Happy New Year! Hopefully you are reading this from the Pacific Northwest (currently 36F) as opposed to virtually anywhere on the east coast, where friends and family are dealing with frigid temperatures from Winter Storm Grayson which may bring snow as far south as Orlando. For the second year in a row, I started my New Years Eve brewday with frozen garden hoses, which led to an otherwise beautiful winter day in the greater Portland area – although I was ready to "cold crash" myself at the end of 7 hours.

I could not be more excited about the year ahead. You may be tired of hearing about Homebrew Con this June, but it is a tremendous opportunity for our club and our members to gain exposure to the national homebrew community. If you haven’t already, please consider saving up your pennies and requesting vacation the last Thursday and Friday in June. You will not want to miss this event and help the OBC take center stage with our best "Club Night" yet!

As a reminder, we have allocated limited funds to help members pay for registration to Homebrew Con this year. While the board has not finalized the details of these scholarships, you can be sure that preference will be given to those who get involved early, help organize our club activities or national judging in April, and who brew competition-level beers to be featured at our booth! Please contact Brian Haslip or Sean Sanders to help out.

Our first meeting will take place at 7pm on Thursday, January 11th at F.H. Steinbart, which I will sadly miss this year. I always enjoy seeing the massive groups of new members who attend the January and February meetings. Please make these new members feel welcome by introducing yourself, sharing your homebrew and tasting theirs. As we learn in BJCP class, always find something positive to say about the beer you are trying and provide newer members with encouragement. Share your stories and brewing passions. Introduce them to other members at the meeting. You never know when you will meet a truly great new friend or brewing buddy!
This is a great year to get involved and my sincere hope is that we can continue to appeal to members of all skill levels and grow as a community rather than a collection of small cliques. And I am also hoping to see some OBC members on the National Competition award stage. If you are stuck deciding what to brew this year, just ask around! My tip is to keep it simple and try to improve something you have made before AND a style you enjoy. So pour yourself a Beer Float and get ready for a great 2018!

Warm Regards,

President Jim Thompson

Challenge Coins!!!
http://www.oregonbrewcrew.org/Shop

The OBC now has a challenge coin for sale. The cost to members is just $8, and to non-members is $10. When this limited edition is gone, the intent is to make a different design.

A special thank you to Michele Lish.
Competition Corner

Now that you’ve finished up drinking your 2017 brews, time to make some 2018 brews! It’s a new year, brimming with possibilities, including new experiences and medals. Here we go, OBC!

- **PDX Stout Bout** by our friends at Portland Brewer’s Collective. The competition is taking place on Feb 10th, with a deadline for entries of Jan 27th. Entry fee is $7. Registration is open [here](#).

- **KLCC Microbrew Festival Homebrew Competition** also occurs on Feb 10th, with entry deadline on Jan 28th. Entry Fee is $10 for 1st entry then $5 for other entries, and includes a night ticket to the festival. **Registration** is now open. General information [here](#). This was a sanctioned Oregon State Home Brewer of the Year (**OSHBOTY**) competition in 2017.

- **Hop Idol** is in its 2nd year. Entries must be received between Feb 12th and Feb 16th at Reuben's Brews (Seattle). Up to 5 entries per person at $5 each with proceeds benefitting Seattle Children's Hospital. Recipes must be submitted and any hop-forward beer style is eligible. The winning beer will be brewed (with the winner) at Reuben's Brews, have a brewery release, be distributed in the northwest, and be entered at the ProAm at GABF. See [here](#) for details.

- Oregon Brew Crew’s first competition of the year, the 2nd annual **SheBrew**! This one is for the ladies only, and includes all BJCP styles. It will be Feb 24th at Baerlic Brewing. Entries are $8 and due 2/16. **Registration** is open! We will need judges and stewards, so please consider registering even if you are not entering.

- **Greater Everett Brewer’s League IPA Bracket Challenge.** This competition is a little different, and is a great opportunity to work on your future Heart of Cascadia entries. It’s for IPAs only, and the top 16 beers advance to a bracket round. The categories are English IPA, American IPA, Specialty IPA, and Double IPA. Find more details [here](#). Entry deadline is 2/17, with the competition taking place on 2/24 (and it's live webcast!).

- **The Abbey Bar on 21st Belgian Homebrew Contest.** Submit 4 12oz bottles or 2 22oz bottles by 3/9. There is a judges’ choice and a people's choice award; the winners get a $100 gift certificate. This is part of their 4th anniversary celebration. Check it out [here](#).

- **The Abbey Bar on 23rd European Homebrew Contest.** Part of the 2nd anniversary celebration at this location, it is open to all European Beer Styles. Also has a judges' choice and a people's choice award, with a $100 gift certificate to the winners. Details [here](#).

California has some competitions upcoming as well, including: **The Doug King Memorial Competition** for lagers with entry deadline 1/12; **Romancing the Beer** which has a number of sponsors, entries due 1/26; and **America's Finest City Homebrew Competition** (which may
not actually be America's Finest City since we all know Portland is, but we'll take their medals anyway), entries due 2/9.

by: Corrie Heath

2018 National Homebrew Competition Dates

Application Period Jan. 23rd-30th
Beer Registration Period Feb. 5th-14th
First Round Shipping Window March 19th-30th
First Round Judging April 6th-22nd, (Portland 6th-8th)

https://www.homebrewersassociation.org/national-homebrew-competition/

OBC T-SHIRTS
Available at the next OBC meeting.
$15 for members
$20 for non-members
Payment by cash or credit card.
Available in most mens sizes in Black.

OBC Hoodies
If you preordered an OBC Hoody sweats it will be available at the next meeting. If you are wanting to buy one there are still some available for purchase for $40 at the next meeting, but are limited to whats on hand.
Collaborator Project

This year marks the 20th year of the OBC Collaborator Project with Widmer Brothers Brewing. 49 brewers have created a beer that was determined by the competition judges to be worthy of being upscaled and brewed by Widmer Brewers Brewing and distributed to the public. Some even more than once. Over the years there have been 19 brewers who have won multiple times. Noel Blake who is one of the Collaborator committee members has won with 4 different beers over the years.

After being a member of the Oregon Brew Crew in the early 80’s and then moving on to become a professional brewer, Rob Widmer was looking for an innovative way to create new and alternative beers. In 1998, partnering with Bob McCracken who was the OBC president at the time, the Collaborator project was born. Homebrewers from Oregon Brew Crew were given an opportunity to brew any beer for the competition with the best beers being selected to be brewed at Widmer. Creativity and thinking outside the box was encouraged. Initially the selected beers were brewed on a 10 barrel system in Widmer’s Small Batch Brewery over by the Rose Garden and when the Innovation system was built a few years ago, they began brewing the beers on that 10 bbl system. Over the years several of these beers even gained popularity and were re-brewed. One of the first beers from 1998 (snowplow) was brewed as late as 2017 and Noel Blake’s Steel Bridge Porter has been brewed multiple times throughout the years. In fact, last year it was a Widmer Standard beer with over 1500 bbls of it brewed.

In addition to giving Homebrewers the opportunity to have their beers brewed commercially, Widmer Brothers Brewing also generously donates four dollars from each Barrel of Collaborator beer brewed, back to the Oregon Brew Crew. These funds are then donated from the club to different scholarships around the region like the Bob McCracken scholarship at Oregon State University where it supports the fermentation sciences. In fact Widmer Brothers Brewing now employs many of those who have graduated from the fermentation sciences program at OSU. I would call that full circle, and it’s that kind of commitment that makes this project such a great program. Homebrewers get to brew beer they like….the best beers then get brewed commercially and are sold with some of the profits of said beer going to support education in the brewing industry and then lastly, those students ultimately find a job in the industry and help brew beer. That’s a win-win-win in my book.

I first learned of the Collaborator project when I joined the Oregon Brew Crew over 5 ½ years ago which was shortly after I began homebrewing. I remember I happened to be at
FHS one day when the entries were being picked up and I saw a gentleman who I didn’t know and who turns out to be Scott Sanders...I thought to myself he’s the collaborator guy. Scott is not only one of the longest tenured OBC members, but he’s also on the Collaborator Committee. I soon learned that there was a lot more to the project. Scheduling pick up and drop offs, selecting judges from both the homebrewing and professional community, and then selecting the beers themselves. There are many different elements to the Collaborator project and many different people that participate from Scott and Noel to Jenn McPoland and Jeremie Landers, along with many others in the craft beverage industry, but in reality the “Collaborator Guy” is really Rob Widmer. He and Widmer Brothers Brewing have supported this project for 20 years, and nearly 50 homebrewers have earned the coveted Collaborator Jacket. Many Bbls of beer have been brewed and drank under the Collaborator Title, and many thousand of dollars have been donated in the support of Education in the craft beverage industry which in turn has found many people jobs.

I was my pleasure this year to present Rob with a “Collaborator Bung” commemorating his commitment to the project. The inscription of the Bung award reads…”Honoring 20 years of collaboration with the Oregon Brew Crew promoting craft beer appreciation and furthering brewing innovation and excellence”.

by Brian Haslip
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 kettles
- Possible new kettles 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 2018 to reflect these changes.

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

Happy brewing!
Hello and Happy 2018! A huge thank you to everyone who attended and volunteered for our annual holiday party! It does not happen without club participation and, once again, a good number of you gifted us with copious amounts of food and beer. It was a delicious feast! (Photo below.)

A nod to Brian Haslip, who provided the club with not only many raffle prizes and bung awards, but made all of the delicious meats for the holiday party. And to these special folks, who worked behind the scenes and on the day of the event to get everything ready and running smoothly: Lisa Hinson, Eric Hinson, Jim Thompson, Felicia Reninger, Alex Brehm, Cameron Norris, Rose Romanick, Ian Romanick, Jon Campbell, Jodi Campbell, Michele Lish, Sean Sanders, Megan, Sanders, Jess Zdeb, Tim Ledlie, Corrie Heath, Gary Schmirler, Jessica Prior & Todd Young. Many did double duty or more. THANK YOU!

The food and beer were excellent and the company… even better! Those who could not attend were missed. We hope to see you soon at a future meeting. The next one is January 11th, 7PM at Steinbart’s. As usual, I will hold a potluck raffle (2 items) to those who bring sober-making treats! (See ticket values below.)

Finally, if you are all interested in the role of Burgermeister in 2019, please contact or visit with me during an event. If you would like to get an idea if the job would suit you, please volunteer to help out during the year. meagan.thompson@oregonbrewcrew.org Cell: 818-636-0550

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.
## January 2018

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### General Board Expenses
- **Awards/Rages**: $2,500.00
- **Board Mgr Expenses**: $1,000.00
- **Compliance Audit**: $500.00
- **Liabilities Insurance**: $400.00
- **Workshop**: $1,500.00
- **4th Ambassador Fun**: $400.00
- **Travel Reimbursement**: $400.00
- **Posters and Stickers**: $35.00
- **Unanticipated Expense**: $400.00

### Burgermeister Expenses
- **Food at Meetings**: $2,699.48
- **Dues**: $1,080.00
- **Dues**: $700.00
- **SWB**: $250.00
- **Dues**: $500.00
- **Dues**: $453.90
- **Dues**: $100.00
- **Dues**: $30.00

### Secretary and Treasurer Expenses
- **Office Supplies**: $611.45
- **Office Supplies**: $79.00
- **Website & Membership Database**: $205.00
- **Home Office**: $500.00
- **Office Supplies**: $1,000.00
- **Office Supplies**: $313.62

### Education Expenses
- **Vice President**: $950.00
- **University**: $2,512.89
- **University**: $2,042.11
- **University**: $1,530.52

### Competition Expenses
- **President**: $4,300.00
- **Competition**: $600.00
- **Competition**: $1,473.27
- **Competition**: $573.27
- **Competition**: $573.27
- **Competition**: $100.00
- **Competition**: $500.00
- **Competition**: $1,000.00

### Festival Coordinator
- **Flights & Travel**: $4,800.00
- **Flights & Travel**: $2,100.00
- **Flights & Travel**: $1,100.00
- **Flights & Travel**: $297.48
- **Flights & Travel**: $111.27

### Communication Chair
- **Office Supplies**: $100.00
- **Office Supplies**: $250.00

### Vice President
- **Office Supplies**: $650.00
- **Office Supplies**: $587.42
- **Office Supplies**: $587.42
- **Office Supplies**: $853.42
- **Office Supplies**: $554.80
- **Office Supplies**: $585.23
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- **Office Supplies**: $249.42
- **Office Supplies**: $250.00

### Line Items
- **Line Item A**: $2,200.00
- **Line Item B**: $1,200.00
- **Line Item C**: $1,000.00
- **Line Item D**: $500.00
- **Line Item E**: $1,000.00
- **Line Item F**: $500.00

### Total Income
- **Actual YTD**: $21,550.00
- **Remaining**: $31,479.55
- **Remaining %**: 46%
The American Homebrewers Association (AHA) is committed to promoting the community of homebrewers and empowering homebrewers to make the best beers in the world. Join or renew and continue to enjoy all the benefits of American Homebrewers Association membership.

ZYMURGY MAGAZINE
- Print: Enjoy six issues of the longest-running homebrew magazine each year delivered straight to your door.
- eZymurgy Online: Access issues hot off the press or past issues back to 2000.
- Zymurgy Mobile App: Download issues to your iPhone/iPad or Android phone using the free app in the iTunes and Play stores.

BREW GURU
- Free Download: Get the Brew Guru app for iOS or Android devices for free.
- My Account: View your digital membership card; see how many Member Deals you’ve redeemed and Collections you’ve completed; renew your membership; manage your Brew Guru settings.
- Dashboard: Get a glimpse of the freshest content from the AHA and the closest deals from participating breweries, pubs and homebrew supply shops.
- Map: Thirsty? Hungry? Need supplies for your next brew day? Use the handy locator to find nearby breweries, pubs and brewing supplies, as well as money-saving AHA Member Deals participants.
- Collections: Improve your brew IQ with exclusive content, recipes and resources from Zymurgy magazine and the AHA; themes range from Belgian ales to bottling to brewing in a bag.

SAVE MONEY
- AHA Member Deals: Enjoy AHA Member Deals at over a thousand participating locations, including breweries, pubs, restaurants, homebrew supply shops and more!
- Books & Merchandise: Receive pre-publication discount offers on all new releases from Brewers Publications.
- Homebrew Club Insurance: Homebrew clubs registered with the AHA are eligible to receive affordable, turnkey, broad-coverage insurance. Sign up for homebrew club insurance today.

BREW BETTER BEER
- Research & Education Fund: Grant applications are open exclusively to AHA members interested in conducting homebrew-related research. Members also have access to research reports.
- Conference Seminars: Audio and visual presentations from National Homebrewers Conference seminars (since 2012) are available for download.
- Lallemand Scholarship: Enter for a chance to win a full tuition scholarship to the World Brewing Academy’s Concise Course in Brewing Technology, valued at $3,700.
- AHA Governing Committee Voting: Vote for you fellow homebrewers to represent you on the AHA Governing Committee.
• Legislative Efforts: Promote and preserve your homebrewing rights through the support of state legislative efforts.

EXCLUSIVE EVENTS!
• National Homebrew Competition: The NHC is the world’s largest home-made beer, mead and cider competition.
• National Homebrewers Conference: The conference is a fun and educational gathering designed to increase knowledge and homebrewing camaraderie.
• Great American Beer Festival Pro-Am Competition: Team up with Brewers Association (BA) member breweries for this unique competition held each year at the Great American Beer Festival (GABF).
• Great American Beer Festival® Members-Only Session: Tickets for the Saturday afternoon session of GABF are exclusively available to AHA and BA members. AHA and BA members are also invited to participate in the GABF’s extremely popular member ticket pre-sale.
• SAVOR: An American Craft Beer & Food Experience: AHA and BA members are invited to participate in the SAVOR member ticket pre-sale.
• AHA Rallies: Rallies are great events are held across the country for members to meet up with fellow homebrewers at local BA member breweries for a day of beer and fun!

Join or renew and continue to enjoy all the benefits of American Homebrewers Association membership.

Save the Date: Portland, OR, June 28-30
The 40th annual Homebrew Con will be held June 28-30, 2018, in Portland, Oregon—aka Beervana. Beervana. That’s really what they call it! Registration will open to American Homebrewers Association members on March 6, 2018.
Your Board would like your feedback. Please take a few minutes to go over the survey in the link provided.

In what we hope will be an annual tradition, we've created an end-of-the-year survey to both look back at how things went in 2017 and also look ahead for ideas on how to improve next year. It’s only 12 questions long and takes about 5 minutes to complete.

The purpose of this survey is to help us to understand why our members join, member awareness of club amenities, and direction for the club to support its new and long standing members.

We will gather the results during the month of December and share our findings in January. We look forward to working with this knowledge and the membership as a whole to improve the club for everyone!

The survey is completely anonymous, so please be honest with your feedback. And make sure to complete the survey before January 31st!

Take the survey here:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/obcsurvey2017
2018 Board of Directors

President, Jim Thompson
jim.thompson@oregonbrewcrew.org

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

Treasurer, Cameron Norris
cameron.norris@oregonbrewcrew.org

Secretary, Lisa Hinson
lisa.hinson@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

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OBC Cup Standings

http://www.oregonbrewcrew.org/obccup

Important: The cutoff for 2018 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 2019.

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OBC Member of the Year (MOY)

http://www.oregonbrewcrew.org/moy

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