



# The Grain Mill

Publication of the Scioto, Olentangy and Darby Zymurgists  
Volume 5, No. 10 February 2000

## The President's Corner

*By Bonni Katona*

Happy Fe-brew-ary!

I hope none of you have injured your backs shoveling snow. It would be a shame to have to postpone brewing just because you couldn't lift your brew pot or carboy!

Congratulations to Brett Chance on the birth of his daughter, Lauren Marie, on January 10. Everyone's doing fine!

Remember Homebrew Homework? At our last meeting Mark Irwin found sufficient interest in a new homework assignment. For those who are unfamiliar with the assignment, a basic set of ingredients is used to brew a beer within specifications. Then we all bring the beer we brewed and do some comparisons. Watch for more details in the near future!

Last month we held a discussion on an earlier suggestion to consider meeting on Fridays. On the pro side, most members would not have to worry about going to work the next day. On the other hand, there was concern about finding a meeting location that would accommodate us on a Friday night. In addition, members said they were more likely to have other commitments or travel out of town for the weekend. Therefore, the suggestion was withdrawn, and we will continue to meet on the second Thursday of the month.

This month we will take nominations for officers, and the election will occur in March. The new officers will assume their duties in April.

Jim Rudy called to tell me that Beer Camp will be held the weekend of March 24 at the Drawbridge Inn. Kurt Stocker is a Beer Camp veteran, so be sure to read about his experience at the last Beer Camp elsewhere in this newsletter.

See you Thursday!

## AHA 2000 Club-Only Competitions

Late March ..... Belgian Style Lambic  
Mid May ..... Weiss is Nice  
End August ..... Best of Big Brew  
..... (Pale Ale)  
Mid October ..... Best of Fest  
Early December ..... Historical Beers

The style guidelines will be AHA, not BJCP. Full information on styles and mailing addresses will be found at the [www.beertown.org](http://www.beertown.org) website.

### SODZ Meeting

Thursday  
February 10, 7 p.m.  
Barley's Smokehouse  
1130 Dublin Road

*Officer Nominations*

*Bring homebrew to share  
(3-4 bottles)*

[www.sodz.org](http://www.sodz.org)

## SODZ INFO

The Scioto, Olentangy and Darby Zymurgists, Inc. (SODZ) meets on the second Thursday of the month at Barley's Smokehouse, 1130 Dublin Road, Columbus, Ohio.

Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Membership in SODZ costs \$20 and is renewed during the member's anniversary month of joining SODZ. Due may be mailed to Jim Leas, Treasurer, at 9477 Tramway Court, Cincinnati, OH 45242.

Members receive The Grain Mill, the club's monthly newsletter. Articles for the newsletter are due by the end of the month. They may be emailed to the Editor or submitted on a 3.5" floppy disk.

The club's Web site is located at [www.sodz.org](http://www.sodz.org).

The officers of SODZ are:

**President—Bonni Katona**  
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**Vice President—Mark Irwin**  
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**Treasurer—Jim Leas**  
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**Secretary/Newsletter Editor**  
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## Beer Camp

*By Kurt Stocker*

Beer Camp is a wonderful place for beer lovers to go to enjoy drinking many wonderful beers with other beer enthusiasts. When you get there, you are assigned different groups, which you stay in and sit with during the whole camp, (lagers, porter, bocks, weiss squad, etc.).

You start out at registration, then get an in-depth tour of the Oldenberg brewery. From there you move to the hospitality room for the opening of camp. There is plenty of free Oldenberg beer to drink, and you get introductions of the camp staff and learn the camp song. They also feed you a small dinner at this point.

Then you move on to the highlight of beer camp, one of 2 brewffetts. The brewffetts have over 300 different microbrewed and import beers on ice. You have a numbered listing of the beers, which the servers pour for you into your complimentary beer camp sampling glass. This goes on from around 8:00 to 12:30. At 12:30, believe me, you are ready to crash.

You stay in a nice room at the Drawbridge Hotel, which is part of the Oldenberg complex.

The next morning, at 8:00 sharp is breakfast. Role call is taken, and if you are not there expect a call from the camp director via cell phone. Breakfast is served; then you move into some more organized beer tasting and history of beer with several guest speakers and slide shows.

Next is lunch. By the way, the food is always excellent! After lunch is one of my favorites, the pub crawl. They take you by bus to several of the brewpubs in Cincinnati. This has always been a hoot! After the pub crawl you have a special 7-course meal with beer as an ingredient in all of the food served, including dessert. Then you move on to the second brewffett.

Sunday morning is the hair-of-the-dog brunch, with a live theater performance. No beer is served on Sunday, but by that time this is not a bad thing.

Finally is camp awards and graduation, with some nice Oldenberg gifts.

I have always had a great time. It is best to go with a few people you know; it just makes it more enjoyable. Beer Camp is not really going to teach you anything more about brewing than you already know. They don't get into brewing detail much at all as part of their agenda; however, there are usually a few different brewers from microbreweries around the country there that you can ask questions of.

The main reason to go to beer camp is to sample many different beers in a short amount of time, and to enjoy them in the company of many other beer lovers.

You can check out beer camp at [www.oldenberg.com](http://www.oldenberg.com). If you click on Beer Camp, then Beer Camp XIII Highlights, on the second page are a couple good pictures of Jim Rudy, and further down is a picture of myself, Mark Leidheiser, and Rick at an activity called "Designing the Ultimate Beer Label," that was a hoot also.



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## Mark Your Calendars

### **February 10**

*Regular Meeting—Officer Nominations  
Barley's Smokehouse*

### **February 12**

*CMI Pub Crawl, Cincinnati*

### **March 11**

*Regular Meeting—Officer Elections  
Barley's Smokehouse*

### **Weekend of March 24**

*Beer Camp, Drawbridge Inn—Kentucky*

### **July 15**

*Ohio State Fair Competition Judging  
Ohio Expo Center*

### **August 19**

*Beer & Sweat  
Howard Johnson's Springdale*