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Worcester Incorporated Zymurgists Advancing Real Draughts



**Homebrew Club
Worcester, MA**

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January Club Meeting, 13 members present

Question of the month...

- *Have you brewed lately and what?*

The New Year started brought us a show and tell this month with a few members bringing their favorites brewing accessories. Highlights included a Hop Spider, Auto-siphon and some very useful books: Country House Brewing in England 1500-1900, Designing Great Beers and Clone Brews. After that we enjoyed everyone's holiday leftovers and promptly moved into the chaos and mayhem portion of our meeting.

February Club Meeting, 15 members present

Question of the month...

- *Do you follow a recipe or make your own? The club certainly ran the gamut on this one ranging from completely on your own, starting with someone else's recipe and then going on your own to just following the book.*

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This month we shared space with a group of Deja Brewers. It was nice to see both Ray and Dave again after such a long absence.

Brian Girard took the ESB Mini-Comp this month. American Pale Ale (10A) was selected for the August mini-comp. Everyone felt it would be a good choice for a hot August night.

March Club Meeting, 14 members present

Question of the month...

- *How do you do run-off? Fly (7), Batch (5), BIAB with an extra spare (1), BIAB with a squeeze (1)*

In the spirit of Saint Paddy, the club held an impromptu Irish Ale Night. Samplings included Smithwicks Premium Irish Ale, Smithwicks Winter Spirit, Murphy's Irish Stout, O'Hara's Irish Stout, Guinness, Guinness Blonde, Guinness Generous Ales and Inns & Gunn Irish Whiskey Aged.

Did you know?

The idea of a Barleywine Competition was floated in February and gained a lot of steam in March. It was agreed everyone would brew a Barleywine to be enjoyed at the 2016 Christmas. You have a year and a half so good luck. Dibs on several places of Bill's home were called where many of us may find ourselves.

April Club Meeting, 9 members present plus 1 new

Question of the month...

- *What size pot do you use for mashing and boiling? Most were in the 7-8 gallon range with a few in the 3-4 gallon range and one 15 gallons.*

The April meeting brought us the usual sampling of home brews, chaos and mayhem.

April Pub Crawl

This year's pub crawl had more a local flavor starting in Worcester and ending in Hudson. All total we saw a whopping 21 Wizards and guests join us along the way.

We started at Wormtown and were surprised with an unexpected tour from Ben before enjoying a quick beer (or two). From there it was off to the Smokestack BBQ for a take-out lunch to be enjoyed at Three-Cross. In addition to some fine beers (my favorite was the Black IPA) we got to spend some time with the

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proprietor and brewer Dave Holland – the second ex-Wizard turned pro we saw that day. After that we headed to Hudson to finish off the day with beers at the Horseshoe Pub and more beers and dinner at Medusa (home of yet another Wizard turned pro). A good time was had by all with everyone declaring the local pub crawl a resounding success.



The WIZARDS are looking for a volunteer to coordinate this annual event in 2016. If interested, please contact Bill or Joey.

National Homebrew Day



The WIZARDS celebrated National Home Brew Day at Strange Brew in Marlboro. A number of WIZARDS joined the Strange Brew team and a few of their other customers on the brew kettles for a day of brewing and merriment. The spring weather and flowing brews made for a great day in the sun. Here the crowd joins Brian as he leads our participation in the nationwide

toast to home brew. As an added bonus of the day, both Bill and Greg have their barleywines in the bag for the Christmas party! Thanks to Strange Brew for hosting us again this year. Mark your calendar now to join us for National Home Brew Day 2016.

May Club Meeting, 14 members present

Question of the month...

- *What do you have for home brew on tap?*

Nominations for club officers were held this month. The current slate officers were all nominated for re-election.



The May mini-comp was a Chopped style brew with the competition modeled after the Chopped show on FoodTV. The mystery ingredients were Rye malt, Amarillo hops, and Marshmallow Peeps. Yes, Peeps, that Easter classic. Judging was loosely based on the best use and

presentation of the three ingredients. Steve took the top honors and the money with his Pale Ale Peeps beer and, always a bridesmaid, Bill took second with his chocolate, marshmallow rye ale.

June Club Meeting, 14 members present plus 1 new

Question of the month...

- *What would you like to see the club do in the next year?*
 - *More stuff at meetings*
 - *NHC in Baltimore*
 - *Brewing experiment by changing 1 ingredient in 2 beers, such as olive oil*
 - *Temperature calibration (2 votes)*

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- *Barrel Project - funky, whiskey, etc. (3 votes)*
- *See more of Matt*
- *Opening Toast*
- *2 gallon electric beer brewing at meetings*
- *Eliminate opening question*
- *Unusual beer night*
- *Local pub crawl*
- *Yeast pitching, cultivating, harvesting, etc (3 votes)*

June brought our annual club elections. Joey was re-elected president, Eli was 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.

Brian W talked on the American Pale Ale style in preparation for the August mini-comp while we sampled some examples the likes of which included Stone Pale Ale, Wachusett Country Pale Ale, Dales Pale Ale and Maine Beer Company's Mo. You can read all about it courtesy of our club comedian Patrick:

Ok guys sorry it took so long but here it is. I've also attached a word document if that easier to read.

Hola Beermigos!

Welcome to an impromptu recap of our most recent meeting. I know what you must be thinking, what have you done to deserve such an unexpected treat as a meeting write up by me (and it's not because I had nothing better to do on a Friday night!!!)? It must feel like Christmas six months early.

The reason for this review isn't because you were naughty or nice, it's because of America. American Pale Ale that is, the beer of our next mini comp. Many Wizards were good enough to bring in different APA styles to sample so we could get a better understanding of what to make. So seeing how we had all this beer and the literary talent of yours truly in the building the decision was made to immortalize the proceedings. There is no need to thank me; it's just a little half-way-to-the-holidays present from me to you.

Once again here are the ground rules: Standard Wizard finger scoring applies (5 fingers= Sublime, 1 finger= an abomination to everything fermentable). There were 14 voters present so I divided the number of fingers by the number of people to get an average scoring. (14 fingers/ 14 people = 1 point as the score (with a margin of error of ± 0.02)). Also, just to keep things nice and tidy, I rounded up to the closest tenth. I tried to record the overall feel the room has for the beer as well as any comments I hear to the best of my ability; if I misquote you it's because you didn't speak loud enough and now it's become a part of the Wizards written history! So without any further ado let us proceed with the Wizard's American Pale Ale Tasting Session. MURICA!

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- 1 Stone PA- 36 votes= 2.6 pts
- 2 Wachusett PA- 22 votes= 1.6 pts
- 3 Dale PA – 48 votes = 3.7 pts

I know what you're thinking where is the witty commentary? Please note in my opening sentence I said it is an impromptu recap. At first there was no intention to do a write up on the styles until about three beers in. Because of this I didn't start writing, or really paying attention to what people were saying until about the fourth beer (which is sad because that's right when memory impairment usually starts for me).

Anyway because no words were recorded we will proceed as if nothing was said. Just fifteen people quietly tasting beer and then just as silently casting votes on them. I blame our President Joey for this. A little bit me, but mostly Joey.

4 Maine Beer Co PA 41 votes= 2.9 pts- FINALLY! Something to talk about. I was amazed by the range of votes this beer received. People truly either loved it or hated it. I've never seen so many fours and ones for a single beer. Quotes I heard were "This is light." "Light" "Too hoppy" and "It may have been a pale ale five years ago" by some bitter old man. Also we had our first great Bill quotes of the evening "I don't like looking at this at all" and "NO IT'S NOT TO CHINOOKIE!!!"

5 Ballast Point Grunion PA- 18 votes= 1.3 pts Fun fact- a grunion is a fish- and this is the beer everyone wished got away. This beer flopped like no other on the evening. Quotes heard were not flattering: "taste the way it smells" "Wow- not in a good way" "that's gotta be simcoe". About halfway through there was a communal groan followed by an "I made it through". Also at this point we learned that Eli is a hop thief so be careful with any loose pellets or cones around him ;)

6 DC Brau "The Public"- 50 votes= 3.6 pts This was a good rebound beer to have performing much better than its predecessor. People started to recover from the grunion "it doesn't have to hurt when you drink beer". This beer brought on a nice conversation regarding hop/malt balance for this style. "Munich hue" "you're yella", and "that's good" were some of the things I could hear. Bill also had a fun fact for us "Sometimes car shows have beer trucks on them". After people smiled and turned away from him, Bill's attitude began to sour for the next few samples. A period which happens often in these tastings which I like to call "The regression of Bill".

7 Magic Hat #9- 25 votes=1.8 pts Not your typical choice for an APA but "It was the only pale ale in Matt's Liquor!" Looking back we were really riding some peaks and valleys that night, and this beer was one of the valleys. "Fruity", "Oxidized, Stale" "Not something I'd pick up." "I haven't had this in 100 years" said the bitter old man. But as much as people didn't like this beer it was still

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“Better than the Grunion.”(Poor Grunion) Also by this time Bill had stopped smiling and talking to people.

8 Ballast Point PA Kolsch Style- votes 26= 1.9 pts Poor Ballast point. Not one beer over two points on the evening. There was much debate as to how to even classify this offering. “Kolsch or Pale Ale?” “Who knows” “Better PA Style?” “American/ German pale ale?” “Not a good Kolsch, but not a good pale ale” “I’d drink this over the grunion” (Ok now we’re just being mean to the poor grunion.) On the bright side, after hitting rock bottom biting his knuckles, Bill’s mood did turn around and he actually started smiling again.

9 Trillium Fort Point PA- 36 votes= 2.6 pts First off optimism returned to Bill “I hope it’s good.” Also Fun fact Emma’s in (I forget the town, ask Bill or John) has the best sandwich for lunch- chicken, smoked mozzarella, and BLT. Also a PSA: Don’t get drunk with Joey in the big city. He’ll leave you lost and wandering around for the entire night while he sleeps comfortably in his hotel room. As for actual beer quotes, which were much harsher than the score would indicate: “Not a lot of bitter.” “Not to style” “Is it light and refreshing- No” and the old man said “I don’t dig it”. FYI- The old man is not Bill; that would be obvious and cruel. I’ll leave it to you to figure out his Identity though.

Well my friends that’s all we had to review. The meeting quickly descended in to chaos when Eli brought out his secret hop stash to show us. After that all semblance of humanity was lost and I don’t have the words to describe the carnage that ensued fighting over his “free for the first time only” hops.

But on the bright side you do have this rocking review of American Pale Ales to help guide you on your quest for decent brew this summer. And we’ll be back here next month to go over our annual swill off which will be any cheap beer not in a brown bottle. Hope to see you there.

As for me time to go enter all these beers into my untapped account and make a serious run at the “take it easy” badge (follow me there at pg5656 (shameless plug I know (But I don’t care! (And who do you think you are to judge me!))))). See you next time Wizards, and until that time go out and enjoy this great nation of ours!

[Did you see it?](#)

This month our club historian, Brian W. has his letter printed and responded to in this month’s Zymurgy? In total a full front and back of a page. Nice job keeping them honest. See the July/August 2015 issue.

July Club Meeting

Question of the month...

- *What was the last commercial beer you had and why? (editor's note: too much to even consider writing down)*

Eli handed out even more hops generously donated by Ben @ Wormtown. He's out of Kohatu & Summer but still has plenty of Rakau if anyone would like some? Speaking of the Wormtown hops, Miriam brought in hop candy she made from the Rakau hops, it was delicious.

Swill-Off 2015 - Any mass produced beer not in a brown bottle.



A few good home beers were shared before we moved into the annual summer swill off with yet another write-up from the club comedian:

Ok, let's just get to the point. You know why I'm writing this. I know that you know why I'm writing this. It's July. It's summer. It's the Wizards. It's the SWILL OFF!

That's right, no fancy lead-in needed this year, our time is far too valuable for one of my monologues. All you need to know is that we brave souls that came out tonight knew what we were getting into. We planned this activity months in advance. We went out and bought beer we knew we wouldn't like. Just so we could confirm with each other that what we were drinking in fact bad, even though we already know this. But this is not an exercise in fun or enjoyment. This is more of a public service to our fellow home brewers that may not have the means to try these beers before encountering them at some outing and realizing that it might just be better to leave that beer right where it is instead of drinking it. That's right we review these beers for you so hopefully you could learn from our experience and be better informed for any summer event that may have these beers at them. This was a task so unwanted our very own president refused to

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show for this meeting! So if you come across one of the brave few that made it out to this meeting make sure you shake their hand and thank them for this gift they have selflessly provided you. (Oh hey look, a monologue.)

Before we get to the judging there are a couple of things to go over. First I know I didn't get this done Tuesday night after the meeting. I'm sorry but the idea of sleeping when I got home seemed so much more enjoyable than doing the write up right then and there. I guess I'm slowing down in my old age. Next the theme: Any mass produced beer not in a brown bottle. I don't know if I can explain it any better than the title just did. Scoring was done by the Wizard's never-fail finger system (1 finger=horrible 5 fingers =sublime (and if you're paying attention yes I did cut and paste this sentence from last year's write-up)). I will list the beers as we had them to give you the chronological flow of the evening. I'll also give you the beer's score, average and where it ranked from 1-13 (1=best, 13= an unholy abomination).

One final thought; it has been brought to my attention that I've cast some members in an unflattering way in some of these write ups (Bill). So this time around I'm going to try my best to steer clear of this practice and only represent people in a positive way (Bill). Ok enough with the lead in, you've waiting long enough. Ladies and Gentlemen I give you the 2015 Wizard's Annual Swill Off.

1. Corona Light- Woo! One optimistic Wizard cried out as we began to pour this first offering, very excited to get the night's festivities underway. There wasn't much talk about this beer, instead there seemed to be more talk on how we should be judging the beers. Some wanted to introduce and inverted scoring, giving the worst beers the higher scores. But how could we abandon one of our oldest traditions? In the end the normal grading system was kept. Also there was quite the talk of people being able to get Rolling Rock in bucks really cheap back in the day. To be fair Corona light didn't give us a whole heck of a lot to talk about. In the end it scored an average of 1.154.

2. Landshark- Finally we decided to start talking about the beer we were tasting, although Landshark didn't give us much good to talk about, except for a slightly moldy bottle cap (and this wasn't the only moldy bottle cap we would find). The beer was very similar to Corona Light in its lite color, lite body and lite taste so not surprisingly it scored the exact same as Corona Light with a 1.154 But we did get our first witty comment of the evening. I don't remember who gave us this gem "It could be drank on a hot day with a lime in your pocket." I'm not sure how putting limes in your pocket helps the flavor of beer but if some of you want to do that I won't judge you.

3. Miller High Life- Right after we had our first moldy bottle cap it was followed up with our second. At this point we could have packed up stopped drinking, however we understood that we had a job to do. We would keep drinking for the greater good. Actually I'll have to say Bill succeeded in rallying us to the cause.

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"This is a good beer. It wins in blind taste offs" Others had comments like: "Pilsner aroma" and "This is what I drank in high school" Overall Miller High Life did have more color and taste than the first two beers so it did wind up scoring a little bit better. 1.846 overall.

4. Hens tooth- It was at this time we decided to leave the USA and head over to Jolly old England; and then we immediately regretted it. This beer had a very astringent aroma that ended with a bitter aftertaste that smacked you in the mouth. "Smells bad" "Like Iodine" "Tastes like Listerine" "This is a beer to give to teenagers". Hens Tooth actually had some people running back to the corona to get the taste out of their mouths and the line to was out sample glasses backed up to the bottle-filling station. This beer took home the trophy as worst in show with a 1.077 score. Brian did give us this beauty though "The drink the drunks drink when the drunks drink beer." Sounds like a 50's advertising slogan doesn't it?

5. Dos Equis- After Hen's tooth we went straight back to North America, this time landing in Mexico. This beer wasn't great, but it also wasn't hen's tooth. Some noticed a diacetyl flavor in the beer. Some others didn't mind this beer as the scoring was much more varied on this beer than the others. "This beer makes me glad I'm not in college" was my favorite quote. Dos Equis scored a 1.769

6. Ballantine Ale- Back to America. This beer seems to show up at every swill off. I'm not sure what change from last year from this but Ballantine had a decent offering this year. In fact Ballantine was our high score for the evening with a 2.769; almost a full point higher from last year when it received a 1.8. Maybe it was due to the "dry hopped flavor", but I think it had to do with the nostalgia people were feeling. "The first beer I ever had." Brian did rally the voting for this beer a little. "Score the beer higher for my grandfather's sake!" Brian asked, and the people responded. Well done sir, and well done Ballantine.

7. Rolling Rock- There was great debate over the 33 on the Rolling Rock bottle's meaning. Ultimately it was decided that's how many you would have to drink to make this beer enjoyable. There was much debate over the flavor of the beer. "Good flavor, awful flavor, no flavor" before settling on "bad flavor". Rolling Rock ended with a score of 1.692

8. Yuengling- Staying in PA, Yuengling did do better than its PA counterpart. "Nice color" "Non-offensive aroma" were some of the better comments I hear. "kind of minerally" and "ugh" were some of the not so good comments. Yuengling received a score of 1.923

9. Moosehead- Moving up to our neighbor in the north, thank you NAFTA. Someone did point out that this is a top shelf beer in main. Moosehead did a nice job grabbing our second highest score of the evening while also sparking a lot of nostalgia in our members. "My Dad drank Stroh's" "should have brought some

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Shlitz” “Grandma would put salt in her beer” For all of the memories Moose head stirred up there were some good comments as well. “This is one of the better in a bad pile” and “I feel better about my youth”.

10. Molson Golden- We stayed in Canada for one more. Molson Golden did not enjoy the praise Moosehead received however. “This has offended my nostrils.” “Not nearly as bad as Hen’s tooth.” “Disgusting” “Starts good, but the finish kills you.” Finally “I’m losing the will to live.” Come one guys don’t give up. We’re almost there! Score of 1.769.

11. Tsingtao- From China. “What’s the lead count on this?” I’m not sure what it was but whenever we went across the ocean the beers just seemed to be really terrible. Perhaps brown bottles would have helped protect the beer? “Combination of cardboard and crappiness” “that’s terrible” “Wow (in a bad way)” There were some positive remarks. “it didn’t melt my cup!” The crossing of the Atlantic killed it”. Tsingtao got a 1.153

12. Becks- from pretend Germany- or St. Louis. Surprisingly many of the voters didn’t feel the beer was a good Germany representation. “No German quality to it” “Very unauthentic” “Totally different from what it was”. Despite the poor comments Becks did score over the Mendoza line with a 2.153.

13. Heineken- our last beer! Coming straight outta Holland Heineken did ok with a score of 2.23. One Wizard did point out that green bottles used to be a sign of imports and quality but now not so much. Jaime did have a good story about drinking this beer in his youth.

So that’s it, time to wrap u.....
Wait! Bonus Entry!

Brian from Strange Brew was kind enough to pay us a visit and brought us an offering of

14. Bud lite Platinum- “Weird” was a good way to describe it. Like bud light on steroids. Some questioned whether this should be classified as a malt beverage. “Did they add rubbing alcohol?” The bottle did get better reviews than the contents it held. “Nice Blue bottle” “And the racing stripes are pretty cool!” Bud light received a 1.231.

Ok, that’s it. No more bad beer. The brave 14 (technically 16, but Conrad and Brian#3 showed up late and didn’t factor into the final voting) people that made it out to drink swill have suffered enough. But their suffering wasn’t in vain. You now have this handy write up to help guide you through your summer.

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Well after two write ups in two months my hand is sore. I'm going to take August off and I'll check back with you fine folks in September for our Oktoberfest. Until then happy drinking.

August Club Meeting, 19 members present plus 1 new

Question of the month...

- *What do you plan to brew next?*

Jon Moore wins 45 big ones in the American Pale Ale mini-comp and once again Bill came up second.

New England Homebrew Jamboree, Tamworth Camping Area, Tamworth, NH

2015 brought one of finest showings for the Wizards at the New England Homebrew Jamboree or at least the one where we had the most beers on tap. In what has become a fine tradition we shared a tent with FOAM and put out a whopping fourteen beers between us. Thanks no doubt in part to Eli and Joey joining us this time around!



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It was one of the biggest jamboree's yet with the event racking up another decent size donation to the Make A Wish foundation. In total, there were fifteen clubs serving over two hundred and fifty beers, ciders, wines and who knows what else. A quick count of those serving included the following clubs:

- **FOAM 5**
- **WIZARDS 9**
- Winnespauskee Area Brew Crew 5
- IBU 16 (3 bottles)
- Seacoast 20
- Concord Area Homebrewers 8
- Southern Maine 6 (8 wines)
- Knights of the Mashing Fork 4
- Northshore 95 (5 of which were wine)
- Masholes 13
- BFD 6
- Kreake's Beard Brew Crew 11
- Southshore 38
- TCB 5
- Rhode Island Brewing Society 5

I would encourage everyone to give it some thought - you will have a good time. It is always held the weekend after Labor Day. The jamboree is Saturday but you can easily make it a whole weekend event. It is held at the Tamworth Campground in Tamworth, NH, Sure it's a bit of a drive but what are weekends for? Make it a day trip (bring a DD) or stay for the weekend. If you're a camper, you can camp with the jamboree or reserve a site at the campground. The campground also has rental campers that may be available. The event is definitely kid friendly. There's a homebrew competition you can enter or judge. We'll have a spot in the beer tent with FOAM. We could even serve your beer! Failing that there will be plenty of it around. For more information on the Jamboree, you can read about it on the website at <http://wizards.tringali.org/nehj2009.pdf> or see the jamboree's web site at <http://www.homebrewersjamboree.com/index.html>.

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September Club Meeting, 15 members present

Question of the month...

- *What's the most unusual adjunct you've brewed with (other than Peeps)? Coffee, Chamomile, peanut butter and dried peppers were some of the highlights.*

We discussed putting a group together to do some BJCP training and a home tasting between meetings. Joey took the helm on this and set something up for January.

Lastly, we discussed "challenging" FOAM to a brew competition and asking M4 to judge it. Then doing the same with M4 and asking FOAM to judge. The hope being we could get some friendly rivalries going in our beer area. Look for more in the coming year.

Club President Joey hosted the club annual Octoberfest tasting and once again Pat provided his usual humorous take on the day's events:

What up Wizards!

Here we all are. Once again we wave goodbye to summer and hello to autumn the only way we know how, with our ANNUAL WIZARDS OC(K)TOBERFEST REVIEW !!! I know, I know, this is the one singular event you plan your entire year around. It's like Christmas and the 4th of July had an illegitimate love child that was raised by the Chinese New Year. It's WONDERFUL!!! I'm so excited to get into the review... I know it's going to be life altering! But first let's go over the ground rules shall we.

As usual the scoring was done by the Wizard's time-honored tradition of finger rating (1 being awful 5 being sublime). I've rounded to the nearest thousands (.000) because people just don't seem to believe me if I round up any higher. I'm just going to rank them in order we had them and not from least to highest. Why? Because if I've learned anything from Rob C it's that numbers are the most subjective measuring tools in the universe and no one can believe whatever they say; spoken like a true politician, and patriots fan.

As an added bonus this I will add some emoji s to my write up to help recapture the raw emotion that was there on Tuesday night. :O ;) Δ :P O_o Pretty cool huh?

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Finally, when the evening began.... There was no Bill =O . How could we have a write up without Bill? The most lovable of all the Wizards was nowhere to be found to begin the meeting. How would we make do? I guess we'll just have to make do, somehow, somehow we'll get through this.

Together :*(

Somehow :**(

But enough worrying; let's get into it! Ladies and Gentlemen I give you the 2015 Wizards Oc(k)toberfest write up!

1. Goosehead Octoberfest- Dwayne's World Breweries: This one is from one of our very own! Straight from the ancient and legendary beer Cellars in Dwayne's basement, he bravely brought forth this gem to be scrutinized by his clansmen, and immortalized in email by me. Initial comments were slow to materialize as our great agitator was still not there, but eventually the ice was broken with comments such as: Nice looking, Not overly sweet, which is nice, and It's a nice style beer to drink all day, and all night (Brian there are people out there that care for you and are willing to help :D) 39 pts- 3 fingers.

2. Wormtown Oktoberfest- Wormtown's beer did pretty well. It had a notable color similar to Dwayne's and a nice flavor. It did have more hops than expected. And many commented on the Munnichy taste to the beer. This came in a growler which brought up a nice discussion on the state of growler exchange in Massachusetts. FYI many people at this meeting believe it their God given right to bring whatever growler they wanted to a taproom to have it filled. Also make sure you clear your growlers before exchanging them. Also no snarky comments yet. Weird. Overall score 37= 2.846 Fingers

3. Harpoon Octoberfest- Here are my snarky Wizards! It only took Harpoons much maligned offering to bring it out of them. Many participants noticed a harsh off flavor and Sulfur aroma. "Compost like" was my Favorite comment. But wait... as we were tasting this beer the Door of Deja Brew Flew open and a gust of wind came rushing throughout the room temporally blinding us *_*. We looked up squinting our eyes to see a shadowy figure in the doorway. It was Bill! ☹ My great nemesis of the beer reviews found his way to the event. "I didn't miss it? Oh Yay" Bill said in his most sarcastic tone >:(Now the Wizards were ready to get their sass on! Oh yeah Harpoon scored horribly at 17 pt or 1.214 fingers "Oh those are great ratings" Glad to have you back Bill.

Point of Order

In case some of you are wondering about a changing in the amount of points/ average (Rob) we now had an additional member voting.

Carry On

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4. Hacker- Pschorr Original Oktoberfest- "Something went bad on the boat!" My personal favorite quote of the night. Most Wizards agreed this beer was skunked. "that's skunky" more than one of you said. Lots of frowns trying this one as well :("So no one's rushing to Germany to try this one?" Not handled well? Is this a new coke-type of campaign?" 23 points 1.642 fingers.

5. Oktoberfest Left Hand Brewery- "Better than last years" was one of the first things I heard. "Weird Bitterness" Drinkable, but :/ "Better than I expected, but I had low expectations". Despite the harsh comments Left Hand scored decently at 33 points for 2.357 fingers.

6. Ayinger Oktober Fest-Marzen- Strangest name of the night for me. It's like Ayinger Oktober married into the Fest-Marzen family. Overall this was a very nice beer. "I think it's pretty good. ***PSA*** Rob at this time reminded us that this would be a good opportunity to score major points on your untapped account. ***My PSA if you do this make sure you're not friends with your boss on untapped, and if you are make sure you have a job where he'd be cool seeing you just downed 12 beers on a Tuesday evening.*** Besides this we had comments such as: "More Balance, "more malty than bitter," Nice bottle cap!" Also we had a moment of self-discovery with Joey "Maybe I don't like Octoberfest beer". That's right Joey, let the healing begin :)

7. Weihenstephaner festbier- If you can't figure out how to say this don't feel bad, I couldn't pronounce this to save my life, however if your dead set on learning give Eli a call he's got it down pretty well. Quotes I heard were: "Mild, Quite nice, "more carbonation". There was a nice discussion on how this style has changed over the years and the new 2015 BJCP guidelines are more specific to the traditional ways.

It was also at this time I was unfairly attacked by Bill for just walking around. Upon seeing me move he covered his mouth so as not to show me his words. "HERE COME THE QUOTES!!" He screamed violently at the top of his lungs, throwing his hands up in disgust. That sir is a comment, one that history will judge you by. :| 42 pts for 3 finger average.

8. Sierra Nevada Oktoberfest- Not many comments here, just unsure faces. "I don't like this; more malty were the only things I heard. Overall Sierra Nevada did ok with 35 pts and 2.5 fingers.

9. Jacks Abbey Copper legend Octoberfest- This beer made people a lot happier and much more laughing ensued. "Not Bad, Not my favorite by them, "not much body to it." It was now when someone made the suggestion that the brewers had started reading my notes and taking our comments seriously in an attempt to make better festbier. I'd like to believe that is true. They are out there, listening. Jacks Abby had a strong showing with 42 pts and 3 finger average.

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10. Dinkle Acker Oktober festbier Marzen- Where the hell are they getting these names? :L Anyway this beer looked the part, but left much desired in the flavor department. Comments I heard were: “Nicest looking one, Points for the looks (from a now happy Bill :D). Then the tasting: “Did they use Chlorinated water?” No more, thanks” Problems coming from Germany?” Unpleasant to drink” I’d drink one, but not another”. Oh Rob had by this time unlocked the Oktoberfest level 3 badge on Untapped. Kudos. 25 points, average of 1.786.

11. Oktoberfest Lakefront Brewery- This was another beer that looked nice but tasted :(“Looks nice,” Good color,” Why does it taste like tomato juice?, Is it a Lager? It’s not that bad, Yes it is”. Also we’ve learned that Joey is already tired of teaching two weeks into the year. Many of you tried to say it may not be the kids but his style, we may never know. : o 21 points, 1.5 fingers

12. Yuengling Oktoberfest- Last one! And one of you really enjoyed this. “Now that’s good shit!” I tried to detect sarcasm in that, but just couldn’t find any there. Also Dave was very perplexed as to why it took Yuengling so long to get to New England. As for comments: “I get licorice, “ Odd taste,”Spicy,”Blah, “Very non-offensive” Yuengling brought up the end with 33 points for 2.357 fingers.

Well there you have it. I want to give a shot out to Dwayne’s World brewing for hanging with the big guys. Also thanks to Bill for the dramatic entrance :) ;) :o. Enjoy this festbier season Wizards; drink beer, eat sausage listen to polka music, read an engineering or finance text book. It is but a brief moment between shandies and pumpkin-spiced everything. Take care and I’ll see you in the Fall.

[Did you know?](#)



Rob built the club a 4 tap jockey box that anyone can borrow. Reserve it on the Google Calendar or see Joey or Rob.

October Club Meeting, 15 members and 1 guest present



Eli set us for another thermometer calibrating session. Good thing, mine needed some fine tuning.
Bill



Pat talks on Trappist Singles in preparation for the next mini-comp.

This is the month the club decided to get down to business. First it was decided we should have snacks/pretzels at club meetings. Second, we should build a 5-way gas regulator for the club jockey box. If you can head up the jockey box project, please see Joey.

November Club Meeting, 15 members present

Question of the month... this time from Dwayne

- *I forgot to add the sugar to my barleywine, when should I? Again a pretty wide range of answers from forget it to anytime you want.*

The Trappist Single mini-comp was won by Bill which was somewhat unusual as we often hear him speaking less than fondly about Belgian beers.

This month Miriam starting taking meeting minutes. Kudos to her, less work for me.

New Business: Quarterly Styles: discussion as to whether we should have Style Presentation sooner – rather than 1 month before the comp. As we are a beer club – and people want to decide whether or not to enter the comp, it might be helpful to hear about the style sooner. No firm decision made.

Tropical Stout – is the next comp (Feb) – Brian W. says examples are not easily found. Should we try something different? Brian will present style in January

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and will email links of info on Tropical Stout now so people can read & comment. No firm decision made to keep the style. (If not Tropical Stout, then what?)

May Comp: Style is Lager – Czech Pilsner (Light Session) Pilsner 3A in the BJCP Style Committee will “meet” via email regarding the August Comp – style of which will be chosen in February. Style Committee – Brian W., Rob C. and Duane J.

Editor’s note: President Joey seemed incredibly flustered with the crowd today.

[M4 Organizes a Meet-Up at Wormtown](#)

In November, the club was invited for an informal get together of the area’s premiere home brew clubs. Led by M4 and joined by Foam, a good time was had by all. We started with a quite extensive tour of the brewery that ended with a Bhuda Juice tasting right off the tank. But it wasn’t done yet as we headed straight to the tap room for another beer and an impromptu version of the club’s chaos and mayhem. Thanks to M4 for setting it up.



[Holiday Party 2015](#)

Once again the club gathered at Bill's for our annual holiday party. Good times had by all. Look forward to the barleywine competition next year.



[December Club Meeting](#)

This month's meeting was held off-site at the Dive Bar in Worcester. I was off in sunny Saint Marteen and missed it. Oh well.

[Getting Ready for Next May!](#)

In preparation for the May Mini-Comp (3A--Czech Pale Lager (basically a session Czech Pilsener)), Brian shared a preview of his upcoming presentation on Czech beer styles:

- Here is a link to Gordon Strong's excellent BYO style profile of Czech Pale Lager: <https://byo.com/stories/issue/item/3244-czech-pale-lager-style-profile>
- I also recommend this Beersmith interview with Notch founder and head brewer, Chris Lohring on brewing Czech lagers: <http://beersmith.com/blog/2015/10/15/czech-lagers-with-chris-lohring-beersmith-podcast-113/>

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- And Ron Pattinson's essential guide to Czech beer styles:
<http://www.europeanbeerguide.net/czecintr.htm>
- And if you've never done a decoction and feel like trying it out for this beer (I think I will), here's a link to a Brewing TV episode where Michael Dawson shows how it's done: <http://brewingtv.com/episodes/2011/3/29/brewing-tv-episode-34-decoction-day.html>

The End