



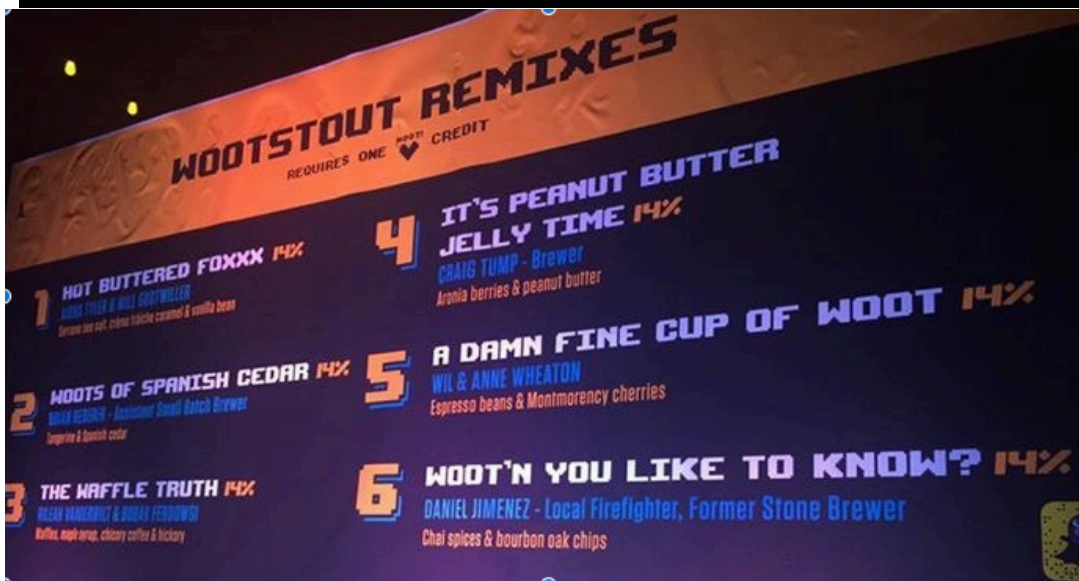
Creative inspirations, craft beers, and live music brings together a unique bunch of people in a way that makes for one of the best annual events at San Diego Comic Con. This is not your average beer festival held in a park or field somewhere with pop up tents displaying

beers featuring several different breweries. This is an **"annual celebration of nth-degree beer geekery"** Stone Brewery hosts HOP CON at their World Bistro & Gardens - Liberty Station "66,000 square feet are dedicated to the convergence of geek

culture and beer culture." What makes this a geek event rather than an average beer festival? This event gathers writers, artists, comedians, creators and brewmasters into one place where they combine their talents and create unique craft beers. The

brewmasters are on hand at the event so guests can chat with them about the creative genius behind the merriment in their glass. The result-- "six casks of full barrel-strength w00tstout (14%), each aged for 40 days with unique ingredients."





Aisha Tyler and Will Gustwiller teamed up with HOT BUTTERED FOXXX 14% Serrano sea salt, crème fraîche caramel, and vanilla bean. This beer is DELICIOUS! A thick and sweet dessert in a pint glass that leaves you feeling giddy! It is intended to be sipped slowly; a decadent treat that opens up and develops as the heat in your hands wake up the elements and swirl into action.

I was looking forward to talking to the brewmasters and hearing about their craft beer making techniques. One of my favorite experiences at this event happened a couple years ago when I got to talk to Bobak "Mohawk Guy" Ferdowski- He is a systems engineer at NASA- YES, he landed the ROVER on MARS! He is very interesting and showed his genius geek vs

brewmaster side when he developed a beer that he named Galileo's Four Moon Brew- a jalapeño and cucumber blonde ale. I was incredibly intrigued with this concept! Being a wine geek, I immediately assess a drink by the way it smells and then I imagine what flavors it will have based on the scents I pick up. No surprise that the overly dominate scent in the glass was jalapeño and that made me a little nervous. I slowly put the glass to my lips and tipped it back fast thinking "here we go- this is going to burn" To my complete surprise my mouth watered with a cool sensation of cucumber! Brilliant!

The greatest part about this event is the people that you meet. Everyone is on equal ground and appreciated for their creative

talents; stars are not flocked over and hounded for autographs, instead- everyone is able to share creative ideas and learn something new from a fellow craft beer loving nerd while twisting around the grounds in long lines inching towards the casks for another fill of a new beer from the cask. I ended the evening with my new friends. David and Danielle, twins from Tampa Bay Florida- they were in town for Comic Con and had me laughing the entire evening. Craft Beers, Intellectuals, and Laughs- what a perfect evening!



We should be able to experience many things in life and not be limited to only one goal. If something sounds interesting, you should explore that opportunity, no matter how foreign it may seem to you at the time. A frog navigating her way across the pond needs to hop over may lily pads. She may not be able to see the length of the pond beyond each lily pad, so hopping across each one leads her closer to a new passion. That is how I feel about my adventures. Each one is a lily pad of curiosity that has led me to a new passion that I never knew I would ever be interested in pursuing.

