

LIBATIONS ON THE LOOP

Hertford's Craft Beers and Specialty Wines

By Claude Milot

Sailors can wet their whistles in many friendly places on the Loop, but two of them are only 100 yards from Hertford Bay Marina.



The town's most popular watering hole is Grubb Street's Hertford Bay Tap House, a venture so new it didn't even have a sign outside when I got a tour of the place back in January from owner Steve Gunther. But patrons have been flocking to it without needing directions. Besides popular domestic bottled beers, Steve has 12 taps for craft beers and two for hard cider. He also offers wine by the bottle or by the glass. The bar does not provide food but encourages patrons to call for deliveries from nearby restaurants. To liven things up, Steve features Trivia on Tuesday, Karaoke on Thursday, Open Mike on Friday, and live music on Saturday. For diversion the main section of the bar has shuffle board, foosball, and golf games, plus six televisions. It's no wonder fun-loving customers stay into the wee hours.



If you're looking for a place to stock up on beer and wine, walk around the corner from the Tap House and check out Barley & Vine on Church Street, historic Hertford's main drag. Opened on Valentine's Day it retails craft beers and specialty wines you would not find in your local supermarket. It also sells a variety of specialty items such as glassware, candles, and crafts. And, if you drop in on a Sunday afternoon, owners Jim and Sharon Smith will probably invite you to sit down and sample their wines to the sounds of live piano music.

While in Hertford, stop at the Chamber of Commerce only a short block away from Barley & Vine and visit the Jim "Catfish" Hunter Museum dedicated to Hertford's favorite son and member of the Baseball Hall of Fame. You will be amazed at the museum's collection of baseball memorabilia. But watch out for Sid Eley, the Chamber's director. He was a personal friend of Jim Hunter and will talk your ear off about him for as long as you let him.

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Additional Notes:

Local knowledge for approach to Albemarle Plantation Marina can be found at <http://albemarleloop.com/videos.html> : and "[Albemarle Plantation Entrance Video - view the actual navigational courses and markers for entering the channel to Albemarle Plantation Marina](#)"

Additional Notes: Local knowledge for approach to Hertford Bay Marina:

A waterborne visit to Hertford requires a long, upstream trek on the beautiful Perquimans River. This stream breaks off from the northern shores of Albemarle Sound, west of Little River, and east of Yeopim River.

The Perquimans River is a gentle stream usually seen by only a few fishermen plying the waters in their small skiffs. It has just about everything cruisers could ask for except marina facilities. The river is deep almost to its shoreline and offers no navigational difficulties. It takes a heavy blow to raise a rough chop on the Perquimans. Generally, wave conditions are ideal for larger pleasure craft. The banks are lined with untouched belts of cypress and hardwood trees, broken here and there by picturesque homes. West, northwest of Barrow Point, you must cruise under the fixed, US Highway 17 Bypass bridge, with a mere 33 feet of vertical clearance. This span will not hinder a visit by most powercraft to Hertford, but for sailors, it is a very different story indeed.