

SACRAMENTO HOME WINEMAKERS

THE GRAPEVINE

NEWSLETTER -- APRIL 2018



APRIL 18 PROGRAM

Corks and Closures

Join your fellow Home Winemakers on Wednesday, April 18th 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.

This month's meeting is devoted to corks and closures. Phil Durrett, Sales Manager for ACIC Corks and Closures will be speaking on the topic.

Bring your wine for sharing if you choose to and don't forget your glass. Your help in setting up and cleaning up at meetings is always appreciated.

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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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, fellow winemakers!

The theme for this month's President message is WOW! The first WOW goes to Paul Baldwin for coming up with such a cool idea for the March General Meeting Program. Who'd have thought that a red wine evaluation could be so engaging? The positive comments and feedback I've received about the meeting is almost overwhelming. Way to go Paul! Your long-time educator background really came through and I'm grateful for the fresh idea and presentation to the membership.

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The second WOW goes out to the Executive Board and appointees. We accomplish a significant amount of business by email and text messages and it's refreshing to see how quickly challenges get solved and the quality of the input from the leadership team. Our monthly meetings are effective and provide direction to the Club to steer it down the path of being innovative, solvent, appealing and involved. What an honor it is to serve on the Executive Board and be part of this fine group of people

The third WOW is that April is volunteer month! The week of April 15-21 is National Volunteer Week. Seriously, Google it. Some of the Club Members who have volunteered recently have been in the Club for a long period of time and have made significant contributions over the years. This is an honorable and enriching experience to serve the membership this way and it's rewarding when new helpers step in. We all enjoy the benefits of the Club's strength and we should all participate in some way to keep it healthy. That being said, we are still in need of an Equipment Coordinator. Since it's volunteer month, please consider this opportunity to further assist the membership.

The fourth WOW goes out to Tom and Rebecca Ramme. I tell ya, these two members shine! What they do for the State Fair Home Wine competition is unreal. Under their tutelage, guys like Robert Wharton, Mike Menard, Joe Morgan, Thad (and Heather-she's not a guy) Rodgers, Bruce Currie, Al Piccardo and a few others I'm sure I'm forgetting (Najla?) were able to check in the wines and get them ready for the competition event this Saturday, April 7. I was part of this crew as well and have been for several years and I have to say, watching Tom and Rebecca operate is like watching two surgeons perform heart surgery! And that's not a Fib! (Excuse the pun, it was intended!) Thank you cellar crew and Tom and Rebecca.

There are many more Wows' I could tell you about but after nine or ten you'd get bored and would go grab some wine and forget where you left off so It'd be time to stop reading, which tells me I better stop writing. Once again, I tell you, it is a pleasure to be part of this Club and bask in its aura. Hope to see you soon.
Cheers!

-- Joe McGillivray, SHW President

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS!

Lots of volunteers help keep SHW running smoothly! Thank you for stepping up!
March's meeting appreciation:

- Hospitality: **Shannon Shakelford** and **Don Vinson** for the cheese and bread; **Sue Summersett** for pre-meeting set-up, and **Doug MacKenzie** and **Judy Pinegar** for cleaning up.
- **Paul Baldwin** for making March's meeting format informative and fun!
- **Participants** who brought their wines and **Group Leaders** for keeping the discussion going. See article in this newsletter.

Thank you for volunteering to support SHW outside our monthly meetings:

- **SHW members** helped the California State Fair with the Fair's home wine competition.
- **Judy Pinegar** for hosting April's executive board meeting.

CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR HOME WINE COMPETITION

SHW contracts with the California State Fair becoming an integral part of the fair's annual home wine competition. The responsibilities include picking up wine entries in northern California, and pre-competition activities including matching wines with paperwork and flighting, competition day duties, and assisting with the awards ceremony.

The triple-checking, matching, and flighting requires organization and attention to the details. SHW thanks an extraordinary crew: Robert Wharton, Heather Rodgers, Mike Menard, Bruce Curry, Joe McGillivray, Jim Phelan, Chris Phelan, Melody Palmero, Gary Palmero, Linda Skinner, David Ichikawa, Sue Summersett, Alan Piccardo, Najla Owens, Thad Rodgers, and Joe Morgan along with others not mentioned.

The final part of the State Fair contract is staffing the home winemaking booth during the fair's run in July. Stay tuned for the opportunity to become a part of that team!



COMPETITION CORNER

-- Chief Judge Donna Bettencourt

The 2018 home winemaking competition season is underway!

Congratulations to all the SHW members who won Gold, Silver, and Bronze at the State Fair.

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.

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 Placerville 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. If you bring your entries and fees to the April meeting, Chief Judge Donna Bettencourt will bring them to the fair office.



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 one 750 ml bottle. Entries will be accepted at the April 18th monthly meeting and cut off at the May 16th meeting.

Competition details on SHW's website:
<http://www.sachomewine.com/2018-jubilee-wine-competition/>

Drop off locations will be announced in April. The Competition Committee will be looking for

volunteers to assist on June 9th in the cellar, clerking, set up, and clean up.

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 off 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.

HARVEST 2018 – GROUP BUYS

Spring is here and the growing season is well underway which means harvest is just around the corner. As you may know, there is strength and buying power in numbers - and access to great fruit is what we all seek to make outstanding award-winning wines.

To that end, David Ichikawa and Jerry Roark are organizing the group buys this year. In short, their job is to solicit grape sources from SHW members and then communicate the sources to the club. So if you have a lead on a vineyard for a particular grape varietal please send an email to David at deichikawa@gmail.com or Jerry at jerry.roark@gmail.com to get your grower added to the list of grape sources.

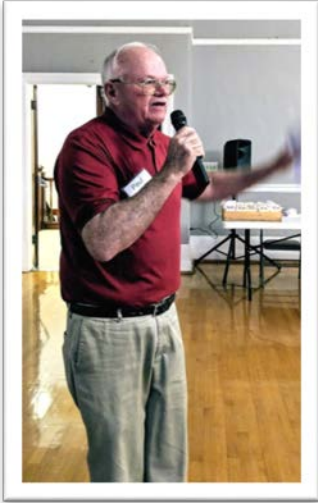
Speaking of grape sources, click on this link for a list of available grapes we've accumulated thus far. This list will be updated frequently. Please help us keep the list as accurate as possible by letting Jerry or David know when the grower no longer has available grapes.

We are actively looking for group leaders. Group leaders will be the point of contact (POC) for the group buy and the grower and be responsible for pricing and communication with the grower as it relates to payment, pick dates and other terms of the transaction. So if you want to "give back," and do something super cool for the club, being a group buy leader will definitely fit the bill and will be greatly appreciated.



MARCH 21 SHW MEETING - RED WINES ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

... Bring a bottle of red wine, any vintage, whether you like it or not, and let's talk about it...



Led by long-time SHW member Paul Baldwin, we poured, tasted, shared opinions, and learned more about winemaking from fellow tablemates. The round-table format was a departure from previous wine evaluations - so much noise and fun!

Thanks to the table leaders – Terry Piazza-Perham, Sue Summersett, Tom Ramme, Bill Staehlin, Luke Laubaugh, Fred Millar, Bruce Curry, Judy Pinegar, Jerry Roark, David Hicks, and Gin Yang. Big thanks to teacher extraordinaire Paul Baldwin.



JUNE JUBILEE PICNIC AND AWARDS PARTY

The SHW Jubilee wine competition will be on Saturday, June 9, 2018, and the **Jubilee Picnic and Awards will be Sunday June 10, 2018** ...Mark your calendars. The location will be Judy Pinegar's Back Yard and Barn as in past years. The actual picnic/BBQ will begin at 12 noon with the main course planned for about 1:30 PM. **Please!! Lend a hand with set up or clean up... call Judy at 916-224-6742. Sign up today or rates come up!!**

The club will provide BBQ meat, Chili Beans, French bread, and lots of water. Wines from the competition will be available for tasting, including the Golds and Best of Shows. **Last year there were 153 bottles!!**

Please bring a dish to share at the potluck: appetizer, salad, entree, or dessert according to the following list based of your last name (first initial): A – G = Appetizers; H – O = Desserts and P– Y = Salads or Sides (please large dishes – note: no chili beans. I try to switch this around every year to keep it even!)

Remember to bring your own wine glasses.

For those of you who are new to the event, Judy's place has 2 ½ acres with room to explore nature in the spring. Some of Judy's lawn chairs are available, but club members should bring their own lawn chairs, blankets, or whatever if they want to be sure to have a place to sit on the lawn under the trees.

The swimming pool also will be open, so bring your suit, hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses (if it is warm enough!), but even if it rains, the barn will be open. We will have pop-up tents around and there is an upstairs to the barn also (billiards anyone?) ! The event is great fun, lawn games will be available, and the party sometimes goes until dark... so plan on making a day of it! Children and guests and pets are welcome!

**Jubilee Location: Judy Pinegar Winery and Barn and Yard
9195 Vista Ct, Loomis, CA 95650
Facebook Location: "The Barn"**



SHW Jubilee Picnic + Awards Ceremony Reservation Form

YES! I will be attending the Jubilee Picnic and Wine Tasting on Sunday, June 10:

Name(s) _____

(Price is the same as last year!)

Reserving by May 5, 2018

____ Number of Members @ \$12 per person

____ Number of NON Members @ \$16 per person

____ Number of children under 13 (free)

Reserving between MAY 5, 2018 to May 12, 2018

____ Number of Members @ \$22 per person

____ Number of NON Members @ \$26 per person

____ Number of children under 13 (free)

Send form and check to: **SHW Treasurer Bob Peake, PO Box 691, Folsom, CA 95763**

_____ **Cut here and Mail** _____

SHW HELP NEEDED

- **Meeting Logistics Crews:** we still need of monthly meeting volunteers: post-meeting clean-up for May, June and July, and both set-up and clean-up for September, October, and November. Thanks to all who volunteer to bring cheese and bread; this year's calendar has been filled for those opportunities. Contact Hospitality Chair Vickie Rosalli if you can help with set-up and/or clean-up. rjralli@pacbell.net or call / text 916 342 1099.
- **Basic Access Data Technical Help:** it's time to upgrade the Jubilee's wine competition database functions and SHW is looking for a member with MS Access experience who can help. Please contact Bill Staehlin: call/ text 916 216-1753 and bill.staehlin@sbcglobal.net.
- **Equipment Coordinaor:** SHW has several pieces of wine making equipment to track. The Equipment Coordinator helps manage the Club's Equipment rental program. For more details on this important volunteer opportunity, please contact President Joe McGillivray at pyramid59@gmail.com and call / text 916 261-9438.

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.

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| New Winemakers Finishing Workshop | April 14, 10:30 AM Saturday | Workshop for beginning winemakers group and any beginning winemaker. In Lodi. Details in newsletter. |
| 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 facilities, enjoy a lunch and wine tasting afterwards. Event is full. |
| Executive Board Meeting | May 2, 6:30 pm Wednesday | All members welcome. |
| General Meeting | May 16, 7 PM Wednesday | Fermentation Whisperer Guest Speaker: Shea Comfort, Lallamand |
| SHW Jubilee | June 9-10 Weekend | Wine Competition and Awards Ceremony & Picnic Entry and picnic info in this newsletter! |
| General Meeting | May 16, 7 PM Wednesday | Non-Bordeaux Red Wine Evaluation Guest Evaluator: John Troiano, Wreckless Blenders |

From:
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www.sachomewine.com
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To: