



The Grain Mill

Publication of the Scioto, Olentangy and Darby Zymurgists
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The President's Corner

By Bonni Katona

Hi Everyone,

Now that it's cooling off, conditions are good for homebrewing. We also see more people at SODZ meetings. Rumor has it that our elusive Membership Director may even put in an appearance soon because he won't be riding his bicycle. Someone said Elvis has been sighted more recently than Larry!

Last month Tom Jones gave an informative talk about the winemaking process and explained some similarities between making wine and brewing beer. Thanks to Columbus Brewing Company for hosting our meeting.

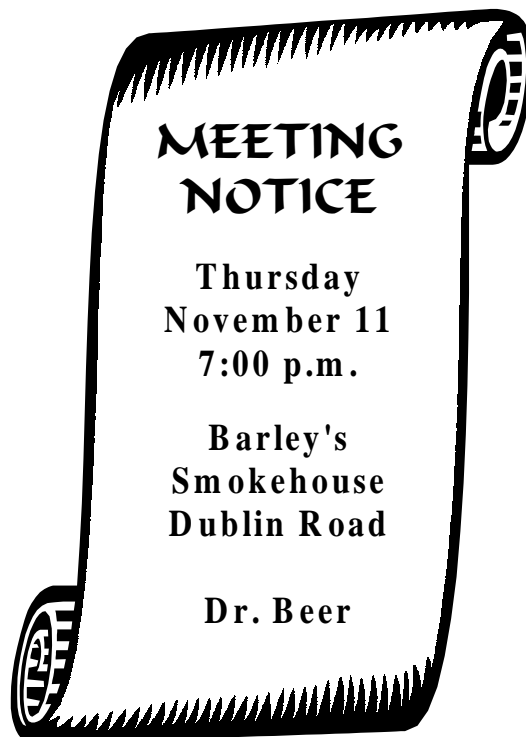
The Cincinnati Malt Infusers held their annual Oktobersbest Zinzinnati competition a few weeks ago at the Barrel House in Cincinnati. Several SODZ helped out as judges and stewards. AJ Zanyk entered a truckload of beer in the competition. He took First Place honors for his Pumpkin Barleywine and Traditional Bock, as well as Third Place for his Oktoberfest. Go AJ!!!

This month we're back at the recently reopened Barley's Smokehouse on Thursday, November 11, at 7 p.m. Mark Katona will be doing a Dr. Beer program (or is it doctored beer?) to identify undesirable characteristics of beer. As usual, you are encouraged to arrive around 6 p.m. to have dinner and show appreciation for the Smokehouse's hosting of our meeting. We'll also hold a raffle of brewing supplies and other products. If you have any items you would like to donate to our monthly raffles, please bring them along.

See you Thursday!



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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.

The officers of SODZ are:

President—Bonni Katona

bkatona@columbus.rr.com
(614) 792-7933

Vice President—Mark Irwin

irwin.49@osu.edu
(614) 457-2487

Treasurer—Jim Leas

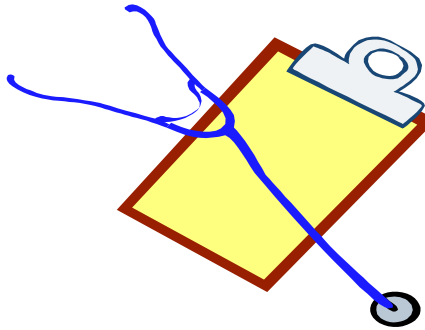
jleas@cinci.rr.com
(513) 936-3061

**Secretary/Newsletter Editor
Mark Katona**

MarkK@resourceinternational.com
(614) 792-7933

Membership Director

Larry Pesyna
ldpesyna@iwaynet.net
890-3278



Dr. Beer is in the House

Mark Katona

At the next meeting we will be running a Dr. Beer presentation. We will be sampling beers that have been doctored to make them resemble either noted attributes for certain beer styles, or more likely, problems with the beer.

This will be a training session for those of you who would like to learn how to recognize and avoid beer problems, characteristics of style, or even begin to learn to judge beer.

There will be a scoresheet passed out to everyone so that you can write down what you think is happening in the beer and compare how you did later with everyone else. We are going to do it this way so those of us who know what we are smelling, tasting etc. don't tell you what is wrong, etc. before you can figure it out.

See you Thursday.



BJCP Beer Certification

By Mark Katona

As some of you know, I took the BJCP (Beer Judge Certification Program) test at Beer and Sweat in Cincinnati last August. The exam was an arduous (on the right arm at least) one, consisting of a two hour written exam and a judging of 4 beers in 1 hour.

The two hour written exam consists of 10 essay questions testing your general knowledge of the BJCP and beer in general. They want to know things such as what causes problems with beer, if flavors and aromas are problems or are they a wanted portion of a beer style, recipe formulation (for a beer style I just barely recognized) and other aspects of brewing.

For the tasting part, Ed Westermeier, our proctor, gave us 4 samples of beers that had been collected at the state fair competition. I began to suspect something when Ed gave me a funny look when he handed me something that looked like Pepsi Cola and said to judge this as a "pale ale". Ed and I had a similar conversation at the state fair competition when he asked me if we were judging Pepsi. Ed admitted after we were done that he had collected 1 bottle of 4 better beers in each category that he had decided we would be tested on and mixed them that morning before he gave them to us.

I did reasonably well, I scored higher on the tasting than I did on the written portion, the written was worth 70% and the tasting 30%. My whole overall score was 65%, which was slightly lower than the 70% I needed to be certified, but I am an officially recognized beer judge. I haven't decided when I will retake the test, but I will be better prepared for it next time.

I encourage any of you who are thinking about taking the test to do so. It was well worth the effort.

AHA 2000 Club-Only Competitions

Early February	Barley-Wine Style Ale
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 website.

The AHA is looking for clubs to host the events this year. It would be a good way for SODZ to get known to other clubs around the country to judge one of these events.



2574 Zebec Street
Powell, OH 43065



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Mark Your Calendars

November 11
Regular Meeting
Barley's Smokehouse

December 3
Captivator Party—Hoster's
By Invitation Only

December 10
SODZ Christmas Party
Mark & Bonni Katona's House

January 13
Regular Meeting
AHA Club-Only Competition
Barley Wines
Location TBA

February 5
CMI Pub Crawl, Cincinnati