

The Palm Beach Draughtsmen Brews News

Promoting The Art and Science Of Hand-Crafting Beer, Mead And Cider

Palm Beach Draughtsmen
Brews News

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Rodusky's Ramblings

Inside this issue:

Time To Start Preparing For The Blowoff

Hard to believe, but the 11th annual *Hurricane Blowoff* is only two months away! And this years edition promises to be bigger and better than ever! The tentative schedule is as follows: The competition gets underway at 5pm (maybe earlier?) on Friday, March 31st, with several flights of beer/mead/ciders to judge. The judging will be followed by a trip to the *Bamboo Room* later that evening to catch some great jams. Then back to the *Howell Hacienda El Encanto* for a big 'ol bonfire. The judging will recommence on Saturday morning, early (9am), to be followed by a pub crawl to *Brewzzi* and the *Yardhouse*. Then Saturday night will be for dining and partying at the *Encanto*. The weekend will wrap up on Sunday morning with the Brew-fast and awards presentation. There's lots to do between now and then, such as (first and foremost) brew beer (both your own and club batches!), organize the Bamboo Room and Pub Crawl transportation and chaperoning, cooking, set up and clean up, and so forth, so give some thought as to the areas you'd like to help out, and we'll talk about it at the General meeting next Thursday.

Lots Going On

February kicks off the busy spring homebrew season. First, there's the annual PBD Super Bowl party at Greg Hudson's house this Sunday. Always a good time, and Greg shows the game in super HD on what seems to be a 20 ft screen. Okay, I exaggerate just a tad, but it's a great time just the same! If you're planning on attending, please bring some beer and a side dish to share. Next is the Florida *Best Beer Competition* at the State Fair (check www.dunedinbrewersguild.com for more information). Judging will be held over two weekends, the 11th-12th and 17th-18th in Tampa. And if you have any entries, it's not too late! Contact the Evil One himself (Joe Simon) as he'll be the entry mule on this Friday. And I'm sure he'll take the utmost care to make sure they arrive safe and sound (heh, heh, heh...just kidding!). Also on the 17th will be the monthly PBD Happy Hour. This month, we'll meet at the WPB *Hops*, to celebrate the return of brewmaster Wes, who's been very generous with donations to the club for past Blowoffs and for our parties while he resided over the brews at the Boynton *Hops*. Mix in Blowoff activities, and possibly the start of BJCP classes (more info inside) and whew, it's quite the busy month, but that's a good thing!

till next time...

- Andy

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Please pay your dues or this is your last Brewsletter!

PBD 05-06 Officers:

*Pres - Joe Peters
VP - Andy Rodusky (Beligmo)
Secretary- - Open
Treasurer- Joe Peters
Rest of Board- Evil, Nick, Pat
Chef Extraordinaire - Vince Yeck*

RED ALERT!

Danger, Extreme Danger,

Will Robinson!

- 2006 dues are now due! Make checks (\$25) payable to PBD and give to Joe Peters, or Dan-o at the HBO, or pony up at the PBD website: www.palmbeachdraughtsmen.com.

General Mtg-the 9th@ HBO 730pm, Happy Hour-the 17th@ WPB Hops 5pm



BJCP Exam Info

There was interest at the last general meeting about offering classes to become certified as a beer/mead/cider judge in the Beer Judge Certification Program (BJCP for short). I've been in touch with the head of the BJCP, who's in our proverbial backyard (Orlando) and he gave me some information about us offering an exam. First, about the exam itself: The exam consists of two parts. The first part consists of 10 essay questions in which you provide as much detail as possible about anything from aspects of the brewing process to what defines a certain style, to questions about water chemistry and/or the ingredients that comprise beer. This part of the exam is timed, so while it behooves you to write all that you can to answer each question, time management skills are important. The second part of the exam consists of evaluating (judging) four beers, which may have subtle to significant flaws. I've taken the exam twice, and with some studying, it is not that difficult to pass. To score well however, as with any other test, does require some in-depth study. But as Charlie says, "relax"... it's not like a Chemistry final! You can see an example exam at their website (www.bjcp.org) if you want to see what the questions look like.

There are two paths we can take in this process: either offer some classes and take the exam at the Nationals in Orlando in late June (most likely on Thursday morning, the 21st) or, see if we can schedule one locally. The advantage of taking it in Orlando is that we don't need a minimum number of folks, the exam will be administered by some of the top judges in the country, and by judges that are experienced at giving the exam. Plus, it's already been scheduled, so you'd be guaranteed the opportunity to take it this year. The disadvantages are the distance and not as much preparatory time, though 4-5 months is plenty, so the second point is a small disadvantage. The advantage of offering it locally is that we could offer more classes, and you'd have more time to study. The disadvantages are that we'd have to guarantee a minimum of 5 examinees, and the scheduling for the exam requires at least four months lead time. Given that we could not schedule one soon after it's offered at the Nationals, we're looking at late October/early November, which is quite a ways off. So if interested, let either Joe Peters or m'self know, and we'll discuss further at the general meeting. Becoming a judge is a great way to learn more about the various beer styles and the flaws that can affect a brew. Plus, the club may agree to cover some of the exam fee for each examinee. To conclude, the additional knowledge gained from taking the exam and judging is a great way to improve your brewing skills, which will translate into better beer!

- Submitted by Beligmo

For MP3-casts (not all of us have "Pods"!), that discuss beer, check out the weekly shows on "Craft Beer Radio", (www.craftbeerradio.com) from Jeff Bearer and Greg Weiss, two Pittsburgh homebrewers. James Spencer hosts "Basic Brewing Radio", (www.basicbrewingradio.com). Both shows are entertaining and informative, and free, so check them out!



February 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 Super Bowl Party @ Greg Hudson's- 4pm	6	7	8	9 Gen Mtg @ HBO—730 pm	10	11 FL Best Beer Comp—Tampa
12 FL Best Beer Comp—Tampa	13	14	15	16	17 Happy Hour @ WPB Hops—5 pm	18 FL Best Beer Comp—Tampa
19 FL Best Beer Comp—Tampa	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

Schedule of Events For January

- 5th— Super Bowl Party @ Greg Hudson's House, 4pm —??
- 9th — General Mtg @ The *HBO* — 730pm
- 11th-12th and 17th-18th — Florida's Best Beer Competition—Tampa
- 17th — PBD Happy Hour @ WPB *Hops*, 5pm—??

Directions:

- Greg Hudson's pad is on Sunset Rd, two blocks north of Belvedere and on the west side of Parker Ave. Greg's house is the first driveway on the north side of Sunset.
- The *HBO* is located at 1618 Lathem Rd, in WPB. Take Okeechobee Blvd to just west of 95, and turn south at Church St. Continue straight past the bend in the road, and the shop will be on your left, about 1/4 of a mile south of the bend.
- *Hops* is located on the SW corner of Military Trail and Okeechobee Blvd.

And Coming In March...

PBD General Mtg—9th @ HBO— 730

Blowoff entries due on the 25th @ 5pm.

PBD 11th annual *Hurricane Blowoff*, 31st—April 2nd @ the Howell *Encanto*



A Brewsters Place—X

“Do not cease to drink beer, to eat, to intoxicate thyself, to make love and celebrate the good days.” -Egyptian saying

I recently attended the King Tut exhibit in Ft. Lauderdale. The many references to ale and the tiny breweries found in the tombs of royals jarred this information loose. Below is a synopsis of beer in the ancient Egyptian world:

The Egyptian word for ale was “Hekt” and that name became synonymous with brew. In hieroglyphics the symbol for food is a pitcher of beer and a cake of bread. Pharaohs were buried with miniature brewsters made of clay. Mini breweries would be placed inside the tomb for the royal to imbibe in the after life. One of Egypt's multi-dynasty slogans was, “The mouth of the perfectly happy man is filled with beer”.

Households rich and poor brewed beer. Egyptian women brewed beer in an area of the kitchen called “the pure”. In wealthy homes the lady of the house supervised the brewing. In the royal household, however, the Office of Chief Beer Inspector was created to ensure both the purity and proper punch of ale brewed for royal consumption and wages.

Minimum wage for a day's work was two pitchers of beer, each several gallons in size.

Egyptians anointed their babies with ale and even named them “How Drunk is Cheops” and “How Intoxicated is Hathor”.

Thousands of styles of brew existed. Hops were unknown but the taste for bitterness was there. Bittering herbs like lupin and skirret were often used to give that bite. Drinkers were offered platters of dry twists of skirret. The drinker would place the twist between her cheek and gum.

Commercial breweries thrived. One Egyptian brew, “Zyθος” was exported by the ship load into Mediterranean ports not only for drinking but for use by craftsmen to soften ivory.

Taxes to the pharaoh were paid in glass jars full of brew.

“Last evening you were beer drinking deep, so now your head aches. Go to sleep. Take some boiled cabbage and when you wake, there's end of your headache.” Athenaeus (2nd century)

The ultimate beer tax, the hangover, was one of the most studied human afflictions. The remedy for “pulling of the hair” as hangovers were called, was of great importance to ancient doctors. After centuries of studying, they found that drinking cabbage juice brought relief. “Wife, quick! Some cabbage boil, of virtuous healing, that I may rid me of this seedy feeling!” -Eubulus, ancient author (circa 405-335 BC).

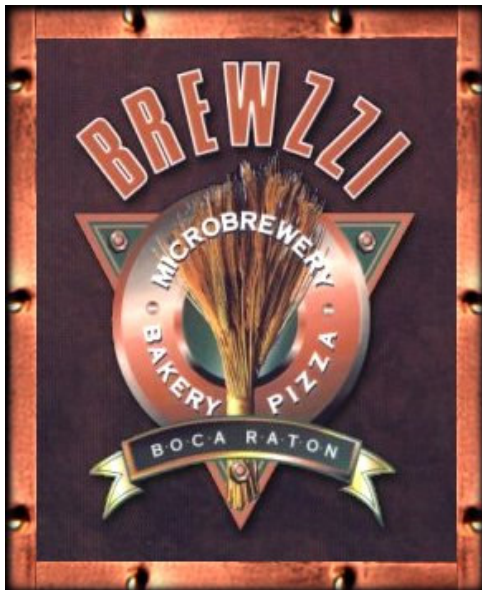
- Submitted by Heidi Aspen Rhoades



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