

# w·i·z·a·r·d·s

*Worcester Incorporated Zymurgists Advancing Real Draughts*



**Homebrew Club  
Worcester, MA**

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## [January Club Meeting, Theme: New Brewers Night](#)

The New Year started with our annual open house/new brewer's night. It must be working as club membership has been on the rise all year!

President Dave once again announced the Volunteer Prize Draw – all new for 2011. The draw is being instituted as a way to both encourage and reward volunteerism in the club. Any time a club member organizes or leads a club activity (such as a quarterly style, a pub crawl, a brew day or whatever), they will be awarded one entry in the volunteer draw. At next year's open house one entry will be selected to receive a valuable prize. There is no limit on number of entries per person so enter as many times as you can.

## [February Club Meeting,](#)

The February meeting started with our annual "Intro to Judging" seminar where we walked everyone through the BJCP score sheet in preparation for next month's Judging Practicum.

Bill talked about the fourth quarter style "mild" and presented his "top ten things your should know about mild" list. Click

[http://home.comcast.net/~wnevits/wizards/mild\\_top\\_ten.pdf](http://home.comcast.net/~wnevits/wizards/mild_top_ten.pdf) to see the list and

<http://home.comcast.net/~wnevits/wizards/mild.pdf> for an old but interesting newsletter article on brewing this re-emerging style of beer.

## [February Snow Shoe Brew](#)

A number of hearty souls met at Strange Brew for a day of brewing and good times at this annual event. Snow was on the ground and the temperatures were a bit cool but we had a few brew kettles and one heck of a fire to keep everyone nice and warm!

## WIZARDs 2011 Year in Review



### *March Club Meeting, Theme: Judging Practicum, Quarterly Style Tasting*

This month we held a training session for judging our upcoming home brew competition. The focus was on how to judge beer using the BJCP score sheets and a few sample beers provided by the club. Once again Vik doctored up samples of a commercial beer to help the club learn the subtleties of what all those fields on the judging form really mean.

### *April Club Meeting, Theme: Competition Judging*

The April meeting brought us judging for the Annual Wizards Home Brew Competition. Members present were allowed to choose their flight, with some readjustment based on size of group and number of entries in a flight. Each flight had at least one experienced judge to lead the flight and mentor the more junior judges. Fifty-seven entries in nine flights were judged by the club with nine beers advancing to the Best of Show Round to be judged on National Homebrew Day.



## WIZARDS 2011 Year in Review

### [April Pub Crawl](#)

April brought the club's annual pub crawl through the streets of Cambridge this year. While attendance may have been low, it didn't deter us from having a great time as we visited and sampled many interesting beers at John Harvard's, The Lord Hobo, Bukowski's Tavern, Cambridge Brewing Company, The Mead Hall and Redbones.



### [National Homebrew Day and Wizards Home Brew Competition Awards Ceremony](#)

Strange Brew hosted the club in the back parking lot for a day of brewing and merriment. Brian Flach's Dunkelweiss was crowned Best of Show in this year's competition.



Brian Powers leads the Wizards in the Nationwide Toast to Home Brew



Inside the Best of Judging Hall

The WIZARDS extend a special thanks to all who participated in our competition and National Homebrew Day, especially all of you who reluctantly volunteer to judge and collect the prizes!

### [May Club Meeting, Theme: Mild Tasting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Style: Mystery Brown, 20 members present](#)

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Style, Greg kicked off the Mystery Brown Ale club brew. Greg picked the specialty grains to use and left it up to the brewer to provide the base malt and hops for whatever kind of brown ale they wanted to brew. As an added

## WIZARDs 2011 Year in Review

incentive the club provided the mystery grains at the June meeting. The incentive must have worked but you'll have to wait until August to see the just how many club members took advantage of this offer and joined the party.

May also brought us the mild tasting event. Bill quickly recapped his top ten list and the tasting quickly began as we had eight different milds to try. All were quite good.

Nominations for club officers were also held this month.

### **June Club Meeting, Theme: Officer Elections, 18 members present**

Dave was re-elected president, Keith was re-elected vice-president and Bill was re-elected secretary/treasurer for another term. Thanks to all of our officers for all they do to make our club a success.

### **July Club Meeting, Theme: Summer Swill-Off**



The battle of the big guys was the theme for this year's summer swill-off. Big names brews Budweiser, Coors and Miller High Life were joined by Pabst Blue Ribbon and nostalgic favorite Narragansett for this year's event. Each beer was sampled and evaluated using the BJCP score sheet to guide the tasting. A

club vote put the final order at 1) Narragansett, 2) Coors, 3) PBR, 4) Miller and 5) Bud.

### **August Club Meeting, Theme: "Keg-Only Club Competition" Judging, 3rd Qtr. Style Tasting – Brown Ale**

This summer brought the club's second **Keg-Only Club Competition** where the winning beer would be served in the beer tent at the New England Homebrew Jamboree in early September. An established "Panel of Experts" from among those who did not enter any beers in the KOCC did the judging and unanimously voted Don Levy's Armstrong's Nut Brown Ale the winner!

**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Style Tasting: Brown Ale** – Brown Ale was this year's 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter style. This quarter's tasting was pretty open, brew and bring any brown ale you want using the complement of specialty grains picked out by Greg (and provided by the club). For a five gallon batch, the specialty grains were 1# medium crystal malt, 1# pale chocolate malt and ½ # cara aroma malt. Fourteen people brought fifteen different browns ales for our tasting.

Then we got down to business: sampling Brown Ales!

## WIZARDS 2011 Year in Review

- Eli's Northern and American Brown Ales
- Jack and Rosemary's American Brown Ale
- Joey's American Brown Ale
- Karl's American Brown Ale (wit English hops and yeast!)
- Rob R's English Brown Ale
- Rob C's Southern English Brown Ale
- Don's Northern English Brown ale (and KOCC winner!)
- Konrad's English Brown Ale
- Brian's American Brown Ale
- Dave H's American Brown Ale
- Nick's Southern English Brown Ale (aptly called Nickcastle)
- Bill's American Brown Ale
- Dave D's Southern English Brown Ale
- Vik's Brown Ale

### [New England Homebrew Jamboree, Tamworth Camping Area, Tamworth, NH](#)

The WIZARDS joined with FOAM in the beer tent.

Served by the Wizards:  
Dunkelweizen  
Armstrong's Nut Brown Ale

Served by FOAM:  
Orange Wheat  
Count Hopula Black IPA  
Octoberfest



For more information on the Jamboree, you can read about it on the website at <http://home.comcast.net/~wnevits/wizards/nehj2009.pdf> or see the jamboree's web site at <http://www.homebrewersjamboree.com/index.html>.

## WIZARDs 2011 Year in Review

### **September Club Meeting, Theme: Oktoberfest Tasting, 16 Members Present**

The club met in September for our annual Oktoberfest. Tastings came from Phil (the only home brew), Tully Cross, Altunmunster, Paulaner, Hacker-Pschorr, Hofbrau House, Spaten, Weinhehstephan, Brooklyn Brewing, Sam Adams, Naragansett, Victory, Saranac, Berkshire Brewing and the Penn Brewery,

#### The Germans steal the show in 2011

Gold – Paulaner  
Silver - Spaten  
Bronze - Hacker-Pschorr



### **Fall Brew Day, in the Strange Brew Parking Lot**

This year's fall brew day was canceled due to loss of venue. Sadly for us (but probably good for him), Strange Brew has moved to a new and bigger location where outdoor brewing is not allowed. We're looking for a new location for 2012. For now, let's relive the event from 2010..



## WIZARDS 2011 Year in Review

### [October Club Meeting, Theme: 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Style Tasting - Wheat](#)

October's meeting came and went without any particular theme. Many beers were sampled and enjoyed.

### [November Club Meeting, Theme: 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Style Discussion: Porter – Brew 'em and Bring 'em](#)

Dave kicked-off the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Style Discussion by announcing the first club brewing event of 2012 would be a Porter Night. This time we're open to any style of porter to suit your tastes. Just brew 'em and bring 'em to the January meeting. Bill reminded the club about a few articles on porter brewing on the club's website:

- An Introduction to Porter - [http://home.comcast.net/~wnevits/wizards/Porter\\_by\\_Jeremy.pdf](http://home.comcast.net/~wnevits/wizards/Porter_by_Jeremy.pdf)
- Brewing Brown Porter - [http://home.comcast.net/~wnevits/wizards/Brown\\_Porter.pdf](http://home.comcast.net/~wnevits/wizards/Brown_Porter.pdf)

Due to success of this year's New Brewer's Night / Open House and our ever growing membership, the club voted to continue the tradition in 2012. To make the best impression and show for our guests, please 1) bring yourself, 2) bring some of your best home brews, 3) bring your porter and 4) be on time!

### [Holiday Party 2011](#)

A good time was had by all who attended this year's holiday party. This year we had a guest visit from FOAM. Many brews were sampled and enjoyed. Sadly no known photographs exist and this is all we have from the day after.



Commercial Brews	Homebrews, Ciders & Meads
Olde Burnside Dirty Penny Ale	Dunkelweizen
Tulley Cross IPA and DIPA	Mystery Brown Ale
Surly Furious and Coffee Bender	Pale Ale (at least a couple)
Brooklyn Sorachi Ace	Smoked Barleywine
Firestone Double Jack (DIPA)	Blueberry Pepper
Erik Denoorman Dutch Barleywine	Pumpkin Ale
La Trappe Quadrupel	Belgian Pale Ale
Allagash Curieux	Mead

## WIZARDs 2011 Year in Review

Commercial Brews	Homebrews, Ciders & Meads
Stone Old Guardian	
Orkney Skull Splitter	
Gales Prize Old Ale (1996)	
Victory Storm King Stout	
Strubbe's Flemish Red Ale	

### *December Club Meeting*

Due to a scheduling conflict at Deja Brew, the club spent the night at Peppercorn's in Worcester. The night started with a tour and tasting in the Wormtown Brewery with head brewer/club member Ben Roesch and was followed by a night in the pub. A good time was had by all who attended.

***The End***