



## **The Official Newsletter of the Cloudy Town Brewers**

**September 2004**

<http://www.cloudytownbrewers.org>

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### **Next Meeting**

**Wednesday September 1, 2004**

**7:30 P.M. at**

**Granite City Food & Brewery**

### **From the Prez**

Hello Home brewers

I can't believe this is happening to me, last month my work schedule was changed and I could not make it to the meeting. Upon looking ahead, I discovered that the next two meetings I will be working also. Is there such a thing as Cloudy Town withdrawal? I think I am getting it. It could be at the November meeting until we meet again. That is just too long. My wife quit her job to stay at home with the kids. I believe I will have to quit mine to stay at home and brew beer! As Arnold says "I'll be back

*"99 percent of the lawyers give the rest a bad name"*

### **August Minutes**

Thanks to Granite City for hosting August's Meeting.

The Community Education class will be pushed back to the spring of 2005 instead of this fall. We could do a possible class at Baker's this fall. It would be an informational class with no brewing.

A club member only competition that used to be done as a club was also discussed. It would be every three months and possibly start in November. We would need to select a style to start with and some one to lead the first session.

We brainstormed on ideas for secondary meeting location. Some of the suggestions include Old Chicago, G-Allen's (Sartell), J. P.'s (Sauk Rapids), O'Brien's (Rice), Stoneridge (St. Joe, opening soon) and the Ground Round. We also brainstormed on club events such as a tour at Gluek's or Schell's or a pub crawl in the cities and to invite the cities clubs to join us.

### **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>.

*"Never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night"*

## **Club Only Competitions**

### **SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2004 - Smoked Beer**

Hosted by Jay Adams and the Mountain Ale & Lager Tasters of Ashville, NC.

**Category 23 Smoke-Flavored Beer**

### **November/December 2004 - IPA**

Entries due November 5, 2004. Judging will be held November 13, 2004.

Shipping Address:

The Weekend Brewer  
4205 West Hundred Road  
Chester, VA 23831

### **January 2005**

#### **Irish Red Ale**

Entries due Jan 26th 2005. Judging will be held Jan 30th 2005.

Shipping Address:

AHA COC  
C/o Eric Ware  
2331 N. Thornwood  
Davenport, IA 52804

Hosted by Eric Ware and MUGZ of Davenport, IA.

*Category 9D\* Irish Red Ale*

For more information, contact Eric Ware at [eware@mugz.org](mailto:eware@mugz.org)

### **March/April 2005**

#### **Sour Beers**

Hosted by Phil Clarke and the New York City Homebrewers Guild of New York, NY.

*Category 17\* Sour Beers*

### **May 2005**

#### **Extract Beers**

Hosted by Susan Smith and the Hogtown

Brewers of Gainesville, FL.

*All BJCP beer styles (Categories 1-23)\*.*

*Extract must make up more than 50% of fermentables*

## **New Style Guidelines**

See new 2004 BJCP Style Guidelines at [www.bjcp.org](http://www.bjcp.org).

## **Tommy Z Generosity Award**

### **Tommy Z Generosity Award**

Congratulations to Bob Hilsgren for the winning the nightly people's choice award with his Porter. Here are the point totals through August.

Jeff Saranpaa	7 Points
Bob Hilsgen	3 Points
Larry Nusbaum	3 Points
Darin Dorholt	2 Points
Tim Frakes	2 Points
Jerry Dusich	1 Point
Craig Egerman	1 Point
Bruce LeBlanc	1 Point

*"Don't go around saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first."*

*--Mark Twain*

## **Cloudy Town Brewers Mugs & Shirts**

The Cloudy Town Brewer mugs are now available. The mug has wider base in a gray color with the club logo stamped in brown and green hop ring decal. They are available to club members for \$10 and non-members for \$12. Please contact Tom Zupanc if interested.

We have cream-colored T-shirts that are screen printed with the club logo. They are \$12 for a club member and \$15 for a non-member.

## **CTB Embroidery**

***Submitted By Tim Fuerstenberg***

For anyone interest in getting our new/current Cloudy Town Brewer's logo embroidered onto their favorite garment, shirt, sweater or jacket (sorry they can't do hats), please bring your item(s) to our next meeting. The cost of the logo is \$10 per item. If you need more information, please contact Tim Fuerstenberg.

*"Dreams make up the distance between two points on a map. Adventure is traveling that distance."*

## **Ask Bruce**

***This is a section in the newsletter devoted to you the Cloudytown homebrew club member to write in and ask our President (Bruce) questions you may have about brewing or life in general.***

This month's letter comes from club member Mr. Richard Fader of New Munich and his question is: "A favorite local microbrewery has Firkin Fridays. I'm assuming it has something to do with the beer making or keg tapping process. Can you enlighten me?"

Bruce Says: A firkin is a British term used to describe a vessel, traditionally a small wooden barrel, which holds what many refer to as cask-conditioned ale or real ale, and cask also refers to the vessel. Cask ale is beer in the raw. It has not been filtered or pasteurized and contains no artificial additives or preservatives. The beer goes through what's called a secondary fermentation in the vessel, which allows it to mature. It's then allowed to rest, which allows

the sediment / yeast to settle and the beer drops bright, and then either gravity fed or hand drawn into pints using a beer engine, which is essentially a hand pump attached to a bar. Cask ales are served at cellar temperature (54-57F) and are very low in carbonation. Often times a sparkler (an aerator of sorts) will be attached to the beer engine to agitate the beer a bit, which creates a creamy foam head, knocks out most of the beer's natural carbonation and increases the hop aroma by forcing some of the hop bitterness into the head. Lovely stuff.

-Stolen from somewhere. but I'm not gonna tell....

*"When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane."*

## **Tid Bits**

### **Last call in the animal kingdom**

Many a bartender has likened his establishment to a zoo, but beer-drinking critters made headlines twice last week.

First came the tale of a discriminating black bear in Washington state who was found passed out after drinking 37 cans of beer at a resort campground. And not just any cans. "He drank the Rainier and wouldn't drink the Busch beer," said Lisa Broxson, bookkeeper at the campground and cabins resort east of Mount Baker. Fish and Wildlife enforcement Sgt. Bill Heinck said the bear did try one can of Busch, but ignored the rest. "He didn't like that (Busch) and consumed, as near as we can tell, about 36 cans of Rainier." When agents tried to 86 the bear from the campground, the animal employed an old frat boy trick and climbed a tree to sleep it off for another four hours. Agents finally herded the bear away, but it returned the next morning. Agents then used a large, humane trap to capture it for relocation, baiting the trap with the usual: doughnuts, honey and, in this

case, two open cans of Rainier. That did the trick.

Then came word that drunken elephants in India had trampled six people to death after drinking homemade rice beer. "They smashed huts and plundered granaries and broke open casks to drink rice beer. The herd then went berserk killing six people," a forestry official told AFP news agency. The elephants reportedly emerge from the forests looking for food and have developed a taste for a local brew made from rice. Officials say at least 150 have been killed by elephants in India in the past two years.

### **Barbie gets her beer**

Finally, at the age of 45, Barbie can finally relax with a nice cold beer. A Munich designer has created a special Oktoberfest Barbie wearing an Alpine dirndl dress and hoisting a beer mug. Designer James Waldron says he created the Mountain Dirndl Barbie based on Julie Andrews' character Maria in "The Sound Of Music." And everybody knows Maria needed a cold one after chasing the von Trapp kids around all day. The doll isn't part of the official Mattel line of Barbie dolls, but will be presented at the Munich Oktoberfest, which begins Sept. 18.. There is no word on whether Ken will get a pair of lederhosen for the event.

### **Beer for the brain**

Can beer really make Bud wiser? Researchers at University College in London report that moderate alcohol consumption might be associated with higher cognitive ability, particularly for women. The study of 4,272 men and 1,761 women found that those who had consumed from one drink to 30 drinks in the past week scored higher on a battery of tests designed to measure cognitive ability. The effects were stronger among women.

"Compared with abstainers, persons drinking one or two glasses of alcohol per day had a significantly lower risk of poor cognitive function," the authors wrote. Subjects who drank occasionally, but not regularly, performed better than non-drinkers, but not as well as those who had drunk in the week prior to taking the tests. "In terms of cognitive function, we found that frequent drinking may be more beneficial than drinking only on special occasions," the authors wrote.

## **Back to Vegas.. *Baby***

If anyone's interested in going along, Mrs N and myself (along with some other friends) are heading to Vegas September 9 – 12. This will be a more traditional wild and crazy weekend in the sin city with not much sleep and lots of sightseeing.

**See you all at the meeting! Bring a friend they'll thank you for it.** (Bruce will buy you a beer, he would if he could.... But being that he won't be there, it's not good to make promises for him... Ah what the heck. Bruce is good for it. He'll owe you a beer the next time he's at the meeting. So bring a new member and Bruce will buy you a beer (plus interest) the next meeting he's at.)