

Society of Northeast Ohio Brewers

Club Newsletter for August 2012

President's Krausening

by Mike Ontolchik

The reason we're meeting a second time in August is that we have two big events in September and meeting after Labor Day would shorten our time to get more members involved. Officially, I don't think we will be pouring Labor Day Friday evening at The Berea Oktoberfest this year. As I wrote last month, I found out second hand that there were incidents last year that made the Oktoberfest organizers decide to use pour volunteers that have been [TIPS](#) trained. Maybe we can look into the program to see if it's viable to host the three to five-hour course and exam in the future. For now, I would like to focus on SNOB Oktoberfest and Son of Brewzilla this month.

On Labor Day Sunday, Paul Shick will be performing a homebrewing demo on the Berea Oktoberfest Midway. He is looking for a few members to help him out during the day. Not only will you be brewing with one of our club's most experienced homebrewers, you'll be answering beginning homebrew questions from festival patrons and discussing our club so that we can encourage more people to join. Please talk to Paul at the meeting if you would like to help him out Sunday, September 2nd.

Also happening during the Labor Day weekend, the West Point Market will be announcing their 10 finalist homebrew entries in their [Bottle My Homebrew](#) Competition they are holding with [Thirsty Dog Brewing Company](#). Good luck to those of you that entered. I entered my Belgian Dark Strong and my Flemish Red, so I think I have a shot at scoring well enough to make the final 10. The Dark Strong pushes the alcohol limits for Ohio and the Flemish Red would not be ready when they would like to bottle the

beer. I have tasted sours from Thirsty Dog. I think they're usually only a special barrel that has been put to the side to germinate. Still, it would be nice to go down into Akron and come away with some prize money.

SNOB Oktoberfest is our annual late summer / early fall campout. I feel like I need to continue to discuss this great event to get more of you to come out. I understand that camping may not be your thing and spending a weekend is tough with your other responsibilities. However, the Saturday evening dinner is one of the better moments in our club's annual calendar. This is a potluck dinner where the club buys and smokes the main meat dish. We don't coordinate dishes. It seems most regular attendees have found their niche and we don't have too many like dishes. Brooklyn Exchange Cabin is just South of Hinckley Lake on State Road in Hinckley, Ohio. Our campsite is off of State Road, South of Rte. 303, East of I-71, West of I-77 and North of I-271. There is a Metroparks Sign on the driveway to the cabin. I believe the address is [2200 State Rd., Hinckley, OH](#). There's plenty of room to tent camp. If you have a camper or RV, we should have room in the parking lot or at its edges, but we should coordinate.

For September's SNOB Night Out, we will hold it Saturday, September 15th at Brooklyn Exchange Cabin. Please come out for dinner and spend some time with your fellow club members if you cannot spend the weekend with us. Since we're at the mercy of the club smoker, I'll say we should be serving dinner between 5:00 and 7:00. Bring some homebrew or craft beer to share. There will be jockey boxes and ice, so if you keg, you should be able to plug right in. If you come Friday, please bring a side dish to share then as well. We'll send a sign-up

sheet during the meeting to get a decent count on who plan to be out there so we don't under purchase meat.

[Son of Brewzilla](#) started a couple of years ago. This year's competition will be the third annual. As a BJCP judge and someone as part of the organizing committee, **Greg Irving, Brian Wright** and I will be putting in a lot of effort in the next month to make this competition successful. There is plenty of volunteer effort that can be passed around. I know a few of you have expressed. Please contact Brian, Greg or I and I know we can spread out some of this work we have to do this month. A majority of the volunteer work will be Sunday, September 23rd for unboxing and organizing the entries. We'll also need help Friday, September 28th to setup, run the judges reception and clean up.

One of the cool aspects of Son of Brewzilla is The Cuyahoga Cup. **Jack Kephart** made the trophy, which goes to the homebrew club that wins the most medal points in Son of Brewzilla and then in Wizard of SAAZ. This is a friendly competition between our club and our neighbors to the South, Society of Akron Area Zymurgists (SAAZ).

Registering to participate as a judge, steward or as a brewer is easy. There is a link from our website and the competition software is hosted there. The address is

<http://www.beersnobs.org/contest>. My advice to someone who isn't familiar with homebrew competitions should review the [BJCP Style Guidelines](#) before they submit a beer for the style they believe their beer is. If you use brewing software like BeerSmith or ProMash, you'll have the gravity, calculated BU and calculated SRM color of your beer. Your numbers should fit within the style parameters, but you can be off by a little. The big question is more on the descriptions for aroma, appearance, flavor and mouthfeel. When you taste your beer, does it fit those descriptions? Also, I often see an inexperienced entrant put a beer where they've added adjuncts (like fruit or

spices) into a classic style where those adjuncts aren't typically found. The adjunct and specialty categories were made for these types of beers. For example, the judges will be told that you added lemon verbena and hibiscus if you enter your beer in the vegetable and spice category and add that information in the website form. They won't be expecting those spices in your Blonde Ale if you enter it into the Light Hybrid category. You'll get dinged for the extra flavors that aren't described in the style guidelines. So, we shouldn't see anyone enter the SNOB Big Brew Brown IPA as a Brown Ale or an American IPA. It would best fall as a Specialty Beer where you would have to explain that it was a Brown Ale with increased gravity and hops to be closer to an American IPA. However, since we brewed that beer in mid-May, it's too old to enter as that anymore, anyway. Everyone should be spending their entry money on getting feedback of the beers they've brewed. We should all be balancing the need for feedback on our brews with beating the SAAZ in Cuyahoga Cup points.

Cheers,

Mike Ontolchik



Competition Corner

Please use the following club name when you enter competitions:

Society of Northeast Ohio Brewers (SNOB)

9/29: Son of Brewzilla – Open for entries! (enter by 9/15)

10/20: CMI's Oktobersbest Zinzinnati 2012 edition

West Point Market Bottle my Brew Finalists

The following are the finalists for the 1st Annual Ohio Bottle My Brew Challenge at West Point Market. Finalists will compete in a live judging on Friday Evening, October 26th as a part of the Halloween Beer Tasting at West Point Market. All finalists on the list below will receive more information by separate e-mail on participating at the October 26th event.

Because of a tie for 10th highest score, the list below contains 11 brews.

Rob Slater (German Wheat / Rye)
Michael Crea (India Pale Ale)
John Hull (India Pale Ale)
Greg Irving (India Pale Ale)
Kieth Kneisley (Specialty Beer)
Jeff Berghoff (Specialty Beer)
Ryan Crabtree (Specialty Beer)
John Hull (Spice/Herb/Vegetable)
Nathan Levengood (Spice/Herb/Vegetable)
Terry Rougan (Stout)
Nick Herstitch (Strong Ale)

Thank you to everyone who entered their homebrews. We welcome you to visit our Halloween Beer Tasting and cheer-on the finalists at the event.

Off Flavor Class at Willoughby Brewing

Rick Seibt <rick@willoughbybrewing.com>
Wanted to let the clubs know that I am putting on the Off Flavor class again this year with Paul Shick during Cleveland Beer Week. Cost is \$20 + the \$1.69 ticket fee. Date is Monday, October 22, 2012.

Info is here:
<http://willoughbybrewing.com/2012/09/652/>
Tickets can be had here:
<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/272615->

CMI's Oktobersbest Zinzinnati 2012 edition

Hello all it is that time again for CMI's Oktobersbest Zinzinnati 2012 edition on October 20, 2012. Registration is now open. Please enter your Homebrew for the chance to win Best of Show. The Best of Show winner this year, just like last year, will get to brew his or her beer on the Professional Brewing System at Rivertown Brewing. That beer will then be presented at the next upcoming Cincy Beer Festival Event.

This years competition is being held at the Radisson Hotel Cincinnati Riverfront. We have a very special room rate at the hotel for both Friday and Saturday. Just mention Cincinnati Malt Infusers, "Oktobersbest". For reservations contact: Radisson Hotel Cincinnati Riverfront 668 West Fifth Street Covington, KY 41011 1-800-395-7046

Do not forget to register. Judges and Stewards are always welcome and needed. Sign up to judge or steward, www.maltinfusers.org or www.oktobersbest.org.

Thank you,
Dave Dixon and Conan Crofoot

Local Hops Available

It has been a strange year for growing hops this year in Oberlin. Most fruits and berries were killed by late frosts and drought conditions. Last year I supplied Hoppin' Frog Brewery with 40 pounds of fresh hops for their annual wet brew. This year I have close to the same amount of hops but every other local grower without irrigation had near complete crop failures. Even Seattle has gone 40 days without rain. I have Cascade, Nugget and Centennial that should mature in the next 2 weeks. If anyone is interested in pick your own or freshly picked local hops to dry, please contact me at jpech@oberlin.net or 440-574-9160. I am 25 miles west on I-480 of CLE airport.

Jim Pechaitis
Copper Goose Farms
13262 Quarry Rd
Oberlin, OH 44074

Article on SNOB Member Greg Irving on Cleveland.com

http://www.cleveland.com/strongsville/index.ssf/2012/08/strongsville_homebrewer_nabs_m.html

OctoberFest Reminder

We need to have a decent count for meat. Bring some home brew or craft beer and a side dish to share. Guests of members are welcome.

RSVP using the following survey:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6WZ3MB7>

Son of Brewzilla Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers for unboxing the Son of Brewzilla entries Sunday, September 23rd. This would be done at the Fat Heads production site early afternoon. We'll setup an official time as we get closer.

We are also looking for volunteers Friday, September 28th to setup and help out during and after the judges reception

Everyone is invited to come to the judges reception Friday, September 28th. from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. There will be beer from our competition sponsors, we'll be cooking Grumpy's bratwursts on the club smoker / grill, we'll have live music and we'll hold a huge raffle.

People can sign up to enter beers, judge and steward for Son of Brewzilla at <http://www.beersnobs.org/contest>

Sign up to Volunteer here:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6WZ3MB7>

SNOB's 2012 Calendar of Events

September 2012

14 - 16: *Octoberfest*
15: *Son of Brewzilla Entry Deadline*
29: *Son of Brewzilla*

October 2012

1: *SNOBs Meeting, 7:30PM Sachsenheim Hall*
19 – 27: *Cleveland Beer Week*
22 – *Off Flavor Class – Willoughby Brewing*

November 2012

5: *SNOBs Meeting, 7:30PM Sachsenheim Hall*

December 2012

SNOBs Christmas Party Sachsenheim Hall

Society of Northeast Ohio Brewers
2012 Officers and Chairpersons

President: Mike Ontolchik
montolchik@gmail.com
(440) 478-8645

Vice President: John Majetic
kingsnob@gmail.com
(440) 463-0565

Secretary: Jeff Bradbury
jl922@gmail.com
(440) 836-3440

Treasurer: Mark 'Ace' Knapp
danish.ace@sbcglobal.net
(440) 454-3294

Librarian: Joel Maldonado
stormreaper421@gmail.com
(216) 631-7856

Web Admin: Dan Kromke
snob@beersnobs.org

Welcome New SNOB Members!

Please welcome the following new members to the SNOBs

January 2012

*Adam Gullett
Dave Luddington
Josh & Jason Czernek
Ken Prohn
Mark Rames
Paul Burdue*

February 2012

*Chris and Pat Cain
Chris Hammer
Dan Custer
Darren Cross*

March 2012

*Tom Bullock
Kyle Roth*

April 2012

*Lance Todd
Mark St. John*

July 2012

Neil Mentzer

August 2012

*Mike Samec
Dan Hoelter*

Ohio Homebrew Legislation Update

On Aug 24, 2012, at 2:34 PM, C <cmnase@yahoo.com> wrote:

Fellow Homebrewers,

Updates

We now have three members of the Ohio House of Representatives that appear to be on board with our legislative efforts within the State of Ohio. These are:

Representative Denise Diehaus (D), District 31
Representative Peter Stautberg (R), District 24
Representative Dan Ramos (D), District 56

The current draft of the bill is being written with the idea of Rep Driehaus/Rep Strautberg, & Rep Ramos as the sponsor/co-sponsors, which means we will have the much needed bipartisan sponsorship.

In addition, David Goodman (R), the Director of Ohio Department of Commerce appears to be on board with the changes we are trying to make. This is important for two reasons. First, Governor Kasich chooses to mostly abstain from alcohol consumption due to his personal beliefs. However, he has a great deal of trust in Director Goodman's judgement in such matters & it appears he will rely heavily on Director Goodman's input. I had the opportunity to speak to Director Goodman in person this past May. While he is not a homebrewer, he is a avid craft beer enthusiast. Director Goodman has toured various breweries around the country, enjoys drinking many different craft beers & attending craft beer festivals. Because of this, it appears he is able to relate to the love homebrewers have for beer & homebrewing. Further, the reforms we our asking for fit with his desired goal to make it simpler for Ohioans to do business, as these reforms will benefit retail homebrew shops, larger distributors such as LD Carlson, and trucking companies such as the Ohio based R & L Carriers who transport a great deal of homebrewing supplies as part of their business. In addition, Director Goodman is able to appreciate that homebrewing is where many Brewmasters for Ohio Breweries got their start & honed their craft. Second, Director Goodman as the Director of the Ohio Department of Commerce oversees the Ohio Department of Liquor Control & it's personnel, such as ODLC Superintendent Bruce Stevenson. This means Director Goodman can help us educate the ODLC about homebrewing, work to build understanding, & hopefully ensure consistent enforcement of laws related to homebrewing & home wine-making.

What Can Ohio Homebrewers Do To Help?

I have been contacted by quite a few homebrewers seeking ways to get more involved. Some of you might be receiving similar requests to help. Here are a few suggestions I make to interested homebrewers, perhaps you might be interested in verbally sharing these ideas as well.

Build collaborative relationships with the representatives in your district. If you have the opportunity to interact with a legislator, in passing share with them your love for homebrewing or home wine-making. Let them know that not only is it a great hobby, but it benefits the state economically as well thru helping build Ohio businesses (such previously outlined above in this email). You can point out how it can boast the tourism industry, such as when the AHA National Homebrew Conference was held in Ohio back in 2008. Share that it creates job training & business opportunities for homebrewers. 90% of professional brewers started as homebrewers. Examples of professional breweries in Ohio started by homebrewers include Boston Beer (Sam Adams), Hoppin Frog, Rivertown Brewing, Weaselboy Brewing, and Blank Slate Brewing-I am sure you can think of others. ALWAYS be friendly, even if the

representative you have contact with is not immediately receptive or simply doesn't understand homebrewing & winemaking. DON'T be confrontational. Always keep in mind-WE ARE TRYING TO BUILD A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT. If a representative shows interest, mention there is an effort underway to further define & protect homebrewing in Ohio, ask them if they would be interested in supporting such legislation. If a representative is interested in helping, let us know who they are and how they can be contacted. We can have the bill sponsors reach out to them and find a way to include them in the effort.

If in passing you happen to have any interactions with the Ohio Department of Liquor Control or Liquor Enforcement agents, the same rule applies-DON'T be confrontational. It benefits no one to create any adversarial situations with the ODLC. Use such interactions as a teaching opportunity & seek to create understanding.

Educate individuals you interact with regularly about homebrewing & home winemaking. Some of our present legislative challenges come from a simple lack of understanding as to what homebrewing really is. Talk to people about your love for homebrewing & help them understand what it is. Education=Advocates & supporters.

Should members of the media do a story about homebrew legislation in Ohio? Right now, the answer is 'no'. We need to have a final bill, introduced into the Ohio House, which our legal advisors, as well as AHA Director Gary Glass has signed off on before this option can be considered. To do a story on potential legislation or outlining possible issues homebrewers MIGHT face under the current ORC is premature. PLEASE DO NOT LOBBY MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA TO DO STORIES ON HOMEBREWING LEGISLATION AT THIS TIME. IT COULD HAVE THE UNINTENDED EFFECT OF DAMAGING OUR EFFORT TO PASS LEGISLATION. However, if you have good contacts in the media, it's a great idea to share with them your love for homebrewing. Encourage them to cover a sanctioned BJCP event, such as the winner of the Ohio State Fair Homebrew Competition or on any positive (legal) charitable contributions you & members of your homebrewing club might be doing in your community. Encourage them to cover AHA sanctioned events such as National Homebrew Day, Mead Day, Learn To Homebrew Day. If a member of your club does well in nationally recognized competition such as the American Homebrewers Association National Homebrew Competition, Sam Adams Long Shot Competition, etc you might consider suggesting to any media contacts you have do a human interest piece-ie, "Local Homebrewer Receives National Recognition" type of story. These types of stories are fun pieces that can highlight the positives aspects of homebrewing, & again, help build advocacy.

Next Draft of Homebrewing Bill

Fortunately, another draft is currently being written by the Legislative Services Commission. Representative Driehaus's office has actively contacted me on a few occasions this week as they work on getting the next draft completed. When we receive this draft, it will be passed along to this distribution list for your review & input.

Cheers,

Chris
Chris Nascimento
513-304-4763
cmnase@yahoo.com

SNOBs Night Out – Saturday, September 15th

Brooklyn Exchange Cabin

(OctobeerFest)

[2200 State Rd., Hinckley, OH](#)

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), **Oktobeerfest** (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

August Treasurers Report

August Income		August Expenses	
Membership	\$165.00	Room Rental (Sachs)	\$75.00
Raffle (Aug + Sept)	\$338.00	SNOBwear	\$481.00
SNOBwear	\$205.00	Library Book	\$20.00
Subtotal	\$708.00	Subtotal	\$576.00

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
2668 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 _____