The Presidential Pint

Am I the only OBC member who is wishing that Spring would just "sprung" already? We are nearing the end of the coldest and snowiest Portland winter in over 40 years and I, for one, am ready for the next chapter of 2017. The weather has given us the perfect excuse to hide in our respective brew spaces and avoid the general public. I have been experimenting with yeast culturing and propagation, blending sour beers, preparing for the mead exam, and toying with my new floating bluetooth hydrometer (among other completely unnecessary expenditures).

To counter that natural desire to hibernate these dark and cold months, the club just had our first "B" meeting in many years last week at Three Mugs Brewing in Hillsboro. It was great to see so many members come out to socialize, enjoy a pint and say thanks to longtime OBC supporter Jay Jennings and his crew of friends and family. Unfortunately Jay was sick all week but I believe he felt the love. We hope to hold similar social events all over town this year and support the businesses who support us.

And speaking of outings, our first "Out" meeting will take place on March 9th 7pm at Cider Riot, helmed by OBC member and loyal 107st Abram Goldman-Armstrong. Abram's contributions to the Portland Beer and Cider scene are too numerous to highlight here. The club will be buying the first glass for all members so be sure to attend our March meeting and see first hand how Abram has turned his lifelong passion for ciders and brewing into a highly respect regional cidery.

We are three competitions into the 2017 season and OBC has already made an impressive showing! OBC members have taken the top prize at JBLM and Stout
Bout, and earned the most medals (17) at KLCC in Eugene. Many of us have handed over our precious NHC entries and now begin the patient waiting for results at the end of the month. The first round of judging will take place on March 24th and 25th in Tukwila, WA and we are hoping for the club to advance 5 or more beers to the final round at Homebrew Con in June. Conference registration will open to AHA members beginning March 7th.

If a trip to the national conference is a little out of reach, how about spending St. Patrick's Day weekend with fellow brewers from California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and British Columbia? This month we return to the Vancouver Hilton for the 2nd Pacific Northwest Homebrewers Conference kicking off March 17th. Come meet homebrewing legends like Mike "Tasty" McDole, Denny Conn and Chip Walton, plus hear great presentations from talented brewers and a few of your fellow OBC members. Yours truly will be leading a panel discussion on sour beers with Ben from Breakside, Sean from The Commons and Shilpi from Logsdon Farmhouse Ales. And who can forget the legendary "Club Night" on the 18th! Our event committee is hard at work preparing for a night on the "Oregon TrALE"! Throw on your best frontier wear and help the OBC take the top prize as we "caulk the wagon" and float a river of amazing homebrews from our talented members.

I'd like to say congratulations and THANK YOU to all of the participants, supporters and volunteers who made the 2017 "SheBrew" a HUGE success! A dedicated group of judges and friends of the club evaluated over 100 entries and 5 of our talented ladies placed in competition with 8 winning entries. SheBrew is now officially the largest female homebrew competition in the country, earning the club an additional $500 after expenses. I am proud to announce that SheBrew will now be part of our annual OBC competition series, along with Fall Classic and Heart of Cascadia.

Lastly, if you are planning to purchase any new brewing gear on Amazon this year, please read about our "Amazon Smile" program on page 10 and remember to bookmark and visit this link before making any purchases. It costs you nothing and earns money for the club.

Until next time, keep your fermenters warm and your bottles cold!

Cheers!

President Jim Thompson
Hello OBC!  Coming to you fresh off a very successful inaugural SheBrew Competition!  Many thanks to the club members who supported this competition by judging, stewarding, serving on the committee, entering, and participating in the awards ceremony and raffle.  SheBrew is officially the largest female homebrew competition in the world!  We had over 100 entries from several different states.  Congratulations to the club members who took home medals, including: Jenn McPoland (1st American IPA, 1st Spice/Herb/Vegetable), Melinda Malek (2nd in Porter, 3rd Fruit Beer), Meagan Thompson (1st Specialty IPA), Corrie Heath (1st Fruit Beer), Caitlyn Brehm (Honorable Mention Spice/Herb/Vegetable), and Chelsea Stowers (2nd Standard Cider and Perry).

Here’s some upcoming regional competitions:

- The Abbey Bar Homebrew Contests (there are two), details here: [http://theabbeybar.com/events/](http://theabbeybar.com/events/). Please check entry rules, as they are a little different than your standard competition. Belgian Beer Styles – due March 6th; European Beer Styles – due April 24th.

- Coho Spring Fling - entries due April 14th, details here: [http://www.cohomebrewers.org/SpringFling](http://www.cohomebrewers.org/SpringFling). This is an OSHBOTY qualifier!


- Odd Ball - Looking for 5 homebrewers to brew a 5 gallon keg and serve for a people's choice award on 4/29. Sign up on the OBC website to be a brewer. Details on the event here: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/muscovite-degree-and-odd-ball-tickets-31659942741](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/muscovite-degree-and-odd-ball-tickets-31659942741)

- Widmer Collaborator - more information in this newsletter. Entries will be due in May.

- OBC’s own Heart of Cascadia - Entries due May 6th, judging will take place May 13th. [http://hoc.oregonbrewcrew.org/](http://hoc.oregonbrewcrew.org/). You will be able to register on the competition website starting March 1st. This year we are expanding
categories to include virtually any kind of IPA you can dream of, so start dreaming!

- Heart of the Valley Oregon Homebrew Festival - May 19th and 20th, no other information on website yet. This is an OSHBOTY qualifier!

- Cheers to Belgian Beers - taking place on 6/2 and 6/3, no information yet on homebrew competition deadline but likely in May. Yeast strain this year is B45 Gnome. Entries typically divided into light/dark color and low/high ABV.

- Sisters Homebrew Festival - this one's a little different! 5-10 gallons of homebrew for a people’s choice type judging. Enter by 5/5. Top prize is $500! More info here: http://www.sistershomebrewfestival.com/

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Judges Needed for NHC!!!

The First Round NHC is just 2 weeks away, and we really need your help! Please sign up to judge or steward at http://brewingcompetition.com. This is a great way to show your club’s commitment to homebrew! We have nearly 800 entries on the books and really need your help. NHC for the PNW region will be held Friday and Saturday, March 24-25. This year we will be at Larry’s Brewing Supply in Tukwila. We will have one round on Friday starting about 6pm, and two on Saturday starting at 8:30am and 12pm. Food will be provided before all rounds, and we have some nice rewards for the volunteers. You can find more information on the Entrant and Volunteer site.

We will need scores of people over the 2 days. Please go to http://brewingcompetition.com/ to register. If you have registered to enter beer here, please use the same log-in, then edit your info to include your judge or steward availability and info. If you have not registered, you can sign up at the site as a judge by clicking the ‘register here’ link on the right.

Thanks, I look forward to seeing you at the NHC First Round for the PNW region!

Peter Bergler
Competition Organizer
Collaborator Competition 2017 Entry Guidelines

Welcome to the 2017 Collaborator competition. If you are planning to enter, please read the following.

Competition Dates:

The competition is taking place in May 2017. Entries should be dropped off at Steinbart's by Fri. May 19, or if you can catch us early on Sat. May 20th before we pick them up. The judging is tentatively scheduled for Wed. May 24 and will take place at Widmer.

Eligibility and Entry Limitations:

All current Oregon Brew Crew members are eligible. Each member may submit up to two (2) total entries as brewer or co-brewer. Entries must be brewed on a home brewing system, including the OBC pilot system. Entries brewed in a professional brewing facility (brewpub, you-brew) are not allowed. OBC members working in a professional brewing facility are welcome to enter as long as the beer is a homebrew.

Widmer will pay for the ingredients for one five-gallon batch of beer per entry under the following conditions. The ingredients must be purchased at Steinbart's and direct-charged to Widmer's account upon presentation of your current Oregon Brew Crew membership card. There will be no reimbursement from receipts.

Entry Packaging:

We need a minimum of two 33cl or 12 oz. (or larger) bottles for the competition, one for the preliminary round and one for the taste-off round. You may substitute one 22 oz. or larger bottle, however that is not recommended because your beer will be at a significant disadvantage during the taste-off round when compared to other entries poured from fresh bottles. We also need two more bottles for a lab analysis at Widmer that is mandatory should your beer be selected. If your beer is selected and you do not have the analysis samples from the same batch of beer, your entry will be disqualified. If you submit all four bottles with your entry, you will receive a complementary lab analysis from Widmer even if you do not win. This is an optional, free benefit to Collaborator participants.

All entries must be packaged in competition-ready bottles. That means: glass
containers affixed with a crown cap, with all labels and markings removed. Raised lettering on a bottle is acceptable. Any cap markings must be obliterated with a Sharpie. Affix entry information with rubber bands, no tape or glue, please.

**Entry Information:**

Entry registration will be on-line at [oregonbrewcrew.org](http://oregonbrewcrew.org). There will be a Collaborator entry instance under the Competition tab.

Note that we require you to enter recipe information with your entry. This is to help with the evaluation and because Widmer needs to know the ingredients before agreeing to produce a recipe.

**Judging:**

Another significant difference in Collaborator competitions is that judging is not done on the traditional 50-point BJCP scale. We do not use numerical scores, and we do not strictly follow the BJCP style guidelines. We judge your beer as would a professional brewer, a publican, or a knowledgeable beer consumer. We are looking for beers that are flavorful and engaging, not necessarily the biggest or most unusual.

The judges may award from 0 to many Collaborator winner slots. Normally three beers are selected each year. Results will be announced before or during June general meeting.
Don't forget the OBC Pilot System!

Fabulous upgrades to the Pilot System!

This year, we decided to spend the full pilot system budget on much needed upgrades and improvements. A Brobdingnagian thank you to Brian Haslip for ordering the parts and assembling/transfiguring the system! Great job!

Some of the improvements include:
- Added a 2nd, better pump on a new stand
- Improved the existing pump
- Added switches to both pumps
- Replaced all of the hoses
- Added a sparge arm
- Replaced the thermometers with a digital one
- Added a 3rd burner high BTU (Blichmann stand donated by Jim Thompson), that thing is a massive improvement!

Future improvements will include:
- Replacing the other burners with high BTU
- Etching of the interior of the keggles
- Possible new keggles to expand the system
- Others? Your suggestions requested

In addition to the amazing upgrades and improvements, we are also improving the sign-out process. There are new forms to complete that will allow you to request specific parts instead of the entire thing. This will enable multiple members to utilize the system simultaneously. Look for the new sign-out form online in 2017 to reflect these changes.

Any questions? Send them to bryan.haslip@oregonbrewcrew.org.

Happy brewing!
Club Brews at Pacific Northwest Homebrew Conference

We're forming a committee to help organize our booth at PNWHC Club Brews night, taking place on the evening of Saturday, March 17 in Vancouver, WA. We're looking for volunteers!

What is Club Brews?

Club Brews is a private brewfest centered around homebrew clubs in the Pacific Northwest that happens on Saturday night of the PNWHC. All clubs, big and small, will have booths set up where fellow conference attendees can try their beer and chat with the brewers. This is a chance to represent your club, have fun tasting beer and see what other brewers in the area are doing.

What Do We Need Help With?

• Decorating our booth
• Supplying beer for our booth
• Serving beer at our booth

Requirements

You must be a paid attendee of the PNWHC to volunteer for or otherwise attend Club Brews Night.

Sign Up

Volunteers can help as little or as much as they want, no pressure! Contact Club Brews Committee Chair Sean Sanders if you think you may be able to contribute, and he'll include you in discussions on coordinating our efforts. This is a great way to help the club and earn Member Of the Year (MOY) points.
~ Burgermeister News ~

BRING FOOD!
To help us get home safely.
That is all. 😊

POTLUCK CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FEBRUARY

David Johnson, Lisa Hinson, Gary Schmirler,
Scott N., Michele Lish.

POTLUCK RAFFLE TICKET VALUES

1 ticket for small items: chips/dip, breads, package of store bought cookies, candy, etc.

3 tickets for medium items: salad, a plate of homemade goodies, a pot of beans, veggies, or a smaller to medium dish of substantial food.

5 tickets for large items (that feed at least a couple dozen people): lasagna, mac and cheese, sandwiches, BBQ or Smoked meats, or a medium dish with obviously expensive ingredients, or generous portion of time used to prepare it.

Meagan Thompson
OBC Burgermeister
Cell: 818-636-0550
meagan.thompson@oregonbrewcrew.org
Dear OBC Member,

Do you have a computer?
Are you connected to the internet?
Do you ever buy anything on Amazon.com?
Then click here to make a small percentage of every purchase go towards the OBC.
That's right, the "Smile Amazon" program donates to non-profit groups like ours for FREE!
Our Treasurer has registered us with Amazon and they have verified that we qualify for this program. (I've been doing it for over a month now)
They look at it like this, they're going to make charitable donations anyway, so why not donate to the group their customers choose? Brilliant!
Now, every time you buy something on Amazon, their donation gets directed to your club! It's about as easy as it gets. You just tell them once that the Oregon Brew Crew is your choice and they'll remember it forever. FOR-EV-VER!
Why does the OBC need more money you may ask? Well, it helps keep membership dues down most importantly. It also helps us continue our mission statement goals stated in our bylaws:

ARTICLE II. Purposes

Section 1.
The purposes of the Oregon Brew Crew are:
1. To promote interest in and the understanding of beer, beer appreciation and the craft of brewing among its members and the general public.
2. To provide educational opportunities in the history and methods of brewing and the development of styles.
3. To advance skills in brewing techniques and formal beer evaluation;
4. To promote, encourage and sponsor opportunities to participate in local, regional and national brewing competitions.
5. To provide opportunities for its members to share in the interest of craft brewing.

Now, go buy a bunch of crap from Amazon,
2017 Board of Directors

President, Jim Thompson
jim.thompson@oregonbrewcrew.org

Vice President, Brian Haslip
brian.haslip@oregonbrewcrew.org

Treasurer, Sean Morrison
sean.morrison@oregonbrewcrew.org

Secretary, Jodi Campbell
jodi.campbell@oregonbrewcrew.org

Education Committee Chair, Alex Brehm
alex.brehm@oregonbrewcrew.org

Competition Committee Chair, Corrie Heath
corrie.heath@oregonbrewcrew.org

Communications Chair, Jon Campbell
jon.campbell@oregonbrewcrew.org

Festival Coordinator, Sean Sanders
sean.sanders@oregonbrewcrew.org

Bürgermeister, Meagan Thompson
meagan.thompson@oregonbrewcrew.org

Historian, Jeremie Landers
historian@oregonbrewcrew.org

OBC Cup Standings (as of 3/6/17)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charles Macaluso</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Thompson</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex Brehm</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Barker</td>
<td>46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jon Campbell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jon Larson</td>
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<td>Eric Hinson</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lee Hedgmon</td>
<td>2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Important: The cutoff for 2017 OBC Cup points is midnight, November 30th. All points will be verified and checked prior to the Holiday Party and final awards. December points will rollover to 2018.

If you are willing to write up an article for the newsletter please email me at jon.campbell@oregonbrewcrew.org

OBC Website
http://www.oregonbrewcrew.org

OBC Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/groups/41701213570/

OBC Twitter
@OregonBrewCrew