



Brewsletter

For the Salt City Brew Club of Central New York

January 2008

2007 Officers

President

Paul Shafer

Vice President

Dave Meszko

Treasurer

Frank Volko

Secretary

Rob Helfrich

Webmaster

Todd Relyea

Brewsletter Editor

Bill Benz

Regular Monthly
Meetings are on the Second
Tuesday of the Month at
7p.m.

The Next Salt City
Brew Club Meeting is
On January 8th at:

OHM Lounge
314 South Franklin St.
Syracuse, NY 13202

The President's Draught

By Paul Shafer, Club President

Happy New Year, fellow brew club members. I hope everyone had a joyful and fulfilling holiday season.

Last month's Christmas Party at Empire Brewing Company was a huge success, and it looked like everyone had a good time. I look forward to the new year and the new administration that will lead the brew club. Please give them all the support and respect you gave me throughout last year.

This month, we will be collecting dues for 2008. If you would like to be a Salt City Brew Club member, the dues are \$20 for an individual or \$30 for you and your significant other. By being a member, you show your support for the club, reduced tasting fees, and discounts at E J Wren's homebrew shop.

This month, we will be tasting "brown ales." If you have a homebrewed brown ale, bring it in for happy hour. If you don't have a brown ale, bring something else for happy hour. This is the time to show off your brewing talents. We will have some commercial examples of brown ales for tasting. Tasting fees are \$3 for members and \$4 for non-members, with \$1 going to wait staff for cleanup.

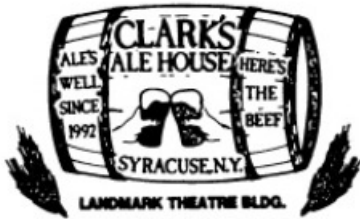
See you Tuesday at Ohm Lounge 7-8 pm happy hour, 8-9 meeting.

*Cheers,
Paul*

Secretary's Report

By Rob Helfrich

Happy New Year !



"If God had intended us to drink beer, He would have given us stomachs." -- David Daye

Each December, in lieu of our standard meeting, we have our Christmas party. The only club business is 2008 officer nominations. The party was held at Empire Brewery. We had a great buffet including their famous gumbo. Cost of admission included a continual flow of Empire beer. It was a great time, and a highlight of the season.

We also had a few new members join us at the party. Next meeting, welcome Jeremy Dietz, Theo Teye and Ben Tashjian. If there were other new members at the meeting which I did not include, please see me at the January meeting and I will ensure you are included.

Special thanks to Paul Shafer for his leadership in 2007. Paul did a great job, kept the meetings informative and enjoyable and ensured club events were successful. Also, thanks to Paul's efforts, we navigated through a few meeting location challenges which could have derailed us for a few months.

Now to the 2008 officer slate. We will confirm acceptance of the nominations and proceed with the vote. Currently, our only contested position is Treasurer. Therefore, I guess we will need to open the January meeting with a formal debate! Rather than discuss the state of the economy, illegal immigrants working for candidates, and healthcare for all, the real issues should be solving the hop shortage and the increasing price of grain! Below is our slate of nominations.

*President – Rich White
Vice President – Paul Jorjorian
Secretary – Rob Helfrich
Treasurer – Frank Volcko, Jeff Schmidt
Brewsletter – Joe Bushey
Webmaster – Todd Relyea*

Brews Calendar

The NYCHG is proud to announce the second annual Homebrew Alley, to be held **February 10, 2008** (a Sunday) at Chelsea Brewing Company. <http://hbd.org/nychg/>

Hudson Valley Homebrew Comp
March ?, 2008 <http://hbd.org/hvhb/>

UNYHA 30th Annual Homebrew Competition. March 8th, 2008.
www.unyha.com/

Niagara Assoc. of Homebrewers is holding a BJCP exam in Buffalo next spring, 4/26/08 starting at 11 or 12. The location will be at 223 Jarvis Hall on University of Buffalo's north campus, Buffalo NY 14260.
www.niagarabrewers.org/mmmbeer/

Amber Waves of Grain Annual Western New York Homebrew Competition. May 16th and 17th 2008
<http://awoghomebrew.com/>

Brewers East End Revival Homebrew Competition
May 2008
<http://hbd.org/beer/>

New York State Homebrew Competition
June 2008
www.saltcitybrew.org/

"A good friend will bail you out of jail. A true friend will be sitting next to you saying "Man, that was AWESOME!". – unknown

From The Rocky Mountain News

Laws against reason

By Jennifer Rosen

Wednesday, December 26, 2007

In Fairbanks, Alaska, it's illegal to serve liquor to a moose. By contrast, in Ohio it's legal to serve booze to a fish, but not if you get it drunk.

Ever since the repeal of Prohibition, alcohol laws in this country have been a bit nutty.

Take the business of bars. Some states mandate sitting, while others require standing at the bar to drink. Texans may take up to but not more than three sips of beer while standing. Some jurisdictions require the interior of public drinking establishments to be visible from the street; others specifically prohibit that.

In Iowa it's illegal to run a tab. And don't even think of having a drop after closing hours there - not even if you own the bar. It's hard to imagine the incident that led to Iowa's law stating that if an employee pours water down the drain while a police officer is drinking at the bar, the water is considered an alcoholic beverage intended for unlawful purposes.

Bars and restaurants in North Dakota are forbidden to serve beer and pretzels at the same time. Nebraska bars may not sell beer except when simultaneously brewing a kettle of soup.

If you skip the bar and head to a liquor store in Indiana, you won't find any soda or milk in the cooler. They may, however, sell warm soft drinks. In California, no alcoholic beverages may be displayed within 5 feet of a cash register if the store sells both alcohol and motor fuel. Presumably so you don't confuse your Colt 45 with your 10W40.

Philosophical drinkers in Houston might ponder the fact that it's illegal to buy beer after midnight Sunday but perfectly all right any time Monday, which starts - that's right - right after midnight Sunday.

The law considers some things best left unsaid. Like the word refreshing, prohibited on any alcoholic beverage in the country. The newsletters and ads of California producers may not list retailers or restaurants that sell their products.

In New York City, the word saloon is forbidden, a fact that restaurateur Michael O'Neil didn't realize until his sign was already up. Patrons now belly up to the bar of O'Neil's Baloon.

Legislators are adamant about protecting children under 21 from the demon rum. In Missouri, if your kid takes out the trash and it contains even one empty wine bottle, he can be charged with illegal possession of alcohol. In Michigan, it's illegal for a youngster to give a grown-up a bottle of booze. Pretty lenient, considering that in Kentucky even an adult could spend five years in jail for sending a gift of beer, wine or spirits to a friend.

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If the friend were in Texas, he might have a long wait, anyway, considering that delivery drivers carrying anything alcoholic must detour around the state's dry counties. Could this sort of clarity of thinking have anything to do with the fact that the entire Encyclopedia Britannica is banned in Texas because it contains a recipe for making beer that could be used at home?

If you decide to send your youngster on a semester abroad to absorb some foreign common sense, don't imagine he'll get a taste of wine in Bordeaux or beer at the Hoffbrau Haus. The Drug Free Schools and Campuses Act prohibits Americans under 21 from conforming to the drinking laws and customs of their host countries.

Enough to make you sit down on the curb and cry. Which is perfectly legal in St. Louis, as long as, while you're sitting there, you don't also drink beer from a bucket.

If you like this story, be glad you live in Colorado and not Maryland, as this reporter would be unlikely to pass that state's stringent requirements concerning wine writers. Not only are they restricted to three bottles per brand of product samples, but they must first be certified as experts by an agency of the state.

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Contributed to the Brewsletter by Ed Wren

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