



Louisville
Area
Grain
Extract
Research
Society
The LAGERS' NEWZ!

“@” the January LAGERS Meeting?

BBC Wort Hog Meeting

What? There was no meeting for January! That's right the meeting was replaced by the LAGERS Holiday Dinner. For those that did not attend, you missed some fine beers. There was 15 beers on tap and 3 or 4 more that were waiting there turn to be hooked up.

The turnout this year seemed to be a little lower than in years past, but those that did attend had a good time. Dan Flaherty won a lovely pillow in the raffle, but then lost it, in what I considered, a bad trade. Oh well, as you know, items like that have a tendency to reappear in future raffles, so there may be an opportunity to correct your error Dan.

Thanks to all that showed up early to setup for the dinner and those that showed up on Sunday to cleanup. Those that cleaned up after the dinner did a great job, which made the cleanup on Sunday all that much easier. Also, a big thanks to everyone that brought food for the dinner. It was all very good.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the LAGERS supplied the beer for the January BBC Wort Hog meeting. The number of beers was limited to 10, and the Wort Hog members that attended were given a score card to rate the beers. The results of the judging have not yet been completed, but I will report the results when it is complete.

There was, as usual, great interest in the beers and the club. I think some people are of the mindset that a homebrewer can not make a beer as good as a commercial brewery, and are then surprised when they sample the beer. Becca, from BBC, took excellent care of us while we poured the beers for the meeting. Thank you Becca!

Grain Purchase

As reported, Paul Young announced that he would be generating a bulk grain order for all LAGERS members. For those that took advantage of this, you should all have your grain by now. Paul sent an order form and a price list with detailed instructions on how to order. Yet, he said that he got a number of calls from people asking if he could add a bag

or two to the order for them. Paul had to refuse these requests, as the instructions stated, call-ins were not acceptable. Paul apologizes to those that were refused, but there is no way for him to track a phoned in order. Thanks again to Paul for providing us this opportunity.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Monday February 15th at the BBC Taproom. LAGERS member, Scott Mathis, will be presenting yeast experiments that he performed to answer the question: What impact does yeast have on the flavor of beer? Nothing beats your own taste buds. Scott has done an extract split batch experiment using 6 different yeast strains. He will explain what he did and will be providing samples so you can taste the resulting beers and discover the results for yourself.

Special Notice

New BJCP Class to be Offered!

Beer Judge Certification Program

The LAGERS & FOSSILS are in the planning stages of hosting a BJCP class, taught by Dibbs Harting, our local National BJCP judge/BJCP Exam grader. This would be a class for people who are going to definitely take the BJCP test or have taken the test before and would like to improve their judge ranking. Dibbs has been grading the tests for the past year and can provide some insight on how to score well. If you are interested in taking this class, please contact [Leah Dienes](#).

The class is being planned for this spring. The cost for the class has yet to be determined, but will cover all study materials, etc.

The BJCP Exam is a 3-hour essay test, along with judging and scoring 4 beers as they would be in a competition.

More information on the exam itself can be found at <http://www.bjcp.org>.

Brew Site of the Month

Well we are in the beginning of the year and there are many who have started, and maybe finished, the annual quest for a thinner and lighter body. Since I am one of those people, it got me to wonder about the amount of calories that are in a pint of homebrewed beer. Well, it appears that in order to determine the amount of calories all you need to know is the starting and finished gravities. Check out this site from [Home Brewers Digest](#) for more information.

Ever thought about owning a bar or microbrewery? Now you have have your chance. One of our members ran across this Texas Co-Op that is giving their patrons an opportunity to do just that. Check out the [Black Star Co-Op](#).

If you are serious about starting a brewery then here is some information that is vital for [Brewery Startups](#).

Special Recognition

Sergios made DRAFT magazines top 150 list. He was the only one listed in this area.

Attn: Indiana Homebrew Clubs,

This is a Big Deal! For the first time in a very long time, the First Round Judging for the Largest Homebrew Competition in the World, the AHA Nationals, will not be held in Chicago, and for the First Time ever, it will be held here in Indianapolis!!!

This is something that Brian Steuerwald and myself, Ron Smith, have been thinking about for a while, and we made it happen this year. The AHA would like to have multiple locations for each of the 8 regional first round competition sites, so hopefully this will be the start of alternating this location with Chicago for the Great Lakes region.

It is very important that we do a great job with this competition, and we are very confident we will. With the BJCP study groups that myself and others have conducted over the past 5 years, we have developed a large base of trained and experienced BJCP judges here in Indiana. We are counting on this group, as well as many other volunteers to help make this competition a great success!

Brian and myself are somewhat sharing the leadership roles of running this large competition, which may see anywhere from 500 - 750 entries. Technically, Brian will be the Competition Coordinator and I will be the Judge Coordinator, but we will be dividing up the tasks slightly different.

Sun King Brewery has volunteered to be our receiving, storing and judging site, which should work out great. A Big Thanks to Sun King for welcoming us in for this event. This is also going to make it much easier for many of us here in Indiana to enter our beers, since we can drop them off in person at Sun King (and of course pick up a growler while we are there).

This First Round competition's purpose is to identify the top 3 beers in each major BJCP category for our region, which includes all of Indiana, Illinois and Michigan. These winning beers then advance to the Final Round held at the AHA National Conference in June in Minneapolis this year (this is a traveling conference that goes all over the country). You can learn more about the competition and the conference at [Homebrewers Association](#).

More information about hotels, judging and weekend activities and agenda, etc. will be forthcoming, but for now, we need to start lining up BJCP Judges, Stewards and Volunteers. The competition will be held over the weekend of April 23rd, 24th and 25th. Ideally, we can do this in one day on Saturday, 24th, but knowing that it takes other regions additional sessions on Friday Night as well as Sunday Morning to get it all done, we need to keep these times open as options.

We are really looking forward to hosting a great and fun competition, but we need your help. Please contact us with the following information if you can help out...

Judges:

- Name
- BJCP Rank and Experience
- BJCP Number
- Email Address
- Availability (23rd, 24th, 25th)

Stewards and Volunteers:

- Name
- Experience
- Email Address
- Availability (23rd, 24th, 25th)

Let us know if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Thanks,

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Discounts and Support

Don't forget to take advantage of Michael's generous offer (10% discount on Homebrew or Wine making Equipment & Ingredients)

LAGER Members must have a valid Membership Card to receive the discount, good at ALL Liquor Barn Locations!!!

Also, remember that My Old Kentucky Homebrew also offers a 10% discount on all homebrew purchases to LAGER members.

So, remember to support your local suppliers!

National Homebrewers Conference

Registration for the AHA 2010 National Homebrewers Conference in Minneapolis June 17th, 2010 is now open! The hotel has a block of +500 room this time, so the AHA is trying to keep us all under 1 roof. Remember, the conference has sold out the last 2 years and it's expected to in 2010. More information can be found at [NHBC](#)