



# The Brewer's League Journal

Vol. 3, No. 9

November 1998



## Great Stuff Ahead!!!



### Tom Muñoz Pulls Out The Stops!

**W**e could hardly believe what we were hearing. Those of you who missed the last brew club meeting have simply got to stop doing that! Tom has been pretty busy with his cohorts in crime, lining up speakers to come and visit us at our meetings. We sat there slack-jawed while Tom listed the speakers tentatively lined up for the next three meetings. I want to stress the tentative part, because Tom had not gotten confirmation on a couple of them, but they are looking pretty good.

Coming up in November, we will have Randy Reed from **The Snoqualmie Falls Brewery** come speak to us.

As of the last meeting, Randy didn't have a topic, but was coming to answer questions and generally hang out with us. He may spend a little time talking about the trials and tribulations of opening **The Snoqualmie Falls Brewery**, some of which I'm sure we will find amusing.

In December, Tom has managed to talk Bert Grant...that's right, Bert Grant, into coming and sharing his experiences and wisdom with us. Not only will he offer up his talents as a speaker, but he will be bringing along copies of his latest book for club-members, and he will be in a book signing mood. Tom says that the folks at **Grant's** will also be bringing a couple of their offerings for our tasting pleasure. I hate it when that happens...don't you? Bert Grant...how about that!

January is looking really good too. Dan Hawk from Pyramid Brewing Company will be coming to join us and share his experiences with Pyramid, both at the Kalama facility and now here in Seattle. This should be a very good time. I encourage you all to come and join in.

Tom is excited about the fact that the Chef at "**The Pig**" will be cooking up something special using the beers produced by our guest speakers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tom, for making us so welcome at **The Flying Pig**. We have enjoyed a real surge in interest in our club, and our meetings have never been better than they have at '**The Pig**'. Tom is very generous with his time and samples of his efforts. Most importantly to us, is that Tom has spearheaded an effort to help educate us. Tom along with Brian, and other brewers in our area are really going all out to help us be successful. Please take a minute at the next meeting to tell Tom personally, how much you appreciate what he is doing.

*By John Boy*

### In this issue...

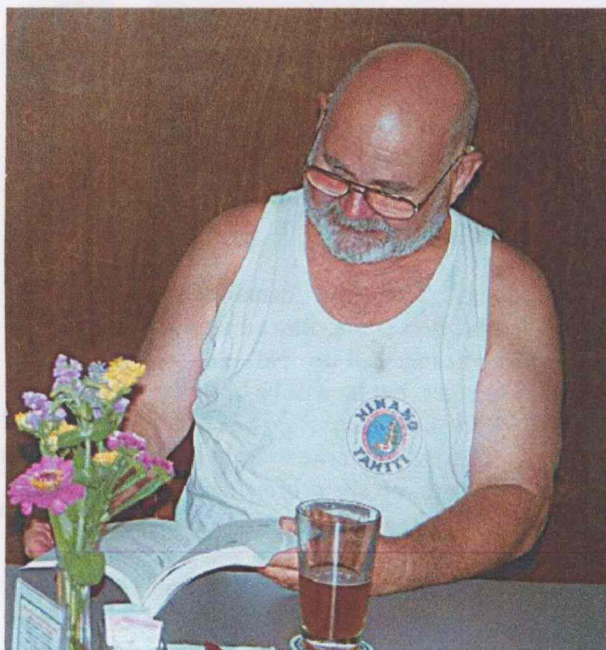
Tom Muñoz Pulls Out The Stops! . . . . .	1
A Correction and an Apology . . . . .	2
Something From Doc . . . . .	2
White Elephant Holiday Party . . . . .	2
New Printer . . . . .	2
Elections Are Upon Us . . . . .	3
We Finally Have By-Laws . . . . .	3
Bootleg Homebrew Shops . . . . .	4
1998 Style Calendar . . . . .	4
A Little Levity . . . . .	4
Treasurer's Report . . . . .	5
Everett Brew Fest On Again . . . . .	6
A Statement From The Brew Farm . . . . .	6
When Is Enough...Enough? . . . . .	7



## A Correction and an Apology

**W**e (Annie and I) owe Howard Holcomb an apology. Apparently, Howard had entered one of his beers in the Evergreen State Fair, and took away a second place ribbon for his efforts. Congratulations to you and I am sorry Howard. Next time make more noise.

## Something From Doc



**J**ohn Boy's comment in our last Newsletter has prompted me to write a response. True-it-is, that ours is the finest of newsletters, and that producing it is, in fact, a time consuming task. I look forward to receiving it more than the daily paper & crossword, more than "Fine Woodworking", in fact, more than any of the other newsletters and magazines I receive.

Only one factor has prevented submitting an article...what to say. As a brewer, I'm a rank amateur. Most of my brews are at least palatable. A few even very good, and some, the slugs won't even touch.

As to helpful hints for my fellow brewers, I have none, except perhaps that whatever the situation may be; boil-overs, bacterial intrusions, dead yeast, or like Bob's off-calibration thermometers, a mysterious ghost in the pot, the

key to it all is that we (if I may speak for others) do it for fun!

The joy of brewing for me is two-fold. First, there's the excitement of using raw ingredients to come up with something good. The end result is greater than the sum of the parts, so to speak. Second, brewing has introduced me to a group of exceedingly nice and helpful people; an association of individuals sharing a common interest; a bevy of beautiful women and handsome men; an affiliation of creative minds; a company of convivial imbibers; and an aggregation of peerless palates.

What more could a person ask for? (And a lot of free beer too!)

*By Robert Dokka*

## White Elephant Holiday Party

**A**t the October GEBL meeting, we discussed the idea of having a Holiday party at our meeting in December (personally, I thought each meeting was a holiday party). I can't remember at this point who came up with the idea, but it was met with much enthusiasm and laughter. The idea is this; if you bring it, you will get one. Simple as that. If you want to participate in the gift exchange, simply bring a gift. This should be something useful for our brewers, or it could be a gag gift. Be creative. Spend what you want to, but don't be disappointed when you get the white elephant. Traditional white elephant gift exchanges can take up quite a bit of time, and we have to bear in mind that we will have the folks from **Grant's Brewery** at our meeting. We may decide to hold the gift exchange for last, to spare Bert from having to watch our festive frivolity. Be prepared to join in and have a good time doing it (not that it, the party it). *Editors Note: I see in the October meeting minutes that Joyce thinks I write fiction. I'm sure she would like you all to believe that, but it's not really fiction. I just make most of it up!*



*By John Boy*

## New Printer

**A**s you can plainly see, we have a new printer for the GEBL newsletter. I'm going to climb up on my soapbox for a moment here and ask for your support. I have mentioned at the last two club meetings, that I felt the club should purchase a printer for the newsletter as Annie and I were on our second printer since beginning the publishing of the newsletter. I know the club spends a fair amount of our dues each year in support of the newsletter, but as the saying



goes, you get what you pay for. We could easily enough print a black and white low quality newsletter and take it to a copy shop for reproduction, but I think you all know how anal I am and that I just wouldn't enjoy publishing such an effort.

So, I have asked for and received the support of the officers in the club in reimbursing Annie and I for the cost of this wonderful printer. Now it's up to you. We need a motion and a second at the upcoming club meeting so that we can vote on whether to do this or not. The cost of the printer, paper, and a cable was approximately 575.00. I know that is a lot of money, but once again, we are very proud of our newsletter, and as an organization, we deserve it. I also want to make it crystal clear, that this printer would not belong to Annie and I. It would be a club printer, and it ever we stopped publishing the newsletter, the printer would go to whoever takes it over.

There isn't quite enough money in our treasury to reimburse Annie and I for the printer and the stamps and supplies we have used over the past 3 months. Therefore, I would like to ask you for a little extra support. One possibility would be a special assessment or donation of at least \$10.00 per person at the next club meeting. That would go a long way in relieving some of the burden from the treasury. I don't want our club to nickel and dime it's membership to death, but this is a very special opportunity that needs your full support.

We are just about to collect dues again, so that will put us back in very good financial condition, as we have always been.

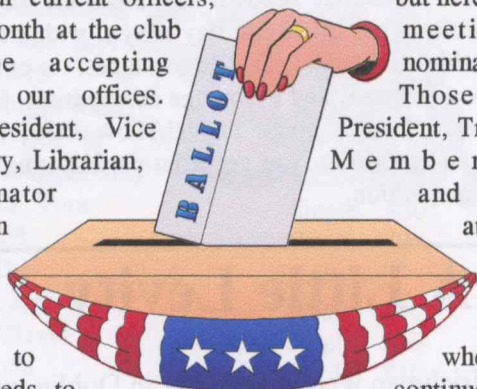
So, that's it. Please support this effort, and if you have other ideas for helping to raise the needed funds, bring them with you to the meeting. Thanks...



By John Boy

## Elections Are Upon Us

I just can't believe it has been a year since we elected our current officers, but here we are. Next month at the club meeting, we will be accepting all of our offices. Those offices are: President, Treasurer, Secretary, Librarian, Membership Coordinator and Social Coordinator. I plan to present some on as to club needs to whether the continue to have



a Social coordinator. This position has had little to do, and may not be necessary.

So, be thinking about who you might want to represent you this coming year. The current officers have done a marvelous job, and we have much to thank them for. We will vote as we did last year. During the December meeting, we will pass out ballots, and tally up the results. The new officers will accept their offices from the old officers during an executive committee meeting to be held prior to the first club meeting of the year. That's all I have to say about that.



By John Boy

## We Finally Have By-Laws

You probably don't believe it, but we finally have a set of by-laws drafted and before the executive committee. Before the end of the year, we will have a set of by-laws to govern how we do things. This club has come a very long way. The original 10 of us who got it started, didn't want the formality of elected officers and by-laws or a constitution. That was a long time ago, and here we are growing again. Our club is the spawn of the North Florida Brewer's League where I was a member prior to coming out here, so it's only natural that we should

take their fine by laws and adapt them to meet the needs of our little group. I e-mailed them to each of the officers that had e-mail, and gave Jim a copy this weekend. We will need an executive committee meeting to ratify the by-laws, then they can be presented to the membership for a vote. I am hopeful that you will have a copy to vote on by the December meeting. We don't expect you to review and vote on them all in the same evening, so we are hoping to have a membership vote during the January meeting.

I think you will like what you see.



By John Boy



## Bootleg Homebrew Shops

At the last club meeting, Ralph handed Jim a letter from he and Don. This letter (now on file in the library), stated that Don and Ralph were aware of a number of club members shopping at illegal "bootleg" homebrew shops operating out of garages, trunks and so on. It went on to state that GEBL members who knowingly supported these illegal operations were undermining the very shop that has been our sponsor since the club started. Don and Ralph feel very strongly about people who buy at or near wholesale and then sell **retail** (without the proper licensing) to people out of their garages. Their feeling is that practices like this can only lead to damaging their business and may ultimately lead to the loss of the shop altogether.

They go on to state that GEBL members who continue to utilize these "bootleg" operations will lose their 10% discount, and if it continues beyond that, the member will not be welcome in **Homebrew Heaven**. They also state that continued support of "bootleg" operations may lead to GEBL, as a whole, losing its discount at **Homebrew Heaven**.

As a result of receiving the letter, I contacted Ralph to get some clarification. The following issues were raised:

1. Don and Ralph consider **The Brew Farm**, owned by Shelley and Gary to be operating outside the guidelines for a retail operation, and as such, asked for a zoning enforcement to stop the operation.

2. They do not consider GEBL members who go together to make a club purchase (at whatever price we can get), to be operating unethically. Of course they would like to have this business, but realize that they might not always be able to compete.

3. Don and Ralph consider **Angus Homebrew** to be an illegal operation and are pursuing legal avenues to stop **Angus Homebrew** from doing business.

4. Any operation advertising on the Internet but selling out of a garage or home (without the proper licensing) is also a problem.

As a result of receiving this letter, an emergency executive committee meeting was convened at Fred's Rivertown Alehouse. Present were: Chuck, Jim, Shelley, Gary, Dennis (for Louise), Jack, Jeff, Annie and I. Annie took meeting minutes (also posted in the library). Don and Ralph were also present (although not at the meeting table) to present their views on the issue and offer clarification where needed.

There was much heated discussion about the tone of the letter, and the fact that a zoning enforcement had been

requested against **The Brew Farm**. Most GEBL members are aware of the lengths that Shelley and Gary have gone to in order to obtain licensing and be able to purchase wholesale. Most wholesalers have very stringent requirements that must be met. As such, there was quite a feeling of protection for Shelley and Gary, while at the same time, loyalty to Don and Ralph. After a great deal of discussion and some healthy disagreement, the committee agreed to the following, and presented it to Don and Ralph:

1. It is our official position as the Greater Everett Brewer's League, to encourage club members to not utilize illegal "bootleg" homebrew supply retailers. It is not our policy to attempt to police this activity (as we couldn't anyway), but rather to encourage our members, through education, to support legitimate homebrew supply retailers. We recognize Don and Ralph's right to withhold discount rights from any member they feel is abusing that privilege.

2. The members of GEBL recognize **The Brew Farm** as a legitimate mail order operation, and as such, will feel free to purchase goods from **The Brew Farm**. We also encourage Don and Ralph to recognize the legitimacy of Shelley and Gary's operation.

3. We agreed that we would not publish the letter from Don and Ralph, but since it is not our intention to shield the membership or to censor in any way, we would post the letter in the library and make it known so that members who wish to read the letter may do so.

And that's all I have to say about that!

*By Big John*

## 1998 Style Calendar

### November

**Scottish Ale and Strong Scotch Ale** (AHA Style Category # 8 a, b & c and # 10 b)

### December

**Barleywine** (AHA Style Category # 1 a & b)

Not much remains of the style calendar for this year. The executive committee needs to meet and set the style calendar for next year so we can stay in sync with the Club Only competitions. I would also like to suggest we establish a committee to oversee and encourage competitions for the coming year. I can't stress enough how valuable the experience and education you get from participating in an organized competition.

## A Little Levity

An Irishman walks into a bar in Dublin, orders three pints of Guinness and sits in the back of



the room, drinking a sip out of each one in turn. When he finishes, he comes back to the bar and orders three more.

The bartender says to him, "You know, a pint goes flat after I draw it; it would taste better if you bought one at a time."

The Irishman replies, "Well, you see, I have two brothers. One is in America, the other in Australia, and I'm here in Dublin. When we all left home, we promised that we'd drink this way to remember the days when we drank together." The bartender admits that this is a nice custom, and leaves it there. The Irishman becomes a regular in the bar, and always drinks the same way: He orders three pints and drinks them in turn.

One day, he comes in and orders two pints. All the other regulars notice and fall silent. When he comes back to the bar for the second round, the bartender says, "I don't want to intrude on your grief, but I wanted to offer my condolences on your great loss."

The Irishman looks confused for a moment, then a light dawns in his eye and he laughs. "Oh, no," he says, "everyone's fine. I've just quit drinking."



*Yuk Yuk*

## Treasurer's Report

**J**eff has provided a year-to-date Treasurer's Report and it is as follows:

### JANUARY

Baker, Bob	Single/ \$30
Bacon, Ralph	Honorary
Crawford, George & Ann Marie	Family/ \$40
Dokka, Robert & Barbara	Family/ \$40
Fugier, Dennis & Louise	Family/ \$40
Hartline, John & Anne	Family/ \$40
Hughes, Jack	Single/ \$30
Jensen, Jim & Ann	Family/ \$40
Knowles, Tim	Single/ \$30
Moore, John & Cathy	Family/ \$40
Namowicz, Tom	Single/ \$30
Paden, Jeff	Single/ \$30
Robert, Don	Honorary
Salsbery, Jeff	Single/ \$30
Swartos, David	Single/ \$30
Zurik, Todd	Single/ \$30
Dues Total	\$480.00

Raffle	\$ 50.00
subtotal	\$530.00
P B	\$850.00
	\$1380.00

Postage, permits, printer heads paid to Hartlines for GEBL business	(\$103.54)
Jan Ending Balance 1/8/98	\$1277.46

### February

Albright Shelly & Gary	Family/ \$40.00
Fingarson Bruce	single / \$30.00
Dues	\$70.00

no raffle

### EXPENSES

Shirts	\$368.25	
SA Permit	\$ 10.00	JJ
FY 96	\$ 47.98	JH
Binders	\$ 73.29	JH
Postage	\$ 44.80	JH
Pitchers	\$ 11.44	JH
Stamps	\$ .96	JP
Total	\$557.22	
Feb Ending Balance	\$790.24	

### March

Richard Hayden	\$30.00
Raffle	\$50.00
Mar ending bal	\$870.24

### April

Raffle	\$82.00
Llexi donation	\$82.00
John	\$83.00
APRIL End Bal	\$787.24

### May

permits	\$30.00
Raffle	\$60.00
James Stockard	\$30.00
May ending balance	\$847.24

### June

permit	\$10.00
Raffle	\$50.00
June Ending balance	\$887.24

### July

Raffle\$	\$73.15
Permit	(\$10.00)
John	(\$100.59)
Wheat beer	(\$9.00)



July End Bal	\$840.80
Aug End Bal	\$840.80
Sep End Bal	\$840.80
Oct Beg Bal	\$840.80
Permit	(\$10.00)
Shirts	(\$259.15)
OCT end Bal	\$571.65

## Everett Brew Fest On Again

**Artbeat presents the third annual winter micro-brew festival January 8 & 9 at the Howard Johnson's Plaza Hotel in Everett**

Snohomish County's only MicroBrew festival returns this year to bring the beer aficionado an array of 50 MicroBrews, ciders and specialty items. Featuring seasonal winter brews, this popular event provides everyone with the chance to taste and explore the ever-growing Northwest MicroBrew industry with those who make it happen, the brew masters themselves.

Hours are 5pm to 11 PM on Friday, January 8 and 4 PM to 11 PM Saturday, January 9. Admission prices are \$10 at the door or \$9 in advance, available at The Everett Grand Roaster and Home Brew Heaven, Everett. Admission includes 5 tastings with extra tastings available for \$1. A complimentary tasting glass will be given to the first 500 patrons each day.

Micro-Breweries participating include: Scuttlebutt Brewery, Everett; Orchard Street Brewery, Bellingham; Anacortes Brewhouse; Rock Bottom, Seattle; and Buchanan Brewing Company, Oroville; just to name a few. Also represented will be brewed root beer, and tea!

Those attending will learn about home brewing and how to get equipment and supplies. There will be displays for unique MicroBrew services. Also available will be specialty food items and delicacies from The Grand Roaster.

For more information call, Artbeat, at (425) 750 7792. Proceeds benefit Artbeat, a Washington non profit Arts Presenting organization. Sponsored by: The Home Brewery, The Grand Roaster and Howard Johnson's Plaza, Everett Microbrewers Association, Scuttlebutt Brewery.

*By David B. Shaw*

## A Statement From The Brew Farm

**O**n Monday Oct. 19, there was an officers meeting concerning the letter delivered to GEBL by

Homebrew Heaven at the conclusion of the October club meeting. At this meeting Shelley and I were informed by Don and Ralph that they consider The Brew Farm, our business, to be one of the "bootleg" operations their letter was about.

Recently Shelley and I received a registered letter from Snohomish County, (in response to an anonymous complaint), questioning the legality of our business. After investigation of this complaint, Snohomish County determined there was no basis to this complaint and closed the case. The Brew Farm is a legal, legitimate business as defined by the State of Washington and Snohomish County, we collect taxes from taxable purchases and pay all applicable taxes to the State of Washington and Snohomish County.

We look forward to continuing to do business with GEBL members.

Sincerely,

Gary and Shelley Albright

## Happy Hour at "The Pig"

**C**ome on down to "The Pig" any afternoon Monday through Friday from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM and enjoy yourselves at "Attitude Adjustment - Piggy Style". Tom, Joel and the gang at The Flying Pig invite you to bring yourselves (your favorite person I'm so sure), all the guests you can scrounge up and make it on down for ½ price appetizers and \$2.00 pints. You know Tom...will always treat you right when you show up at "The Pig."

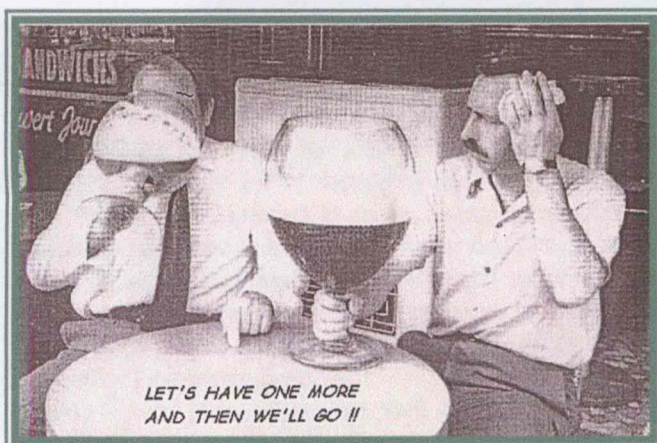




## When Is Enough...Enough?

One evening recently while nursing a particularly fine IPA of mine, a thought occurred to me; What motivates people to home brew? I reluctantly turned the TV off and began to ponder this question in further detail. I imagine many folks do it for the tasty homemade beverage, a very worthwhile reason too! Some, maybe for the novelty of making their own beer at home. I'm sure there are many other reasons, but for me, and I'm sure many of you too, beer making is a great hobby!

My concern here, is when does a hobby become an obsession? Can a person have too much beer? Most likely not. There is always a friend to come over and drink it for you. You can give it to friends as gifts, or as a last ditch



effort, you can use it as a weed killer (*editor's note: or in a slug moat*). You may recall my *G.H Select*. I also had a bad experience with Tomahawk hops due to not having a scale. If you get a chance, ask John-Boy about his "*Black Olive Pale Ale*." My point is, you can always dispose of excess beer, but what about all the equipment we accumulate for brewing the beer?

Some of you merely take over the kitchen on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon, while the wife and kiddies whine endlessly about that bad smell, steamy windows (Tina Turner song), and God forbid, what if it boils over again? We were all there at one time or another. What about those of us who have taken our beloved hobby to the next level, and beyond? This is where it gets dicey. Where once all your brewing equipment fit in the laundry room closet, now you require a corner of the garage or basement. Some of you need more room than that, much more, and you know who you are. This may be cause for concern?

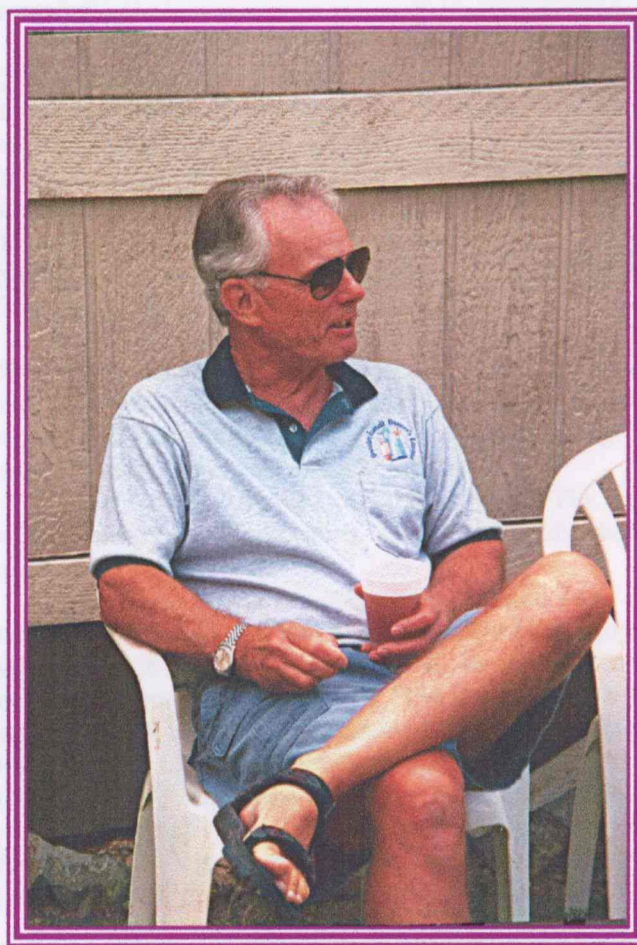
Some of us go for volume. Some go for gadgets. Some for volume and gadgets! We rationalize moving the family car out of the garage permanently. We dream of building that out-building we have always wanted. Still others star business, and some even go pro!

You're probably wondering what my point is. Well, I ask myself, has this hobby become an obsession? When is enough, enough? Fortunately, I have a wonderful wife who has helped me come to grips with my compulsions. With her support and on-going counseling, I no longer wake up in a cold sweat in the dead of the night, wondering what I've gotten in to. I no longer dread hearing the doctor say, during my yearly physical, "Mr. Jensen, you have to stop drinking!" I know my investment is safe, and my children look forward to the day when they inherit "The System."

I'd like to believe most hobbies are ultimately self-regulating. We become bored, run out of money and in some extreme cases, our significant other may threaten to leave us. "It's me or the brewery!"

Sooner or later we reach a point of equalization. That's what I'm hoping for anyway!

*By Jim Jensen*



Dick strikes a "Studly, Chick Magnet" Pose





**If you missed it...you gotta stop doin' that!**

**Greater Everett Brewer's League**  
**6709 - 44<sup>th</sup> Street NE**  
**Marysville, WA 97270-6900**

**The next meeting will be November 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM, at The Flying Pig Brewpub, 2929 Colby Avenue, (425) 339-1393. The Guest Speaker will be Randy Reed from Snoqualmie Falls Brewery and the style will be Scottish Ale and Strong Scotch Ale. This will be a busy meeting so come early if you plan to visit!**