



The Cellar

The Official Newsletter of the Colonial Ale Smiths and Keggers

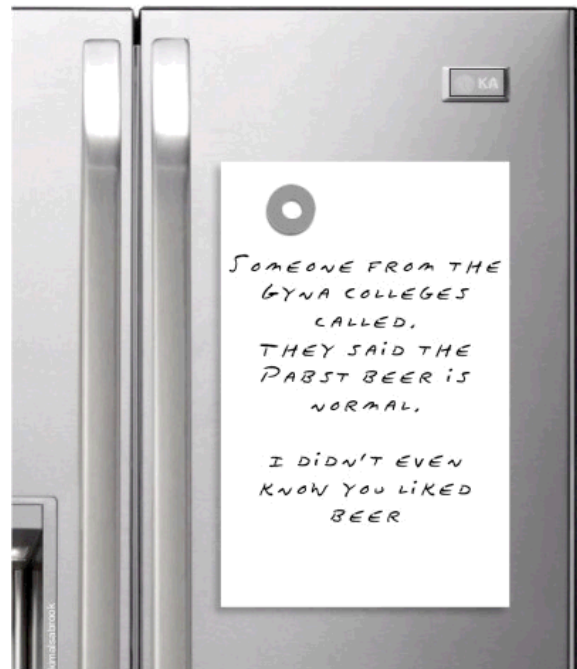
Club News Items

* The 93.7BobFM Colonial Home Brewing Contest is getting closer. The Norfolk radio station is hosting a homebrew competition. In order to enter, four bottles of your brew along with the entry form must be received at the 93.7 BOB FM business office between 9:30am to 5pm from Tuesday, December 11, 2007 to Friday, December 14, 2007. Each entry must have a contest Bottle Identification label. Entry fee is \$5 per entry. Go to <http://www.bob-fm.com/homebrewrules.shtml> for all the rules and details. Remember that the first and second prizes winners in each category will receive a trophy and "Best of Show" will win \$500 cash and a trip for two to Boston with a VIP tour of the Samuel Adams Brewery and a party for 10 friends. BJCP categories 1 through 23 only. It is assumed that they are looking for judges and stewards, so if you are interested, call Donna Agresto Seavey at (757) 222-2908.

* Congratulations to CASK's own Frank Clark for a great article in the December issue of Zymurgy. Frank's article is about his brewing efforts at Colonial Williamsburg and brewing an authentic Porter using period techniques. There are recipes included. Great Read!

* Last month, CASK had a special guest at the meeting, Dan Driskill, the Senior Brewmaster at the Williamsburg Anheuser-Busch Brewery. Dan talked about his career with A-B and answered questions for about an hour and a half. It was an interesting and wide ranging discussion and the club is very grateful to Dan for taking the time to come to the meeting. If you missed the meeting, you missed a good one.

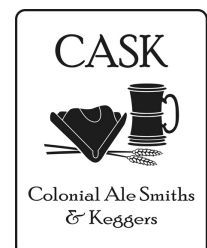
* Congratulations to Andy Rathmann and his team at the St. George Brewing Company for having their Golden Ale named the Grand Champion within the Golden Ale/Kolsch category at the 13th annual United States Beer Tasting Championship Summer Competition. This year's competition featured 421 beers from 169 breweries.



Why men should not take messages ...

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Giving Thanks with Goode Ale

By Harrison Gibbs

Every year, the local paper has an article about which wine to choose to serve with Thanksgiving dinner. Generally, the wine writer traipses out the usual suspects of Chardonnays or Pinot Noirs. Some years, the writers try to go iconoclast and recommend something unusual. Never do they go with real pilgrim tradition and suggest beer.

Why not beer? History tells us that when the pilgrims sought a spot for their permanent landing in America, they did so because they ran out of beer on the Mayflower. "Our victuals being much spent, especially our beer," one diary read.

We are also familiar with the use of beer to provide a potable drink in an age of poor water quality. One can easily assume that the pilgrim brewers on board quickly set out to refurbish the beer supplies when the group first landed at Plymouth Rock. What they brewed then is unknown as it was before they planted grain. But they may have had some grain stock on board or relied on the local roots, pumpkins, and tree bark for this first Thanksgiving ale.

The choice of beer for Thanksgiving is not difficult when you consider all of the varieties of craft and imported beer available. There is a beer that can pair with everything from appetizers to that final slice of pumpkin pie.

Brewmaster at Brooklyn Brewery and author of "The Brewmaster's Table, Discovering The Pleasures Of Real Beer With Real Food," Garrett Oliver explains that the secret to matching beer with food is to "match up the impact on your palate." Serve delicate foods with delicate beers and stronger tastes with bigger stronger brews. Matching by similar flavors also works. The metallic astringency of Guinness traditionally goes great with oysters, so try a pint with this year's oyster stuffing.

For salads and appetizers, try serving lighter wheat beers. A German-style Kolsch or a crisp pilsner would also be a good choice.

Rich ambers and British ales go well with the bird. Maybe try something that plays off the roasty sweetness of roast turkey or a beer with flavors with the nice herbal notes to pair with the seasonings and stuffing. Try a beer that matches those caramel notes, like an American amber ale, a dubbel or tripel (Belgian-style beers) or an Oktoberfest (there's a reason why they serve roasted chickens at the Oktoberfest in Munich). If you want herb and spice notes, try an American or European biere de garde, a Belgian-style tripel, or saison.

For dessert break out the seasonal spiced beers. Maybe a beer that features caramel, coffee or even chocolate flavors would go great with pecan or pumpkin pie. Oatmeal stouts, imperial stouts and roast porters all provide enough chocolate and/or coffee goodness to support your dessert. Cheesecake? Try the above or add a Belgian-style fruity lambic like a framboise (raspberry) or a kriek (cherry). Both are very good companions with chocolate, too.

What better way to celebrate the bravery and the dedication of the early pilgrims than be your own pilgrim, rejecting the orthodoxy of wine with dinner. Go ahead, and journey to this brave new world this Thanksgiving by serving finely crafted domestic and imported beers at your table.

Special Offer from Coastal Wine

Coastal Wine is now offering a 25% discount to all CASK members who prepay and order beer by the six-pack or case. Note that this offer is not good for singles, only six-packs and cases.

This is an excellent opportunity to save a bunch of money on those beers you like to order in quantity. Anyone interested can contact Brian at beer@coastalwineconnection.com and he will fill you in on the pricing and payment options.



HB-DIY Corner: Bottle Cap Magnets

By Norman W. Schaeffler

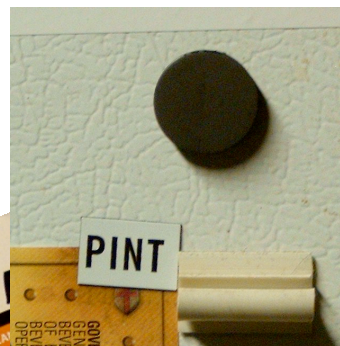


Big Box O' Magnets

Some people collect beer labels to remember the beers that they have enjoyed and there are quite a few labels that are "little works of art." But something from deep in my childhood makes me want to save not the labels, but the caps. I think it was all those days in my youth spent picking them up and smashing them between rocks!

Inspired by one of the Victory Brewing Company bottle cap magnets that have been in the monthly raffles for a while now, I set out make my own. It is a pretty easy process. You gently remove the cap from the bottle, minimizing the amount of bending to the cap. Then you get a magnet. I found that a 3/4 inch diameter, 3/16 inch thick magnet works well. I have found these at Wal-Mart and at Northern Tool.

Just simply put the magnet on a metal surface, like a beer fridge, and place the bottle cap over it. The magnet does not actually touch the cap, but it's magnet field is sufficiently strong to hold on to the cap. That's all there is to it.



First Place the magnet, then cover with a cap.





The CASK Calendar of Club Events and Competitions

Plan your brewing year now and hit as many club-only and other competitions as possible.

October Pilsner (Club-Only)
November Winter/Christmas Beers
December Free-For-All

November 15, 2007: November Meeting of CASK
7:30 PM at the [Williamsburg AleWerks](http://www.williamsburgalewerks.com). Style of the Month: Winter/Christmas Beers

December 14, 2007: BobFM's Colonial Home Brewing Contest 2007. Norfolk Radio Station is hosting a homebrew competition. Submit four bottles of your brew along with the entry form must be received at the 93.7 BOB FM business office between 9:30am to 5pm from Tuesday, December 11, 2007 to Friday, December 14, 2007. Judging takes place December 14-15, 2007. Each entry must have a contest Bottle Identification label. Entry fee is \$5 per entry. Go to <http://www.bob-fm.com/homebrewrules.shtml> for more info.

December 20, 2007: December Meeting of CASK
7:30 PM at a location to be determined. Style of the Month: Free-for-All

You can add items to the CASK calendar and keep your fellow club members informed about beer-related happenings in the area. Logon to the CASK Message Board to find out how!



Spotted in Hampton: Where was this place when we needed a place to meet !?! Maybe we can still work a deal. How about two cornies of Imperial Stout?