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Local



San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders pours a beer Saturday after tapping a keg at the San Diego Brewers Guild Festival at Liberty Station. The event kicked off San Diego Beer Week. **EARNIE CRAFTON • U-T PHOTOS**



For \$35, Brewers Guild Festival attendees got this glass, which entitled them to 10 tastes of beer, though no one was keeping tabs.

Local-brew fest a real glass act

Mayor Sanders helps kick off San Diego Beer Week

NINA GARIN • U-T

Over the years, San Diego County has built quite a reputation for its beer.

Just a few months ago, at the Great American Beer Festival in Colorado, Carlsbad's Pizza Port took home the prizes for large brewpub and large brewpub brewer of the year. And in 2009, *Mev's Journal* magazine ranked us the best beer town in the U.S. over Portland and New York.

But in San Diego, nothing is official until Mayor Jerry Sanders

gives his approval, and during yesterday's San Diego Brewers Guild Festival, the mayor recognized the important role beer plays in the city.

"San Diego beer has become one of the city's focal points," Sanders said moments after tapping a cask of licorice stout to rousing cheers. "When you're doing something that attracts people to the city, it helps the economy. That can only be a good thing and I'm happy to support it."

The outdoor celebration, held

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A large variety of local beers flowed Saturday at the S.D. Brewers Guild Festival. EARNIE GRAFTON - U-T PHOTOS

BEER • More than 400 events scheduled through Nov. 14

FROM B1

at Point Loma's Liberty Station, attracted more than 3,000 people to meet with brewers and sample ales, IPAs, pilsners and other varieties. It was also the official kickoff to San Diego Beer Week - a citywide event that actually goes on for 10 days, not seven. More than 400 beer-related events are scheduled at local bars, restaurants and liquor stores through Nov. 14.

But on Saturday, more than 20 San Diego County brewers including Lost Abbey, AleSmith and the granddaddy of them all, Karl Strauss, gathered in one place along with beer-related vendors of merchandise such as beer-filled cupcakes and doggy beer bones. Attendees paid \$35 for a glass and what was supposed to be 10 tastes of beer, though no one was keeping tabs.

Among those enjoying

the offerings were Chad Newell, Mark Hilgers and Derek Lemons. The self-proclaimed beer geeks belong to a group that tastes, discusses and even dissects the ingredients in beer.

"I think the reason I like beer so much is because I'm a scientist," said Hilgers. "I understand the process of how it's made."

Lemons, a fellow scientist, interrupted.

"Anything fermented is



Hamish Yuile plays his drum Saturday with the rest of the Ballast Point Pipe and Drum band.

something I want to put in my body," he said.

Because it's only in its second year, the festival had that kind of playful, community feel where everyone seemed to know each other.

But Adam Carbonell, president of the San Diego Brewers Guild, sees the Brewers Guild Festival growing into something bigger - for both the brewers

and the city.

"This event gives our brewers an opportunity to showcase what they're doing and to prosper," he said. "Which is important during this economic downtime. The whole thing has been pretty grass-roots, but we've already getting people coming in from out of town. I've been getting calls from people that are from Arizona and Idaho asking me for directions from

Happening today

The Carlsbad Village Street Fair, one of the largest outdoor festivals in California, goes from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. today along Grand Avenue.

In honor of clocks turning back, the Gaslamp Quarter hosts a free Fall Back Festival from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. today at 410 Island Ave.

The Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure 5K Run/Walk begins at 8 a.m. today in Balboa Park.

their hotels."

Whether the Brewers Guild Festival becomes San Diego's next Comic-Con remains to be seen. But local food and beer blogger, Amy Granite, thinks it just might.

"Craft beer is San Diego's legacy," she said. "Eventually everyone will jump on the bandwagon."