



Travels with the Beerhunter

Dale VanWieren #519

16 Mile Brewing Co.



Historically, beer was only brewed in northern Delaware, a stone's throw from the Pennsylvania border. Then came off-centered beer for off-centered people. The Milton plant of Dogfish Head Craft Brewery is now the nation's 22nd largest craft brewery and 33rd largest brewery over all. Next, the Anheuser-Busch affiliated Fordham Brewing Co. relocated from Annapolis MD to Dover, later to have Old Dominion ripped from the heart of Virginia and merged into its production. In April of 2009, yet another joined the party south of the canal, the 16 Mile Brewing Company in Georgetown DE.

In the early days of the nation, Georgetown was considered "16 miles from anywhere" in the county, thus the name. Area natives Chad Campbell and Brett McCrea met when home brewer Brett was looking for a home to brew in and connected with home brewer / realtor Chad. Chad was minding the store on the Friday afternoon we rolled in. He served up samples of their three brews while telling us about their business. "Obviously, the summer months present tremendous sales opportunities at the beach,

but we've been steadily building up year round accounts." While Sam Calagione can claim a large amount of credit for making bizarre beer part of the country's menu, Chad and

Brett stick to the fundamentals with *Blue's Golden Ale*, *Old Court Ale*, and *Amber Sun Ale*. The brews are far from mundane however. I thought all three ranked among the best session beers I've had in years, and I would eagerly buy them if they were available in Pennsylvania. The beer may not be sold outside Delaware and several counties in Maryland, but their containers will no doubt circulate worldwide among collectors. All three brews are sold in 22 ounce aluminum bottles!



The 16 Mile Brewery, 413 S. Bedford Street, Georgetown DE is open to the public Tuesday through Friday 10-6 and Saturdays 10-2. And of course, you wouldn't go all that way without visiting the Dogfish Head Craft Brewery, 6 Cannery Village Center, Milton, DE. 11 miles and about 20 minutes separate the two. Their public hours vary, but are pretty much the same as 16 Mile's. Fordham has yet to open its doors to the public. 🍷

