



Homebrewers of Peoria

NEXT HOPS MEETING:

Tues. June 12, 6:30pm, Chef John's, Dunlap

(food and beer available for sale...and you can also bring in your own beer!) *You are encouraged to print this newsletter out and bring it to the meeting.*

WHAT'S OLD ON TAP:

Treasurer's Report - We have \$349.60, with around \$80 coming in from the Black & Tan Competition. (Kodie sent me his detailed financial report but I lost it.)

Black & Tan Competition Wrap-Up: Dave S said that he had enough judges this year, and most of the ribbons have been sent out. The only changes that he can see making for next year is to be further away from the food service table, maybe a less noisy spot and to keep the beerfest attendees from using our judging tables for their dinner table! Our Bruce B's Mammoth Ale got a 3rd in our contest...but got a 1st up in Madison. *(He also received a 2nd and 3rd place for his huge and big ales in Madison...good job!)*

AHA Club Only Extract Competition: HOPS recently conducted the Extract Club Only Competition for the American Homebrewers Association.

(They asked several years ago and we said we would.) This is a competition for AHA members to submit Homebrews of a designated style to compete with entries from all over the US and beyond. Each Club can submit only one entry selected from their members any way the Club likes. Entry selection is good as evidenced by only one problematic beer is this whole batch. *(Note: Bruce B. entered his Russian Imperial Stout as the HOPS representative.)*

We got 41 entries. Most followed all the rules. A few wanted variances for themselves, so we granted all who asked. It just added to the number of beers entered. We thought that would not be a problem until we could not get any out of town judges. There were several competitions the weekend before and after ours which put a drain on out of town judges. So we developed a plan for our local judges to judge them all. We had to since there was no other choice.

David S, Melanie and I judged one group Thursday and Friday nights and 2 groups and Best of Show Saturday when Bruce joined us for the first group. Bruce could not judge the second group Saturday because his entry was in that group. This plan did achieve judge uniformity

among each group of judges and it worked well besides judge beer fatigue. Try it if you think it's not hard. We enjoyed the experience but plan to never repeat with so few judges and so many beers.

HOPS

PRESIDENT
John Martin

VICE PRESIDENT
Kevin Sterns

TREASURER/
MAILER
Kodie Brush

TRUSTEES
Don Summers
Kodie Brush

SECRETARY/
EDITOR
Melanie Martin

There were 41 entries in about 10 styles and 25 substyles. They were grouped according to style, strength, bitterness, and other factors into 4 sort of similar groups. We judged each against its style and then took the high scorers and judged them against each other. The strong ones came out on top and that is not unusual in that faults are harder to detect.

We have the recipes and some will be brought to the HOPS meetings in the future along with the results for people to see if interested. The winners will be published. But be careful!! There is no way the BOS (Best of Show) three could have been brewed from the recipe submitted.

Beer Education Wrap-up: John M. gave a talk on water, the main ingredient in beer, and how important it is to test for iron hardness and adjust for pH. Here are a few helpful websites:

- <http://www.google.com/search?source=ig&hl=en&q=Brewing+water>
- <http://hbd.org/brewery/library/wchmprimer.html>
- <http://hbd.org/brewery/Library.html#Water>
- <http://www.goodgulf.com/water.html>

- <http://www.allaboutbeer.com/homebrew/water3.html>

WHAT'S NEW ON TAP:

Summer Picnic: Sun. June 24th, Jubilee Park...see attached flyer on page 5. If you are a new comer...this is a great way to meet members and have some great beers...don't be shy!

cont. on page 4

Somethings Brewn'

401 E. Main St
Galesburg, IL
61401

Proprietors:
Jim and Mary
Smith

Hours:
Mon.-Fri. 12-6pm
Sat. 10am-5pm
Closed Sun.
(309) 341 4118

HOPS Club Members Only: *(with a 10% HOPS membership discount!)*
Website: somethingsbrewn.com. Call Jim the day before the meeting if you'd like him to bring you anything...hint, he can't always make it to the

MONTHLY BEER EDUCATION

(Everyone, who wants to, can participate!!!)

THE PRESENTER: You can sign-up (*see open months below*) for either:

- 1) a **beer style** and present it with commercial versions and one you may have made **or**
- 2) bring in some **intresting/unique beers** we may not have ever had or it's been awhile or
- 3) present an **intresting brewing aspect/equipment** that we all can learn from or
- 4) **introduce us to something you are intresting in** as far as brewing/beers are concerned.



The main idea behind this education is to continue learning about beers. You have a budget of \$20 on the purchase of commercial beers that the club will reimburse you for. Give Kodie B. your receipts.

Here is the education schedule. Choose a month not already taken, select your topic...*(oh and be sure to let the editor know so it makes the schedule!)*

2007

June	Beer Competitions	Bruce B.
July	(open)	???
August	(open)	???
September	(open)	???
October	(open)	???
November	(open)	???
December	(open)	???

2008

January	(open)	???
February	(open)	???
March	(open)	???
April	(open)	???
May	(open)	???

(Don't forget to sign-up for any of the open months with your editor...wanna change? Let her know that too!)

A Monthly Mind Exercise...

BEER EDUCATION: Beer Competitions

Champions: The world of beer competitions

by Kihm Winship

Elaborate presentations, competitors lusting after gold, a glut of medals -- any of this sound familiar? In much the same fashion as other events involving the judging of merit, brewing competitions recognize exceptional beers and provide an incentive for brewers to improve their product. Gold medals, the universal symbol of quality, are the winning brewer's best advertisement.

Because of the high stakes involved in any contemporary beer judging, it's easy to understand why today's brewing competition organizers emphasize the expertise and integrity of their judges, and the sanctity of their private tastings. But these competitions also open the door to a world of flights, duplicates, marker beers, code masters and the thorny issue of hedonics vs. style.

Beer judging used to be far less complicated. In the early days of commercial brewing, the judging of beer was largely confined to casual conversations among those who had tasted various beers in the places where they were made.

In the late Middle Ages and early Renaissance, these fireside chats focused on cities and beer styles. Wayfarers might discuss the wheat beers of Hamburg, the ales of Yorkshire or the celebrated Braunschweig Mumme. A few centuries later in the young United States, travelers touted the merits of Albany ale versus Philadelphia porter, with perhaps a word or two about the upstart lager of the German immigrants.

Comparisons pitted style against style until the late 18th century, when brewers gained enough control over the means of production to brew a consistent product on a regular basis. They could now turn their attention to competing with other brewers to win favor with the drinking public. It's obvious why the idea of an organized competition -- in which one's beers could be compared, judged and proclaimed superior -- now became very attractive.

Because beer had been a vital part of markets and fairs for centuries, the fairs and expositions of cities like Munich, Cologne and Vienna were a natural setting for organized judgments. As early as 1803, brewers began taking home medals and pointing to them as proof of their product's quality. In a world without radio or television, the fairs offered brewers their largest audience. Of course, the most avid competitors were those who sought a larger reputation and market for their beer.

Lusting after Gold

The first major US competition was the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876, where Americans sought to equal the great European fairs. Brewers built huge exhibits, gave out souvenirs and entered their beers in the judgments, all to win medals that would impress the public with the superiority of their products. After the Paris Exposition of 1900, an American juror shed light on how many winners these competitions produced. "Out of 681 exhibits,"

⁻²he noted, "we awarded 531 prizes including nine grand prizes, 84

cuz we ol' dogs wanna know more!!!

gold, 222 silver, 165 bronze, 51 diplomas or honorable prizes. America received one gold, nine silver, eight bronze medals and two diplomas."

The numbers can be explained simply enough. Every exposition was dependent upon the participation of industry. The more exhibitors, the greater the attraction, the greater the attendance, the greater the return. It would have been impolite and impolitic to send home an exhibitor, especially one who had brought products and displays from across the Atlantic, without some honor, some quid pro quo for their participation. The judges thus awarded hundreds of prizes, all of which could be used for advertising and promotion.

The St. Louis World's Fair of 1904, also known as the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, was hailed as the grandest of the era. The Pabst Brewing Co., competing in Anheuser-Busch's hometown, paraded a navy- blue brewery wagon drawn by a team of six dapple-gray Percherons in gold-ornamented harness, and entertained fairgoers at the lavish Pabst Jai Alai Cafe & Roof Garden. Not to be outdone, the St. Louis brewers set up a Tyrolean Alps concession complete with mountains, castle and restaurant pavilion. These events were among the first of what has now become an important adjunct to the multimillion- dollar brewing industry. Numerous beer judgments are now hosted around the globe, each with its own individual set of standards and objectives. Here's a look at the world's major brewing competitions:

- * Brewing Industry International Awards
- * Champion Beer of Britain
- * The Australian International Beer Awards
- * The Great American Beer Festival Professional Panel Blind Tasting
- * The World Beer Championships
- * The World Beer Cup
- * Brewery Quality Performance Awards

Medal Fatigue?

The success and proliferation of brewing competitions testifies to the fact that a great many people have something to gain from them. In spite of the talk of "medal fatigue," the judgments, entries and awards continue to increase. What drives the phenomenon? Ego, commerce and a love of beer. Brewmasters labor in obscurity, strive for excellence and appreciate some recognition. An awards ceremony is a chance to travel, visit with far-flung colleagues, eat well, and soak up some well-deserved applause.

Brewery owners and marketers love competitions because awards sell beer. The testimonial is the most powerful form of advertising and a gold medal stands tall, an objective assessment in a world of subjective hype. The more reputable the competition, the more powerful the testimonial.

The judges love competitions because they are honored to be called upon and delighted to spend hours in the company of other brewing professionals drinking beer. (Who wouldn't be?) Organizers love competitions because they are doing the industry a great service,,and can tell everyone else where to sit. Perhaps they also secretly enjoy logistical nightmares and revel in the company of

contentious also-rans.

Finally, beer drinkers love competitions because the awards point the way to wonderful new beers and remind them of classics they haven't enjoyed in years. Unlike the parched travelers of the 1960s and '70s, today's beer drinkers are faced with a dazzling array of beers and beer styles. By sorting out the excellent from the merely good, today's competitions save time and money for the consumer, and elevate the beer- drinking experience for everyone.

This story originally appeared in All About Beer Magazine in November 1996.

AHA Competition:

Results are in...the World's Largest Homebrew Competition Surpassed 5,050 Entries Boulder, Colo. . May 22, 2007 - 1,172 homebrewers from across the US, Canada and even Japan entered 5,052 entries in ten regions for this year's American Homebrewers Association (AHA) National Homebrew Competition. The number of homebrewers entering the competition surpassed last year's entrants (1,067), and the number of entries this year breaks last year's record number of entries (4,548 entries in 2006); indicating the hobby of homebrewing is on the upswing once again.

2007 National Homebrew Competition Facts

- Number of Entries: 5,052 (2006: 4,548)
- Number of Entries that Advanced to 2nd Round: 701 (2006: 639) (All categories except cider are judged in the second round.)
- Number of Categories Evaluated: 28 (2006: 29) (All ciders are judged in one round at a separate cider site.)
- Number of Regional Judging Sites: 10 (2006: 10) (8 U.S. sites, 1 Canadian site, 1 Cider site)
- Number of Brewers Entered: 1,172 (2006: 1,067)

What is the American Homebrewers Association's National Homebrew Competition? *It's the world's largest international competition that recognizes the most outstanding homebrewed beer, mead and cider being produced by amateur brewers worldwide.*

The first round of the competition is judged at 10 regional sites, including a new Mountain Region added this year. The best of beer and mead entries by homebrewers advance to the second round of the competition where they're judged at the AHA National Homebrewers Conference. Winners of the competition are awarded gold, silver or bronze medals in 29 style categories. The American Homebrewers Association is a division of the Brewers Association, established 1978 in Boulder, Colo., U.S.A. In 1979, 34 entries competed in the first National Homebrew Competition held in Boulder, Colo.

Editors Note: HOPs was selected to be one of the AHA judging sites this year. We judged 41 beers in the extract category. Many of the beers will be brought to the June meeting.

CALENDAR OF BEER EVENTS/COMPETITIONS:

In bold are local HOPs events. + = Competition name & date. Dates you submit beers are earlier, check internet for more info

- **HOPs Bus Trip (annual trip, permanent date)Jan. (last Sat.)**
- March Mashness (?) March
- + Iowa Brewers Union Open, IA March (2nd Sat.)
- + Drunk Monk Challenge, Aurora, IL March (2nd Sat.)
- **Jay-Cees Beerfest Peoria April (Fri. & Sat. 3rd**
- + **Black & Tan Competition, Peoria April (3rd Fri.)**
- + Knickerbocker Battle of the Brews (?) April
- + Bay Area Mashers World Cup of Beer (?) April
- + Great Taste of the Mid-West, St. Louis May (2nd Sat.)
- + AHA National Homebrew Competition May (3rd wkend.)
- + Upper Mississippi Mash Out, Minneapolis, MN May (3rd Sat.)
- + BUZZ, Champaign, IL June (first Sat.)
- **HOPs Summer PicnicJune (last Sun.)**
- American Beer month (all month)
- Taste of the Midwest, Madison, WI Aug. (2nd Sat.)
- Sprecher's Fest, Milwaukee, WI Labor Day weekend
- Autumn Brew Review, Minneapolis, MN Sept. (1st Sat.)
- + Brew HA-HA, Davenport, IA Sept. (last wkend)
- + Iowa City Brewfest, IA Sept.
- Bloomington Brewfest, IL Sept.(last wkend)
- **HOPs Fall Picnic Oct.(1st Sun.)**
- Quivey Grove Beer Festival, Madison, WI Oct. (1st Sat.)
- + Thirsty Homebrew Classic, Amana, IA Nov. (1st Sat.)
- + Land of the Muddy Waters, QC, IL Nov. (3rd Sat.)
- **HOPs Holiday party Dec. (date TBD)**
- + Happy Holiday HomeBrew, St. Louis Dec. (2nd Sat.)
- + Foam of the Range (?) (date unknown)

Minutes - cont. from page 1

Membership News: Welcome newcomers Les & Erica Ridge, it's always good to see new faces. **FYI dues are due...\$18 for existing members, new members get the first year free!** Give money/check to Kodie B. *Editors goof, I forgot to welcome new member Jason Stark at our April meeting...my apologies!*

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF:

Ask Dr. Langlapp*: *(Pass your brewing questions through the HOPs email. Q&As will be reprinted in the newsletter.)* **Brewing Tips:** Use gin in your fermentation lock...also, taste your beer after every step of the brewing process...it should taste good. If it's good, good, good then bad, you have localized the part of the process where you need to improve. (*"a little bit more for nothing.")

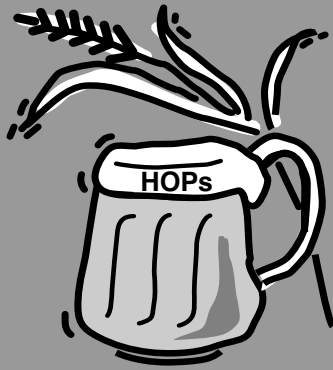
Your beers always welcome: Bring some to the meetings and strut your stuff all over the bar tables, or ask to see if someone can offer tips for improvement. Don't be shy...we're here to help everyone become a better beer maker.

Had any good beers or been to an interesting pubs, beer functions or liquor stores lately??? *Send me your new finds and I'll help pass the word.*

BEER EDUCATION NEXT MEETING: With all the beer competitions we've had lately, Bruce B. will discuss competitions and how to enter. Even if you don't compete, you will pick up tips & tricks to help you brew a better batch. Plus John M. will bring along several of the beers judged at the Black & Tan as well as the AHA competition. Each competitor must enter 2 bottles each. If their's moves on to best of show, the 2nd bottle is opened. If it doesn't, the bottles are left over. Come see what the "other guy" is entering...even if they didn't win in their category. Who knows, you might be encouraged to enter a competition some day!

BEER HOPPERS SOCIAL: 4th Tues. of the month at 6:30...location to be decided at each meeting prior...an email reminder will be sent out just prior to the event. Last month we went to Euro Jack's...it was just OK...

NOTES:



Homebrewers of Peoria

HOPs Summer Picnic

Sunday • June 23, 2007 • 12 noon - ?

Jubilee Park • Bowwood Glen Picnic Area*

*(*if the weather's bad, go to the Praire Lane Picnic Area instead...there's a covered area, and is just around the corner from Bowwood Glen.)*

Take (I-474 to 150 turn west, go past Kickapoo) or (I-74 to exit 82 follow state signs to Jubilee Park) it will be on your right. Once in the park, follow paper plate signs (HOPs) to Bowwood Glen picnic area.

WHY???

This is HOPs' Annual Summer Picnic

Everyone is invited! HOPs members, spouses, families, beer lovers and guests for a day in the park with good food, beer and fun people!

Don't forget to bring a beer or 6 to share...all homebrews and unusual store bought welcomed.

There's a great area for kids to romp around and Kodie usually brings his Washer Game for the adults.

WHAT to BRING???

It's a **BEER CLUB PICNIC**, so don't forget to bring **BEER!!!**

There's a **BBQ** so everyone is encouraged to bring their own something to grill and a **POTLUCK** to share.

HOPs will provide all the paper plates, knives, forks, spoons and napkins.

Did I forget to mention...**BRING BEER???**

(If you want something...bring it!)

Up-Coming Clubs Events & Meetings

This is your newsletter...want to contribute??? Please email me anytime at:
melaniehg@yahoo.com • fax: 309 249-4109 • ph: 309 249-4409

HOPs Beer Club meeting dates:

2nd Tuesday of each month • 6:30pm • Guests are more than welcome!
Chef John's • 1719 W. Woodside Dr. (next to *Wheels of Time Museum* • 2 mi. N of Rte. 6) • Dunlap
Website: <http://hop.bradley.edu/>

BEERHOPPERS

Monthly Dinner & Beer Social - Bring your family/friends

4th Tuesday of each month • 6:30pm

An email will be sent out for this month's location or consult the HOPs email

HOPs Beer Club Annual Picnics/Parties/etc.

HOPs Annual Picnics - last Sunday in June and first Sunday in October

HOPs Holiday Party - December (flexible date)

Winter Bus Trip - last Saturday in January

Other local Homebrew Club meetings:

ABNORMAL HOME BREWERS

2nd Mon. of each month • 7:30-9:30pm

Fat Jacks • 511 N. Main • Bloomington

(309) 829-2805

GALESBURG HOMEBREWERS ASSOCIATION

2nd Sat. of each month • 3:00-5:00pm

Somthings Brewin' • 401 E. Main St. • Galesburg

(309) 241-4118

Join "HOPs" Beer Club

(Homebrewers of Peoria)

Interested in joining a club of beer-making fools? Find yourself obsessing about beer and don't have anybody to talk to? Want to learn how to make beer in your own but don't know how to start? Or do you just want to get together once a month to drink and talk beer?

Dues are an obsessively cheap \$18 a year...with the first year FREE. Dues include this newsletter, a monthly place where you can do one or all of the above mentioned desires PLUS various parties, picnics, socials and a beer tasting bus trip thrown in.

Fill-out this form and bring to any of our meetings, every 2nd Tuesday of the month.
Guests are more than welcome to visit and check us out.

Yes! I want to join HOPs!

Name: _____

Street/Apt: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone #: _____

Email: _____