

JACK OF ALL BREWS



HOME BREW CLUB

The Jabber

December, 2012

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

JACK OF ALL BREWS HOME BREW CLUB

ERIC WENTLING - PRESIDENT
MICHAEL BEHRENDT - VICE PRESIDENT
TIM ROETS - SECRETARY
BRYCE EHRMAN - SOCIAL DIRECTOR
STEVEN MATHISTAD - TREASURER

Happy Holidays from Jack of all Brews!

The officers of Jack of all Brews would like to send our best Holiday wishes to you and your families, and hope you have a happy, healthy and prosperous new year!



Bryce got the Westy!!!

JAB Holiday Party 2012 by Eric Wentling

The Holiday season started a bit early this year for the Jabbers and significant others who attended our annual JAB Holiday Party at my house in early December.

It's amazing how much things have changed over the years...the first year was just a few of us and a very small pot luck, with a membership list now boasting over 50 members; the make-up of the group has changed with time, and the members are still a great group to hang out with. We like to open this particular meeting up to spouses (though they are always welcome to regular meetings), to let them meet the guys and know what exactly we do every second Friday of the month. I know I like to meet with my friends' better halves!



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Jim rockin' the corkscrew!

We started the meeting with a short presentation about home wine making by Jim T. Jim has been making wines for the last several years and is our resident expert on the methods of doing this. He had fancy pictures of the equipment and action shots of the process for us to see. Most importantly he had a slew of wines for us to try, ranging from the disturbing (banana wine??!!) to the ghetto (Mogen James) to the fabulous (Liebfraumilch.) This was a great time to break out this demo since we had a lot of non-beer spouses in attendance. This is the first time we have ever tried to have a presentation at the Holiday party...it went very well, but perhaps got rowdy and loud before Jim could really finish. I blame the strong wines!

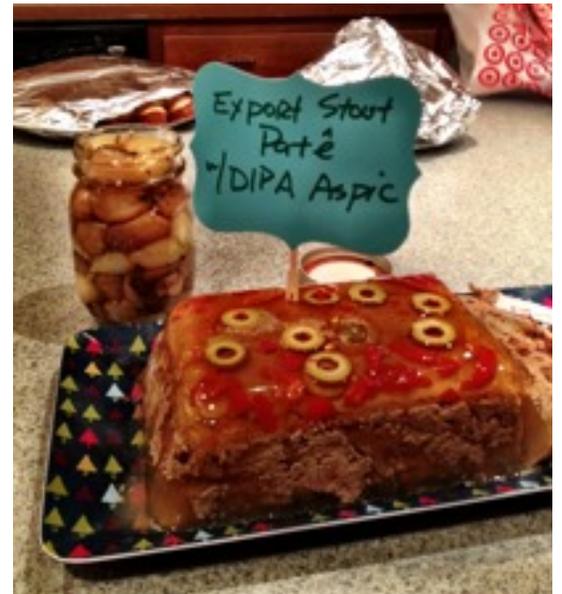
After the talk and some brief announcements headed upstairs to partake of the extreme Minnesota Pot Luck. I do feel cheated without any cocktail weenies, but there were plenty of great things to try. Tim's Pate made with stout and topped with double IPA aspic was an unusual surprise. Joe's corn pudding was quite tasty and filling. And Andrew's boozy Imperial Stout beer-a-misu was a wonderful way to cap off the meal.

After the feast our party-goers spread out between the upper level and the basement bar to talk and try an amazing array of beers. Oh, and Tim brought three types of jello shots made with his melomel, stout, and spicy michelada. Party!!! Wooooo!!

One thing I love about this particular meeting is the outstanding beers that come out to play. Folks bring their big-gun homebrews (Aaron's Galaxy IPA and Tim's Blueberry Lambic come to mind,) and some rare commercial brews are shared in good company. We tried Deschutes Abyss 2008, Alesmith 2010 Anniversary Smoked Maple Barleywine, Ithaca Brut, Surly Four, Steel Toe Wee Heavy, and many, many more.

Then came the epic gift exchange. Everyone who wanted to be involved brought a wrapped or bagged beer gift and put their name in a hat. We opted out of gift-stealing, but that would have been pretty crazy considering some of the gifts on the table! Gifts included rare beers like the Ommegang 15 in decorative tin, St. Bernardus sampler with glass, Surly Smoke in hand-made duct-tape carry case. Perhaps the best gift was brought by Hassan: a six pack of root beer that was initially disappointing, until it was pointed out that one bottle in the pack was actually Westvleteren 12! This is always one of my favorite parts of the holiday party, where else does everyone get a cool beer gift instead of socks?

This is one event that I look forward to greatly every year and appreciate all the Jabbers who make it so extraordinary. Cheers to all of my friends who could make it and to those who couldn't get here this year! Thanks to JAB and the JAB spouses for everything...here's to another great year with good beers and better company!



Fun with gelatin.

JAB Brewcred - 2012

In 2012, JAB members pulled in nearly 60 medals and awards, many of them major including including entries in the Nationals and the 2013 GABF, the BOS at Byggvir, and chances to brew with local pros.

Our monthly Mash Paddle competition regularly features dozens of excellent beers that could easily win bling in any category they enter.

Enter a few more beers in local contests this year...this club is filled with excellent brewers, and there's no reason why we can't take 100 medals this year if we have more hats in the ring!

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JAB Calendar - January

January 5th - 11:30 - ???

JAB Outing @

Excelsior Brewing

We will get a tour, then many will move on to other locations after...be there!

January 11th - 6:30 pm

January Club Meeting

at Eric's House

Open Mash Paddle this month, we will also nominate and elect our 2013 officers.

January 11th

Mashout Dropoff Deadline

Get those beers entered!!!

January 25-26

Upper Mississippi Mashout

Grumpy's - St. Paul

February 8th - 6:30 pm

February Club Meeting

Location TBD

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