

THIRSTY September 2004 News and Brews

September Formal Meeting Report

The meeting was held at the Walsh residence. In attendance were 12 club members, 2 guests and a large selection of beer for sampling. Aaron from Millstream brought freshly bottled Oktoberfest and 2 different experimental Anniversary brews for sampling and discussion. The Big Brew Double IPA made its second appearance. The general consensus was that the beer could go head to head with the commercial IPA's squared. I have ~3 gallons in a keg and 4 gallons in bottles.

Gary G. gave a presentation regarding keg and cooler conversion for use in a homebrew brewing setup. Gary has been instrumental in converting the free kegs I have for use in brewing.

A comparison of the crush from the following grain mills, Barleycrusher, Schmidling MaltMill, Valley Mill (all 3 are roller mills) and Wayne's motorized Corona (a plate mill). Aaron (who mills a bit of grain) thought the Schmidling mill had the best crush. It seems the gap on the Valley Mill had been adjusted to a wider setting than normal (I did not check this before I milled the grain) and Wayne thought his Corona was set a bit tight. The grain milled was 0.5 lbs American 2-row from Briess.

At the September meeting I made 2 observations. **1.** The beer provided for tasting has been quite big and hoppy. It seems the focus has been towards the IPA's and IPA squared's. The mainstream micro market has gotten on this bandwagon as well. This style of beer is easier to brew compared to say; a pale ale, best bitter, pilsner, etc where flaws are more difficult to prevent let alone hide. **2.** A larger selection of commercial beer is on the table compared to homebrew. I for one am as guilty of not brewing enough and or brewing the same old same old style. I would like to challenge the membership to try and brew a style they have never brewed before and/or brew more often. I did hear Wayne say now that golf league is finished, the brew kettle will be getting a workout. Do not misunderstand me; I for one sample commercial examples in order to explore various beer styles.

October Meeting Information

Formal

Tuesday, October 5 at the Thompson residence. 2096 Kestral Ridge SW, Oxford, 319-683-2822.

Topics: Oktoberfest

Informal

Monday, 18 October at the Sanctuary Pub, Gilbert St. Iowa City

November Meeting Information

Formal

Saturday, November 6 at the Millstream Brewery. Amana, IA

Topics: THIRSTY Classic

Informal

TBD Post- THIRSTY Classic wrap up at the Millstream Brewery. Amana, IA

Up Coming Events

October 2

Amana Oktoberfest Tapping of the Oktoberfest beer keg

UpComing Home Brewer's Contests

2nd annual Oktoberfest Locals are invited to bring their best home brew to enter into the Home Brewers Contest sponsored by Millstream Brewing Co. All entries must be checked into the Festhalle by noon. Winners will be announced at 4:00 pm

Any THIRSTY members interested in helping with this event contact Teresa at Millstream. teresa@millstreambrewing.com

THIRSTY Homebrew Classic

Saturday, November 6 at Millstream Brewery

MUGZ Land of the Muddy Waters

Saturday, November 20 at Bent River
<http://lotmw.mugz.org/DearFellowBrewers.asp>

New this year is a label contest.

Other News

THIRSTY collected \$700 to give to Joelen and Matthew Hansen. Joelen plans to invest the

money for Matthew's future. Joelen has been overwhelmed with the support and kindness the THIRSTY members have provided after Mike's death.

Joelen gave me Mike's brewing equipment to give to club members for their use. I am in the process of compiling a list and will be sending out a complete list of what is available.