

OMAHOPS

January meeting at Jon Bloomquist's

Jon will host our January meeting at 7:00 PM on Friday the 27th (16318 Wakely Circle) 330-7871.

Directions: Take Dodge out to the 156th street exit and go south. Take the very first right just south of Dodge Street. The road will curve around and head west. At the second stop sign (163rd) take a left. One block up is Wakely circle on the right.

Electing officers for 2006 is on the agenda. Volunteers are always welcome if anyone is interested. It is also time to **collect dues** for the new year.

The WWF will be March 10th and 11th and we need to vote on if the club should pay for it this year. Hopefully some members can work in a Poor Richards Ale for the mini shootout this spring. .

As a final note, there doesn't seem to be much room for true craftsmanship in today's society. The club is dedicated to keeping the art of brewing beer alive and is still the best way to get a good beer in Nebraska. Let's all strive to be involved and make 2006 a great year for Omahops.

Amen.

December meeting at Elliott's house

There was a very good turnout and a Husker win made for an extremely good time.

Elliot had a fine spread of food.
Thanks for having us over!!

Beers served

- Kent Porter – Rye beer
- Marc Pullum – Cream Stout

- Jon Bloomquist – Various Barley Wines and the infamous Oatmeal Stout.
- Various commercial beers including a La Folie from New Belgium Brewing.

Quote for the meeting by Marc Pullum "Put it back in the horse".

We tasted the Oak aged beers offered by the Upstream Brewery.

Tripel

- Oak was quite strong as was true for all the beers but it will soften with age. Alcohol evident but not overwhelming Phenolics were subdued

Saison

- Phenolic, orange, hops in aroma. Flavor was slightly bitter which is not appropriate Orange peel very evident but lacking much spicy flavor. Carbonation was lower than expected.

Kriek

- Oak flavor strong. Well balance sour and barn flavors but cherry flavor was barely noticeable.

Framboise

- Strong Oak but was somewhat hidden by raspberry flavor. Raspberry, sour and barn flavor all well balanced. This was probably the best of all at this time but give the Gueze another year and it might surpass the framboise.

Framboise/Kriek

- The Framboise improved the Kriek and so this was decent.

Award Winning Gueze

- Oak was strong and it could have been more sour but not all examples are. This was good but more complexity would have raised it to a first place. I don't think a highly sour example would have been well accepted among the Upstream crowd. In a year or two this will be even better.

Good effort Zack. These beers have been perfected by the Belgians over

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many years and are definitely a challenge. Thanks for being brave enough to make these beers!!

Finally we tasted the commercial Gueze by New Belgium La Folie

- Very sour and complex. There were many subtle flavors that tantalized the tongue. This more than likely is a Blue Ribbon winner. Many are not big fans of the huge sourness and this may not have been a personal favorite of everyone. Even Elliott who doesn't like Belgium beer agreed that this had what judges would be looking for.

Kansas City Biermeisters (KCBM) Competition

February 17th and 18th, entry deadline is February 4th. All the details are available at

<http://www.kcbiermeisters.org/index.htm>

This is part of the High Plains brewer competition and the club will pay to ship your entries

Next Shootout

The Lagers-Omahops Shootout 2006 will be in the fall, probably late October or early November. The styles are:

Class 2. Pilsner

- A. German Pilsner
- B. Bohemian Pilsner
- C. Classic American Pilsner

Class 11. English Brown Ale

- A. Mild
- B. Southern English Brown
- C. Northern English Brown

Class 14. India Pale Ale

- A. English IPA
- B. American IPA
- C. Imperial IPA

Class 22. Smoke-Flavored and Wood-Aged Beer

- A. Classic Rauchbier
- B. Other Smoked Beer
- C. Wood-Aged Beer

Best Damned Beer.

WWF 2006

The WINTER WARMER FESTIVAL will be held March 10th and 11th. WWF is an annual event where we rent a cabin at the Platte River State Park (by Springfield, NE) and break out all our high gravity beers that we have been saving. All beers must be 1.060 or higher but we won't throw you in the fire if you bring a smaller beer. Actually after all those high gravity beers a lighter beer is a relief to the palette. No one is allowed to leave so plan on staying the night. We usually play some poker and brew a commemorative beer (high gravity of course). Although we also can do a second runnings, and make a light beer to enjoy at the Big Brew. It is just a good time. I hope we can see some new faces there this year.

As mentioned in the previous article, we will discuss and vote on whether the club will pay for the event at the January meeting.