



# BARON MIND

The Monthly Publication of the Beer Barons of Milwaukee

December 2009 [www.beerbarons.org](http://www.beerbarons.org)

*The year is quickly coming to an end and I don't know where all the time has gone. It has been a privilege serving as the Beer Barons' Vice-President this year for the first time, and I hope I have done an adequate job to balance everyone's interests in beer and brewing. I had some big shoes to fill with so much history behind the club. I think the board has done a great job to build up the foundation of the club. We have a few board members who cannot run for re-election this year. I want to thank Mike Schwartz, Bruce Buerger, and Diana Kane for their dedication to the Beer Barons of Milwaukee.*

*This month's meeting will be our annual holiday party. I can't wait to sit back, relax and just hang out, talking beer and sampling some food. Remember, everyone is asked to bring a dish to share and as always any homebrew to share. What a great way to celebrate the Beer Barons 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The club was started this month in 1989 and we are sure brewing strong.*

*Speaking of brewing, beer for January's Scotch Ale homebrew meeting is currently being fermented. This homebrew night isn't a formal parallel brew, but we are sticking with a common style. As we start the new year, I hope to organize a couple more parallel-brew type events between other meeting topics and featured beers. But until then, have a great holiday and Happy Anniversary Beer Barons!*

**Jason Heller**

*This is my last month as President and looking back I can say I'm pretty proud and honored to have served as President. We accomplished all of my goals that I laid out two years ago including incorporation, more homebrewing orientation, expanding our efforts to fulfill our educational mission, and improving organization of the club. This couldn't have happened without a great board and several enthusiastic members who helped along the way. I'd like to thank the other board members, especially Bruce Buerger who has gone well above and beyond in his service, as well as all the members who have stepped up and helped where they could.*

*I've harped on how important volunteering is to keep the club running and make meetings interesting, but I'll say it again. There are a lot of people who show up to drink cheap beer and see the occasional speaker. We can find those people pretty easily. If you haven't served the club in some capacity, you haven't really been a member. There are a lot of ways to serve the club beyond being on the board. Take a look around and jump in!*

*I don't think anybody could have imagined when the club was started, or even 10 years ago when I joined, that it would ever get as big and involved in as many activities as it is now. The club is on a new course to a bigger and brighter future. It's a great way to celebrate the 20th anniversary.*

**Skol  
Mike Schwartz**

## **WHATS INSIDE**

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## **UPCOMING BEER BARONS MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

WEDNESDAY, December 18: Monthly Meeting: Christmas Party! @ Clifford's—7:30 WEDNESDAY, January 6: Officers Meeting @ Benno's— 7413 W Greenfield Ave., West Allis, 53214, Open to all members, followed by social hour—Meeting @ 7pm Sharp

## **Baron Mind Newsletter Advertising / Page Increase**

**As everyone is aware by now, the Beer Barons will be offering ad space in the Baron Mind starting with the January 2010 edition. We will be increasing the content by two pages starting with that issue as well. At the current time we do have some ad space left so I encourage anyone that is interested to contact me as soon as possible. The fee schedule is listed below, we will be offering one page, half page, quarter page and sixth page ads for a duration of either one year, six months or three months. All advertising inquiries can be made by contacting the newsletter editor, Kevin Meves by phone (414-339-8683), email (kevinmeves@yahoo.com), or via the officers contact form on the Beer Barons website ( <http://beerbarons.org/contacts/contactOfficers.html>).**

Number of Pages	Duration (Months)	Charge
One	12	\$230.00
Half Page	12	\$115.00
Quarter Page	12	\$ 63.00
Sixth Page	12	\$ 45.00
One	6	\$125.00
Half Page	6	\$ 63.00
Quarter Page	6	\$ 36.00
Sixth Page	6	\$ 24.00
One	3	\$ 73.00
Half Page	3	\$ 37.00
Quarter Page	3	\$ 21.00
Sixth Page	3	\$ 14.00

### **AHA NHC Planning Meeting**

**On Saturday, December 5th, we held our first planning meeting for the upcoming AHA National Homebrewing Conference. This year it will be held in Minneapolis, MN from June 17th - 19th and the Barons, along with other homebrew clubs in the area, would like to make a big impression in the hospitality suite and on club night.**

**At the meeting on December 5th, we discussed how much homebrew we will need, what our theme will be for club night, and how we want to use the proceeds from the Schooner Homebrew Competition to build a club serving structure. So far we have estimated that we'll need about 15 kegs of homebrew, we're thinking of incorporating a bowling theme, and we're looking to build two wood jockey box covers that could be used for this and future events. Currently we have about 15 people that have stated that they will be attending, making homebrew, and are willing to volunteer their time to serve homebrew at the conference. We also have a team of four people that will be working on the construction of the jockey box covers.**

**If you'd like to be a part of the Barons presence at the conference, please contact Bruce. Further details about the conference can be found at their website - <http://www.ahaconference.org/>  
**Prosit, Sláinte, Salute, Na Zdravi, Cheers!- Bruce Buerger****

## Upcoming Brew – U Events

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bare Bones Basic Brewing Class – Registration is Now Open!

When: January 16th, 2010 @ 10 AM

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

Cost: Between \$5 & \$10 to cover course materials and homebrew samples.

It's that time again for our annual full process basic brewing class. Do you know someone who might be getting a homebrew start up kit this holiday season? Have you been coming to the Baron meetings and now you're thinking about giving this Home Brewing thing a try? Maybe you gave it a try but it didn't turn out quite so well? Or perhaps you'd like to see how others do their thing and compare it to how you do your thing?

Come to this class and 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.

### Intermediate Homebrewing

When: February 6th, 2010 @ 10 AM

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

Cost: Between \$5 & \$10 to cover course materials and homebrew samples.

We took the 40 or attendees last year as a sign that we should probably do this one again. The intermediate class covers how to take basic home brewing techniques up one more level in order to achieve better and more consistent results. It involves a lot of discussion and participation by some of the club's experienced members and participants will walk away with a wealth of tips and new ideas.

Items we'll discuss include:

- Yeast starters and the use of stir plates.
- Kegging, carbonation caps, and bottle using pressure fillers.
- Wort chilling - immersion vs. counter flow.
- Grain crushing

### Advanced Studies in Yeast

When: March 26th, 2010 @ 10 AM

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

Cost: Between \$5 & \$10 to cover course materials and homebrew samples.

This class is the first of a series of new workshop offering through Brew U. Participants will be assigned materials in February, review and research those materials, and then come together on March 26<sup>th</sup> to share their findings.

Spots are limited for all three of these offerings! Participants must RSVP at <http://www.beerbarons.org/Brew-U/index.html> and be 21 years of age to attend!

### Remaining 2010 & 2011 Brew U Events

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 – AHA Big Brew National Homebrew Day

July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – Hop Studies

August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010 – Recipe Formulation

October and November 2010 – Intro to Sensory Analysis

November 6, 2010 – AHA Learning to Homebrew Day

December 2010 and January 2011 – BJCP Exam Studies

### SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL HOMEBREW SHOP

\*10% off starred locations with BB membership card

#### Bitter Creek

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#### \* 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

#### \*Northern Brewer

414-935-4099

1306 S. 108th St. West Allis

#### Purple Foot

(414) 327-2130

3167 S. 92nd St, Milwaukee

\*\*\*Brews Wine and Spirits on Capitol Drive in Pewaukee is now offering a 5% discount to Beer Barons Members!

**November 2009 Treasures Report  
By Bruce Buerger**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$5,608.41</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Brew U Teach A Friend To Brew	\$120.00
Officer's Meeting	\$35.00
Meeting Income - Fees	\$900.00
Lanyards	\$10.00
Glass Sales	\$13.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,078.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
PA System	\$113.51
Meeting Expense - Facilities	\$118.00
Meeting Expense - Officers	\$85.00
Newsletter - Printing	\$99.26
Christmas Raffle	\$90.49
Brew U Teach A Friend To Brew	\$111.27
Brew U Bare Bones	\$11.62
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$629.15</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$6,057.26</b>
<b>Estimated December Income</b>	
Meeting	\$1,200.00
Glass Sales	\$5.00
Raffle Prizes	\$1,000.00
	<b>\$2,205.00</b>

<b>Estimated December Expenses</b>	
Christmas Party Food	\$600.00
Christmas Door Prizes	\$250.00
Christmas Raffle Prizes	\$750.00
Meeting Facilities	\$120.00
Newsletter Postage	\$89.00
Newsletter Printing	\$78.00
Meeting Beer	\$200.00
Officer's Meeting	\$60.00
	<b>\$2,147.00</b>

*It's been my pleasure to serve as Treasurer and as part of the Schwartz administration these past two years. When I look back I'm truly amazed how things have grown since that time. Incorporation, expense tracking, the expansion of Brew U, pursuing the non-profit status, an average monthly meeting attendance of 114, a membership growth to over 200, and the rollout of a brewblog that now contains 82 documented brewing experiences and 107 recipes. An extremely big thanks to all the Officer's and club members that have helped out during this time. Without your help and guidance none of this would have been possible. I look forward to the times ahead and all that we can accomplish next. (continued next column)*

(cont.)  
Have a happy holiday and see you at the next Barons function!

Prosit, Sláinte, Salute, Cheers! - Bruce Buerger

**Upcoming Homebrew Competitions**

- 1/18/2010, Big Beers, Belgians and Barleywines Festival, Vail, CO, Contact Laura Lodge at 970-977-0100 or <http://www.bigbeersfestival.com/> for more information
- 1/29/2010, Upper Mississippi Mash Out, Minneapolis, MN, Contact Kris England at 800-555-1212 or <http://www.mashout.org/index.html> for more information
- 2/12/2010, AHA COC, English Brown Ales, bring your beers to the January general meeting
- 2/12/2010, Great Northern Brew Ha-ha, Duluth, MN, Contact Steve Daiken at 713-201-2386 or <http://www.northernalestars.org/greatnorthernbrewhaha.html> for more information
- 2/27/2010, Babble Brew Off, Mundelein, IL, Contact Dan Morey at 847-837-1069 or <http://www.babblehomebrewers.com/> for more information.

**Club Listserve**

*Did you know that the club has a medium to discuss general topics on the internet? The club listserv was set up to serve this purpose. All members who have internet access should sign up as many interesting discussions, impromptu gatherings and general questions are discussed here daily. Sign up is fast and easy, just go to the Barons homepage ([www.beerbarons.org](http://www.beerbarons.org)), scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on the "Listserve" link.*

**Hop Cone Magnified 100X**



## **A Review of Blichmann's New Auto Sparge from Mike Rice**

*Barons, As you all know I purchased Blichmanns new Auto Sparge at Northern Brewers grand opening. Installation was a snap, I popped a hole 2" from the top of my keggle and screwed it on using the weld-less gasket that was provided.*

*I did not attach the float immediately , thinking that the float would be in the way when I poured in the grain. When I was ready to sparge I attached the float using the thumbscrew. This was a scary procedure because if I would have dropped the thumbscrew in to the mash I would have been screwed. This was a stupid mistake. For all I had to do was to just loosen the thumb screw and swing the float up to the full vertical position, which I did when I dumped the mash.*

*I began my runoff, and when the grain bed was exposed, I set the float on top of it and turned on my pump. To my surprise the float regulated the flow perfectly, keeping about 1/2" of water on top of the grain bed. I thought that the float would open and close the valve periodically to maintain the proper level. This was not the case. The valve is variable, and the float opened it just enough to maintain the proper level. WHAT A JOY!! I did not have to stand over the kettle tweaking the HLT valve.*

*Another benefit of this toy is that you can cover the tun to help maintain the temp. When I was circulating the mash through the coil in my HLT (HERMS) to raise my temperature. I ran it through the Auto Sparge. The outlet on the AS is a soft vinyl tube with a adjustable foam float. You place this on the side of the kettle creating a whirlpool, keeping aeration to a minimum (no splashing).*

*A lot of companies are selling gadgets to us brewers. As you all know some items are junk. This is not one of them. As with a all of the Blichmann products I have purchased in the past, I am very pleased with the Auto Sparge. This is a must have item!*

*John, keep up the good work !!!*

## **AHA Club Only Competition - CoC**

*Winners of the Club-Only competition [CoC] earn points for their homebrew club on a 12-8-4 basis for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. Points from the CoC go toward the point total for the AHA Homebrew Club of the Year! Each CoC covers a specific style or category. Bring your entries to the Barons General meeting listed to compete; the winner goes to the CoC.*

**January - The Session Challenge**  
**English Brown Ales - BJCP Cat. 11**

**March - American Ales**  
**BJCP Category 10**

**May - Extract Beers**  
**BJCP 1-23, must be >50% Extract**

*Recipes must be provided if your beer is the Barons' entry. Barons will ship it and pay the entry fee. For further details hit <http://www.homebrewersassociation.org/pages/competitions/club-only-competitions> or send an email to [erikscott@yahoo.com](mailto:erikscott@yahoo.com)*

*Erik Scott*

## **MILWAUKEE BEER BARONS BOARD MEMBERS**

PRESIDENT	MIKE SCHWARTZ	(414) 423-7930
VICE PRESIDENT	JASON HELLER	(414) 870-8030
TREASURER	BRUCE BUERGER	(262) 524-9546
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donates his hall for Beer Barons' BJCP classes

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

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