

BOSMOPOLITAN

December 2007

Holiday Social

Saturday, January 5 . Listermann's . 6:00pm

THE HOLIDAY SOCIAL HAS BEEN RELOCATED!

Listermann's will host our Holiday Social this year.

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.



OOPS!

There was an omission in Bismopolitan last month. Michael Carver placed 3rd in the CMI Octobers Best competition in the Belgian Ale category.

Michael said, "...*this was my first beer I have ever entered, so I'm very excited about placing!*" Make sure you give Mike a pat on the back next time you see him!

Dark Lord Day!

Three Floyds makes an Imperial Stout called Dark Lord. A number of sources have called it the best beer made in America, and #2 worldwide (Westv-letern is considered #1). It's released only one day a year, and only at the brewery. In 2008 that day is Saturday, April 19th. The event has grown so large it's been booked in the local Civic Center to handle the crowd.



INSIDE

Legalese / Membership Info2
Bloatarian Calendar of Events3
13 Days of Beermas Update4
Christmas Beers5

Dec Board Minutes6
Bockfest 20086
Thanksgiving Brewout Pics6

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)

All contents are copyright © 2007, Bloatarian Brewing League, and may not be reproduced elsewhere in print or electronic form without written permission from the editor. Full credit must be given to both the author and the BBL. Unsigned material is editorial matter or authored by the editor.

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

Andy Melchers
3023 Hull Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45211
phone: 513-662-1431
email: amelchers@fuse.net

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

President: Jennifer Hermann
513-522-2436 bathingotis@yahoo.com

Vice President: Ray Snyder
513-759-2573 raysnyder@fuse.net

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

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

UPCOMING: January Board Meeting

Monday, January 7 . Listermann's . 7:30pm

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.

DECEMBER

- 3Officer's Meeting
The Pub at Rookwood, 7:30
- 4BJCP Class
Listermann's 7:30
- 5-20 .Twelve Bars of Beermas
see listing in this issue

JANUARY 08

- 5Christmas Party
Listermann's 6pm



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!

Printed Version Courtesy of



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

Upcoming Competitions

JANUARY

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

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

- 29AHA Club-Only
Competition
Perfect Porter Challenge
<http://www.beertown.org/homebrewing/schedule.html>
Entry Fee: One entry per club, \$7
(make checks payable to AHA).
Entry Deadline: 03/21/2008

MAY Bloatarian Open!

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~~¹³ Days of Beermas!

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

UPDATED!



We want to see you here:

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 Mecklenburg Gardens

<http://www.mecklenburgs.net/history.htm>

302 East University Ave.

Cincinnati, OH 45219

513-522-5353

Beer Quoted:

When discussing original gravities, Tim McPartlin exclaimed
"I remember the 60s, but I'm stuck in the 80s."

Christmas Beers

Dave Harsh

Many consider Christmas beers (or Winter Warmers) to be an actual category, but in my not so humble opinion, no group of beers can vary more. To illustrate this variation, I thought I'd give a discussion of the more popular varieties to prove my point.

Anchor Christmas

I'm a known enthusiast of this beer and believe it is largely responsible for the variety of spiced holiday ales made by American breweries. Malt dominated and not particularly hoppy, the Anchor Christmas includes a variety of spices – they don't admit what but I've always suspected cinnamon, nutmeg and other "mulled cider" spices. The underlying beer has ranged anywhere from a pale ale to a brown to a stout depending on the year. When young, this beer can be almost undrinkable but as recent tastings have shown, the older ones can be rather enjoyable.

Sierra Nevada Celebration Ale

I've never figured out how anybody thought this fit in a Christmas ale category, since it is an aggressively hopped IPA variation. No spices, just a boatload of hops. I'm not complaining, just imagine a hoppy IPA dialed up to 11, then cranked up again to 12 or 13. I love the beer, but a Christmas Ale? Fine, they can call it whatever they want and they release it every Christmas. Not only that, it's damn good.

Samuel Smith's Winter Welcome

The Brits are into the concept of the Winter Warmer, a maltier and fuller bodied version of a Northern Brown Ale. Very often these are loaded with diacetyl, which gives the beer a pleasant mouthfeel together with the increased alcohol. Enjoyable, but watch those clear glass bottles as they skunk far too easily.

The Belgians

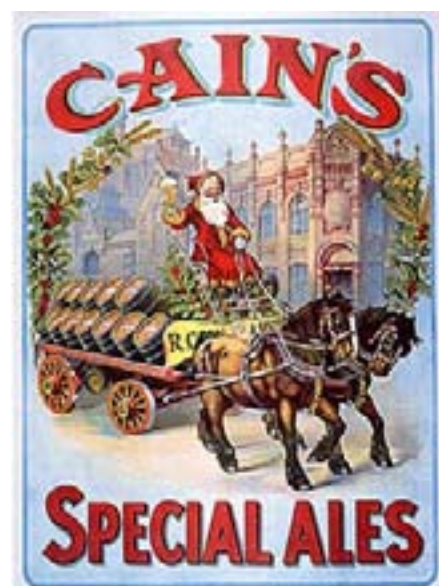
I guess the Belgians can't resist the excuse of putting out a special ale for the holidays and many of them do a great job. Jenlain's Beer de Noel, Affligem Noel, Scaldis Noel are among the many in the "beers turned up to 11" that Belgian brewers produce. These are often very similar to their regular Dubbel or Strong Dark Ale, but with an enhanced malt profile and a bit more yeast character. Many of these age remarkably well assuming you can keep them around long enough.

Samiclaus

We know Samiclaus as the world's strongest beer until its recent dethroning by Utopias. Around 14% alcohol, it is closest to being a doppel or eis-bock style if you had to categorize it. It is brewed each year on December 6th and aged for 10 months before bottling. Hardcore enthusiasts of the style will claim the original version made by Hurlimann in Switzerland superior to the current product produced at Schloss Eggenberg in Germany, but personally, I'll withhold judgement until I age some of the Eggenberg for 10 years. If you're lucky, I'll ask your opinion as well.

So the point of all this wasn't to cover every possible Holiday Ale or even claim these are the "best" versions. I just want to point out the when someone says "Christmas Beers", they aren't being very specific. So enjoy the ones you get – and remember they are always better when shared with a friend!

graphic dated at approx 1909; proving that specialty holiday ales are nothing new



**You might be a
homebrewer if...**

“coming out of the closet” means that the next batch is getting bottled.

December Board Minutes

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

Attendees on the First Night of Beermas: Jennifer H., Darryl D., Ray S., Ron and Paula S., Kevin S., Dan L., John Z., Dave H., Andy M., Dave LeB., Dick M., Bob S.

Ray suggested replacing Iron Brewer with an Imperial competition.

Tomorrow (12-4-07) is the last BJCP Class, test is on Saturday, 8th at Beer Sellar in Newport.

'08 Meetings at Mecklenbergs in question. We can no longer bring beer (homebrew or commercial) into the establishment. They have stated that they would be willing to get keg/special beer for us for our meetings. Board voted unanimously to discontinue meeting there. We will be in search of a new location for the 4 times this year that we would have previously planned to meet there.

Holiday Social will move to Listermann's.

We would still, however, like to provide a beer basket to Mecklenbergs as a thank you for their past years of kindness to the club. (please bring bottles to Listermann's before the 5th)

Bockfest 2008 – Darryl is trying to organize a competition

Regular Bloat meetings for May and June will be consumed with AHA preparations, and no regular meeting will be held.

Post Thanksgiving Brewout

Tim McPartlin's Place



Mike Carver doing his first all grain brew

Bockfest 2008

The Cincinnati Bockfest Celebration will be March 7-9, 2008 in downtown Cincinnati. In addition to the Bockfest parade on Friday evening there will be a number of events planned for Saturday. One of those events which I am trying to setup is a Bock Homebrew Competition. Yes, I know it's almost too late to start a Bock beer for that weekend, but look at it this way, if you brew a Bock beer now it will peak just in time for the National Homebrew Competition in June!

Right now the competition would include the following styles:

- 5A. Maibock/Helles Bock
- 5B. Traditional Bock
- 5C. Doppelbock
- 5D. Eisbock
- 15C. Weizenbock

I am certainly open to including other categories in the competition, just let me know what else you think should be included and why.

Since this will be the first Bockfest competition that I've tried to setup I would greatly appreciate any early feedback I can get from people that are interested.

Contact Darryl by email



Dave Harsh's setup in the midst of 10 gallons of 1.100 doppelbock



Welcome Our Newest Member!

Welcome **Alec Stephen Becker!**

Proud parents Brian and Jenny Becker are excited to share the news of their new baby boy, Alec Stephen Becker. He weighed in at 7 lbs 3oz and is 21" long.

New and Renewing Members

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

Anthony Mele
Ed Westemeier

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.

Bloartarian Brewing League
3023 Hull Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45211