

THIS is the HOTV BREWSLETTER

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**AHA Recruiting
Club of the Year**

LAST MONTH

February's meeting was held at **Lee Smith's** house in Albany. We started out in the kitchen but after exceeding the kitchen's capacity we got banished to the garage, which turned out to be a fine place to taste many varieties of beer and lots of good food.

The upcoming Oregon Homebrew Festival was the major item of business on the agenda. Planning for the festival is going well, and we are expecting a record number of entries this year. Be prepared...

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, we discussed a proposed bylaw change that would make the festival chairperson an elected office along with the other officers (president, vice president, treasurer, and newsletter editor). This proposal will be voted upon at the March meeting.

Several other bylaws proposals are printed in this month's newsletter. We will discuss these at the March meeting, and they will be voted upon at the April meeting.

THIS MONTH

We meet at a member's house at 7 PM on the third Wednesday of each month, generally alternating between Corvallis and Albany. The March meeting will be held on **March 17**, St. Patrick's Day, in Corvallis at Scott new house at **29xx Mulkey** (phone **phone**). Directions to Scott's house follow:

From Corvallis:

- Take Highway 20 almost to the Albany city limits.
- Turn LEFT on SCENIC DRIVE. Follow this around until the stop sign.
- Turn LEFT on MAIER LANE. Fork to the right (there should be a smallish sign). 2190 is the last house.

From Albany:

- NORTH ALBANY ROAD becomes GIBSON HILL

ROAD. Follow this until you see SKYLINE DRIVE on the left.

- Turn LEFT on MAIER LANE. Fork to the right (there should be a smallish sign). 2190 is the last house.

CLUB-ONLY COMPETITION NEWS

AHA has finally published the schedule for the next few club-only competitions, so get brewing! This month's club-only competition is "Why Don't We Do It In The Robe"—Belgian- and French-Style Ales (AHA Category 2). Bring a bottle of your best homebrewed Belgian or French ale to the March HOTV meeting and we'll have a taste-off. The winner of our mini-competition will then submit 3 bottles to the main competition with the top beer from other AHA registered clubs throughout the country. (And you'll have to send your entry in right away after the meeting, since entries are supposed to be received by March 22!)

The next club-only competition will be Bockanalia, featuring (you guessed it) Bock! We'll have the HOTV Bock taste-off at the April meeting, then the winner will have lots of time to send in their entry to the main competition.

Remaining 1999 AHA Club-Only Competition Schedule

<i>Competition</i>	<i>Entries Due</i>
Why Don't We Do It In The Robe (Belgian & French, no Lambics)	March 22 1999
Bockanalia (Bock)	May 17 1999
It's a Mead, Mead, Mead, Mead	Early August 1999

World	
Porter! (sponsored by the Capitol Brewers of Salem!)	October 4 1999
Winter Warmer (English and Scottish Strong Ale)	Early December 1999

IT'S HERE - THE HOTV RIMS!

After more than 6 months of waiting, our state-of-the-art RIMS (Recirculating Infusion Mash System) homebrew system has arrived! Heart of the Valley Homebrewers won this system from the AHA by virtue of our being named the 1998 AHA Recruiting Club of the Year. (By the way, if you haven't seen it already, there's a nice little write-up about HOTV, Capitol Brewers, and Oregon Brew Crew in this month's Zymurgy).

The RIMS will be present at the March meeting for everyone to take a look at it. Any club member in good standing can check it out, as well as any of the other pieces of the club's ever-growing collection of brewing equipment (see list below).

Lee noted one small problem that may delay the inaugural batch another week or two (but hey, at least we have most of the system finally!). "One small glitch with the new system is that the manufacturer called and asked that we return the processor, because they didn't know for sure if it had been properly calibrated! Can you imagine that? Anyway, UPS won't even pick it up until Monday, 3/8. The manufacturer said they would calibrate and immediately return it, but it still might not be back by the 17th. Will this saga never end..."

The club equipment inventory now consists of the Recirculating Infusion Mash System, the CO2 kit, a bottle-filler and a grain mill. All of the items are now available to any member whose dues are current for this year.

NEWSLETTERS AND MEMBERSHIP

by Mark Taratoot

So it seems it's time again to visit the bylaws. Heart of the Valley Homebrewers adopted bylaws to help insulate members' and officers' exposure to personal liability for club activities. The format and wording were adopted from bylaws of other homebrew clubs, primarily by then President Lee Smith. Whether these bylaws actually provide any protection has yet to be tested. At a recent meeting, some wording changes to the bylaws were suggested.. Some of my comments follow.

Proposals for bylaw changes are in an associated article.

A recurrent issue has been restricting distribution of all formats of our newsletter to members. As most of you are aware, I am opposed to this restriction for several reasons. As a past newsletter editor, I believe I have a unique perspective on this issue. For two years, I published our newsletter and wrote most of the text. This was not an insubstantial effort. As far as I was concerned, the wider the distribution, the less energy per reader it cost me to publish the newsletter. I began distributing the newsletter via email to those members with addresses.

Most recipients of the email newsletter opted to forgo their paper copies, thereby saving the club money each month. Prior to the email newsletter, the cost of production (printing and mailing) of the newsletter was over half of the \$12 annual dues.

To further expand club exposure and newsletter distribution, I began publishing a web-based version of the newsletter. Herky has continued this service as editor for 1998-1999. Email and web-based distributions of our newsletter cost the club nothing (web space is donated by Herky and myself) and continue to broaden exposure of our club.

An argument was made that some individuals ask why they should continue to pay dues when they get their newsletter free anyway. This is a valid concern. Let me then speak to the question of "Why should I be a member?" Aside from the obvious reason that if you participate regularly in club activities, you should pay your share of the club's financial burden, there are benefits of membership. Members are entitled to use the club's CO2 tank and accessories, grain mill, and extensive brewing library. Members receive occasional discounts at local merchants and discounts & priority registration for club activities. Members will also be able to use the club's RIMS (recirculating infusion mash system), should AHA ever make good on their promise and actually deliver the thing. I propose an additional benefit in another article. There will surely be those who don't want to pay dues for financial reasons or because they are not "joiners." I feel our club can benefit from the viewpoints and brewing and judging skills of many of these people.

A suggestion was made to add wording in the bylaws to cut lapsed members' newsletter subscriptions after some date each year. This type of decision may not need to be part of the bylaws, but I have some comments on the idea. Memberships run January through December; dues are due before the end of January. I support the suggestion that subscriptions to the printed newsletter should not extend past January for people who have not paid dues. However, since the e-mail newsletter does not cost the club anything to distribute, since we send copies to people who will likely never be members, and since the newsletter

is also available to all on the web free of charge, I see no reason to limit distribution of the email newsletter. It only serves to expand interest in our club, and makes us inclusive rather than exclusive.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

by Mark Taratoot

Editor's Note: In accordance with the bylaws, the following amendments are published in the current newsletter. They will be discussed at the March meeting, and voted on at the April meeting.

After our last meeting, I decided it would be appropriate to review our bylaws. The following are some revisions to Article III Section 2 & Article VI Section 1 that I would suggest as well as two additions.

Article III Section 2:

To insure the membership is fully aware of issues for decision at a regular business meeting, wording should be inserted that proposed changes to the bylaws (and possibly other changes) will be announced in a newsletter prior to final decision making. The amount over which a vote of the membership is required to spend funds should be listed.

Article VI Section 1:

Changes in annual dues should be voted on by the membership, not decided by the officers, and the current dues should be listed.

Additions:

Many bylaws have a "Sunset Clause," or a time after which the bylaws are no longer valid unless an action is taken. In order to keep the bylaws current, add a clause that the bylaws will be reviewed regularly (annually?) by the membership. The membership can agree to reapprove the bylaws with no changes or propose minor or major revisions.

Since there is some concern that people are taking advantage of our club and participating without paying dues, I have a suggestion for a change to the dues structure. I propose dues be increased to \$15 per year, but that membership include one free entry to our annual competition. This could benefit the club by encouraging new members and supporting the festival, and it surely is a bonus to anyone who might choose to enter the competition.

PUB CRAWL

From all reports, last month's pub crawl to several

Portland/Vancouver area brewpubs was a big success. The only hitch I've heard of is that the beer ran out too soon on the way home. But despite that glitch, I don't think any attendees had any complaints about the day overall.

Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend this year's crawl, so we don't have a full report. If any attendees remember enough about the day to write about it, send me a report and I'll include it in next month's newsletter!

Lee sent the following information about expenses for the pub crawl:

BUS (4 hours at 37.50; 8 hours at 23.00)	\$334
DRIVER GRATUITY	\$40
CLEANING FEE (waived or forgotten, I'll not ask	\$0
BEER	\$56
TOTAL	\$430
COLLECTED	-\$290
NET TO CLUB	\$140

With participants paying 2/3 of the cost, this was the most cost effective pub crawl that I can recall.

STYLE OF THE MONTH

The March style of the month tasting will be **Barleywine**, hosted by **Kendall Staggs**. If you'd like to have the club taste various commercial varieties of your favorite style of beer, see one of the officers to sign up to host a future style of the month tasting.

The host gets to choose the beer style of the month (corresponding to the AHA club-only competition style if possible) and buy the beer for the tasting. The club will reimburse you for the beer (which is paid for by member donations).

Upcoming styles include:

<i>Month</i>	<i>Style</i>	<i>Host</i>
March	Barleywine	Kendall Staggs
April	???	Volunteers needed!

COMPETITION CALENDAR

It's that time of year again—homebrew competition time! Our own Oregon Homebrew Festival is just over two months away, and other competition deadlines are fast approaching. Here are a few notable ones. Corvallis' other

homebrew club, Mary's Peak Lagers, has their annual Lager Jam just three days after our March meeting, on March 20.

First round entries for the 1999 AHA National Homebrew Competition are accepted between March 29 and April 9. NOTE: HOTV has 10 certificates for free entries to the AHA National homebrew competition. We will decide at the March meeting how these should be allocated.

If you know of other competitions that you think would be of interest to HOTV members, please send me the relevant information. Also, if you let me know how you do in the competitions you enter, I'll include the results in future newsletters.

17 - HOTV Meeting (**Scott Caul**)

20 - Highway Cleanup (volunteers needed - see Lee)

20 - Mary's Peak Lager's Lager Jam

April

21 - HOTV Meeting (**Scott Caul**)

May

21,22 - Oregon Homebrew Festival (Benton County Fairgrounds)

NOTE: The May HOTV meeting has been scheduled due to the fact that the Oregon Homebrew Festival is scheduled for the same week.

UPCOMING HOTV EVENTS

March



Heart of the Valley Homebrewers

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