

The Brewer's Bugle

Newsletter of the Underground Brewers Club of Connecticut

Y.A.H.O.O.S. (Yankee Association of Homebrewers Objecting to Organized Societies)

August 2003

(Ain't no mean-spirited people here)

Volume 17, No. 8

A Sunday Summer Picnic

SUNDAY, August 17, 1:00 p.m.

Dooble Cocque & Bean Dip's

46 Starrs Ridge Rd, West Redding, 203-431-9930

Directions: In Danbury - I-84 to Exit 3 (Route 7 South). Take second left onto West Starrs Plain Rd. At the end, take right onto Starrs Plain Rd. This will become Starrs Ridge Rd. in Redding. Mik is #46 on the left -- a Cape-style house set back about 300' from the road. Watch out for deer, possum, skunk, raccoon, bobwhite, pheasants, cats, dogs, rats and other misc. wildlife.

From the South: Route 7 North into Redding. Turn right onto Pickets Ridge Rd. (at the golf center). Go about one mile and turn left onto Starrs Ridge Rd. Mik's is about 1/2 mile down on the right.



The Host at work

Exaltations Emeriti

EREE STILL NOT COMING BACK

Since the YAHOOOS suffered a total, unprecedented washout in the 2003 AHA competition, many people have contacted your Exalted Ruler Emeritus suggesting that he or she come back to rescue the club at this lowest point in its long history. Sorry, but this will not happen. ERE is very happy in a new situation, having moved to a small island off of New Zealand where Darvon's grandfather served as a Mormon missionary some 120 years ago, and where there is now a thriving polygamous colony. Your Exalted Ruler Emeritus is very busy seeing to the sexual well-being of the members of the colony. Enough said.

Darvon's Rackings

WHERE HAVE ALL THE GREAT ONES GONE?

The club is now at its nadir. Not a single YAHOOOS beer earned a ribbon at the AHA nationals. This is appalling and inexcusable. To make things more embarrassing, the 2003 **Homebrewer of the Year** and **Meadmaker of the Year** are members of that other club in Connecticut. We concede the skill of Bruce Stott and Paul Zocco, but in no way does this

mitigate the failures of the YAHOOOS.

Members of the club have enjoyed recent modest successes. Tom Fenton, Robert Lachman, Tom Miklinevich, Phil Simpson



"I knew it!"

and John Watson have all placed in the Nationals, and Von Bair and John Watson have won MCAB ribbons. Von Bair, Robert Lachman, Tom Miklinevich, Bill Odendahl, Mark & Tess Szamatulski and John Watson have also won Best of Show honors at least once. Under the leadership of our Exalted Ruler, the club won **New England Club of the Year** honors for two years running, and John Watson was once **New England Homebrewer of the Year**. I hope that I have not slighted any-

one. However, the greatest times are long ago, and the greatest brewers have long since ceased active participation in the club. Pat Baker, who is still a non-resident member, founded the club some 28 years ago as the second homebrew club in the country. He then went on to found the BJCP, which now tests and coordinates the efforts of thousands of judges. No current members display such pioneering leadership. Jim Post is the only member to have been named AHA Homebrewer of the Year; but that was long ago. Ron Page was New England Homebrewer of the Year, not just once, but for five years running. He and Phil Markowski were too skilled to limit their creative efforts to homebrewing. They were instrumental in the early successes of **New England Brewing**. Ron went on to **Elm City Brewing** and is now the brewer for **City Steam** in Hartford. Phil Markowski moved to the **Southampton Public House** where he has earned national recognition.

We can only pray that creativity and leadership will develop within the YAHOOOS and that the club will eventually live up to the standards of the pioneers of the club.

Ramblings of the Naughty Nurse

IT WAS A GREAT DAY FOR MANKIND

Sorry, you probably didn't make it to "Our Place" for the SNERHC planning meeting. Somehow, I don't think that IBM



"Are these guys for real?"

or Ford conducts its meetings the way this one went. Plenty of glibble YAHOOOS and YAHOOTERS showed up, lured no doubt by the prospect of free beer and food. Unwittingly, they also got a very funny meeting or was it just that I was jolly on beer? Darvon did his best to sound serious and did, in fact, command much respect ... mostly I think, those present were afraid he'd pass the job onto them next year. I can hear you thinking, "When's the Nurse going to get on with whatever scatological or sex-ridden or medical subject for this month?" The answer is 'Now.'

Our Hero made a passing mention of his proposed visit to Bitburg, which is still in Germany. Now I have to ask you, what was the greatest thing that ever happened in Bitburg? Sure, the founding of das **Bitburg Pils Brauerie** ranks up there, but what overshadows that event? Give up? Bitburg was where I lost my virginity. Well, I didn't really 'lose' it, I gave it away willingly. After all, 21 years was far too long to have hung on to it. Why, as a rock musician, did it take so long to get deflowered? I'll tell you. It was because I was quiet and shy. I soon changed that after 'the event.' It happened on the night of the first moon landing. I'd been at the club all night following it on TV because you couldn't actually see it in person. One of the waitresses decided she needed a little galactic therapy from me. Perhaps it was the sight of that rocket going up that did it. I do remember being very scared and was curious to know how I'd find 'the entry point,' if you know what I mean, because that territory was as new to me as the moon was to Lance Armstrong or whoever it was who landed.

After a pre-entry session with a bottle of wine, I was ready to land. I saw stars. The musicians in the adjoining room applauded and next day I was horribly embarrassed to return to the club. Soon after that she was obviously pregnant, but some other poor sod got the blame for it. Does that mean I wasn't that special after all? Was I simply used for her carnal pleasure? That's women for you -- that's all they think about.

I love you all, y'all -- The Naughty Nurse

Heroic Undertakings

GUINNESS SUNDAE

The first place winner in this year's **Best Ice Cream Sundae** contest sponsored by IceCreamSundae.com went to Sloppy Joe's on the Beach of Treasure Island, FL, for their **Guinness Ice Cream Sundae**. The winning entry was composed of Guinness-flavored ice cream topped with caramel sauce and a "tin roof" of salted beer nuts.

TRAPPIST BREWING MONASTERIES OF BELGIUM

The latest book to examine Belgian Trappist beers comes from Belgian writer Jef Van Den Steen. Trappist Brewing Monasteries of Belgium details the beers and histories of the monasteries at **Achel, Chimay, Orval, Rochefort, Westmalle** and **Westvleteren**. The 176-page, photo-illustrated book is currently available in Flemish and French. An English edition is due in the future.

ANCIENT CHINESE RICE WINE DISCOVERED

About five kilograms of light green rice wine were found in the western China city of Xi'an, according to China's official Xinhua News Agency. Chinese archaeologists unearthed a bronze wine jar shaped like a phoenix head. The wine, believed to be from the Western Han Dynasty (206 BC-24 AD), was the best-preserved and largest quantity ever found. "Different from the modern method, ancient Chinese people 2,000 years ago used rice and broomcorn as raw materials to make wine," said Sun Fuxi, director of Xi'an Cultural Heritage Archaeological Institute. The wine is now stored in a glass container for further study. Similar wine made in the same period, with a lighter taste and lower purity, had been found before in Hebei Province, north China, and Hunan Province in central China. The unearthed wine jar, 78 cm tall, was identified as the largest bronze ware made in Western Han Dynasty.



"None of these guys are bald enough!"

ANOTHER 24 HOURS OF BELGIAN BEER

The 24 Hours of Belgian Special Beer (24 Uur Van Het Belgische Speciaal-Bier), in danger of being permanently canceled, will return in 2004. Billed as Belgium's largest annual beer festival, 24 Hours has been held for many years in the city of Antwerp in October or November. It was canceled for 2003 when the festival producer, Belgian consumer beer organization **Objectieve Bierproevers** (OBP), closed down earlier this year. Since then, a newly formed Belgian beer organization, **Zyθος** (www.zyθος.be), has decided to hold the festival at City Festival Hall in the city of St-Niklaas (not far from Antwerp) on March 6-7, 2004.

EUROCRATS GIVE UP ON PLAN TO LABEL BRITISH BEER AS "FISHY"

European Union bureaucrats have decided to forgo issuing a ruling that would have required British ale brewers to put the words "Contains fish products" on bottles and hand pumps of traditionally made bitter ales. For centuries, British ales have been clarified with isinglass finings, a fish product. EU bureaucrats worried that some ale drinkers would have an allergic reaction to isinglass and should be forewarned.



Hairball and Anything But Hairball

ORGANIC BEER AND WINE ON THE RISE

The 22nd Annual Market Overview in the June issue of The Natural Foods Merchandiser reported that total sales for organic beer and wine totaled about \$53 million last year, up 56 percent from 2001.

BEER ADS THAT INFURIATE

Australia: Australian TV viewers have complained about a **Fosters** commercial in which a crocodile bites off the head of a bungee jumper. The 30-second ad -- shot in the guise of a home movie -- portrays a bungee jumper leaping off a crane into a river. As he skims the top of the water, a crocodile lunges at him. The final shot of the commercial shows the jumper's headless corpse dangling. The ad finishes with the Foster's slogan: "Don't lose your head."

Russia: In a TV ad for **Tinkoff** beer, a man in boxer shorts dreams (in black and white) that he is lying on the deck of a yacht with his arms around two naked women (one black and one white), one of whose nipples are briefly exposed. The Russian Anti-Monopoly Ministry, which oversees the advertising market, has received numerous complaints about the ad.

IT'S A 7-PACK

Park City Brewing (UT) has come up with a novel way to sell its beer -- a 7-pack, instead of the industry standard 6-pack. Park City's *Baja Especial* and *Tie Die Red* beers are now packaged in 7-packs and 21-pack cases. The new packaging is available in Utah and Montana.

BASS GOES TO BELGIANS

Brewing giant **Interbrew** has acquired all import and distribu-

tion rights for *Bass Ale* in the U.S. from international drinks company **Diageo**. Bass Ale has a 25 percent market share of super-premium imported beers in the U.S. Interbrew, through its partially owned U.S. subsidiary **Labatt USA**, now owns import rights for seven of the top 12 best-selling imported beers in the U.S.

BUDVAR TO GO PUBLIC?

The Czech Finance Ministry is considering privatizing state-owned brewery **Budejovicky Budvar** within two years. In response, the southern Bohemia region and the town of Ceske Budejovice are considering acquiring a majority stake in the brewery.

IT'S MILLER TIME FOR CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE

SABMiller plans to launch its **Miller Brewing** brands in Central and Eastern Europe in the countries of Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, the Czech Republic, Poland and Italy. *Miller Genuine Draft* will be promoted as a "sophisticated international premium brew."

RATEBEER.COM BEST, SUMMER 2003

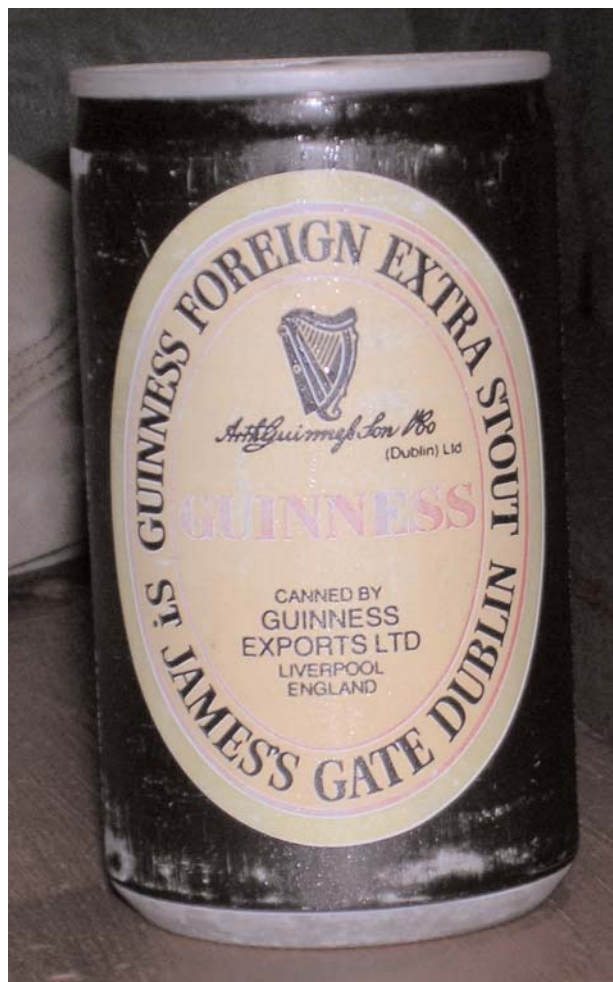
22,000 beers, 3,400 brewers, 120 different countries, 188,000 ratings from amateur beer enthusiasts from 65 countries

Best North American Brewer

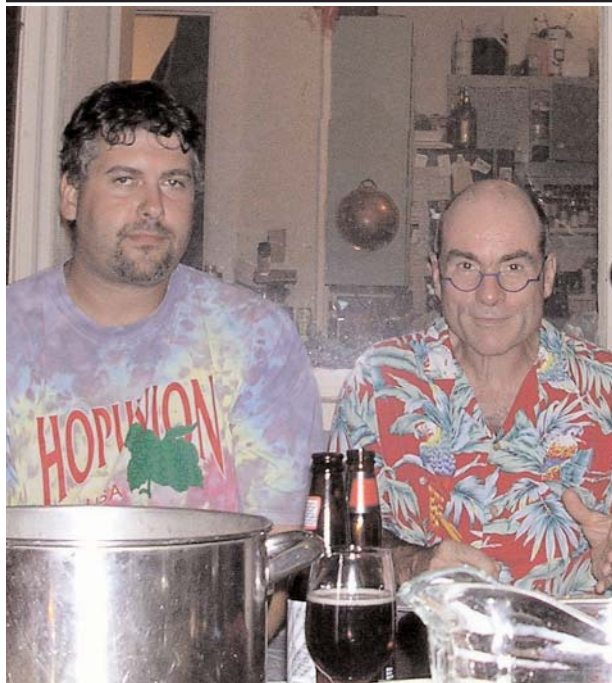
First: **Stone Brewing**, San Marcos, CA
 Second: **Victory Brewing**, Downingtown, PA
 Third: **AleSmith Brewing**, San Diego, CA

World's Best Brewers

First: **Westvleteren**, Westvleteren, Belgium
 Second: **Brasserie Rochefort**, Rochefort, Belgium
 Third: **Stone Brewing**, San Marcos, CA



Don brought an old Guinness can with a removable opener, probably from the late 1970s or early 1980s.



Just good buddies

Best Beers Overall

- First: *Abt 12, Westvleteren*, Westvleteren, Belgium
- Second: *Dark Lord Imperial Stout, Three Floyds Brewing*, Munster, IN
- Third: *Trappistes 10, Brasserie Rochefort*, Rochefort, Belgium

Full list of winners: www.ratebeer.com

BEST OF BEERADVOCATE.COM

Rated by amateur beer enthusiasts.

Top American Breweries

- First: **Stone Brewing**, San Marcos, CA
- Second: **Brewery Ommegang**, Cooperstown, NY
- Third: **Great Lakes Brewing**, Cleveland, OH

Top American Brewpubs

- First: **Southampton Publick House**, Southampton, NY
- Second: **J.J. Bitting Brewing**, Woodbridge, NJ
- Third: **Sly Fox Brewing**, Phoenixville, PA

Top American Beers

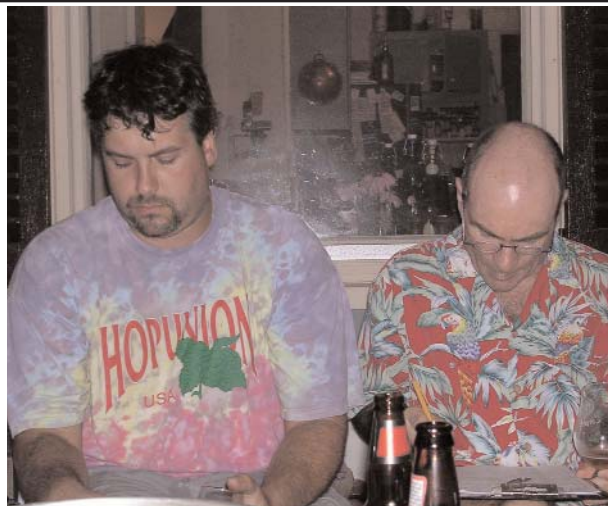
- First: *Storm King Stout, Victory Brewing*, Downingtown, PA
- Second: *Two Hearted Ale, Kalamazoo Brewing/Eccentric Café*, Kalamazoo, MI
- Third: *Stone Imperial Stout, Stone Brewing*, San Marcos, CA

Full list of winners: www.beeradvocate.com

GROTTENBIER ARRIVES IN U.S.

Manneken-Brussel Imports has brought *Grottenbier* to the U.S. for the first time. *Grottenbier*, an ale from renowned Belgian brewer, Pierre Celis (brewer of the original Hoegaarden and Celis White), is aged for one to two months in limestone caves in the Belgian province of Limburg and turned weekly like Champagne. The **De Smedt Brouwerij** (brewer of *Affligem*) brews *Grottenbier*, a strong (6.5% abv) dark ale, in which small quantities of "exotic" spices are added. Available in 12-oz. and 25.4-oz. bottles and on draft.

Another specialty Belgian beer from Manneken-Brussels is *Deus*, a strong (11.5% abv) pale golden ale brewed by **Brouwerij Bosteels**, established in 1791. Bosteels also produces *Pauwels Kwak* and *Triple Karmeliet*. *Deus* is bottled in champagne-style bottles and sent to France's champagne country for aging according to the "Methode Champenoise."



Sleeping together?

THE NEWEST IMPORTS FROM B. UNITED INTERNATIONAL

- 1) *Wolnzacher Bürgerbräu Roggenbier*, an unfiltered, unpasteurized rye beer (65% rye) from the **Wolnzacher Bürgerbräu** in Wolnzacher, Germany. Available in 16.9-oz. bottles and on draft.
- 2) *'t Smisje BBBourgondier*, a dark, bottle-conditioned ale brewed with malt, hops, candi sugar, valerian and lemon balm, from **Brouwerij Reggenboog**, Brugge, Belgium. Available in 11.2-oz. bottles.
- 3) *Wostyntje Tourhouts Mustard Ale*, a dark blond, bottle-conditioned ale brewed with barley malt and pilsner Munich malt, Hallertau and Challenger hops, dark candy sugar and mustard seeds, from **Brouwerij Reggenboog**, Brugge, Belgium. Available in 11.2-oz. bottles and on draft.
- 4) *Dorothy Goodbody's "Our Glass"*, a dark, ruby red ale (6% abv) brewed with pale, crystal, wheat, and amber malts, flaked barley, a small amount of roast barley and hopped with Fuggles and Bramling Cross hops, from **Wye Valley Brewery**, Herefordshire, England. Available in 16.9-oz. bottles.

Upcoming 2003 Meetings

September	Wheat Beers
October	Oktoberfests
November	Pale Ales & Bitters
December	Santa's Silli Bière Competition

NB: This list may have no basis in reality, whatsoever.

Homebrew Competitions

October 25 - SNERHC, Colorado Brewing, Danbury, CT
(*Darvon doesn't need any help. He can do it all by himself.*)

For further details on the NEHBOTY competition, specific competitions and rules and forms common to the competitions, go to the NEHBOTY website:

<http://mail.symuli.com/NEHBOTY> (if it's working, that is)

THE BREWER'S BUGLE is a sometimes-monthly publication of the Underground Brewers Club of Connecticut. The contents herein are © 2003, except for the parts we stole.

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For a subscription: Send \$10.00 to Robert "Nessie"

Lachman, 5 Apple Tree Lane, Norwalk, CT 06850

July Meeting Results

July 16, 2003

Host: Dr. Pivo

	STYLE BREW ER BRAND	NOSE (12)	LOOKS (3)	TASTE (20)	BODY (5)	OVERALL (10)	TOTAL (50)	COMMENTS
1	American Lager Saranac	7	2	8	3	5	25	Ultra clean, ultra bland, ultra veggie, ultra thin, ultra boring. Needs some taste, especially hops
2	American Dark Lager Abita (New Orleans) Turbodog	5	2	9	3	5	24	Burnt (got too close to the Cajun barbecue grill). Sour end (like Nessie's dog.) Not to style (whatever that is)
3	American Lager Old Saratoga	7	2	12	3	5	29	Diacetyl, adjuncts. Boring enough to listen to Nessie's story about Sparky with no punch line.
4	American Pilsner Casco Bay	10	3	15	4	8	40	Lemony hops, clean, fresh (like Danika). Good grains, light, delicate, dry. Aren't beers from Maine supposed to have diacetyl?
5	American Summer Ale Sierra Nevada Summerfest	8	2	11	3	6	30	Nice, summery nose. Celery, beet tops, too much hop flavor (it is Sierra Nevada, after all). Too un-subtle. Label says "bottom fermented," and "lager" hidden in small type. ("This is not Bud.")
6	Helles Lowenbrau On tap at My Place	9	3	15	5	8	40	Just nice, right on style, lager nose and taste. Thank Gambrius that they decided to give up brewing in Canada.
7	Weizenbier Nurse	5	3	9	2	4	23	"Phenolic crazy shit," (Pizzaman). Papaya enzymes, funky fruity. "Fermented in Burger King garbage can," (Krapper). Too much kelp. Nurse tried to blame it on Darvon's recipe.
8	Witbier Darvon	7	2	11	3	5	28	Missing tartness, made with coriander soap. "Just call it coriander golden," (Crapper). Pizzaman swore he could taste the cumin.
9	Witbier Pivo	8	1	10	3	5	27	Bazooka, tart "too tart, unlike mine, which was just right," (Darvon). Low spices, metallic. Forbidden Fruit yeast.
10	Bitter Darvon	9	3	10	3	6	31	Resiny American hops "Goldings in there," (Krapper) Wrong, it was Armadillo.) Feeble body, needs malt. Actually a blond that Darvon dumped most of because it started out tasting infected.
11	ESB Pivo							Green, cheesy apples, cold feet flavor, tarry, sweet. The group declined to score it.
12	Bitter Crapper	10	3	15	4	8	40	American hops. "Armadillo," (Darvon). "Goldings," (Crapper). Cheating -- he knew. Actually, both right. Anyway, we obviously liked this Bitter aged in oak. Best of evening.
13	Light Ale Tupperman	8	2	13	3	7	33	"Kolschy," (Darvon , the Koelschmeister). A very nice "thrown together" beer made with DME, Hallertau & German ale yeast No cause for diffidence on the part of Tupperman.
14	American Brown Krapper	9	3	13	4	6	35	Very hoppy, big hop discussion with no resolution; sweet finish; well-made, although Darvon didn't like Simcoe hops.
15	Rye Beer Red Hook Rye						35	Like a Weizen in many ways, which is right for rye beers. By this time, the group was well past meaningful, organized ratings, but those who like rye beer liked it very much.
16	Rye Weizenbier Brewer?						35	Belgian "weizenruggerber." Just what it is supposed to be.
17	Dark Belgian Krapper						32	
18	Belgian Amber Pizzaman						35	Sweet.
19	Double Pizzaman						36	

Summary: We can only hope that brewers are not looking for useful feedback. Lots of bad commercial brews.



Summer Picnic at Double Coc's -- August 17

Robert "Nessie" Lachman
5 Apple Tree Lane
Norwalk, CT 06850