



# The Grain Mill

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## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Geoff Larsen

I don't know about the rest of you folks, but my September was jammed. I had to find a new place to live, work the Dayton Brewfest (with Mark Irwin), look for a new place for the club to meet, and (oh, yeah...) work for a living. And, I still found the time to brew beer for a friend's retirement party. You can't claim I have my priorities wrong.

If you have a chance, please thank Victor for his hospitality at Hoster's last month. He has been very good to the club. Let him know you appreciate it.

This month's meeting will be held at The Underground in Barley's on October 9. They have a band play on Thursday nights. So, we will need to finish up early in order to give the band an opportunity to set up. To that effect, the meeting hours will change this month to run from 6:30 to 8:00.

We have been given the Green Light to bring in beers for evaluation, but please be discreet. Bring them in small coolers or bags. No kegs this month, please. There is not a convenient side entrance for bringing them in. If you would like to bring in keg beer but don't have a jug of some sort, call me. I have some extra half-gallon jugs that I would be very happy to loan out. They are even clean.

It is important we finish up at 8:00 sharp. So, if you plan on eating dinner (like me), please consider holding off until the meeting is over. And, if you have already eaten, come on upstairs anyway and join us for more beers. Barley's has had some really nice beers recently, including real ales on some nights served from a firkin mounted on the bar.

I would really like to see folks wear something that identifies us as SODZ members when we go upstairs afterward. If you have a club shirt, consider wearing it.

For those of you that are interested (and I sure am!), Scott Francis, Victor Ecimovich, and Ben Pridgon are putting together a pub crawl for November 18. My understanding is they will start at one of the three brewpubs and have a bus available to transport folks from place to place as the evening progresses. Munchies and beers will be served at each of the pubs. Scott should be able to give us more information at the meeting. Life is good!

Bob Cotterman has made life easy for me with regards to finding a more permanent meeting place. He would like for us to make his shop home for our club. He even bought chairs for that purpose. We will be voting on that issue that evening. If

you can't make it to the meeting but want to put in your two cents worth (or vote), contact one of the officers and let us know. If the vote is positive and Bob is ready for us, we will have our first meeting there next month.

I want to get back to more organization in our meetings. To that effect, I will have a proposed list of beer themes for the rest of the months of the year. This list will be based on upcoming competitions (club-only and otherwise). If you have any specific suggestions for that list, please e-mail me and let me know.

Well, that's about it for the corner this month. I've been running off of the mouth long enough. Those of you who are interested in touring some other Ohio clubs with me this fall, contact me and we'll coordinate it. I think my next stop will be either Wort Infusers or Bloatarians. Until then, have fun! Later...

## MEETING NOTICE

Thursday  
October 9  
6:30-8 p.m.

Barley's Brewing Co.  
467 N. High Street

Bring Enough Beer  
for Everyone to Sample  
(3-4 bottles or  
half-gallon jug suggested.  
No kegs this time.)

## SECOND DAYTON BREWFEST

*by Mark Irwin*

As Geoff mentioned in the last newsletter, the Dayton Regional Area Fermentation Technologists, better known as DRAFT, held their second annual brewfest on September 13. Our exalted leader, Geoff Larson, and I went out to help with the festival and maybe drink a beer or two.

The day started out at Boston's Bistro and Pub with the judging for their competition. They had 121 entries in 16 major categories from across the country, including entries from Texas, Virginia, Maryland, and Oregon. The judging went extremely smoothly. They broke the judging into two sessions with 8 different categories judged in each session. In the morning I was the steward for the two judges evaluating the wheat beers, and in the afternoon I helped out with the Irish Dry and Foreign style stouts. I can't remember what Geoff did in the morning, but in the afternoon sessions he was stewarding the judges tasting another set of stouts. There were many very good beers entered, and I think only a couple of real disasters.

I strongly urge you to consider entering in next year's competition. There are many of you who brew beers that probably would have done very well in the competition. Just don't do what one of the organizers did—entering his porter as a pale ale and his pale ale as a porter. If you're interested in getting involved in judging, you might consider stewarding at next year's event. The judges I assisted were very willing to answer questions about the beers we were tasting, and helping out gave a great idea what is involved.

After the judging, a group went on a pub crawl in Dayton. The group visited 4 or 5 different places during the crawl. Geoff and I ended up skipping this. Instead we ended up staying at Boston's with a few other people, helping with the clean-up, followed by sam-

pling some of Boston's beer selection. They have around a dozen taps, most of which pour interesting beers, including one that I've been wanting to try for a while, La Trappe Dubbel. They also have a good selection of bottled beers. Not a bad place to stop for a beer.

In the evening, the festivities moved to the Dayton Canoe Club for the awards banquet. I'm guessing around 60 to 70 people showed up for this. For dinner we had roast chicken with all the sides and, of course, all the beer you could drink. The organizers did a great job in getting beer donated. There must have been a dozen cases of donated beer for people to drink, much of it supplied by Pete's Wicked Ale. Those who were adventurous could also try the leftover, unlabelled bottles of beer from the competition. This could have been a bit dangerous as there were a couple of gushers observed during the judging earlier in the day.

Of course, the prizes from the competition were awarded. Columbus resident, and hopefully soon a new SODZ member, Jay Erisman, had four prize-winning beers in the competition, receiving two firsts, a second, and a third. He had the most prize winning beers in the competition, even beating out famous beer writer George Fix, who had three.

Also during the evening there was the raffle, though probably it should of been referred to as door prizes as I think everybody went home with something, and they didn't sell tickets. One of the big prizes was a 15-gallon glass carboy donated by Geoff on behalf of SODZ. The evening then finished off with some informal beer drinking. I don't know how long this went on as Geoff and I decided we had better head back to Columbus. It was not a bad evening for a \$5 entry fee. Actually, it was free for us as we helped out during the day.

Geoff and I had a great time. I strongly urge the rest of you to join the festivities next year, either helping out like we did, or just showing up for the pub and dinner. There was a fun bunch of people there, many from Dayton, but also a lot from around the state.

# AHA NATIONAL CONVENTION

by Alan Vestal

My wife (Jennifer) and I went to the AHA national convention in Cleveland for two days. We arrived on that Friday, the 18th of July, and checked in at the hotel. We spotted Michael Jackson (of "Beer Hunter" fame NOT "Beat it" fame) leaving as we arrived that morning. I attended the following sessions:

- 10:00 AM FRI - Sensory analysis of beer and off-flavors workshop by M. Pellettieri of the Siebel Institute. This was very informative and involved tasting samples of doctored up Miller Lite to represent all the classic off flavors in beer.
- 1:00 PM FRI - Beginner Yeast Lab by Keith Villa, Master Brewer of Blue Moon Brewing. Pretty good hands-on lab where everyone made agar slants of lager and ale yeasts.
- 3:00 PM FRI - Specialty Grains Lab by Keith Gretenhardt of Schreier Malting. This would have been a better talk if the speaker was an avid homebrewer. It was good to see, touch, smell and taste lots of samples of malts and roasted grains etc., but it needed more of a perspective of what pertained to the homebrew scale.
- 5:00 PM FRI - Advanced Hop Lab with Ralph Olson of HopUnion USA. This guy put on a great presentation. I'm probably biased since I'm such a hop head, but Ralph was very enthusiastic about his line of work. He had lots of great slides, pounds and pounds of pressed hop bricks, and samples of hops aftershave to take home! This was my favorite session.
- 9:30 AM SAT - Old Ales by Ray Daniels. Both Ray and Mark Dorber discussed old ales and the tradition and history behind the making and serving of old ales. Lots of beer tasting was in order, which made for a great liquid breakfast! I bought a copy of Ray's latest book *Designing Great Beer* and got him to autograph the inside cover.

Later we tasted lots of great beer at the festival, and I just had to shake hands with Charlie

Pap. Some nice freebies were on hand, such as carboy caps and sanitizers. My wife and I got to taste a really smooth Barleywine, which had been aged for over 2 years.

We had lots of fun, and we were glad we went. Leftover 2nd round beer entries were available all weekend for sampling, too. This made for good comparison of all the different beer styles (each style was labeled on the bottle). Overall the whole weekend was enjoyable and informative. Lots of available homebrew wasn't bad either!

## SODZ NEWS

### T-Shirts—Going, Going . . .

Don't have a SODZ T-shirt to wear at the meeting this Thursday at Barley's? A few SODZ T-shirts with the logo on the front and the definition of Zymurgy on the back are still available for purchase. We have one Large and two or three XL available for \$10 each. There's one XXXL available for \$12. Call Bonni Katona at 792-7933 or email at [katona.3@osu.edu](mailto:katona.3@osu.edu) if interested in purchasing one.

### AHA Club-Only Competition

This month we'll be judging for the Weiss is Nice category in the AHA Club-Only Competition. If you'd like to include your entry, be sure to mention it to Geoff Larsen when you arrive at the meeting Thursday night. This will be the first category on the agenda.

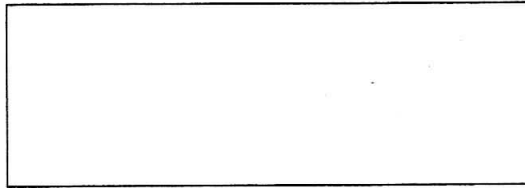
### SODZ On-line

Mark and Bonni Katona, the club Webheads, spent part of their summer starting up the SODZ Web page. While much still needs to be done, there is enough content to explore. Point your browser to <http://www.iwaynet.net/~zaphod/sodz/sodzhome.html>. Yeah, yeah, we need to shorten it.

Currently the site has information about the club, including meeting dates, a downloadable membership application form, newsletter archives of articles for about five months, and a recipe archives. Future plans include photos of SODZ events and links to Ohio homebrew clubs, microbreweries, and homebrew supply shops.

### Newsletter Article Deadline

Thanks to all who contributed articles for this month's issue of The Grain Mill. The deadline for the November issue is October 31. Remember, your editor is a happy person as long as the articles keep on coming!



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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**October 9, 6:30 p.m.**      **SODZ Meeting**  
Wiess is Nice Club-Only Competition  
Barley's Brewing Co.

**November 13**      **SODZ Meeting**  
Bitter Mania Club-Only Competition  
Location TBA

**December 11**      **SODZ Meeting**  
Christmas Party

*Locations subject to change  
with notice.*