

# DREGS FROM THE KEG

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JEFF SANDERS  
JANUARY 1968 - AUGUST 2015

## In This Issue

Memorial to Jeff Sanders .....	2
Foam at the Top .....	5
What's on Tap? .....	5
Spent Grains .....	7
2015 Strand Brewer of the Year .....	7
Trub .....	10



## Memorial to Jeff Sanders

Strand Brewers Club member and friend to us all, Jeff Sanders, died on August 2, 2015. Following are our remembrances of Jeff.

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I met Jeff Sanders when he joined Strand. He was generous and easy going. His positive attitude could warm a room as he shared conversations without dominating them. He could hang with anyone. Thanks for a fun filled eight years bucko!

Part of him would occasionally launch off on epic adventures like the infamous 20 hours in Las Vegas with James and other limit stretching grand tours. Those shared or real memories will last a long time.

Jeff's dependability and willingness to help were legendary. He made a major difference at the 2009 PBC when he did the logistics work of two people. Three years later he was the

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## Strand Brewers Club Meeting September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm



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1311 Post Avenue, Torrance, CA 90501

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contest's Chief Organizer who worked tirelessly and deflected all the credit to others.

We spent a long day together on August 1<sup>st</sup> at the LA County Fair homebrew beer contest. There was plenty of time for conversation. I was curious how Jeff wound up managing a vet practice. His love of animals drew him to Cal State Long Beach where he received a BA in zoology the last year before the school merged all the life sciences into a buffet. He interned at the LA County Zoo and passed the civil service exam with a high score. He was never interviewed and later learned that nepotism and preferential treatment trumped the civil service system. For him it was still all about the animals and he transitioned smoothly into the vet business.

Jeff wanted to be a beer judge as long as I knew him. Finally, work relaxed just a bit, the planets aligned and he passed the BJCP exam in April. The County Fair was the one and only contest he was able to judge. He did fine, enjoyed the experience and was honored to judge Best of Show. As always, he gave much more than he took. On the way home we talked about the competition schedule for the rest of the year and which contests might offer good learning opportunities. He was planning ahead and was eager to continue judging and improve his skills.

We shook hands and then he was gone.

I lift a pint of Pliny to you, good friend. – Jim Wilson

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Rich and I joined Strand Brewers in 2011 or 2012 and our first club event was the home brew festival at Lake Casitas. We were so excited about the trip but we did not know anyone. On the day of the festival we met Jeff at the club bar and it was amazing, we were immediately welcomed into the club and the inner circle of passionate, crazy home brewers.

Over the years we got to know Jeff and he was one of our favorite people to hang out with. I always felt pure joy emanating from him when he was around. He was rowdy and boisterous and had a great sense of humor. He was also open and inclusive and would draw people in to his circle. Just knowing “social beer brewing / drinking” I got a glimpse of what he would have been like in his professional life. Caring for animals takes a special person with a giving heart. It takes patience, compassion and technical ability to do the work he did and I know he did it well.

Now he’s gone and it happened so fast. One day he is judging the LA County beer competition in which he himself WON in two categories; and the next day he is gone. Rich and I are so sad about this, and we can’t understand why this happened. I know we will always miss him and we will be sad for a while, but we will all get through this with grace and strength.

One great lesson I have learned is a very simple but powerful tool. FEEL THE FEELING, DROP THE STORY. We will never know why this happened to Jeff, so let go of the story. Try not to get caught up in creating various scenarios in your mind of why or how this happened, it just happened. Remember his smile and open heart and what an amazing man he was. – Lisa Cooper Thornton

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Many of you may not know that – as was typical with Jeff's never-ending demonstration of selflessness – he's the guy who always brought the club bar to the Christmas party several hours before the event and was the guy to pick it up Sunday, or even Monday sometimes. We'd get it all set up together and I'd usually tear it down and flush the lines so he could pick it up whenever it was convenient for him, but what was amazing to me was that on more than one occasion, he either was going to be late to the party, have to leave early, or not be able to make it at all, but he was always thinking of others first and making sure the bar was there for everyone to enjoy, regardless of his schedule. To Jeff! – Steve Fafard

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The most recent memory I have of Jeff Sanders was at King Harbor Brewing for Final Friday on July 31<sup>st</sup>. We spent quite a while talking about the potential sale of the vet clinic where Jeff had worked for over 10 years - how the business was currently organized, and what an effective business model might look like. He clearly had a lot of experience and interest in the area, and a lot of thoughts about what works and what doesn't. We also talked about what the sale might mean for him. He mentioned potential downsizing, and the opportunities that might open up for him. He talked about some of his buddies who were thinking about starting a craft brewery in the Napa area. We laughed at how much fun that could be, but agreed that the investment was probably out of reach. It was pretty much a typical conversation over a couple beers on a Friday night. It's so hard to comprehend that 48-hours later Jeff was gone.

When I think of Jeff Sanders, I think of a friendly, outgoing guy, a really good person with a good heart. There aren't enough of those around to begin with . . . we certainly couldn't afford to lose one as great as Jeff. - Penny Wirsing

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I don't clearly remember my adventures with Jeff. That is probably because they all involved large quantities of beer. But I know he always picked up more than his share of the bar tabs. And I will remember Jeff for his friendliness and his humor. A nicer guy I doubt I'll ever meet. - Rick Wirsing

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This is a very short story, but Jeff provided one of my favorite memories of home brewing.

When I came to my first-ever club meeting last winter, I brought a growler of our vanilla milk stout to share. Being the new kid, I was really hesitant to share my beer, being in a room full of people who clearly had better palettes for good beer than my recipe could provide. Anyway, fast-forward to the end of the meeting. I was getting ready to leave, and was

just saying good night to Ryan, when Jeff walked up and stopped me before I could head out the door. He had tried my stout, and told me my beer was really good, and that he really liked it. Jeff was the only person that night to actually tell me he liked what I had brought. Being told that from someone in a beer club made me feel truly, genuinely happy about being a home brewer. I even went home and told my wife about what Jeff said.

I know it's not much, but Jeff was the first person (outside of family and friends), to make me feel like I'm not so terrible at making beer. I didn't know him very well personally, but I know I'll always remember him. - Ken Bones



Jeff made the Iron Brewer Challenge trophy.

## Foam at the Top

[Ryan Penrod](#), Strand President

The Strand Brewers Club lost a wonderful person to depression this summer. It is unfortunate that mental health issues are seen with such stigma, but please if you are depressed, know that you are not alone, and seek help.

My favorite memory of Jeff Sanders is probably the club meeting when Jeff brought an English mild. This was when the style was starting to gain popularity, maybe 2010 or so, and Jim Wilson tasted the beer and gave a brief description of the BJCP style. Then Jim said, "Now an English Mild is a style that can be delicious..." Jeff cut him off right there not wanting to hear what Jim had to say next. After some laughing from everyone Jim went on to compliment Jeff's beer. The memory is fond to me because everytime after that when I tried one of Jeff's beers, I could say, "You know Jeff, this is a beer that could be great..." That would bring Jeff's infectious smile to his face and we would both have a little laugh. Then I would have to admit how good his beer was, or on some occasions, how much better than mine it was.

The other really good memory of Jeff I have is from the April 2014 meeting at King Harbor when we had a SMASH tasting. We all brewed the same single malt pale ale and dry hopped with different hops. King Harbor was a new brewery, so it was a big meeting and we must have had almost 15 different hop variations of the pale ale to sample. By chance Jeff and I had both used Amarillo hops. Not missing a beat, we decided that one of us used Amarillo hops and one used Amariylo hops. We spent much of the meeting arguing about which was better, and making sure people tried our beers back to back. Jeff had a way of making everyone laugh and this was a prime example.

For the last two years that I have been president, Jeff has been the guy who keeps making me think that I need to edit the homebrewer of the year points because Jeff does this or that and doesn't get points for it. Jeff did most of the club bar maintenance, and all the great upgrades in the last two years. His

house was always open for a party, even if we never did repeat the movie showing on a shower curtain in his back yard from the spring 2014 party. But most of all, I remember Jeff's smile and laughter. I came to Strand Brewers Club because I was interested in beer and wanted to learn to brew better, but I stayed a member because of the amazing people like Jeff.



Having fun at the 2015 NHC.

## What's On Tap

[Bob Wilson](#), Strand Activities Director

### COMPETITIONS

**[2015 Pacific Brewers Cup - Hosted by the Strand Brewers Club](#)**

**Entries due September 11<sup>th</sup>**

Judging: September 26<sup>th</sup>, Los Angeles, CA

Entry fee: \$8

Contact: [Rives Borland](#)

Phone: 310-469-3634

## **Oaktoberfest**

### **Entries due September 12<sup>th</sup>**

Judging: October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Oakland, CA

Entry fee: \$TBD

Contact: [Brian Cooper](#)

Phone: 209-612-4185

## **Celebrewtion**

### **Entries due September 19<sup>th</sup>**

Judging: October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Sacramento, CA

Entry fee: \$10

Contact: [John Orcutt](#)

Phone: 916-247-0680

## **Southern California Fair Homebrew Competition**

### **Entries due September 26<sup>th</sup>**

Judging: October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Perris, CA

Entry fee: \$6

Contact: [Frank Mays](#)

Phone: 760-644-6273

## **2015 Sonoma County Harvest Fair Home Brew Competition**

### **Entries due September 26<sup>th</sup>**

Judging: October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Santa Rosa, CA

Entry fee: \$12 (\$15 after August 31<sup>st</sup>)

Contact: [Ron Slyh](#)

Phone: 707-921-8335

## **National Organic Brewing Competition**

### **Entries due October 1<sup>st</sup>**

Judging: October 24<sup>th</sup>, Watsonville, CA

Entry fee: \$10 first entry, \$5 each additional entry

Contact: [Tallula Preston](#)

Phone: 831-454-9665

## **MashHeads EduCate Brew for the Kids**

### **Entries due October 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Judging: October 10<sup>th</sup>, San Diego, CA.

Entry fee: \$7 first entry, \$5 each additional entry

Contact: [Tricia Gallant](#)

Phone: 619-341-1764

## **Queen of Beer Womens Homebrew Competition**

### **Entries due October 10<sup>th</sup>**

Judging: October 17<sup>th</sup>, Placerville, CA

Entry fee: \$8 first entry, \$6 each additional entry

Contact: [Elizabeth Zangari](#)

Phone: 530-957-8912

## **Ramona Homebrew Competition**

### **Entries due October 11<sup>th</sup>**

Judging: October 17<sup>th</sup>, Ramona, CA

Entry fee: \$10

Contact: [Grant Fraley](#)

Phone: 805-701-7458

## **28th Annual Southern California Homebrew Championship**

### **Entries due October 11<sup>th</sup>**

Judging: October 24<sup>th</sup>, Redlands, CA

Entry fee: \$7

Contact: [Amanda Porter](#)

Phone: 951-386-5396

## **Tulare County Homebrew Competition**

### **Entries due October 15<sup>th</sup>**

Judging: November 7<sup>th</sup>, Visalia, CA

Entry fee: \$8 (2 for \$15; 3 for \$21; 4 for \$26)

Contact: [Richard Gleason Jr](#)

Phone: 805-701-7458

## **California State Homebrew Competition**

### **Entries due October 17<sup>th</sup>.**

Judging: November 8<sup>th</sup>, San Francisco, CA.

Entry fee: \$10.

Contact: [Dermot Stratton](#)

Phone: 408-406-2521

## STRAND BREWERS CLUB EVENTS

### **Strand Brewers Club Iron Brewer Challenge**

#### **Round 3**

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

## **Final Fridays**

September 25<sup>th</sup> is the Final Friday for the month of September! Let's meet at Dudes Brewing in Torrance at 7PM!

## Final Fridays Schedule

Date	Location
September 25 <sup>th</sup>	Dudes' Brewing in Torrance
October 30 <sup>th</sup>	TBD

### BEER EVENTS

September 11<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> October

It's that time of year again. When the leaves start changing colors, the air is cool, and the . . . oh wait, we live in SoCal. Well, at least we can still drink some German beer, because Oktoberfest is nearly upon us! Alpine Village is beginning their yearly celebration on September 11, running through the end of October. September tickets are currently 60% off. Don't forget your lederhosen!

November 7<sup>th</sup>



[Soroptimist International of Manhattan Beach](#), an organization of business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls through programs that educate and empower, will be hosting a special fundraiser, Savor the Flavor. The event will be held on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, at the Hermosa Beach Kiwanis Club. There will be live music by the Dietz Brothers Band, food, **tastings of local craft brews and tequila,**

games and a raffle. SIMB is asking for **donations of beer** from both commercial craft breweries and homebrewers. Brewers are welcome to pour the beer themselves into tasting cups provided by SIMB and talk about their brew with event attendees. Or if you don't want to pour, SIMB will have volunteers do the pouring. Contact Christine Mendez at [crsmen24@aol.com](mailto:crsmen24@aol.com) or Kelly Fogarty at [kfogarty.mb@gte.net](mailto:kfogarty.mb@gte.net) if you are interested in donating beer. **If you want to go to this great event, you can purchase tickets at <http://www.simanhattanbeach.org/savor-the-flavor-2015/>.**



The 2015 BBBB . . . was a another fun filled adventure. This is the group that made it all the way to Select Beer. Cheers!

### Spent Grains

[Chris Remensperger](#), Strand Treasurer

Strand Brewers Club relies on dues and raffle entries for the majority of our income. You may pay your dues on the club website [www.strandbrewersclub.org/membership](http://www.strandbrewersclub.org/membership), or you can pay by cash, check, or credit card at a club meeting.

### 2015 Strand Brewer of the Year

[Ryan Penrod](#), Strand President

The current standings for the 2015 Strand Brewer of the Year are as follows. Be sure to let [Ryan Penrod](#) know if you did anything that would earn you points.

Member Name	Points
Rives Borland	63
Ryan Penrod	46
Chris Remensperger	41
Jeff Sanders	40
Rick Wirsing	35
Rich Thornton	25
Bob Wilson	21
Dan Parker Jim Wilson	19
Jeff Hoy	14
Anthony Brownstone Nate Federman	12
Jay Ankeney	11
Steve Fafard Steve Gardner Jill Updyke	9
Hunter Thacker	7
Edgar Cuevas Jim Hilbing	6
Greg Foster Rick Pearce Chris Sousa-Wynn	5
Ken Bones Todd Harding Kevin Leung Jason Light Brian Pheiffer Alex Schlee Trey	2
Ron Cooper Jimmy Gallenbach Rob Proffitt Zack Wapole	1

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.



## 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

Final Friday at Absolution Brewing.

## 2015 Club Officers

President	Ryan Penrod	310-971-6757	<a href="mailto:president@strandbrewersclub.org">president@strandbrewersclub.org</a>
Vice-President	Rich Thornton	310-376-5751	<a href="mailto:rich.one@earthlink.net">rich.one@earthlink.net</a>
Treasurer	Chris Remensperger	310-863-6222	<a href="mailto:remensperger@icloud.com">remensperger@icloud.com</a>
Activities	Bob Wilson	310-849-8154	<a href="mailto:millstadt@gmail.com">millstadt@gmail.com</a>
Administrator	David Eaves	310-806-2772	<a href="mailto:david.eaves@yahoo.com">david.eaves@yahoo.com</a>
Dregs Editor	Rick Wirsing	310-872-9915	<a href="mailto:dregseditor@strandbrewersclub.org">dregseditor@strandbrewersclub.org</a>

## 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	<a href="mailto:jayankeney@mac.com">jayankeney@mac.com</a>	Manhattan Beach
Jim Hilbing	310-798-0911	<a href="mailto:james@hilbing.us">james@hilbing.us</a>	Redondo Beach
Jim Wilson	310-316-2374	<a href="mailto:jim7258@gmail.com">jim7258@gmail.com</a>	Redondo Beach
Steve Fafard	310-373-1724	<a href="mailto:sfafard@cox.net">sfafard@cox.net</a>	Rolling Hills Estates

# TRAUMA

