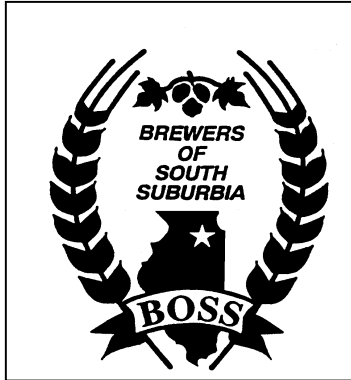


# BOSS Newsletter

March 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

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## **BOSS Back On Line**

You'll no doubt remember from last month's newsletter that the BOSS Web site had been pirated and attempts to access it were met by connection to some commercial site. Well, there's good news to report. Thanks to the quick and thorough action of BOSS webmaster Jim Todd, we're back on line. We even have the same URL, <http://www.bossbeer.org/>. You'll once again be able to get the latest information about the club, competitions, meetings, and more. Be sure to hit the Web site regularl

## **February Meeting at Goose Island**

Last month saw the fifth consecutive year of the extra special BOSS meeting at the Goose Island brewing and bottling plant in Chicago. And what a meeting it was! BOSS members were treated to great Goose Beers. The Goose staff couldn't have been more accommodating. Special thanks once again to BOSS members Dave Persenaire, who arranged the meeting, Steve Kamp for taking care of food arrangements, and Rich Larsen, who did all the bus arrangements.

### **March Meeting**

The March meeting will be on Friday March 5 at Mid Country Malt Supply and hosted by BOSS member Bob Heinlein.

Here are some particulars:

**Date:** Friday, March 5

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** Mid Country Malt Supply  
334 W. Armory Drive  
South Holland, IL

**Phone:** 708-297-7323

**Driving:** This one's a piece of cake, or glass of beer. From either east or west, get on the I-80/294 Tollway and get off at Halsted St. north. From I-80/294, take Halsted street north. Second traffic light is 167th street (Burger King on corner). Turn right, go through the 4-way stop, and just before the railroad tracks, turn left into the parking lot. Mid Country is about halfway down the building on the right.

#### **Meeting Style**

Style is American Ales (BJCP Category 10). Find style guidelines at [http://www.bjcp.org/docs/2008\\_stylebook.pdf](http://www.bjcp.org/docs/2008_stylebook.pdf), page 10 and following. Note that this is another of the AHA Club-Only competitions. American Ales include three sub-categories: pale, amber, and brown. Entry deadline is April 3.

#### **Other Important Stuff**

Food for this meeting had not been finalized at press time. However, like last year, it looks like pizza is a good possibility. Because the food arrangements won't be ordinary (that is, not supplied by a member host at his or her home), pricing may not be the usual \$7.00. To plan for food, please:

**By Wednesday, March 3, please send a message to the BOSS listserv ([bossbeer@googlegroups.com](mailto:bossbeer@googlegroups.com)) if you plan to attend**

## **BOSS Challenge Competition**

Not only do we have a regular meeting this month, March is also the month of The BOSS Challenge annual homebrew competition. This year's contest is set for Saturday, March 27 at Charlie Orr's Maple Tree Inn in Blue Island. Board members are currently talking to various people about prize donations.

Registration for this year's competition is on-line only. Important information, such as fees and deadlines, is on the BOSS Web site, <http://www.bossbeer.org/competition.html> Check there often.

You can bring beer for the competition to the BOSS meeting on March 5. After that, the registration time frame will be from March 8 to 19. Entries may be dropped off in person at the following locations until March 19:

Kennywood Homebrew, Crown Point  
Mid-Country Malt, South Holland

Keep checking the Web site, <http://www.bossbeer.org/>, for other drop-off points.

You may also ship beers. Carefully pack and ship entries and entry fees to:  
Bob Heinlein, 7975 E. 99th Lane, Crown Point, IN 46307

Non-BOSS judges and stewards may also walk in entries by 8:30 a.m. the day of the competition. However, those beers must be pre-registered.

Online entries are \$7 for the first entry; \$5 for each additional entry. Make checks payable to B.O.S.S.

This contest is sanctioned by the American Homebrewers Association and is a part of the Midwest Homebrewer of the Year Competition. It features the Chicago Beer Cup, which is awarded to the homebrew club which accumulates the most points. Ribbons and prizes will be awarded to the winners of each flight, including separate Best of Show judging for beers and nonbeers.

First-in-flight winners may have the opportunity to brew their award-winning recipes at Brickstone Brewery and Restaurant in Bourbonnais. Additional possibilities for brewing winning beers are in the works.

Your assistance as a judge or steward is needed to ensure the quality of our competition. Please contact the BOSS staff and join us for a great time. BOSS Past President Mike Pelter is the chief organizer for the event. Mark Westmeyer is the director of judges and Rich Larsen is organizing the stewards. If you would like to participate as a judge or a steward, please contact Mark or Rich respectively. Best way to do it is send a message to the BOSS listserv, [bossbeer@googlegroups.com](mailto:bossbeer@googlegroups.com). Title your message "Serving as Judge/Steward" and indicate in your message which you'd like to do. Experience points for judges will be awarded through the Beer Judge Certification Program (BJCP) based on the number of entries received. Please plan to

arrive by 8:30 a.m. as judging begins at 9 a.m. Breakfast snacks will be available and Charlie's famous muffalata will be served for lunch.

## **Argus Brewery**

By Jerry Sadowski

This brewery, located on the south side of Chicago, was a topic of discussion last month on the CBS listserv when it was "discovered" because of its Facebook page.

Tom Sadowski had met the owner, Bob Jensen, when Bob stopped in Tom's hardware store located in the same neighborhood. Bob was buying spray paint to label his kegs. You can't buy spray paint in Chicago unless you're in maintenance so a conversation ensued. Tom was excited to find out a microbrewery was in operation nearby and asked for a tour.

As it turns out, the brewery is located in an unknown but historic area of Roseland. If you don't know where Roseland is, you might know where Pullman is. That's the historic factory town that George Pullman built the 1880s. It's located just off the Ford Expressway between 111<sup>th</sup> and 115<sup>th</sup> Streets. At the time it was a dry town. George Pullman didn't want drunks building his rail cars.

However, just over the Illinois Central tracks to the west of Pullman was "wet" Roseland. Over the years, Schlitz bought up two blocks on Front Street and owned a bar, brewery, ice house and stables for their draught horses. Argus Brewery is located on the second floor of the stable building. The brick building is in amazingly good shape thanks to Bob Jensen's efforts. There still are two terra cotta horse heads protruding from the brickwork.

Tom arranged a tour and Patrick, Bob's son and the brewmaster, conducted it. BOSS members, Jim Lett, Conrad Kiebles, and Jerry Sadowski attended. Their equipment comes from Pike Brewery in Seattle. They also have some unique pieces that they have added. For instance, they have the region's largest water filter. They claim they won't have to change the cartridge for 20 years. And they have a very efficient glycol cooling system that is utilized throughout the brewery.

So far they are contracted to produce one beer which is a cream ale called McCaffrey's Irish Cream Ale that is sold exclusively to the Ballydoyle Irish Pubs in Aurora, Downers Grove, and Bloomingdale, IL. We were not able to taste the beer because the entire inventory of finished product is un-carbonated. The beer is injected with "the Mix" as it is served. It's quite an expensive serving system and they don't have one at the brewery's tasting room. However, we were able to finish the brewery tour sampling their very good small batch beers in the beautiful tasting room.

Patrick is a very hospitable host and tour guide as well as a great brewer. He has plenty of energy to accomplish much more in the near future. Watch for interesting beers to continue to be produced from this great little brewery.



**Argus Brewery**



**Patrick Jensen, Brewmaster**



**Tom Sadowski examines false bottom**



**Jerry Sadowski, Mike, asst. Brewmaster, Patrick, Brewmaster, Jim Lett, Tom Sadowski**

## **Styles for the Year**

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. Those joining BOSS for the first time after October 31 only pay the half-year rate of \$15. Sorry, but member renewals are the full \$25 all year long. 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. 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.

### Financial Statement

Financial statements at the end of the year get too large for reprinting whole. I have attempted to put some important summary information (*e.g.* year-to-date figures), based on treasurer Lee Mayer's statement of February 10. Thanks to Lee for preparing it. The editor takes responsibility for any errors in copying. If you wish to view the entire statement, please email me at [ajlubinsky@gmail.com](mailto:ajlubinsky@gmail.com).

### Cash Flows:

	Dec	Jan	Feb	Year to Date
Income:				
Annual dues 2009/2010	25.00	100.00	540.00	665.00
Meeting Dues	2,139.00	321.00		2,460.00
Meeting Dues Guest				-
Taste of Midwest tickets				-
Extra Sale of Premium				-
Annual Picnic				-
Raffle Revenue	262.00	52.00		314.00
2009 BOSS Comp Entry Fee				-
Bus for Goose Trip			440.00	440.00
Xmas Party				-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2,426.00</b>	<b>473.00</b>	<b>980.00</b>	<b>3,879.00</b>

### Expense:

Club Brew				-
Meeting Expense	2,746.00	116.65	340.00	3,202.65
Board Expense		90.00		90.00
Taste of Midwest Tickets				-
Raffle Prizes				-
Newsletter Mailing				-
Mail for club entries		20.00		20.00
Midwest Brewer Trophy Donation				-
Incorporation Fee		10.00		10.00
Web Cost				-
Annual Picnic Food and Exp				-
2008/2009 BOSS Comp and Lunch/Beer				-
2009/2010 BOSS Comp and Lunch/Beer		60.00		60.00
Bus for Goose Trip			280.00	280.00
Xmas Party				-
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<u>2,746.00</u>	<u>296.65</u>	<u>620.00</u>	<u>3,662.65</u>

Net increase / (decrease)	(320.00)	176.35	360.00	216.35
				216.35

### Cash reconciliation

Previous Balance Jan 31, 2010	<u>2,625.95</u>
Feb 10 activity	360.00
Expected balance per Feb 28, 2010	<u>2,985.95</u>

### Bank Book Reconciliation

Balance per Statement Jan 2010	2,440.84
Jan Meeting Cash to deposit	481.76
Feb Meeting Cash to deposit	360.00

Total Deposits Outstanding	841.76
Incorp fee State Ill	(10.00)
Flossmoor Station Board	(90.00)
Gregg Ferlin Jan Food	(116.65)
Dustin Kirk Comp Cost	(60.00)
Paul Frohnapple AHA entry	<u>(20.00)</u>
Total Checks Outstanding	(296.65)
Expected Balance per Bank Feb 10	<u><u>2,985.95</u></u>
Check Bk Reg Balance	2,985.95

### **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 [stevesspambox2001@yahoo.com](mailto:stevesspambox2001@yahoo.com) . A complete (maybe) list of the BOSS Library holdings can be found at [www.bossbeer.org](http://www.bossbeer.org)

### **Contact the Officers**

Mike Pelter	219-864-4666	paradoc1@earthlink.net
Harry Bielawski	219-365-0995	hbielawski@sbcglobal.net
Mike Morel	815-932-9906	m.morel@comcast.net
Jay Lubinsky	708-460-8758	ajlubinsky@gmail.com
Lee Mayer	708-560-0445	lee.mayer@usthewg.com
Steve Kamp	708-946-3342	chicagodrop@aol.com
Rick Deering		rdeering@fedsig.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](mailto:ajlubinsky@gmail.com)

Thanks a lot,  
Jay