

WHAT'S BREWING?

Worts of Wisdom Homebrewers

August, 2000

The Next Meeting

The next WoW meeting will be at the Tied House brewpub on Wednesday August 30 at 7:30 PM. The Mountain View Tied House is at 954 Villa in downtown Mountain View. It is just over 1 block "North" of Castro (the main drag) on Villa, which is the second block from Central. If you turn on Bryant you can park in a big lot right behind the Tied House. The back patio will be on your right after you go up the ramp. Here is a map:



We probably will meet in the back patio. Those who want can have dinner and everybody can just drink some Tied House beer. There may even be some of Randy Fishel's traditional bock left. We will recap the Small Brewers Festival, greet any visitors, and have

the usual socializing. We will discuss club participation at the NCHF and other club activities. Depending upon the setting, noise level and time, we may have a tech talk on selected brewing process topics and calculations.

President's Ruminations

Peter Torgrimson

Hey, we have survived another Small Brewers Festival! See John Watson's article elsewhere in this newsletter. Thank you, John, for taking the lead on this very successful event:

- Good beer entries. Some of it was better than a lot of the commercial beer served during the festival.
- Good judging. We had a good mix of National, Certified, Recognized, and non-BJCP judges. Everybody who wanted to judge had an opportunity. Several judges commented favorably on the event and expressed interest in returning next year. John really spread the word in BJCP circles and is responsible for this excellent turnout.
- Good judging administration. Our stewarding and cellaring was quietly efficient and effective.

Our most enthusiastic thanks go to Ron Manabe and the Tied House Restaurant and Brewery. Ron has made it possible for WoW to participate in this event and his wonderful offer to brew the best-of-show beer makes this event truly distinctive. The Tied House provided a great venue for the judging and the lunch following the judging was super.

I am totally impressed and happy with the way the best-of-show judging and brewing has worked out. Ron and the homebrewers have been very successful. Last year's brewing of Craig Lauxman's IPA was extremely well-received. This year's brewing of Randy Fishel's traditional bock was also very well-received. Having Randy's beer served from a booth (with sign) at the festival is a great innovation. If you haven't tasted it yet, be sure to stop by the Tied House and try some, but don't wait too long; it's going to run out soon. Next

Read on for more exciting Worts of Wisdom news!

What's Brewing?

year will be Robert Krohn's Bavarian weizen. In three years, the best-of-show beers have been completely different and distinctive examples of the brewing art.

Our booth at the festival provided the opportunity to talk to a bunch of home brewers -- hopefully some of them will become WoW members, or at least brew more.

On a different note, we are coming up to the time to say good-bye to the backbone of our club, Jeremy Bergsman. Jeremy has provided a ton of leadership and support to the club. He is responsible for most of us becoming beer judges, has counseled us on how to brew better beer, has educated and entertained (and tortured?) us with numerous Dr. Beer events (including triangle tests) and has shown us how to professionally judge beer -- not that I actually learned how to do it. Jeremy, we wish you smooth sailing -- wait, smooth brewing -- in your new adventure. We are certain that you will continue to make an impact on the homebrewing scene wherever you are.

The NCHF is coming up -- see the article elsewhere in this newsletter. I am hoping that several of our members can participate this year. Everybody who has attended previous festivals liked them. A part of this event is a club competition for Oktoberfest beer. To enter the competition we need to deliver a keg (5 gallons) of the beer. It is a little late to start a batch of proper Oktoberfest for this event; however, we could make some "express Oktoberfest." For lagers in general, we may have some members who have temperature-controlled fermentation space which is unused and could be used by someone else, particularly for a club event. We can use an email forum with hardcopy for email-less members to exchange "needs" and "haves." Is anybody interested in this?

If you are willing for others to observe/participate in your brew day, remember to put out the word, even if it is on relatively short notice. These informal club brew sessions are fun and informative. They typically have a small group in attendance and are very pleasant events. The way I look at it is, if somebody comes to my brew day, that is fine. If nobody comes, that is fine too. These are just different brewing experiences.

Keep on brewin', buds.

Small Brewers Festival Recap

John Watson

Dear Small Brewers Festival Volunteers,

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- **August 30 - WOW meeting, Mountain View Tied House.**
- **September 27 - WOW meeting, Torgrimson's, Mountain View.**
- October 6-8 - Northern California Homebrew Festival, Skyline Park, Napa.
- October - AHA Club-Only Competition, German Amber Lager.
- **October 25 - WOW meeting, location TBA**
- **November 29 - WOW meeting, location TBA**
- December - AHA Club-Only Competition, Historical Beers.

As this year's organizer of the Amateur Brewing Competition for the Small Brewers Festival, I want to thank all of the people that volunteered.

Sometimes, such as when I was sitting in the Club booth, people watching, sipping on my fourth or fifth Russian Imperial Stout, I found it hard to believe that what we were doing there was really working as volunteers for a charitable event, one that donates lots of money to a whole lot of great causes!

So thanks to all of you that took time off from your weekend, to come down to the Tied House and help out: judges, stewards, and cellarmaster.

Special thanks to Jeremy Bergsman, last year's organizer, for helping out and giving us tips on how a homebrew competition actually had to work.

Special thanks go to Peter and Carol Torgrimson; their work and attention to details made this year's competition a great success. If it had been left up to me alone, things would not have gone where nearly as smoothly.

Special thanks go to Ron Manabe, head brewer at the Tied House; without his help and advocacy every year, this competition simply would not exist.

Thanks to everyone who entered your homebrews. Without the entries, we'd have no competition.

As far as I know, this competition is the only one in the entire nation, where the winner gets to brew his or her winning recipe in a REAL brewery, and get to show it off at the following Small Brewers Festival.

There is really only one way that this year's competition could have been any better, and that would be to have even MORE entries.

What's Brewing?

So start planning the brews you'll be entering in next years competition!

John S. Watson
Competition Coordinator

Complete competition results can be found on the Web at:
<http://www.smallbrewersfest.com/sbf2000.htm>

2000 Small Brewers Festival Homebrew Competition Results

By category:

American Pale Ale and IPA

1. Craig Lauxman, American IPA
2. Peter Torgimson, American Pale Ale
3. Kent Wheat, American IPA

Blond & Wheat

1. Robert Krohn, Bavarian Weizen (**best of show winner**)
2. Boyd Fowler, Bavarian Weizen
3. Bill L. Neilson,

Blond Ale/Bock

1. Bob Wilcox, Traditional Bock
2. Craig Lauxman, Doppelbock
3. Randy Fishel, Traditional Bock

English Ale & Brown Al

1. Kevin Holm, Southern English Brown Ale
2. Nick Van Bruggen, Special Bitter
3. Terry Reilly, American Brown Ale
3. John Pieper, Southern English Brown Ale

European Amber/Dark Lager

1. Craig Lauxman, Oktoberfest/Maerzen
2. Bill Schenk/Tom Mountsier, Vienna Lager
3. John S. Watson, Oktoberfest/Maerzen

European Pale Lager

1. Bill Schenk/Tom Mountsier, Bohemian Pilsner
2. Bill Schenk/Tom Mountsier, Northern German Pilsner
3. Paul Mabie, Bohemian Pilsner

Strong Ale

1. Craig Lauxman, American-style Barleywine
2. Craig Lauxman, Russian Imperial Stout
3. Chuck Sherwood, Old Ale

Porter & Stout

1. Steven Highland, Robust Porter
2. Bill Schenk/Tom Mountsier, Brown Porter
3. Nick Van Bruggen, Robust Porter

About Us

The Worts of Wisdom Homebrewers is a diverse group of people living all around the Santa Clara Valley and up the peninsula who are interested in learning more about beer and brewing and sharing their brewing experiences and their beer.

Make sure to check out our web site:
<http://www.wortsofwisdom.org/>

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