

January

The Birmingham Brewmasters

Officers:

Scott Harville, President

Bob Nelson, Vice President

John Rhymes, Webmaster

Todd Darroch, Treasurer

Mr. X (Bill Lees?), Member at Large

Tracy P. Hamilton, Secretary and
Newsletter

As a member of the Brewmasters, you may be interested in signing up for the listbot, AKA mail exploder, remailer, whatever. See the

Web page www.bham.net/brew/masters.html

Styles for the coming year:

January American lager

February Wine?

March ?????

April ?????

May ?????

June ?????

July ?????

August ?????

September ?????

October ?????

November ?????

December ?????

Birmingham Brewmasters

C/o Tracy P. Hamilton

2541 Dunmore Dr.

Hoover, AL 35226

A synopsis of the December meeting:

Courtesy of Bill Plott with no comment (secretary was absent)

Style of the Month - Barleywines and slightly smaller

1. Alleged light beer from Porter Dave Holder (at the request of his 82-year-old mom)
2. Samuel Smith's Winter beer, provided by Gene Hopper
3. 1998 Anchor Steam Christmas Ale, provided by Francis Taylor
4. 1999 Anchor Steam Christmas Ale, provided by John Rhymes
5. 2000 Anchor Steam Christmas Ale, provided by Bill Plott
6. Old Scratch Lager, provided by Mr. X.
7. Old Fezziwigg, provided by Scott Harville
8. Arrogant Bastard Ale, provided by Matt Fries
9. Dead Guy Ale, provided by Mr. X.
10. Winterhook, provided by Bill Plott
11. Dogwood Winter , provided by John Rhymes
12. Old Nick Barleywine '98, provided by Francis Taylor
13. Old Nick Barleywine '99, provided by Francis Taylor
14. California Style Barleywine, year-old, provided by Scott Harville
15. Bob Nelson's "hot" Bass Ale clone

After much navel gazing by various and sundry leaderless members, Todd Darroch stepped up and ran the show. The chief legislation was of the 5 minute rule - a beer every 5 minutes. The election was decided without recounts.

Thanks to Todd for seizing the reins of power with more reluctance than Dubya or Al. And for hosting the planning meeting.

The next planning meeting will be at my house on the last Wednesday of January (Jackie reading this may be the first she hears that we volunteered). **All are welcome.** I can guarantee a couple of interesting beers will be served.

January event - What Women Want

(Homebrew, of course) Raffle

(subject to new administration approval)

January meeting agenda: The first beer that most of us started drinking - good old Bud, Miller or Coors type stuff. For the first month of the year. Of course, we can also consider what they should be, or have been in the past, as well.

This reminds me of a very interesting book about the beer business, called Beer Blast. It gives a lot of insight into how the big boys operate, with particular emphasis on advertising. For example, why light beers that emphasized low calorie content in ads inevitably fell flat. Same reason diet sodas aimed at men fail - they aren't interested in dieting. Why, after nightly consumption of a six pack, they still have that boyish figure - in their own eyes.

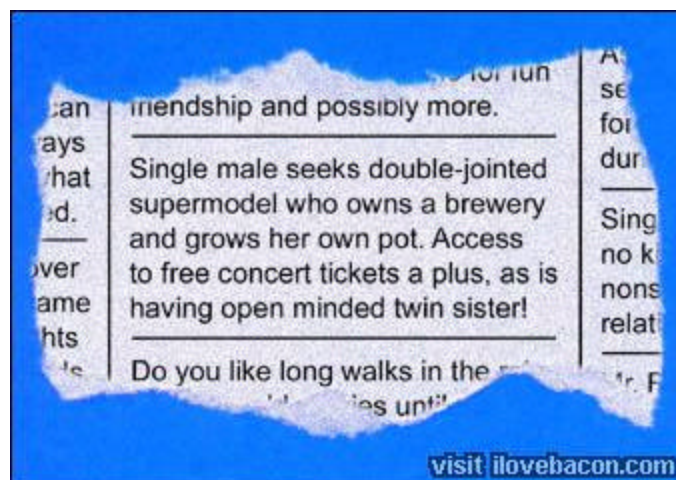
The first successful light beer, Miller Lite, used a commercial campaign that most of us can still remember - "Tastes great, less filling" from various macho sports celebrities. After that, the breweries looked for the next great markets (gimmicks). See how many you remember and can now find:

Dry
Ice
Draft

"Microbrewed" - Plank Road (Yeah, Right!)
"Imports" - Michelob Amber Bock and Hefeweizen

and various combinations - Bud Drafty Dry Ice Light, or some such.

New classified Ad section:



Planning Meeting Reminiscences

Attending were Doug McCullough, Tracy Hamilton, Bill Lees, and Todd Darroch, hosted by Todd. I took even better notes this time. Not very smart for somebody who wants to lose this job in the next election. I will see what I can do about messing up the rest of my duties. El Presidente sent word that he may have been in the incipient stages of a virus based illness.

A lot of the "planning" was about Doug's trip to Germany.

Peach liquor (Doug) - very peachy
Peach Schnapps (Todd) - for comparison
EKU 28 (Tracy) - whoa!
Ayinger Maibock (Bill) - malty aroma, light, slightly hoppy but no perceptibly malty taste
Pumpkin (Todd) - excellent, better with age
Belgian (Lees) - funky but not sour
The famous Cesnales-Darroch Barleywine - still fine
Bock (Doug) - deceptively crisp

Unopened were a can of Heineken Tarwebock and a bottle of Dark Island Scottish Ale. Maybe the next planning meeting...

February was decided to be the Wine month. It will be run by Doug, who will tell you *The Things "They" Won't Tell You*. They, being the people who assume that if you aren't born knowing these things, you are obviously ill-bred, unwashed hoi polloi. That's Greek for "the masses", for you hoi polloi out there. Perhaps you can tell I got a Thesaurus for Christmas.

Also, a future competition such as best clone of Sierra Nevada Pale Ale was suggested. I personally would also like to see one for Guinness. I have been trying, with no success.

Future Competitions to keep an Eye on

8th Annual Peach State Brewoff. This homebrew contest will be held on Saturday 2/17/01 at Sweetwater Brewing Company in Atlanta.

<http://www.mindspring.com/~redusc/PSBO2001/psbo2001.html>

Comics Page



Ask The Golf Guzzler

This was printed (really, I swear) in the June 4, 1997, edition of the Oakland Press, a newspaper in Pontiac, Mich.:

Hole-in-one

CRAVEN MOREHEAD, 69, of Ortonville, aced the 153-yard third hole at Willow Gardens in Greenville, N.C., on May 31 while on vacation. He used a 3-iron for his first ace ever. Witnesses were Phil McKreviss and Haywood Jablomey.

Hmmm. Wonder if these guys like a big head on their beer?

Dear Guzzler: I read recently about the Milwaukee golfer who was more concerned about his golf clubs being swiped when two men approached him on the ninth green and said they were going to rob him. What should I do if thieves want to something real dear to me -- like my stash of Old Milwaukee?

A: Safety first. If a gang of thugs comes after your brew, hand over the loot. Life is precious, but a six-pack can be replaced. In your case, all it takes is \$1.89 plus tax.

Dear Guzzler: Is it possible to have a good one-handed golf swing so that I can use my other hand to hold and swill a beer? I need some good sound advice, and you're the only one that I feel that I can trust. Please help me.

A: Now that's innovative thinking. I've read about one-armed guys who break par. So, yes, it can be done. Dare to dream.

Dear Guzzler: Ever since that one, very special episode of "Ellen," I have been wondering how to, well, tell my golf buddies something. I guess my question

is: Is there a particular kind of beer I should be drinking in order to build up my courage for the big announcement?

A: Try one of those raspberry beers. You won't need to say a thing.



Dear Guzzler: Even if you were extraordinarily drunk, you wouldn't ever golf with O.J., would you?

A: Nah. He's a hacker.

