



HEAD HOG'S WALLOW

By Charley Baird

The new brewing season has brought with it momentous events for the Worthogs. The club continues to grow with the addition of both brand new brewers and the old Fresno brewers that we hadn't been able to collar in the past. With that growth a change in the structure of the club has taken place in the form of a steering committee to guide the club's general direction. Everyone is brewing better beer with each meeting, so one of the main goals of the club is being accomplished. We have been able to persuade more members to enter competitions, and have had some amazing results! Perhaps the most important thing to happen to the Worthogs in our short club history, is the co-hosting of a major competition this next spring right here in Frezberg.

OktoberFestivities

The annual Worthog Oktoberfest Picnic and Turbo Nerf Football Challenge was a roaring success this October 23rd. Over seventy-five Worthogs and family members attended the celebration of the end of the harvest season and beginning of a new brewing year on a perfect fall day. While the Turbo Nerf Football Challenge fell victim to good sense, there was still plenty of competition on the volleyball court and *softyball* field. The



most fiercely contested event revolved around the three barbecues manned by brother Ned Baird (thanks Ned), where the 'hogs lived up to their name. Not a scrap of sausage and darn little of the tri-tip provided by the club was left over, and the signs of rooting hogs were to be found all around the Tea House shelter.

Not all was fun and games at the picnic, however. The club Vienna, Oktoberfest, Marzen competition was held. Jeff Hannell's Oktoberfest came out on top of the seven entries, with Jim Harper a close second. Jeff took home a certificate exclaiming his accomplishment and a Vienna, Oktoberfest, Marzen style book, compliments of Bencomo's Homebrew Supply.

Future Meetings

As previously announced, the next Worthog meeting will be on Saturday, December 11, 1993, at Cathy Gaunt's home in Chowchilla at 1:00 p.m. (*see map*.) Holiday/Specialty beers are the style of the meeting, so I hope you put on your thinking caps, got in the spirit of the season, and innovated. Bring your results of your holiday cheer to the meeting at Cathy's.

The following meeting will be at Dan Hamilton's brewery, 514 E. Clinton, Fresno, on Saturday, February 28, 1994, at 1:00 p.m. (You've been warned in advance, so be there, even if the next newsletter is late.) Beer of the meeting will be strong lager, and a club competition will be held in that style. First prize will be the category glass from this year's Big Fresno Fair. You have plenty of time to brew, so get with it!

Steering Committee "Fights for Control"

The inaugural meeting of the San Joaquin Worthog Steering Committee was held recently in the meditative confines of Club Fred. Thanks to the organizational efforts of Lowell Hart ten of your fellow hogs struggled to determine the future course of the club. Members present were Marty Allred, Julian Bencomo, Kevin Cox, Dan Hamilton, Lowell Hart, Dale James, Jim Lopes, Tom Pope, David Spencer (all the way from Visalia), and me. Even through the din at Fred's, the committee accomplished its purpose, guiding the club's future, with a number of constructive suggestions and plans for some new club activities.

One idea that will be tried out at the February meeting at Dan Hamilton's, is an organized tasting and analysis structure for the beer style of the meeting. This would be optional for anyone who wants to take part. The comments would be offered by qualified judges, such as Kevin Cox, Dale James, Jim Lopes or Bill McCrory on a more formal basis than has been the case in the past. While the structure for this idea hasn't yet been finalized, it may require a minimum number of bottles of the beer, an explanation to the rest of the club of the brewing method and ingredients used, etc. The whole idea is to help the participant and other club members improve their brewing. Let me know at Cathy's, or by phone, any suggestions you may have.

Kevin Cox has offered to hold a meeting on a Saturday morning on the East side of Butterfield's to answer any brewing questions thrown at him by club members. This is a chance for us all to have our questions answered in an atmosphere somewhat quieter and more academically oriented than the club meetings. The exact date and time (probably 9:00 a.m.) will be announced at the December meeting, where you can also sign up for the session. Thanks, Kevin!

The question of some sort of meeting on the "off" months came up. While there were a number of ideas, the prevailing opinion was to make this a technical meeting only, on a predetermined topic. The committee decided, however, that in light of the onslaught of activities facing the club this winter and spring, plans for these extra meetings should be put on hold for the time being.

Worthogs to Co-host A. H. A. Regionals

There is a reason the Worthogs will be busy this winter and spring. We are going to be co-hosting the first round regional competition for the American Homebrewers Association National Homebrewing Competition this coming April. Anchor Brewing has been the site of this event for years, but due to ever tightened brewing schedules they are no longer able to host the event. Therefore, the A. H. A. has asked the Worthogs, Butterfield Brewery, and Bencomo's Homebrew supply to lend a helping hand. To say we jumped at the opportunity would be an understatement.

The regionals are a part of the largest by far homebrewing competition in the country, the A. H. A. National Competition. We expect 800 entries in our first round regional event alone, at least double the number of entries in the next largest competition held in the US. This is an opportunity to put the San Joaquin Worthogs and Fresno on the homebrewing map, and generate mucho publicity for our local benefactors, Butterfield Brewing and Bencomo's Homebrew.

There is no doubt it will take a huge effort by every Worthog to put on a successful competition. The rewards will be huge as well. Besides the chest puffing, all Worthogs who help out at the competition will have a chance to meet some of the biggest names in homebrewing, who will be coming into town to judge. We are trying to arrange an event, such as a party, following the Saturday round of judging to incorporate dinner and a chance to meet some of the judges on an informal basis. There are myriad details to get straight in the next couple of months, but between the Worthogs, Butterfield's and Bencomo's I think it will all fall together just fine. More details later!

Join the A. H. A.!

All Worthogs are enthusiastically urged to join the American Homebrewers Association, the national organization supporting all aspects of homebrewing. As a major benefit of membership you will receive *Zymurgy*,

perhaps the most helpful publication available to any home brewer!

Competition Results

Hogs Roll Over Opponents (Ouch!!)

State Homebrew Championships

Our own super brewer, **Jim Lopes**, upheld the name of the Worthogs single handedly at the recently completed State Homebrew Championships in San Francisco. **Lowell Hart** and I were on hand to see Jim carry away 5 awards-not bad for seven beers entered! Jim warmed up (literally) with a third place award in the Barley Wine category. He then absolutely dominated the Dark Lager category with two awards: First for his Oktoberfest and second for his Vienna. Before the rest of the hardened home brewers strung him up, he sneaked out of Dodge (actually Stern Grove) with second for a Pale Ale and a third for his American Wheat. Congratulations, Jim!

Big Fresno Fair

Entries in the homebrew competition doubled this year, with the San Joaquin Worthogs again dominating the results. Congratulations to all you winners. Category results are as follows:

Pale Ale: 1st-Darren Cousineu, Eng. Pale Ale; 2nd,- Darren Cousineu, IPA; 3rd-Darren Cousineu, ESB

Dark Ales 1st-(I'm getting tired of this) Darren Cousineu, Foreign Style Stout; 2nd, Lowell Hart, Scotch Ale; 3rd-James Harper, English Mild.

Special/Strong Ales 1st-Robert Trimmer, Barley Wine; 2nd-Lowell Hart, English Strong Ale; 3rd-Tom Pope, Barley Wine.

Light Lagers 1st-Tom Pope, Bohemian Pilsener; 2nd-Tom Pope, American Lite; 3rd-Kevin Koestecy, German Pilsener.

Amber/Dark Lagers 1st-Darren Cousineu, Oktoberfest; 2nd-David Bunnel, Vienna; 3rd-Tom Pope, Munich Dunkel.

Bock-No entries

Wheat Beers 1st-Darren Cousineu, Lt. Amer. Wheat; 2nd-Kevin Samuel, Lt. Amer. Wheat; 3rd-David Develbiss, Weizenbock.

Specialty 1st-Steve Kenshalo, Raspberry Ale; 2nd-Kevin Samuel, Peach Ale; 3rd-James Harper, Cherry Ale.

The Big Fresno Fair Best of Show award went to **Darren Cousineu** and his Oktoberfest. A very close second was **Lowell Hart's** Scotch Ale

A. H. A. Best of Fest

You may have noticed that the computer seemed to be stuck with one name more often than any other at the Big Fresno Fair. Well, **Darren Cousineu** proved that he isn't just

a big fish in the little pond of Frezberg! By virtue of the fact that he was the only club member to submit an entry to the competition, he was chosen to represent the Worthogs in the *Best of Fest* A. H. A. National Club Competition. And, you see, Darren just went out and won it with his Oktoberfest!. This is a competition with entries from clubs all over the US. Congratulations, Darren!

Welcome New Worthogs!

The Worthog mud hole will soon be needing extra space if our growth continues at this pace. Please welcome new Worthog family members **Jason Damianos, Harry Houck, Patrick and Mary Maddox, Darby Marshall, Charles and Gabrielle Shearson, Joe Stepanyan and Joe Swisher.**

We are also very happy to see that **Sam and Denise Bennet**, who strayed from the pen last year, have found their way back to the fold.



CALENDAR

December 11, 1993	Meeting at Cathy Gaunt's-Chowchilla, 1:00 PM. Holiday/specialty beer is style for meeting.
January 10, 1994	<i>Hail to the Ale</i> -AHA Club only competition entry deadline. Bring entries to Dale at Butterfield's or Bencomo's.
February 28, 1994	Meeting at Dan Hamilton's-514 E Clinton, Fresno. 1:00 PM <i>Strong Lager</i> Worthog club competition. Strong lager is style for meeting.
April 4-15, 1994	AHA National Homebrew Competition. Entries received for first round judging.
May 7, 1994	National Homebrewers Day
May 8, 1994 FRESNO	1994 AHA National Homebrew Competition first round judging.

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Madera

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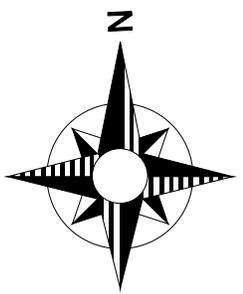
Fresno

1st St

2nd St

1st St

Truman Dr.



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