



HEAD HOG'S WALLOW

By Charley Baird

Greetings, and welcome to the new brewing year! Good brew and momentous events await. The next few months will be the busiest and most exciting in the life of the Worthogs. The club continues to grow and evolve due to the increasing involvement of the membership.

AHA National Homebrew Competition

The event that many of you have been anticipating and inquiring about is the first-round regional judging of the American Homebrewers Association National Homebrew Competition, to be held in Fresno the weekend of April 30, 1994. This is a great opportunity and even greater responsibility for the Worthogs.

The opportunity for individual hogs is to see first hand what goes on in a major competition. Some of the best known home and professional brewing personalities in the country will be judging the competition. Everyone involved will have a chance to meet and chat with them. These are friendly, down home people, who enjoy helping out other homebrewers. Of course, they have a vested interest. A well-informed brewing public makes for good tasting beers in the competitions they judge! In addition to the educational aspects of the event, every Worthog helping out with the event is assured a major good time.

As for the club, the Worthogs will root out the knowledge necessary to put on a large competition. The organizational, personnel and equipment requirements are new and (to quote Jim Sweeney) "awesome." After this event they won't be new-or seem nearly as formidable. The Worthogs, along with Butterfield Brewing and Bencomo's Homebrew, are dedicated to making this not only a successful competition, but an enjoyable affair for participants from in and out-of-town. We hope it will become an annual event that will improve each year and that every one can look forward to with eager anticipation.

Plans are starting to jell for all phases of the weekend. All entries will be received at Bencomo's Homebrew Supply April 4-15, 1994. After all entries have carefully been logged in, they will be transported to Butterfield Brewing. The judging will be held in the empty eastern section of the brewery building. A homebrewers'

dinner and social event will be held following the completion of Saturday's judging at the Fresno Hilton. Details of the evening's activities are being arranged by Butterfield's Jeff Wolpert. We anticipate a delicious dinner and great entertainment-all at a very reasonable cost. All club members and event participants are encouraged to attend.

The club needs lots of help from all of you hogs out there. In mid-March we will need a work party to paint and clean up the judging area next to Butterfield's. A good sized herd of hogs should be able to get the place neat as a hog pen in a few hours starting on a Sunday morning. The weekend of the competition set-up crews and general roustabouts will be in demand. Certified judges will have priority for judge and steward positions during the competition, but some stewards will undoubtedly be drawn from the pool of Worthogs. Club members who wish to lend a helping hoof for the painting party and/or the weekend of the competition can sign up at the upcoming meeting February 26, or contact me at 435-1472.

-Charley

February Meeting: Dan's Brewery and Playhouse

The long anticipated meeting at Dan Hamilton's will take place Saturday, February 26, 1994, at 1:00 PM (not the 28th, as printed in the last newsletter). For you hogs who have never been to Dan's hangout, you should know that this is a meeting not to be missed. Worthogs who have already played at Dan's house need no encouragement to attend. Dan has, over the years, built the most elaborate and fanciful home brewery yet seen by these eyes. You can find it through the gate at 514 E. Clinton, Fresno. If you get lost give Dan a call at 228-0482.

The style for the meeting is strong lagers, and a Worthog club competition will be held in that style. I know you have all been madly brewing this winter in anticipation of this and lesser competitions. So, be sure to bring your entries-one unmarked bottle is sufficient. The winner will receive the strong lager award glass from the 1993 Big Fresno Fair and ten pounds of British lager malt (grain), courtesy of Bencomo's Homebrew Supply.

Dale will speak and take questions about the Brewer's Update topic in this issue of the Worthog Review.

We have strayed away from this aspect of the meetings lately. By popular request, the technical side of homebrewing will be given more emphasis in the future. In addition, a new beer tasting format will be introduced at Dan's, with the goal of improving the beers of those participating and the hogs in general.

Steering Committee Searches for Direction

The Worthog Steering Committee met January 19, 1994, at the late, lamented Goodbody's Pub to discuss the upcoming competition and chart the direction of the club. Hogs present were **Marty Allred, Tom Pope, Lowell Hart, Bill McCrory, Dale James** and yours truly.

Following up on a suggestion from a previous meeting, the committee decided to experiment with a new tasting format at club meetings. Ten beers will be accepted each meeting for comments by a panel of qualified beer judges. Other interested members will also have the opportunity to taste the beers during the comment period. The judges will make constructive comments about the beers to educate the membership and help the hogs who submitted the beers do a better job brewing. Hopefully, everyone will come away with a better understanding of the flavors, beer styles and problems we all face. Should you wish to participate, the rules are:

1. Bring 5 bottles or the equivalent of each beer.
2. Bring the recipe for your beers.
3. Maximum of 2 beers per member each meeting.
4. Submit your beers amongst the first ten.
5. Use what you learn on your next batch!

The next order of business was selection of club representatives for the annual California Homebrew Club of the Year award dinner at Anchor Brewing on January 29. The club did not receive the normal notice for the event. Thanks to a late call to Dale from Bruce Joseph at Anchor, we were able to send four members. The criteria for selection, as announced earlier in the year, were competition results and participation in club activities. Also, in this case, the ability to go on short notice was important. On the basis of those requirements, **Darren Cousineu, Lowell Hart, and Tom Pope** made the trek to the City with me.

Anchor's Away

The Worthog delegation's trip to the Bay Area got off to a ralphing start right off the bat. Hog **Tom Pope** let every one in the car know exactly how he felt about their company during a quick roadside stop this side of Dam San Luis. Geez, we hadn't yet even gotten to the twisty part of the road. Fortunately, Tom didn't set the tone for the balance of the trip. It was all up hill from there.



Following an otherwise uneventful drive into the city, the hearty herd of Hogs decided to check out some of the local sights. With a couple of hours to spare, Gordon Biersch and Cafe Pacifica looked like good candidates for our inspection and approval--well, at least one of them was.

Gordon Biersch #2 is located at the foot of Harrison street, right at Embarcadero. It's a place you'll likely find filled with people from the financial district, but is casual enough for a group of Hogs just in from the pens in Freznik. Three lagers-Export, Marzen, and Dunkles-were on tap. The switch to lagers from the ales found at most brewpubs was an interesting treat. All were very good, but the Export and Marzen were judged most likely to fill the troughs next time around-they were truly wonderful beers.

The distance from Biersch to Cafe Pacifica is only a few blocks, but a world away in terms of their beers. We should have forgone our frequent flier miles and stayed on Harrison Street. Cafe Pacifica is located in the heart of the financial district. The bar and related restaurant are very stylish-not "pubby" at all. Three ales were on tap-a light, amber and dark. I tried to forget their names. We all got their very generous samplers. The hogs didn't live up to their names at this watering hole. All left but a few sips sitting on the bar. Nuff said!

The dinner at Anchor was the same chaotic, jovial swirl of homebrewers I remember from last year. All taps at the tasting room bar were open and well used. Although it tried mightily, the crowd couldn't run them dry. Someone said the hosts had a inside line on a source of supply. After the awards ceremony the honorees, the San Andreas Malts, entertained with their bottle orchestra-much to everyone's delight. It didn't take long afterwards for the Hogs to find their way to the trough, and the inch and a half thick New York steaks supplied by our generous hosts. A good time was had by all. Thank you Anchor Brewing for the great event and support of homebrewing through the years!

It was then off to the Toronado for a nightcap and to continue the search for the dual enigmas: Shelf life and IPA Chuck. We found no Chuck, but, if you have ever been to the Toronado, you know you can find just about anything else there. It's another story all by itself.

December Meeting

A small but hearty band of Worthogs braved the December storms and cold to meet at **Conrad and Cathy Gaunt's** home December 11. While the weather was chilly, the Hogs were warmed by each others' Specialty beers, the

style of the meeting. Thanks Conrad and Cathy for your good food and hospitality!

Upcoming Hogfests

Meetings have already been planned for this spring and early summer. The Spring get together will be held at **Kevin Lester's** home on Saturday, May 14. Stout will be the style of the meeting. The Worthog entry for the Stout Bout AHA Club-only Competition will be the winner of the Worthog club competition held at the meeting.

Bob Getz has volunteered to host the early summer meeting at his home. Tentative plans are for an as yet undetermined July date. Beer of the meeting will be Wheat beers, in preparation for the Weiss Is Nice AHA Club-only Competition. That style not only will provide a club entry to the national competition, its also a great summer thirst quencher for everyone to have on hand.

Welcome New Worthogs!

We will soon need to expand the hog pen. Please welcome to the herd new Worthogs **John Clark, B.K. Damania, Robert Jeffers, and Michael Murphy**. Also, after finding a break in the pen's fence last year, welcome back **Tom Calderwood, Dave Franzen, and Ken & Ellen Schneider**.

Competition Update

A new competition season has just begun, with the most important contests coming up soon. The Worthogs have numerous members brewing great beer now. While we do have more entries in competitions, there are still many worthy beers within the club that never have a chance to show their stuff. I urge everyone who has a possible entry to send it in to at least one competition. The Worthogs have already gained six points toward homebrew club of the year with Darren Cousineu's win in the Best of Fest competition. Last year's national club of the year, the Sonoma Beerocrats, won with only twenty two points, so we could make a great showing with just a little hard work and luck. Check the calendar in this issue for upcoming competitions. Especially rewarding would be a big turnout of entries for the first round of the AHA National Homebrew Competition that we are co-hosting.



cleaners next to Butterfield's. Anybody who's been in that part of the building knows that the ugly yellow walls won't be conducive to judging beer, and obviously need a coat of paint. I've got the paint, roller pads, etc. and all we need are people with rollers, pans, and a free Sunday in March. We should be able to knock it out in a couple of hours, so we'll have time left over to taste a brew or two. Let me know if you can help.

Dale

CALENDAR

February 26, 1994	Meeting at Dan Hamilton's-514 E. Clinton, Fresno. 1:00 PM <i>Strong Lager</i> Worthog club competition. Strong lager is the style for the meeting.
March 11, 1994 Entry deadline.	<i>Bock Is Best</i> Club-only Competition. Bring entries to Dale James at Butterfield's or to Bencomo's Home-brew Supply. Attach a label with beer style and your name to each of three bottles per entry with a rubber band
April 4-15, 1994	AHA National Homebrew Competition. Entries received for first round judging.
April 16, 1994 Entry deadline	<i>Maltose Falcons Mayfair</i> , Woodland Hills, Calif. Contact Russell Reece at (301) 379-2921.
April 16, 1994	<i>Queen of Beer</i> Women-only Homebrew Competition. Entry deadline 4/15/94. Contact Elizabeth Zangari at (916)621-1506 in Placerville, CA.
April 30, May 1, 1994	AHA National Homebrew Competition first round judging, Fresno.
May 14, 1994	Worthog meeting at Kevin Lester's home. 7820 N. Van Ness Ext. 1:00 pm. Stout is style of the meeting.
May 14, 1994 Entry deadline	<i>Stout Bout</i> Club-only Competition. Bring entries to the meeting at Kevin Lester's or to Dale. See Bock is Best for rules or if unable to attend meeting.
June 22-25, 1994	AHA National Homebrewer's Conference, Brewstorm '94 in Denver, CO. Contact AHA at (303)447-0816
July, 1994	Meeting at Bob Getz' home. Wheat beer is the style of the meeting.
July, 1994	<i>Weiss is Nice</i> Club-only Competition. Club competition at meeting. See Stout Bout for rules.
Sept. 23, 1994	<i>Best of Fest</i> Club-only Competition
Oct. 21-22, 1994	Great American Beer Festival XIII, Denver, CO
November 21, 1994	<i>Specialty Quest</i> Club-only Competition entry deadline. See Bock is Best for rules.

What's Brewing

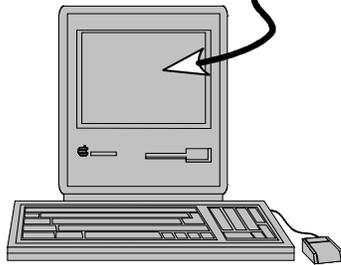
Worthog Contributions

Homebrewing On The Internet

by Lowell Hart

Recently much has been reported about the fantasy "Information Superhighway" that the government is planning to inflict upon us all. While that system is probably years away, it is already possible to send and receive information on many and varied subjects by way of the Internet.

Of special interest to us WORTHogs is a computer news group called Home Brew Digest (*HBD*.) It is a daily conversation dealing with all aspects of homebrewing, and presents a very valuable source of information. Most important is that due the availability of public computer accounts, it is *free*. This article is an attempt to explain to the computer owner how to go about accessing this fun resource. Let me add here that you don't have to know much at all about computers to use it, just some basic stuff you may already know.



To access this service, you will need a computer, a modem, the correct software, and a telephone line. If you already access systems like CompuServe, GENie, Prodigy, America On Line, or any computer bulletin boards, you may already know how to do this. I'm not going to try to explain all the technical stuff in this article; I'll just get you into the beer part once you are there. Some simple preliminary information is order, however.

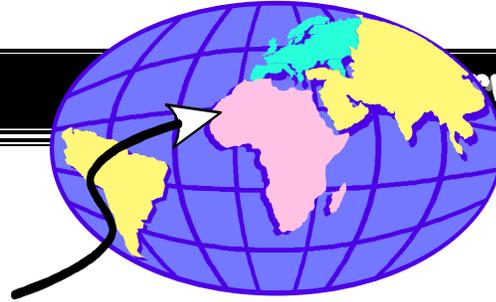
There is a free computer network at CSU Fresno called CATI, for California Advanced Technology Information network. It is useful for obtaining information about the Cal State school system, agricultural services provided by those schools, and other related items. It is free for use by all. Where it comes in really handy is in allowing access to Internet mail services. Put simply, the Internet is the left side of the Defense Department's computer network right brain. It links businesses and universities through their computer mainframes. The computers are there, anyway, so it's all paid for. By logging on to Cati (pronounced "cat-eye") you have access to this huge electronic message system.

To get onto Cati, use your terminal software to dial 278-4617. Use the settings you would for your other contacts. 2400 baud is supported, and some faster. After connecting, hit <return>. After some initial information, you will get the prompt:

CSUF>

Type the line : **connect cati** <return>

Again you'll get some verbiage about what the system is, followed by the prompt: **login:**



Here, as a first timer you'll want to enter the word **"public"**.

Remember: From this point on, if you become confused, read what Cati prints on your screen. It is pretty much self-explanatory. You'll have many wondrous things to read, and eventually the computer will ask you if you want to sign up for an account. Answer this prompt with "Y" (you can wander around the computer as a Public user, but you will not have access to the beer stuff I'm going to tell you about.) The computer will ask you your name, address, etc. Remember, this is a free service, so don't be shy about filling out the questionnaire. The system will give you a "login name" for you to use to access the computer, and a password. As it says, write these down. Your login name will be based on your own name; mine, for instance is *lhart*. Then the computer asks you to repeat these, and you're all set. Next time you call, just enter your login name where you entered "public" before, use your password, and you're in like Flynn.

Once inside Cati, you'll be presented with a series of menus. Most are self-explanatory. You move to the area that you want by pressing the key of the letter next to each item. I encourage you to explore the machine, it has many interesting features. The section that we want is #4) *Utilities*. This is where the mail menu is. Once in the utilities menu, the item you'll use most is a) *amail*. To access the beer stuff, we will be sending and receiving electronic mail. (*e-mail*) Look at the selections across the bottom of the screen. Each has a letter with which to select a feature. Start out by using "s" for "send". Use my login name (*lhart*) and follow the instructions to send me a note saying that you are on the machine. (I promise to send you a cheerfully nasty note back.) You can ignore the 'carbon copy' prompts at the end. Once you have written the note, you must s) *end* it again, or any of the other selections on the screen. It will then flash into my computer mailbox, and I will see it the next time I log on.

From here there are two ways to go. If your brain has already reached overload, you can just send me a message saying so and I will help you get set up with HBD (the beer stuff,) or you can be adventurous and dive right in.

To get Home Brew Digest, you have to request it. *Send* an e-mail message to: **homebrew-request@hpfcmi.fc.hp.com**. Now, computers take things very literally, so check your addresses before you continue, or you'll get a cryptic note back saying that the mail system doesn't know what you are talking about. Once inside the letter, write a short and polite note asking to subscribe to *HBD*. You'll need to include your e-mail address, which looks like this: name@cati.CSUFresno.edu where you have replaced name with the login name that the computer gave you. This e-mail address will pretty much put you in touch

with anybody on the Internet, so you should probably write it down for future use. After finishing the letter, *s)end* it off. Now you're all set. The next time you log on, say a day or two later, you can go to the E-Mail menu and you will see a copy of the latest *HBD* waiting for you (as well as that promised nasty note from me.) This time you can *r)ead* your mail, and see what you've been missing. I think you'll enjoy what you see.

2nd Anniversary Sale



**MANY ITEMS MARKED DOWN
HURRY IN FOR BEST SELECTION**

**1/2 OFF ALL SHIRTS * HATS *
SWEATS**

**☎ \$2.00 CHARGE ON ALL MAIL ORDERS
(209) 237-7203**

NEW ITEMS

Party Pigs and Accessories

The Carbonator

Glass Blowoff Tubes

5 New WYeast Strains

5 Liter Tin Party Kegs and Taps

Over 25 new types of grain and malt
kits

HURRY-SALE ENDS 3/31/94

What can you do with Home Brew Digest? Well, when some of us were worried about our HWBTA entries getting to New Jersey on time, I found a telephone number for Dale to call for information. My latest brew is supposed to be a Kolsch, and I had questions about it, so I posted a message asking about it. I got several replies by e-mail with lots of helpful information on brewing Kolsch. There are

ongoing discussions on many different brewing subjects, with regular postings by people like George Fix, the yeast expert. You don't need to participate if you don't want to, you can just read and enjoy.

Using the Internet mail section you can also access other information available. There is an archive computer at Stanford that I was able to get things like a *FAQ* (Frequently Asked Questions) on the subjects of beginning brewing, hops, and yeasts. There was an index to Papazian's homebrew book, and a study guide for the BJCP exam. Info on how to access this stuff is in the header of *HBD*, or send me a note. We're using e-mail to keep in touch with Russ Wigglesworth, AHA western rep, while working on the AHA Regionals that we're organizing. There are other Digests, like JudgeNet, Lambic Digest and Mead Digest. Beyond brewing, there are literally thousands of special interest news groups available on almost any subject, and lots of people to correspond with.

I hope this helps get some of you interested in logging on. I have been doing this sort of thing for years. It's fun, it's free, it's easy, and you can do it at home with a beer in your hand. If you have any questions about it, hunt me up and I'll do my best to get you straightened out.

BEGINNER HOMEBREW CLASSES

Jim Lopes, Instructor

Covers extract brewing, sanitation, and basic equipment. Limited to first 12 participants. \$40.00 fee includes reference book. Worthog dicount price of \$35.00. Date and location to be determined when class is filled.

Contact Bencomo's Homebrew Supply at
(209) 237-7203