



# THIS is the HOTV BREWSLETTER

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Oktoberfest Edition  
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### Last Month

Yours truly was also the host of the September meeting, on a fairly warm autumn night in Corvallis. We practiced the brewskis and the limbo, enjoyed plenty of food and beer, and Lee demonstrated his latest improvement to the party pig. The new tapping technique has something to do with stroking the pig, and it seems to work best with two people. If you weren't there, you don't know what you missed...

We had a fairly short business meeting. The major item of business was planning for the picnic (see the picnic report later in this newsletter). We also took preliminary nominations for 1999 HOTV officers. Nominations will be taken at the October meeting as well, with elections held in November and new officers taking office in January. Nominated so far are:

Newsletter Editor: **Herky Gottfried**

Treasurer: **Lee Smith**

Vice President: **Eric Wager**

President: **Lys Buck** and/or **Michael Villiardos**

We also talked about the possibility of having a cruise (possibly with beer tasting) for HOTV members and friends on the Willamette RiverQueen (the new sternwheeler based in Albany). The members present seemed to think this would be a fun thing to do, and Chris agreed to look into the logistics of such an event.

Finally, we discussed plans for next year's Oregon Homebrew Festival. Planning for the festival will begin soon, so if you're interested in helping out, please contact **Lys Buck**.

### This Month

HOTV meetings are held at 7 pm on the third Wednesday of each month, usually at a member's house, and generally alternating between Corvallis and Albany each month. We now have meeting places lined up through January. Please contact President **Lys Buck** if you are interested in hosting a meeting in February or later. This month we'll be meeting on **October 21** at **John Sterner's** house in Albany. The address is **735 NW Thornton Lake Drive**; the phone # is **924-0272**.

### **From Corvallis:**

- Head toward Albany on Hwy 20.
- Turn left on North Albany Road (First stoplight as you approach Albany).
- Continue for about 0.4 miles. Thornton Lake drive (E) is first road (not driveway) on right after the railroad tracks. My house is the first house on the left. Hopefully there is no soccer game and you can park in the North Albany Elementary Parking lot.

### **From Albany:**

- Head toward Corvallis on Hwy 20.
- Right on North Albany road (second stop light after crossing the river). From there follow directions from Corvallis.

## **Highway Cleanup**

September 12, 1998: Once again several of our members gathered at Hyak Park to attack the litter accumulation along our stretch of Highway 20. Those members were Scott Caul, John Crosswhite, Mark Kowalski, Lee Smith, John Sterner and Eric Wager. We gleaned 26 bags of trash and, for about 30 minutes, had the cleanest section of roadway in the entire State of Oregon. That's when our generous litter contributors start anew, thus assuring that we will be back in December! It was a little hot and a little tiring but when we finished, it was sure nice to sit in the shade, relax with a brew or two, and just gab among friends.

## **Club-only Competition NEWS**

**Rob Nicol** and **Frank Bretl** had the best (and only) homebrewed Oktoberfest at the September meeting, so they are the official HOTV entry into the AHA *Best of Fest* Club-Only Competition. Good luck Rob & Frank.

<b>Remaining 1998 AHA Club-Only Competition Schedule</b>	
<i>Competition (AHA Category)</i>	<i>Entries Due</i>
1998 If It's Not Scottish... (8 a, b & c; 10b)	December 7, 1998

## **1998 GREAT AMERICAN BEER FESTIVAL**

by Lee Smith

It's hard to believe but this year was the 17th Great American Beer Festival! Four hundred brewers descended (ascended?) on the Mile High City lugging 1500 different beers with them. This year the breweries were grouped geographically and as you move from region to region you begin to understand the tremendous diversity of beer styles across our country. I was told that the U. S. now has more breweries than Germany and more beer styles and brands than any other nation. Just what was represented in Denver was overwhelming and, try as you might, you can do no more than taste a small percentage of

the total. I tried to keep brief notes on the ones I sampled but after about 60 or 70 I gave up and just enjoyed the experience.

The GABF staff, of course, has considerable past experience to draw upon and I have to say the job they do is really outstanding. Glitches that may have occurred must have been small and not even noticeable to the general public. The rules are clear and fairly enforced. Security personnel are highly visible and uniformly pleasant and courteous. I suppose Rule No. 1 is that each pour into your glass is no more than one ounce and the volunteer servers were all strict about this. As a consequence no one seems to over-indulge and the crowd (three or four thousand at a given time) was friendly, kind of noisy, but clearly having a good time.

One of the highlights of the Festival is the judging and selection of medal winners in over 60 categories and sub-categories. Can you imagine the challenge facing the judges? The panel is made up of about 80 professionals from across the country and throughout the world. They must have a system to get through the obvious rejects, then concentrating on evaluating the survivors. The winners were announced Saturday afternoon and are no doubt available at the AHA web site.

Heart of the Valley Homebrewers Club was well represented. Beer and beer talk were shared with Kim Kittredge, Dave Wills, former member Greg Herenchek (now brewing professionally for River City Brewing in Wichita, KS), Kendall Staggs, and former club president Bill Baxter, now living and working in Ft. Collins, CO. Being at GABF is always fun but moreso when there are friends there, too!

As most of you know, I was able to attend this year because of our success in the AHA membership drive. But that happened only because of the enthusiasm and support of the membership. It was great representing our club and I want to thank you again for making it happen.

Lee

## **HOMEBREWERS PICNIC**

Last month's annual Willamette Valley Homebrewers Picnic was a big success. This was my first homebrewers picnic and I thoroughly enjoyed myself, despite almost running down a few people during the baseball bat relay race (which HOTV won for the second year in a row, by the way). There was plenty of food, lots of homebrew, fun games, good weather—all in all, a great way to celebrate the inevitable end of summer.

Thanks to all who participated, especially those who helped coordinate the games and other events. Extra special thanks go to **Scott Caul**, who slaved over the delicious corn most of the afternoon, **Lee Smith** for his work on the cajun turkeys, Mary's Peak Lager **Dean Bautz** for coordinating the adult games (no, it's not what you think), and **Rob Nicol** for coordinating the kids games. Rob may have had the best job of anyone.

And congratulations to the winners of the capper trophy for finishing first in the games: the combined team of **Mary's Peak Lagers** and **Strange Brew**. Heart of the Valley Homebrewers finished a heartbreakingly close second. We'll be back next year to try to capture the trophy.

## **Picnic VIDEO AVAILABLE**

Helen Smith writes: "I haven't had a chance to look at the video from the picnic since my daughter took the camera home with her to Eugene for a week or two. But if all comes out well, I'll be glad to make a copy for anyone who wants it - It won't be edited, because I'll just click it on for each one and let it run.

"\$2.50 for a blank tape and I'll copy for you. You can get it to Lee at the next meeting."

## Upcoming HOTV events

### October

21 - HOTV Meeting (**John Sterner**)

### November

18 - HOTV Meeting (**Chris Zelazek**)

### December

16 - HOTV Holiday Party (**Sam Holmes**)

19 - Highway Cleanup (meet at Hyak Park)

## First Impressions of Singapore

by Ted Manahan

**Editor's Note:** *Former HOTV president Ted Manahan recently left Oregon for a 2-year stay in Singapore working for HP. He sent this update on his experiences so far.*

Life in Singapore is hot and fast. It's hot because of the climate, and fast just like in any big city, I suppose.

I work longer hours here than I'm used to. I'm trying to stay at work until 6:00, and even then I'm one of the first to leave. The Singaporeans are driven by material success much more than most Americans, and the "work life balance" is tilted much more towards work here.

Still, I'm enjoying my work. I'm working on a software selection project for the wafer fabrication plant here. This is work that I'm pretty well prepared for, though the corporate environment here is a lot different than what I'm used to. I'm really just getting started, having been working for five weeks now.

There is no job in site for Chuchang. In fact, HP just announced a restructuring that includes offering some people enhanced severance packages. They certainly won't be hiring in the near future. That's OK with me. Though it would be nice to have the additional income, it's also nice to have her taking care of running the house. That's a lot of work, especially while we are new to the island.

So far we haven't been off the island. We are planning a couple short trips to Malaysia over the next month or so. We would also like to take a long weekend trip to Thailand some time before Christmas, but I don't know if it will work out. We still have a lot of Singapore to explore! Chuchang's family will probably visit us over Christmas, so we'll be busy then.

One really can't talk about Singapore without talking about the food. That's the major recreation for the local population. Over three million people on a small island nation, with little in the way of outdoor recreation possibilities or inclination. People here work long hours, attend movies, and eat. You can dine anywhere from street-side hawker stands to international quality continental restaurants. I love the Indian vegetarian restaurants, which are fairly common. The local cuisine (Nayan, I think...) is described as

Chinese food with Malaysian spices and ingredients. Very tasty. I've also become quite fond of Muslim mutton dishes, which are usually served with a rich spicy broth over rice. Indonesian food and Malaysian food are similar; spicy with peanut sauce, rich coconut gravy, and served over rice. Lip smacking good!

We bought a car here - only S\$85,000! It's a Toyota Corolla. Cars are always very expensive here. The government taxes them at 150% of base, then you have to buy a Certificate Of Entitlement (COE) which is currently about S\$25,000. The COE is good for 10 years, then you usually scrap the car. Add to that the fact that the dealers don't generally bargain, so as a buyer you're pretty much powerless. The strange thing is, I think it's probably a smart policy, give local conditions. The roads are crowded, and mass transit is quite good. It only makes sense to discourage private car ownership. The only problem is that many cars and motorcycles are poorly maintained, and belch clouds of toxic smoke. Most of it blows off the island I guess, but it's still revolting.

That's it for now. Keep in touch!

### **More Evidence that beer is good for you**

author unknown

A herd of buffalo can move only as fast as the slowest buffalo, and when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular attrition of the weakest members.

In much the same way the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Excessive intake of alcohol, we all know, kills brain cells, but naturally it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first. In this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine.

That's why you always feel smarter after a few beers.

### **VILLAGE PUBS IN BRITAIN WILL DOUBLE AS DOCTOR'S OFFICE**

LONDON(AP) - A pint of ale and a checkup, please. That could be the order in Britain's pubs under a government proposal to locate doctors' offices, job centers and post offices in unused rooms at local watering holes, The Daily Telegraph recently reported.

As the focal point for many rural communities, pubs would be ideal sites for such services, according to a Rural Development Commission plan aimed at revitalizing rural life.

The commission is seeking government grants for village pubs so they can open unused rooms and outbuildings for the good of the community. Nearly half the 9,000 rural communities examined, all with populations of less than 10,000, have no post office and 80 percent have no doctor's office, the Telegraph said. Almost none have job or benefit centers.

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