



The Wort Alert

August 2009: Volume 21, Issue 8

Newsletter for Hop Barley and the Alers Homebrew Club, Boulder, CO

<http://hopbarley.org>

President's Corner

Ryan Thomas

Last month at our meeting we heard from David Myers and learned a few tips on making better meads. Our club batch that was made at the meeting has been fermenting nicely at 78F and is currently down to around 1.030 (from 1.110) and up to nearly 11% alcohol. Once the gravity stops dropping and primary fermentation is finished I'll crash cool it and rack it to an ageing vessel for several months. Next summer we can decide how we want to dry hop it prior to the mead club-only competition we'll be hosting in August.

This month is our annual club auction. We still need help soliciting donations from local breweries and beer-related businesses, so if you have contacts in the industry please hit them up for a donation. If you have any excess equipment that might be helpful to a new brewer or want to offer an item such as a beer tasting or dinner then be sure to bring it to the auction. Inviting friends and brewers from other local clubs is a great way to increase our take without taxing our own members quite so much. Bring your checkbook and bid often.

In September beer season kicks into full swing. Our annual picnic will be Saturday the 12th, and is being coordinated by Coby. Please consider volunteering to give him a hand. The Great American Beer Fest is the 24th through the 26th, and as usual our meeting for the month will be at the Falling Rock Tap House. This year we have arranged to have Randy Mosher come and speak to us about his new book *Tasting Beer*. The Falling Rock will be a great place to put some of the lessons to work. I know Chris Black will have a stellar selection of brews on tap as always. The Keg Ran Out Club in Broomfield will be hosting their 15th Annual World Brewers Forum during and after the Thursday night GABF session featuring Matt Brynildson from Firestone Walker, as well as a silent auction, raffle, and 20+ homebrews. Best of all it is free. Friday afternoon has the Rare Beer Tasting at the Wynkoop, and of course the four GABF sessions Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Make sure to properly stretch your liver prior to beginning the festivities so that you don't cramp up.

In October we will be holding our Cider competition for all of the brews created after last year's group cider buy. Bring a few bottles to share and to judge and we'll have a special prize for the winner. We will also be electing new officers, so if you are interested in a leadership role within the club please talk to me or to another officer.

That's all for this month, I'm off to do some training for September.

Cheers!

Ryan

Autumn is Just Around the Corner

Matthew Anderson

In mid August, the days start to get a little shorter, the nights a little cooler, and the first Oktoberfest beers start to appear on the shelves at the liquor store. It's inevitable that autumn is just around the corner and a smooth, clean, malty Oktoberfest is the perfect beer for the changing season. Oktoberfest beers are of the Märzenbier style and historically they were the last beers brewed in March before the weather in Germany got too warm to brew. They were brewed strong to survive the summer months and any beer left in the fall would be ceremonially consumed in September and October. Traditionally, Oktoberfest lasts for 16 days and ends on the first Sunday in October. Denver's Oktoberfest on Larimer Street will be the same weekend as the Great American Beer Festival this year and Longmont's Oktoberfest is taking place on September 11 – 12.

According to the Beer Judge Certification Program (BJCP), Oktoberfest beers are brewed with rich German malts (Vienna or Munich). They are brilliantly clear, orange in color (7 – 14 SRM), and malty sweet with a moderately dry finish. The first beer we will sample at Tuesday's club meeting is Paulaner Oktoberfest which is a classic example of the style. The second beer is Samuel Adams Oktoberfest which is a slightly Americanized example of the style due to its use of late addition hops.

References:

BJCP Style Guidelines / Beer Judge Certification Program Inc. / St. Louis Park, MN / 2008 / p. 5.
Jackson, Michael / "The New World Guide to Beer" / Quarto Publishing / London / 1988 / pp. 47 - 50.

Upcoming Club Events

- Tuesday, August 25, Annual Club Auction
- Friday, September 4th, First Friday Out at Golden City Brewery: Dave Anderson and Jeff Griffith will be tapping their ProAm Cream Ale
- Saturday, September 12, Annual HBA Picnic at Heil Ranch
- Tuesday, September 22, Special GABF Meeting of the club at Falling Rock Tapouse with featured guest speaker, Randy Mosher

Monthly Meetings

Our monthly club meetings are the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7pm. We meet at the Masonic Lodge, located on the corner of Pine and Broadway, Boulder, Colorado 80303. Additional parking is available at the Lutheran Church.

Each month color groups coordinate beer, food, and setup/cleanup.

Monthly Meetings (4th Tuesday)--Who's Doing What and When

Group\Day	8/25/2009	9/22/2009	10/27/2009	11/24/2009
Red Group	Relax	Food	Setup/Cleanup	Beer
Orange Group	Beer	Relax	Food	Setup/Cleanup
Green Group	Setup/Cleanup	Beer	Relax	Food
Blue Group	Food	Setup/Cleanup	Beer	Relax

Color Groups – Please bring your recipe along with your beer and tell us about it!

Color groups please coordinate food and beer.

One brew per group will be reimbursed. The brew should be in the style of the month.

Food will be reimbursed for up to \$75. Please see the treasurer in an unusual circumstance.

Bring in your receipts to be reimbursed by the treasurer.

Monthly Beer Styles

August - European Amber Lagers*

September - GABF so no judging

October - Belgian strong ales*

November - Cider

**Club only competitions* (see http://www.beertown.org/homebrewing/club_only/)

Upcoming Beer Events

Also see upcoming *Club Events*, above.

- September 18-27: Denver Beer Festival: www.DenverBeerFest.com
- September 19: Telluride Blues & Brews Festival at Telluride Town Park: <http://tellurideblues.com/index.html>
- September 24-26: Great American Beer Festival at Colorado Convention Center, Denver: <http://www.beertown.org/events/gabf/index.htm>
- September 23rd Avery Release Party for Sui Generis: <http://www.averybrewing.com/calendar.html>

Announcements

Email your announcements for the Wort Alert to secretary@hopbarley.org.

- Please sign up for your potluck dish for the September 12 picnic. The signup sheet will be available online and at the August club meeting.