



BARON MIND

The Monthly Publication of the Beer Barons of Milwaukee

DECEMBER 2008

www.beerbarons.org

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

In one of my first Presidents letters I said "We have a lot of exciting things in the works and I think we'll have a great year as a club". I think the board lived up to that. We've set new membership records, financially we're more sound than ever, we've incorporated (finally after 19 years), had some great meetings and an awesome picnic, and streamlined some of our business methods in addition to all the other issues. Overall I think we've accomplished a lot. I just can't believe it's been a year already since I started as President.

As everybody knows we're going to a new membership renewal policy where all memberships start in February. The on-line payment system will be active starting January 1 for those who would like to pay using a credit or debit card and not take time in line at check in. There's also the option to pay all your meeting fees for the year at the same time to further help speed up our check in. Membership cards will be issued at the January and February meetings. These are similar to the old ones that we used to have many years ago. In addition to using these cards to speed check-in, we hope to be able to convince local businesses to provide discounts to the club members as Brew and Grow already does. The board will be leading that effort but all members are encouraged to inquire at the places they frequent. This will be posed as a separate thread on the forum.

Elections are coming in December. If you're interested in running for any office please be at the December meeting and stand up to be nominated. I'll be running for President again. If you choose to re-elect me, I promise to continue my efforts to improve the way the club functions and set a strong course into the future.

In January I said "This great club belongs to all of the members, we should all participate in running it, even if that's just talking to the officers about your thoughts and ideas about what the club should be about, and new and interesting activities. These are my

Coming up on our 20th anniversary as a club we should have celebrations throughout the year. I'd propose starting that off with a toast to the remaining founding members! We'll also have to get new club apparel with "20 Years of Better Brewing" or something like that.

Skål Mike Schwartz

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CLUB ELECTIONS

Elections are coming up at the December membership meeting and we need to get nominations for prospective officers and board members at both the November and December meetings. We have two positions, the Vice President, and Newsletter Editor, that will both be vacated because the current office-holders have reached their two-term limit. Other offices include President, Treasurer, and Members at Large. If you would like to run for any office or know anybody who would like to run, please nominate them.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

IT'S HOLIDAY PARTY TIME !!

Plans for the annual holiday party are under way and are being carried out. This year we will be having broasted chicken, smoked fish made by our very own Mike Chaltry, and the traditional cheese and sausage platter. Sierra Nevada Celebration will be on tap along with Lakefront Holiday Spice and one or two other surprises. Thanks to some special price breaks we got on beer earlier this year for meetings we'll have over \$800 worth of raffle prizes up for grabs. This is also a wonderful opportunity for you to show off that special trade mark side dish that you're known for to a large audience.

Club business will primarily be Officer Elections that night with the rest being kept to a minimum. Come vote, bring a side dish to share, eat, drink, and be merry with your fellow Barons. Bring your significant other, spouse, or better half too!

Event – Barons Annual Holiday Party
When – December 17th, 2008 @ 7:30 PM
Where – Clifford's Supper Club
Cost - \$10 per an individual / \$15 per a couple, and a side dish to share.

MILWAUKEE BEER BARONS BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT: Mike Schwartz
Home: (414) 423-7930

TREASURER: Bruce Buerger
Home: (262) 524-9546

VICE PRESIDENT: Mike Rice
Home: (414) 423-8610

MEMBER AT LARGE: Mike Chaltry
Home: (414) 263-4446

NEWSLETTER: Jeff Platt
Office: (414) 332-7837

MEMBER AT LARGE: Diana Kane
Home: (262) 238-9073

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WORLD OF BEER FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Anybody who would like to help with the pre-planning and promotions please contact Mike Schwartz with your name and email even if you already did in the past. I had a computer crash and lost many of my files including the list of names and emails. Email the committee at festival@beerbarons.org.

MEMBERSHIP FEE SCHEDULE FOR 2009

We'd like to include one more reminder about our move to the annual membership renewal process for all club members starting in January and February of 2009. This new approach would allow the clubs to better plan the upcoming year and along with the new club membership cards reduce the payment line at the beginning of meetings. In order to be fair to those who renewed throughout 2008 we're going to implement a prorated membership fee schedule for 2009. This way someone who paid \$15 in August of 2008 won't be hit up for another full \$15 six months later in February of 2009.

How will we do this? A simple three point plan that will kick off starting in November:

1. Not collect any membership fees from new or existing members for the next three months. Three months is the length of our trial membership anyway so this will not impact us.
2. In the month of February collect from all members their 2009 prorated dues based off of their current annual renewal month and the fee schedule listed below. So using the table below, for someone who just renewed their membership in May of 2008 their membership fee for 2009 would be \$10.
3. For new members starting in February their membership fee will be the full \$15. As the year progresses the yearly membership will also be prorated. So using the table below, someone joining the club this coming October would pay \$10 to join for the rest of 2009 and then pay a full membership fee again at the February annual renewal in 2010.

2009 Membership Fee Schedule

	Member Renewals	New Members
January	\$ 15.00	NA for 2009
February	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
March	\$ 10.00	\$ 15.00
April	\$ 10.00	\$ 15.00
May	\$ 10.00	\$ 15.00
June	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
July	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
August	\$ 5.00	\$ 10.00
September	\$ 5.00	\$ 10.00
October	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00
November	\$ 15.00	\$ 5.00
December	\$ 15.00	\$ 5.00

This approach will allow us to make the month of February the annual renewal month for the club starting with 2010. At the November, December, and January club meetings we will have a print out that lists club members, their current annual renewal month, and their prorated fee for 2009. Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have regarding this transition.

NOVEMBER 2008 TREASURERS REPORT

by Bruce Buerger

Beginning Balance		\$6,690.14
Income		
November Meeting Admission	\$1,110.00	
Membership Fees - October	\$15.00	
Brew U - Sensory Evaluation	\$20.00	
Total Income		\$1,145.00
Expenses		
Brew U - Bare Bones	\$5.50	
Brew U - Sensory Evaluation	\$77.03	
November Meeting Beer	\$600.00	
Clifford's - October Meeting	\$112.00	
Officers Meeting	\$50.00	
Election Materials	\$14.25	
Picnic Accessories	\$47.81	
Newsletter Postage	\$84.00	
AHA Club Only Competition	\$16.00	
New Club Banners	\$178.67	
Total Expenses		\$1,185.26
Ending Balance		\$6,649.88
November Meeting: 112 Paid Members & 21 Trial Members		
174 Total Membership		

MIDWEST BEER FEST CALENDAR

* JANUARY 24

Chicago Beer Society 11th Annual Chicagoland Brewpub & Microbrewery Shootout - 1-5 PM (Members only)
Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N Knox Ave., Chicago, IL

* FEBRUARY 15

11th Annual Mid-Winter Beer Festival - 1-6 PM
Milwaukee Ale House, Milwaukee, WI - (414) 226-BEER

* NEW DATE: FEBRUARY 21

11th Annual Food & Froth Fest
Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, WI

* FEBRUARY 21

August Schell's Bock Fest - 11 AM-4 PM
August Schell Brewing Co., New Ulm, MN - (507) 354-5528

BJCP HOMEBREW COMPETITION

* Upper Mississippi Mash Out, St. Paul, MN

Contact: Kristen England c/o Northern Brewer -
(651) 291-8849 Entry Deadline: 01/10/2009

* The Great Northern Brew-Ha-Ha, Duluth, MN

Contact: Steve Daiken (715) 394-1559
Entry Fee: \$5.00 Entry Deadline: 01/30/2009

* Kansas City Bier Meisters 26th Annual, Roeland Park, KS

Contact: Neava Ford - (913) 432-9630
Entry Deadline: 02/07/2009

* BABBLE Brew-Off, Mundelein, IL

Contact: Bruce Dir - (847) 566-8012
Entry Fee: \$7/\$5 additional entries Entry Deadline: 02/21/2009

* Cincinnati Bockfest, Cincinnati, OH

Contact: Ray Snyder - (513) 515-0799
Entry Fee: \$5 first entry, \$4 subsequent entries
Entry Deadline: 02/25/2009

BARE BONES BASIC BREWING TIME !

Homebrewing Using Basic Equipment and Techniques

Last year we conducted our first Bare Bones Basic Brewing class to an audience of about 25 people. The feedback we got was so positive that we've decided to make it an annual event.

Are you thinking about giving Home Brewing a try? Maybe you gave it a try but it didn't turn out quite so well? Know someone who might be getting a homebrew start up kit this holiday season? Tired of hearing about homebrewing at Beer Barons meetings and wishing you could see how it's done?

We'll take you through the full process – making the wort, fermentation, and bottling. No super technical jargon, no advanced homemade brewing equipment, and no complex beer recipes. We'll make simple ale without the geek speak and use equipment from a Home Brew shop starter kit. Bare bones basic – guaranteed.

When: January 17th, 2009 @ 10 AM

Where: House of Hamburg - 5937 S Howell Ave, Milwaukee

Cost: \$5 to cover course materials and homebrew samples.

Must RSVP at <http://www.beerbarons.org/Brew-U/index.html> and be 21 years of age to attend!

Coming in February – Brewing 201 Intermediate Homebrewing Techniques

STYLE SESSIONS & ADVANCED BREWING

There've been a lot of people asking about advanced brewers in the club and who they are. The interest in learning technical brewing information and techniques is strong and people want to learn fast. That's part of the reason we started Brew-U with the idea that the program would start with beginner classes and progress through advanced techniques and topics. Our best, most knowledgeable brewers teach these classes based on their level of knowledge.

Another thing that we used to do a lot of is Style Sessions where a more advanced brewer would sponsor a session at their house. They pick a specific style of beer, get the historical information and recipe together and any interested members join them to learn more about that style and brewing techniques. Attendees get plenty of question and answer as well as a little lecture time. This could be expanded beyond styles to trying different techniques. If anybody is interested in sponsoring a session let the club know at a meeting or through the newsletter and listserv. If the beer is being brought in for a meeting the club will pay for the ingredients as in the past.

Support Your Local HOMEBREW SHOP

*Bitter Creek

(262) 644-5799

206 Slinger Rd., Slinger 53086

* Brew & Grow,

(262) 789-0555

285 Janacek Rd, Brookfield 53045

* Cedarburg Homebrew Shop

(262) 377-1838

W62 N590 Washington Ave.,

Cedarburg

* Frugal Homebrew

(262) 544-0894

238 W. Broadway, Waukesha

* Hop to It

(262) 633-8239

234 Wisconsin Ave.,

Racine 53403

* The Marketbasket,

(800) 824-5562

14835 W. Lisbon, Brookfield

* Homebrewing Depot

(414) 778-0781

8008 W. National, West Allis

* Purple Foot

(414) 327-2130

3167 S. 92nd St, Milwaukee

BJCP

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The BJCP Study Sessions will begin on January 12 and will be held the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month through April. The exam is scheduled for April 26th.

BEER BARON'S BACK INTO AHA CLUB-ONLY COMPETITION

The American Homebrewers Association (AHA) runs a program called the AHA Club Only Competition. The Club-Only Competition program offers AHA Registered Homebrew Clubs an opportunity to compete nationwide with other homebrew clubs. Each competition concentrates attention on a specific style of beer or mead, giving clubs the opportunity to educate their members in these styles by focusing on them at club meetings or tasting events.

Club's that entries places in any of the six Club-Only Competitions that are held on an August to May cycle, earns points towards the AHA Homebrew Club of the Year award on a twelve-eight-four basis for first, second and third places respectively. Additional points can be earned on a six-four-two basis for first, second and third places respectively in the first and second rounds of the National Homebrew Competition. Doing well in these types of competitions not only helps promote the club nationwide, but will help us get in the running of hosting events like AHA membership rallies and the National Homebrewer Conference.

Enter this or any competition is a great way to learn more about the different styles of beer, and get constructive feedback on your beers that will help you take your brewing to that next level.

A club of our size and TALENT should be able to send quality entries to each of the bi-monthly competitions. I have been asked to spearhead our clubs efforts in doing this. Over the next couple of months I hope to get our websites Club-Only Competition page updated. I will also get a schedule together on what styles are being judged, and when we would need them.

I will be asking our clubs judges, and those who are interested in becoming a judge, to help judge any entries we get at the meetings.

This is a great way for newer judges and people interested in becoming a judge to get real world experience in judging beers.

The schedule for the 2008 - 2009 competition...

*** JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009:**

Belgian & French Ales

*** MARCH/APRIL 2009: Beers with OG > 1.080**

*** MAY 2009: Extract Beers**

Would like to see a large amount of entries for this one.

If you have any questions please feel free to email me

David Glazewski

dahoove@gmail.com

USING THE BREWBLOG FOR AHA CLUB ONLY COMPETITIONS

<http://brewblog.beerbarons.org>

Last month, I talked about what a brew blog was and how to create one. Now it's time to show how this recorded brewing experience can also make it easier for the brewer to submit a brew to a competition like the AHA Club Only Competition.

Every competition requires paperwork to accompany the beer being entered. Name of the beer, category that the beer is being entered in, entrant information, bottle labels, and perhaps ingredients used in the beer are usually items that need to be written out on a sheets of paper. Multiple beers being entered into a competition means multiple documents that need to be filled out.

If you're a user of the BrewBlog, this process has just become a lot easier for you. All it takes is a few clicks and you'll have a replica of the universal BJCP Entry / Recipe Form and labels for 4 bottles. All a user needs to do is:

1. Log into the brewblog using their login and password.
2. Go to the brewblog of the beer or mead that you've recorded on the site.
3. To the right side of the screen, under the Admin Actions heading click on the icon that looks like a gold medal with a red ribbon.



Figure 1 – Print Contest Entry Sheet Icon

4. Clicking on the icon creates a report using the information that has been recorded about the beer and the club member. A window will appear that allows the user to modify or add additional information.
5. After reviewing the initial report, scroll to the bottom of the pop up window and click the submit button.
6. The window will refresh and lock down the information. Simply scroll down to the bottom of the window and click the Print button.
7. The normal print process on your PC or Mac should begin and the end result will be a printed copy of the standard form along with labels for 4 bottles.

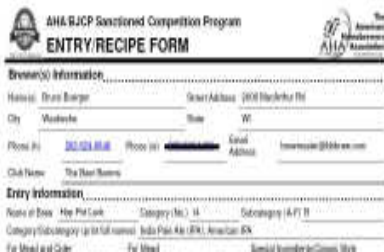


Figure 2 – Contest Entry Form Header



Figure 3 – Bottle Label Example

If you notice that the entrant information is missing that probably means that you haven't updated your personal club profile. Entering this information is very easy and it only takes a few short minutes. When you log in, simply click on the Edit My Profile link, and fill in the requested information on the screen and click on the Edit button when you're done.

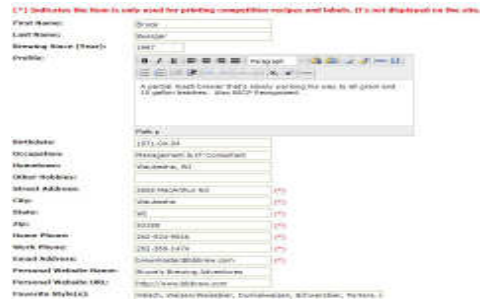


Figure 4 – Edit My Profile Screen

When you're done you'll have a profile for fellow club members to see. Note how the address information is hidden from the public view.



Figure 5 – Profile Screen

We've jumped from 6 brew blogs to 22 in under a month so it's becoming obvious that club home brewers are finding this new tool pretty helpful. Not only do these brew blogs help the home brewer by providing them with an online brewing log, but they also help out some of the newer home brewers in the club with ideas and lessons learned.

Take some time to check out some of the brewblogs currently posted on the site. On top of the WOB / Picnic Russian Imperial Stout and the Picnic Dunkelweizen we also have the Parallel Brews that currently in production. We'd love to see your current creations out there as well. Get a login, get brewing, and tell us about it by adding it to the site.

To get your own personal login you must:

1. Be a member of the club.
2. Email us at brewblogadmin@beerbarons.org with your full name and an e-mail address that matches our records.

Contact Bruce Buerger if you'd like additional information, or e-mail us at brewblogadmin@beerbarons.org.

BEER BARON BOARD ELECTIONS (Continued from Page 1)

See the web site for full descriptions of the positions and duties as listed in the Constitution and By-laws. It's available under the "About Us" link. We have several people nominated for Member at Large and at least one person running for each position. If you'd like to get more active in the club but aren't ready to run for a seat on the board, there are several appointed and volunteer positions available. Talk with a board member for more details.



AHA MEMBERSHIP EVANGE-ALE-IST PROGRAM OFFERING

The club has associated itself with the Evange-Ale-ist Program offered through the American Homebrewers Association in an effort to extend discounts on AHA memberships to area homebrewers. By renewing your membership through the club not only are you able to take advantage of price breaks and promotional offerings, but you also help the club earn points towards AHA merchandise that can be used for future raffles.

For those of you who don't already know, a AHA Membership includes the following:

Zymurgy® magazine - The best keeps getting better! Medal-winning recipes, beer-brewing advice and equipment building tips to help you brew better beer in six issues per year.

Pub Discount Program* - Rockbottom Brewery and the Milwaukee Ale House's in the local area. AHA members receive discounts on food, merchandise and/or beer at participating locations across the U.S. See www.beertown.org for more information and a list of pubs that is growing every day! **Must be 21 with valid ID to receive discounts. Discounts subject to change.*

AHA TechTalk Homebrewers Forum - Beer and brewing questions answered every day via email by the most experienced homebrewers. Over 11,000 AHA members are already subscribed.

AHA TechTalk Archives - Now members can research past issues of TechTalk to answer their brewing questions instantly.

Book Discounts - AHA members receive pre-publication discount offers on all Brewers Publications new releases.

Event Discounts - AHA members save money on registration fees to the **AHA National Homebrewers Conference** and entry fees for the **AHA National Homebrew Competition**.

Great American Beer FestivalSM Members-Only Tasting Session - This session of the GABF is now open exclusively to AHA and Brewers Association members!

An AHA Membership is an excellent resource for every home brewer and beer enthusiast. The table here includes the discounts being offered for some of the memberships.

	Individual		Family	
	Regular	Discount	Regular	Discount
One Year	\$38	\$33	\$43	\$37
Two Year	\$68	\$58	\$77	\$77
Three Year	\$97	\$87	\$110	\$96

Contact Bruce Buerger for further details and additional Evange-Ale-ist offerings.

AHA CLUB-ONLY COMPETITION

The Beer Baron's November - December club only competition was held during the Nov meeting. We had 4 entries and the winner was Mike Rice. Two bottles of Mike's winning beer was sent to the national club only competition. The judging for the national competition is Dec 6th and I will update everyone on how Mike's beer did at the Dec meeting, or the next newsletter.

The January - February COC category is Belgian & French Ales and will be judged at the Dec Beer Baron's meeting. If you have a beer that fits category and would like to enter, please bring three 12-16 ounce bottle of beer to the Dec meeting. Belgian & French ales include Witbier, Belgian Pale Ale, Saison, Biere de Garde, and Belgian Specialty Ale.

The March - April COC category is Beers with OG greater than 1.080. Any beer with a starting gravity 1.080 or more is eligible for the one, so start thinking about brewing something now. The beers will need to be ready for the March 2009 Beer Baron's meeting.

If you have any questions or comments please email me dahoove@gmail.com or talk to me at a meeting.

PARALLEL BREW III

by **Dan Schlosser**

The Brew portion of the Parallel Brew is underway. We handed out the ingredients at the November meeting and they are now in the hands (and brewpots) of the brewers.

For anyone who hasn't been following along, the concept is that the club is providing ingredients to 6 brewers who will each brew a batch of beer that theoretically should be the same.

They will be brewing a Brown Porter (BJCP Style 12A). The fun part for the rest of the club to sample the results and see how close they end up.

The 6 Brewers & Types ...

Brewer	Type
Brian Joas	All Grain
Tim Minger	All Grain
Rich McKagen	Partial Mash
Erik Scott	Partial Mash
Jason Heindal	Extract
Ken Klima	Extract

We are using the Brew Blog on the club website to post information on this for the membership to view. The 3 versions of the recipe are available there (All Grain, Partial Mash, Extract). Each brewer is adding information on their batch as they go along. Bruce Buerger is taking the lead on making sure that the information is there for the club to view.

We are all looking forward to tasting these brews at the January meeting.

UPCOMING BEER BARONS MEETINGS & EVENTS

DECEMBER 17: Elections & Holiday Party @ Clifford's - 7:30 PM

JANUARY 6 : Officers Meeting @ Benno's, West Allis, WI - 7:30 PM

JANUARY 21: Monthly Meeting featuring Homebrew & Parallel Brew @ Clifford's - 7:30 PM

Please Support

Clifford's Supper Club



Clifford's offers the use of their banquet room to the Milwaukee Beer Barons at a reduced rate. Our support will show our appreciation.

Famous For Their Friday Fish Fry

CLIFFORD'S, 10418 W. Forest Home, Hales Corners

O'Keefe's House of Hamburg



Specializing in German & Belgian Beer

* German Cuisine Weekly

* Live Blues & Ribs Every Thursday

* Hall & Catering Available

Tim & Mona Proprietors

"The best is just good enough"

5937 S. Howell Ave., Milwaukee WI

(414) 747-9444

Please support House of Hamburg as Tim O'Keefe donates his hall for Beer Barons' BJCP classes

Baron Mind is published monthly by the **Beer Barons of Milwaukee**, a non-profit organization.

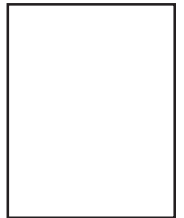
If you have an article or information that you would like to contribute to the newsletter, you can e-mail it to the newsletter editor or mail it to the club's mailing address.

BARON MIND

BEER BARONS OF MILWAUKEE

P.O. Box 270012

Milwaukee, WI 53227



FIRST CLASS