



Brew News

November
2007

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Worthogs on the web:

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NEXT MEETING:

January 12

Bencomo's Homebrew Supply
East Olive, Fresno, Ca.

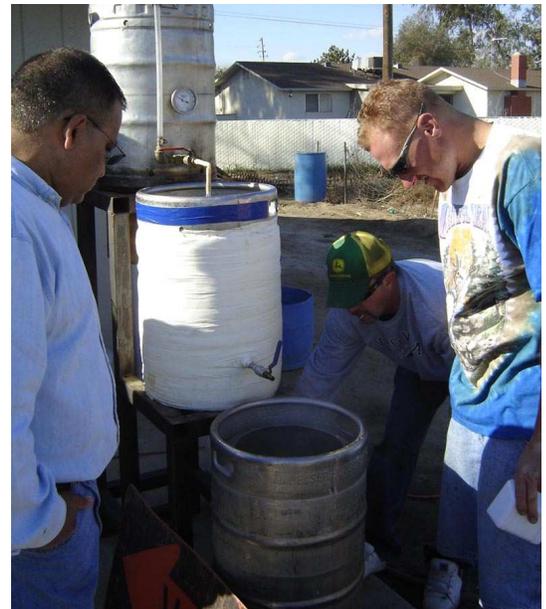
December Meeting Update

The December Warthogs Meeting was a Joe and Donna VanGoningen's houses in Fresno. About 35 members and guests attended.

Member Jason did the demonstration brew on Joe's three-tier gravity fed system.

The Toys for Tots drive was a success with several new, unwrapped gifts collected for local kids.

The next meeting will be Saturday January 12 at Bencomo's in the Tower District.



Member Input Needed

If you have news, events, photos or tips to share
with your fellow Worthogs, email

President Joe Van Groningen:
vangroningen18@comcast.net

or newsletter coordinator Ron McIlroy:
cozmik1@pacbell.net

President's Message



Hello fellow Worthogs,

First of all I would like to thank all of you who came to the December meeting. It was a great turn out and the weather could not have been better.

I would like to thank Jason van Groningen and Allen Federoff (a new member) for doing the demo brew - it will be ready for the January meeting—and also Robert Pimental for doing the barbecue.

We had a few potential new members who watched and took a lot of notes, and we had a guest from BJCP. It was good to hear his input.

All and all we had a good time and some great BEER.

Cheers,

Joe



Club Dates to Ferment For!

Jan, 12: Bencomo's

June 21: Bencomo's

Feb. 23: Alan Nyitray's

July 19: Russ & Cathie Pipo's

Mar. 15: Donald & Cathy Thornton's

Aug.16: Dave Morford's

Apr. 19: Groggs Pub

Sept 20: Tom Kallos'

May 17: Cuyler (?)

Dates and Locations are tentative

What to Bring to the Next Meeting:

- Beer
- Food
- Membership Dues
- Smile :)

Police hunt for stolen Guinness

Gardai in Dublin are on the lookout for 36,000 pints of beer stolen from the Guinness brewery.

More than 400 kegs were stolen in what is likely to be the largest carry-out of drink this Christmas.

A man drove a truck into the yard on Wednesday, and left with a trailer containing 180 Guinness kegs, 180 Budweiser kegs, and 90 Carlsberg kegs.

Police estimated the haul to be worth at least 64,000 euros (£46,000), at wholesale prices.

However, this figure would be considerably more if Dublin pub prices were charged.

The robbery occurred the same day as a special Garda operation known as Freeflow was launched to ease traffic congestion and combat drink-driving over

Christmas.

Freeflow officers manning many checkpoints across the city are expected now also to be on the look out for any large quantity of stolen drink flowing through Dublin's traffic.

The stolen trailer has since been found at Slane Hill in County Meath. It was empty.



2000 British Pubs to Close?

Horrendous sales figures over August and September saw on-trade liquor volumes nosedive by 7% posing further long term doubts over the ability of hundreds of UK pubs to survive.

Beer sales alone over the two months witnessed a huge 10% drop as the two months failed to compensate for the disastrous summer.

Grim predictions are that as many as 2,000 pubs could close their doors over the next two years or so if volumes continue to freefall.

Some in the trade have predicted as many as 2,000 pub closers over the next two years or so if these volume declines continue.

The decline has been blamed on a convergence

of factors, including a worsening economy, poor summer weather, smoking bans, rising energy prices and a rapidly cooling housing market.

Hardly a single on-trade drinks category remained unscathed over August and September and even cider is now showing a marked slow down from its previous heady performances of a year ago.



A Message from the Vice President

Hi all. Thanks for electing me for VP. I am looking forward to 2008 we are planning lots of great stuff!

This part of brewing is new to me and I have a lot to learn. Joined the AHA American Homebrewers Association (Not American Hells Angels)

Our club members have a lot of talent that we need to share and show off more. Sharing is to have new brewers get a more

hands-on experience at demo brewing at meetings. Showing off would be, to start entering are great beers in competitions.

Stay tuned and read next month's newsletter for up coming events, beer to brew for stile of the month,

and who's place we have next meeting

Later,
Dave



"The hop world is upside down"

Hops Suppliers

Freshhops
Hopdirect
Hopunion

**"Carpe
cerevisi"**

07 Hop Crop Update ~ *HopUnion/Freshops*

For US hops, 2007 is looking like an average crop, but many varieties came in less than expected.

World acreage:

- 1986: 215,600

- 1992: 236,000

- 2006: 123,000

Ralph's best guess is that in 1992 the acreage should have been between 160,000 - 170,000 if it was to match world demand/usage at that time. The 1990's excess hop crop ended up being processed into pellets and extracts, building up substantial excess inventory. Excess production that was many years old was selling on the open market and as a result brought prices down. Hop prices had dropped so low in recent years that in many cases they were lower than what it costs to grow.

High-alpha hops and some aroma hops are going overseas - the high rate of the Euro is a factor.

In the late 1990's and early 2000's the prices were depressed and growers were starting to throw in the

towel, to either switch to other crops, or sell out to real estate developers. The ones who stayed in it and managed to survive without going under are pleased to be in this situation which is 180 degrees opposite from where it was about 10 years ago.

The demand of craft beer is up 16% alone this year with many of those beers having high hop requirements.

It takes three years to get full production of a new hop field, however, we don't have the number of growers needed to put new acres in, the total of US growers is about 45, down from more than 2000 in 1978. About 2000 new acres are going in this year almost all of those are high alpha...

What's the bottom line? Certain varieties are getting more expensive. A few varieties will run out faster than ever. Brewers have to be willing to try other varieties. Brewmasters, brewery owners, and marketing and

sales managers must prepare for the potential need to substitute different hops, to replace varieties that currently give your beers their "signature" flavor. That's what we'll have to get used to, the fact that there may be slight flavor variations over the next several years, as the hop industry works to correct this situation.. It's not going to get better soon, but will be likely just as bad, or worse, for the crops from 2008 and 2009, in other words, for beers brewed from now through 2010.

So hops are going to be tight and more expensive for the foreseeable future. Now is the brewers opportunity to brew with many of the other fine herbs that can and do flavor beer. Check out mangarden.com/brewing.html for a good list of plants that are used in brewing...

Hoppily,
Dave Wills,
Purveyor of fine hops