

Ames Brewers League meeting January 9th, 2018 (Second Tuesday of the Month)

Luke Hoekstra opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. There were fourteen people in attendance with two new visitors.

Old Business

Election of officers

The league elected the following at December's meeting:

President: Luke Hoekstra

Vice President: Sebastian Speer

Secretary: Chase Colton

Treasurer: John Murphy

Webmaster: Andy Curtis

New Business

C and S Brew Supply

Chris and Sherry from C and S Brew Supply in Ankeny were on hand just before the meeting. Contact them and they can bring your order to our next club meeting.

csbrewsupply@gmail.com

www.candsbrewsupply.com

Introductions

Tonight we arranged the tables a little different to encourage a wider group dynamic as well as employed name tags to help everyone including new or infrequent attendees to get to know each other better.

Dues

Dues were collected at \$15/yr for members. Family membership is also \$15/yr. Visitors are encouraged to attend several meetings before paying dues in order to get to know the club before joining.

Funding

Luke announced an initiative to use club money to help purchase grain to jump start the new brewing year for members. In the past the club has helped fund grain or other ingredients for events such as the American Homebrewers Association Big Brew Day outside Torrent Brewing and the league club recipe. This has been very successful in encouraging seasoned and new brewers alike. Sebastian suggested we also consider funding different purchases – possibly purchasing hops and yeast and challenging members to come up with a unique brew utilizing their own grains as something different.

Raffle

February 27th (Tuesday) at Torrent Brewery is the target for this year's raffle. This is the club's only fundraising event and it draws a crowd from Ames as well as outside the area. Invitations to attend will be extended to several clubs including Ankeny and Des Moines. Last year we collected donations from over 40 businesses. John Murphy will be spearheading this year's collections, but more help is definitely needed for pickups. It's also a great opportunity to visit some local breweries and get to know the

brewers and staff who work there. If you can help out, please post a note on the Facebook page or send John, Luke, or Sebastian a note. We'll need to start collections soon in order to hold another great raffle!

Style of the Month

Luke proposed several changes to the Style of the Month competitions for 2018. Last year we had a bit of glut on IPAs, and it'd be nice to mix that up a bit more this year. Luke and Sebastian also discussed adjusting the timing of some of the styles in order to maybe fit in with Big Brew day or the club brew. Luke suggested possibly more open months to encourage more contributors to the contest. We will finalize this at next month's meeting, but please give input now if you have suggestions. The roughly outlined plan is shown below:

Month	Style
January	Open to All Styles
February	Belgians
March	European Ales (English, Scottish, Irish, Aussie)
April	Sours & Funky
May	Open to All Styles
June	Session Beer (anything less than 1.045 OG)
July	American Beer
August	Club Brew
September	Mead, Cider, Cyser
October	European Lagers (English, Scottish, Irish, Aussie)
November	Porters & Stouts
December	Big Beers

We will be using the 2015 BJCP style guidelines for the competitions.

Entries are judged using the following abbreviated outline:

Category # _____	Subcategory (a-f) _____	Entry # _____
Subcategory (spell out) _____		Special Ingredients: _____
Aroma - Malt, hops, esters, and other aromatics		_____ /12
Appearance - Color, clarity, and head (retention, color, and texture)		_____ / 3
Flavor - Malt, hops, fermentation characteristics, balance, finish/aftertaste, and other flavor characteristics		_____ /20
Mouthfeel - Body, carbonation, warmth, creaminess, astringency, and other palate sensations		_____ / 5
Overall Impression - Overall drinking pleasure associated with entry, give suggestions for improvement		_____ /10
Total		_____ /50

Brewer of the Year

This will be announced during the raffle. We discussed possible awards such as a gift certificate, a one-off T-Shirt for the winner, or possibly glassware.

League T-Shirts

We'll take requests for reorders at the next meeting to gage support.

Brewer of the Month Glassware

We may need to reorder more glasses to award to each month's style competition winner.

Website

Andy Curtis, the league's new webmaster is looking at some updated design ideas.

Communication

Currently the league's main communication channel is the closed Facebook group. We also have a Google Group which can be joined from a request from our website's main page: <http://amesbrewersleague.org>. We may need to utilize the group mailing list and the Facebook group both since not all members use Facebook. We may explore using a Google calendar to keep everyone updated with meeting and event schedules.

Treasury Report

The treasurer has new job and was unable to attend due to those responsibilities. Collected dues will be delivered to him for next month's meeting.

Style of the Month Competition: Open to All Styles

1st place receives 3 points, 2nd place receives 2 points, and 3rd place receives 1 point. Entrants who don't place receive ½ point. Point totals will determine the League's Brewer of the Year.

6 entries

1. 18B American Pale Ale
2. 19A American Amber Ale 2nd Place – Pete Crow
3. 13A Dark Mild
4. 26A Trappist Single 3rd Place – Mike ?
5. 26A Trappist Single
6. 13C English Porter 1st Place – Ron Nelson

Other contributors: Chase Colton, Andy Curtis