



**THIS is the HOTV
BREWSLETTER
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Have you paid your taxes yet? Edition
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HOTV home page: <http://www.peak.org/~taratoot/hotv.html>
Oregon Homebrew Festival page: <http://www.mtsw.com/hotv/fest.html>

Last Month

The March meeting was held at **Scott Caul**'s house in Corvallis. I wasn't able to attend the meeting and don't have the normal meeting report, but I hear that the highlight of the evening was the annual festival packet collation party. I'm sorry I missed it – really! Many thanks to all who helped out in creating the hundreds of judge and registration packets that were mailed out to homebrewers around the region.

We also recently had a festival planning meeting. The planning for the festival seems to be going pretty well thus far - I think we are well ahead of where we were a year ago at this time. We will need lots of judges though - if you're interested please contact **Joel Rea**. If you'd like to help out in some other capacity, please contact festival chair **Lys Buck**. Just over one more month until the 17th annual Oregon Homebrew Festival!

This Month

We meet at a member's house at 7 PM on the third Wednesday of each month, generally alternating between Corvallis and Albany. The April meeting will be held on **April 21** in Albany at new member **Jerry Malloy**'s house at **2801 Arlington Drive NW**. (phone **928-9074**). Directions to Jerry's house follow:

From Corvallis:

- Take Highway 20 almost to the Albany city limits.
- Turn LEFT on SCENIC DRIVE. Follow this around until the stop sign.
- Continue up SCENIC DRIVE to just past the Springhill Cellars winery.
- Turn RIGHT on VALLEY VIEW and continue to the second right.
- Turn RIGHT on ARLINGTON DRIVE to bottom of the hill on the left.

From Albany:

- NORTH ALBANY ROAD becomes GIBSON HILL ROAD. Follow this until you see CROCKER LANE on the right (look for Blue sign to Albany Park).
- Turn RIGHT on CROCKER LANE. Go up the hill to VALLEY VIEW.
- Turn LEFT on VALLEY VIEW and continue to ARLINGTON DRIVE (just past the water tanks and antenna).
- Turn LEFT on ARLINGTON DRIVE to bottom of the hill on the left.

Since Scenic is pretty twisty at the bottom and there is some construction now, here's an alternate route from Corvallis:

- Highway 20 toward Albany
- LEFT on INDEPENDENCE HIGHWAY
- RIGHT on METGE
- RIGHT on OAK GROVE
- LEFT on SCENIC to just past the Springhill Cellars winery.
- Turn RIGHT on VALLEY VIEW and continue to the second right
- Turn RIGHT on ARLINGTON DRIVE to bottom of the hill on the left.

Goodbye Eric

Editor's note: In what seems to be becoming a HOTV tradition, another officer is moving away from the Corvallis/Albany area. This time the move isn't quite as drastic as the last few, as Vice President **Eric Wager** is moving up to Portland, but we will miss him nonetheless. A short note on Eric's new job follows.

"After more than 6 months of waiting, our state-of-the-art I have been offered a position at Widmer Bros. Brewing in Portland, and will be starting in the cellar operations on April 5. I am really excited, and hope to eventually be brewing for the brothers one day. I have my foot in the door, and there is only room to go up!"

Club-only Competition NEWS

Eric Wager won last month's club-only competition - he had the only entries! Although I'm sure his entries were excellent, it would be nice to see more competition within the club for our entry into the AHA club-only competition. If you've brewed a Bock recently, bring it to this month's meeting and we'll have a taste-off to decide the club winner.

This month's club-only competition is "Bockanalia"— a good tune-up for the festival. Bring a bottle of your best homebrewed Bock to the April HOTV meeting and we'll have a taste-off. The winner of our mini-competition will then submit 3 bottles to the main competition with the top beer from other AHA registered clubs throughout the country.

Remaining 1999 AHA Club-Only Competition Schedule	
<i>Competition</i>	<i>Entries Due</i>
Bockanalia (Bock)	May 17 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 and Scottish Strong Ale)	Early December 1999

WORTH THE WAIT

by Lee Smith

On Sunday, March 28th, eleven club devotees gathered at my house to initiate the new RIM system. Talk about excitement! We were so charged up some of us could hardly operate the tap handle...but we soon settled down and got to the task at hand. Lending lots of experience and advice (no lack of that!) were **John Sterner, Beto Zuniga, Jerry Malloy, Gary Terrell, Charlie Gilson, Mark Kowalski** (and his little sweetheart, **Claire**), **Eric Wager, Michael Villiardos, Scott Leonard** (and his little sweetheart, **Keegan** the pup), **Joel Rea**, and me.

As difficult as it was to do, we agreed to read the instructions first and then follow them exactly. It helped, but we ran into a few problems anyway, none insurmountable.



The long-awaited RIMS

At first the recirculating pump wouldn't pick up suction but that was corrected by blasting CO₂ into the discharge line, through the pump, and into the bottom of the tun. At one point the paddle, which turns at five RPM and is designed to keep the false bottom clear, bogged down in a clump of grain and kicked out the GFI on our electrical circuit. At that, we had to open up the unit, clear the blockage, reset the GFI, and start the paddle turning again. All the while we were slowly ramping up to our predetermined temperature settings and rest periods. This was done for us by a nifty processor that automatically controlled the heating element through which the wort is pumped.

In the course of all this, we discovered some aspects of the system that could be improved with minor modifications. The lid needs to have a hinged opening so that access to the paddle shaft and grain bed can be had without having to shut down the system and removing the lid. The in-line valve used to control the wort flow rate into the kettle was awkwardly located and will function much better mounted on top of the tun, closer to the heating element discharge. Finally, at the point where the recirculating wort enters the grain bed, the force of the discharge washed a pocket into the grain bed leaving an irregular surface. This can probably be corrected by installing a tee at that point so that the wort flow is redirected. If that doesn't work, we'll think of something else.

All in all, I think everyone was favorably impressed with the unit. I'd give it a 9 on the 10 scale, at least, and with some modification, perhaps it will be a 10! We made our version of an Alt Bier, netting eight plus gallons in the fermenter. Original gravity was 1.064 and IBU's were either 11 or 22, depending on how you interpret the numbers. In the midst of all the chaos, Helen served up a delicious chicken and rice dish accompanied by some equally delicious pizza bread. I don't know how she does it...thanks, wifey, dear!

The RIM system is all clean again and awaiting the next user. Give me a call if you're interested (926-2286) and I'll deliver it to your doorstep.

Upcoming HOTV events

April

21 - HOTV Meeting (**Jerry Malloy**)

May

21,22 - Oregon Homebrew Festival (Benton County Fairgrounds)

NOTE: The May HOTV meeting has been canceled due to the fact that the Oregon Homebrew Festival is scheduled for the same week.



The HOTV RIMS brewing crew



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