



# The Grapevine

Newsletter of the Sacramento Home Winemakers, Inc.

February 2013

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**Sacramento Home Winemakers (SHW)** monthly meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month starting at 7 PM, upstairs at the Turn Verein located at 3349 J Street in midtown Sacramento. For more information on SHW membership, meetings and activities, visit:

**[www.SacHomeWine.org](http://www.SacHomeWine.org)**

### **February 20 2013 SHW Meeting**

#### **White and Rose Evaluation**

How are your 2012 white and rose wines coming along?

Is your wine tasting like it needs some tweaking? Are you stuck in fermentation? Is there an inexplicable off smell? Or do you just love your wine and would like to know if there is something more you can do to make it the envy of commercial winemakers? Well then--rack off a couple of bottles and bring them to our February 20th meeting for white and rose wine evaluations. Turn over two bottles to our esteemed Cellar Masters: Henry Wilkinson and Donna Bettencourt by 6:45pm.

We are very fortunate to welcome award winning commercial wine makers, Peter Marks from Six Hands Winery and Craig Unverferth from Charles Mitchell who will share their opinions/advice about our creations.

If you are submitting a 2012 white or rose wine for evaluation, please be prepared to give a brief outline on how you made your wine.

The meeting starts at 7 PM upstairs at the Turn Verein, 3349 J Street in midtown Sacramento. Thanking you in advance for helping with meeting set-up and clean up.

Your Vice Presidents,

Sonia Baron and John Avila

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## **President's Message**

**Dear SHW Members:**

**HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!** We are a few days away from that delightful occasion that allows us to savor the pairing of our red wines and delicious chocolates.

I hope you'll take the opportunity and enjoy a very happy holiday with your

loved one(s).

I will lift a glass and munch a See's Light Chocolate Bordeaux in sacrifice to the pursue of my further research of the subject. Good luck to you all in your research efforts!

#### MUSINGS:

1. The Club's February 20TH meeting will be devoted to our annual White Wines Evaluation. Co-Vice President Sonia Baron outlines the details of the evening's program in an accompanying article. I want to emphasize the need for you all to work with the wines you are submitting for evaluation: Rack; Open a bottle, decant, TASTE and Top Off.

You will have happier evaluation results for your efforts. (PS: Bring 4 wine glasses so you can enjoy some comparative tasting. Most of all - - - enjoy yourselves!

2. Our April 17th meeting will be devoted to the Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Sacramento Home Winemakers Club. Plan on sharing appetizers while socializing with old and new wine club members.

Enjoy an entertaining on-going slide show review of club events and members.

Above all, plan on an evening of tasting new and legacy (aka "old") home made wines.

A "People's Choice" Judging will be held [Prize(s) to be awarded] for the Best Old (6 years or older) Red and White wines. In addition, an award will be given for the "Oldest (drinkable) Wine" submitted.

So, get to work searching your cellars for those dusty, lost older bottles that you've been saving for just such an occasion as our

40th Anniversary Celebration!

3. Many of us enjoyed attending the recent annual meeting of the Unified Wine Symposium at the Sacramento Convention Center. A special thank-you to Lynn Keay for arranging for the \$5. discount vouchers many of us used. (A great bargain and all ticket proceeds went into the SHW coffers.)

The "Unified" is a great educational and social experience. A chance to see the panoply of wine making equipment available, as well as meet equipment purveyors, grape producers and commercial & (home) winemakers. PUT IT ON YOUR SCHEDULE for January 2014!

4. The SHW Executive Board had its' monthly meeting on Feb 6th. Needless to say, we do "do:" club business "stuff" as well as enjoying a chance to socialize. I want to thank Past President ('09 & '10) Lynn Keay for hosting the event. We all enjoyed the opportunity of touring Lynn's new Wine Room >>> "Just Fabulous."

I mention the above because I want to remind all members that they too are encouraged to join us at the monthly EB meeting.

A great opportunity to participate while learning more about your SHW club. Please contact Gary Young for further information.

5. As I mentioned in my January scree: last year the SHW Club was recognized at WineMaker Magazine's "2012 International Amateur Wine Competition" as - - 2012 Club of the Year.

I am reminded by Rex Johnston (& Barbara Bentley), whose stellar efforts and successes led to winning last year's award, that it is again time to get those competition entries (Due March 15th) in to the WineMaker Magazine!

Check your WineMaker Magazine for info.

Also, for the inside story you might contact Rex and Barbara.

**RACK - Don't RUIN !!**

Cheers

- - Gary Young

### Thanks for Stepping Up!

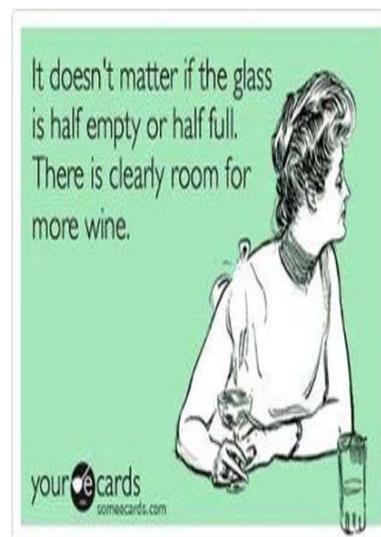
Your Club appreciates your help in keeping the organization running smoothly and extends special thanks to:

- Bill Staehlin for securing a location for the pre-meeting reception for Randall Graham
- Holly Heggli for providing hospitality for our January meet

- Henry Wilkinson for hosting the Jubilee Competition Committee meeting
- Lynn Key for hosting the February Executive Board Meeting and for securing vouchers for the Unified Wine Symposium.
- Andy Walter, Donna Bettencourt, and Lynn Key for operating the Club's equipment lending program; and
- Tom Montgomery for assisting the Web Manager with blog updates

## 2013 SHW Calendar

February 20 Wednesday	<b>White and Rose Wine Evaluations</b> Evaluators: Peter Marks – Six Hands Winery Craig Unverferth – Charles Mitchell Winery
March 20 Wednesday	<b>Deciphering Judging Sheet Comments</b> Speaker: John Troiano
April 17 Wednesday	<b>Sacramento Home Winemakers 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party!</b>
May 15 Wednesday	<b>Non-Bordeaux Wine Evaluation</b> Evaluator: Chick Brennerman
June 1 Saturday	<b>June Jubilee Wine Competition and Picnic</b>
June 19 Wednesday	<b>Bordeaux Wine Evaluation</b>



**Monthly meetings** generally start at 7 PM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month, upstairs at the Turn Verein, 3349 J Street, Sacramento. Show up at 6:30 PM with your wine glass and a bottle of wine and enjoy wine making camaraderie. Please bring 2 wine glasses for evaluations & special meetings. Thanks for helping set up & cleaning at the meetings.

**Executive Board meetings** start at 6:30 PM generally on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays of the month.

*March Executive Board Meeting – Wednesday, March 6, 6:30 pm – 8 pm*

The SHW Executive Board meets each month to conduct the business of the Sacramento Home Winemakers. In addition to the officers of the club, the appointees also attend. Join us on March 6, 2013 in Tahoe Park at 6:30 pm. All SHW members are invited to attend and learn more about how you can contribute to the club. The board meetings start at 6:30 pm and we are generally finished with business by 8 pm, after which we all enjoy potluck dishes and wine that we have brought.

Contact President Gary Young at 916-451-3893 or [gycats@earthlink.net](mailto:gycats@earthlink.net) for exact location.

## Celebrate SHW's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

In preparation for our 40th Anniversary Party on April 17th, we are requesting submissions of pictures by all members for a slide show presentation during the festivities. The club was formed in the '70s so we're asking for pictures of you either from those early days in the club while you were winemaking or at club events. If those aren't in your possession, pictures of you in the '70s would be great. For those of you who were not yet born in the '70s, first of all we hate you - haha! Secondly, if you can just submit baby pictures, we'll pretend.

Full resolution digital pictures are preferable but if you have prints only and no scanner we can help you get it done. Please contact Carol Clark at [cclark914@hotmail.com](mailto:cclark914@hotmail.com) to either submit your pictures or for help in getting them converted. We have two meetings before the party, February 20 and March 20, this would be a good time to bring something in hand also, and give to Carol. Please provide a return envelope for snail mail



**1976 - Guess who??**

### 2012 Membership Stats

Sacramento Home Winemakers membership is growing and reaching further outside of the Sacramento Valley and surrounding foothills. The Club ended 2012 with 136 memberships, up 12 memberships from 2011's 124 memberships (+9%). In 2012, 36 members were new (26% new members) and, 26 members were new in 2012 (19% new members). "New" is defined as members joining for the first time or members rejoining after a lapse of at least a year. Membership locations are captured by mailing addresses as indicated on membership forms.

Of the 136 memberships in 2012, 38 members were from Sacramento, and an additional 45 members were located in Sacramento County with 8 members each from Elk Grove and Granite Bay, followed by 6 members in Gold River, 4 each from Citrus Heights and Folsom, 3 from Fair Oaks, 2 each from Elverta, Esparto and Carmichael, and 1 each from Antelope, Herald, Orangevale, Rancho Murieta, Rio Linda, and Wilton.

Of the eight counties with contiguous boundaries to Sacramento County, SHW had members from all but one, Amador. Placer County led with 23 members - 7 from Loomis, 5 from Lincoln, 4 each from Auburn and Roseville, 2

from Rocklin, and a member from Penryn. Yolo County reflected 14 members with the majority of them living in Davis (7) and 3 in West Sacramento, and 1 each in El Macero and Woodland. Eight members live in El Dorado County with 4 from El Dorado Hills, and one member each from El Dorado, Pilot Hill, Somerset, and Shingle Springs. Solano County gave us 2 members from Dixon. San Joaquin, Sutter, and Contra Costa counties listed one member each, in Lodi, Nicolaus, and Walnut Creek, respectively.

Membership demographics held steady in California locations with non-contiguous boundaries to Sacramento County, although there was a slight shift to the south. For 2011, there was one member each in Brisbane/San Mateo County, Wheatland/Yuba County, Truckee/Nevada County, San Rafael/Marin County, and San Jose/Santa Clara County. In 2012, non-touching county member locations were one each from Brisbane, Walnut Creek, Wheatland, Truckee, Santa Barbara/Santa Barbara County, and Atwater/Merced County.

Translating the 2012 membership numbers to rounded percentages, we look like this: Sacramento County, 61%; Placer County, 17%; Yolo County, 9%; El Dorado County, 6%; Solano County, 1%, and the remaining seven counties at .07%.

-- Gin Yang, Membership Co-Chair

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## **2013 Club Dues Are Due!**

### **Renew/Join by March 1**

Thank you for paying your 2013 dues! If you haven't done so already, attached to this newsletter for your use is a membership form with the mailing address at the bottom of the form. Alternatively, you can bring your form and dues to the February 20 meeting.

For members who currently receive Winemakers Magazine in your mailbox, your subscription will continue uninterrupted if you **renew by March 1**. No continued subscription is available to members who don't renew by then. Please note on your membership form if there's a change in mailing address or contact information.

In addition to a year's subscription to Winemaker Magazine, your annual dues are applied toward Club expenses including meeting room rent, speaker's expenses, copies, wine glasses, hospitality and supplies, insurance, web site, newsletter, and a bunch of other outgo used to keep SHW running as smoothly as possible. Thank you for your support!

Please direct membership questions 2013 Membership Co-Chairs Fred Millar at 916 576-9596 and fredmillar1@gmail.com, and Gin Yang at 916 217-0294 and ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com.

-- Fred Millar and Gin Yang,  
Membership Co-Chairs

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## Club Resources

Winemaking and Vineyard Mentors	Contact Mentor Coordinator Bill Staehlin and he'll match you up with a mentor. bill.staehlin@sbcglobal.net; 916 216-1753
Club Equipment Rental	See list on right for information to borrow the Club's destemmer-crusher, press, and filter.
Oak Cubes for Ageing	Contact Bill Staehlin; contact info above.
SHW Logo Wine Glasses	Contact Sue Summersett to purchase SHW logo wine glasses. sbsummer2002@yahoo.com; 916 354-2050
SHW Logo Wear Polo Shirts & Caps	Contact Fred Millar for more information. Fredmillar1@gmail.com; 915 576-9596
Club's Web Site	www.SacHomeWine.org



## Amateur Wine and Label Competitions

### WineMaker Magazine 2013 International Amateur Wine

**Competition.** Entries due **March 15**. In 2012, SHW was awarded the competition's *Wine Club of the Year*. Defend SHW's title - enter your wines! Entry forms are available at the SHW January 16, meeting or by going on-line: [www.winemakermag.com](http://www.winemakermag.com)

### 2013 Winemaker Magazine Conference

This year's conference is back on the west coast in Monterey on May 17-18. The conference offers two full days of seminars and special events for hobby winemakers. Conference brochures are available at the SHW's February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting or at [www.winemakermag.com](http://www.winemakermag.com).

Contact Sonia Baron if you can donate 2 bottles for pouring at this year's evening session.

### Looking For More Fun!

Volunteer to coordinate a Club activity! We're looking for coordinators for the spring home winery tour, autumn winemakers harvest dinner, or SHW winery tours throughout northern California. Contact Prez Gary if you're interested in volunteering: [gycats@earthlink.net](mailto:gycats@earthlink.net) and 916 451

## Club Equipment

Club equipment can be borrowed by SHW members. Reservations are handled on a first come, first served basis with a signed "Release Agreement" on file.

### Destemmer-Crusher

Contact:

Andy Walter, 916 955-6373  
[andrew.walter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:andrew.walter@sbcglobal.net)

### Basket Press

Contact:

Lynn Keay, 916 969-4924  
[lynn.keay@gmail.com](mailto:lynn.keay@gmail.com)

### Filter

Contact:

Donna Bettencourt, 916 454-5487  
[bettencourt1045@softcom.net](mailto:bettencourt1045@softcom.net)

Please help keep Club equipment in optimum shape for everyone to use.

- Thoroughly clean and return equipment within 24 hours.
- Notify equipment coordinator of equipment malfunctions or damage.
- Provide your own paper filters for the filter.
- Schedule thoughtfully during peak season as several members may need to borrow the equipment on the same day.

"Release Agreements" are available at the monthly SHW meetings. Be proactive: if you're planning to borrow Club equipment, attend the equipment training and complete the form. Contact Donna Bettencourt for additional information.



Sacramento Home Winemakers  
P O Box 894  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-0894

## 2013 SACRAMENTO HOME WINEMAKERS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Your Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City & Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address(es) \_\_\_\_\_  
(SHW communicates primarily through emails. If you also prefer the newsletter by USPS, indicate here. \_\_\_)

Yes  No Share my phone number, city and email addresses with SHW members. (Note: street addresses will not be shared.)

**New Membership** - \$45 per household (calendar year). Join by March 1, 2013 to receive a one-year subscription to WineMaker Magazine mailed to your address.

**Renew Membership** - \$45 per household (calendar year). 2012 members who **renew by March 1, 2013** will receive a one-year extension to their existing WineMaker magazine subscription. *Subscription is not extended if renewing after March 1, 2013.*

### Tell us about your winemaking interests to assist SHW in developing programs and resources:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have been a SHW member since _____  | <input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in home viticulture.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am a new/novice/rusty winemaker   | <input type="checkbox"/> I have a home vineyard. # of vines: _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I'm interested in Winemaking 101 (Basics)   | <input type="checkbox"/> I am a <input type="checkbox"/> commercial winery and/or <input type="checkbox"/> grower<br>Name & Location _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am making wine. Years making wine: _____  | <input type="checkbox"/> I have grapes to sell   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I made _____ gallons wine in 2012.  | <input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in making these wines:  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I plan to make _____ gallons wine in 2013.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Bordeaux <input type="checkbox"/> Rhone <input type="checkbox"/> Iberian <input type="checkbox"/> Italian <input type="checkbox"/> German                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I want to know about: <input type="checkbox"/> wine chemistry <input type="checkbox"/> SO2<br><input type="checkbox"/> pH and acid <input type="checkbox"/> blending <input type="checkbox"/> fining <input type="checkbox"/> filtering | <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit <input type="checkbox"/> Mead <input type="checkbox"/> Port <input type="checkbox"/> Sparkler <input type="checkbox"/> Dessert <input type="checkbox"/> Other ___ |

### Thanks for choosing some of the many ways to help SHW:

**Leadership:**  President  Vice President – Programs  Treasurer  Secretary  Membership Chair  Cellar Master/Assistant Cellar Master  Web Site Manager  Newsletter Editor  Chief Judge/Assistant Chief Judge  Competition Coordinator  Mentor Coordinator  Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Host a board meeting** on the first Wednesday of the month. Which month is best? \_\_\_\_\_

**Jubilee Wine Competition and Picnic:**  Judging  Cellar Help  Clerk  Chef  Logistics

**Home Winery Tour:**  Coordinate  Chef  Home Tour Destination

**Harvest Dinner:**  Coordinate  Find corkage-free restaurant

**Holiday Dinner and Fundraiser:**  Coordinate  Logistics  Secure Items  Donate Items

**Monthly Hospitality:** reimbursable snacks at monthly meetings:  Coordinate  Bring Snack

**Club Equipment Manager/Storage:**  Destemmer-Crusher  Press  Filter

**Winemaking supplies** (bottles, oak, corks, etc.): help with  procurement,  storage and  sales

**Winery/Industry Tours:**  Coordinate  Lead  Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

**Grape Sourcing/Group Buys:**  Procure  Manage Varietals: \_\_\_\_\_

Program/meeting topics you're interested in or why you joined SHW: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to "Sacramento Home Winemakers" and mail membership form with check to:

SHW Treasurer - P.O. Box 894 - Rancho Cordova, CA 95741

Membership questions? Contact Gin at 916 217-0294 or ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com