

BOSMOPOLITAN

Märzen 2007

March Meeting March Beer Madness!

Friday March 16 . Listermann's . 7:30pm

Super Sensational Baby! You don't have to be a basketball fan to take part and enjoy March Beer Madness, but you do have to love beer. Now, I know, that's a really difficult requirement for the readers of Bosmopolitan but I expect to see you and your taste buds at this can't miss meeting! We'll pit commercial beers style against style to see who vies for the ultimate title of champion beer. You don't have to be a certified BJCP judge to participate. This is a great way for homebrewers new and experienced to exercise their papillary organs in a fun and friendly event.

New and Revised Homebrewed Mistakes

Jennifer Hermann

A friend of mine recently brewed up his first batch of beer. He had sent me a long list of questions many of which were similar to the questions that I had. In doing my best to answer them, I decided to include a list of common mistakes for the first timer (or at least the things that I could remember from at least my first and second batches). I'm sure that many of you can relate to these. You'll probably get a chuckle or three as you read down through the list. For any of you other new brewers out there, just know that you are not the only one that has made mistakes. I once brewed a beer and completely forgot to add the hops. Needless to say, that was a really *really* long boil!

1. **"Relax and have a homebrew."** (Please note that this is almost impossible to do if it's your first time brewing and you are not brewing with someone who has experience. You can certainly drink commercial beer. Really this point relates to the next point...) But truly, this is THE cardinal rule. It

continued ►►

2007 National Homebrew Convention in Denver

Rob Westendorf

This year's National Homebrew Convention is June 21-23, in Denver. As part of our promotion for the 2008 Cincinnati convention, the sponsoring clubs would like to coordinate our activities in Denver. We plan to act together to participate in Club Night and Hospitality Suite activities. In addition, we'd like to cooperate in actually getting to Denver, including getting our beer there. If you are planning on going to Denver, or even just *thinking* about it, we'd like to hear from you.

Please contact Rob Westendorf (R_Westendorf@fuse.net, 513-245-1224) if you have an interest in the Denver convention. Thanks!



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Bosmopolitan is the official newsletter of the Bloatarian Brewing league (BBL), the original homebrew club of the Greater Cincinnati area. Annual dues are \$15, and include an electronic subscription to this newsletter. (A paper subscription is \$5 extra)

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Meeting Policy

All members and guests are required to abide by the following rules at all club meetings and events: Learn something new, teach something you know, bring something good to share (bring more than you drink), taste small samples, give other brewers lots of comments (good or bad) on their beers, and don't drive if you feel even slightly affected.

Editor's Address

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Advertising Rates

Advertising is graciously accepted.

The rates are as follows:

Full page: 1 issue: \$32, 3 issues: \$75
Half Page: 1 issue: \$17, 3 issues: \$40
Quarter Page: 1 issue: \$10, 3 issues: \$25

Contact the editor for more information, including submission requirements. Back issues are available at no cost on the BBL website at www.bloatarian.org/

Club Officers 2007-2008

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Treasurer: Kevin Spatz
513-791-9355 kevin.spatz@bostonbeer.com

Secretary: Paula Sup
513-933-0020 paulasup@yahoo.com

Barley Brittle

With Easter quickly approaching, here is a Dan Listermann special to satisfy even the sweetest Bloatarian sweet tooth.

Heavily spray a shallow baking pan with PAM-type spray

Take:

½ C. corn syrup + 1 C. sugar

Microwave together in a microwave-safe deep bowl for 4 min.

Add:

½ C. pale malt + ½ C. torrified wheat

Microwave for 3 min.

Add:

1 t. butter + 1 t. vanilla

Microwave 1 min.

Add:

1 t. baking soda

Spread in pan and cool.

BBL Membership Application

Yes, I want to become the best homebrewer I can be, learn more about the art and science of brewing, and especially participate in the secret Bloatarian ceremonies! I certify that I am of legal age to consume alcoholic beverages, with a sincere interest in homebrewing, and am willing to abide by the club bylaws and other reasonable decisions of the club officers. I promise to behave responsibly around alcoholic beverages. By joining and/or attending BBL activities, I agree to take full responsibility for my own actions and waive any and all claims against club, club officers, members, or their designates.

I also have \$15 to spare, so sign me up!

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Check this box if you prefer to receive your newsletter by regular mail
(\$5 per year additional fee)

Signature (required)

Return this form along with check (payable to the Bloatarian Brewing League) to:
Kevin Spatz, 9557 Main, Cincinnati, OH 45242

CALENDAR

When you hear something your fellow homebrewers would be interested in, tell us about it so we can spread the word.

MARCH

- 10Group Brew
EIEIO Stout BBB @ Sup's
- 16Monthly Meeting
Listermann's, 7:30
March Beer Madness

APRIL

- 2Officer's Meeting
Andy Melchers' House, 7:30
- 20Monthly Meeting
Mecklenburg Gardens, 7:30
Pick-a-Style: Pale Ales

MAY

- 5National Homebrew Day
Somewhere, Sometime.
- 7Officer's Meeting
Ron and Paula Sup's House, 7:30
- 19Monthly Meeting
Listermann's, 7:30
Bloatarian Open

JUNE

- 4Officer's Meeting
Kevin Spatz's House, 7:30
- 15Monthly Meeting
Mecklenburg Gardens, 7:30
Gadget Night
Pick-a-Style: Wheat beers (more than 50% wheat)
- 21-23....AHA National Homebrewers Convention
Denver, Colorado

JULY

- 2Officer's Meeting
D&J Manor, 7:30
- 20Monthly Meeting
Listermann's, 7:30
2007 Iron Brewer Competition
- 21Ewing Annual Pool Party
Cookout and campout

AUGUST

- 6Officer's Meeting
John Zeller's House, 7:30
- 17Monthly Meeting
Beer and Sweat Setup
- 182007 Beer and Sweat

SEPTEMBER

- 4Officer's Meeting (Tuesday)
Ray Snyder's House, 7:30
- 21Monthly Meeting
Listermann's, 7:30
Beer and Food Potluck
- 22Sixth Annual Cornhole Blowout
DJ Manor

OCTOBER

- 1Officer's Meeting
Listermann's, 7:30
- 19Monthly Meeting
Mecklenburg Gardens, 7:30
Bloatarian Retrospective
Pick-A-Style: Barleywines

NOVEMBER

- 5Officer's Meeting
Listermann's, 7:30
- 16Monthly Meeting
Listermann's, 7:30
Holiday Beers

DECEMBER

- 3Officer's Meeting
Listermann's, 7:30
- ??Christmas Party
Somewhere, Sometime

Upcoming Competitions

MARCH

- 109th Annual Drunk Monk Challenge
Aurora, IL
<http://www.knaves.org/dmc/>
- 10SODZ British Beer Fest
Columbus, OH
<http://www.sodz.org/>

APRIL

- 20AHA National Homebrew Competition 1st Round East Region
Westlake, OH
<http://www.beertown.org/events/nhc/index.html>

MAY

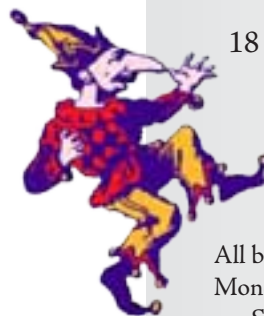
- 18Bloatarian Open
Listermann's
Club only competition

JULY

- 20Iron Brewer
Listermann's
Club only competition

AUGUST

- 12Kentucky State Fair
<http://www.kystatefair.org/>
- 18Beer and Sweat
Cincinnati, OH
Keg only competition



All board meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at Listermann Brewery Supply, 1621 Dana Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45212, 513-731-1130 unless otherwise noted. Meetings begin at 7:30 with a toast to cenosillicaphobia. All members are welcomed to attend. It's a good forum to discuss club business, new topics, and a good excuse to get out of the house and enjoy a few good beers!



HOPPENINGS

Bockfest 2007

Darryl Dieckman

Once again the Bloatarians joined the many revelers and paraded as Monks and Beer Wenches and dispersed hops and havoc along the way. The weather held up (mostly) and as always we had a great time.

But I also talked to the Bockfest organizer this week and he confirmed that he was indeed billed by the city for public services incurred during the Bockfest celebration.

There was a resolution passed last year in which the city decided to shoot off its own foot by charging for any sort of thing that might actually attract people into downtown.

<http://news.enquirer.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070220/NEWS01/302200046/1056/COL02>

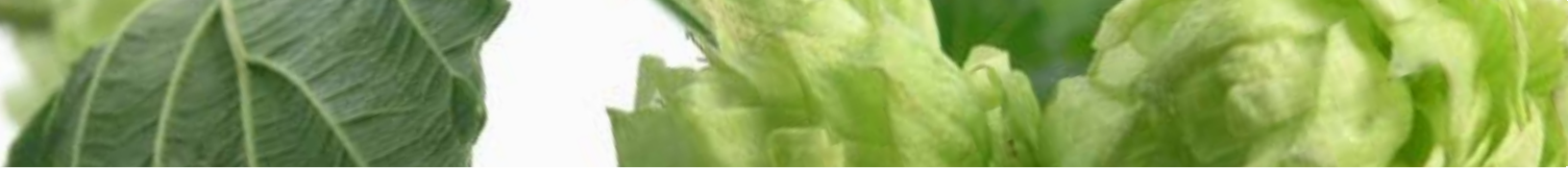
It looks like a resolution was recently passed to allow the St. Patricks parade to be exempt, but Bockfest is missing from that list.

<http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/council/uploads/agendat.html>

The organizer, however, seems upbeat that next years festival will happen, but the fees really need to be worked out. Finally, he really *really* wants a homebrew competition. I told him that I would pursue the issue with the Bloats/CMI and that the Bloats will be seriously considering a 2008 Bockfest homebrew competition.



Beer Quoted: *“When I read about the evils of drinking, I gave up reading.”*
— Henny Youngman



Homebrewed Mistakes *continued*

will all come together. Don't get yourself all worked up if something doesn't go your way. It's only beer. ☺

2. **Don't drink your entire first batch before brewing your second batch.** You'll kick yourself if you forget this. One of the best times to savor your labors is while brewing. (I actually did remember this one. And I was really glad that I did since I brewed my second batch with my Dad.)
3. **Don't drink so much that you forget where you are in your process.** You might forget to add something important... like hops. Uhm, yeah. See above.
4. **WATCH YOUR BOIL!** We all have boil-overs. And no matter how many times you'll hear this one, you'll probably still have it happen to you sooner or later. When you have the equipment to brew outside, it's not so bad when all you have to do is spray down the deck. It's more difficult to spray down your kitchen. (Who doesn't remember scrubbing down the kitchen stove after their obscenely sticky extract boil-over crawled into crevices and parts you didn't even know existed on your stove?)
5. **Take notes.** This is an on-going tragedy of mine. If you make a fantastic batch, but don't have the documentation to back it up, you will probably never be able to duplicate it. Definitely think about this for beers that you plan to enter into competitions. They will always ask you for your recipe and brewing details!
6. **Remember that your hydrometer is not calibrated for temperature.** There are many online tools (<http://leebrewery.com/beermath.htm>) that you can use to get a true reading if you want to test your gravity before it cools to room temperature. (Or perhaps you already have a refractometer. Very cool instrument.) This is important if you want to wow your friends with phrases like, "its OG was just over 1.080 and finished at .012. I'm expecting an ABV over 8%."
7. **Gravity Counts.** You must take the original gravity hydrometer reading *before* pitching your yeast. Hence, original.
8. **Sanitize your yeast package before pitching.** Yes, even if you are using dry yeast and it's in a paper/foil package. Cleanliness is next to godliness in the world of homebrewing. You will never have a good batch of beer if you use dirty and/or unsanitized equipment.
9. **Aerate.** Shake the hell out of your ale pail after pitching your yeast. (With the lid closed, *please!*)
10. **If your beer is bubbling, let it be.** It's still fermenting and any source of oxygen that you let in at this time could cause some pretty swell flavors and aromas in your beer that you probably don't want.
11. **Be a Thief.** If you are going to open your pail to take hydrometer readings to gauge your fermentation rate, I highly recommend using a "beer (wine) thief." This will really help to NOT let in too much oxygen during fermentation.
12. **Be aware of thermal shock.** If you are NOT using a wort chiller, be sure to add some cold water to your primary BEFORE adding your hot wort. I did have a friend once that cracked his carboy by NOT doing this; thus losing his entire batch. The thermal shock rule also goes for hot sanitizer (so my newly-homebrewed friend says!)
13. **Relax and have a homebrew.** (This is really really really really *really* important!)



#4. Boilover in all it's glory.

You might be a homebrewer if...

the workers at the hardware store ask how the latest homebrew is coming.

April 7 marks Repeal of Prohibition anniversary

Did you know that on April 7, 1933 (the year prohibition was repealed) beer was the first legal beverage to be allowed once again. Not until December 5 of that year could other alcohol also be purchased on the up and up. So today the tradition continues that on April 7 craft brewers all across America will raise a pint to celebrate the 'Repeal of Prohibition'.

They want you to help them comemorate the day and will offer thanks in the form of specials, unique brews, camaraderie, merry making and more. Using the locator at Beertown.org to view happenings at breweries in your state.



Why Brewers Celebrate April 7

While the full repeal of Prohibition came on December 5, 1933, an amendment to Prohibition legalized beer with 3.2 percent alcohol by weight (4.0 percent by volume) starting on April 7 of that year. In fact, the first public delivery of beer went to the White House to honor Franklin Delano Roosevelt who had won the presidency in part because he favored repeal. From April 7 on, the country's brewers were back in business and Americans enjoyed legal beer for eight months before wine and spirits were once again legitimate.

Today, brewers bring Americans a lot more than just beer. Since the 1970s, the ranks of brewers have grown to include more than 1400 small, traditional and independent craft beer makers. Each contributes jobs and a variety of local and federal taxes to the economy.

In 2006 the craft beer industry did \$3.8 billion of business and that number is growing!

sourced from www.beertown.org

April 2 Board Meeting

It was decided this year to hold the Spring and Summer Board Meetings at the homes of your Bloatarian Officer's. The first of these meetings, held on April 2, will be hosted by Andy Melchers, yours truly and Minister of Propaganda. We'll meet at my house in Westwood at the same 7:30 time. I'll have a couple of my homebrews available and as always bring some of yours to share. If the weather cooperates I have a big front porch we can use. All are welcome to participate.

Andy Melchers
3023 Hull Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45211
(513) 662-1431

MAP IT
and get directions

Jimmy McMillan Fundraiser

Many of you know Jimmy McMillan's (GM of Beer Sellar) son had a terrible accident. He was walking up the steps to his second story condo and somehow lost his balance or got dizzy and fell over the railing onto the ground landing on his head. He has been in the Intensive Care Unit in touch and go condition for almost a month. He and his wife have no health insurance. Jimmy has made many trips back and forth and has slept in the waiting room for many a long night. They still don't know how it is going to turn out. So The Beer Sellar and Hooters are putting on a benefit to help cover some of the medical expenses.

Saturday, April 14, 2007 7:30 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.
The Beer Sellar, 301 Riverboat Row, Newport, Ky.

\$20.00 per person donation at door includes 3 beer OR 2 wine tickets
Appetizer buffet 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

All donations will benefit the on-going medical costs and expenses associated with the care of Jimmy McMillan Jr.!!

Must be 21 or older -- identification required at door.

Raffle Items Requested!

Know someone in the beer business? Have an unused item in excellent condition to donate? Out and about? It's time to start asking for raffle donations for Beer and Sweat 2007 in return for publicity. Remember it's always fun to win something!



March Board Meeting

March 5 . Rock Bottom . 7:30pm

Attendees: Jennifer H., Andy M., Ray S., Kevin S., Darryl D., Dan L., Rob W., Brian B., Dave LeB., John Z., Phil M & Lisa,

Minutes:

Ray S. Bockfest — We won an award for "Best new entry or old friend" which was a commemorative beer glass
 — Newly revived Hudy Bock beer was not very good
 — Thanks to Darryl for spear-heading the effort to get Bloats to the event
 — Camera card reader not working so we will have to wait for his photos from Bockfest.
 — Group brew on Sat 10th at Sup's for the EIEIO Stout will go into a bourbon barrel for AHA 08.

Rob W. — Reported on AHA '07 in Denver regarding attendees. See blurb in this newsletter
 — Asking Bloats to try to remember when other club competitions are and not schedule events on top of them. i.e. SODZ British Beer Fest and Group Brew on Sat 10th. They really need judges.

Brian B. — Brief overview of March Madness event. Brought a great smoked porter, first brew at his new house.

Jennifer H. — Reminding of the April theme of Hoppy Beers. Have them ready to drink and talk about.
 — May is Bloat Open, tentatively scheduled for 5pm on Saturday the 19th. It worked well last year.
 + Time and date passed by majority vote.
 + Changes to entry fees discussed. Approved as follows:
 — \$10 entry fee with no entry limit
 — A single entry will be \$5
 — First time entrants receive their entries free. (must join BBL to receive this offer)
 — B&S '07 Fees discussed. Suggested we discuss at a future date. Passed.
 — If you have AHA theme ideas be sure to submit them to Jen Becker before the end of April!

Andy M. — Get you butt to Rock Bottom and try a Sub-Zero Porter!

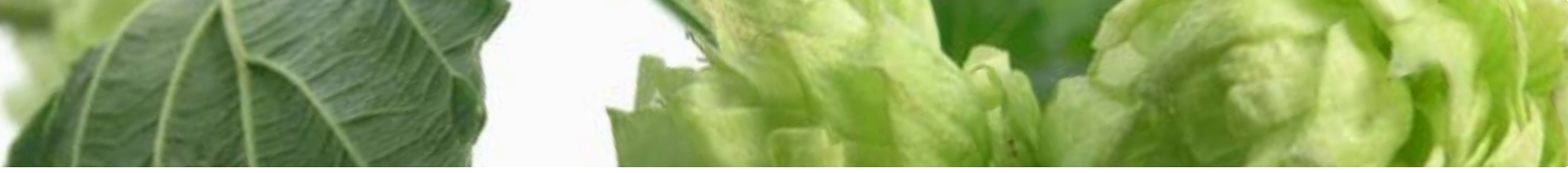


The Iron Brewer 2007 Reminder

THE GRAIN BILL IS:

- + 6 lbs. PALE malt
- + 4 lb. MUNICH or VIENNA malt
- + 8 oz. Crystal or Caramel Malt
- + 4 oz. DARK Malt (any variety darker than Munich, must be MALT)

Special Ingredient: Cinnamon Sticks Quantity: 12 inches



Craft Brewers Accused of Alcohol Manipulation

Alexandria, VA - The Campaign for Alcohol-Free Kids (AFK) is using a recent Harvard report that shows increases in alcohol in non-distilled beverages over the past 9 years as supporting documentation that Congress must enact the AFK-supported FDA legislation that has stalled during the past two sessions, but which has been given new life with the recent change in Congressional leadership.

The Campaign argues that because breweries are “secretly” and deliberately manipulating alcohol levels, Congress must enact legislation so that the FDA can regulate the constituents of non-distilled beverages.

The chief practice among brewers of high-alcohol beverages that continues to impact children is the addition of large amounts of alpha-acids which disguise and mask the presence of alcohol. The AFK-supported FDA legislation proposes strict limits on the ratio of alpha-acid and alcohol in all beverages in order to protect children.

Surprisingly, both Anheuser-Busch and SABMiller are backing this legislation with help from Senators Kurt Bond (Missouri-R) and Blanche Pryor (Arkansas-D). According to SABMiller spokesperson Patricia Aimes, “It may seem contradictory for us to support these limits, but I assure you that this is for the protection of the children.” However, craft brewers across the country are crying foul. Jack Gravers, brewmaster at Oregon's Black Butte brewery and producer of Big Butte Imperial Stout says, “This is another attempt by big-beer to dilute American taste buds and create an uneven playing field for small businesses.”

In an unusual turn of events, Aimes' son was recently suspended from high-school after arriving intoxicated at a school function with one half a case of canned beer and what is typically referred to as a “beer bong” in his knapsack. Jack Gravers' daughter Emily recently received national recognition for an essay titled “Human Rights and Geo-Political Influences in Sub-Saharan Africa”.

The Top Ten Signs That You're Being Stalked By A Leprechaun A little Irish Humor

There's always a generic-looking green van parked across the street with Notre Dame bumper stickers.

Every time you turn around the pitter-pattering stops and that green fire hydrant seems to have gotten a little closer.

Green lipstick marks on the rear of your pants.

You don't recall owning an anatomically correct green lawn gnome.

The card delivered with a bouquet of 4-leaf clovers reads, "I bet you're magically delicious!"

All those tiny green hairs on your toilet seat.

Sultry voice from your shower soap-dish asks, "Is that your shillelagh, or are you just happy to see me?"

Pink hearts, yellow moons and blue diamonds are scratched on your car at knee-level.

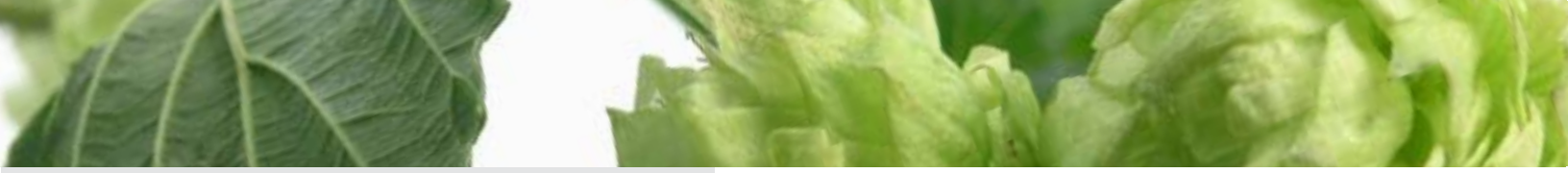
Them little green pellets in the litter box ain't M&M's, laddie.

Every day this week you've noticed the same buckle shoes dangling just above the floor in the stall next to you.



Bosmo Says:

If someone near you orders a green colored swill beer, you have every right to knock them upside the head with your shillelagh! Then suggest they drink a real beer.



Future Brewer?

Hi my name is Samuel August Melchers and I would like to say thanks to the club for gifting me two Bloatarian shirts! I'm only 6 weeks old but they fit great!



New and Renewing Members

Welcome to the following *New and Renewing Members*

Curt Kroger
Dave Kreimer
Greg Wilson

Remember, without YOU the club doesn't exist! Make it a point to talk to our new members and guests. Offer them some of your beer. Make them feel welcome. If you don't, there's a good chance they'll decide they're not welcome, and they won't come back, and that's not good!

Bloatarian Brewing League
3023 Hull Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45211

The mailing label shows your membership status.
Your renewal date is shown in YY/MM format.