

Forest City



Brewers

Rockford, IL

Dedicated to the Art of Home Brewing

The Barley Whispers

**Official Newsletter of the
Forest City Brewers**

January 2017 Edition

Next meeting will be held at The Prairie Street Brewhouse

Wednesday, February 1st, 2017 - 7:00 PM

Contents

Meeting Recaps – Page 3

Club Officers for 2017 – Page 3

Open Table Rules for 2017 – Page 3

2016 Brewers of the Year – Page 3

Upcoming Local/Regional Beer Events – Page 4

December Contest Results – Page 5

FCB Style Competitions for 2017 – Page 5

Competition Corner – Page 6

Beer in the News – Page 6

Brewing Tips and Techniques, Science and History – Page 7

FCB Club Member Benefits as of January 2017 – Page 7

Meeting Recaps

In lieu of written meeting minutes for December and January in this newsletter, please go to the Forest City Brewers website and listen to the podcasts of the meeting. See the link below.

<http://forestcitybrewers.us/index.php/podcasts/>

Club Officers for 2017

Pursuant to November's officer elections, below are the club officers for the coming year.

Mike Sears – President

Cory Ellis – Secretary

Eric Johnson – Treasurer

Brent Shelton – Technical Director

Joe Mongan – Activities Coordinator

Special thanks to Mike Gifford and Trish Phillips for your service to the club in 2016

Open Table Rules for 2017

In response to the survey results from last August where the club voted to eliminate the competition from the Open Table, the following changes will take effect at the January meeting.

- Beers will still be submitted by style and category only, as before.
- Numbered bags will still be provided for participants to submit, if they choose, a "BJCP-style" score sheet with tasting notes (provided at the table).
- Brewers are encouraged to talk openly about their beers to participants to gain feedback.
- There will be time after the Style Table votes are in to talk about the beers on the table and offer the opportunity for brewers to ask questions, etc.
- Brewers are still encouraged to submit their recipes to the club website.

Note that the Style Table competition will remain unchanged. We will still track points, have a Brewer of the Year award and collect the monthly \$2 donation as before (with half going to the winner of the Style Table).

2016 Brewers of the Year

Congratulations to Mike Bohn and Joe Mongan for winning the Brewer of the Year awards on the Style and Open tables!

Both competitions were hotly contested. Thank as well to all who submitted beers in 2016. Your continued support of the monthly tastings is a major contributor to the club's continued success and growth. Keep up the good work!

Upcoming Beer Events

Rockford Area Events

FCB Tasters' Guilds and locations:

January 2017 - Alchemy

If you have any ideas about new places to go for upcoming Tasters' Guilds, please let us know at the meeting.

Brewers Guild Information:

Please stay tuned for upcoming Brewers Guild dates and locations. See Tim Lundquist if you'd like to volunteer to host or to join the Brewers Guild planning committee.

Forest City Brewers After X-Mas Party – January 28th , 5PM

Mike Coisman will host this year's annual AXM party at his home in Belvidere. As always, the club will provide sandwiches and attendees are asked to bring a dish to pass. There will be some club beer on tap, but please bring other beer to share (homebrew or otherwise). Members and spouses welcome. Stay tuned for details and directions, or go to the club website.

Day of the Living Ales Bus Trip – March 4th

The club has secured the 24-person bus and is planning this year's trip to the area's best cask beer festival. Look for an email when we will start accepting money for the trip. Keep in mind that due to demand and limited number of tickets, this event is members only; non-member guests who desire to go will be placed on a waiting list.

Midwest Events

Isthmus Beer and Cheese Fest – Madison, WI – January 21st

As if you needed another reason to go to Madison, the 8th Annual Beer and Cheese Fest is scheduled for January 21st in the Exhibition Hall at the Alliant Energy Center. Cheese, beer, music and food: what's not to love?

Tickets are \$50 ahead of the event.

<http://www.isthmusbeercheese.com/>

National Events

Nothing to report this month.

December Contest Results

Open Contest

- 1st – Joe Mongan – 34C Imperial Milk Stout
 2nd – Tim Lundquist – 21B Pineapple Red IPA
 3rd – Blake Aper – 21B Oatmeal IPA

Honorable Mention:

Brent Shelton – 21B Pineapple IPA Scott Walker – 21B APA
 Matt Skorniak -32A Smoked Pale Ale Jerry Machula – 10B Dark Wheat
 Tanner Young – 33B Bourbon-Barrel Porter
 Brett and Nikki Messink – 8A Dunkel

Style Contest – 26C Belgian Tripel

- 1st – Dan Meldrum
 2nd – Mike Bohn
 3rd – David Benson

Honorable Mention:

Matt Skorniak, Blake Aper

FCB Contest Styles for 2017

January – Winter Seasonal (30C)
 February – Experimental
 March – Irish Stout (15B)
 April – American Pale Ale (18B)
 May – Witbier (24A)
 June – American IPA (21A)
 July – TBD Clone (34A)
 August – American Wheat (1D)
 September – California Common (19B)
 October – Autumn Seasonal Beer (30B)
 November – Wood-Aged Beer (33A)
 December – American Barleywine (22C)

Competition Corner

Area Competitions

Local

As always, bring your beer to the club meetings for our monthly tasting competitions.

Regional/National

National Homebrew Competition

Registration for the AHA's annual national homebrew competition opens January 30th and runs through February 5th. See the AHA website for registration information, dropoff locations, etc.

<https://www.homebrewersassociation.org/national-homebrew-competition/>

For details on upcoming AHA sanctioned competitions, go to:

<http://www.homebrewersassociation.org/pages/competitions/aha-bjcp-sanctioned-competition/calendar>

Beer in the News

A Rejuvenated Pabst

Pabst chairman Eugene Kashper discusses his company's unique position as a sort of middle ground between big beer and craft.

Beers That Won't Make You Fat

It's the new year and that of course means struggling with those resolutions. This article does a decent job summarizing some lower calorie beers, most of which are regularly available.

Fancy Yourself a Cicerone?

An interesting article about cicerones centered around Colorado's only MC. If you think you may be up to it, there is a link to the Cicerone Certification Program website.

Brewing Tips and Techniques, Science and History

As a companion to Jerry's presentation on tasting beer, check out this article from beerology.ca. The text is not reproduced here as there is an imbedded link to a nice evaluation sheet that is really the highlight of the article. Click the hyperlink below to check it out.

<http://beerology.ca/how-to-taste-beer/>

FCB Club Member Benefits as of January 2017

- 10% discount on ingredients at Brew & Grow
- 10% discount on most items at Farmhouse
- 20% off your bill for one member and one guest at Lucha Cantina
- 20% off your entire tab at Pig Minds
- 50% off appetizers (with purchase of one beer) at The Olympic
- 50% off appetizers (with purchase of one beer) at Rockford Brewing Company (not on club night)