

THIS is the HOTV BREWSLETTER

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Save the Daylight Edition
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Last Month :

February found folks fond of frothy fermented fluids frequenting the fine furnishings of Ted's fireside. Ted brought out several meads from his cellar, and many enjoyed these offerings. Mark also brought some of his meads, and we had the opportunity to taste subtle differences between two show meads. Ted's most recent plum melomel was absolutely fabulous. Kim even brought a sample of her pinot! We did manage to move towards beer as well. We sampled the ale and lager that were produced at our club's first mash fest. The mash fest, for those who don't remember, was an opportunity for our club to share many of the joys and frustrations of various mashing systems for those members and other interested parties who are considering taking that next step. Again, thanks to Ted Manahan and John Sterner for creating these brews, and to Lee Smith for assembling information packets and hosting this event. Back to news from the March meeting. We held an assembling line party. Between all those who helped out, we were able to collate and assemble 300 entry packets for distribution to various locations throughout the valley. We also asked for volunteers for hosting the April meeting, but got no interest. After the general business meeting, the festival organizing committee had a meeting to discuss where we are, and where we need to go. We also had a beer style of the month tasting. This month we sampled dapplebocks.

This Month

April's here, we're back to daylight savings time, and we have even had a few beautiful days. March, as expected, came in like a lion, and left like a lamb. Comet Hale-Bopp has been visible; a good omen for brewers. We always need good omens, so this sounds like one to me. Another good omen is that we have found a place to hold the April meeting for our happy little band of brewers. Our president has been coerced, er, uh, I mean has volunteered space in his home for us to have a few pints and to get adrenaline levels up and pull the final details together for the festival. Jerry just had us out to his new place for the solstice party, but if you have forgotten how to get there, directions follow.

Remember, Heart of the Valley holds our regularly scheduled meetings on the third Wednesday of each month promptly at 6:58 pm.

From Albany:

Highway 20 to Circle Blvd.
Circle Blvd. West to 99W (turn right)
99W North to Walnut (turn left)

Walnut West to Glenridge (turn right)
Glenridge North to Ponderosa (turn left)
Ponderosa West to Royal Oaks Dr (turn left)
Royal Oaks Dr. South to Fair Oaks Dr. (Turn right)
Fair Oaks Dr. West to Windsor Pl. (turn left)
Go to 2515 Windsor Pl. (2nd driveway on the left)

From Corvallis:

Get to Walnut and follow the Albany directions.

From Philomath:

Philomath Blvd. To 53rd.
53rd North to Glendridge (Just after the curve that changes 53rd to Walnut, turn left) Walnut West to
Glenridge (turn right)
Glenridge North to Ponderosa (turn left)
Ponderosa West to Royal Oaks Dr (turn left)
Royal Oaks Dr. South to Fair Oaks Dr. (Turn right)
Fair Oaks Dr. West to Windsor Pl. (turn left)
Go to 2515 Windsor Pl. (2nd driveway on the left)

Festival

The planning for the 15th annual Oregon Homebrewers' Festival is well underway. We have solicited donations for the raffle. We have facilitated planning for feeding all the judges and festival participants. We have printed and distributed literature and posters. We have even already received some entries through the website. Everything seems to be running smoothly.

We will still need your help. We will require many, many coolers to serve beer at each judging table. If you have some coolers at your house, contact Michael Viliardos to make sure we know that we can use them. We will also need bottle openers, pitchers, and some trays. We will also need warm bodies to facilitate final details. You will be contacted and conscripted into voluntary servitude!

We have also had a change in the festival organizing team. Jennifer has had to accept other commitments and has passed the torch back to last years' organizer, Lee Smith. We knew we could keep Lee full of work. The rest of the organizers are moving toward completing their respective tasks, so this should not be too terrible a commitment. Thanks Lee!

Miguel Civil's translation of "Hymn to Ninkasi" the Sumerian beer goddess

Borne of the flowing water (...)
Tenderly cared for by the Ninjursag,
Borne of the flowing water (...)
Tenderly cared for by the Ninjursag

Having founded your town by the sacred lake,
She finished its great walls for you,
Ninkasi, having founded your town by the sacred lake,
She finished its great walls for you,

Your father in Enki, Lord Nidimmud,
Your mother is Ninti, the queen of the sacred lake,
Ninkasi, your father is Enki, Lord Nidimmud,

Your mother is Ninti, the queen of the sacred lake.

You are the one who handles the dough [and] with a big shovel, Mixing in a pit, the bappir with sweet aromatics,

Ninkasi, you are the one who handles the dough [and] with a big shovel, Mixing in a pit, the bappir with [date]-honey,

You are the one who bakes the bappir in the big oven,

Puts in order the piles of hulled grains,

Ninkasi, you are the one who bakes the bappir in the big oven, Puts in order the piles of hulled grains,

You are the one who waters the malt set on the ground,

The noble dogs keep away even the potentates,

Ninkasi, you are the one who waters the malt set on the ground,

The noble dogs keep away even the potentates,

You are the one who soaks the malt in a jar,

The waves rise, the waves fall.

Ninkasi, you are the one who soaks the malt in a jar,

The waves rise, the waves fall.

You are the one who spreads the cooked mash on large reed mats, Coolness overcomes,

Ninkasi, you are the one who spreads the cooked mash on large reed mats, Coolness overcomes,

You are the one who holds with both hands the great sweet wort, Brewing [it] with honey [and] wine

(You the sweet wort to the vessel)

Ninkasi, (...)

(You the sweet wort to the vessel)

The filtering vat, which makes a pleasant sound,

You place appropriately on [top of] a large collector vat.

Ninkasi, the filtering vat, which makes a pleasant sound,

You place appropriately on [top of] a large collector vat.

When you pour out the filtered beer of the collector vat,

It is [like] the onrus