



# GREATER EVERETT Brewer's League Journal

*The purpose of The Greater Everett Brewers League is to promote and educate homebrewers in the production of craft-style homebrewed beers. As an AHA social club we improve members brewing skills by providing mentoring and networking to fellow brewers, promote BJCP judging, evaluation and competition entry, as well as promoting the local craft beer movement.*

## Beerstock Grows Again In 2011



Photo by Tim Snider

Beerstock 5060-3 took place in Orting, WA on August 6th. The annual festival is held to celebrate the passage of Washington Senate Bill 5060 in 2009 that legalized the transport of homebrew. Up until then it was technically illegal to enjoy your homebrew anywhere but in the privacy of your own home.

Homebrewers from all over Washington state have gathered at Beerstock for the last three years to share their brews and network with other homebrewers.

Beerstock grew again for the third year in its existence despite a change in venue from the previous two years. In 2009 there were 85 brewers and guests in attendance, in 2010 it grew to 180 and this year it reached 203 people. There were 18 brew clubs that came to Orting this year including from as far away as Kitsap County, Bellingham and the Tri-Cities.

After the explosive growth last year, it was evident Beerstock had outgrown Mark & Alison Sheafor-Joy's property near Bryant, WA. After much searching it was decided to hold Beerstock 5060-3 at a private park just outside of Orting in Pierce County. The venue is a water-ski park with expansive flat grassy areas for setting up the club booths and for camping.

This year's Beerstock festival was also practice for the National Homebrew Conference that will be held in Seattle over June 21-23, 2012. One of the main events of the NHC is Club Night. Much like Beerstock, clubs from all over the country will set up booths with fun themes and share their homebrew and network with fellow homebrewers.

The NHC is held in a different city around the country each year. Being one of the largest clubs in Washington state, GEBL will be called upon to make the 2012 NHC a big success and represent the Seattle area as a great host city and a great homebrew town.



Photo by Tim Snider

# Competition Focus

By Roger Kee

## Mead BJCP Categories 24 - 26



In celebration of AHA National Mead Day on August 6th, this month's column will focus on Mead styles, and some mead-only competitions. I have extensively referenced, and highly recommend for further mead reading, the BJCP Mead Study Guide.

It's taken a while but summer has finally arrived in Washington. With this heat and the warm August nights many homebrews seek a more ancient beverage to enjoy and brew. In its simplest form, mead is a fermented alcoholic beverage made from honey, water, and yeast. Because of its similarities to wine, some people erroneously call mead 'honey wine.' However, in order for something to be wine it must contain crushed grape juice.



In BJCP sanctioned competitions, mead is judged on its balance, which is the synergy of all the components that formulate an enjoyable tasting experience: aroma (bouquet), flavor (taste, honey flavor), structure (tannin, acid, and alcohol), residual sweetness, and mouthfeel (body, carbonation). In a balanced mead, individual components do not overshadow one another, and the resulting combination is appropriate for the particular style of mead. The use of words like synergy, balance, and harmony shouldn't imply that all flavors are of equal intensity.

While not all homebrew competitions include mead categories, there are some competitions that are only for mead styles such as the long running Mazer Cup, Muse Cup, and Valhalla. The Washington Mead & Cider Cup is a local competition with a mead focus as well being a WHoTY qualifier. All of these can be found in the competition schedule in this newsletter.

**Labeling mead styles for competition** - This information must be passed to judges in order to properly evaluate a competition mead.

### Mandatory Requirements

- Entrants MUST specify carbonation level (still; pétillant or lightly carbonated; sparkling or highly carbonated).
- Entrants MUST specify strength level (hydromel or light mead; standard mead; sack or strong mead).
- Entrants MUST specify sweetness level (dry; semi-sweet; sweet).

Mead style classifications are roughly broken down by the following (trust your senses though):

*(Continued on page 3)*

### AHA Club Only Competition

At the meeting on Thursday we will be evaluating Specialty/Experimental/Historical Beers (BJCP Category 23) per our Club Only Competition guidelines to represent GEBL for the September/October COC hosted by Brewers United Zany Zymurgists (BUZZ) club of West Chester, PA.

If your entry is selected to represent GEBL it will be due in West Chester, PA by October 15 and judging will be held on October 29.

Entries must specify the experimental nature of the beer (e.g. type of special ingredients used, process utilized or historical style being brewed), or why the beer doesn't fit an established style. Additionally, the entrant may specify an underlying beer style. For historical styles or unusual ingredients/techniques that may not be known to beer judges, the brewer should provide descriptions of the styles, ingredients and/or techniques used.

**Competition Focus—Mead***(Continued from page 2)*

**STRENGTH - OG:**  
 hydromel: 1.035 - 1.080  
 standard: 1.080 - 1.120  
 sack: 1.120 - 1.170

**ABV:**  
 hydromel: 3.5 - 7.5%  
 standard: 7.5 - 14%  
 sack: 14 - 18%

**SWEETNESS LEVEL - FG:**  
 dry: 0.990 - 1.010  
 semi-sweet: 1.010 - 1.025  
 sweet: 1.025 - 1.050

**Optional Requirements:** Entrants MAY specify honey varieties used. If honey varieties are declared, judges will look for the varietal character of the honey. Note that the character of a varietal honey will be identifiable as distinct to the source flowers, but may not resemble the source plant, tree, or fruit. For example, orange-blossom honey has the character of orange blossoms, not oranges; blackberry honey is only distantly like blackberries, although it is an identifiable character.

**Category-Specific Requirements:** Some categories require additional information, particularly in categories other than traditional mead. For example, declaring specific fruit, spices, or special characteristics. Supplemental materials may be provided to judges if an obscure ingredient or method is used.

**Defaults:** If no attributes are specified, judges should evaluate the mead as a semi-sweet, pétillant, standard-strength mead with no varietal honey character and no special ingredients. Competition organizers should make every effort to ensure that judges are provided the full set of attributes of the meads being evaluated.

**NHC 2012 Planner** - The NHC team asked me to put some planning thoughts down concerning National Homebrew Competition. I will add this planner to all my articles for the rest of 2011. You are 8 months away from NHC 1st round competition. In my humble opinion you should have the following ready right now:

- Finalized plan of what styles you are competing in for NHC 2012.
- Compiled ingredients list (especially fruit, honey and hops) and shop the deals now!
- Completed brewing and aged with minimum 9 mos. (high gravity/sour /mead/cider) - Categories 5d, 9e, ALL 17 thru 19, ALL 24 thru 26 and 28.
- Scheduled to brew Aug-Sep, so they can age properly (bocks, porters, stouts) - Categories 5a-c, 9b-c, 12,13, 15b-d, 16c, 22, 21, 27
- On the bubble to brew soon Sep-Oct (Euro Lager, Dark lagers, browns, Belgians) - categories 3, 4, 10c, 11, 16

Next month's article will focus on Cider and August competition results. Have fun!

## GEBL in 2010-2011 AHA Club of the Year Top 25

GEBL tied for 18th place in the AHA Club of the Year Award for 2011 with 40 points total.

AHA clubs earn points for placing 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in each of the six Club-Only Competitions (COC); placing 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in the First Round of the National Homebrew Competition (NHC); and placing 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in the Final Round of the NHC.

Our standing is largely because of the GEBL members who entered and placed in the first round of the National Homebrew Competition that was held in San Diego, CA June 16-18. We can be proud of our brewers who placed in the 2011 NHC:

- Dan Hansen
- Will Fredin
- Roger Kee,
- Brian Searfass,
- Mike Floyd.

No other club from Washington state placed in the top 25.

Next year the NHC will be held in Seattle.

## Remaining 2011 Competition Schedule

COMPETITION	EVENT DATE	FEES	BOTTLE COUNT	Entry Window	#of Entries in 2010
WHOTY: Evergreen State Fair-Monroe	13-14 Aug 2011	FREE	2/entry & 1 dispaly	7/31, 8/1	339
WHOTY: Best of the Bay- Bellingham	20-Aug-2011	5.00 / entry, 4.00/add	3 / entry	8/6 thru 8/14	NEW
Puyallup Fair	28-Aug-2011	3.50 / entry	3 / entry	only 8/20 NLT 4pm	90
MCAB: 29th Blue Ridge Brewoff-Asheville, NC	10-Sep-2011	6.00/1st five 10.00/add	3 / entry	8/1 thru 9/1	341
WHOTY: Washington Mead and Cider Cup	17-Sep-2011	6.00/entry	2 / entry	8/30 thru 9/14	41
2011 Muse Cup- Ft. Collins, CO (MEAD & CIDER)	26-Sep-2011	6.00/entry	2 / entry	9/6 thru 9/17	48
2011 Valhalla (7th)- West Chester, PA (MEAD)	8-Oct-2011	7.00/entry	2 / entry	9/24 thru 10/8	45
MCAB: 29th Dixie Cup- Houston	20-22 Oct 2011	7.00/entry	3 / entry	by 9/23	940
WHOTY: Novembeerfest	5-Nov-2011	6.00/entry	3 / entry	by 11/2	268
MCAB: 19th Sunshine Challenge-Orlando, FL	17-19 Nov 2011	7.00/entry	2 / entry	9/28 thru 10/26	430
MCAB: 10th FOAM Cup- Tulsa	TBD Nov 2011	7.00/entry	2 / entry		474
MCAB: Happy Holiday HB- St. Louis	TBD Dec 2011	6.00/entry	2 / entry		436

## Upcoming AHA Club Only Competitions (COC)

HEFEWEIZEN Category 15, entry due November 25, 2011 (judged at our 11/10 meeting)

DARK LAGERS Category 4, entry due TBD Jan/Feb 2012 (judged 1 month prior)

STOUT Category 13, entry due TBD Mar/Apr 2012 (judged 1 month prior)

SCOTTISH & IRISH Category 9, entry due TBD May 2012 (judged 1 month prior)

For more COC information: <http://www.homebrewersassociation.org/pages/competitions/club-only-competitions/schedule/2010-2011-competition-year>

# 2010-11 GEBL Meeting Calendar

Date, Time	Event, Place	Activities
Thursday, Apr 14, 7 PM	General Meeting at Milltown Sailing Association	Speaker COC evaluation for Wood-aged beer (category 22C) - entry due May 5
Thursday, May 12, 7 PM	General Meeting at Milltown Sailing Association	Any extract beer (must be made with 50% or more malt extract in categories 1-23)
Thursday, Jun 9, 7 PM	General Meeting at Milltown Sailing Association	Speaker
Thursday, July 14, 7 PM	General Meeting at Milltown Sailing Association	Club judging for American Ales (Category 10) COC evaluation for Mead )categories 24, 25, 26) - entry due TBD in August
Thursday, Aug 11, 7 PM	General Meeting at Milltown Sailing Association	Speaker COC evaluation for Specialty/Historic (category 23) - due TBD in Sept/Oct
Thursday, Sept 8, 7 PM	General Meeting at Milltown Sailing Association	Club judging for German Wheat and Rye (Category 15). COC evaluation for Hefeweizen (category 15) - entry due November 25
Thursday, Oct 13, 7 PM	General Meeting at Milltown Sailing Association	Speaker
Thursday, Nov 10, 7 PM	General Meeting at Milltown Sailing Association	Club judging for Porters (Category 12)
Thursday, Dec 8, 7 PM	Holiday Party at Milltown Sailing Association	White elephant gift exchange and the return of the Barleywine challenge

## Local Craft Beer Events

Date	Event	Time	Place
Every Wednesday	Kill the keg	7 PM	Balefire, Everett
Every Tuesday	Cask Night	7 PM	Fred's Rivertown Ale House, Snohomish
Every Thursday	Cask Night	7 PM	Diamond Knot, Everett
Every third Thursday	Brewer's night	7 PM	Anthony's Woodfire grill, Everett

Date	Event	Location
August 13 and 14	4 Corners Brewfest	Shoreline
September 23-24	Washington Brewers Association Oktoberfest	Spokane
September 30 & Oct 1 October 7 & 8 October 14 & 15	Leavenworth Oktoberfest	Leavenworth



The Greater Everett Brewers League (GEBL) is an American Homebrewers Association club that typically meets the second Thursday of every month at 7 pm at the Milltown Sailing Association, 410 W 14<sup>th</sup> Street, at the Everett Marina.

Our website is at <http://www.gebl.org/>

Our correspondence address is:  
 GEBL  
 PO Box 13392  
 Everett, WA 98206

The GEBL Elected Club Officers for 2011 are:

- Dan Hansen, President (president@gebl.org)
- Will Fredin, Vice President (vicepresident@gebl.org)
- Randy Neumaier, Secretary (secretary@gebl.org)
- Dennis Fugier, Treasurer (treasurer@gebl.org)
- Dave Hetteen, Membership Coordinator (membership@gebl.org)
- Eric Wilson, Librarian (library@gebl.org)
- Bob Winchell and Pete Stachowiak, Newsletter Editors, (editor@gebl.org)

Newsletter submissions on anything related to beer and brewing are always welcome.