

HEART OF THE VALLEY HOMEBREWERS

This is the HOTV Brewsletter
VOLUME XXVI, NUMBER 5
May 2006

PRESIDENT: Jerry Malloy
VICE-PRESIDENT: Royal Willard
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Ron Hall
TREASURER: Scott Leonard
FESTIVAL DIRECTOR: Scott Caul

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

The Heart of the Valley Homebrew Club meets on the third Wednesday of each month, alternating between Corvallis and Albany. However, there will be no meeting in May in lieu of the 24th Annual Oregon Homebrew and Microbrew Festival on May 19-20. Everyone is strongly encouraged to join in the festival by volunteering, entering, judging, and joining in the fun and revelry.

The June HOTV meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 21 at the home of Doug and Mare Goeger in North Albany. This is one of the most popular meetings of the year because we get to taste all the leftover entries from the festival.

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

Last month's meeting was held at the home of Louis Hans in Corvallis. Thanks to Louis for hosting a reportedly good meeting, and thanks to Tom Parker for demonstrating the Beer Gun bottle filler at the meeting. By all accounts, the Beer Gun is superior to counter-pressure fillers in convenience and even carbonation. All you need is the \$75 or so it takes for yet another fine homebrewing invention by Blichmann Engineering.

Chris Surfleet was reported to be the winner of the AHA Club-Only Extract Beer competition for our club with his porter.

AHA RALLY AT DESCHUTES BREWERY IN BEND

By Ron Hall

Those of you members who are also AHA members probably got bombarded with emails about the AHA Rally in Bend on April 29, and now I am sorry I didn't help publicize this event more. Scott and Karen Caul joined Jenny and I in attending, and it was a blast!

The AHA Rally was designed to raise membership in the AHA, and they reportedly added about 35 members at this event. The rally was held in the Deschutes Brewery's main brewhouse, amongst the kettles and mash tuns of their newest and biggest brewhouse. All 5 Bend breweries (Deschutes, Bend Brewing, Cascade Lakes, McMenamins, and Silver Moon) were there with free tastes of their most interesting beers, lots of free food, and a chance to talk extensively with the head brewers and some

FESTIVAL UPDATE by Scott Caul

The music line-up for the festival has been announced as:

Wild hog in the Woods 4:30-6PM

String band music from a bygone era, check them out at <http://wildhoginthewoods.home.comcast.net>

School of Cool 6:30-8PM

A blues band with sleazy frosting and psychedelic sprinkles

The ElKabong Orchestra 8:30-10PM

How many guys can you fit on the stage? You can't help but dance to the funky, swinging, full blown rock sound!

PARKING WILL BE LIMITED! Use our handy-dandy shuttle!

Stops at 2nd and Monroe, downtown by Squirrel's Reser Stadium parking lot at 26th and Western Ave.

It is FREE and will run continuous throughout the event.

So far, so good! The planning and organization of this year's Festival is well under way. We are having a good response to our pleas for beer and goodies, and our procurement team has been able to get several new participants as well as some of our old favorites. Keep up the good work fellers!

As we get closer to the big day, we will be hammering out schedules that will need to be filled by, you guessed it, VOLUNTEERS! We'll be looking for folks to help before, during, and after the fest to ensure a smooth ride all the way around. Since we will be running an hour later than before, we will need as many bodies as possible for our clean up crew so we can all get out at a reasonable time. Keep your eyes peeled for emails and come to the next meeting, we'll have sign up sheets for job opportunities. Volunteers will be rewarded with more than that warm, fuzzy feeling you get from a job well done, especially those who sign up early and stick to their commitment.

This is shaping up to be another big fest and I'd like to thank all who have pitched in so far, we couldn't do it without you! Cheers!

Sasquatch Homebrewing Competition

Reminder If you haven't already planned on entering the Sasquatch Homebrewing Competition, now is your chance!

Together with the Cascade Brewers Society, the Glen Hay Falconer Foundation is producing the inaugural Sasquatch Homebrewing Competition.

The competition is open to residents of Oregon, Washington, and Northern California (Monterey Bay and north). Details on the beer styles, entry form, beer labels, fees, and collection point are all available on the web at <http://www.sasquatchbrewfest.org/homebrew.html>.

The "best of show" winner will have the opportunity to brew his/her recipe at a professional brewery!

All entries must be received by May 25 at The Bierstein Bottleshop and Pub in Eugene, Oregon. Winners will be announced at the Sasquatch

of the big wheels of Oregon's brewing industry.

Dave Logsdon, owner of Wyeast Labs served as the AHA representative at the rally, and Deschutes owner Gary Fish served as the gracious host of the event. Head brewers Tonya Cornett of Bend Brewing poured guests tastes of her latest Belgian seasonal, as well as the flagship Elk Lake IPA. Tonya is one of the best and hardest working brewers around, reportedly putting in 60 hour weeks to keep beer on tap at Bend Brewing and still finding time to come up with great seasonals such as Hophead Imperial IPA and a doppelbock. Brewmaster Larry of Deschutes served out tastes of Deschutes entire line-up, including Mirror Mirror barleywine, a Trippel, and a licorice and wood aged Imperial Stout. Larry confirmed that Deschutes has also caught on to the wood aged beer craze, and is experimenting with a wide variety of barrel and beer combinations.

Brew Fest in Eugene on Saturday, June 3. Also, don't forget to attend the Fourth Annual Sasquatch Brew Fest where over 50 special beers will be featured along with a day full of music, food, and good cheer.



If you ever get a chance to attend these AHA rallies, don't miss the opportunity to have these local brewers roll out the red carpet for us homebrewers!



Beer Spas: Yeast of Eden

By EVAN RAIL, NY Times.com Published: April 30, 2006

THERE is something perversely satisfying about soaking in a tub of beer. First there is the yeasty aroma of malt and hops, followed by a warm and sticky sensation as the brown liquid envelopes your body. You think to yourself: this must be every lad's dream. Whatever comes next will surely have to involve a supermodel, an Aston Martin and a fat cigar.

Roland Schlager for The New York Times In it and in you: the beer spa at Landhotel Moorhof in Franking, Austria.

But bathing in beer is much more than just a fantasy made real. During the last decade, a pack of beer spas have opened in the hills and lowlands of Austria, Germany and the Czech Republic, promising health, wellness and the chance to bathe in your favorite suds. The Chodovar brewery in Chodova Plana, in the Czech Republic (420-374-794-181; www.chodovar.cz), started offering beer spa therapies in March using the brewery's celebrated dark lager. At the Kummeroer Hof in Neuzelle, Germany (49-33-652-81-111; www.klosterbrauerei.com), customers have been slipping into beer baths tapped from the nearby Klosterbrauerei Neuzelle brewery since 1997. Spa prices start at about 42 euros (\$52.50 at \$1.24 to the euro). But it is in neighboring Austria that the beer spa seems to reach its alpine pinnacle.

One brewery, Starkenberg (43-5412-66201; www.bierschwimmbad.com), in Tarrenz, even fills a swimming pool with barrels and barrels of its own Pilsner. And just outside Salzburg, the Landhotel Moorhof in rustic Franking, Austria (43-6277-8188; www.moorhof.com) offers what may be the most complete beer treatment, from the spa to the dining table.

In the cellar, four couple-size wooden tubs are filled with a special brew. The Moorhof also offers milk baths, but Hedwig Bauer, who owns the hotel with her husband, Karl, believes that beer has certain advantages. "Beer is very good for the skin, because of the vitamins and the yeast," Ms. Bauer said. "It's cleansing and drying."

That may be true, but it's worth noting that the half-hour treatment, which starts at 44 euros, is also mildly intoxicating. The Moorhof's therapeutic brew is composed of a 2 percent-alcohol lager made for it by the local Schnaitl brewery, fortified with brewer's yeast, malt and two scoops of hops, all thrown into a barrel-shaped tub and topped with warm water. Bubbles rise from the bottom, stirring the mix and causing a head to form — much like a Jacuzzi or giant mug.

During the soak, a few pints of Schnaitl's beer are offered for imbibing, suggesting that the relaxation is chemically rather than therapeutically induced. After about 20 minutes, you're wrapped in a starched white sheet and led to a four-poster bed piled with toasty alfalfa hay. The curtains are drawn and you're left to have a mild sweat. Go ahead, just try to stay awake.

When you finally come to, you're invited to take a cool dip in the indoor swimming pool, provided, of course, you rinsed the green hops flakes from your body; they stick just about everywhere. If the whole thing sounds somewhat masculine, Ms. Bauer was surprised that many of the beer bath's customers are women, a number of whom also splurge on a brewski facial — a gooey mask made from ground hops, malt, honey and cream cheese. The concoction tickles furiously when it slides down your cheeks, and it smells remarkably like breakfast.

Couples are welcome. A beer-bath weekend for two at the Moorhof costs 198 euros a person, and includes two nights at the hotel, breakfast and two four-course dinners. The menu recently featured a yeasty beer soup, beer-battered broccoli and chicken schnitzel with sour beer gravy. Dessert was beer crepes, which you can wash down with a choice of four local brews.

KUDOS KORNER Congratulations to the following Oregon Breweries for winning medals at the International World Beer Cup competition!

Category: 3 American Cream Ale or Lager - 22 Entries Bronze: Session Premium Lager, Full Sail Brewing, Hood River, OR

Category: 4 American-Style Wheat Beer - 10 Entries Bronze: Pyramid Crystal Weizen, Pyramid Breweries, Inc., Portland, OR

Category: 5 American-Style Hefeweizen - 24 Entries Bronze: Pyramid Hefeweizen, Pyramid Breweries, Inc., Portland, OR

Category: 10 Specialty Beer - 17 Entries Silver: Morimoto Black Obi Soba Ale, Rogue Ales, Newport, OR

Category: 15 Cellar or Unfiltered Beer - 23 Entries Gold: Caldera Pilsener Bier, Caldera Brewing Co., Ashland, OR

Category: 52 Ordinary Bitter - 14 Entries Gold: Blue Heron Pale Ale, BridgePort Brewing Co., Portland, OR

Category: 58 Brown Porter - 27 Entries Gold: Old Grind Porter, Etna Brewing Co., Etna, CA

Category: 76 Golden or Blonde Ale - 31 Entries Silver: Kiwanda Cream Ale, Pelican Pub & Brewery, Pacific City, OR

Category: 79 American-Style India Pale Ale - 67 Entries Silver: India Pelican Ale, Pelican Pub & Brewery, Pacific City, OR

Category: 82 Imperial or Double Red Ale - 18 Entries Bronze: Organic Deranger, Laurelwood Brewing Co., Portland, OR

Category: 83 American-Style Extra Special Bitter or Strong Bitter - 8 Entries Bronze: Caldera Dry Hop Red, Caldera Brewing Co., Ashland, OR

Category: 85 American-Style Stout - 10 Entries Gold: Shakespeare Stout, Rogue Ales, Newport, OR

HOTV CLUB EQUIPMENT

by Joel Rea

Our club has brew gear that is available for members to use. All of the items reside at Corvallis Brewing Supply. There is a one week check out limit unless pre-arranged with the equipment dude...that would be me.

- RIMS (Recirculating Infusion Mash System) Due to the tenacity of this piece of equipment I would strongly suggest that you have a training brew session with someone who has experience in using it. Scott Caul has in the past been gracious to hold open house brewing sessions with this fine piece (of equipment) usually several times of the year.
- Motorized Grain Mill
- CO₂ kit - Includes CO₂ bottle, regulator and tool box full of draft parts
- Oxygen Bottle and Infusion Stone
- Counter Pressure Bottle Filler
- Low-Pressure Burner with tank
- 12 gallon Stainless Steel Liquor Tank
- 15 gallon Stainless Steel Mashtun / Lautertun
- Bench Capper
- 10 gallon Cornelious Keg
- AHA Style Guidelines Books 1-8

If you have a piece of equipment that is collecting dust and you would like to donate it to the club please let me know.

HOTV CALENDAR

- 5/20/06 24th Annual Oregon Homebrew and Microbrew Festival, Corvallis
- 7/14-16/06 Portland International Beer Festival
- 7/27-30/06 Oregon Brewers Festival, Portland
- 8/27/06 HOTV Summer Picnic
- 9/28-30/06 Great American Beer Festival, Denver

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