

Charlotte Beer Babes
Bethany Burr : Queen Bee of Charlotte Beer
by: Amanda Dickinson



Michigan native, Bethany Burr moved to Charlotte and has instilled herself in our glorious craft beer scene. When she took over as leader of the Charlotte Beer Babes, Bethany wanted to stay true to the vision that had already been established in the club. The club was founded by Tracie Guild and passed on to Burr in 2014. They wanted to create an environment where women could enjoy and learn about beer without unwanted attention. Women from all over attend the meetings. Everyone from homebrewers, to newbies, to wine drinkers attend. Even Suzie Ford of NoDa Brewing has attended a meeting or two. The Beer Babes started out as a monthly meeting and has grown to include, monthly brewery visits, road trips to out of town breweries, and charity events. Just this year alone, Charlotte Beer Babes assisted in events that raised over \$58,000 for various organizations.

The biggest event that Burr is a part of is Charlotte Oktoberfest. She took over as marketing director last year and it's a huge job. Oktoberfest is one of the largest beer festivals in the southwest. Started by the Carolina BrewMasters 15 years ago, the volunteer only organization has raised over \$400,000 since its inception. This year alone, even with the terrible weather, the festival had over 4,000 people involved and was able to donate \$12,500 each to The Ada Jenkins Center, Beds For Kids, Greater Charlotte SPCA, and Operation Homefront.

Apart from the work Bethany does with the Beer Babes and Oktoberfest, she also volunteers at the USO of North Carolina. Located in the main atrium of the Charlotte Douglas International Airport, the organization provides many services for our troops and their families. The USO offers deployment and homecoming support, reading programs, family meals, computer access, emergency travel support, and numerous other services for the

families of our deployed servicemen and women. The North Carolina USO receives no federal funding or financial support from the national USO. They depend solely on donations, private grants, and volunteers like Bethany to make it work.

If you are interested in The Charlotte Beer Babes, they can be found on Facebook, Twitter, and Meetup. You can always visit the webpage at www.Cltbeerbabes.wordpress.com. Bethany lists all of the upcoming events on these pages.