

DRAUGHT CARD



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Our Last Meeting

Christmas Party December 9th. The last session was the annual Christmas Party, hosted by Stan and Penny Babb in Norman. A big thanks to Stan and Penny for their hospitality.

Good food and beer were aplenty, and there was a sizable crowd in attendance. A number of interesting brews were available. Included were a Bock brought by the Old Boss, several IPA/APA's brought by several members, a Classic American Pilsner brought by the Editor, some Belgian brews, and a some interesting things provided by our host, Stan Babb.

An interesting beer-related story surfaced at the party. It involved the recent brewing activities of Stan, and a toilet. Apparently, while moving a full carboy into the tub to conduct a primary fermentation, the carboy partly slipped from Stan's hands. It crashed into the rim of the porcelain throne - breaking the toilet - necessitating some fast and furious repair work (the picture at right shows the replacement) and flood prevention on Stan's part. On the positive (and most important) side, the carboy was undamaged and the fermentation occurred without further incident.



Relax, don't worry...

Our Next Meeting, Jan 19th

It's the Draught's annual Robert Burns Night at the City Arts Building, General Pershing Boulevard, State Fair Grounds, OKC. Start time is 7:00 PM. Come and partake in things Scottish and celebrate the birthday of that great poet Robert Burns, who extolled all things Scottish, and made from John Barleycorn. Get in touch with Cookie (carterjs@cox.net) and let her know what food you might be bringing. See ya there Draughters!

Competition Information

The next Club-Only Competition will be for Low Gravity Session Beers, scheduled for January/February of 2007. This competition is open to beers from a series of categories and subcategories with an original gravity of **less than 1.045**. Brew one up and be on the look out for the local call for entries in the near future!



2006/07 COC Competition Schedule

Here's the Club-Only Competition schedule through May 2007. You can get more information at: <http://www.beertown.org/homebrewing/schedule.html>

Type	Entries for Local Judging	BJCP Category
Session Beers (OG<1.045)	Jan/Feb 2007	A whole bunch of 'em
Scottish Ales	Mar/Apr 2007	9
Extract Beers	May/Jun 2007	1-23



Session Beers, What's That?

Well Draughters, the next competition involves brews that most of us seem to rarely make – low gravity Session Beers. This competition is open to brews with original gravities that are **below 1.045**. Terminal gravities of the many 'classic' Session Beers are variable, as is malt and hop character.

The club hosting the National COC has restricted the competition to a subset of different beers. Some can have original gravities above 1.045, but these subcategories will be allowed, **provided the OG of your brew is below 1.045!** Categories and subcategories allowed in the competition are: 1A-D; 2A-C; 4A; 6A-D; 8A&B; 9A-D; 10A-C; 11A-C; 12A; 13A&B; 15A&B; 16A; 17A-F; 20; 21A&B; and 22B&C. This is a significant list in terms of what's permissible, so there's no room for specifics. Be sure to check information on style guidelines for the different categories and subcategories listed above at www.bjcp.org/2004_BJCP_Guidelines.pdf. In-print information on some styles can be found in different volumes of the AHA Beer Style Series Books.

Local entries are due at the National Competition by February 8 so watch for alerts on the Draughter COC, to be announced at a later date. Hope to see some of you, or your beers, there!

New Head Examiner

The Club now has a new Competition Coordinator, to fill the shoes of outgoing Head Examiner, Tim Nagode.

Old Boss Gary Shellman has stepped forward to help organize the local phase of Club-Only Competitions. Well done Gary.

Club T-Shirts and Glasses

Club t-shirts are currently available at \$11. Sizes available range from small to x-large. The Trail Boss also reports that the supplier can produce collared golf shirts with the design embroidered on the front pocket for \$18, assuming there's enough interest. As an FYI, the image is included in the header of the DC. If you want either shirt, contact the Trail Boss (Dan Shore), or the Old Boss (Gary Shellman). **ALSO**, new Draughter glasses are available for \$5. The design is similar to the t-shirt image (we got a package deal on image processing), but is a single color (gold) like on the old glasses.

YEAR 2007 DUES

Club dues for the 2007 calendar year are payable at the January meeting. Single dues are \$12 per member, or \$20 gets you the family package. Remember to bring your checkbook Draughters. We use the dues to help defray the cost of room rentals for technical meetings, and for such things as the Club Room at the Bluebonnet Brew-Off.

Brewing with the Trail Boss

I hope everyone had a great holiday and were blessed with the company of family and friends. I would like to give my thanks to Stan and Penny Babb for hosting an outstanding Christmas party. Participation was on a grand scale and no one left hungry or thirsty!

Looking at our upcoming schedule we have some events that will be a lot of fun and maybe a bit of work. I would like to encourage more club sponsored brew sessions. The beer then would be brought to the club meeting to be tasted and judged by all. This would give us a chance to get all members involved in advanced brewing processes and judging. Burn's Night is fast approaching and I hope to see everyone there. It should be a lot of fun. We need someone with a good Scottish accent to read the "Address to a Haggis" and "John Barleycorn".

The new glasses are in and I will bring them, along with the new T-shirts to the meeting.

-- BREW!!! --
Dan Shore,
Yer Trail Boss

2007 DRAUGHTERS MEETING SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENTS</u>
Jan 19	Robert Burns Night
Feb 16	Technical Meeting
Mar	No technical meeting; Bluebonnet Brewoff, Mar 23-24
Apr	No technical meeting; Bricktown Brewfest, TBD
May 5	Big Brew Day; Technical Meeting, May 18
Jun 15	Technical Meeting
Jul	No technical meeting; Possibly a Jul 4 party
Aug	No technical meeting; Aug 4 – Mead Clinic
Sep 21	Technical Meeting
Oct	No technical meeting; Octoberfest, TBD
Nov 16	Technical Meeting
Dec	No technical meeting; Christmas Party, TBD

DRAUGHTERS 'MYSTERY' IMAGE CONTEST!

Yes fellow Draughters, the Editor is going to scratch that competitive itch which some of you have. The 2nd round of the Mystery Image Contest is underway! As before, there is a new mystery image that's part of the random rotation, with the (5) 'regular' images (see the June DC for the regulars). All you have to do when you see it is be the first to e-mail the Editor (bnorthup3@cox.net) and DESCRIBE IT IN WORDS (roughly), or be the first to give a modern interpretation of the Old English motto (that means 2 winners), and win a tasty prize (Editors choice). The payoff occurs at the annual Robert Burns Night in January. The Editor WILL NOT ACCEPT attached images as a description. Ya got to work a bit for those prizes!

Heard Round the Campfire

News From The Brew Shop. The Supply Master has just received a whole truckload of goodies at the Brew Shop. Included are some packets of Amarillo hops, for all you hop heads and APA freaks. Get to the Brew Shop and pick up the fixins for one of those pesky Session Beers, or better yet a double APA!

A Really Mature Brew. Below are excerpts from a beer-related news item forwarded by Rob Rescinito.

London, Dec.9 (ANI): A recently discovered cache of 1869 ale should have been undrinkable, but liquor and beer connoisseurs are claiming that the brew tastes "absolutely amazing". The Victorian beer was part of a cache of 250 vintage bottles found in the vaults of Worthington's White Shield brewery in Burton-on-Trent. The bottles will not be sold and have yet to be valued.

According to 'The Telegraph', the 137-year-old ale has the flavor of raisins and sultanas, baked apple and honey. The 1869 Ratcliff Ale is bright and luminous like an ancient Amontillado sherry and has a meaty character like smoked partridge with hints of molasses. The beer commemorates the birth of Harry Ratcliff into the brewing family, which became part of the Bass, Ratcliff and Gretton Empire.

The beers were bottle conditioned, which means they were allowed to develop and mature after they were corked, like a wine. They were also strong - around 10 per cent proof. The high alcohol content, similar to barley wine, stopped them from deteriorating.

The bottles were re-corked to preserve the contents, and they will be displayed in a brewing museum.

The Editor's Notes

Membership Drive: We're always looking for new members. If you know someone who's interested, turn 'em on to the www.draughters.com link or bring 'em to a meeting.

The Draughters Want YOU! We are actively looking for folks like you (yes, you) to enter beers and judge or steward at club-only competitions. A vast amount of experience is not necessary, just a willingness to learn, and participate in a learning experience. What better way to improve your beer-making abilities? What better way to find out how people like your stuff than to share it with friends?

New Section in the Tap Room: I hope all Draughters are using the 'Tap Room' section of the web site. In fact, we've got a new section, by popular request, for topics related to meads. So, all you mead mavens, let's get in there and talk honey wine! The 'Tap Room' is there to improve communications so post your thoughts on beer or club-related things. You can post notes as a 'guest' or as a registered user. Registering is not difficult. Next time you're on-site, hit the register button and our Web Masters will set you up.

Useful Web Links

Below are some links you may find useful in your brewing efforts:

- ★ <http://www.beertools.com/>
- ★ <http://www.howtobrew.com/>
- ★ <http://www.beertown.org>
- ★ <http://www.beertown.org/education/styles.html>

WANTED

If you have an interesting story to tell, an article to publish, questions to ask, or a recipe you'd like to share, send it to the Editor (bnorthup3@cox.net).

So, if you've been traveling the planet lately and visited a truly memorable pub (good or otherwise), or tasted some seriously interesting brew, we want to hear your thoughts. Been anywhere exciting (or truly awful)? Send a blurb to the Editor and it'll be put on the web site.



HPD Officers & Tech Support

The officers and technical support personnel of the High Plains Draughts are listed below with contact information. If you e-mail them, make sure the subject line is beer-related or your message might end up in the spam bucket!

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