

The Strange Brew Review

NE Wisconsin's
Largest Brewclub!
Established 1982

www.rackers.org



Meetings:
1:00 PM
Tiletown Brewing
Company

1st Saturday of Feb, April, June,
August, October, and December

If you want it done right, you have to brew it yourself!

Date: October 2004

Next Meeting

November 2nd, 2004

Club Brew
at
Trevor LaRene's home
(see the website for map)
6:00 PM

Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM by the president. Minutes of the August meeting were read and approved as read.

The treasurer reported the current balance in the checking account as \$3896.36 with all bills paid, but some undeposited new member dues not yet deposited.

Old business:

Wooden sign for Tiletown (Dave Oldenburg) - has three designs but forgot to bring them. There is a 9 inch maximum width for one direction. He ask the webmaster to post the options on the Rackers 411 page and members will have until a certain time to pick the design. The sign will hopefully then be completed by the December meeting.

Great Taste of the Midwest - was a success, members who helped out put on a lot of wristbands.

Bulk Grain order (Jeremy LeMere) - did not get a lot of response to his last email about who was still interested. It appears that a lot of us did not get the email. He will resend this.

We appear to have about 20 bags or more on hand. Bob Franklin says the House of Homebrew will be knocking 20% off the cost of the order.

Humane Society Beer Fest (Bob Franklin) - October 29th, Rackers are registered. Brewers will be Trevor LaRene (porter), Jeremy LaMere (lager), Bob Franklin (wheat) and Fred Matzke (pale ale) as a back up to Dave Oldenburg. Motion was made to purchase 2 extra tickets so that each brewer can get in to the event. Motion carried. Mike will take care of this.

House of Homebrew gift - Bob Franklin thanked the club for the crystal mug we got for their grand opening.

Fox Valley Cup for Keggers tiebreaker was announced - the Rackers won with Jeff Bushner's barley wine and 2nd was Trevor LaRene's Eisbock.

New business:

Chris asked about issues with the Tiletown Open's BOS beer being brewed at Tiletown. The ALEs are disappointed that this was not being done. Mike pointed out that last year's BOS beer was also not brewed (that was a Rackers beer) and the issue is availability of fermenter due to Tiletown's expanded brewing schedule. Dave Oldenburg reported that there is always a possibility, but the brewing schedule and needs of the restaurant always have to take precedence. Mike stated that the entry form has always contained the provision that having the beer brewed at Tiletown was at the discretion of the head brewer and never published as an absolute guarantee.

Interclub contest - (Mike Conard) - the first contest is the SOBs contest in December. This is usually a big beer/ holiday beer/ mead contest and we REALLY need club

participation to get the points for this year's contest. Mike will be happy to transport the beers. Mike also announced that the committee is considering a name change to the interclub competition. He has proposed that it be called the Fox Valley Homebrew Inter-Club CUP (HICcup).

Club Storage Space (Mike Conard) - there remains a lot of club materials being stored at various member's homes. House of Homebrew has a lot of storage space and is willing to provide some to the club. Motion made to pay the H of H \$10 per month for renting some storage space. Motion carried.

St. Gabriel Beer Festival (Jeremy LaMere) - He has brewed some beer for this event, they would like to have 8 club members help out with pouring beers and being available as a resource to talk about brewing. This will be held from 6-10 PM on October 16th in Neenah. The following members volunteered to help: Jeremy, Mike Conard, Chris Schleicher, Chuck Golueke, and Dave Oldenberg.

Manitowoc Brew Fest will be held on February 19th, 2005 from 5-9 PM. Members who volunteered to brew 10 gallon batches are Mike Conard (porter), Jeremy LaMere (Vienna lager), Bob Franklin (?) and Dave Oldenburg (?). Motion that the club purchase 3 extra tickets to get the additional brewers admission. Motion carried, Mike will take care of that.

Fund Raising (Mike Conard) - the corny keg supply has now dried up. He will continue to look for a new source. The most likely source will involve us having to rent a U-Haul truck and go down to Columbus, WI for a load.

Beer Styles for club meetings (Matt Arnold) - Despite the fact that he has chosen styles for each meeting, for unknown reasons the club has not been diligent about purchasing these beers for club tasting. The club members would all like this practice to be resumed. Motion was made that the club budget \$300 per year for this purpose. Motion carried. Mike and Matt will coordinate purchasing the beers according to appropriate styles for the business meetings.

Dan Rogers announced that Sanke kegs are once again available through Tosca at a cost of \$30.00 each. Members who are interested should contact him.

Chuck Golueke has some pin lock kegs and a CO2 cylinder he'd like to give away. These were quickly snatched up by Chris Schleicher. Chris also announced that this would likely be the last meeting he will be attending as he is moving back to Minnesota to assist in the

family business. The club wished him well and told him to be sure and drop by whenever he was back in the area.

The raffle was held and the following members won prizes: Al Dolata (beer ingredient kit from House of Homebrew), Tom Parker (carboy top from Briess), Kurt Wallinger (stainless steel dip scoop from DHIA) and Bob Kapla (carboy top from Briess).

Motion to adjourn was made and carried. The meeting adjourned to sampling and imbibing at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Conard
Secretary/Treasurer



New Members!

Welcome to Bob Kapla who just joined the club at this meeting. Welcome back to Chris Schroeder who is returning to the club after a couple of years absence.



Contest Information

The SOB's December contest is fast approaching and we need entries from our club! Remember that the majority of the points earned in the interclub contest are based on % membership participation NOT on how well the beers score! I'll be happy to transport all entries to that competition. Let Mike Conard know if you have a beer that you would like to enter. Check out the SOB website for details.

Other Business

Farewell, Chris!

Chris Schleicher has announced he will be leaving to return to Minnesota (poor bastard!) He is returning to help out with a family business. We wish him well and hope he gets a chance to come back and visit us!

To Be Given Away

Mike Conard has an old 220V range (small aptment/cabin size) that he would like to give away. Oven does not work, but the 3 burner range top does. No longer needed as he has a vent hood installed and is brewing with propane. He will give it away to anyone willing to take it. Two people can easily carry it.

House of Homebrew

In case you've missed it all - the House of Homebrew is now open. Located on Dousman Ave., right next to The Exclusive Company. Support our two owner/members with your patronage!



Smoke Signals

By
Mike Conard

Smoking & Health Issues

OK, the biggest problem for those of us with vices is that everybody wants to tell us how bad they are for us, etc. etc. They are absolutely right, you know. Smoking in any form carries some kind of health risk and the first thing you have to accept as a cigar smoker is that your habit has potential adverse effects on your health and the health of those around you.

While there are no real good studies to look at the specific health risks related to cigar and pipe smoke, there is a wealth of good research about cigarette smoke. From this body of evidence, we can make some reasonable assumptions. First, the smoke itself—whether it be from cigarette, cigar, or pipe - irritates the lung tissues and can cause bronchospasm (asthma-like reactions), asthma flare-ups, and make your lungs more vulnerable to infections (viral bronchitis, pneumonia, etc.) These do not require prolonged exposure, but can occur with very short exposure.

Second, prolonged exposure can lead to permanent damage to lung tissue, resulting in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (emphysema) and cancer of the lung. Since the evidence for this comes primarily from cigarette studies, there are some who argue that cigar/pipe smokers don't inhale and also don't smoke as much as cigarette smokers do. I'm not sure I'd bet my life on that, would you? Bottom line, we need to remember that those health problems are a risk, regardless of the type of tobacco we use.

Third, regardless of ANY type of tobacco you use, including chewing tobacco, there is an increased risk of developing cancer on the mouth, lips, and throat. Nicotine is a poison (hey, they use it for an insecticide!) and it has known bad effects on mucous membranes. While the risk for these types of cancers appear to greater for chewers rather than smokers, we also know that smokers suffer these problems in greater proportion than the non-smoking population. Fourth, we know that nicotine that enters the circulatory system (via the mucous membranes) increases the risk for other types of cancers- particularly colon cancer, stomach cancer, and bladder cancer. If you are a woman, smoking is also associated with increased risk for breast cancer. Fifth, heart disease and stroke are increased in smokers. This is especially true if you are a woman who smokes and is also on any form of hormone-based contraception. If you are a woman over the age of 35, smoke, and use hormonal birth control in any form—you should not smoke!

So, what is the take home message here? It is that as an adult, you have the right to choose to smoke or not to smoke. If you make that choice to smoke, you must do so with the full realization that you increase your health risks!

Next issue: Smoking etiquette

