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# The Grain Mill

*Publication of  
Scioto, Olentangy and Darby Zymurgists, Inc.*

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## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*By Bonni Katona*

Hi All!

Our meetings continue to pick up steam! Last month's meeting at the Winking Lizard was well attended, and Herb Bresler gave an outstanding presentation on getting consistent results. Already I have read feedback on the SODZ Yahoo Group that members have taken his words to heart.

This meeting provided an opportunity for some members to finish or make significant progress in completing their World Tour of Beers at the Winking Lizard. Thanks to all who helped! The party for those who complete their tour will take place on Saturday, January 29. The Winking Lizard will provide more details later.

If you haven't done so yet, please join the SODZ Yahoo Group. This is an excellent forum for members to interact and share information during the time between meetings. About 15 people who have joined, but there are more who could sign up—even if you just plan to be a “lurker” for a while! To join the group, point your browser to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SODZ>.

The votes are in and tallied—we will meet on Saturday, January 15, at 3:30 p.m. at Brews Café in Granville. We had a group field trip there last year at about the same time, and it was a lot of fun.

The big news for SODZ is that we have locked in a date and place for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual British Beerfest! Thanks to Mike Mirarchi for arranging to hold the competition at Leatherlips Yacht Club on Saturday, April 9.

Frank Barickman is hard at work getting all the organizational details for the competition together, and he will be requesting your assistance. We need some sponsors to help us cut our costs, so let Frank know the names of any contacts.

Last year's competition went very well for a first-time effort, and we hope to make this one better. Our goal is 100 entries, so start brewing now!

The SODZ Holiday Party will be held on Saturday, December 11, at Rick DeShone's house starting at 7 p.m. Once again, we will have the popular bottle exchange. Gift wrap a bottle of a microbrewed beer (one for each person in your party participating), and we will draw tickets to match each beer with a lucky person!

SODZ will provide the meat entrées for the party. Please bring a side dish to complement our meal. Be sure to RSVP Rick at [rdeshone@columbus.rr.com](mailto:rdeshone@columbus.rr.com) with the number of people in your party attending so that he orders an appropriate amount of food.

One more thing—if you have any homebrew, now is your opportunity to bring it! Our roving meeting schedule at various locations has not allowed us many chances to taste and critique each other's homebrew. We hope to sample your homebrew soon!

All this talk about upcoming events is making me thirsty—time to find a beer! See you at the Holiday Party on Saturday!



# SODZ Holiday Party 2004

The SODZ Holiday party will once again be at Rick & Gayle DeShone's residence. We have been seeing a lot of old friends this year along with many new faces, so we look forward to a well-attended event. Many distinct and unusual "finds" show up at these parties. You are almost guaranteed to encounter a beer you have never tried before.

The party is a social event. **Spouses, significant others, and children are welcome.** We have children aged 11 & 13 who will help keep the younger set occupied. As in the past this is a casual event that involves a buffet style dinner, any commercial or home-brewed beer members want to bring, a beer exchange, and lots of conversation and good cheer.

The DeShones will procure main entrées (probably a poultry dish and ever-popular bratwurst). We ask that everyone **bring a side-dish or dessert.** If you are bringing a keg(s), we will set up an area where it can be sampled by all. We will have the usual 5 kegs on tap in the bar.

We will be doing a beer exchange. **Bring a gift-wrapped bottle for the exchange.** Everyone who does gets a number and will come away with one bottle from the exchange. (With this crowd it is best to bring something unusual or not easily found. If you bring a macro-brewed American Lager you may also want to consider armor.)

The DeShone house is in the Bristol Commons sub-division in Dublin. The entrance is 1 block East on Brand from the intersection of Brand and Muirfield. Bristol is the main drive into the subdivision, and the DeShones are the first house on the right. Assuming all outdoor electrical is working, look for the SODZ logo projected on the side of the house.

As we did last year, we have the starting time set for 7:00 PM. If you are dealing with conflicting schedules, there will be people around until midnight if you need to stop in later. **Please RSVP to [rdeshone@columbus.rr.com](mailto:rdeshone@columbus.rr.com)** to let us know the number in your party and give us a hint of your side-dish or dessert so that we can do some planning on our buffet layout. We look forward to seeing everyone again. If you get lost, our home phone is 614 766-4147.





## SODZ 2nd Annual British Beerfest Competition

aka: The Irwin Memorial (yes, he's doing fine)

Location:

**Leatherlips Yacht Club**

9230 Shawnee Trail  
Powell, OH 43065

**10 A.M. Saturday, April 9, 2005**

**Scope:** The scope of this competition is limited to the traditional British BJCP styles including Mead and Cider.

**Eligibility:** The competition is open to all non-commercial, home-produced beers and meads. Enter as many categories and as often as you wish. Competition organizers, sponsors, judges, and stewards may enter the competition but may not judge or steward any category that they are entered in.

**Categories:** The SODZ British Beerfest will accept entries from the following categories as defined by the 2004 BJCP Style Guidelines:

8.	English Pale Ale (all subcategories)
9.	Scottish and Irish Ales (all subcategories)
11.	English Brown Ale (all subcategories)
12.	Porter (all subcategories)
13.	Stout (all subcategories except 13E. American Stout)
14.	India Pale Ale (14A English IPA only)
19.	Strong Ale (19A. Old Ale and 19B. English Barley Wine only)
24.	Traditional Mead
25.	Melomel (Fruit Mead)
26.	Other Mead
27.	Standard Cider and Perry (all subcategories except 27C. French)
28.	Specialty Cider and Perry (all subcategories except 28A. New England))

All entries must indicate both a category number and a sub-category letter in addition to a written description of the style. All entries will be judged according to the appropriate sub-category style guidelines. However, categories may be combined with related categories for the purpose of awarding prizes. Multiple entries per style are allowed.

**Entry Fees:** \$6 for first entry, \$4 per additional entry.

**Registration:** All entries must be pre-registered by Friday, March 25, 2005. Pre-register online at [www.sodz.org](http://www.sodz.org). Please print out the completed entry sheet, fold so your name appears on the front, and attach it to the beer bottles with a rubber band. Include entry fee (fold within label if you like). Flights will be fixed prior to event, so no late entries will be accepted. Two bottles per entry are required; bottles from 10 to 24 oz. may be used (judges will be served beer in the pitcher). Promash competition forms will also be accepted.

**Mailing Instructions:** Entries are due between the dates of 3/21/05 – 4/1/05, unless they are pre-registered and hand carried by a judge and/or a steward. Please ship entries to:

Thirsty Dog Brewing Company  
C/O Eric Asebrook / SODZ Competition Entry  
45 W. Alex-Bell Road  
Centerville, Ohio 45459

**Call for Judges and Stewards:** Judges/Stewards are invited and encouraged (OK begged) to join us. The competition is BJCP-sanctioned, and BJCP points will be awarded. If you are interested, please sign up at [www.sodz.org](http://www.sodz.org).

**Awards:** Prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third place for each category (to be determined based on the numbers of entries in each style, etc.). In addition, there will individual awards given to the "Best British Beer" (BOS). Meads and Ciders will be not be eligible for "Best British Beer", however a separate award will be designated for the best Mead and/or Cider. "Best British Beer" will be awarded a traditional English "Yard Glass." Flight winners will win a smaller "yard-style glass," and second and third place will be awarded ribbons.

**Additional Information:** For more information, please feel free to contact Frank Barickman by email: [fbarickm@columbus.rr.com](mailto:fbarickm@columbus.rr.com) or by phone (614) 354-8750.

**Location Directions:** Directions to Leatherlips Yacht Club will be posted at a later date at [www.sodz.org](http://www.sodz.org).



## END OF A BREW

*By Don Croucher*

Every Labor Day my family goes to Gatlinburg, TN for a family weekend. Usually 10 or twelve people for visiting, shopping, pool, golf, and — beer. This year I took some of my homebrews to share with everyone. (I was asked to bring them.) I've been fortunate to have brewed a couple of beers that other people seem to like (so far). Thank the brewing gods.

The beers were well received by everyone, but something I had not thought about happened, which inevitably happens to all brewers at least once. After sharing with everyone, we came to the last bottle of the first beer I ever brewed, a nut brown ale. Everyone insisted I drink it, since it was the last one. It shook me. I wasn't prepared for this. The last one! It was a good beer, that first one. It was very special to me, partly because it was the first, of course, partly because it came out so well, and partly because it was brewed from a recipe I formulated myself. Beginner's luck, to be sure, but to the uninformed, it was skill and I'm not telling.

I sat and held it, stared at it, full of excitement, and felt a certain sadness. It was like holding your last Christmas present, knowing that, as long as you haven't opened it, the anticipation is still there, the excitement of the moment is still there, but once you open it, it's over. I thought about this for a minute, and then someone in the room said, "Go ahead and drink it. It isn't like you can't brew another one." The statement was like a slap to the head. I smiled, opened the bottle, phfffft, savored the pour, watched it tumble into the glass. It was a warming thing for me. As I looked at the glass, watching the head settle, I thought about that cold day in February when I brewed it. I thought about all the trepidations I had about whether what I was doing was the right thing, the fear that I would do/had done something wrong, plowing ahead anyway, hoping it would develop into something I could loosely call beer. I was dizzy with all the advice I had been given by everyone who kept after me to just "Do it!" They were right on with their comments, suggestions, and encouragement. In a lot of ways, that first beer was as much theirs as it was mine. My thanks to all for prodding (shaming) me into my first effort.

During my first year with SODZ, I have heard plenty of stories already about dropped carboys, brews that didn't turn out right, incredible brews that might be gold medal material, club brews, team brews, new gadgets, friendships that have evolved, the excitement of finding a new brewing ingredient, gaining new knowledge, and on and on. It is the desire to look ahead, to plan for the next great brew, to find the next great recipe, to create something you can claim as your own, and share it with friends that makes brewing so much fun. It's the joy every brewer feels when they hold a home brew in their glass, with that comfortable knowledge that **they** created it, and it is good.

It's funny how you can get lost in a process, and not take enough time to think about the sheer joy of the experience. Taking time to smell the roses, I guess. I will always remember my first beer. That day in Gatlinburg, I drank my glass of beer, and it was good. The joy, I now know, continues. After all, I can brew another one!





## AHA CLUB-ONLY COMPETITIONS

Start brewing now for the AHA Club-Only Competitions! We will judge members' entries at the meeting closest to the entry due date to select the club's entry. All competitions follow the new BJCP 2004 Style Guidelines available at [www.bjcp.org](http://www.bjcp.org).

<u>Competition Month</u>	<u>Style (BJCP #)</u>	<u>Entry Due Date</u>	<u>Judging Date</u>
• January	Irish Red Ale (9D)	January 26	January 30
• March / April	Sour Beers (17)		
• May	Extract Beers (1-23) *Extracts must make up more than 50% of fermentables.		
• August	Belgian & French Ales (16)		
• September / October	European Amber Lager (3) *Hosted by SAAZ of Akron		
• November / December	Baltic Porter (12C)	November 4	November 12

For more details, see <http://www.beertown.org/homebrewing/schedule.html>.



## AHA MEMBERSHIP & PUB DISCOUNT PROGRAM

The Association of Brewers presents the ***Pub Discount Program*** for American Homebrewers Association Members. 10-25% discounts on beer, food and merchandise at participating pubs. All you need to do is join the AHA: <http://www.beertown.org/homebrewing/pubs.html>. If you are already an AHA member, check this website for information on using your discount.

When you are searching for gifts this holiday season, remember that AHA membership makes a great gift for a new & enthusiastic homebrewer.  
[http://www.beertown.org/homebrewing/aha\\_gift.html](http://www.beertown.org/homebrewing/aha_gift.html)



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mark your calendars for these meetings and future beer events!

**December 11**

**SODZ Holiday Party, Rick DeShone's House**

**2005**

January 1-15

Hoppus Maximus Challenge Entries Due

January 15

SODZ Meeting @ Brews Café, Granville, OH (3:30 PM)

January 22

Hoppus Maximus Challenge Judging @ Thirsty Dog

January 26

AHA Club-Only Competition: Irish Red Ale Entries Due

January 29

World Tour of Beers Party @ Winking Lizard

February 21

SODZ Meeting @ The Bogey Inn, Dublin (7:00 PM)

March 25

Pre-Registration Deadline for SODZ British Beer-Fest

March 21 - April 1

Shipped Entry Deadline for SODZ British Beer-Fest

March TBA

SODZ Meeting, Location TBD

March/April TBA

AHA Club-Only Competition: Sour Beers

April

SODZ 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

April 4-15

AHA National Homebrew Competition Entries Due

April 9

SODZ 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual British Beer-Fest Competition  
a.k.a. The Irwin "He's Doing Fine" Memorial  
@ Leatherlips Yacht Club (10:00 AM)

April 22 - May 1

AHA National Homebrew Competition Judging

May TBA

AHA Club-Only Competition: Extract Beers

May 7

AHA National Homebrew Day

June 16-18

AHA National Homebrew Conference, Baltimore

July 16

Ohio State Fair Homebrew Competition

## SODZ Holiday Party

Saturday, December 11, 2004, 7:00 PM

Rick & Gayle DeShone's Home

Dublin, OH

Remember:

Bring a Side Dish or Dessert, homebrew to share  
& a wrapped beer for the beer exchange!

**Family Welcome!**

## ABOUT SODZ

The Scioto, Olentangy and Darby Zymurgists, Inc. (SODZ) will resume regular meetings in September. Reminders for club events and outings will be posted via email and on the SODZ website. If you are not currently on the SODZ mailing list and would like to be added, please send your contact information to the Membership Director, Frank Barickman.

Membership dues are \$15 per year and are renewable during the member's anniversary month of joining SODZ. Dues may be mailed to:

Frank Barickman, Membership Director  
133 Miners Court, Delaware, OH 43015

Members receive *The Grain Mill*, the club's monthly newsletter. Articles submitted for the newsletter should be received no later than the end of the month prior to issue and may be submitted by e-mail, preferably in MS Word, to Betty Fisher: [bjfish7@rrohio.com](mailto:bjfish7@rrohio.com).

Information for [www.sodz.org](http://www.sodz.org) website can be e-mailed to Rick DeShone: [rdeshone@ctcodeworks.com](mailto:rdeshone@ctcodeworks.com).

Current SODZ officers are:

**President**

Bonni Katona  
[bkatona@columbus.rr.com](mailto:bkatona@columbus.rr.com)

**Vice President/Webmaster**

Rick DeShone  
[rdeshone@ctcodeworks.com](mailto:rdeshone@ctcodeworks.com)

**Secretary/Newsletter Editor**

Betty Fisher  
[bjfish7@rrohio.com](mailto:bjfish7@rrohio.com)

**Treasurer**

Mike Mirarchi  
[mamirarchi@hotmail.com](mailto:mamirarchi@hotmail.com)

**Membership Director**

Frank Barickman  
[fbarickm@columbus.rr.com](mailto:fbarickm@columbus.rr.com)

<http://www.sodz.org>

