

# BOSS Newsletter

July 2018

Scott Pointon, 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



**Brewers of South Suburbia is an Illinois not-for-profit corporation**

## In This Month's Issue

June – Soundgrowler meeting recap	p. 2
July – Meeting at Alter Brewing	p. 3
Styles for the Year	p. 4
Meeting Schedule for 2018	p. 5
Upcoming Competitions	p. 5
Membership Information	p. 6
BOSS Library	p. 7
<b>BOSS Board Election Results</b>	p. 7
Contact the Officers	p. 7
Upcoming Beer Festivals	p. 8
Beer Quote of the Month	p. 8



# June @ Soundgrowler

In June we held our first-ever meeting at Soundgrowler Brewing. They humbled us with their wonderful friendship and generosity. The food was amazing and the guided tasting of weissbiers was informative. It truly was a great meeting and an extremely fun time. If you missed it, make plans now to attend any future BOSS meetings at Soundgrowler!



**A huge thank you goes out to Arturo and Larry and everyone else at Soundgrowler that made us all feel so welcome in their brewery!**



## July Meeting @ Alter Brewing Company

In July we will be returning to Alter Brewing Company in Downer's Grove, IL. The meeting space that they let us use at Alter is fantastic and it's always great to see behind the scenes in a well run brewery. Alter has been in business for a couple of years now, and they have some really good beers, not to mention one of the most beautiful brew houses I have seen in a small craft brewery. You won't want to miss this meeting!

**Date:** Friday, July 13<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 7:00pm

**Location:** 2300 Wisconsin Ave. #213, Downers Grove, IL 60515

**RSVP:** In order to plan for food, please let us know you're coming by sending an RSVP email to Terry Frey at [havefundad@comcast.net](mailto:havefundad@comcast.net).

**Driving:** This is an easy one. Take I-80 to I-355 north. Next, exit I-355 at Maple Avenue and turn East on Maple. Follow Maple Avenue for a few blocks and then turn left onto Belmont Road. Drive another few blocks to Wisconsin Avenue and turn left. After making that turn, the brewery is located in a strip building located a short distance down, on the right hand side of the street.

**Meeting Dues:** The cost to attend this meeting is \$10 for members and \$15 for guests.

**Meeting Style:** The style of the month will be BJCP category 25A – Belgian Blond Ale.

### **25A – Belgian Blond Ale**

**Overall Impression:** A moderate-strength golden ale that has a subtle fruity-spicy Belgian yeast complexity, slightly malty-sweet flavor, and dry finish.

**Aroma:** Light earthy or spicy hop nose, along with a lightly grainy-sweet malt character. Shows a subtle yeast character that may include spicy phenolics, perfumy or honey-like alcohol, or yeasty, fruity esters (commonly orange-like or lemony). Light sweetness that may have a slightly sugar-like character. Subtle yet complex.

**Appearance:** Light to deep gold color. Generally very clear. Large, dense, and creamy white to off-white head. Good head retention with Belgian lace.

**Flavor:** Smooth, light to moderate grainy-sweet malt flavor initially, but finishes medium-dry to dry with some smooth alcohol becoming evident in the aftertaste. Medium hop and alcohol bitterness to balance. Light hop flavor, can be spicy or earthy. Very soft yeast character (esters and alcohols, which are sometimes perfumy or orange/lemon-like). Light spicy phenolics optional. Some lightly caramelized sugar or honeylike sweetness on palate.

**Mouthfeel:** Medium-high to high carbonation, can give mouth-filling bubbly sensation. Medium body. Light to moderate alcohol warmth, but smooth. Can be somewhat creamy.

**Comments:** Often has an almost lager-like character, which gives it a cleaner profile in comparison to many other Belgian styles. Belgians use the term Blond, while the French spell it Blonde. Most commercial examples are in the 6.5 – 7% ABV range. Many Trappist or artisanal Belgian beers are called Blond but those are not representative of this style.



## BOSS Meeting Schedule for the Remainder of 2018

With the club having grown to the size that it has, the Board continues to work hard to locate appropriate places to meet. That being the case, here is a compiled list of upcoming meetings:

**July 13<sup>th</sup>** – @ Alter  
**August 3<sup>rd</sup>** – @ One Trick Pony  
**September** – BOSS Picnic @ Evil Horse Farm  
**October 5<sup>th</sup>** – @ Evil Horse Brewery  
**November 2<sup>nd</sup>** – @ Mid-Country Malt  
**December** – Christmas Party @ Rock Bottom Orland Park



### Upcoming Midwest/Regional Competitions – Time to get brewing BOSS!

Entries in **GREEN** are participating in the 2018 Midwest Home Brewer of the Year competition.

---

#### **Germanfest Stein Challenge** – (Milwaukee, WI)

Entry Deadline: July 13, 2018

Judging: July 28-29, 2018

Competition Information: <http://www.steinchallenge.com/>

---

#### **For What It's Wort** – (Bloomington, IL)

Entry Deadline: July 14, 2018

Judging: July 21, 2018

Competition Information: <http://forwhatitswort.brewcomp.com/>

---

#### **Schooner Home Brew Championship** – (Racine, WI)

Entry Deadline: TBD

Judging: TBD

Competition Information: <http://www.theschooner.org/>

---

#### **Brixtoberfest** – (Brookfield, IL)

Entry Deadline: September 28, 2018

Judging: October 6, 2018

Competition Information: <http://brixies.bobbo.net/brixtoberfest/>

---

## Sower's Cup – (Lincoln, NE)

Entry Deadline: TBD

Judging: October 13, 2018

Competition Information: <http://www.lincolnlagers.com/cup/>

---

Also, if you are interested in multi-competition challenges, here are two to consider:



### Midwest Home Brewer of the Year

<http://midwesthomebrewer.com/>



### Master's Championship Of Amateur Brewing

<http://www.masterhomebrewer.org>



## BOSS Membership Information

### Annual Dues

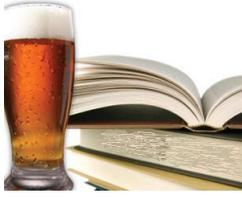
We only accept membership payments via PayPal! Look for more details on our [website](#). Also, to help the Board plan for and purchase an appropriate amount of club premium items, from now on, if anyone joins after the picnic, new member or renewal, they won't be eligible to receive this year's club premium.

Annual dues for Fiscal Year 2018/2019 are **\$32**. Our fiscal year runs from May 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>. Payment any time between those dates constitutes membership until the following April 30<sup>th</sup>. So, anyone who has not paid for the current year will have “guest” status at meetings. There is no reduced rate for joining or renewing late in the fiscal year. If you have questions about paying annual dues, you can send an email to Terry Frey, BOSS Treasurer, at [havefundad@comcast.net](mailto:havefundad@comcast.net) and he will find an answer for you.

### Meeting Fees

Our standard meeting fees are \$10 for members and \$15 for guests. Because we base how much food to have on hand from the number of RSVPs received, if you RSVP late or show up to a meeting without sending an RSVP by the deadline, you will be assessed an additional \$5 to attend the meeting.

## 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 [steveespambox2001@yahoo.com](mailto:steveespambox2001@yahoo.com). A complete (maybe) list of the BOSS Library holdings can be found at [www.bossbeer.org](http://www.bossbeer.org)

## BOSS Board Election

The votes have been cast and counted and those Board members who were on the ballot were all reelected in a landslide. There was just one dissenting vote. Congratulations to all those who won reelection!

*Editorial Comment:* The BOSS Board works hard to run the club in a professional and responsible manner and to insure that club events are successful. Each BOSS Board member gives freely of their time throughout each month. It is a labor of love. If any BOSS members are interested in serving on the BOSS Board, you should strongly consider doing all of the following:

1. Attend all of the meetings between now and next April (or as many as you possibly can).
2. Volunteer to help with the annual BOSS picnic setup/operation/teardown, the BOSS competition, etc.
3. Be outgoing and friendly.
4. Campaign early and often.
5. Run for office next spring.

## Questions? Contact the Officers

Brandon Banbury (President)	630-631-7173	<a href="mailto:brandon.banbury@gmail.com">brandon.banbury@gmail.com</a>
Mark Westmeyer (V.P.)	312-806-0127	<a href="mailto:dogacres@mac.com">dogacres@mac.com</a>
Scott Pointon (Secretary)	815-351-9333	<a href="mailto:spointon2002@yahoo.com">spointon2002@yahoo.com</a>
Terry Frey (Treasurer)	xxx-xxx-xxxx	<a href="mailto:havefundad@comcast.net">havefundad@comcast.net</a>
Bill Goetz (Past Pres)	708-772-8234	<a href="mailto:wrgoetz78@gmail.com">wrgoetz78@gmail.com</a>
Jim Todd (Webmaster)	xxx-xxx-xxxx	<a href="mailto:jtodd414@comcast.net">jtodd414@comcast.net</a>
Mike Morel (at large)	815-932-9906	<a href="mailto:m.morel@comcast.net">m.morel@comcast.net</a>
Steve Sikorski (at large)	561-426-3930	<a href="mailto:ssikorski@futureceuticals.com">ssikorski@futureceuticals.com</a>
Steve Kamp (emeritus)	312-415-2337	<a href="mailto:evilhorsebrewer@gmail.com">evilhorsebrewer@gmail.com</a>
Dick Van Dyke (emeritus)	xxx-xxx-xxxx	<a href="mailto:DVDsComp@msn.com">DVDsComp@msn.com</a>

## Newsletter Items

Since this newsletter is in electronic form and as such we don't have any space restrictions, I encourage all BOSS members to submit items for inclusion. Visit a brewery or great beer bar in your travels? Write up your impressions and send them to me. Digital pictures with captions are also welcome! Did you brew an outstanding beer recently? If you are willing to share the recipe, please do so and I will publicize it to our group. Got some news to share that affects home brewers in the BOSS area? Let me know about it. Send all those, or anything else you think would be interesting to me, Scott Pointon, at [spointon2002@yahoo.com](mailto:spointon2002@yahoo.com)



## Upcoming Beer Festivals

At the request of our members, I am including a list of upcoming local and regional beer festivals (as I learn of them). Though these fests are not necessarily centered on the art of home brewing, we can all surely appreciate a commercially made beer from time to time.

**Naperville Ale Fest** – Naperville, IL – July 14, 2018

<https://www.napervillealefest.com/home-summer>

**Mystic Blue Brew Cruise** – *To Belgian Independence* - Chicago, IL – July 22, 2017

<https://www.mysticbluecruises.com/chicago/cruises/specialty/craft-beer>

**South Loop Beer and Cider Fest** – Women’s Park, Chicago – July 28, 2018

<http://southloopbeerfest.com/>

**Mystic Blue Brew Cruise** – *Wisconsin Beer* - Chicago, IL – August 5, 2018

<https://www.mysticbluecruises.com/chicago/cruises/specialty/craft-beer>

**Mystic Blue Brew Cruise** – *Chicago’s Small Brewers* - Chicago, IL – September 9, 2018

<https://www.mysticbluecruises.com/chicago/cruises/specialty/craft-beer>

## Quote of the Month

As an avid reader, writer, brewer, and drinker of beer I am quite fond of beer-related quotes. This month’s quote is:

***”A glass of bitter beer or pale ale, taken with the principal meal of the day does more good and less harm than any medicine the physician can prescribe.”***

- Dr. S. Carter – 1750

Cheers and happy brewing!

Scott