



The Cellar

The Official Newsletter of the Colonial Ale Smiths and Keggers

Winter Party Wrap-Up: Steven's the Brewer (of the Year)!

The CASK Winter Party was a great success, spilling a little of 2009 into 2010! Hosted at the home of CASK member Paul Scott, the party featured our Winter Iron Brew, a great raffle, great food and company. This year's Iron Brew was Smoked and/or Rye Beers. This year's competition only produced two entries. The winner was John and Jared Smith, with second place going to Jeff Stuebben.

With their win, John Smith came within one point of catching CASK President Steven Davis for the coveted Homebrewer of the Year award. But Steven remained on top. There were a total of 21 brewers in the running this year, up from 18 last year.

Congratulations to Steven Davis, the 2009 CASK Homebrewer of the Year!

Time to Renew

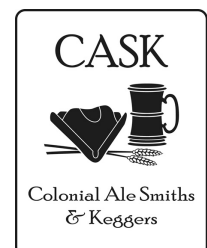
It is time for CASK membership renewals. All club members must pay their dues by the February meeting to maintain good status and be eligible for local establishment discounts available to Club members. The Club will be providing rosters to participating businesses of eligible members. If you plan on attending the January meeting, please bring \$20 with you. If you are unable to attend, there are two options available to you. You can pay your dues via PayPal, by sending \$20 to payments@colonialalesmiths.org. There will be a link to do this on the club web site also. Or you can mail a check, made payable to CASK, to:

CASK
P.O. Box 5224
Williamsburg, VA 23188

Please do not send cash through the mail. Members who joined CASK after June 30th of last year may prorate their check for a partial year (using the honor system). The intent is for all members to be renewing in January from now on.

In this Issue of The Cellar:

The Cellarmaster.....	2
CASK is on Facebook.....	4
The CASK Calendar of Club Events and Competitions.....	4





The Cellarmaster

By Steven Davis, Photos by Norm Schaeffler

Hampton Blitzed by CASK and Fellow Virginia Clubs

December 12th brought about the 3rd Annual Virginia Beer Blitz which was held this year in Hampton, Virginia at the St. George Brewing Company. This year's event saw a tremendous increase from 121 to 262 entries and included beers (w/ mead & cider) in all 28 BJCP categories. With the support and assistance of judges & stewards from all over the state of Virginia; however, the Blitz was once again a huge success.



The event actually began on the evening of December 11th, when 12 judges and 2 stewards graciously volunteered to meet at the house of yours truly at 7:00pm to pre-judge 4 categories containing 37 total entries. This pre-judging proved to be quite valuable as it allowed for the remaining 24 categories to all be judged in one day on December 12th. These remaining entries were separated into 17 different award categories and judged utilizing 14 tables in each the morning and afternoon flights. Just looking at the numbers, one might obviously ask "why did it require 28 tables to judge 17 categories?"; however, as one can see in the results below, 9 of the categories required being separated into 2 tables each in order to adequately judge. What judge would, in all honesty, want to judge 20 Spiced/Herb/Vegetable beers or 20 Stouts when 14 of them are Russian Imperial, and still drive home. Separating the larger flights into 2 tables allowed for all judging to be completed in a reasonable time and everyone to have a

somewhat equal number of beers to judge for the day.

The Blitz Best-of-Show (BOS) winner this year was Dan Tully from our neighboring Homebrew Club BARF in Norfolk. Dan's Bourbon Barrel Wood Aged Porter bested 261





other entries to take home the top prize and the BOS plaque. In addition, this year marked the inaugural issuance of the "Blitzkrieg" Award to the Homebrew Club with the highest accumulated points throughout the event. The scoring actually resulted in a tie between CASK and JRHB following the 1st round judging and the winner had to be determined using a tie breaker. The first tie-breaker was agreed to be based on a placed finish in the Best-of-Show round and subsequently based on the total number of 1st place finishes in the 1st round. With the results of the BOS table, this awarded the inaugural Blitzkrieg Award and its double tap jockey box prize to our own CASK. Now if we could only take the ultimate BOS prize next year ☺

The success of the Blitz can once again be attributed to the enormous amount of volunteers which stepped up to help out throughout the day. 42 judges and 16 stewards

came forward from 7 Virginia Homebrew Clubs (CASK, HRB&TS, BARF, FBI, FABTS, CAMRA and, JRHB) to methodically work through the 262 entries, numerous mini-Best of Show rounds and the final Best of Show table to ultimately complete the event and crown the winners. In addition to these volunteers I, as the Competition Organizer, must also recognize the efforts of our Judge Director, Warren Haskell, our Steward Director, Rollin Wooley, and our Registrar, Norm Schaeffler, for their time and expert performance of their duties in ensuring this event went off with rave reviews and little to no hiccups. Finally, CASK would like to thank St. George Brewing Company for graciously offering to host the event this year, as well as offering to continue to host it for years to come. This is truly the beginning of a great relationship, and a formula for an excellent competition. Cheers.





CASK is on Facebook

There is now a group for CASK on Facebook. CASK member Paul Scott has started the group and there are currently 19 members. Do a search on Facebook for "Colonial Ale Smiths and Keggers (CASK)" and you will find it. There is another group on Facebook simply called CASK! that is "dedicated to raising awareness of local cask conditioned ale and to promote it to a wider audience" in Toronto, Canada. Betcha, they are a good group of people, too. Gotta love the name.

The CASK Calendar of Club Events and Competitions

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

January - English Brown (COC)

February - Porters

March - American Ales (COC)

April - Extract Beers (COC)

May - Bock

June - (Irish & Scottish Ales

July - Summer Party / Mead (COC)

August - Sour Ales (COC)

September - Cider

October - Strong Ales (COC)

November - TBD

December - Winter Party

You too 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!