

SACRAMENTO HOME WINEMAKERS

THE GRAPEVINE

NEWSLETTER -- OCTOBER 2018



OCTOBER 17 PROGRAM

Harvest Dinner

First of all, I would like to thank all those Gold Medal Winemakers for sharing your wine with fellow Winemakers. September's Meeting was amazing. I think everyone enjoyed the interaction between club members, the wines, the introduction each Winemaker gave, the snacks, the room setup, I could go on and on. So much wine and so little time, definitely had to pick and choose since I couldn't try them all!

October's Meeting is the Harvest Dinner at Club Pheasant Restaurant located at 2525

Jefferson Blvd., West Sacramento 95691. Reservations are required. This should be an enjoyable evening sharing harvest stories and enjoying each other's company. I'm looking forward to the evening.

And just a reminder of the November meeting which is dedicated to: Ports, Sweet Wines and bubbly for Evaluations. Vern and Luke the Winemakers from St. George will be the Evaluators.

-- *Vice President Terry Piazza-Perham*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings all! I'll keep this brief as the wine harvest/crush and endless tasks continue to press on.

First off, I want to thank the members who brought their "golden" wines to the September General Meeting. I know what it means when you're down to a few bottles of that stellar wine and you just want to save all of those bottles for yourself! Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend but I heard many good things about this

meeting. When the Executive Board discussed how the meeting went, there were many positive comments about how well this program was received. I'm looking forward to doing it again next year! Thank you to Terry Piazza-Perham for putting the event together, contacting members for wines and working with Turn Verein to set up the room. This Club rocks!

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I hope you've gotten your reservation for the Harvest Dinner. As busy as it gets during the harvest, it'll be nice to decompress over a nice meal, good wine and friendly people. We all need that!

Watch for announcements on the upcoming Club elections in November. Consider if there's something you think you can do for the Club and step forward to volunteer. If you'd like to be part of the Club's Executive Board, let someone know who is on the Board now. The past few years, the Club membership has been at around 160. Most paid memberships consist of a household partnership. That means that there are roughly 320 people in this Club. With that many people, obtaining volunteers shouldn't be too difficult, but yet here I am, putting it out there again to let the membership know, there is always a need for volunteers.

Also look for opportunities to help out with the Holiday Dinner coming in December. This is the annual fundraising event for the Club; a crucial and important part of our year. If you have an item for the Silent Auction or the Raffle, please let us know so we can plan accordingly. I've been stunned by the past generosity of the membership and how creative you've been in

coming up with ideas to donate. We've had some pretty neat things that include stays in Tahoe, ravioli parties, bottling parties, gold medal wines, etc. And many good winemaking tools have been obtained through the raffles. Maybe you have an extra carboy that's still in the box, a good fermenter or a craft item that would make a good raffle item. If you have something, contact Vickie Rosalli or one of the Executive Board members to get it coordinated.

In closing, I'd like to touch on something that none of us can escape. As I write this, my father, who one of my brothers describes as "being made of iron" lies awaiting his final moments. It's difficult because I agree with my brother; my dad is made of iron. But even iron weakens and rusts and turns to dust. The Club has seen its share of loss as well this year, which prompts me to say to you, do not take your loved ones for granted. Cherish the moments you have, no matter how frustrating, keep them close and their memories alive! My best to all of you!



-- President Joe McGillivray

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THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS!

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

- Winemakers who generously shared their winning wines: **Jim and Kate Garrett, Rex Johnston and Barbara Bentley, Thad and Heather Rodgers, Blair Gould, Bruce and Barbara Currie, Donna Bettencourt, Don and Gayle Koehler, Tim Adams and The Loomis Boys, Joe and Cori Morgan, Gary and Melody Palmero, Alan and Peggy Piccardo, Judy Pinegar, Ed Shepard, Rob and Esther Pock, Paul and Nancy Baldwin, and Bob and Sue Summersett.**
- Hospitality: **Shannon Shackelford** for the meeting's snacks. Set-up and clean-up: **Ed Spitzer, Lynn Spitzer, Pete Spitzer, Cathy Spitzer, Jim Phelan, and Cindie Gunderson.**

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

- **Jerry and Krista Roark** for hosting September's board meeting.
- **Larry Zinky** for his presentation on home brewing at Sac Yard Brewing as part of the *A Cook's Tour of Sacramento* via the Renaissance Society/CSUS.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS – 2019 EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Board of Directors (four past SHW presidents and seated president) is seeking SHW members to serve on the 2019 Executive Board for the positions of president, vice-president, secretary, membership chair and member at large. Please see job descriptions for these positions on the SHW website at www.sachomewine.com. For more information or to be considered as a nominee, please contact Board of Directors members Gary Young at gycats@earthlink.net and 916 451-3893 or Fred Millar at fredmillar1@gmail.com and 916 576-9596.

SEPTEMBER MEETING RECAP





Calling all Gold Medal Winners!!



Applications now being accepted for the 2018 Winemaker of the Year (Deadline: November 30, 2018)

SHW Chief Judge Donna Bettencourt is now accepting applications for the 2018 Sacramento Home Winemakers "Winemaker of the Year" award.

Each year, the SHW Board of Directors invites all members of SHW to compete for the annual Home Winemaker of the Year award. Points based on showings in recognized home wine competitions are earned throughout the 2018 home winemaking year. Applicants must have submitted a minimum of two separate and distinct home wines in the SHW Jubilee, the California State Fair, and one other recognized home wine competition.

Please go to www.sachomewine.org and click on the side column link "Home Winemaker of the Year". There you will find the entry criteria and entry form. Forms must be submitted to Chief Judge, Donna Bettencourt by November 30th midnight at: donnab1045@gmail.com, or mailed to Donna at 5208 8th Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95820 by November 30th. Contact Donna if you have any questions.

All applicants and the winner will be announced at the December Holiday Party on December 12, 2018.

Don't miss out on your chance for bragging rights for a whole year!

2018 FOCUS GROUP THE MALBEC MANIACS!!

Back in April of 2018, I invited SHW members to join me in a varietal focus group adventure. A Focus Group is a band of home winemakers who gather together to learn about a specific varietal, study together the various stylistic choices and use our group purchasing power to buy quality grapes. This year, I chose to lead the Malbec Focus Group, otherwise known as the "Malbec Maniacs."

Joining me was: Bruce Currie, Mike Witherow, Robert Wharton, Jose Orosco, Terry Piazza-Perham, Roger Swanson, Gerard Van Steyn, Stephanie Wilson, Nick Thomsic, Nadia (pictured harvesting Malbec) and Ben Denberg, and Ron White. A more motley crew there never was!

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We started with the assignment of actually buying a commercial example of a Malbec and tasting the wine. Some of the members had never tasted that



varietal but, after one or two harvests, were ready for anything other than what they had made before. The assignment was to post their review to all of the members. By early June, all had completed their difficult research project and 12 reviews had been posted and all confirmed that yes, indeed, they liked Malbec, in all its various forms. I distributed to all several articles on malbec winemaking techniques with the expectation that they would be read, and believe it or not, they did!

I sourced our grapes from the Somerset vineyard of SHW BFF, Sonia Baron and Carol Clark. They graciously opened their spacious patio to us on June 16th for a Malbec tasting and potluck. I was to bring my 2010 Malbec and my 2016 Malbec from the barrel. Sonia and Carol would pour their 2016 malbec from the barrel, and provide one or two other commercial wines from the Somerset area. Well, I opened my mouth and invited others to bring commercial malbec to the tastings, and well.....we had 16 bottles of Malbec wine from as far away as Argentina and Chile, from Lake County, from Lodi, from Placer County, and as close as Somerset and Fiddletown. Some were light, and some were “big” wines. One by one, we tasted each wine and commented on the style of the wine, what we liked, and didn’t like. Whatever winemaking notes on the labels were shared. By the end of the morning, we had completed our difficult research and had made some decisions about what style of malbec we would pursue. Of course, the grapes from Sonia and Carol’s would also have the final say.

On September 20th, the call was made to harvest on Friday, the 21st. Pickers would have the fruit ready to be crushed by 8 AM. We would receive must, not grapes, as a crusher/destemmer was made available to us. Well, as luck would have it, the pickers could not be secured, so....we were each handed clippers and buckets, and by 10:30 am we had picked our ton of grapes. What fun!

Fortified by donuts and champagne, we moved on to the crush and within an hour, each had received their allotted shares, we all had all of our fingers, and were on our way home.

Armed with the numbers of the brix, pH, and the acid, we all proceeded to process our grapes as we had planned: some would cold soak, some would go “naked” and refrain from using cultured yeast and maybe even SO₂. Still others would try using two separate yeasts and blend later. Almost daily messages were exchanged as to where we were in the process, and we all learned together.

What’s next? Well, we will continue to check in with each other as malo-lactic fermentation completes (or not), as we add oak (or not) and as we make adjustments based on intentional choices. Around February we will bring samples to share with each other at a regular monthly meeting and share challenges and victories. Finally, come next Fall, we will bring our bottled wines together and share food, and the fellowship of home winemakers, back at Sonia and Carol’s. I look forward to tasting some award winning wines, but more important, to tasting quality wines that were not made in isolation, or by accident, but as a team, with informed intentions and by serious home winemakers!



Happy Winemaking and many thanks for Sonia and Carol for their hospitality.

YOU ROCK MANIACS!!

Donna Bettencourt
2018 Malbec Focus Group Leader

Applications Being Accepted for 2018 SHW Annual Awards

As we are all reminded, it takes a village to run any organization or entity. In that recognition, the Board of Directors invites SHW members to nominate a fellow member who has contributed to the club or who has outdone themselves in a particular way.

Please contact Donna Bettencourt at donnab1045@gmail.com, Member-Board of Directors if you know someone who fits the bill. The recipients of these awards will be announced and honored at our annual Christmas Party on December 12th.



The Bob Beck Memorial Award – Educator of the Year

This award is given to a member who has contributed the most to the education of new and veteran home winemakers, whether with fanfare, or silently and shyly, helping you make better wine.

The Hal Ellis Memorial Award – For Service “Above and Beyond the Crush”

This award recognizes the contributions of a member who has outdone themselves in volunteer service to the club. They always offer to do whatever needs help, and when we tap them on the shoulder to help, they step up.

The Stu Shafer Memorial Award - Most Improved Winemaker

Being recognized as having radically improved your winemaking knowledge and techniques is no little thing. Is there a member who has moved from having friends and neighbors flee when they bring their home wine to a party to being sought out for their fine wine?

Rookie of the Year Award

This award is given on occasion to a new SHW member who, straight from the gate, has made home winemaking their passion and pursuit.

Community Partner Award

This award is given to a community member or entity that has supported the art and science of home winemaking in our region. It could be a home wine supply vendor, a contributing monthly speaker, a member of the media who gets the word out about home winemaking, or any other entity or person who has contributed to home winemaking.

SHW HOLIDAY PARTY – DECEMBER 12 (2nd WEDNESDAY)

Hey! The party reindeer are looking for volunteers to help with the planning and execution of SHW's annual holiday party. Part food, part fundraising, part annual awards (including the coveted Winemaker of the Year award [see deets in this issue and on-line]), and all wine – the party reindeer need your help in the evening's festivities.

Holiday Dinner

Caterer Calyn McKnight has been booked for dinner. We would like your special touches on, table-top décor, music (entertainment?), set-up, and program. Text Fred Millar at 916 576-9596 or Gin Yang at 915 217 0294 to talk further!



Silent Auction and Raffle

Melody Palmero, contact person for auction and raffle items, would like donations brought to the November 14 meeting (remember that's the 2nd Wednesday in November). Please let her know whether you are okay with grouping your donated items to make themed baskets or groupings. Melody can be contacted at palmerofamilyvineyards@gmail.com and 916 601-3986.

CLUB EQUIPMENT RENTAL PROGRAM

SHW's equipment is available to members to rent: destemmer-crusher, basket presses, and scale. Details and reservations can be made on-line by going to this [link](http://www.sachomewine.com/member-services/winemaking-equipment-loan-program): <http://www.sachomewine.com/member-services/winemaking-equipment-loan-program>.

To be eligible to rent Club equipment:

- Must be a current SHW member;
- Must have been certified in the operation, care and cleaning of Club equipment;
- Equipment must be returned clean and in good working condition at the specified time;
- In addition to a rental charge, the program assesses a cleaning charge that is refundable if the equipment is returned clean; and
- If equipment is returned uncleaned, member loses Club rental equipment privileges.

Kendall Johnson, Club Equipment Manager, can be reached at kjohns91@yahoo.com and 214 794-4798.



SHW EVENTS CALENDAR

- Executive Board Meetings –7:00 PM start; contact Prez Joe McGillivray for location; pyramidlake59@gmail.com.
- General Meetings –7:00 PM start; upstairs at 3349 J Street, Sacramento (unless noted)
- More calendar and details - www.sachomewine.com; see Events Calendar and Newsletters.

General Meeting	October 17 Wednesday	Harvest Dinner , Club Pheasant
General Meeting	Nov. 14, 7 PM Wednesday	Annual Meeting + Desserts, Fortifieds, Sparklers, Fruits Wine Evaluations Guest Evaluators: Vern Vierra and Luke Laubaugh, St. Jorge Winery
Holiday Party	Dec 12 Wednesday	SHW Annual Holiday Party and Fundraiser Details to follow

Please note: November's meeting and December's Holiday Party are on the **2nd Wednesday** of the month.

From:
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To: