



BLACK STAR CO-OP

Austin, Texas

I'm going off-script, as we say in the biz. I couldn't get a spot at the bar. Actually, we couldn't get a pair of bar stools at Black Star Co-op because it's too damn crowded.

In return for cheating and taking this shot at a table, I'm delivering a total bonus: Chip Walton. Yes, that is THE Chip Walton, former Austinite and beer columnist for *Directions: The Magazine of the Texas Hill Country*, now of St. Paul, Minnesota, and host and producer of "Chop & Brew."

Chip knows his beer, so when he recommends Black Star's Doctor Vainglory, I order a glass. This sour American pale ale features some of that up-front tangy-tartness that wild ales are famous for, along with a malty spine that holds everything together. It's a perfect libation to catch up with an old frie—oh, wait... did a spot just open up at the bar? Gotta get back to work!

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