

★ High Plains Draughters ★ Oklahoma City ★

THE DRAUGHT CARD

May 18, 2004

The Next Meeting: City Arts, Friday, May 28th at 7:30 PM

During this month's meeting we'll be comparing at least two Anchor Steam clones with the original stuff. If you have some in a closet or refrigerator somewhere – bring it!

The Last Meeting

We last met on Friday, April 23rd, and we enjoyed a full house of folks, including two new gents rescued from the madness that was Oklahoma City's First Annual Brew Fest! Schoolmaster Bob Rescinito gave an outstanding wall-side presentation on the somewhat difficult art of counter-pressure bottle filling (or, "How to Paint Your Kitchen Without Even Trying!"). During his talk he certainly drove home the importance of DOING IT RIGHT, and presented schematic drawings of several types of counter-filling units. Thanks, Bob! Ellen Parrot graciously volunteered to coordinate next year's



National Home Brew Day festivities, so make sure you get with her for details. The Trail Boss talked about the successes of the Brew Fest and some other things I can't quite seem to remember. I guess I should write this stuff down before I disable those brain cells! Sorry, Boss!

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★ Club Activities ★

Brew Fest!

On April 17th KRXO radio sponsored Oklahoma City's First Annual Brew Fest at the Bricktown Brewery. A HUGE crowd of people was on hand to sample beers from the Bricktown Brewery, Coaches, the stock of a large local distributor, and the High Plains Draughters. The Draughters' presence was requested by KRXO radio personality David Kelso, who is something of a beer connoisseur, as it turned out. Dave envisioned a small get-together of around 200 people to quietly start off what will hopefully grow into a large Festival of the Arts-sized gathering. Although we were all too busy to count heads, we're betting something more like 300 - 400 thirsty fest-goers showed up. Gary Shellman and Steve Krieske arrived early to stake out our plot and they were pleasantly surprised that they didn't find a single rickety little table with our name on it, but two large tables with room for everything they could drag up there. We served beer until we ran out (30+ liters!) and fielded many, many questions from those who were either interested in brewing for themselves, or just wanted to know how beer got made. It was a fun and satisfying evening for all of us. With any luck, next year we will be invited back for the second annual festival and, if we're lucky, we will always represent Oklahoma City's brewing community. Many thanks to Dave Kelso and KRXO for the opportunity to show OKC what home brewing is all about!



☆ From the Brau Haus ☆

Thar She Blows! By Bob Rescinito

I couldn't brew on Saturday, May 1st, National Homebrew Day, so I decided to brew on Sunday. I invited some new or wannabe brewers over to watch the process. David Washington came over about 10:00am, and after walking him through the brewing process and explaining my brewing rig, we started in on an extract batch. I was initially going to brew one batch and have the new brewers follow along and do a second batch, but David preferred to watch this time, so I just combined all the extract into one batch! I showed how to steep some specialty grains as the water came up to temperature, and then added 13.6 pounds of liquid extract! We also added a massive amount of hops along the way: 5 ounces of Centennial at 60 minutes, 2 ounces at 30 minutes, and another 2 ounces at 15 minutes! The plan (if there was one!) was to make an Imperial stout. The boil went along for 60 minutes with no problems and all went fine with the wort chilling. (David was impressed with the speed of the counter-flow chiller.) I taught David how to use the hydrometer to take the specific gravity, and speculated that this batch would



come in at around 1.080. The OG on this batch was right at 1.080! Since I hadn't really planned this brewing event, I didn't take the time to make a yeast starter. I rehydrated 2 packets of dry London ale yeast and aerated the wort before pitching. I pitched the yeast and popped on an air lock and commenced clean up. I told David that the fun part was over, now we just had to wait and let the yeast do its thing. He soaked up as much information as he could stand for one day and went home to mull it all over. I put the 6.5 gallon carboy with airlock in place in my bathtub, my usual fermenting place. I went to bed and let my science project go to work! In the morning, the airlock was bubbling away rather sedately. It put a smile on my face to know that this would soon be beer! But when I returned that day from work, imagine my surprise when I walked into the bathroom and found that the bubbling airlock had turned into a raging volcano! After some cleanup, I put on a blowoff tube and the beer burped and gurgled away for the next 4 days. On the following Saturday, I racked the beer to a secondary carboy, the gravity at that time was down to 1.032. I drank the sample taken for the hydrometer and was impressed with this improvised beer! It should make a mighty tasty Impy stout!

☆ Useful Web Links ☆

Here are some links you may find useful to your brewing efforts:

- ☆ <http://www.brewingtechniques.com/>
- ☆ <http://www.convert-me.com/en/>
- ☆ <http://www.beertools.com/>
- ☆ <http://www.howtobrew.com/>
- ☆ <http://www.beertown.org/education/styles.html>

☆ HPD Competition Information ☆

Extract Competition! By Shaun McDaniel

With the beautiful weather of May came our extract only Club Only Competition. Judging was held the evening of May 6th with Tim Nagode, Mike Divilio and myself doing the honors. The entries were few and because there were only two, the judging was over before we knew it. Mike's very own Saison took first prize leaving second place for Brian Northup's Spiced Belgian Strong. Congratulations to both of you for your fine examples. Our next Club Only in August will be everyone's favorite summer beverage. You guessed it, Wheat beer! More information to come as the date gets closer.

2004 COC Competition Schedule: Here is the competition schedule for the rest of the year. You can get more information at: <http://www.beertown.org/homebrewing/schedule.html>

Wheat Beer	August, 2004	Category 17
Smoked Beer	September/October, 2004	Category 23
IPA	November/December, 2004	Category 7

☆ From Beyond the Pale ☆

We recently received word from our old pals, Brian and Carroll Myers, who left us for the serene beauty of New Zealand four or five years back. Although they live in another day and another hemisphere, they are never far from our thoughts. They had to leave some of their best brewing efforts behind when they moved, you see, and Brian was one heck of a mead maker! Matter of fact, the last of his Rhodomel should make its appearance this July during the Mead Clinic.

Brian reported that he and his family are doing fine and that he has mastered some of the local beer-tasting methods!



☆ Adventure Alert! ☆

Colorado Brewer's Rendezvous!

By Mike Kiester

A few months ago I invited the Draughters to the July 3rd Colorado Brewer's Rendezvous (<http://www.salidachamber.org/events/eventsjul.html>) in Salida, Colorado, to stay at my place near Westcliffe, Colorado. I just returned from the place and it is ready to host our club. I plan to have the place open Thursday July 1 and shut it down July 7.

As I said in my earlier article, there are 3 buildings that can sleep as many as 18 without resorting to steel Army cots. Ken's Den has two bathrooms, a double bed, a set of bunk beds, Queen sleeper couch, and ¾ rollaway bed.

There is enough room for an air mattress on the floor if needed. The Barn upstairs has 3 rooms and bath. The main room has two double beds, Ellis room has double and bunk bed and third room has pull out double bed. Mike's room with bath affair double size pull sleeper camp, or RV there are streamside or near the can also stay in miss all the fun, we will will need to make

I envision simple those staying at the place. suggest we organize a the mountains. There is



cabin is a simple one with double Murphy bed, sofa. If you would like to very private place at buildings. Of course, one Westcliffe, but you will talk about you, and you reservations now.

communal meals for Friday, July 2nd, I jeep trip or adventure into an old Willie's jeep that might make one more trip on one of the jeep trails in the valley. If you have a 4-wheel drive, bring it, the more the merrier. Saturday, I suggest we sleep late and mosey over to the Rendezvous to be the first in line. We will need to designate drivers to haul us the 40 miles back to the cabin after dinner in Salida. Sunday either R or R, head home or make another trip into the mountains. Monday and Tuesday possibly day trip to Colorado Springs, Denver, National Sand dunes, Cripple Creek to gamble, fish, Valley View Spa or just sit on the porch, feed chipmunks and look over the valley.

Let me know if you are interested so I can begin arrangements. If you are interested in quartering with certain people let me know so I can try to make it happen.

☆ Notes From the Editor ☆

New Editor in the House! Well, if you're reading this that means I'm done with my first issue. Many thanks to Steve Law, Tim Nagode, and Joe Boccock & his fine crew for making the transition a smooth one! Additional thanks go to Steve for his many months of gathering, pestering, and sweating over a hot keyboard to make the Draught Card a constant and relied-upon source of information. I will endeavor to keep his shoes filled. Since the baton has been passed, if you have any ideas for Draught Card content changes please don't hesitate to send them to me at steve.krieske@cox.net! All ideas are welcome. Steve K.

Congratulations! Steve and Nuri were, as you recall, conspicuously absent from last month's meeting. For those of you who don't know, the reason is simple: We have a new Ph.D. in the house! If she's able to make the meeting this month, please stop and congratulate *Doctor* Nuri! Well done!

Draught Card On-line A reminder to all of our readers that the HPD Draught Card is also available on-line at www.draughters.com. When viewing the on-line version, accessible through a PDF download, you'll be able to see all of the pictures in color! All of the Internet links are fully operational in this format as well. If you would prefer to only get the on-line version of the newsletter, please send an email to the editor at steve.krieske@cox.net, and we'll make the necessary changes.

★**WANTED**★ As always, if you have a story to tell, an article to publish, a question to ask, or a recipe to share, send your postings to the editor at steve.krieske@cox.net. In particular, if you have visited a memorable brewpub, we want to know what you thought of it. Been anywhere exciting (or absolutely awful?), send us a blurb and we'll get it into print.

★ HPD Officers ★

The High Plains Draughters' officers are listed below, with their contact information. If you e-mail them please make sure the subject line is beer related or you might end up as spam!

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