



My Drift

Title: Beer Research Project

Written by: Jerry D. Petersen

Date: 5 June 2020

Article Number: 334-2020-12

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the state of Hawaii closed all bars and restaurants on Friday, 20 March 2020. Since I can't go to one of my favorite bars for a few cold ones, I found myself drinking a lot more beer at home. On Saturday, 21 March, while watching a seven-year old basketball game and drinking a few Coors Lights, I decided it was time to check out a few new beers. In my outside patio refrigerator, I had about a dozen Coors Lights and about a dozen Miller Lites. My beer of choice for the last 30 or so years is Coors Light. My son Mike likes Miller Lite, so I keep some in my refrigerator just in case he comes over to the house.

So, for this important Beer Research Project, I will buy a variety of different beers to rate and to see if I can find a beer or two that I like better than Coors Light. Minimum sample size was eight 12-ounce (or more) cans or bottles. This project ends when the bars open again in Hawaii.



Wailea Beach Resort - Marriott, Maui – The Bar is Closed

JERRY'S BEER RATING SYSTEM

(I LIKE ALL BEERS BUT SOME MORE THAN OTHERS SO I WILL RATE BEERS ON THE FOLLOWING SCALE (1 TO 5 STARS))

1 STAR WORTH TRYING BUT IT HAS A FUNNY TASTE

2 STARS IT'S OKAY BUT I WON'T BE STOCKING MY FRIDGE WITH IT

3 STARS IT'S GOOD AND I WILL DRINK IT ONCE IN A WHILE

4 STARS VERY GOOD AND I WILL ORDER IT AT THE LOCAL BARS

5 STARS EXCELLENT – GREAT TASTE – I'M GOING TO GET MORE

Coors Light



Alcohol by Volume

Calories / Carbs

Primary brewing location

Manufacturer

Introduced

Type of Beer

Color

Nickname

Advertising Slogan

4.2%

102 / 5g per 12 oz can

Golden, Colorado

Coors Brewing Company

1978

American Adjunct Lager*

Silver Bullet

‘Coors Light is always lagered, filtered, and packaged cold’



My Taste Rating
Very Good

Tastes good – Easy to drink



***Note:** The difference between a regular lager and an adjunct lager is that adjunct lagers use non-malt ingredients such as corn or rice.

Miller Lite



Alcohol by Volume	4.2%
Calories / Carbs	96 / 3.2g per 12 oz can
Primary brewing location	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Manufacturer	Miller Brewing Company
Introduced	1973 (First light beer)
Type of Beer	Light pilsner
Color	
Advertising slogan	'Great Taste, Less Filling'



My Taste Rating
Very Good

More "Body" than most light beers
★★★★★

Natural Light



Alcohol by Volume	4.2%
Calories / Carbs	95 / 3.2g per 12 oz can
Primary brewing location	St. Louis, Missouri
Manufacturer	Anheuser-Busch
Introduced	1977
Type of Beer	Light lager
Color	
Nickname	Natty
Advertising slogan	'Act natural with Natty Light'



95
CALORIES
3.2
CARBS
✓
SPELLING
CHAMPION



96
CALORIES
3.2
CARBS
X
SPELLING
CHAMPION

NATTY LIGHT
ONE LESS CALORIE. BETTER AT SPELLING

My Taste Rating
Good

Easy to drink like Coors Light
★★★

Kirin Ichiban



Alcohol by Volume	5%
Calories / Carbs	145 / 12.1g per 12 oz can
Primary brewing location	Tokyo, Japan
Manufacturer	Kirin Brewery Company
Introduced	1888
Type of Beer	Japanese Rice Lager
Color	
Advertising slogan	'Premium quality begins with our unique first press brewing process'



My Taste Rating
Excellent

Great beer with no after taste



Heineken



Alcohol by Volume	5%
Calories / Carbs	154 / 13g per 12 oz can
Country of origin	Netherlands
Introduced	1873
Type of Beer	Pale lager
Color	
Nickname	'Prasini' – Greek for Green
Advertising slogan	'Open your World'



My Taste Rating
Very Good

It is very good, but a little bit bitter



Pabst Blue Ribbon



Alcohol by Volume	5%
Calories / Carbs	144 / 12g per 12 oz can
Primary brewing location	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Manufacturer	Pabst Brewing Company
Introduced	1844
Type of Beer	American lager
Color	

History of Name: Pabst beer was first brewed by Gottlieb and Frederika Pabst using nature's finest hops and grains. It was selected as America's Best beer in 1893 and renamed Pabst Blue Ribbon.

My Taste Rating
Good

A good affordable American beer



Guinness



Alcohol by Volume	4.3%
Calories / Carbs	196 / 13g per 16 oz can
Country of origin	Ireland
Introduced	1759
Type of Beer	Irish stout beer
Color	Dark Ruby Red <i>The deep color and caramelized flavor that are characteristic of Guinness come from barley that has been roasted but not malted.</i>



My Taste Rating
Good

Too heavy for my drinking habits



PACIFICO



Alcohol by Volume	4.5%
Calories / Carbs	140 / 13.6g per 12 oz can
Primary brewing location	Mazatlán, State of Sinaloa, México
Manufacturer	Pacífico brewery
Introduced	1899
Type of Beer	Mexican pilsner-style beer
Color	



My Taste Rating
Excellent

Great beer and Pacifico Draft is
even better



Sapporo



Alcohol by Volume	4.9%
Calories / Carbs	154 / 13g per 12 oz can
First brewing location	Sapporo, Japan
Manufacturer	Sapporo Breweries Ltd.
Introduced	1876 (Oldest beer in Japan)
Type of Beer	Japanese Lager
Ingredients	Sapporo Beer is made up of malted barley, water, yeast, hops, and rice.
Color	



My Taste Rating
Excellent

Great beer with body and taste



I thought it might be a good idea to try a Hawaii beer for this project. While at COSTCO, I purchased this special case with three different beers from Kona Brewery. It had 8 Big Wave, 8 Gold Cliff IPA, and 8 Longboard beers.



The Kona Brewing Company is located in the town of Kona on the Big Island

Big Wave



Alcohol by Volume
Calories / Carbs
Introduced
Type of Beer
Color
My Taste Rating
Not Good

4.4%

132 / 10g per 12 oz can

1995

Golden Ale

Tastes funny to me



Gold Cliff IPA



Alcohol by Volume
Calories / Carbs
Introduced
Type of Beer
Color
My Taste Rating
Fair to Good

7.2%

211 / 15.6g per 12 oz can

2018

American IPA (India Pale Ale)

Brewed with tropical pineapples

Powerful and not too bad for an Ale



Longboard



Alcohol by Volume
Calories / Carbs
Introduced
Type of Beer
Color
My Taste Rating
Good

4.6%

173 / 4g per 12 oz can

2010

Island Lager

Good but not great – easy to drink



Foster's



Alcohol by Volume	5%
Calories / Carbs	193 / 17.6g per 12 oz can
Original brewing location	Melbourne, Australia
Primary brewing location	Fort Worth, Texas
Introduced	1888
Type of Beer	Pale Lager
Color	
Advertising Ad	"Australian for Beer"



My Taste Rating
Very Good

A very good strong beer
★★★★

Beck's



Alcohol by Volume	5%
Calories / Carbs	143 / 9g per 12 oz can
Primary brewing location	Bremen in Northern Germany
Manufacturer	Beck's Brewery
Introduced	1873
Type of Beer	Pilsner
Ingredients	Beck's beer is made from only barley, hops, yeast and water.
Color	



My Taste Rating
Excellent

Germany has some great beers
★★★★★

Budweiser



Alcohol by Volume	5%
Calories / Carbs	145 / 10.6g per 12 oz can
Primary brewing location	Anheuser-Busch, St. Louis
Introduced	1876
Type of Beer	American Lager
Color	
Advertising Ad	"King of Beers"
Ingredients	Barley malt, rice, water, hops



My Taste Rating
Excellent

An excellent great tasting beer



Rolling Rock



Alcohol by Volume	4.4%
Calories / Carbs	132 / 10g per 12 oz can/bottle
Primary brewing location	Latrobe, PA
Introduced	1939
Type of Beer	Extra Pale Lager
Ingredients	Malt, rice, hops, corn, yeast, and water in glass lined tanks.
Color	



My Taste Rating
Very Good

Very good beer



My Beer Drinking History

I have a long and distinguished beer drinking career. Since I turn 80 years old in a couple of months (as of this writing), I may have a little trouble remembering some things that happened in my younger years. In fact, there were many days in my younger years that I had trouble remembering what happened the night before. But I will give it a shot.

The first time I remember drinking beer was with my best friends Lew and Benny when we were about ten years old. We would steal some beer (or wine or whiskey) and go drink it in Benny's family apple orchard. We had fun! My dad used to make his own beer on occasion, and I would take a few bottles to the apple orchard to drink with my friends. This beer was not the best tasting beer in the world but back in those days we didn't know any better.

I grew up in a small town in Utah where the official drinking age is 21 but the unofficial drinking age for beer was/is 18. The only bar in town was (and still is) the Pool Hall (Star Saloon) and this is where I learned how to play pool and drink beer with the big boys. My first beer of choice back then was regular Coors. Come to think of it, light beer had not even been invented yet.



Then it was off to college in the fall of 1958. I attended the University of Utah in Salt Lake City on a basketball scholarship. I stayed in the dorm where they put all the athletes on campus. Those of you that think basketball and football players don't drink and smoke and party have never stayed in an athletic dorm. On top of that, some of us joined a fraternity on campus that catered to the jocks. Every weekend there was a big party at the fraternity where we would drink beer by the keg. I got pretty good at chugging beer by the mug. In fact, I won most chugging contests since I could drink a 20 oz mug in less than 3 seconds. Since the college was only 40 miles from my home and I had a car (1953 Ford) my parents purchased for me, I could go home whenever I needed a good meal and to get my dirty clothes washed.



After college, I joined the Navy and went to Boot Camp in San Diego. I was there for over two months with no beer. After that, I was stationed at the Naval Air Station in New Iberia, Louisiana for 5 months. I can't remember what kind of beer I drank in Louisiana at that time. Then I went to weather school at Lakehurst Naval Base in New Jersey. One of the instructors was a Navy Chief and a bartender in town. I spent a lot of time at that bar playing pool, darts, and shuffleboard. My beer of choice then was Rolling Rock. The Navy kept me at Lakehurst for another year and a half so that I could play basketball on the weather school and the base teams.

Finally, the Navy decided it was time for me to go to work so they sent me to Naval Air Station Port Lyautey in Morocco, Africa to work at the Fleet Weather Central. I can't remember what brand I drank there. After a few months, they moved the Fleet Weather Central to Rota, Spain. Just for the record, I hated Morocco and loved Spain. I spent almost two years in Spain (I got extended there because of the Cuba missile crisis) and it was great. The beer and wine were excellent – I mostly drank San Miguel beer.



After I got out of the Navy in 1966, I got a job with the Federal Government at Tooele Army Depot in Tooele, Utah and became a Computer Programmer. I went back to drinking regular Coors until I got the job at Fort Shafter in Honolulu, Hawaii. During my early years in Hawaii, I drank Primo and Olympia beer. Both were good but not great.



As part of my job at Fort Shafter, I performed a lot of TDY over the years. I went all over the United States for computer training and big part of the world for TDY work. I made the most trips to South Korea and Japan. During the last few years of my government career, I visited Okinawa and Alaska several times. While in Japan, I usually drank Kirin beer – this beer was part of my beer study. Here are a few beers from the other places:



OB (Oriental Brewery)
South Korea



SINGHA
Thailand



ALASKAN
Alaska



ORION
Okinawa

So, why did I start drinking Coors Light? Well, I started drinking Coors Light in the mid-1980s shortly after I joined a bowling team at Fort Shafter Lanes. We bowled every Wednesday night from 6pm to about 8:30pm. Sometimes I would take Wednesday afternoon off and go to a bar to drink and play pool or Cribbage with a bowling friend. We would drink and play until about 5pm and then head to the bowling alley. I'm pretty sure that drinking beer is a standard requirement for all bowlers. At about 9pm it would be time to drive the 14 miles to my home in Mililani. Some nights after drinking beer for 8 or 9 hours, I

would feel a little bit drunk. I decided that it might be a good idea to switch to a “light” beer. I was not about to give up my enjoyable Wednesday afternoons and bowling with friends. I tried a few light beers and decided I liked Coors Light the best and have been drinking it every since.



Cribbage



Fort Shafter Bowling Center

After drinking beer for almost 70 years all over the world, I think I might be qualified to judge a few beers from the local market while the bars are closed, and I’m trying to stay home due to the Hawaii Coronavirus Stay-at-Home order.

Here is a recap of the beers I tested

Domestic	Foreign
Coors Light	Guinness
Miller Lite	Heineken
Natural Light	Kirin
Past Blue Ribbon	Pacifico
Longboard	Sapporo
Big Wave	Foster’s
Gold Cliff IPA	Beck’s
Budweiser	**
Rolling Rock	2 Pale lagers
**	2 Lagers with rice
1 lager with rice	2 Pilsners*
4 Light lager beers	1 Stout
2 Regular lager beers	
2 Ales	

*** Pilsner is a type of Lager, but a bit lighter in color and with a strong spicy flavor.**

As you can see from the above recap, I tested 9 domestic (US) beers and 7 foreign beers. I'm afraid I didn't buy the best domestic beers (except for Budweiser) for this test so the results might not look good for the good ole USA. However, I found out that most of these so-called foreign beers are actually brewed in the US.

Let's get on with it – here is how I ranked the 16 beers with my comments:

#16 Big Wave – This is a Golden Ale that has a strong bitter fruity taste that I didn't like. I did finish all 8 cans and would drink this brand again if it was the only beer left on earth.

#15 Gold Cliff IPA – This India Pale Ale (made in Hawaii) was pretty good but I could still taste a hint of that nasty bitter ale. However, if you want to get high fast, this is the beer to drink since it has an alcohol content of 7.2%.

#14 Guinness – This dark stout beer is too stout for me. This beer is special for a lot of people, but I could not drink more than a couple of cans of this black heavy beer at a sitting. I was surprised to find out it has only a 4.3% alcohol content.

#13 Pabst Blue Ribbon – This American lager beer is good. Over the years, I have purchased and drank Pabst Blue Ribbon several times. The 12 pack I purchased at Safeway cost \$9 dollars. Most of the other beers for his study cost around \$14 for a 12 pack. Pabst is a bargain!

#12 Longboard – This is a Hawaii larger beer that I thought was good but not great. If I ever drink more beer from the Kona Brewing Company, it will be Longboard.

#11 Natural Light – This light lager is a popular Anheuser-Busch brand but not as popular as Bud Light. It was easy to drink, and I could probably drink it all day and still drive home. If they ever stop making Coors Light, this beer may become my beer of choice – I like it better than Bud Light.

#10 Heineken – This pale lager may be one of the world's most popular beers, but it has a slight bitter taste. Heineken is a good beer but not my favorite.

#9 Rolling Rock – This extra pale lager tastes like a light beer but has a real kick to it.

#8 Miller Lite – This Light pilsner is the original American light beer. It has more body than most other light beers I have tried. It is good and sometimes I drink it at home even when my son is not there.

#7 Coors Light – This American lager tastes good to me and it is easy to drink. Hey, I know that some of my friends don't think "light" beer is real beer, but I like it. Besides, I'm not rating it #1 – there are better beers.

#6 Foster's – This pale lager tastes a little strong but good. I always thought this beer come from Australia. Nope! It is originally from Australia, but it is now brewed in Fort Worth, Texas.

THE 5-STAR BEERS FOLLOW

#5 Beck's – This Pilsner is an excellent beer. Germany has many great beers as I found out during my visit there in 1990. The Zweibrucken area is very scenic and me and my boss Art had a great time with our good friends who were living and working in Germany. The Pils keg draft beer was especially good!



Oktoberfest in Munich, Germany is the biggest beer festival in the world!

#4 Pacifico – This Mexican pilsner-style beer is excellent. I first started drinking Pacifico draft beer at a Mexican restaurant in Mililani called 'Just Tacos'. The beer was very cold, and I thought it was the best draft beer I ever had. Mexico has several top selling beers here in the US, but I don't plan on drinking that beer called Corona since it would remind me of a certain virus we are all trying to forget.



Cinco De Mayo Celebration

#3 Budweiser – It has been several years since I had a Bud and I guess I forgot how good this beer is. I will be stocking my fridge with more Budweiser.



#2 Kirin – This Japanese Rice Lager beer is the brand I used to drink when TDY in Japan. It is an excellent beer with a little more body than most lagers.



Kirin Beer in Japan

AND THE #1 BEST TASTING BEER IN MY RESEARCH PROJECT IS -

#1 Sapporo – This Japanese lager is one of the most popular beers in Japan along with Kirin and Asahi Super Dry. I don't know why I didn't try this brand of beer on one of my many trips to Japan. The only reason I purchased Sapporo for this study is my wife sent to MARUKAI Wholesale Mart for some Japanese food and Sapporo was on sale for \$10 a 12-pack. I really liked this beer and will be stocking my fridge with it to drink at home.



The City of Sapporo, Japan – Main Street

Well, I would have never guessed that the top two beers in my study would have come from Japan. Maybe it is the rice they put into the beer? Do you think? Have you tried Kirin and/or Sapporo? If not, you might like them!

Beer Quiz Time

Take your best guess on the Top 10 Selling Beers in the World?

What brand is the most popular beer in the world?

I know a lot about beer, but I have never even heard of the winning brand!

Here are the Top 10 Beer Brands in the world -

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| #10 Coors Light | #9 Corona | #8 Yanjing |
| #7 Harbin | #6 Heineken | #5 Skol |
| #4 Bud Light | #3 Tsingtao | #2 Budweiser |

**The world's top selling beer is a pale lager sold only in China
(A can of Snow Beer costs 3.55 Chinese Yuan or about 50 cents \$US)**



#1 Snow

Well, did you get the right answer? I doubt it. In fact, four of the top 10 selling brands in the world are from China. You probably knew this fact but there are a lot of people in China and it seems most of them like to drink beer.

Conclusion

I'm a firm believer in the fact that beer is a healthy drink. I'm living proof!

Most of Hawaii's restaurants are open again (on June 5th) and I know some of you are wondering what brand I will be drinking. Most of the bars I go to don't serve Kirin or Sapporo or Pacifico or Beck's, so I will stick to Coors Light. At home, I will definitely be drinking more Japanese beer along with Budweiser, Pacifico, and Beck's.

Statistics. Okay, I know that a few of you have your calculators out trying to figure out how many beers I drank during the restaurant and bar shutdown. Let me help you out. The total number of beers consumed by me was exactly 192 during this period which was exactly 76 days. Doing the math - that equals approximately 2.5 beers per day. There were a few days that I didn't have any beer at all and a few days where I had a few more than the average.

One thing for sure - those 192 beers made the "coronavirus home quarantine" a lot more bearable.

CHEERS!!

Bigdrifter44@gmail.com

Bigdrifter.com