

THE WRITTEN WORT

The newsletter of the New York City Homebrewers Guild
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RECOVERING FROM DISASTER

By Rich Medina.



The month of September 2001 was one of truly shocking events. It was one where time came to an agonizing crawl. One that left us all

wondering what horrific deed was next. Still in shock over the previous week's events, there was doubt if we were to gather for our monthly meeting. Difficult and uncomfortable as it was, I decided it was necessary for me to take a step back to normalcy. As I later found out, it was a common sentiment.

Holding my breath, I stepped into Brewsky's and was relieved to see many familiar faces. Charlie, Joe, Paul, Dave, Phil, Roger, John, Marc, Alex, Bernie, Janet, and Jim were among those that were all smiling back. To our relief, the news was that remarkably no one in our group was lost. While we had a guest speaker scheduled, this speaker was canceled and truly none was needed. This was a time to share a round among friends. This was a time for beer to act as healing elixir for some wounded souls. This was a time to gather and reflect as family.

Phil read a note sent in by fellow homebrewers in Texas who, after receiving a guild shirt were stunned to see our skyline logo, felt compelled to hold a special raffle for the shirt and donate the proceeds to a charity of our choice. As the words fell on my ears, I realized

how special this fellowship of homebrewers really is. Phil went on to read some additional announcements of upcoming events. Events that made me ponder about our role in the wake of 11 September. We have a unique opportunity, to share with each other our collective camaraderie. We can show everyone just how special this country is by celebrating the very freedom it affords us. I ask you to get out there and participate. Hell, it doesn't even have to be beer-related. Get out there with your family or friends! Just remember: raise a glass and toast to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness!

Brew on, my friends!

GUILD SHIRTS AND PINT GLASSES ARE AVAILABLE!

Pick up your very own guild softball shirt at the next meeting. Only \$15!

Guild t-shirts only \$10!

Guild pint glasses, available in pine green or cobalt blue. Only \$10 dollars!

Supplies are limited on these items!

FRUITS OF OUR LABOR

By Dave Witzel

On Saturday, October 6, members of the Guild took part in an all-day cider press at Party Creations, a homebrew supply store in Red Hook, NY. The Northern Spy apples, among other types, were generously provided by local

orchards and machine-chopped by manic children on-site. Though the drive was long, we were rewarded handsomely for our hard work while mingling with other homebrewers from the Red Hook area.



Besides myself and wife Jenny, Andy Ager and his wife Laura, Sid -- who shot what seemed like hundreds of photos, Phil -- who arrived well into the afternoon after visiting Ommegang, and Marc, the guild's V.P.-- who seemed to be everywhere at once all day, took turns pressing apples, sampling local homebrewers' cider and beer, and checking out the supply shop for good deals.

The cider presses hand ranged from the simple, small wooden model Andy and I worked with, to keg-sized wood-and-iron models. Apple chunks are loaded into the barrel-like hopper, topped with a pressing plate, and the plate is gradually lowered onto the mass of apples, causing the cider to be, well, pressed out of the fruit. The plate is lowered by means of a large screw, turned by brute strength - the larger models used long levers to generate the necessary force to completely squeeze out every last drop of juice. The cider was collected from

each press and dumped into 55-gallon drums, which quickly filled, causing a run to the shop for buckets to hold the overflow.

Everyone who participated took home gallons and gallons of fresh, sweet cider. In all, over 550 gallons were pressed that afternoon. Bruce Franconi, co-owner of Party Creations and co-host of the event measured the cider's gravity at 1.054 -- sure to make some strong cider down the road. Those more interested in drinking their cider unfermented, are left with refrigerators full of cider, praying that the yeast already present will hold off on fermentation just a bit longer.



RAFFLE !

Donations for the new monthly guild raffle are being accepted! Anyone wishing to donate any beer-related paraphernalia (glassware, clothing, beer, etc) will receive free tickets for the raffle.

CLUB-ONLY COMPETITIONS

By Phil Clarke Jr.

For some bizarre reason, many homebrewers fall into the rut of brewing a handful of recipes (or styles). After coming up with a few good recipes to their liking, the days of experimenting are over. In an attempt to prevent this from happening, The American Homebrewers Association has come up with **club-only competitions** (remember this term; you'll see it again):

Club-only competitions (told ya!) encourage the homebrewer to experiment in new styles of beers. The AHA organizes six club-only competitions a year, each hosted by a different homebrew club through out the country. A particular style, or sub-style, of beer is chosen for each competition.

Each homebrewing club has their own mini-competition, with compete against each other for a particular style. The winner then advances to the national club-only competition, competing against the winners of other clubs. Between thirty and fifty entries are judged at the national competitions.

The COC schedule (including the club hosting it), from now through 2003 is as follows:

Nov/Dec '01: Milds -
Jan/Feb '02: Scottish Ales - QUAFF, San Diego, CA
Mar/Apr '02: Porter - NYCHG, New York, NY
May '02: IPA - South Gasconade Brewing Society, Owensville, MO
August '02: Koelsch & Alt - Dukes of Ale, Albuquerque, NM
Sept/Oct '02: Strong Belgian Ale - Minnesota Homebrewers Association, Minneapolis, MN
Nov/Dec '02: American Lager - BUZZ, Malvern, PA
Jan/Feb '03: Bitter & English Pale Ale- Minnesota Timberworts, Rochester, MN
Mar/April '03: Brown Ale - Prairie Homebrewing Companions, Fargo, ND
May '03: English & Scottish Strong Ale - Rillito Creek Brew Club, Tuscon, AZ
Aug '03: European Pale Lager - Foam on the Range, Arvada, CO

Participating in these competitions isn't necessary and anyone who enters all of them is

dangerously adventurous when it comes to brewing. However, perhaps everyone in the guild can choose two styles of beer to brew and enter in the upcoming year. It's a great way to expand one's brewing horizons.

SALE ON MALT EXTRACT

The guild has acquired a large supply of Breiss light dry malt extract, and will be selling it at guild meetings at a very low price of \$5 for a 2.5 pound bag. If you are interested in purchasing some, please contact Phil at dogglebe@yahoo.com

END OF SUMMER PICNIC

By Janet Clarke



On Sunday, October 7, 2001, the NYCHG held its third semi-annual picnic at Croton Point Park, in Croton-on-Hudson, NY. Despite the chilly, breezy weather and the unexpected arrival of a large RV rally (which displaced the guild from their usual meeting spot), a good time was had by all.

As in the past, the guild provided the usual picnic staples of hot dogs, hamburgers and chicken. To supplement the rest of the meal, guild members donated side dishes including classic macaroni and cheese, various pickled delights and yummy brownies.

Numerous homebrews and meads were available.

I think this writer can speak for the guild when writing that we can look forward to an even bigger bash in the upcoming summer of 2002!

FROM THE PRIMARY

By Phil Clarke Jr.

Last August, I received an e-mail from the ALE-ian Society, a homebrewing club in Lubbock, Texas. This club was holding its annual competition, the Cactus Challenge, and was looking for donations of club glasses to give to those who judged or stewarded the competition.

As I had no pint glasses available, I chose to send them a guild shirt. A few weeks later, I received another e-mail from the Lone Star State:

Dear Phil,

Hello. My name is Diana Theall and I am the president of the ALEian Society in Lubbock Texas. I apologize, but I have lost the name of the person I was dealing with regarding the t-shirt your club sent us for the Raffle prize for our Homebrew Competition, The Cactus Challenge, next weekend.

We had a bit of a poignant moment as we were going through all of our raffle prizes. We came across your t-shirt and we were stunned for a moment. The picture of the World Trade Center in your logo was sobering. All of us send our prayers and our thoughts to you during this time of need and have come up with an idea that we hope meets your approval.

We would like to remove your shirt from the collection of homebrew club glasses and shirt raffle and put it in a separate raffle by itself. Our idea is that all proceeds from the raffle for this shirt will be donated to the relief fund of your choice in your club's name. We will raffle tickets at \$5 each and already have atleast \$100 sold if you are agreeable to this idea.

We thought of the Firefighters Fund and the Red Cross but would like for you to please email me back or call me and let me know of the charity of your choice.

Please know that we will be thinking of you on Saturday night. We will be having a moment of silence before the awards. Our thoughts, our prayers and our hearts are with all of you. God Bless.

Diana Theall

At the competition, \$510 in tickets were purchased for this raffle. This money was donated to the Red Cross in the guild's name. Pretty good for one shirt.

I would like to thank Diane and the ALE-ian Society for their thoughts and prayers and for their contribution.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 16 – October NYCHG meeting. Guest speaker will be Dan Sobotti Jr. of the Gaslight Restaurant Restaurant and Brewery.

VISIT THE WEBSITE!

<http://www.pipeline.com/~doggglebe/nychg.html>

GUILD OFFICERS

President: Phil Clarke Jr.
Vice President: Marc LaPointe
Treasurer: Rich Medina
Webmistress: Janet Clarke
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