

Next LCB Meeting
February 27th
7:00 PM
Lancaster Brewing
Company



Treasury Report
\$ 1014.56



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Presidential Tom Foolery



Well, it's been an interesting two years since I took on the duties of club President. I've enjoyed many of the aspects of the job and been well rewarded with good friendship and some damn fine homebrew! About the toughest part of the job is writing this column every month! Once again I find myself rushing to do it the day after I should have had it completed. If you got this newsletter a bit later than usual, you can blame me for holding it up.

If you missed the last meeting, you missed a good one! Many of us were a feeling the effect of too much

Barleywine thanks to our tasting of several fine examples from State Line. You also missed an excellent lesson on all-grain mashing courtesy of VP Jon Crothers. There will be

another chance to learn more when Jon holds an open all-grain brewing session at his home in May.

Don't forget that this meeting is our annual election. We will accept nominations for the offices of President and Vice-President and each candidate will have the opportunity to address the club prior to a voting by show of hands. We'd like to do this at the beginning of the meeting, so be on time if you'd like to have your vote counted. If last month is any indication, we should have a good turnout.

We'll also be passing around a sign-up sheet for the van trip to Kclinger's new "Publik House" establishment on March 16th. Bob Hollman has volunteered to be

our designated driver for this excursion and will chauffeur us to Yocumtown for the best selection of taps anywhere in our area! Rumor has it that they will have 60 taps in total! They might not have them all operational when we go, but I'm sure we won't be disappointed. Just make sure you get signed up if you're going! I'm sure that the van will be filled on this one and I don't want you to lose your seat!

I was going to write some kind of "farewell" dialogue for my final "Tom Foolery" column, but I'm not really leaving anything, just a title. I'll still see you at the meetings!

Prez Tom



Confessions of a Beer Snob by Todd Bookman

"Hi, my name is Todd B., and I am an official Beer Snob."

I don't know exactly when it happened. Maybe it was the day I had my first Guinness, and realized that beer could actually taste good. Or perhaps my first microbrew at Lancaster Brewing Company (I think it was a Scottish ale, if I remember correctly). It's been all downhill (or uphill) since then. Haven't touched any BudMillerCoors macro-swill since. I even started making my own homebrew concoctions to satiate my cravings. I thought "Hey, this stuff is so good, I should enlighten the masses! Yes! Everyone must know about all the great beers that are out there! "

I've had mixed success. Lots of funny faces (read: Bitter Beer Face) and colorful comments, like "How can you drink that stuff? It's too strong!" And that after a sample of some middling Amber ale. Eventually, I figured that you can lead a horse to an IPA, but you can't make him like it. Oh well, to each his own right? If the great masses wish to feed the great marketing machines of Milwaukee & Anheuser Busch, who am I to judge? Go ahead and drink that fine, computer-generated, anemic beer like substance. You won't hear from me. Nope. I'll just drool over the KClinger's Beer menu for the next few weeks in anticipation of our upcoming journey there.

If only it were so easy. But I still go to bars, restaurants, see the patrons eagerly schlepping down the Bud Light & Rolling Rock and cackle

to myself. What fools! Man, save the \$1.50 on that pint and just drink from the water fountains! I'd giggle and guffaw. Even my wife laughs at them now, and she doesn't like beer at all! At least she knows what a good beer is by appearance.

My own father even drinks Coors Light! Right in front of me, too! I can still remember the faces he made when I made him try my Yards IPA & Appalachian's Mad Cameron Belgian White. I swear I thought he'd bust a blood vessel or pass out.

It really hit me a couple of months ago when I made the mistake of discussing beer at my Model train club (my other passion besides beer). We were discussing the latest good food at the Cat's Meow restaurant in Manheim, very near where the train club is located. I asked one of the guys who goes to Cat's regularly what good stuff they have on tap. I hadn't been there in years, so I had no idea what was there. It went something like this:

"Well, they have the usual, Budweiser, Coors, etc. They also have the good stuff. Yuengling Lager."

"That's it?" was my retort? I must have said it out loud, because I got nothing but blank stares back at me.

"What did you expect?"

I thought maybe they'd have a nice microbrew on hand. Maybe

something from the Summy House that is up the road, or Stoudts etc. I barely got to say that when I got fired at by the salvo of the macro-lovers:

"MICROBREW? There is no such thing as a GOOD Microbrew! What are you talking about? Who needs that fancy crap?!"

This debate didn't last long. I just said "ok" and moved on. Changed the subject to trains and got off the hook. But wow, I must have hit a nerve. Lesson learned: Do not discuss politics, religion or frothy adult beverages with friends or acquaintances.

And then I knew, once and for all, that it was true. I am a certified Beer Snob. My very first beer was Piels (my grandfather's beer of choice. Do they make this crap anymore?). Now, I can barely even drink Yuengling Black & Tan anymore. Oh, the days of yore when I could drink Bud at the dorm & frat parties and not really care about "taste" or "mouthfeel" or "palate" or "hop nose." Now, it's Beer Fests, brew pubs and LCB meetings to get my fix. Time is spent analyzing grain bills and alpha acids. Am I more sophisticated now or just crazy? Have I developed a better palate, or have I just been brainwashed? Is there any help for me?

Oh, the hell with it...which way is it to KClingers?



Today's Headline **Dues are due!**

As we start a new year, don't forget that your friendly homebrew club survives on your support! If you haven't already renewed, see Galen or any club officer to hand over your loot and get a shiny new membership card. You wouldn't want to miss this fine newsletter in your e-mail every month, would you? Your dues also go to pay for beer tastings, van trips, competitions and the annual picnic! Please make an effort to do this by the March meeting so our treasury stays healthy. In April, we will remove the names of unpaid members from our list and they will stop getting the newsletter.



Real Beer Page Mail

THREE COMPANY MERGER WOULD CREATE WORLD'S BIGGEST BREWER

New reports have surfaced that a merger between Miller Brewing Co. of Wisconsin, Scottish & Newcastle and South African Breweries is in the works. It would make the new company the largest brewer in the world, surpassing Anheuser-Busch. The Milwaukee Journal reports that the deal could be announced as early as March. As part of the deal, Miller's Milwaukee corporate headquarters -- and its roughly 1,000 jobs -- would likely remain intact, beer industry analysts said. Miller is the world's sixth largest brewer, SAB the fifth and Scottish & Newcastle the seventh.

<http://www.realbeer.com/news/articles/news-001661.html>

CAMRA LOBBIES FOR GUARANTEED PINTS

Britain's Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) has launched a new campaign to push for legislation that guarantees beer drinkers a full pint of ale.

It includes a new series of posters protesting short pints and urges consumers to take action. The consumer group cites research that indicates that 90% of the pints served in British pubs are less than 100% liquid and 28% are less than the industry's guidelines of 95% liquid.

<http://www.realbeer.com/news/articles/news-001659.html>

FULLER'S WINS BATTLE OVER BRAND NAME RIGHTS

Fuller's, one of Britain's best-known regional brewers, has won a court battle to protect its rights to its flagship brand, ESB. The case was heard in the High Court in London. The dispute was between Fuller's and Dave West, who trades as EastEnders in Calais, France. West has exploited the gap between duty rates on beer in Britain and France by selling large amounts of cheap French beer to Britain in recent years. More recently, he has attempted to register the trademark for a lager labeled ESP in Britain. Fullers claimed that ESP and ESB (short for Extra Special Bitter) were too close for comfort, would confuse consumers, and infringed Fuller's rights to the term ESB. The court held that ESB was not a generic term and was distinctive of Fuller's.

<http://www.protzonbeer.com/documents/27660-001662.html>

JAPANESE BEER GARDEN ADMITS RECYCLING BEER

The Sapporo Beer Garden, a noted tourist spot in the Hokkaido capital, had been selling draft beer mixed with beer left unsold from the previous day until last February, its operator admitted. An average of about 20 liters of leftover beer per day were stored in refrigerators overnight before being added to fresh beer and sold to patrons the following day in all-you-can-drink specials.

STUDY FINDS ALCOHOL MAY HELP PREVENT ALZHEIMER'S

A study by Dutch scientists has found that daily moderate consumption of alcohol may ward off Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia. The study published in The Lancet medical journal reported that it doesn't seem to matter what people drink -- the effect is the same. The finding adds to a growing body of evidence for the health benefits of moderate drinking.

<http://www.realbeer.com/news/articles/news-001660.html>

*****WEB WATCH*****

BATTLE OF THE BEERS

Would you rather drink Coors Light or Alaskan Smoked Porter? Anchor Steam or Deschutes Black Butter Porter? Beginning Feb. 18, you'll be able to vote on choices like those and more. There'll be a new showdown every weekday, with the winning beer advancing to the next round. We'll start with 32 beers and by April 1 be down to two. What beers will advance? That's up to you.

<http://www.realbeer.com/battleofthebeers>

AN IMPERIAL TOUR

Stephen Beaumont spends evening in Manhattan sampling a baker's dozen of the biggest and most intense stouts brewed in the U.S. and Britain.

<http://www.worldofbeer.com/features/feature-200202.html>

THE WIT AND WISDOM OF NORM PETERSON

Sam: "Hey, what's happening, Norm?" Norm: "Well, it's a dog-eat-dog world, Sammy, and I'm wearing Milk-Bone underwear." Do you watch Cheers

re-runs just for the wonderful exchanges involving Norm? We'll save you a little time. Now you can click for a Norm-ism, then for another and another. Head to:

<http://realbeer.com/fun/humor/norm>

*****ADVERTISEMENTS*****

AUSTIN HOMEBREW SUPPLIES

Tired of paying too much? We have great prices, one of the largest selections of supplies, and free shipping on orders over \$60. We proudly do not buy in bulk to make sure you have the freshest ingredients.

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

BEER CAN COLLECTOR'S OF AMERICA

4,000 breweriana collectors like you have joined the Beer Can Collectors of America, North America's leading brewery collectibles organization since 1970! Join now and get our high-quality bimonthly magazine, roster, information about breweriana shows, and more!

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

BRIDGEPORT BREWING COMPANY

Oregon's Oldest Craft Brewery, proudly produces high-quality, innovative ales that are true to their Northwest heritage. Founded in 1984, BridgePort has evolved into a regional leader in the craft brewing market, earning numerous accolades and awards along the way.

<http://www.bridgeportbrew.com>

EJ WREN HOMEBREWER INC.

We are in the 10th year of a thriving business. Technical expertise, along with quality service and products have allowed us to become the largest homebrew supplier in Central New York. FREE SHIPPING on orders over \$50.

<http://www.ejwren.com>

FLYING FISH BREWING CO.

The largest of New Jersey's 20 small breweries, started online as the world's first virtual craft brewery. Producing a wide range of Belgian and English style beers as well as some of the coolest T-shirts you'll ever see.

<http://www.flyingfish.com>

MERCHANT DU VIN,

Since 1978, Merchant du Vin has imported the world's finest selection of ales and lagers. Each benchmark style of beer is brewed with only natural ingredients and produced by family-owned and operated craft brewers. Merchant du Vin imports the beers of Samuel Smith, Ayinger and Lindemans, among others.

<http://www.merchantduvin.com>

PIKE BREWING CO.

We brew all-natural, handcrafted beers of intense flavor and character using only the highest quality ingredients and always adhering to the strictest brewing standards. Award-winning beers from the heart of Seattle since 1989.

<http://www.pikebrewing.com>

PYRAMID ALES & LAGERS

We are proud to announce Pyramid Coastline Pilsner to our variety of year-round offerings. Coastline is a Pacific-style Pilsner, brewed locally on the Pacific coast using the finest Northwest ingredients. The result is a beer that's as crisp, clean and refreshing as a day at the ocean, and the ultimate in full-flavored refreshment.

<http://www.PyramidBrew.com>

7 BRIDGES COOPERATIVE HOMEBREW SUPPLIES

>From kits to make your own organic beer at home to the world's best selection of organic brewing ingredients, 7 Bridges Cooperative has everything you need to brew organic. NEW: Organic English Kent

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TIED HOUSE CAFÉ AND BREWERY

We're entering our 14th year of providing great beer and food to the patrons of the Silicon Valley. We now have on tap an IPA that will please all beer lovers. Stop by our San Jose location for a great start or perfect finish to any event in San Jose's downtown.

<http://www.tiedhouse.com>

*****QUICKIE EMAIL SURVEY*****

Thanks to all who have been replying to our Quickie Surveys. These will no longer be part of RBPmail, but we polls regularly at Realbeer.com. Stop by and vote at <http://www.realbeer.com/fun/poll>

LAST MONTH'S QUESTION:

How many different beers (three bottles of Sierra Nevada count as one, for instance) are there in your house right now? A solid 42% of those who answered told us seven or more, and another 34% had four to seven.

STATES LOOK AT HIGHER BEER TAXES - OREGON INCLUDED

Many states are looking at raising "sin taxes" in order to cover falling state tax receipts because of recession. The Distilled Spirits Council of the United States reports that eight states want to boost taxes on beer, wine or hard liquor. In 2001, Washington and North Carolina lawmakers boosted a surcharge on alcohol sales and a liquor tax, respectively. In Oregon, Gov. John Kitzhaber has proposed a "nickel-a-drink" tax on beer and wine. Jim Parker, executive director of the Oregon Brewers Guild, points out that brewing beer isn't a sin and questions the math on the "nickel a drink" computation. The governor's proposal works out to an increase of 53.7 cents a gallon, or more than six times the current rate of 8 cents a gallon. The proposed tax of 61.7 cents a gallon would be more than triple the national average and the second-highest tax rate in the country. You may have to paste this rather long URL into your browser to read the story, but it's worth the time.

http://www.oregonlive.com/commentary/oregonian/index.ssf?xml/story.ssf/html_standard.xml?base/editorial/1012740920248130.xml

MINNESOTA BREWING NEEDS LOAN TO KEEP GOING

St. Paul won't guarantee a \$2 million loan that Minnesota Brewing Co. officials claim is needed to keep the financially shaky company in business. However, city officials told principal owner Bruce Hendry that they will help him find financing in the next two months if a number of conditions are met. The troubled brewery is \$14 million in debt.

JONES BREWERY CLOSES, BUT STONEY'S BRAND LIVES ON

The Jones Brewery in Smithton, Pa., closed last month, but Stoney's beer will continue to be produced by Pittsburgh Brewing Co. "All the emails I have gotten, 90 percent of the people said, 'Just keep the Stoney's coming. We don't care where it's coming from,'" said Gabriel "Gabby" Podlucky, owner of Jones Brewery Co. The brewery was founded in 1907 by William B. "Stoney" Jones, a Welsh immigrant who labeled his beer "devoid of any artificial materials." Among his descendants is actress Shirley Jones.

OHIO CONSIDERS ALLOWING STRONGER BEER

An Ohio lawmaker has proposed allowing state residents to brew and drink stronger beer. Ohio currently limits beer to 6% alcohol by weight, and Rep. Jim Trakas would increase that to 12%. Although some southern states limit beer to 6% alcohol (and Utah and Oklahoma only allow breweries to sell 3.2 abw beer except in state run stores), brewers in state surrounding Ohio do not operate under such strict definitions.

<http://www.realbeer.com/news/articles/news-001666.html>

FRED HUBER DIES

Fred Huber, who long ran the Joseph Huber Brewing Co. in Monroe, Wis., died last month. Huber was one of the last independent family brewers. He was also one of the first brewers to welcome -- and assist -- Michael Jackson's efforts to write informed books on beer for the consumer.

Jackson recalls his travels with Huber, including one rather harrowing trip.

<http://www.beerhunter.com/documents/19133-001650.html>

MATH TEACHER WINS BEERDRINKER OF THE YEAR

Gary Steinel, a high school math teacher from White Plains, N.Y., last week was chosen the 2002 Beerdrinker of the Year. Steinel, who reached the finals for a second straight year, won free beer for life at Denver's Wynkoop Brewing Co. (which sponsors the competition), \$100 worth of beer at his home brewpub (Southampton Publick House), his name on a trophy and plenty of Beerdrinker of the Year wearing apparel. Tom Ciccateri of Shawnee Mission, Kan., and John Marioni of Bothell, Wash., were the runners up.

<http://www.realbeer.com/news/articles/news-001668.html>

NOT AN EDITORIAL: NEWSLETTER CHANGES

You'll notice that you got to this point in RBPmail faster than usual. There aren't quite as many stories and we've kept them as short as we could. We've also eliminated the Quickie Email Survey, and will no longer include an editorial in this space.

Why? Plenty has changed since we emailed the first edition of RBPmail more than seven years ago. Most important, all your email boxes and ours are much more crowded. Not just with SPAM, but with plenty of friendly notes and newsletters we never seem to have time to read. We don't want RBPmail to be one of the ones you pass on because it is just too darn long.

Don't worry, we'll be as windy and opinionated as ever -- we just don't expect this newsletter to do all the heavy lifting. There's more at <http://www.realbeer.com> than ever -- more features, more news, polls, updates every weekday in BeerLog, etc. If you still want more beer in your email box, then you may sign up for the weekly Beer Break newsletter and next month we'll be launching a bi-weekly Travel and Events newsletter.

To sign up for Beer Break:

<http://www.realbeer.com/library/beerbreak>

To visit BeerLog:

<http://www.realbeer.com/library/beerlog>

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A New Category of Beer is Born

Two Breweries Break the Envelope

by Tony Forder

There are several brews which have laid claim to the title of world's strongest. The German bock EKU 28, at around 13% alcohol by volume once owned the laurel, followed by the Swiss 14-16% abv Samichlaus. Other brews, such as the French Belzebuth at 15% abv., also belong in the big brew category.

In 1994, however, Boston Beer Co. smashed through the brewing ceiling with Samuel Adams Triple Bock weighing in at a whopping 17.5% abv. and heralding the dawn of a whole new brewing category of ultra-strong beers.

The enterprising Sam Calagione of Dogfish Head Craft Brewery in Delaware joined the category a couple of years ago with his 18% abv. Worldwide Stout, which he had been fermenting for over a year. Unfortunately for Calagione, Boston Beer released its Millennium, a more refined version of the Triple Bock, which measured 21% on the alcohol by volume scale. Worldwide Stout had to be content with the title of world's strongest beer — on tap.

Koch and Calagione are not resting on their laurels by any means. Dogfish Head is ready to unleash a 21% + beer named Raison Extra while Boston Beer's Sam Adams Utopias MMII is scheduled for a February release at the astonishing new threshold of 24% abv.

Jim Koch, president of Boston Beer Co., said the excitement in doing something that's never been done before gives him and his team the motivation to create "a new form of alcoholic beverage. It's an intriguing opportunity," he said.

The progression of the Sam Adams products has been from sweet to dry. The Millennium was lighter on the palate, not as thick or sweet as the Triple Bock. Utopias continues the quest for higher attenuation which, Koch says, was achieved by adjusting the feeding regimen of the yeast.

Prior to Triple Bock, alcohol strength had been limited by the survival of conventional brewer's yeast which is killed when a certain alcohol level is reached. Boston Beer's breakthrough was achieved — by using champagne yeast and maple sugar which —

raised the alcohol to new levels.

Koch explained that in normal fermentation yeast breaks down the simplest sugars first leaving a residue of more complex sugars when the alcohol eventually kills off the yeast. By not only adding more yeast, but by infusing original wort throughout the process the yeast was able to work further into the sugars, yielding a higher attenuation in brewers' terminology. Thirty IBUs (International Bittering Units) of noble hops — Hallertau Mittlefrueh, Tettnanger, Spalter and Saaz — lend spicy notes to the Utopias while aging in port, scotch and cognac barrels contribute smoothness.

Calagione said his latest creation, Raison Extra (a step up from the breweries Raison d'Etire label), uses infusions of beet sugars, raisins and wort, temperature fluctuations and a variety of yeasts, along with a six month fermentation to achieve its 21 percent of alcohol. He said that his brewery, known for exotic, groundbreaking beers, discovered early on that there was a niche for really strong beers among beer drinkers.

"Our first strong beer was ImmortAle, at 11%, he said. "It was well-received among a certain group." So, what do these beers taste like? Naturally with alcohol levels akin to port and sherry, these beers should be sipped as such — after dinner digestifs. For those familiar with the sweet, port notes of Sam Adams Triple Bock, the new Utopias is drier with more hop presence but with added flavor from aging in port, scotch and cognac barrels. The Worldwide Stout has a smooth, velvet mouthfeel which belies its strength. Worldwide Stout is available in 12 oz bottles costing about \$6 each. The Utopias MMII will be sold in 24-ozs bottles in the color and shape of a brewers kettle. With only about 3,000 bottles available, retail price is expected to be around \$100 each.

A special tasting of these ultra-strong Sam Adams and Dogfish Head brews will be held by Ale Street News at Nodding Head Brewery & Restaurant in Philadelphia March 21.

Lancaster County Brewers

Bob Hollman
3077 Bricker Rd.
Manheim, PA 17545

Phone:
(717) 653-9796



E-Mail:
rhollman@paonline.com

February 27th Club Meeting Lancaster Brewing Company 7:00pm Elections
March 16th Van Trip to KClingers Publik House
March 30th Club Meeting Lancaster Brewing Company 7:00pm Bob "the Biologist" Hollman - "Yeast and the Culturing Thereof"
April 13th Litter Pick-Up Blue Ball National Bank Rts. 272 and 897 10:00am
April 24th Club Meeting Lancaster Brewing Company 7:00 pm

(Print this page and cut this table out to keep as a reminder of upcoming events.)

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.61galaxie.com/lcb

and

<http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/lancastercountybrewers>

