremony and walk at 10am. Contact Joan Wright (joan@osullivanwright.com). http://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2016/NC-WesternCarolina?pg=entry&fr_id=9139

Prescription of HOPE with Mitchell's Fund – September 28 at Charlotte Convention Center; 11:30AM-1PM; www.mitchellsfund.org

American Red Cross – Blood services transportation and delivery drivers are needed. Contact Tamrah Jordan tamrah.jordan@redcross.org for an explanation of what is needed.

ONGOING

-**Allenbrook Elementary School:** North Star Reading Partners with a commitment to read to a 3rd grade student one hour a week. Eric Davis: eric.davis@wellsfargo.com.

-**Platelet Donation:** Register at the American Red Cross or Community Blood Center of the Carolinas to donate platelets. **50 donations to date!**

-**American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO):** Coach, referee, board member, linesman, snack shack worker, etc. Kathy Riley at rc@ayso05.com or Carolyn Carlburg c.carlburg@gmail.com

-**Cotswold Farmers Market:** <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0548afaa2da5fe3-volunteer>. This group REALLY needs help with set up/take down each and every weekend. Please think about lending a hand.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS (09/17/16 – 09/24/16)

09/17 Larry Hyatt, Tim Flanagan, Dal Shefte, Mark Norman, Fred Lowrance

09/19 Torrence Shealy

09/21 Chris Kemper, Sandy Osborne

09/22 Bob Phifer, Joey Godbold, Rudy Rudisill

09/24 Joe Penner

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES (09/17/16 – 09/24/16)

09/17 Sylvia & Larry Hyatt

09/18 Ann & Floyd Davis

09/20 Joan Graham & Neil Burkhead, Lucy & David Anderson, Kate & Greg Hatcher

09/21 Amy Burkett & Robert Upton

09/24 Lauri Eberhart & Rob Klibenski, Marnie & John Rodgers

Club Members	159
Guests	18
Total	177 (56.6%)

GUESTS: Sara Dir, Alex Guillame, Martina Salge, Robert Troutline, Michael Elliott Van Ness, Mahlek Pothemont, Andrew Brendle, Mark Joyce, Jason Kay, Van Hall, Trezven Wright, Lute Schminke, David Kennedy, Lynn Lee, Blaine DeBoo, Michael Hallett, Mary Webster

MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2016 318

09/13/2016 320

Net Increase: +2

New Members: Parker Cains

Resignations:

UPCOMING LUNCHEONS

(www.charlotterotary.org and click on the events tab)

09/20 – Governor Pat McCrory

09/27 – Golf Tournament...NO CLUB MEETING

10/04 – How I Got Where I'm At

10/11 – Dr. Denis Arnold, Professor of Management, UNCC – Ethics in Business

10/18 – Maria Pacheco, Wakami Village

10/25 – David Ratchford, CEO, Spectrum Consulting – The Aging Population

Photos from our luncheons and other events can be found on Flickr [Click here](#)



charlotterotary.org 704.375.6816
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