



DREGS FROM THE KEG

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2015

MAKE THIS YOUR BEST BREWING YEAR EVER

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Foam at the Top

[Ryan Penrod](#), Strand President

Happy New Year Strand Brewers Club! I hope everyone has had an enjoyable holiday season, a chance to share some homebrew with family and friends, and maybe even brew some. If you missed the Strand Brewers Club Holiday Party, the Fafards hosted a party that couldn't be beat. We had six kegs of homebrew, a number of growlers and bottles of homebrew, a home brewed cider, and Jay Ankeney's mead at the party. We also had some fantastic commercial bottles. Nate Federman and Christine Sparks brought a De Garde Gose and Rives Borland brought bottles from his extensive collection.

I spent the holidays with family in Ohio and planned a beer tasting for my three brothers, my father, and my father's good friend. Since my father's friend prefers Belgian beer I focused on those. We started with a Spencer Trappist Ale, then the Great Lakes and Breckenridge Holiday ales, followed by Monkish Feminist and Monkish Rosa's Hips. Then we had a number of Belgian Strong Darks: the Bruery's 4 Calling Birds, Gouden Carolus Cuvee Van De Keizer from 2012, and my homebrewed Belgian Strong Dark from the same year. We finished with the Monkish Dark Night of the Soul. I was honored that homebrew held its own with the commercial beers. I recommend the Breckenridge, Gouden Carolus, and Monkish to anyone who hasn't tried them.

2015 looks to be a busy year, with Doug King Memorial Homebrew Competition entries due to South Bay Brewing Supply by January 8th, a TBD monster brew hopefully in March, and the Southern California Homebrewers Festival in May. Remember to follow strandbrewersclub.org to stay up to date on the

Strand Brewers Club Meeting January 14th at 7 pm



1311 Post Avenue, Torrance, CA 90501

SCHF. Similar to the start of 2014, I plan to have a short survey at the January meeting to help plan for the year.



Rives Borland was in festive attire at the Holiday Party.

Remember 2015 dues are now due. All dues go right back into the club to pay for food at meetings, club expenses (nametags, printing, etc.), and social events. Dues are \$35 for a single member and \$45 for a couple. Dues are payable by PayPal, there is a link on the club website, or by check or cash to a club officer. Thanks to Jay Ankeney for being the first to pay dues this year!



Nate Federman and Christine Sparks with their new baby girl at the Club Holiday Party. Her shirt proclaims that she was homebrewed.

Spent Grains

[Rick Wirsing](#), Dregs Editor

It's 2015! You know what that means. It is now time to renew your Strand Brewers Club membership. Fortunately, it has gotten a lot easier to pay your membership dues. The [Strand Brewers Club webpage](#) enables payment using PayPal. Dues for 2015 are \$35 for an individual membership and \$45 for you and your spouse/partner. You also have the option of paying the old fashioned way, by check or cash to our new Treasurer, Chris Remensperger.

What's On Tap

[Bob Wilson](#), Strand Activities Director

Anchor California Homebrew Club of the Year Award

Every year, Anchor Brewing Company honors a homebrew club based on the club's community

outreach, and the members' performance in three competitions: Mayfaire Homebrew Competition (April), California State Fair Homebrew Competition (May), and California State Homebrew Competition (October). Last year the very deserving Maltose Falcons won. Although the Strand Brewers Club is a relatively small club in terms of membership, we stand with the best in terms of our brewing, community outreach, and other activities. In 2013, my New Year's resolution was to start entering homebrew competitions. That goal led to my joining the Strand Brewers Club and becoming a beer judge. This year, I hope you will consider setting aside at least 9 bottles of each batch you brew for the three competitions. Some competitions require 2 bottles, while others require 3, so 9 should be safe. Entering competitions is a great way to get feedback, and winning medals feels pretty darn good!

The club can help with any questions or logistical issues you may have. Don't be afraid to ask! Let's have a strong showing this year!

COMPETITIONS

[2015 Doug King Memorial Homebrew Competition](#)

Entries due January 10th. Entries dropped off by January 8th at South Bay Brewing Supply will be hand-delivered. Thanks Jeff Sanders!

Judging: January 24th, 9AM, at the Disabled American Veterans Hall, 6543, Corbin Ave, Woodland Hills, CA 91367. Stewards and judges are always appreciated!

Entry Fee: \$9.

Note: Like other Maltose Falcons competitions, judging is based on the 2013 [Falcons Style Guidelines](#). This competition also has [some special rules](#).

Special Prizes: Best of Show winner will have his/her/their beer brewed on the Eagle Rock Brewery system and entered in the Pro-Am competition at GABF. Best British entry will have his/her/their beer brewed at MacLeods Brewing Company.

Contact: [Ed Kochanowski](#)

Phone: 818-917-2467

Romancing the Beer

Entries due January 30th.

Judging: February 8th, 10AM, at the Enegren Brewing Co., 680 Flinn Avenue, #31, Moorpark, CA 93021.

Entry fee: \$7.

Contact: [Courtney Morrow](#)

Phone: 805-870-5109

2015 National Homebrew Competition

Application Window: February 2nd – 8th.

The largest homebrew competition in the world. Check out the [website](#) for details.

Hop Courage Great American Homebrew Contest

Register by March 10th.

Entries due March 18th.

Judging: March 21st, Los Angeles.

Entry fee: \$30.

Contact: [Chris Thomas](#)

Phone: 615-525-7058

2015 Napa Homebrewers Classic

Entries due April 11th.

Judging: May 2nd at the Napa Valley Wine Train Commissary.

Entry fee: \$9.

Contact: [Mike Riddle](#)

Phone: 707-337-8088

2015 Mayfaire Homebrew Competition

Dates have not yet been announced, but judging is typically at the end of April, with entries due a few weeks earlier. Note that this competition is hosted by the Maltose Falcons and they use their own [style guidelines](#).

Pacific Brewers Cup

The Strand Brewers Club is hosting the PBC this year. We take turns organizing it with Pacific Gravity and the Long Beach Homebrewers. Pacific Gravity did a great job last year, so let's keep the tradition strong! We will need everyone's help, so stay tuned for more details.

STRAND BREWERS CLUB EVENTS

Final Fridays

This year we're bringing back Final Friday! The last Friday of every month, we'll get together at a local brewery or bar for some fun. We'll kick things off at 7pm, and go till whenever. Here's

the tentative schedule (locations subject to change and requests are welcome).

Final Friday Tentative Schedule

Date	Location
January 30 th	Phantom Carriage in Carson. Come check out this great new brewery!
February 27 th	Smog City in Torrance
March 27 th	Select Beer in Redondo Beach
April 24 th	El Segundo Brewing Company and/or Rock & Brews El Segundo
May 29 th	Monkish in Torrance
June 26 th	Strand Brewing in Torrance
July 31 st	King Harbor Brewing in north Redondo
August 28 th	Absolution Brewing in Torrance
September 25 th	Dude's Brewing in Torrance
October 30 th	I assume there will be new breweries in Torrance by this time.
November 27 th	Does anyone actually want to do this the day after Thanksgiving?
December 25 th	Merry Christmas! Go spend time with your families!

Iron Brewer Challenge

Three times a year, we pick a random hop, grain, and special ingredient. The challenge: brew a beer with all three ingredients. Popular vote decides the winner, and to the winner goes the glory (and a fancy trophy!). We will be judging the entries at the March, July, and October meetings. The only rule is that all three ingredients must be used. Multiple entries are permitted. Happy brewing! Here are the ingredients:

Strand Brewers Club Iron Brewer Challenge

Round 1

March 11, 2015 Club Meeting
Ingredients: Cascade Hops, Chocolate
Malt, and Orange Peel

Round 2

July 8, 2015 Club Meeting
Ingredients: Southern Cross Hops, Rye,
and Peaches

Round 3

October 14, 2015 Club Meeting
Ingredients: Palisade Hops, Crystal Malt,
and Ginger

Single Hop Tasting

New hop varieties are being introduced all the time! How can a homebrewer keep up with it all? Last year several members brewed beers differing only in the hops used. It was a fun and educational way of sampling various hops, and we'll be doing it again this year! Stay tuned for details!

Monster Brew(s)

We have collaborations with Monkish, and possibly others coming in 2015! Get excited!

AHA Rally at Stone Bus Trip

Last year we went to the AHA rally at Stone Brewery in San Diego. Consulting the AHA's list of 2015 rallies, Stone is notably absent. Hopefully that means it simply hasn't been announced yet. Regardless, there will be a bus trip to San Diego, probably in March.

BBBB . . .

Our annual Beer, Beach, Bikes (alliterative) Barcrawl takes us along the strand. This year's BBBB. . . Barcrawl will be on August 15, details to follow.

BEER EVENTS

May 2nd

The Southern California Homebrewers Festival is back! The 2015 SCHF will be held at [Vail Lake](#) the weekend of May 2nd. SCHF is a

[California Homebrewers Association](#) members-only event. CHA memberships are only available through the CHA website. Memberships cost \$10. Tickets for the 2015 SCHF are now available and cost \$25 if purchased before January 31st. The Strand Brewers Club has reserved 11 campsites. If you are interested in attending, [contact me](#) and I will point you to a campsite leader.

June 11th–13th

This [2015 National Homebrewers Conference](#) is in San Diego! I went to the NHC for the first time last year, and had a blast! Don't miss out!



Bob Wilson at the 2014 National Homebrewers Conference.



The Southern California Homebrewers Festival is back for 2015.

2014 Strand Brewer of the Year

[Rick Wirsing](#), Dregs Editor

The points are being tabulated to determine the 2014 Strand Brewer of the Year. You'd better hurry and report any last minute 2014 point earning activities to [Ryan Penrod](#) now.

Epic Beer Road Trips

[Rick Wirsing](#), Dregs Editor

The [Brews Travelers](#), Brandon Wurtz and Michael Roberts, recently finished a year-long road trip in which they managed to stop at breweries in all 48 states of the continental U.S. They visited 789 breweries and claim to have responsibly tasted 8,044 unique beers. That's an average of a little more than 22 beers per day. Holy Molie!

Our own Jim Wilson is planning a beer trip, all be it a much shorter and more reasonable trip than the Brews Travelers had. Jim is going to Belgium for 10 days in April to check that off his bucket list. He will be on his own for a couple of days in Brussels and then on to a semi-guided tour of Westvleteren, Ghent, Bruges and Louven, ending up at the Zythos Bierfestival. He has the 2014 edition of Tim Webb's Good Beer Guide Belgium and the usual online resources to help him figure out what breweries to visit. But, if anyone can share with him other good references or tips for a successful Belgian beer vacation, including hotels in Brussels, he'd surely appreciate it.

Tell Us What You Are Doing

Come on you'all! Don't get all self conscious! We need and want your stories for The Dregs. Upgrade your brewery? Fine tune your brewing? Take a road trip? Do well in a competition? Have recipes to share? Read a good beer book? Write it up! Have club related pictures? Send all that, and anything else you think would be interesting, to [Rick Wirsing](#). Everybody will thank you!

What We Stand For

The objectives of the Strand Brewers Club are to brew beer and share information about the brewing, presentation, consumption, judging, and history of beer. We promote and encourage homebrewing competition and hope to foster general goodwill through the making and consuming of this noble and most excellent beverage. We aim to brew the best damn beer.

It is our policy to brew and consume beer strictly for fun. Under no circumstances does the Strand Brewers Club support or condone, in any manner, the violation of any law, including the sale or barter of homebrewed beer, the operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol by a member or a participant in any club event, or the provision of alcohol to minors.



The 2014 AHA Rally at Stone Brewery.

2014 Club Officers

President	Ryan Penrod	310-971-6757	penrod 25@yahoo.com
Vice-President	Rich Thornton	310-xxx-xxxx	rich.one@earthlink.net
Treasurer	Chris Remensperger	310-863-6222	remensperger@icloud.com
Activities	Bob Wilson	310-849-8154	millstadt@gmail.com
Administrator	David Eaves	310-806-2772	david.eaves@yahoo.com
Dregs Editor	Rick Wirsing	310-872-9915	rmwirsing@gmail.com

Mentors

The following members have volunteered to answer your brewing questions and to help beginning brewers learn the craft. You should take advantage of their expertise.

Jay Ankeney	310-545-3983 jayankeney@mac.com	Manhattan Beach
Jim Hilbing	310-798-0911 james@hilbing.us	Redondo Beach
Jim Wilson	310-316-2374 jim7258@gmail.com	Redondo Beach
Steve Fafard	310-373-1724 sfafard@cox.net	Rolling Hills Estates

TRUE

FOR 2014,
ALL OF MY NEW YEAR'S
RESOLUTIONS HAD TO DO
WITH BEER.

TRUE



WELL . . .
I LEARNED AN
IMPORTANT LESSON.

IT WORKS FOR ME!!!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

