



THIS is the HOTV BREWSLETTER

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It's a New Year Edition
January 1999

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Last Month

Winter Solstice Party Report

Held on a cold foggy night at **Sam Holmes'** house, the winter solstice party seemed to be a big success again this year. Once the ring toss started there was a steady line of folks standing in line waiting for a chance to walk down the stairs, throw a few rings at some bottles of beer, win a few bottles of beer, and walk around the house and do it all again. When we weren't tossing rings, we were enjoying beer & brownie floats, various other chocolate and beer pairings (Fred and dark chocolate was popular, although we missed former president **Bill Baxter's** famed chocolates).

Ron Hall was the winner once again in the Name That Beer contest, meaning that he is automatically nominated to run the contest next year.

And there was plenty of food and a wide variety of beer for all to enjoy. A good way to celebrate the end of 1998 and the beginning of 1999.

New Officers

As announced in the last newsletter, the officers for 1999 are:

President: **Michael Villiardos**

Vice President: **Eric Wager**

Newsletter Editor: **Herky Gottfried**

Treasurer: **Lee Smith**

This Month

We'll return to our traditional meeting time of 7 pm or so on the third Wednesday of the month. Our January meeting will be held at **Julie Barlow's** house at **1835 NW 17th** in Corvallis on **January 20**. Directions to Julie's house follow:

From Albany:

- Take Highway 20 towards Corvallis.
- Turn right on Circle Blvd. Continue straight on Circle through four lights
- Take a left on 17th street (road just before Albertson's). We are the fourth house on the left.

From Corvallis:

- From 9th street turn west on Circle Blvd. Go through two lights.
- Take a left on 17th street (road just before Albertson's). We are the fourth house on the left.

If you get lost or need further directions, Julie's phone number is **754-2581**.

Club-only Competition NEWS

It's time for the first AHA Club-Only Competition of 1999—"You're Special to Me" (AHA Category 23: specialty and experimental beers). This competition is hosted by the Brewers United for Real Potables (BURP) from northern Virginia and Washington DC.

The club entry for this competition is due by February 8, so we'll have a taste-off at our January meeting. The top entry from our club will be entered into the competition with the top beer from other AHA registered clubs throughout the country.

HOTV has earned a free entry into each of this year's club-only competitions, so bring a bottle of your best specialty and experimental beer to the January meeting for the chance to represent our club in this competition.

1999 AHA Club-Only Competition Schedule	
<i>Competition</i>	<i>Entries Due</i>
You're Special To Me (Specialty & Experimental)	February 8 1999
Why Don't We Do It In The Robe (Belgian & French, no Lambics)	End of March 1999
Bockanalia (Bock)	End of May 1999
It's a Mead, Mead, Mead, Mead World	Early August 1999
Porter! (sponsored by the Capitol Brewers of Salem!)	October 4 1999
Winter Warmer (English	Early December

HOTV Library

Heart of the Valley Homebrewers is amassing quite a collection of brewing-related items, all of which are available for checkout by members in good standing [subliminal message: pay your dues!]. For the sake of our newer members or those who have forgotten the extent of our holdings, here's a list. Most of these items are held at Lee Smith's house when not in use. See Lee or one of the other officers if you'd like to check any of these things out. They don't do anyone any good unless they're being used!

Please let me know if I've forgotten anything. I'll publish this list periodically in the newsletter.

CO2 kit

Counter-pressure bottle filler

Valley Mill Grain mill

"Classic Beer Styles" homebrew books (stored at Joel's shop [Corvallis Brewing Supply] and Herky Gottfried's house)

Zymurgy back issues

RIMS brewing system (when it arrives - any day now...)

Long-distance member update

For all of Pete and Maria Angwin's friends, we at last have an address and telephone number where they may be contacted. Eventually we will have an email address as well but, for now use 3358 Landmark Court, Redding, CA 96003. The phone number is 530-244-1847.

December Litter Pickup

By Lee Smith

At last the magic formula for a big turnout has been discovered! All that is needed is 30 degree weather and some sunshine. Nine of our members (and one soon-to-be member, we hope) congregated at Hyak Park on Saturday, December 19. Everyone was bundled up and ready to hit the highway when it was noticed that the so-called coordinator of this event, suffering yet another altogether too frequent memory lapse, had neglected to pick up the tongs along with the other needed equipment. Everyone took it in stride, though, recognizing that some bending over and occasional knee bends would probably do us all some good!

Our crew, consisting of Lys Buck, Mark Johnson, Scott Leonard, Andrew Kirchen, Eric Nicols (the prospective member), Gary Ferguson, John Sterner, Jim Cantey, Michael Villiardos and Lee Smith gathered a total of 31 bags plus junk too big for the bags. One of us found a new motorcycle tag, still in the plastic covering, which was later turned over to the DMV in Corvallis. So, lots of good comes from what we do.

Finally, when all was said and done, we gathered in Hyak Park for the social aspect of our time on the

highway. As always, the company was good, the discussions interesting and the refreshments colder than usual.

Lee

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Mark Kowalski**, whose brown ale won third place in Seattle's Novembeerfest competition a few months ago.

Treasurer's Report

By Lee Smith

As we go into 1999, our club roster consists of 57 members. Thus far 23, or 40 percent, have paid their dues for the coming year. That's good, considering it's only January. With the festival coming up in May, and a possible pub crawl before then, however, it would be prudent to shore up our bank balance as much as possible. So, if you haven't paid as yet, please try to do so as soon as you can. Some members probably decide to wait until "the next meeting" to pay their dues, but then can't make it, so it gets put off for another month. The U S Postal Service, with all its faults, is still a good way to pay. Your check (for \$12) should be made out to HEART OF THE VALLEY HOMEBREWERS, or just HOTV, and mailed to the club (or Lee Smith) at 2190 Maier Lane, NW, Albany, OR 97321.

Style of the Month

The Scottish style of the month tasting seemed to be the hit of the meeting in November. In January, **Rob Nicol** will be hosting a "winter ales & barleywines" tasting that should be equally enjoyable.

If you are interested in hosting a style of the month tasting at a future meeting, please see one of the 1999 officers. 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 through member donations).

Upcoming styles include:

<i>Month</i>	<i>Style</i>	<i>Host</i>
January	Winter ales & barleywines	Rob Nicol
February	???	Volunteers needed!
March	???	Volunteers needed!

Beer is Good Food!

Editor's Note: Thanks to **Kelly Ivors** for sending this and the following tidbit. If you have any beer- or homebrewing-related items for the newsletter, send them to hotv@mtsw.com.

Tests by Japanese researchers show that beer may inhibit the action of mutagens caused by some suspected cancer-causing compounds. Scientists at Okayama University near Hiroshima did the research, which appears in the January print issue of the Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry. The peer-reviewed journal is a publication of the American Chemical Society, the world's largest scientific society. Twenty-four different beers, including 17 lagers, four stouts, two ales and one nonalcoholic, from 11 countries were examined. Nearly all of the beers showed "potent inhibitory effect" against mutagens found in several types of heterocyclic amines, according to Sakae Arimoto-Kobayashi, Ph.D., lead author of the report. The stout beers were the most potent, claims Arimoto. The nonalcoholic beer and one of the lagers had no effect. The beers tested were from England, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Russia, Scotland, South Africa and the United States. Produced during the cooking of food, HAs are known carcinogens in animals and are believed to contribute to cancer in people.

Hydrogen Primed Beer

TOKYO (AP)—The recent craze for hydrogen beer is at the heart of a three way lawsuit between unemployed stockbroker Toshira Otoma, the Tike-Take karaoke bar and the Asaka Beer Corporation. Mr. Otoma is suing the bar and the brewery for selling toxic substances and is claiming damages for grievous bodily harm leading to the loss of his job. The bar is countersuing for defamation and loss of customers.

The Asaka Beer corporation brews "Suiso" brand beer, where the carbon dioxide normally used to add fizz has been replaced by the more environmentally friendly hydrogen gas. A side effect of this has made the beer extremely popular at karaoke sing-along bars and discotheques.

Hydrogen, like helium, is a gas lighter than air. Because hydrogen molecules are lighter than air, sound waves are transmitted more rapidly; individuals whose lungs are filled with the nontoxic gas can speak with an uncharacteristically high voice. Exploiting this quirk of physics, chic urbanites can now sing soprano parts on karaoke sing-along machines after consuming a big gulp of Suiso beer.

The flammable nature of hydrogen has also become another selling point, even though Asaka has not acknowledged that this was a deliberate marketing ploy.

It has inspired a new fashion of blowing flames from one's mouth using a cigarette as an ignition source. Many new karaoke videos feature singers shooting blue flames in slow motion, while flame contests take place in pubs everywhere. "Mr. Otoma has no-one to blame but himself. If he had not become drunk and disorderly, none of this would have happened. Our security guards undergo the most careful screening and training before they are allowed to deal with customers" said Mr. Takashi Nomura, Manager of the Tike-Take bar.

"Mr. Otoma drank fifteen bottles of hydrogen beer in order to maximize the size of the flames he could belch during the contest. He catapulted balls of fire across the room that Gojira would be proud of, but this was not enough to win him first prize since the judgement is made on the quality of the flames and that of the singing, and after fifteen bottles of lager he was badly out of tune."

"He took exception to the result and hurled blue fireballs at the judge, singeing the front of Mrs. Mifune's hair, entirely removing her eyebrows and lashes, and ruining the clothes of two nearby customers.

None of these people have returned to my bar. When our security staff approached he turned his attentions

to them, making it almost impossible to approach him. Our head bouncer had no choice but to hurl himself at Mr. Otoma's knees, knocking his legs from under him."

"The laws of physics are not to be disobeyed, and the force that propelled Mr. Otoma's legs backwards also pivoted around his center of gravity and moved his upper body forward with equal velocity. It was his own fault he had his mouth open for the next belch, his own fault he held a lighted cigarette in front of it and it is own fault he swallowed that cigarette."

"The Tike-Take bar takes no responsibility for the subsequent internal combustion, rupture of his stomach lining, nor the third degree burns to his esophagus, larynx and sinuses as the exploding gases forced their way out of his body. His consequential muteness and loss of employment are his own fault."

Mr. Otoma was unavailable for comment.

Upcoming HOTV events

January

20 - HOTV Meeting (**Julie Barlow**)

February

17 - HOTV Meeting (**host needed**)



Heart of the Valley Homebrewers

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[Back](#)