



The Official Newsletter of the Cloudy Town Brewers
April 2007
<http://www.cloudytownbrewers.org>

Next Meeting
Wednesday April 4, 2007
7:30 P.M. at
Old Chicago

From The Prez

Hello folks,

March Mashness is behind us now, and its time to have a homebrew and relax a bit. For those that were there I think the new venue at Sal's went quite well. After the awards ceremony everyone just hung-out and socialized where in the past we had to leave to make room at Granite City. This year we had 108 entries, which is comparable to past march Mashness's. The judging and the best of the show were all one weekend, which is a little different than the past. Overall things went pretty smoothly and the Best Of Show went fairly quick as compared to the past. A good time and good beer were had by all. It's hard to believe that the next meeting is coming up already; I regret that I cannot make the next meeting because I have to work but I will be there in spirit. totally twisted Barley wines, Basic brewing calculations, the ins and outs of yeast storage

Cheers,
Bruce

March's Minutes
To be Annouced

Competitions

For a complete list of competitions visit the Events & Calendar on the AHA's web site at <http://www.beertown.org/homebrewing/events.html>.

Tommy Z Generosity Award

Here are the point totals through February.

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Jerry Dusich | 2 Points |
| Larry Nusbaum | 2 Points |
| Joe Leuthner | 1 Point |

Cloudy Town Brewers
Mugs & Shirts

The Cloudy Town Brewer mugs are still available. They are available to club members for \$10 and non-members for \$12. Please contact Tom Zupanc if interested.

Beware of high-alpha hops.

For centuries, brewing hops were of the low-alpha type, with alpha acid (the bitter part) content ranging from 2 to 7 percent. Once it became possible to extract this bitter material and concentrate it into a cheap commodity, the race was on to find hops that would yield ever more alpha acids, as high as 16 percent in some varieties. In this race to the bottom, not much attention was paid to the subtler aspects of aroma and flavor.

There are really two different types of hop crop now: those destined for extract, and those that are valued for their high-quality flavor and aroma. Some of the high-alpha varieties-Chinook, for example-do have useful, if pungent aromas, and have even developed a cult following for their grape-fruity, resinous tang, especially in American IPAs.

But in general, high-alpha hops are very assertive and not always in nice ways. Bitter as they are, they're not always equally aromatic. It's just not what they've been bred for. Using a larger amount of a low-alpha hop to get to any given bitterness level will usually contribute a lot more aroma than a smaller amount of high-alpha, and it's usually better aroma as well.

What to look for in a bar

The establishment in which you do your drinking will determine much about your evening--who you meet, who you get to

observe misbehaving, and how strong your drinks are. Hence, it's vital that you choose carefully. The following tips will help:

* Signs of a good bar include lots of people, reasonably priced and strong drinks, places to sit so that you don't have to stand the whole night, and a noise level that allows conversation. Extra points if it's spacious enough so that it can accommodate more than a handful of patrons and if it has enough different areas that you can escape particularly offensive clientele when need be. While seedy is good, it should not be so shady that you suspect there's a strong likelihood of personal harm.

* If you hear an ad for it on the radio, stay far, far away.

* It must have quality bathrooms, and plenty of them, so you don't spend your whole evening waiting in line. Any establishment with a cologne, perfume, or French tickler dispenser in the bathroom is to be avoided.

* Don't ignore the importance of lighting. It shouldn't be so dark that you make a horrible, horrible mistake.

* If something is a chain establishment, run for your life.

* "Ladies night" is a big fat no-no ... unless you're broke and have no choice.

See you all at the meeting! Bring a friend they'll thank you for it. (Bruce will buy you a beer!)