



THE BREWER'S LEAGUE JOURNAL

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Club Officers:

Shelley Albright,
President

Valerie Oliver,
Vice President

Eric Wilson,
Secy.

Dennis Fugier,
Treasurer

Upcoming HB Competitions:

**November:
Novembeerfest**

2003 European Driving Tour (Pt6) by Lori Brown

The town of Bamberg is not typically listed in the guidebooks for Germany. For that reason it is not a heavily traveled area by people other than German tourists. Beer geeks know the town for smoked beer called Rauch beer in German. A little internet research led me to believe you could even sleep at a guesthouse located above the Spezial brewery!



Did I mention that this was the only place we had to make all of our arrangements in German? We sent an e-mail to the family prior to leaving the States. I had used a German phrase book to reserve a room for the night. We also pointed out that we did not speak German in our broken German e-mail. We received a lengthy return e-mail – in German. After much time with a German dictionary, we decided that we should be all set to stay there, all we needed to do was show up...we hoped.

We arrived at Spezial brewery in time for lunch. This family run brewery, malting house, guesthouse, and restaurant is world famous for their smoked beers. The restaurant seemed to be occupied by local regulars and the staff did not seem to speak any English. This was the first place where really felt the language barrier. We felt a little awkward, but were somehow able to communicate the desire for food and beer. We each had a brat and I ordered a Rauch Marzen beer. Everything was delicious. The Marzen was intensely smoked, but very easy to drink. We sat in the restaurant eating our lunch and trying to figure out how to speak enough German to let them know we had reserved a room and to find out where to park our car.

Next GEBL meeting will

be at 7 PM **Nov. 11th** at The Flying Pig.
Featured Speaker, George Hancock of Maritime Brewing

Featured Brewer of the Month

By: Gordon Legg

(Editors Note: The picture of last month's Featured Brewer of the Month, Will Fredin, arrived too late for publication, so we are publishing it this month. Also, here are a couple of Will's favorite recipes.)



Peach Lambic

7 lbs. Pale Malt
4 lbs. Wheat Malt
.5 lb. Crystal 40

Mash at 154° F

Hops (added to boil)

.5 oz. Sazz
.5 oz. Halletauer
90min Boil

At end of boil add 8 lbs of peeled, de-stoned,
and puréed peaches

Ferment with Lambic yeast.

Rack a couple of times and bottle condition for
2-3 months.

Oatmeal stout

8lbs pale malt
1.5 lbs. Vienna
1 lbs. Crystal 90
1.5 lbs. Flaked Oats
.5 lbs. Carapils
1.0 lbs. Munich
.75 lbs. chocolate
.5 lbs. roast malt
4 oz. black

Mash 152° F

Hops (Boil 90 minutes)

1 oz. Fuggle Boil
.25 oz Willamete
.25 oz. Goldings 20 minute

Ferment with Irish ale yeast

Contact Librarian **Jim Jensen** at 2715J@gte.net if you would like to borrow a library book. Check out all the books that are available at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GEBL/>.

Style Calendar - 2003 and Beyond

Nov - No tasting (guest speaker)

Dec - Winter Beers (Any Big Beers)

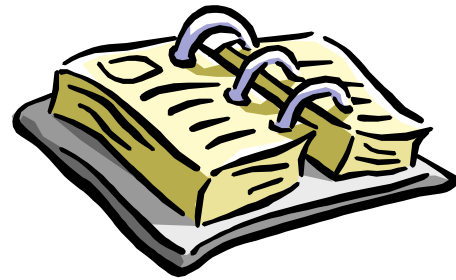
Jan 04 - No tasting (guest speaker)

Feb 04 - Mead and Cider (#25 and 26)

AHA Club Only Competition Schedule

November – Kolsch and Altbier (#8)

December– Barleywine (#12)



UPCOMING EVENTS

November 8th Novembeerfest

Mar/April– Mead (#25)

May– Extract beers (#1-24)

Important Meetings Coming Up

By Shelley

It is hard to believe that there are only two GEBL meetings left to this year. These two meetings will probably be the most important meetings of the 2003 GEBL year.

At the November meeting, the appointed nominating committee will make their suggestions on who will be on the ballot to elect the 2004 GEBL officers. The general membership is strongly encouraged to make their nominations to the December officer ballot as well, so think about who you would like to see on the ballot. You may nominate any regular or honorary club member including yourself.

Also at the November meeting, we will be voting on whether or not to go to an exclusive electronic newsletter over the current paper version of the newsletter. The electronic newsletter will be posted on the GEBL Yahoo web site. If this is voted in, there will be no paper newsletters mailed out after the first of the year. Written instructions will be provided to all club members for accessing, logging on, and basic use of the Yahoo GEBL group web page. As a former newsletter publisher, I encourage members to vote for this change in newsletter format. Printing of the newsletter becomes very time consuming and frustrating. Because of this, we may not get anyone willing to commit their time to printing the newsletter in the future. Also, if we wish to increase our membership, we must have an alternative to the printed newsletter.

At the December meeting we will be voting on all of the officers for the 2004 GEBL year. As in any election, it is important that you choose the people that you want to most represent you.

The following is an excerpt taken from the GEBL Constitution/By Laws, Article 6.1:

Election of officers is by a majority vote of members present at the election meeting. Club members who wish to vote in the election, but who cannot attend the election meeting, may vote by either a written signed ballot or by giving another member his/her written proxy.

(2003 European Driving Tour Pt. 4, con't)

Our waitress pointed us to the owner and the broken English/German/gesturing began. In the end, we had a key to our room and a secure underground parking garage for the car. Breakfast was included and would be served in the morning. All that for only 50 Euros!

Our room was Spartan, but overlooked the courtyard and the brewery. I couldn't be happier. After we got settled in and had a quick peek into the brewery, we were off to explore the old part of town. There is a large cathedral overlooking the city, and a town hall built right in the middle of the river flowing through the town. The town hall was built there after a political dispute over land on each side of the river left this "site" as the only logical solution.

We found Schlenkerla brewery and stopped in for a Rauch beer. Again, I decided to have a Marzen. Something about this style that just goes well with the smoked malt. This beer was even smokier than Spezial, but again, not difficult to drink. This brewery is probably the best known Bamberg brewery. You can even pick up their beer at Bottleworks! (Mahr's is another excellent Bamberg brewery that can be found at Bottleworks.)

We had dinner at Brauerei Fassla, which just so happened to be right across the street from Spezial! We had a platter of smoked ham and wieners. I paired this with a Weissla bier – a smoked wheat – which was also very well balanced between the smoked malt and Bavarian yeast character. If you like smoked meats, cheeses, and smoked beer – this town is a must.



Benefits of GEBL Membership

Many of you have been members of GEBL for many years, others of you are rather new to the club. But, what is the club really, and what are the benefits of belonging to a group of home brewers? Several things come to mind, and I would like for all of us to realize how many benefits we have from belonging to such a wonderful club (in no particular order of importance).

I Contact with BJCP judges:

Many of club members have studied long and hard, taken and passed the grueling Beer Judge Certification Program exam. They have continued their studies and judged and participated in many home-brew competitions. This brings a wealth of brewing knowledge and experience into the club, which allows all of us to be better brewers.

I GEBL Club Library:

Over the years, a large, varied, and interesting collection of brewing books and magazines has been compiled. The collection is so large, that the club librarian, can no longer carry it to our meetings. The list of items is on our GEBL Yahoo site. You can have any item delivered to you at the next club meeting by simply contacting our club librarian.

I Home Brew Shop Discounts:

Most home brew shops in the area will grant club members a 10% discount, simply by presenting your GEBL membership card. A discount means that your brewing dollars go significantly farther in either less money for the same brew, or more brew for the same dollars. Either way, it's a win-win. We support the local shops and we get good beer!

I Beer Appreciation:

Whether it is drinking fellow club member's brew, attending a beer festival, meeting at a local pub, going on a pub crawl, or just talking about beer – appreciating beer, and especially good beer, is what we are about. Enjoy it with your fellow club members.

I Bulk Club Purchases:

Several times in the past, the club has supported purchasing bulk ingredients, supplies, or equipment, in turn, passing on savings to the club members. Although we want to support our local home brew shops, this is a benefit that the club has done several times now. Input is taken from the members, as to what the next "club purchase" might be.

I "Brewer of the Year" Designation:

What a more exciting way to be recognized. Each month, with our club style tastings, points are earned, and compiled. Each year, our top brewer(s) is recognized by this distinctive status. There is a plaque with your name on it, which carries forward each year.

I Pub Crawls:

What a fantastic time we have as a club on a pub crawl..... We rent a 48 passenger bus and head off to visit local, and some not so local brew pubs and houses. We enjoy beer and each

other's company all day. We have gone North, East & South. We often visit 3-5 breweries and meet with the brewers. We sample beer on the bus and have plenty to eat during the day. The crawls are enjoyed by all, and what is so great about them, is that the club pays a portion of the cost of the event.

I Award Winning Newsletter:

Are you aware that our club newsletter has won a national award. AHA held a national contest years back, and GEBL beat out all other clubs in the country for best newsletter. A lot of time and effort goes into the newsletter year after year and the effort shows. It continues to be an award winner for the members in that we await its arrival each month. Be sure to read all that "all about it".

I Guest Speakers:

Several times each year, our club meetings hosts wonderful and talented local brewers. They share with us, put up with our many questions, and often bring a lot of their wonderful beer. We have our favorites, but are always wanting to enjoy a new face. These professional brewers come from varied backgrounds, but consistently have so much knowledge they are willing to share to our club. We look forward to visits from brewers!

I Club Apparel Purchases:

We are all proud of our club. We are proud to let others know we are members, so by the club purchasing bulk shirts and hats, we are able to purchase them for ourselves so we can show the pride we have in our wonderful club. The club pays the cost of the embroidered logo and the quality of the apparel is always high and a great value.

I Brew Partners and Advice

Many club members, when attempting a new style or moving from one type of brewing to another, are a bit leery to start out on their own. With the varied backgrounds and experience of our club members, often you can partner with a more experience brewer to ease the way. Or, you can brew with another club member just for fun, as has often been done. Each year on National Homebrew Day, our club members get together at a member's home and brew together. It is always a wonderful and fun experience!

I Club Equipment:

Did you know that the club owns a "jockey box", as well as a mash tun. Club members, free of charge, can use any of these at any time. The current location of the equipment changes, but can be asked for at a meeting or on our Yahoo group.

I Monthly Style Tasting/Competition:

Often, we, as brewers get in a rut, brewing a few styles only. Our club assembles an annual brewing style calendar, so that you can stretch your brewing experiences and knowledge. And even better, we bring these brews to our meeting and experience several home brewed examples, as well as a commercial example of that style. It is another form of beer and brewing education and appreciation that we get to experience as GEBL's. The results are recorded to learn how to brew better beer and also help to determine our coveted "Brewer of the Year" award.

Instructions on how to access the GEBL Yahoo Groups website.

Point your browser to <http://groups.yahoo.com/>.

If you have previously registered and accessed Yahoo Groups, then click on the **sign in** link. If you are a new Yahoo Groups user, then click on the **Click here** to register link.

If you already have a Yahoo ID for access to other personalized services like Yahoo Mail or My Yahoo, then you don't need to create a new Yahoo ID to access Yahoo Groups. You can just go directly to the sign in link. Once you've created your Yahoo ID, you can now be added to the GEBL Yahoo Group. To let the group administrator know your new Yahoo ID, type GEBL in the search box and click search. When it returns the GEBL group, click on the **GEBL** link. Then click on the **Join This Group** button. An email will be sent to the group administrators who will then add you to the GEBL Yahoo Group.

Once you've been added, you can then access the group by again pointing your browser to <http://groups.yahoo.com/>, clicking the **Sign in** link, and then entering your Yahoo ID and password. Then click on the GEBL group and you're in.

Why should you access the GEBL Yahoo Groups website?

- ☞ The monthly GEBL newsletter is going to be published exclusively at the site starting in January 2004.
- ☞ Additionally, we're posting the Newsletter archive out there so you don't have to keep all those hard copy newsletters laying around to go back and enjoy a previous newsletter.
- ☞ We've got a list of the GEBL Library so you can see magazines and books that are available for check out.
- ☞ We've got a survey of what kind of brew systems and brewing our club members typically brew.
- ☞ It's free access with your paid annual membership dues.

Fred Farris can help you out if you're having problems getting access to the GEBL Yahoo Groups site. You can reach Fred at email fred.farris3@verizon.net or phone at 425.385.2322.