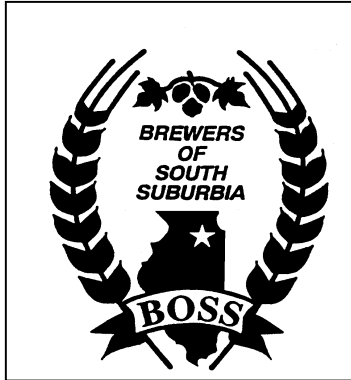


BOSS Newsletter

February 2010

Jay Lubinsky, Editor



We are dedicated to the art of crafting and quaffing fine beers through the sharing of ideas and experiences, the advocacy of brewing as a hobby, and the responsible consumption of beverages containing alcohol

In This Month's Issue

BOSS Website Under Attack	p. 1
January Meeting at Gregg Ferlin's	p. 2
February Meeting at Goose Island	p. 2
BOSS Officers Meet	p. 2
Meeting Schedule for the Year	p. 3
Styles for the Year	p. 4
Treasurer's Report	p. 4
BOSS Library	p. 4
Contact the Officers	p. 4
Newsletter Items	p. 5

BOSS Website Under Attack!

As of this writing, our Web site no longer belongs to us. As the renewal of our domain name expired on January 27, some vulture swooped in and stole it. Fortunately, the BOSS officers met on the very next day and quickly put the situation on the agenda (see article, p. 2). Officers agreed that we should register more than one domain name and several suggestions were offered. BOSS Webmaster Jim Todd was confident that the matter will be cleared up quickly, so keep eyes on the listserv (not affected) for updates on a new URL. Jim and the officers will also be taking steps to assure this does not happen again.

January Meeting at Gregg Ferlin's

Many thanks to long-time BOSS member Gregg Ferlin for hosing the January meeting. Despite really crappy weather, this turned out to be an exceptionally well-attended event, with about 50 (yes – count ‘em – 50!) BOSS members having a great time. Emails following the meeting heaped praise on Gregg and his wife for the great pulled pork, fantastic beer, amazing brew set-up, and overall hospitality. Paul Frohnapple also needs recognition for taking first in the club-only competition for English Brown Ales with his Northern English Brown. Thanks once again to the Ferlins

February Meeting at Goose Island Brewing

For the fifth year in a row, BOSS will have its February meeting hosted by the great folks at Goose Island Brewing, 1800 West Fulton, Chicago. Once again, we thank Dave Persenaire for arranging and confirming the meeting. Most attendees will be travelling on the bus leaving from Tinley Park.

Once again, the brewery's staff will treat us to several great Goose brews and a tour and discussion. Special thanks also go to BOSS members Steve Kamp for taking care of food, and Rich Larsen for taking care of the bus arrangements.

BOSS Officers Meet

The BOSS officers (a.k.a. BOSSifers) met on January 28 to discuss several issues. Attending were President Harry Bielawski, Vice-President Mark Westmeyer, Past President Mike Pelter, Secretary Jay Lubinsky, Treasurer Lee Mayer, and Officers-at-Large, Steve Kamp, Mike Morel, and Dick Van Dyke. Webmaster Jim Todd attended also (good thing, too). Here's a summary of discussion on several items.

Web Site – Our Web site has been vandalized. See article on page 1.

Membership – There had been confusion as to who exactly is a “member,” as several spouses of paid members have been listed as members though they didn't pay annual dues. That, in turn, confounded the definition of who is a “guest” at some events. Officers determined that the simplest solution is to have one category of membership, that is, anyone who pays annual dues is a member. Anyone else attending an event is a guest. Members will soon receive cards identifying them as such. In actuality, little will change. For example, guests will still be welcome at home meetings and the December dinner. We will still have family rates for the September picnic. There may be an occasional event, such as the Goose Island meeting, where limitations on space may require that only members attend. Certainly, if space permits, officers agreed that guests will be welcome.

Chicago Cup BOSS Challenge - Our annual AHA-sanctioned competition will take place on March 27th at the Maple Tree Inn. Webmaster Jim Todd will soon posting registration and bottle-labeling forms on our (new) Web site. Members can drop off entries at the March meeting, but these *must* already be registered (*i.e.* there will be no registering beer at the

meeting). Mid-Country Malt (South Holland) and Chicago Winemakers (Elmhurst) will be drop-off points. Other drop-off points are being negotiated and will be announced on the listserv. Mike Pelter will again serve as overall coordinator. Mark Westmeyer will coordinate judges and Mike Morel will coordinate stewards.

Tinley Park Brew and Vine Festival – The Tinley Park Chamber of Commerce will sponsor its first ever Brew and Vine Festival on April 10. We will arrange to have a table there.

Dark Lord Day – Three Floyds Brewing will have its annual Dark Lord Day on April 24 at the brewery in Hammond. BOSS will arrange to have a table or tent there.

Monthly Meetings – There was discussion of monthly meeting sites because we have grown so much over the past year. We currently have sites at commercial establishments for five meetings. Although consensus was that meetings at members' homes would likely continue to be satisfactory, we will be exploring some additional commercial possibilities (e.g. Balmoral Race Track).

AHA Club Registration – Because our president, Harry Bielawski, lives in Indiana, BOSS is registered as an Indiana club with the American Homebrewers Association (AHA). However, we are incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in Illinois. Officers felt it would be better to have an Illinois listing with AHA. Jay Lubinsky, who lives in Orland Park, agreed to use his address to register with AHA.

National Homebrewers Conference – Mark Westmeyer announced that he, Steve Sikorski, and Dustin Kirk will be attending the upcoming National Homebrewers Conference in Minneapolis. Anyone else interested in attending should contact Mark. We will be looking for club members to donate a Corny of homebrew that Mark can take to “Club Night” at the event.

Pig Cooker – Harry presented several possibilities if we are interested in buying a pig cooker. No decision was made.

Picnic Location – Harry suggested that Plum Creek Forest Preserve in Crete might be an excellent location for the September picnic. Board members encouraged Harry to enter into discussion with their representatives.

Meeting Schedule for the Year

Thanks to Dick Van Dyke, we have a schedule of meetings for our membership year. Here are the rest of the year's locations:

- February 5th. Goose Island Brewery, Chicago.
- March 5th. Mid-Country Malt, South Holland.
- April 2nd. Brickstone Brewery and Restaurant, Bourbonnais.
- May 7. Home of Conrad Kiebles, Crete.

Styles for the Year – AHA Club-Only Brewoffs

Here's what the AHA calendar looks like, adjusted for the BOSS meeting calendar for the rest of our membership year:

- March 2010 – American Ales (BJCP Category 10). Entry deadline April 3.
- April 2010 – Extract beers (All BJCP categories). Deadline May 1

A detailed brew schedule is being developed for each of these beers and will appear as a link on our Web site.

Treasurer's Report

Annual Dues

Annual dues are \$25. Our fiscal year runs from May 1 to April 30. Payment any time between those dates constitutes membership until the following April 30. So, anyone who has not paid since May 1 has "guest" status at meetings. There is no reduced rate for joining or renewing late in the fiscal year. If you have not paid your annual dues at a meeting, you can send a check, payable to B.O.S.S. for \$25.00 to Lee Mayer, BOSS Treasurer, 16972 S. Laramie, Oak Forest, IL 60452

Meeting Dues

Meeting hosts do not pay dues for the meeting(s) they host (a good reason to host a meeting). Members' meeting dues are \$7.00 per meeting when held at a member's home. Non-member or guest meeting dues are \$10.00. However, if you are a guest and join BOSS at the meeting, you will pay only the \$7.00 fee for that night's meeting. Meeting dues at commercial establishments are variable and, to the best of the Editor's ability, will be announced in the Newsletter.

BOSS Library

Steve Sikorski is the BOSS librarian. If you're interested in a particular brewing book, email Steve prior to the next meeting at stevespambox2001@yahoo.com. A complete (maybe) list of the BOSS Library holdings can be found at www.bossbeer.org

Contact the Officers

Harry Bielawski	219-365-0995	hbielawski@sbcglobal.net
Mark Westmeyer	312-806-0127	dogacres@mac.com
Mike Pelter	219-864-4666	paradoc1@earthlink.net
Jay Lubinsky	708-460-8758	ajlubinsky@gmail.com
Lee Mayer	708-560-0445	lee.mayer@us.thewg.com
Mike Morel	815-932-9906	m.morel@comcast.net
Steve Kamp	708-946-3342	chicagodrop@aol.com
Dick van Dyke		DVDsComp@msn.com

Newsletter Items

I'd sure welcome your items to put in the newsletter. Visit a new brewery? Write up your impressions and send them to me. Do well in a competition? Send me a description and, if you'd be willing to share, your recipe. Got some news that affects homebrewers in the south suburbs and environs? Let me know about it. Send all those, or anything else you think would be interesting to include, to me, Jay Lubinsky, at ajlubinsky@gmail.com

Thanks a lot,
Jay