

Society of Northeast Ohio Brewers

Club Newsletter for December 2011



President's Krausening

by Mike Ontolchik

2011 flew by. I'd like to thank **Dave Clark**, **Todd Donnelly** and **Tom Roth** for doing great jobs as officers for SNOB last year. **John Majetic**, **Jeff Bradbury**, **Mark "Ace" Knapp**, **Joel Maldonado** and I have quite a bit already planned for 2012. In our January meeting, I'll be giving a presentation on the [Belgian Dark Strong Ale](#). I'll have some of my own beer to share and **Garin Wright** will be bringing some of his own [Buckeye Brewing Nighty Night](#). This is going to be a great start to our year. In January, SNOB Sponsor [Stamper's Grill Pub](#) will be holding their Second Annual Stout Fest January 9th – 30th. We'll hold our first SNOB Night Out at Stampers on Wednesday, January 18th. We are working on planning our annual bus trip. I believe it will be overnight and we'll head east into Pennsylvania. For our March meeting, we'll be holding a club-only competition on the BJCP category, [Stout](#). With logistics of the crowd we now have at our meetings, this competition may have to be done at a later date than our meeting by a small group of our BJCP-ranked judges. We'll discuss shortly during our January meeting. I know it's easier to provide 3 bottles instead of the gallon or two that it would require for the entire club to judge. Also, there is an AHA Club-Only competition for [Dark Lagers](#) that will be due the day after our February meeting. If anyone has an American Dark Lager, Munich Dunkel or Schwarzbier they would like to submit that would fit the BJCP Dark Lager category, we'll let them do it. The club will pay for entry and shipping fees. If there are challengers, we'll organize a competition before the end of January.

Belgian Dark Strong Ale is a favorite of mine to enjoy at this time of year. It's also a fun style to make. I use mostly Belgian malts with some continental hops. The secret to making a great Strong Belgian beer is to get it to ferment out as much as possible. To dry out, I mash low, pitch plenty of yeast, use simple sugars to boost my gravity and manage the fermentation temperatures. I think I have honed in a recipe that I really enjoy. I use [Dingeman's Belgian Pilsner Malt](#) as my base with some [Weyermann Munich](#), Dingeman's Aromatic, Caramunich and Special B. [Dark Candi Inc.](#) sells syrups that are very close to what the Trappist and Abbey brewers use. The D2 syrup that I like to use adds color, dark fruit flavors and ferments out well. I pitch my yeast at around 65° F and give the fermenter 48 hours to rise on its own. After about two days, I'll use a thermostat controlled carboy heater bump the fermentation a couple of degrees a day. I'll coax the fermenter into the mid to high 80°s. The beer will stay in primary for at least two weeks. I will transfer this beer into a secondary fermenter to get it off the yeast and trub. I'll let it condition for a couple more weeks, keg and carbonate to a pretty normal level. I'll have more information in my presentation during the meeting. Two books that can help you know more about Belgian Dark Strong Ale and the other styles in the BJCP Belgian Strong Ale category are [Brew Like a Monk](#) by Stan Hieronymus and *Trappist: The Seven Magnificent Beers* by Jef Van Den Steen are both in our club library.

If I'm asked about what I would like to accomplish for 2012, I would like to increase our attendance to our non-meeting events. The Christmas Party was well attended in December. Everyone seemed to be having a great time. What I would like to see are more SNOBs going to the Nights Outs and our two camping trips this year. If you haven't been to Stamper's, please try to come out Wednesday, January 18th or another evening during their Stout Fest. Jim Stamper is a member of our club and he has transformed his family business to showcase craft beer in a friendly atmosphere. SNOB members get discounted drafts. I will make sure that we promote our events better here in the newsletter, in the meetings and online. I also would like to have our website re-designed so that it's easier to update our content. If you have any web development experience and would like to volunteer some time, please contact me. Technically, I would like to redesign our website with a Content Management System underneath so that logged in users can update information easily. I am really looking forward to January 2nd, 2012 and all that will happen for our club in the coming year. This is a great time to be in Cleveland and Homebrewing!

Cheers,
Mike Ontolchik



Society of Northeast Ohio Brewers
2012 Officers and Chairpersons

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SNOB's 2011 Calendar of Events

January 2011

2: SNOBs Meeting, 7:30PM Sachsenheim Hall
18: SNOBs Night Out: [Stampers](#) – Stout Fest
14: Wizard of SAAZ

February 2011

6: SNOBs Meeting, 7:30PM Sachsenheim Hall
** Club only dark lager entries due
TBD: Feb/Mar Beer & No Sweat

March 2011

5: SNOBs Meeting, 7:30PM Sachsenheim Hall
** Club only stout entries due
TBD: Feb/Mar Beer & No Sweat

Competition Corner

Please use the following club name when you enter competitions:

Society of Northeast Ohio Brewers (SNOB)

Upcoming regional homebrew competitions:

1/14: [Wizard of SAAZ](#), Akron OH deadline, 1/6. Please plan to enter Wizard of SAAZ so that **SNOB** can defend [The Cuyahoga Cup](#).

2/6: AHA Club only competition – dark lagers (American Dark Lager, Munich Dunkel or Schwarzbier); bring 3 bottles to the SNOBs meeting

3/5: AHA Club only competition – stout; bring 3 bottles to the SNOBs meeting

2012 Membership Dues

Membership dues for 2012 are now being collected by Mark Knapp, treasurer. The price of a SNOBs membership remains the same, still a bargain at only \$30 for an Individual membership, \$45 for a Dual membership, so **pay up you cheapskates!!**

Included in the membership is admittance to the 4 **(yes, count them) big SNOB events of the year: Beer No Sweat** (February/March), **Brew & Canoe** (June), **Oktoberfest** (weekend camping event end of September) and the catered **SNOBs Christmas Party** (December).

Membership also comes with discounts (bring your membership card with you) at local craft beer places and homebrew shops:

- ✓ [Stamper's Grill Pub](#): \$1 off drafts
- ✓ [Buckeye Beer Engine](#) \$1 off drafts on Mondays
- ✓ [JW Dover](#): 5% off
- ✓ [The Brew Mentor](#): 10% off
- ✓ [Grape & Granary](#): 10% off
- ✓ [Leeners](#): 10% off
- ✓ [Warehouse Beverage](#): 10% off homebrew supplies
- ✓ [Rozi's Wine House](#): 10% off homebrew supplies

The Membership form can be found at the end of the newsletter. Dues can be paid to Mark at the next meeting, mailed to him at the address on the form or by using our PayPal link at beersnobs.org.



S.N.O.B.'s Meeting Location

[Sachsenheim Hall, 7001 Denison Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44102](#) (216) 651-0888

Located on the south side of Denison Avenue one block east of Ridge Road

October Treasurers Report

Nov / Dec Income		Nov / Dec Expenses	
Raffle	\$302.00	Room Rental (Sachs)	\$75.00
Membership	\$300.00	Son of Brewzilla Charitable Donatations	\$1,000.00
Christmas Party	\$545.00	Brew Demo	\$63.00
		Christmas Party	\$2,090.00
Subtotal	\$1,147.00	Subtotal	\$3,228.00



SNOBs Night Out – Wednesday, January 18th at 7:00 PM

[Stampers Grill Pub](#)

21750 Lorain Road, Fairview Park – (440) 333-7826

Web Links of Interest

SNOB

website: <http://www.beersnobs.org/>

Facebook: <http://groups.to/snob/>

forum:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Cleveland_beer_snobs

American Homebrewers Association

<http://www.homebrewersassociation.org/>

National Homebrewers Conference

<http://www.ahaconference.org/>

Pro Brewer (Brewing tools and calculators)

<http://www.probrewer.com/resources/tools/>

Grape and Granary

<http://www.grapeandgranary.com/>

The Brew Mentor

<http://www.thebrewmentor.com/>

J.W. Dover

<http://www.jwdover.com/catalog/>

Leener's

<http://www.leeners.com/>

Brew Your Own (Magazine)

<http://byo.com/>

Basic Brewing

<http://www.basicbrewing.com/>

The Brewing Network

<http://www.thebrewingnetwork.com/>

Brewing TV

<http://www.brewingtv.com/>

Membership Form

Society of Northeast Ohio Brewers (SNOB)

c/o Mark Knapp
2688 Hampton Rd.
Rocky River, OH 44116

Individual Membership (\$30)

Dual Membership (\$45)

(Prorated for NEW members if you join after June. Contact Mark Knapp for the current rate.)

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Phone
(_____) _____

Email _____

Email _____

Your name and address may be released to beer related business or groups **unless** you initial here _____.

Today's
date _____