

The Grain Mill

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

September 2001

President's Corner

by Mark Irwin

The big news for the club during the summer had to have been our results at this year's State Fair competition. This was our best showing ever with club members winning 8 of the 16 flights. Of course the biggest news was the infamous Motherbird Porter winning Best of Show. Though why did it have to be this competition for Mark Richards to finally figure out that he needs to enter it as a Baltic Porter. For those of you that haven't seen the results, if they aren't included in this month's newsletter, they can be found on the club web site on the What's New page.

Also successful on the competition front was AJ for taking Best of Show at the E.T. Barnette Homebrew Competition held this summer in Alaska with his Peach Melomel that so many of you enjoyed at the January mead meeting.

As usual, a good size group of club members went down for Beer and Sweat last month. While we didn't have the success that we've had the past few years, I believe everybody had a good time. There were a large number of very good beers, ciders, and meads this year. You know that there has to be some good stuff if Atomic Fireball Mead only gets an honourable mention. I had a difficult time judging the Best of Show as there were many strong contenders. The winner this year was a Hefe-Weizen by a brewer I can't remember and currently can't find out since hbd.org seems to be

down so I can't get to the Blotarian web site. The other big winners were Jack Kephart and Art Beall, both of SAAZ. Each of them won multiple flights.

We will be getting back to our regular schedule this month. Our first meeting will be at the Smokehouse on the 15th at 7pm. I believe the only major business that we will have this month is to choose our entry for the California Common AHA Club Only competition. If you have any steaming away, please bring them Thursday night. And of course, if you have any new beers for people to try, please bring them along. For those of you who weren't able to make it to the picnic, I will be bringing some of the Club Brew Porter. Like previous meetings, a number of us will be arriving early for dinner. As usual, all are welcome. However if you plan on joining us for dinner, please arrive early so we can get the meeting started on time. This month will either be the last opportunity to sample something off the old Smokehouse menu or the first opportunity to try something from the new one. The new menu was supposed to be out now, but it sounds like it has been delayed so Lenny can finish keying all of the changes into the

computer. As usual, if you know anybody who is interested in the club, please bring them along to the meeting. I understand we should have at least a couple of new people this month.

If you are looking for competitions to enter your beers in, the next two coming up in the state are DRAFT's and CMI's. It may be too late to get entries into DRAFT's competition as the entry deadline was September 8th. However it isn't too late for CMI's Oktobersbest. At last year's competition we won the prize for most entries, beating out the Net-Hoppers from Texas at the last minute. I expect that Dave Dixon is busy organizing right now to knock us out of top spot, as they really wanted to win that prize last year. To help you find competitions that you might want to send entries to, I've added a page to the club web site for competitions. While I've added a couple of general lists, and I'll eventually get the usual Ohio competitions up, please send me information about any other competitions you think club members might be interested in. And if you have any other suggestions or additions for the web site, send those along as well.

Also on the competition front, please check out Herb's article suggesting that the club hold its own competition. This is something I think the club should strongly consider doing. Of course this is something we will need to discuss at upcoming meetings.

Mark Your Calendar...

SEPT 15	Sixth Annual Dayton Beerfest
OCT 11	SODZ October Meeting
OCT 13	CMI Oktobersbest Zinzinnati

SODZ INFO

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

Meetings begin at 7 p.m.

Membership dues are \$20 per year and are renewable during the member's anniversary month of joining SODZ. Dues may be mailed to:

Jim Leas (Treasurer)
9477 Tramwood Court
Cincinnati, Ohio 45242

Members receive The Grain Mill, the club's monthly newsletter. Articles submitted for the newsletter and should be received no later than June 1st for next month's issue and may be submitted by e-mail, preferably in MSWord, to markrichards@columbus.rr.com or on disk in MSWord.

Current SODZ Officers are:

President

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

Vice President

Herb Bresler
BreslerHS@aol.com
(614) 258-5751

Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Mark Richards
markrichards@columbus.rr.com
(614) 268-1178

Treasurer

Jim Leas
jimleas@cinci.rr.com
(513) 936-3061

Membership Director

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

www.sodz.org

Our Own "British Open"

Herb Bresler

I have long thought that when SODZ was ready, we should try to host a homebrew competition. I think the club has matured to the point that we are ready to host a competition. However, the AHA has a 3-year backlog of clubs wishing to host Club-Only competitions. We can get in the queue, but we can't even begin to think about hosting one for quite a while. I don't think we have enough volunteers or judges to host an all categories competition. Besides, we already nominally "host" the State Fair competition, even though Brett Chance does all the work and generously gives us some of the credit.

I propose we host a competition in which only certain BJCP/AHA categories would be judged. The Bloat's have Beer & Sweat and Bockfest, DRAFT hosted the Belgian AHA Club-Only and the Dayton Beerfest, and CMI hosts Oktobersbest Zinzinnati. I thought we should do something a little different -- something more fitting for our local Columbus brewing scene - The SODZ British Open. As the name suggests, the SODZ British Open would be open to entries in all the British styles: English, Scottish and Irish beers (I don't think there is a Welsh beer BJCP category). That would be categories 4, 5, 7 (with English hops only, no American versions allowed), 10 A-C (not D), 11, 12A, 15 and 16. That's 19 categories and subcategories altogether (see the chart). That's still a lot of beer to receive, store, register and judge. Many details remain undecided. There will be lots of score sheets to send to entrants. We need to pick a time of year to host this event. Should we have the first one sometime in 2002? Should we allow only "long-neck brown" bottles or should we allow growlers and/or swing-top bottles? Who will be responsible for the competition overall? Who will take on subtasks like getting sponsorships and coordinating prizes? Where are we going to hold the judging? Will the event have any kind of public festival associated with it? If so, where? Where would we store the entries until judging? This is the sort of event that will take the committed work of many people, not just a few dedicated workers. If we are to be successful hosting our own competition it will involve every SODZ member. The big overriding question is, "Should we do this (or something like this) at all?" I want to hear from you.

Category Subcategory

4 BITTER & ENGLISH PALE ALE

- A. Ordinary Bitter
- B. Special or Best Bitter
- C. Strong Bitter/English Pale Ale

5 SCOTTISH ALES

- A. Light 60/-
- B. Heavy 70/-
- C. Export 80/-

7 INDIA PALE ALE (no American hops)

10 BROWN ALE

- A. Mild
 - B. Northern English Brown Ale
 - C. Southern English Brown Ale
- #### 11 ENGLISH & SCOTTISH STRONG ALE

- A. Old Ale
 - B. Strong Scotch Ale (Wee Heavy)
- #### 12 BARLEYWINE & IMPERIAL STOUT

- A. English-style Barleywine

15 PORTER

- A. Robust Porter
- B. Brown Porter

16 STOUT

- A. Dry Stout
- B. Sweet Stout
- C. Oatmeal Stout
- D. Foreign Extra Stout

Craft Brewers Conference

by Herb Bressler

Beer quote of the month:

Without question, the greatest invention in the history of mankind is beer. Oh, I grant you that the wheel was also a fine invention, but the wheel does not go nearly as well with pizza. - Dave Barry

The Craft Brewers Conference & Expo. will be held at the Renaissance Hotel in Cleveland on April 10-13, 2002 (<http://www.aob.org/IBS/CBC2002/index.htm>). I have attended the AHA National Conferences whenever they have been close enough to drive and have always had a great time. I would expect that the brewing seminars may be a bit more advanced and there will probably be sessions dedicated more to the business side of craft brewing than one would find at an AHA meeting, but it should be fun and educational, nonetheless. I would also expect that there will be lots of brewers visiting from elsewhere displaying their brews at the Expo. for your sampling enjoyment. There will be more reminders and details as the time approaches. In the meantime, mark your calendars and check out the web site.

AHA Club-Only Competitions:

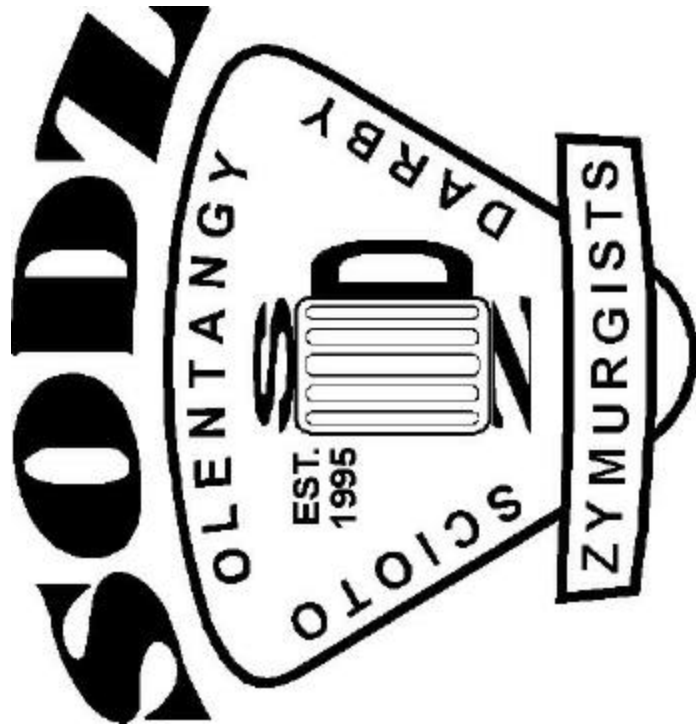
Esteemed California Common Beer Competition
Hosted by Tom Hamilton and the Maltose Falcons
Category 6C. California Common Beer

Bring your California Common to the September SODZ meeting.

Entries are due

to the host site by September 28, 2001 for judging October 13.





The Grain Mill
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Scioto Olentangy Darby Zymurgists
The Grain Mill Editor
39 East Torrence Road
Columbus, OH 43214