

# Forest City



# Brewers

Rockford, IL

Dedicated to the Art of Home Brewing

# The Barley Whispers

**Official Newsletter of the  
Forest City Brewers**

**March/April 2016 Edition**

Next meeting will be held at Rockford Brewing Company

*Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - 7:00 PM*

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## **March Meeting Recap**

### **New People**

The club was pleased to welcome Dan and Dan Jr. to their first meeting.

### **Mike Sears**

Starting this month, the open and style tables at the monthly tasting will have color-coded bags and voting chips. Pay attention to your chips as mismatched votes will not be counted.

The Burpee event went well and was well-attended. Thanks to those who volunteered. Planning for 2017 has already started.

Thanks to Rachel and Eric for hosting the Sensory Analysis class. While the club only offers it once per year, Zak would like to host a larger group (open to the public) on the Olympic deck. Details to follow.

Mike introduced Tom Porkka, a student of entrepreneurial business at Beloit College. He has a project that aims to create a homebrew exchange between Wisconsin and Illinois homebrew clubs. Tom introduced the project and provided a signup sheet for those wishing to participate. You can also email him at [porkkat@beloit.edu](mailto:porkkat@beloit.edu).

### **Mike Gifford**

[As of the meeting] there were two tickets left for the Day of the Living Ales trip.

Big Brew will be May 7<sup>th</sup> at Steve and Alison Anthony's house. Stay tuned for details.

The FCB summer picnic is returning to the calendar for 2016. We are still looking for a venue, and the date will be either June 11<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>, depending on availability. Note that the AHA National Homebrewer's Conference is June 9<sup>th</sup> through the 11<sup>th</sup>.

This year's apparel order will commence for next month's meeting. Orders will be taken in person initially, but will be available on the website in the future.

### **Brent**

Please get your information to Brent for the member page if you would like to participate.

Paypal is available for dues payment through the member page. If you are paying for a cohabitation membership, be sure to provide both members' names.

Brent is investigating new web platforms for the club page. [As of the meeting] there will hopefully be a beta site by the end of the month.

### **Eric**

March's Tasters' Guild will be at Lucha Cantina (where members and a guest now receive a 20% discount on their bill). April's guild will be a special event at Kryptonite.

### **Other Members**

Jerry presented a walkthrough on the Beer Smith software and gave an overview of some of the functional updates in the latest revision.

Mike Coisman: the barrel project is still ongoing. The beer is still sour but is progressing in the right direction. The next beer will be a rum-barrel wheatwine and will be brewed at March's Tasters' Guild at Tim's house.

Chris Wachowiak has a barrel and would like to do a collaboration brew with the FCB for the Screw City Beer Fest.

Alex brought a mixed bag of hop rhizomes free to a good home. Varieties include magnum, nugget, chinook and centennial.

## **Upcoming Beer Events**

### **Rockford Area Events**

#### **FCB Tasters' Guilds and locations:**

April – Kryptonite

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.

#### **Special Tasters' Guild at Kryptonite – Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM**

Chris Wachowiak of Kryptonite has generously offered to open up his bar especially for the Forest City Brewers for this month's Tasters' Guild. Let's make it worth his while and have a good showing. All are encouraged to attend and to bring friends and family. It'll be a great way to introduce them to the club.

#### **Big Brew – Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> – Steve and Alison's House**

In celebration of National Homebrew Day, Steve and Alison have graciously offered to host Big Brew this year. As always, the club will provide light breakfast and some food for lunch but plan to bring a dish and some beer to share. All are encouraged to bring their setup and brew if you're able. Please sign up if you are going to brew and let us know what you're brewing.

### **Midwest Events**

Nothing of note this month. Stay tuned to your email if something comes up.

### **National Events**

#### **National Homebrewer's Conference – June 9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> – Baltimore, MD**

While NHC 2016 is still two months away, registration is now open and is on a first-come, first-served basis. Space is limited, so register soon if you plan to attend. Click the link below to register.

<http://www.homebrewcon.org/news/2016-register-now/>

## March Contest Results

### Open Contest

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Brandon Pierce – Robust Porter  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – Cory Ellis – Imperial Coffee Chocolate Stout  
 2<sup>nd</sup> (tie) – Joe Mongan – Coconut Milk Stout  
 2<sup>nd</sup> (tie) – Blake Aper – Australian Hopped IPA

### **Honorable Mention:**

Mike Belden, Tim Lundquist, Nikki and Brett Messink, David Benson, Kent Runte, Brent Shelton, Jason Kline, Mike Bohn, Ron Derry

### Style Contest – Irish Red Ale

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Mike Bohn  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – Cory Ellis  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – Tim Lundquist

### **Honorable Mention:**

Blake Aper, Brent Shelton, Jim Locklund, Ron Derry

## Upcoming Styles for 2016 (Categories are 2015 Guidelines)

- January – English Porter (13C)  
 February – Specialty Red IPA (21B)  
 March – Irish Red Ale (15A)  
 April – Fruit Beer (29A)  
 May – SMaSH American Pale Ale (18B)  
 June – Extract American Wheat (1D)  
 July – Spotted Cow Clone (34A)  
 August – Saison (25B)  
 September – Oatmeal Stout (16B)  
 October – Märzen (6A)  
 November – Mead (All “M” Categories)  
 December – Belgian Tripel (26C)

## Competition Corner

### Area Competitions

#### Local

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

#### Regional/National

The AHA National Homebrew Competition for 2016 will be accepting beer applications from February 1<sup>st</sup> through February 7<sup>th</sup>. First round shipping is between February 29<sup>th</sup> and March 9<sup>th</sup>, with first round judging beginning on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Note the dates as your brew day to meet the shipping deadline is fast approaching.

For details on upcoming AHA sanctioned competitions, go to:

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

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## **Beer in the News**

### [Polish Brewery Aims to Produce Super-Feminine Beer](#)

Thanks to a Kickstarter campaign, you may soon be able to sample a beer brewed with extra-special bacteria... Just read the article... If for some reason you want to contribute, there is a link for that, too.

### [Cincinnati Bar to Offer Stock Market Beer Pricing](#)

A Cincinnati bar will introduce a novel concept to beer drinkers. While some of the details are still being finalized, the general concept is the beer pricing will change “real-time” based on popularity and availability.

### [Hops May Be Medicine](#)

Researchers are working on isolating humulone and lupulone from cascade hops which may be useful in future medicines for combatting infection, insomnia and other ailments.

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## **FCB Club Member Benefits as of March 2016**

- 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)
- 50% off food at Kryptonite until 9 PM