

BOSMOPOLITAN

November 2007

Holiday Beers November Meeting

Friday, November 16 . Listermann's . 7:30pm

Yes, *the holidays are inching closer* and you know what that means... Whoohoo! It's time to go shopping! Now, I don't mean sifting your way through throngs of over-zealous shoppers at the local mall. Noooooo way buddy. I mean Holiday Beer Shopping. The release of Winter Warmers and Spiced Ales is what has us beer nerds in a frenzy!

Grab a selection at your local 'paint shop' and bring a few to discuss at this month's meeting. Or maybe you're one of those "planner types" and you've already brewed your own. Whatever the case we're eager to share a few sips and discuss the finer points at Listermann's this month.

Come To Kent With Me!

Jennifer Hermann

When I tell people that I graduated from Kent State University some people start singing Neil Young's *Ohio*. When I was younger, college kids would ask me if it was really the party school that they heard it was (and yes, it was, probably still is. There are at least 20 bars that I could name all within 3 blocks of each other in downtown). Beer lovers that have been to Kent always ask if Ray's is still around (yes! It still is and better than ever.) And I think that in the very near future, beer and wine seekers will ask me if I've been to Riverside Wine & Imports, which I will enthusiastically answer, "yes, we should go there sometime!"

At Riverside Wine & Imports, you can order flights of wine by region, variety or bar owner's (Bob Morson) choice, flavorful martinis AND a very inexpensive pint of beer from a marvelous draft selection. This concept is certainly new to Kent and wines by flight is a relatively new idea for Ohio. This →

DISCOUNTS!

*Hey, you! Fancy a discount?
Come to the meetings regularly?*

Maybe you should be there more often seeing as Listermann's will be offering a 10% discount on all items purchased during club activities held at the shop!

HOLIDAY SOCIAL! IS NOT IN DECEMBER!

Foiled ya didn't we?! Beer Jesters are good at that, eh?

Our wonderful friends at Mecklenburg Gardens will again host our Holiday Social in their fine establishment. In order to accommodate the hectic schedule of the holiday season for all our members and that of Mecklenburg's we've decided to celebrate in January.

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, January 5, 2008.**

As always, please bring a side dish to share and a wrapped 750ml bottle of your favorite beer if you wish to participate in the exchange.



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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/

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cartoon by Mark Stivers

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

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.

NOVEMBER

- 5Officer's Meeting
Listermann's, 7:30
- 6BJCP Class
Listermann's 7:30
- 13BJCP Class
Listermann's 7:30
- 16Monthly Meeting
Listermann's, 7:30
Holiday Beers
- 20BJCP Class
Listermann's 7:30
- 27BJCP Class
Listermann's 7:30

DECEMBER

- 3Officer's Meeting
The Pub at Rookwood, 7:30
- 4BJCP Class
Listermann's 7:30
- 5-12 . Twelve Bars of Beermas
see listing in this issue

JANUARY 08

- 5Christmas Party
Mecklenburgs 6pm

Upcoming Competitions

NOVEMBER

- 12 Wizard of SAAZ
<http://hbd.org/saaz/wos/>
Entry Fee: \$8.00 per
Entry Deadline: 10/27/2007

JANUARY

- 26 Meadllemium
<http://www.cfhb.org/mead/>
Entry Fee: \$6.00
Entry Deadline: 01/19/2008

FEBRUARY

- 23 SODZ British Beerfest
<http://www.sodz.org/>
Entry Fee: \$6 for first entry,
\$4 per additional
Entry Deadline: 02/15/2008



Printed Version Courtesy of



11137 Reading Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45241
513-554-1797
www.allegracinci.com

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

The 12 Days of Beermas!

The Board decided that this year it would be in the best interest of our club and our gracious hosts at Mecklenburg Gardens to push the usual December Holiday Party into January. **Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 5th, 6pm at Mecklenburg Gardens!** We'll have a potluck as usual and the traditional 750ml bottle exchange. More details to come! In the meantime, lets get together **often** in December to share our love for beer!

We are all so busy in December, especially on the week-ends. But there is always time for beer, isn't there? We have named this bloated time for beer in December "The Twelve Days of Beermas." This will essentially take the place of the regular monthly meeting, replacing it with a plethora of meetings, and will give us all an opportunity to try a new beer bar or get out of the house to relax and enjoy some good beer close to home with your fellow Bloatarians.

There is no schedule set other than the places listed below. Food is available at all places with the exception of Vince's. Most places you can easily find on the web for directions and selections. But, you are all encouraged to add something to the calendar at Bloatarian.org if you know of a special brew that is being featured at a particular night's bar. Meeting times will vary according to everyone's schedules, with the exception of the at least the first night, December 3rd (Board Meeting) to be held at The Rookwood Pub. Join us at the head table for dinner at 6:30 with the Bloated Boards to follow promptly at 7:30!

We want to see you here:

Monday, 12/3 The Pub at Rookwood (Board Meeting)
http://www.nicholsonspub.com/pub_rookwood.html
2692 Madison Road, Suite G1, Cincinnati, Ohio 45208
841-BRIT

Tuesday, 12/4 - last beer judge class
(no pub scheduled)

Wednesday, 12/5 Hofbraühaus Newport
<http://www.hofbrauhausnewport.com/>
3rd & Saratoga at the Levee, Newport, KY 41071
859-491-7200

Thursday, 12/6 Brazenhead Irish Pub
<http://thebrazenhead.com/home.php>
5650 Tylersville Road, Mason, OH 45040 513-229-0809

Friday, 12/7 Vince's Other Place
7701 Hamilton Ave, Mt. Healthy, OH 729-4525

Monday, 12/10 Anthony's Cigar Bar
<http://www.anthonysofwestchester.com/>
7641 Voice of America Center Drive, West Chester, OH
513-779-3455

Tuesday, 12/11 Fox and Hound
<http://www.tentcorp.com/>
5113 Bowen Drive, Mason, OH 45040 229-7921

Wednesday, 12/12 Nicholson's
<http://www.nicholsonspub.com/nicholsons.html>
625 Walnut, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 564-9111

Thursday, 12/13 Rockbottom Brewery
www.rockbottom.com
10 Fountain Square Plaza, Cincinnati, OH 45202
513-621-1588

Friday, 12/14 Steinskeller's
15 East High Street, Oxford, OH 45056 (513) 524-2437

Monday, 12/17 The Comet
<http://www.cometbar.com/>
579 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 513-541-8900

Tuesday, 12/18 Dilly Deli
<http://www.dillydeli.com/home.html>
6818 Wooster Pike, Mariemont, OH 45227 513-561-5233

Wednesday, 12/19 Crooked Nail Pub
9303 Cincinnati Columbus Rd, West Chester, OH 4506
513-755-7800

Thursday, 12/20 Teller's
<http://www.tellersofhydepark.com/>
2710 Erie Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45208

Build Your Own?

Dave Harsh

Back in the day, the bloats got together to build brewing equipment such as wort chillers - several people all built one at the same time in sort of a barn raising type event. Well, moving forward a few years (we really haven't done that for a long time) the last issue of *Brew Your Own* had an article about building a brewstand and actually included specs on how to accomplish this on your own. Since everyone doesn't weld, the plan is to recruit the welders in the club and attempt to knock together a few on some as-yet-unnamed date.

This is still a VERY preliminary discussion, but we were wondering about how many people would be interested in constructing one of these beasts. If you are, please contact me and as we move I'll keep you in the loop. We have yet to discuss how many we could do in one session so if you get left out, it isn't personal - simply a matter of when you stepped up as an interested party! And no, we don't know costs yet either, but we're going to figure it out before we go too far. I will warn you that if we decide on stainless, you are looking at around \$400 just for the raw metal, so keep that in mind. Our plan is to construct only the stand - the burners and everything else would be your responsibility. But it would be interesting to see how the finished products differed among club members.



You might be a homebrewer if...

it started out as a hobby then ended up as a habit.

Bloats Score Big at OctobersBest

Congrats to our Bloatarian Brewers who placed at CMI's OctobersBest competition in October.

And a special "Atta-boy" to Rob Westendorf for bringing home the Best of Show Award.

American Ambers and Light Hybrids

3rd Brian Evenson

Smoked and Wood-Aged Beers

3rd Tim McPartlin

Belgian Dark Ales

1st Phil Meyer, Belgian Dubbel

3rd Rob Westendorf, Belgian Dark Strong Ale

Porters and Stouts

2nd Tim McPartlin, Foreign Extra Stout

IPA

1st Rob Westendorf, Imperial IPA

Strong Ales

2nd Tim McPartlin, Strong Scotch Ale

Brown Ales

3rd Tim McPartlin, American Brown

Belgian Pale Beers

1st Rob Westendorf, Belgian Blonde

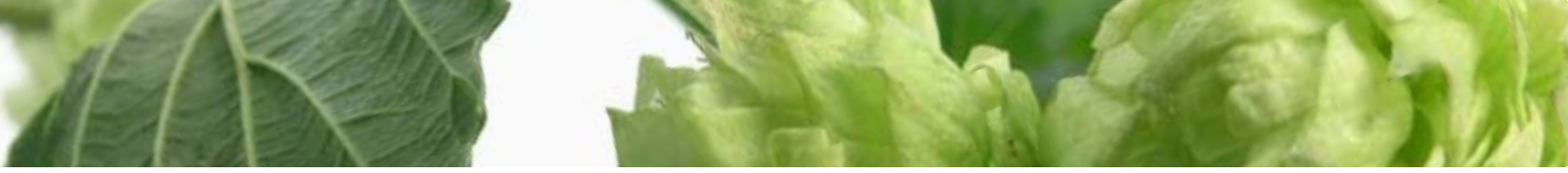
Honorable Mention, Best of Show:

Rob Westendorf, Imperial IPA

Best of Show:

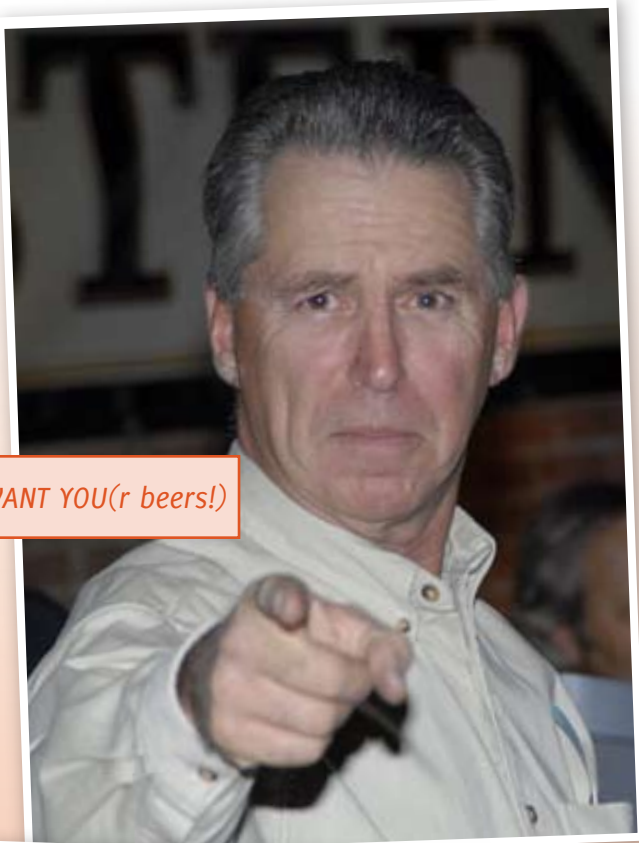
Rob Westendorf, Belgian Blonde





Twenty Years of Bloatarianism

At the November meeting we were graced with the presence of a few the founding members of the Bloatarian Brewing League. Ray Spangler gave a presentation with many great old photos and a sampling of the secret ceremony. Lots of laughs and great stories filled the night, while the Barleywine helped loosen us up. JA-EEP!



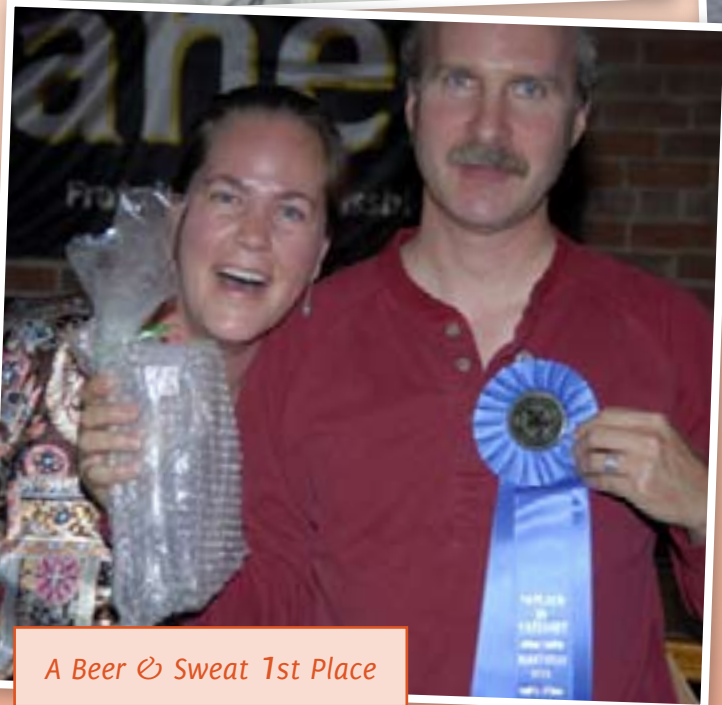
I WANT YOU(r beers!)



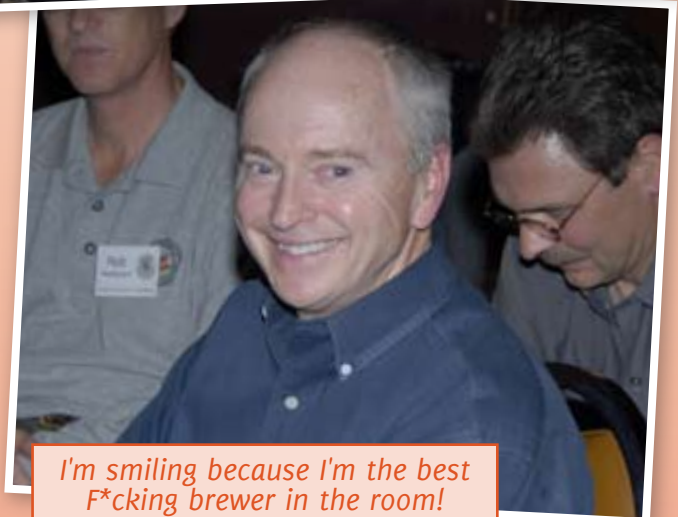
*When I drink alone,
I prefer to be by myself*



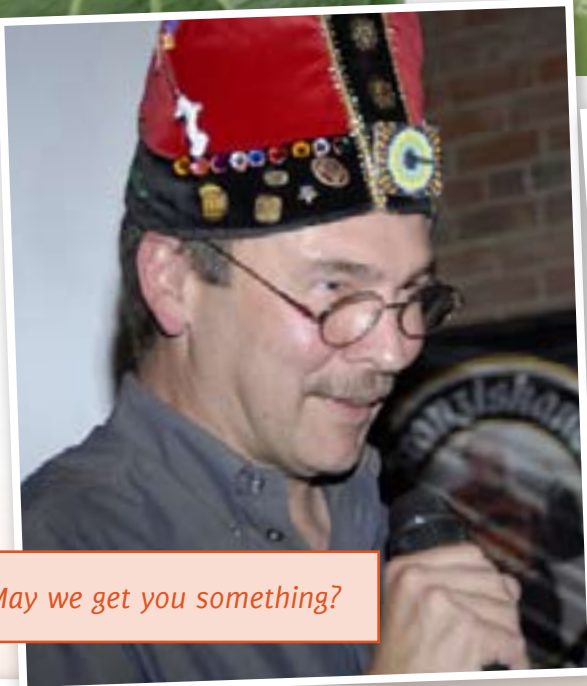
*I'm smiling because I have
no idea what's going on*



A Beer & Sweat 1st Place



*I'm smiling because I'm the best
F*cking brewer in the room!*



May we get you something?



Presidents Past & Present



The Electric Amish gave a speech



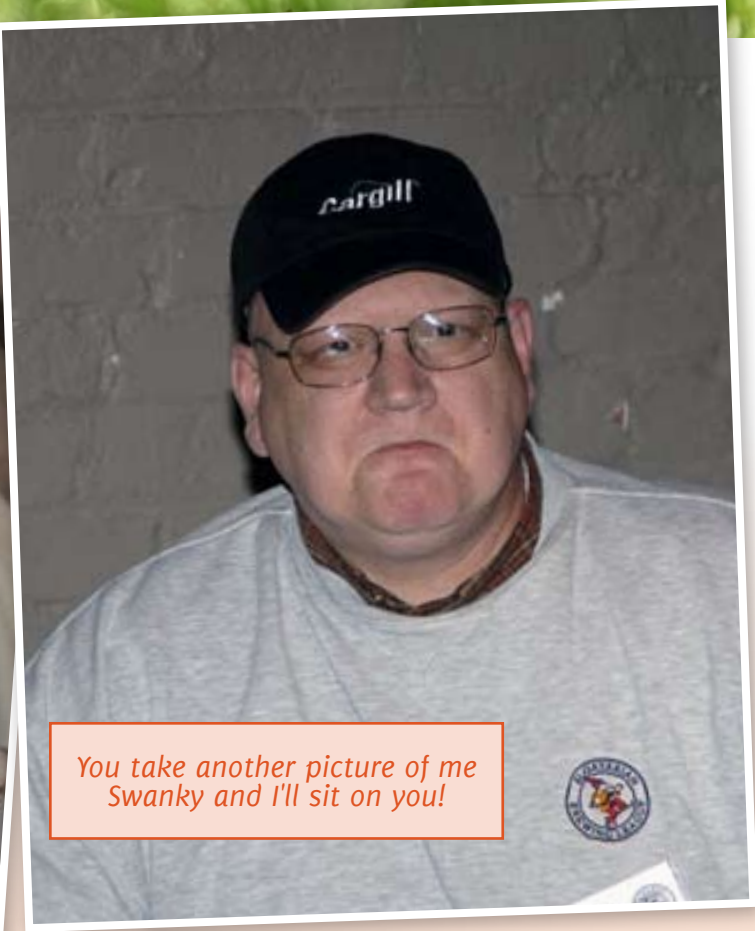
Ministration of Propagandi



The Salute



My Preeeeecious!



You take another picture of me Swanky and I'll sit on you!

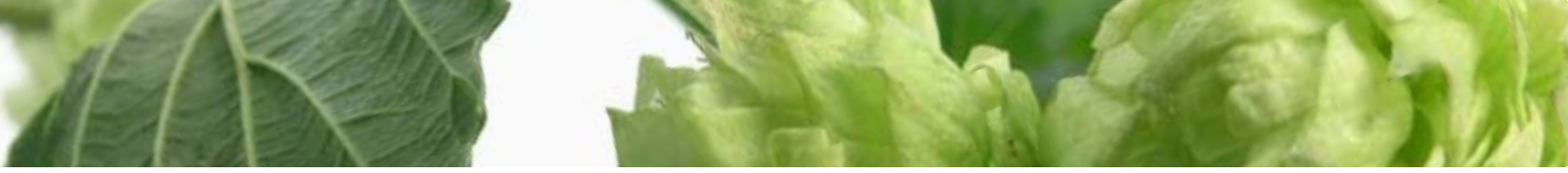


DJ Seth lays down a beat



Cenosilicaphobia? Oh yeah!





Come With Me... cont.

cute little place is located just ½ mile from one of my favorite places in the world, the house where I grew up. It sits on the banks of the Cuyahoga and is about halfway upstream from LD Carlsons Co.

Over the years, I have watched Bob's place blossom from a specialty beer and wine carryout store into a hip spot for friends to gather to enjoy fine wines and fantastic beers on premises. Now there is even more reason to visit with the recent addition of an outdoor deck patio that over looks the beautiful Cuyahoga River flowing beneath Kent's train tracks. The deck is adorned with fountains and heat lamps, has 2 levels and will seat about 140 people. Bob says this about his place in a recent edition of the Kent Stater, "My goal all along has been to make this a destination point...When you come into town and you are a college student, I would love to be in the same breath as Ray's. 'Have you been to Riverside, have you been to Ray's?'"

So, Have you been to Ray's? Have you been to Riverside? Wouldn't you like to come with me sometime? I have had this idea of a road trip north for a while and now I have the yet another place to add to my list of stops. I'm thinking that we may need more than Saturday and Sunday afternoon to make it though ☺. I'm sure that there are other places that should be visited, but this would be my perfect road trip if I had only Saturday and Sunday to play with. Travel to Kent takes 4 hours, so I'd leave by 8am Saturday at the latest.

A stop at the Thirsty Dog in Akron should be first for a pint or two. Ray's has the best burgers and fries for lunch and just check out the beer list at www.raysplacekent.com. If we're lucky, the weather would be perfect for a walk around town or down by the river. You can walk most of the way down the river to Riverside, if you felt the need for a little nature with your beer. Or, there are plenty of other bars on Franklin Ave that you might like to check. We could make a stop at Beer 101 just across from the University and just down the street from my house where we could get a quick game of Cornhole in. (!) Then we'd head over to Riverside to enjoy the deck while enjoying a pint, flight, or martini. There is a light menu if you needed to munch or satisfy curiosities about the cheese plates available. Check out Riverside's website www.riverside-wine.com. This could put us at a 5-6pm departure time for Cleveland. After checking into our hotel, you could have your choice to dine at Great Lakes www.greatlakesbrewing.com or the fairly new Belgian beer bar at Beir Markt www.bier-markt.com which is right around the corner. Both are absolutely fantastic experiences if you have never had the opportunity. This would be a great Saturday night extravaganza!

If I really had my choice, this road trip would take longer than Saturday and Sunday, but its beer for thought for some-time perhaps with a bus or perhaps just a caravan. I'm sure to go home though before this sort of thing would actually be planned, so I'll let you know how the beer is in Kent when I do.

Oh, a last note about Riverside beers. I wasn't aware that their draft selections (now 14 on tap and no crap on tap) were available online while I was there, so I wrote them all down on a some scratch paper. While I was writing this article, I happened to turn over the paper which was obviously an old beer menu where I found The Reverend Sinister Minister and Brother Thelonius intermingled between Jah-va Coffee Stout and Great Lakes Prohibition Pilsner... just to make sure you know that Rob is seriously passionate about beer.

UPCOMING: December Board Meeting

Monday, December 3 . The Pub at Rookwood . 7:30pm

We'll hold a short meeting and social at The Pub at Rookwood. See you there!

http://www.nicholsonspub.com/pub_rookwood.html
2692 Madison Road, Suite G1, Cincinnati, Ohio 45208
841-BRIT





The Hop World is Upside Down

sourced from www.freshops.com

For US hops, 2007 is looking like an average crop, but many varieties came in less than expected.

World acreage: 1986: 215,600 1992: 236,000 2006: 123,000

Ralph's best guess is that in 1992 the acreage should have been between 160,000 - 170,000 if it was to match world demand/usage at that time. The 1990's excess hop crop ended up being processed into pellets and extracts, building up substantial excess inventory. Excess production that was many years old was selling on the open market and as a result brought prices down. Hop prices had dropped so low in recent years that in many cases they were lower than what it costs to grow.

High-alpha hops and some aroma hops are going overseas - the high rate of the Euro is a factor.

In the late 1990's and early 2000's the prices were depressed and growers were starting to throw in the towel, to either switch to other crops, or sell out to real estate developers. The ones who stayed in it and managed to survive without going under are pleased to be in this situation which is 180 degrees opposite from where it was about 10 years ago.

The demand of craft beer is up 16% alone this year with many of those beers having high hop requirements.

It takes three years to get full production of a new hop field, however, we don't have the number of growers needed to put new acres in, the total of US growers is about 45, down from more than 2000 in 1978. About 2000 new acres are going in this year almost all of those are high alpha...

What's the bottom line? Certain varieties are getting more expensive. A few varieties will run out faster than ever. Brewers have to be willing to try other varieties. Brewmasters, brewery owners, and marketing and sales managers must prepare for the potential need to substitute different hops, to replace varieties that currently give your beers their "signature" flavor. That's what we'll have to get used to, the fact that there may be slight flavor variations over the next several years, as the hop industry works to correct this situation.. It's not going to get better soon, but will be likely just as bad, or worse, for the crops from 2008 and 2009, in other words, for beers brewed from now through 2010.

So hops are going to be tight and more expensive for the foreseeable future. Now is the brewers opportunity to brew with many of the other fine herbs that can and do flavor beer. Check out mansgarden.com/brewing.html for a good list of plants that are used in brewing...

Hoppily. Dave Wills—purveyor of fine hops

October Board Minutes

November 5 . Listermann's . 7:30pm

Attendees: Ray S., Ron and Paula S., Kevin S., Dan L., John Z., Dave H., Andy M., Chuck B., Dave LeB., Swanky

Ray opened with mention that the Fossils annual Porter competition is at Rich O's on the 10th.

Discussed the 12 Bars of Beermas. Some will have a special brew for us!

AHA Convention hotel is SOLD OUT!

AHA Convention commemorative beer is determined. Recipe being formulated.

Discussed the necessity of a legal review regarding Beer & Sweat.

Beer Quoted:

Life alas, is very drear. Up with the glass, down with the beer!

— Louis Untermeyer

Your Computer Needs to get MORE BLOATED!



Hey, check out the cool Bloatarian
wallpapers for your computer in the
gallery section of our website!

New and Renewing Members

Welcome to the following *New* and *Renewing* Members

Matthew Defoe

Chris Nascimento

Ken & Sue Bertke

Andy Grigg

Brian St. Clair

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!

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

Bloatarian Brewing League
3023 Hull Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45211