



The Brain Mill

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

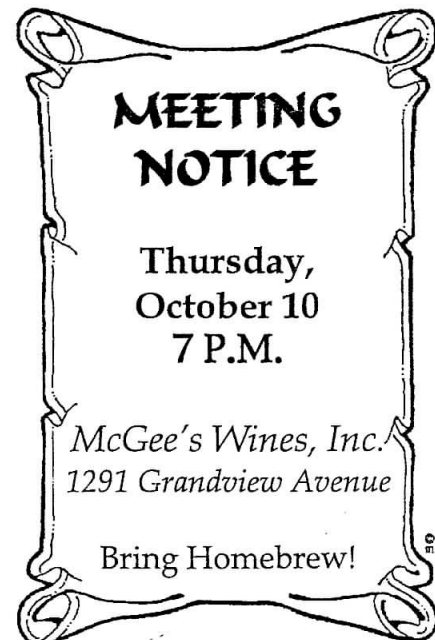
by Ron Phillips

Hi everyone, how's brewing? It looks like cooler brewing weather is upon us. I heard that it might actually frost this weekend (isn't it kind of early for this?) Hopefully it will be a clear (even if it is cool) day for Grand Brewfest '96. Speaking of the GBF (not the GABF, no awards for Coors, PBR, or Red Dog here!), I'd like to thank in advance the members who volunteered to help. This event couldn't take place without you.

The first round of judging for the homebrew competition took place on Saturday, September 28. SODZ was represented by around 19 entries, which sounds impressive until you consider that only a few brewers entered (multiple entries). I know that September is kind of a "dry spell" in terms of having brews to enter, but keep this in mind when brewing this year, and anticipate having something worthy on hand to enter in next year's competition. By the way, this is a great time to enter higher gravity beers that require aging. The Best of Show judging will take place on Sunday at GBF around 2 p.m.

Now, a gentle chastisement from your president. I was really disappointed with the attendance at the last meeting. Only a dozen or so people showed up, and three of them were visitors! I don't know how anyone expects the club to grow (both in numbers and knowledge) unless more interest is expressed by the members. How can I ask someone (or myself) to take the time to work up an educational presentation when I'm not sure that anyone will be present to hear it? I know that some of you are out of town for business reasons or have other, equally valid excuses, which are perfectly understandable. I just hope that moe of you will find the time to attend (after all, that's why we moved the meetings from Saturday afternoon to Thursday evening).

OK, soapbox mode off. Hope to see you at the next meeting on October 10 (second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m., same as always).



RAFFLE PRIZES at Next Meeting

Special thanks go to Mary Weiler for the donation of a glass carboy and plastic fermenter that we are going to raffle off at the next meeting.

MEAD MAGIC

by Jon Woodman

Hello fellow SODZers! I just got back my score sheets from the Club-Only Competition "Mead Magic" and wanted to share with everyone the results.

There were 68 entries to the competition. First Place went to Hal Buttermore of The Ann Arbor Brewers Guild for his Strawberry Still Melomel. Second Place went to Lee Gross of The Covert Hops Society (Atlanta, GA) for his Mulling Spices Still Metheglin. Third Place went to Kevin McClory of The Allegheny Libation Education and Recreation Society (Franklinville, NY) for his Blueberry and Willamette Hop Sparkling Melomel.

Our entry was my Blackened Raspberry Mead, a blackberry/red raspberry sparkling melomel. My composite score was 28, the average of a 30 and a 26. The first judge was John Carlson. He appreciated the berry aroma and the deep red color. He found honey expression minimal (but typical of dry sparkling melomel), and a slight haze to the mead. Carlson said the balance was good, carbonation slight, alcoholic strength evident, and that flavor and honey expression are fair, but could be increased. Score: 30; Breakdown: Aroma 6/10; Appearance 4/6; Flavor 15/24; Overall 5/10.

The second judge was Caroline Duncher. She liked the fruit aroma, but detected an off medicinal or smoky character. She described the color as "a gorgeous deep red hue and clear." However, in the flavor she found "some phenolics overshadowing the flavor of fruit and honey," including a hot tamale character. She also questioned the source of the yeast as a possible source of the off flavors. [Note: the yeast was the Wyeast Sweet Mead yeast which I have never had a problem with.] Score: 26; Breakdown: Aroma 6/10; Appearance 6/6; Flavor 9/24; Overall 5/10.

I am pretty happy with these scores, as 28 is at the high end of "Good" and at least one judge gave me a 30, which is in the "Very Good" range. I felt that I got worthwhile comments from the judges, and would urge everyone to enter their beers in future Club-Only Competitions.

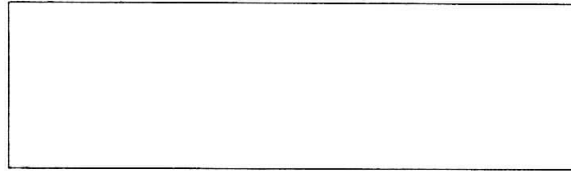
OCTOBER CLUB-ONLY COMPETITION

At the October 10 meeting, we will be judging entries for the club-only competition. This month's theme is Best of Fest. Bring your Oktoberfest-style beer so we may be represented.

SODZ ADDRESS LIST

NAME
Begg, Cameron
Charlton, Tom
Conrads, Tim
Driscoll, David
Duda, Cheryl
Howell, Randy
Irwin, Mark
Jones, Tom & Carolyn
Judge, Jamie
Katona, Mark & Bonni
Kosbab, Steve
Larsen, Geoff
Leas, Jim
McComb, Dale
Mirarchi, Mike
Palmer, Dennis
Phillips, Ron
Plunkett, Ed
Samaitis, David & Jeanny
Tiefenthal, Jim
Tubaugh, Dave
Wade, Kevin
Walker, Mark
641 Mallard Drive
Weiler, Mary
Wood, Chip
Woodman, Jon

Please en



2574 Zebec Street
Powell, OH 43065



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, October 6—1-6 p.m.

Grand Brewfest '96
McGee's Wines, Inc.
Setup begins at 9 a.m.

Thursday, October 10—7 p.m.

SODZ Meeting @ McGee's
Club-Only Competition
Best of Fest (Bring your
Oktoberfest-style entries)

Tuesday, November 5—7:30 p.m.

Election Day Party
Watch the returns with
Jon Woodman & Cheryl Duda
1823 Hobbes Drive, Hilliard

Thursday, November 14—7 p.m.

SODZ Meeting @ McGee's

TRIVIAL PURSUIT

Answer: Jon Woodman

Question: Who's going to
LA October 23-24 to appear
as a contestant on Jeopardy!

All together, now, let's hum
the theme song!

Good Luck, Jon!