



Hudson Valley Home Brewers, inc

Established 1989

Incorporated 1994

FEBRUARY 2007 NEWS

Ray's Bugs Rescue Boring Beer!!

By David Sherfey

Last summer at the annual picnic, Ray Sykes brought some samples of a sour Belgian beer that was obviously not close to being finished. There was something going on inside that bottle....forgive me for not remembering what exactly the beer was, but when I saw that, what I saw was POTENTIAL.

Steve Thomas's eyebrows were going up and down and he was excitedly pointing at this stuff saying that "if you want to sour a beer, you need to get some of THAT."

Ray poured some into one of my empties, and I put it into my cooler to take home. I had a three gallon carboy of the most boring beer in the world, a "Strong Dark Belgian" that didn't taste one bit Belgian at all. I brewed it using a very detailed recipe someone gave me with a fermenting procedure guaranteed to produce very boring beer, and that is exactly what I got. I have spent the past several years trying to get club members to imagine it as some other beer to no avail, so it just sat.

I moved to a different house and still it sat. And then....Ray's cauldron of bugs got dumped in last June. I was treated over the next few months to an experience that I intend to repeat many times in the future. The surface of that carboy went through changes that I have never seen before, looking about as ugly as you can imagine, and the vile appearance witnessed (it's called a pellicle) was only tolerable because the books I have on

(Continued on page 2)

The February Meeting will be held THURSDAY 2/15 at 96 Main

The meeting day has been moved to Thursday this month so we don't interfere with everyone's Valentines Day activities.

8:00 PM at 96 Main ON THURSDAY

Newsletter Submissions Requested

Its fun being the MOUTH of the club, but it would be more fun if there were a few more mouths with keyboards in hand writing stuff for the newsletter. I know we have some eloquent folks out there with things to say that the rest of us would like to hear, so please, send it over and lets get it published. One article a year would be enough, but we can make this as long as we want to, so WRITE AWAY!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	Page
Rays Bugs	1
Competition Updates	2
Steering Committee Notes	3
Photos from Last Meeting	5
Calendar of Events	5

NYCHG Homebrew Alley Competition set for 02/17/07

The NYCHG is proud to announce that we will be hosting **Homebrew Alley**, the **first homebrewing competition to be held in Manhattan in the 21st century!** The date is set for **February 17, 2007** (a Saturday) at Chelsea Brewing Company, Pier 59 on the West Side in Chelsea Piers. We are in heavy negotiations to secure a **Brewer's Choice** award for the competition, the lucky winner of which will see his or her creation brewed at Chelsea Brewing Company!

Stay tuned for developments, including a name and other prizes! And of course we'll need volunteers, BJCP judges, and stewards....

Website: www.hbd.org/nychg/

UNYHA 2007 COMPETITION DATE

The **Upstate New York Homebrewers Association 2007 Home Brew Competition** date has been set. Get brewing for **March 3, 2007**. Entry forms and details coming soon. -- Alan Mack, President

Check their website early and often for updates as the date approaches;

<http://www.unyha.com>

HVHB 2007 COMPETITION DATE AND LOCATION

The upcoming HVHB Competition will take place at the **Gilded Otter in New Paltz** on **March 24, 2007**.

Stay tuned to these pages for more exciting news next month.

**Support the shop that supports our
Club!**

PARTY CREATIONS

Business Hours;

Tuesday thru Friday 11AM—7PM

Saturday 11AM—4PM

Closed Sunday and Monday

845-758-0661

www.partycreations.net

Ray's Bugs to the Rescue!

the subject said it was cool. And then, it died down and I decided it was time to see what it tasted like.

I dropped the beer thief down in there and pulled up a sample. It was OK, but nothing really exciting. Notably sour, but not what I was hoping for. That was last November. The rest of the stuff floating on the surface fell back into the mix, and I was thinking "wow, great, now what's THAT going to taste like??"

Last weekend I racked all of the Fall brewing projects into kegs and then came to this three gallon carboy. By then I had racked six beers and was a bit burned out from the tasting that must take place when racking occurs. Again I dropped the thief and what I pulled out was a complete surprise. And that is why I plan on doing this for many years to come. **After eight months**, TMBFBITY morphed into something actually drinkable. Totally amazing. I doubt this thing is any competition winner, but after five years of waiting, it is a fun thing to have in the beer cooler, and this is what the hobby is all about.

Ray, you are responsible for this, and I want to thank you for being the source that pushed me into this fringe of the hobby. It was far easier than I imagined it would be, and even though it might not be this easy next time, the vision of this experience gives me the patience to wait it out because the result is certainly worth time it takes to get there.

I owe you one, pal.

EASTERN CT HOMEBREW COMPETITION Saturday March 31

One week after the HVHB competition, our good friends in Willimantic, CT will be having their competition at the VFW in Willimantic. Bruce Stott, a past regular at our competition will be the Judge coordinator, as usual. The dude is a trooper, as he now is living on Cape Cod and commutes to his competitions.... Even ones he is an organizer for! More details are available at www.homemadebrew.net

NOTES FROM THE FIRST STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Editors note....Prior to the last meeting we held a 1 hour Steering Committee meeting to discuss stuff and begin planning for the next year's activities. Jim Taylor acted as scribe, and wrote up what we discussed for the SC members to consider. As I recall there was a torrent of silence following the publishing of his notes.. So, to bring it all back to the SC, it is re-created here to some degree to stimulate thought and get everyone calibrated for the next SC meeting, which will be held at Rachael's house around 7:30PM on Thursday Feb 22.

Take it away, Jim....

It would be nice to get some comments on and finalize some of the things we talked about last meeting to include in the newsletter in the future.

At our steering committee meeting we talked about several things including meeting pace, mix of education and social aspects and generally keeping the focus on homebrewing.

We thought that currently the meetings sometimes have more education than people can sit still for and sometimes club business, style of the month, a speaker and beer bringers or commercial examples was way too much to try and jam into a 90-120 minute session.

We talked about having some guest speakers for a few meetings a year to talk about a technique, their professional endeavor or a subject they have specific knowledge of.

We talked about trying to line up the AHA club only competition style ahead of the entry dates so folks could bring their entries, the club could learn about the style and how these beers were made and then through consensus select the best one to be entered as our clubs entry.

We also talked about trying to return to the old beer sign up list like we used to do that would encourage 2 members for each meeting to sign up to bring 6-10 bottles of their craft beer to share with the club. We would ask that they spend 5-10 minutes to talk about how they made their beer, what they were trying to achieve and we all can learn from their technique and educate each other via feedback instantly. These beers may or may not be the style of the month.

Hudson Valley Home Brewers

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THE SMALL PRINT

The HVHB News is a publication of the Hudson Valley Homebrewers, Inc., (HVHB). The HVHB is an educationally oriented non-profit society that serves members of the Mid-Hudson valley in New York.

The HVHB was founded to fulfill the following purposes: a.) to promote public awareness of home brewing; b.) to improve and encourage our brewing skills through education and instruction, recipe exchange, cooperative brewing, competitions and tasting; c.) to learn more about better beer by sharing our collective knowledge; d.) to learn to become good beer judges and help others constructively to improve their brewing skills; and e.) to have good fellowship and assume personal responsibility for drinking within reason.

The opinions expressed are those of the HVHB president, news editor, and contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of HVHB.

HVHB welcomes letter, opinions, suggestions, and articles from members and readers. Items will be published as space permits on a first-come first-served basis. Include your name and phone number with submitted material. Send correspondence to HVHB, Inc. C/O/ News Editor, 83 Little York Road, Warwick, NY 10990.

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While we do not want to discourage anyone from bring other homebrews to meetings we would ask out of respect to our speakers and beer bringers that you wait until after the meeting is adjourned to open and sample those beers as part of the social/feedback portion of the meeting that people may stay and participate in.

We also talked about using the signup sheet to encourage people to brew beer for the picnic and

(Continued on page 4)

Steering Committee Notes

sign up in advance. In the past the club has offered to reimburse people who sign up to brew beer for the picnic in advance.

AHA Club Only competition Website <http://www.beertown.org/homebrewing/club.html>
Link on left side to the schedule for the year

This is the list we talked about to line up Club only/SoM/and guest speakers. Where it is Open we can fill in another SoM or a Guest Speaker
Back to the editor; So, SC time travelers, be thinking about how to address what we discussed last time and plan further for the future.

Photos from January's Meeting



If you weren't there last month, you missed a Amanda's great presentation on Braggots.
Then there was Steve's moment of rapture.
As for the guy yapping in front of the window over there, yawn, Daniel has the right idea....



UPCOMING EVENTS

February Meeting 96 Main @ Corner of South Clover	Wednesday 2/15 @ 8PM
COMPETITION: NYC Homebrewers Guild HOMEBREW ALLEY Loc: Chelsea Brewing Company	Saturday 2/17/07
COMPETITION: Upstate NY Homebrewers Association Loc: Rohrbach Brewing Co.	Saturday 3/3/07
COMPETITION: HVHB Competition Loc: Gilded Otter, New Paltz	3/24/07

This blank page is waiting for the flood of article submissions club members have promised....

Bring `em on!

Please?