

SACRAMENTO HOME WINEMAKERS

THE GRAPEVINE

NEWSLETTER -- MARCH 2018



MARCH 21 PROGRAM

Round Table Red Wine Evaluation

Join your fellow home winemakers on Wednesday, March 21st at 7pm for our Monthly Program upstairs at the Turn Verein located at 3349 J Street in Sacramento. There is additional parking in the back.

We will be evaluating reds, so everyone needs to bring a bottle of red wine, with preference for this year's wine, but if that is not possible any bottle of red is fine. This can be a split bottle if a new wine, or if you don't have any wine made a store bought wine is fine. We will be doing round table tasting focusing on the competition judging sheet. I think

this will be educational and a lot of fun for everyone.

Your wine will be poured for members at your table for evaluation.

Bring 2 wine glasses for your use at the meeting. Your help in setting up and cleaning up at meetings is appreciated. Contact Vice President Terry Piazza-Perham if you have program questions: piazza-perham@att.net or 916 806-1621.

Please consume responsibly.

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SHW Jubilee – June 9-10
Wine Competition & Picnic
Details in April's The Grapevine!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all of the members of this fine, wine making club. Once again, I'm honored to send out a message that potentially could be read by the WHOLE WORLD! Unlikely as that is, I at least hope to reach the WHOLE MEMBERSHIP with a message of cheer and information.

First, wasn't that February meeting a hit! We got to sample twelve new white and rose~ wines from some experienced winemakers like Jim Garrett, Donna Bettencourt, Paul Baldwin, Larry Carducci and Mark Davis. I'm sure I'm forgetting the others and I want to extend a thank you to all for giving up two bottles of your wine so that we may taste it and hear the feedback. A big thank you to Craig Haarmeyer for his



(continued on the next page)

time and bringing his wine to round out a great evaluation meeting.

Sacramento Home Winemakers is grateful to the professionals in the wine industry who donate their time and expertise to our membership. Watch for details about the March meeting-we've got exciting things planned!

Now that the days are getting longer, daylight savings time is upon us and spring is just a few days away, we'll be drawn to things like yard work, painting, tree trimming and other unsettling chores, when all we want to do is rack our wine, test the pH, try some blending or oak bench trials, see how much free SO₂ I have, visit with someone who also has wine and blend with them, and the list goes on. That might just be me, but I wouldn't bet on it. At least now we can stay out on our patios later in the evening with that glass of homemade wine, enjoying the cool, relatively mosquito free outdoors. In Minnesota, the evening is FEASTING time for the mosquitos and there isn't enough DEET to keep them off of you. As the temps increase, make sure your wine is kept in as steady of a temperature environment as possible, top up your air locks, wipe off the dust and do a little spring cellar cleaning.

The club still needs someone to take on the Equipment Coordinator role. Availability of the club equipment during the harvest time is a big benefit to the membership but can be impeded if volunteers don't take on the role. Please consider what you can do and let one of the Executive Board members know. We are also looking for someone who can oversee the group buy program. Many members utilize this process to have access to quality grapes at reasonable pricing, but it takes some organization to poll the membership to see what others want and who has access to what type of grapes, coordinate access to the crusher/destemmer, scales and transportation (if necessary) of the grapes. We have a solid membership in this club, with a few volunteers, but as the club expands, its needs expand; therefore, consider volunteering.

There is still time to get your wines in for the State Fair and be sure to check the website for opportunities to help the club stage the wines for judging. There are still slots available for each of the Saturdays.

Happy Winemaking!

-- *Joe McGillivray, SHW President*

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS!

Lots of volunteers help keep SHW running smoothly! Thank you for stepping up!

February's meeting:

- **Craig Haarmeyer** for evaluating members' whites and rosés plus bringing his wines for tasting.
- **Kendall Johnson** and **Daniel Wong** for assisting Cellar Master **Joe Morgan** with the pours.
- **Kevin Lemay** and **Jeff and Julie Giordano** for spearheading hospitality.
- **Doug and Debbie Stevens** and **Peter and Pauline Buck** for helping with set-up and clean-up.
- **Members** who brought their wines in for evaluation.

SHW support outside of the monthly meeting:

- **Kevin Lemay** for coordinating the Club's cork group buy from ACIC.
- **VP Terry Piazza-Perham** for hosting March's executive board meeting.
- **Robert Wharton** for coordinating cellar volunteers for the California State Fair Home Wine competition. See the details in this newsletter.

COMPETITION CORNER



The 2018 home winemaking competition season is underway. For those who have never entered a recognized home wine competition, here are a few tips:

*Most competitions require only one bottle for entry. Be sure that that one bottle represents your wine truly; uncork it and taste a tiny bit and smell it. If it is good to go, recork it and send it on.

*Bring your wine prior to bottling to the mentoring table at monthly meetings. Member Christa Ring will have a table in the back of the room, accompanied by an experienced winemaker. One of our mentors can taste the wine and evaluate it, even using a recognized scoring sheet. You may receive some finishing feedback, prior to bottling, that will help your wine compete better.

*Know why you are entering your wine. Is it to show it off and win awards, or to receive feedback, or both? Both are valid reasons. Remember also that you must enter 2 different wines in at least three recognized home wine competitions in order to submit your application for SHW Home Winemaker of the Year. The required competitions are the California State Fair, and the SHW Jubilee. You may choose the other recognized competition.

Here are a few of the competitions coming up.

California State Fair Home Wine Competition

Entries open on February 14, 2018 and close on March 14, 2018. Judging is being held in Sacramento on Saturday, April 7, 2018. For entry details, go to www.castatefair.org

WineMaker International Amateur Wine Competition

Entries must be received by March 16, 2018. Entry forms and guidelines can be found at www.winemakermag.com/com This year's competition includes meads and hard ciders as well. One bottle entry, \$25 per entry

El Dorado County Fair Home Wine Competition

Judging is on May 5th. Forms and entries must be received in the El Dorado Fair office in Placerbille between April 1st and May 2nd, M-F 9am-4 pm. \$11 per entry/1 bottle per entry. Go to www.eldoradocountyfair.org for more details.

Sacramento Home Winemakers Jubilee Competition

Our club-only competition is scheduled for Saturday, June 9th, with the annual awards and picnic to follow the next day, June 10th. We are encouraging home winemakers at every stage of their wine making journey to enter. **Due to our strong fund raising efforts, we are able to extend to members reduced entry fees this year. Your first entry will be at no cost, and all other entries will be \$8 per entry.** An entry consists of 1 bottle. Entries will be accepted at the April 16th monthly meeting. The Competition Committee will be looking for volunteers to assist on June 9th in the cellar, clerking, set up, and clean up. Look for more details in the April newsletter.

Orange County Fair Home Wine Competition

Entry fee is \$15 per entry and only one bottle is required. On line registration and payment is open now at <https://competition.ocws.org> Deadline for entry is May 22, 2018. Labeled entries may be dropped of at The Brewmeister in Folsom and at other locations (see website) in Northern California. Judging is on June 9th.

Placer County Wine and Grape Association

Last year's home wine competition was held in August. Check back in later for more details or go to: www.pcwga.org

-- Chief Judge Donna Bettencourt

FIELD TRIP! UC DAVIS WINERY TOUR + YOLO COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS – APRIL 28



In appreciation of the establishment of the SHW Scholarship, the UC Davis Department Of Viticulture and Enology has offered SHW members a tour of the University winery. The tour, set for Saturday, April 28, starting at 10:30 AM, will be led by Viticulture & Enology Department Chair Dave Block. Information on University winery can be found at <http://wineserver.ucdavis.edu/about/facilities/Winery.html>

To make it a You Only Live Once (Yolo) County wine day, after the tour, members are invited to gather at Marcus and Jenny Meadows-Smith's vineyard for lunch. Marcus will grill sausage and chicken. Attendees will be asked to bring a side dish and, of course, if they wish, some of their wine to share.

To round out the afternoon, Nicole Salengo, the winemaker for Berryessa Gap Winery in Winters will provide a tasting of BG wines and talk about Yolo County grapes and terroir.

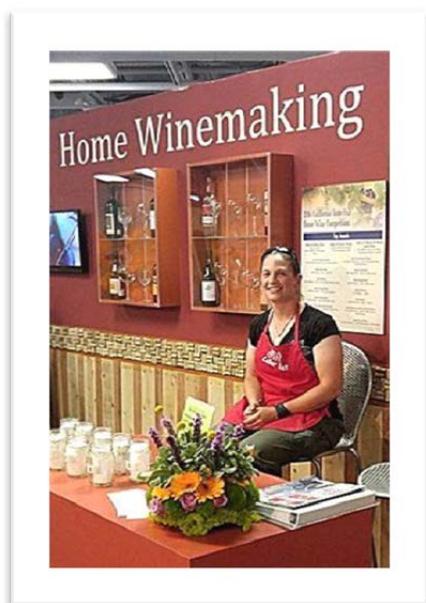
Mark your calendars!

UPDATE: CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR HOME WINE COMPETITION SET-UP

As previously announced, our club is helping to help set-up the cellar, check-in and reconcile the entries, and finally pull flights in preparation for judging day. Volunteer slots are still available for all three Saturdays. Please access the sign-up page here: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f49abaa23a2f94-2018>

For questions on volunteering for this event, contact Robert Wharton, robert.wharton@hpe.com.

The 2018 California Home Wine competition is accepting entries through March 14, 2018. The details can be found here: <http://www.castatefair.org/california-home-wine/>.



EVENTS CALENDAR

- Executive Board Meetings –6:30 PM start; contact Prez Joe McGillivray for location; pyramidlake59@gmail.com.
- General Meetings –7:00 PM start; upstairs at 3349 J Street, Sacramento
- Meeting and event details - www.sachomewine.com; see Events Calendar and latest Newsletter.

General Meeting	March 21, 7 PM Wednesday	Round Table Red Wine Evaluations Bring a bottle of red and let's talk about it!
Executive Board Meeting	April 4, 6:30 PM Wednesday	All members welcome. Location: Loomis
General Meeting	April 18, 7 PM Wednesday	All You Wanted to Know About Corks and Closures Guest Speaker: Phil Durrett, ACIC
UC Davis Winery Field Trip	April 28, 10:30 AM Saturday	Tour UC Davis' wine making facility, enjoy a lunch, and wine tasting. Details in this newsletter.
General Meeting	May 16, 7 PM Wednesday	Everything Fermentation Guest Speaker: Shea Comfort, Lallamand
SHW Jubilee	June 9-10	Wine Competition and Awards Ceremony - Picnic

From:
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www.sachomewine.com
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To: