

The Grapevine

Newsletter of the Sacramento Home Winemakers, Inc.

April 2012

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Sacramento Home Winemakers (SHW) monthly meetings are held on the 3rd 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

April 18 SHW Meeting

2011 Non-Bordeaux Varietals Red Wine Evaluation

This month's general meeting is the evaluation of "new" (made in 2011) non-Bordeaux varietal red wines. Winemaker and long-time SHW supporter Jason Fernandez returns as the evening's evaluator.

If you would like your wines evaluated, please:

- Bring 2 bottles (750ml each) of the same wine. Clearly label your wines with the varietal and your name. If you haven't already bottled, do not add sulfites when you do. No capsules, please.
- Also bring winemaking notes to succinctly share the wine's history and focus on issues you feel may be in your wine. The evaluator may ask for winemaking clarification.
- Vintages other than 2011 may be evaluated as time permits. Please do not bring 2011 varietal focus wines. Those wines will be evaluated at a later meeting.
- Only members may have their wines evaluated. Please ensure that you are current on your 2012 Club dues.

Please bring 2 wine glasses for your use during the evaluations. Club glasses are available for guests and new members.

Thanks to all for helping set up before the meeting. We are to vacate the meeting room by 9:30 PM and your help in facilitating the clean-up is appreciated.

-- *Bill Staehlin, Vice President*

President's Message

Dear SHW Members:

The home wine competition season is upon us! Now is the time to choose which of your wines that you want to enter in which competitions. I like to enter not only wines that are my best, but also some of my wine that may not win an award, but which begs for an unbiased appraisal. The comments and suggestions that you receive by way of the judging sheets returned to you after the competition are invaluable.

(continued on page 2)



2012 Boards and Appointees

Executive Board

President - Donna Bettencourt
bettencourt1045@softcom.net

Vice President - Bill Staehlin
bill.staehlin@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer - Mike Touchette
pinotsyrah@yahoo.com

Secretary - Sue Summersett
sbsummer2002@yahoo.com

Membership Co-Chairs
Fred Millar & Gin Yang
fred.millar1@gmail.com
ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com

Past President - Lynn Keay
lynn.keay@gmail.com

Board Appointees

Chief Judge - D. D. Smith
ddanjo@sbcglobal.net

Cellar Master - Henry Wilkinson
hbwilkinson@jps.net

Coordinator - Judy Pinegar
Club Competition

Mentors
jpinegar@calwisp.com

Hospitality Coordinator-Sonia Baron
soniabaron@hotmail.com

Community Relations
Debbie Moretton
dem1019@sbcglobal.net

John Avila
mail@john-avila.com

Historian - Gary Young
gycats@earthlink.net

The Grapevine Editor - Gin Yang

Board of Directors

Judy Pinegar (Chair)

Mike Touchette

Fred Millar

Lynn Keay

Donna Bettencourt

I challenge every SHW member to enter at least one of your wines in our own June Jubilee, scheduled for June 2nd. Not only is our June Jubilee one of the required competitions to qualify for the SHW Home Winemaker of the Year, but our judges are amongst the best that you will find in any wine competition.

I was recently informed that the California State Fair Home Wine Competition is suspended for this year, pending a reorganization of the event. This competition has also been a required competition for the SHW Home Winemaker of the Year competition. Therefore, for this year only, we have amended our Winemaker of the Year competition criterion to substitute the upcoming Orange County Fair Home Wine Competition for the California State Fair competition. Entries are due by May 19th for that critical competition.

For information on more upcoming home wine competitions, read further in this issue of *The Grapevine*.

Happy winemaking!

-- **Donna Bettencourt**

May SHW Executive Board Meeting Wednesday, May 2, 6:30 PM – 7:45 PM

All SHW members are encouraged to attend the Club's Executive Board Meeting at least one time, so why not make May's Board meeting the one to attend? The May meeting will be held in the Natomas area.

This is a great way to get involved and to learn more about your Club. At the May meeting, we will be fleshing out the details of the June Jubilee Competition and our June 30th Winemaking 101 class. Stay for the board meeting, and later join us for a potluck and sharing of wines. Contact Donna Bettencourt, SHW President, at (916)454-5487, or bettencourt1045@softcom.net for location.

It Takes Many Volunteers

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

- Mike Harris for coordinating over 390 cases in the group bottle buy;
- Gene Lemos for staging and storing the group buy bottles;
- Barbara Derrick, Steve Barrett, Ron Clawson, Mike Anderson, Ed Spitzer, DD Smith, and Wayne Glazier for transporting the bottles from Point A to Point B;
- Sonia Baron for coordinating and bringing the hospitality cheese and bread for March's meeting; and
- Donna Bettencourt for hosting April's executive board meeting.

Thank you for volunteering!

2012 SHW Calendar

April 18 Wednesday	General Meeting: Non-Bordeaux Varietal Red Wine Evaluation <i>Evaluator: TBA</i>
May 2 Wednesday	Board Meeting: All Members Are Welcome <i>Contact President Donna Bettencourt – 916 454-5487; bettencourt1045@softcom.net</i>
May 16 Wednesday	General Meeting: Bordeaux Varietal Red Wine Evaluation <i>Evaluators: Jason Fernandez and Bob Peak</i>
June 2 Saturday	Jubilee Wine Competition and Picnic <i>Coordinator: Judy Pinegar: 916 652-5198; jpinegar@calwisp.com</i>
June 30 Saturday	Winemaking 101 <i>Coordinator: Judy Pinegar</i>

Monthly meetings generally start at 7 PM on the 3rd 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 evaluation meetings. Thanks for helping set up and cleaning at the meetings.

Board meetings start at 6:30 PM on the 1st Wednesdays of the month.

No California State Fair Home Wine Competition in 2012

The California State Fair Home Wine Competition has been a longstanding tradition, with many amateur winemakers vying for the prestigious awards each year. Due to budget constraints, the competition organization is being reworked this year and the decision has been made to reschedule it and select a new venue.

In recent years the judging has been held in the summer months which is a busy time and brings with it very warm temperatures that make protecting the wine in shipment, storage and during preparation on the judging day itself a real challenge. So, to provide the time needed to regroup and organize in a manner that will maintain the high integrity and quality of this historic competition it will not be held in 2012. The new target date is early **April 2013**.

There are some very exciting changes in the works, and with the continued support of the California home winemaking community, this competition will come back bigger and better than ever! Watch for more details in the weeks ahead.

Mentors

Judy Pinegar, Loomis (Coordinator)
916 652-5198

jpinegar@calwisp.com **F,R,W**

Carl & Lili Brust, Loomis
916 652-9001

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916 296-1115

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Gerald Cresci, Herald

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Lynn Keay, Gold River
lynn.keay@gmail.com **F,R,W**

Rex Johnston, East Bay
925 930-2897

Wine4rex@yahoo.com **F,R,W**

Wine Legend

F = fruit; **I** = ice; **P** = port; **R** = red;
S = sparkler; **V** = viognier; **VM** =
vineyard management; **W** = white



Wine and Label Competitions

Special Notes:

- *El Dorado County Fair entries are due May 11. SHW Treasurer Mike Touchette has volunteered to deliver your entries for you. Please bring entry wines, entry forms, and fees to the April 18 SHW meeting. Incomplete submittals cannot be honored.*
- *To be considered a candidate for the 2012 SHW Winemaker of the Year (WOY), winemakers must compete in at least three home wine competitions with required entries in the SHW Jubilee and the Orange County Fair (Revised WOY criteria to follow under separate cover and will also be available at www.sachomewine.org.) Both contests are accepting entries no later than May 20 and May 19, respectively. The California State Fair will not be hosting a home wine competition in 2012 (see article on the California State Fair Home Wine Competition on page 3 of this newsletter).*

Calaveras County Fair Amateur Wine and Wine Label competitions – Entries are due by **April 14**. Wine entries must be made from grapes grown or wines must be made in Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Mariposa, Nevada, Placer, Sierra, Tuolumne or Yuba counties. Find more info at: <http://www.frogtown.org/>.

Contra Costa Fair Wine and Wine Label competitions – Entries are due by **May 1**. More at this website: <http://www.contracostafair.com/fair/pdf/2012/HOME%20ARTS%20DEPARTMENT.pdf>

Merced County Fair – the fair is inviting entries to their amateur wine competition. Entries are due **May 10**. Please see the fair's website for additional info: <http://www.mercedcountyfair.com>.

El Dorado County Fair Homemade Wine and Wine Label competitions - Entries are accepted through **May 11**. Wines are judged May 12; reception following judging. More info can be found at <http://www.eldoradocountyfair.org/pdf/12-fair/homemade-wine.pdf>. Treasurer Mike Touchette can deliver your entries – bring wines, entry forms and fees to the April SHW meeting

Orange County Fair Home Wine and Label Competitions – The Orange County Wine Society (OCWS) in conjunction with the fair invites entries for the 36th Anniversary competition. Entries are due **May 19** and may be made on-line. Please note that in 2012, this competition is one of the required contests to qualify candidates for the 2012 SHW Winemaker of the Year award. Additional information can be found at OCWS's website at www.ocws.org and then to "What's New" and then click on "Homewine Competition Wine Entry" to begin.

Marin County Fair – the fair's 27th annual amateur winemaking competition invites entries. Deadline for entering is **May 17**. More info at: <http://www.marinfair.org>.

Sacramento Home Winemakers June Jubilee Wine Competition and Picnic – SHW invites entries to the Club's annual wine competition on Saturday, June 2. **Entries are due by May 20**. Rules and entry forms are included in this newsletter.

Alameda County Fair Amateur Wine Competition – the fair is celebrating its 100th year anniversary and the best of show wines will be on display during the fair. Premiums are offered. Paper entries are due by **May 21**. Check out the fair's website for more info: <http://www.alamedacountyfair.com>.

Lake County Home Winemakers Festival, Lakeport – Entries are invited and everyone is invited to pour their wines for this fundraising event. Show up with your wine entries, entry forms and fees on **June 23**. More info: http://homewinemakersfestival.com/wine_entry_information.html.

Heard It In *The Grapevine*...Free Corkage

Café Zorro in Loomis has free corkage on Wednesdays and their food is yummy (thanks, Deb Moretton!). Bandera in Sacramento has free corkage every day limited to 1 bottle per 2 people. After that, it's \$10 per bottle.

SHW June Jubilee Wine Competition & Picnic!! Saturday June 2, 2012

It's that time again! The June Jubilee is the Club's annual wine competition and picnic for ALL members and guests! The location will be Judy Pinegar's Back Yard and Barn. (Note: it is a yuppie barn – no hay or horse poop.) Judy Pinegar is also the Event Coordinator.

To ENTER the wine competition, you must do so by May 20, 2012, Sunday! See entry forms and rules elsewhere in this newsletter. Remember – you MUST enter this event to compete in the Winemaker of the Year Competition! To RESERVE a picnic spot, please do so by May 28, 2012 using the form below.

Wine Judging Event:

D.D. Smith, SHW Chief Judge, will be assembling the panel of experienced wine judges. The competition will begin shortly after 8 AM.

Please volunteer:

Cellar Rats (10) are needed to help pour wines and perform other tasks as assigned (may include dumping out spit buckets, etc). Rats are on the front line of the judging; no prior experience required. Contact Cellar Master Henry Wilkinson at: hbwilkinson@jps.net or 916 446-6276. Do NOT expect to just show up and work – Please call ahead.

Judging Clerks (3) help manage the judging panels and tabulate the judging results. No experience is necessary; ability to add correctly is a plus. Please contact Judy Pinegar at jpinegar@calwisp.com or 916 224-6742.

Picnic and Wine Tasting:

Attendees may begin assembling on the yard around 1 PM. Please do NOT interrupt the wine judging. The actual picnic/BBQ will begin at 2 PM or when the judging is complete. John Lewis has volunteered to fire up the BBQ! We need **a volunteer to coordinating the clean-up??** Please lend a hand?

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 –M = Salads or Sides / N – Y = Desserts.**

The club will provide BBQ meat, Chili Beans, French bread, and lots of water. When the judging is complete, all wines from the competition will become available for tasting, including the Golds and Best of Shows. **Remember to bring your 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 summer. 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!). 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 are welcome!

Directions to Judy's Place:

From Sacramento: take I-80 east, to the town of Loomis, Horseshoe Bar Rd Exit. Turn left (toward Folsom Lake) (also stay Left at the next STOP sign) and go 4.3 mi. to El Monte Drive (left turn), then turn right at Vista Court, 9195 is at top left. The driveway to the back yard and barn is before the house.

From Folsom area: get on Auburn-Folsom Road, going toward Auburn. Turn left at Horseshoe Bar Road, make first right at El Monte Drive, and follow directions as above.

Lost? (916) 652-5198 or (916) 224-6742 for Judy.

Picnic Cost:

The cost is \$10 per SHW member and \$15 per non-SHW member if you reserve by Monday May 28, 2012. After that date, picnic reservations are \$20 and \$25, respectively. Children under 12 are free! Please reserve space and pay in advance, so that we can order the correct quantities of food. Send your money along with the reservation form found in this newsletter.

Sacramento Home Winemaker - June Jubilee Wine Judging Competition Rules and Information Saturday ~ June 2, 2012

Eligibility

The June Jubilee Wine Judging Event for 2012 is only open to Members of the Sacramento Home Winemakers (SHW) organization. These competition rules and instructions will also be available on the Club's website at www.sachomewine.org.

Entries are limited to wines produced by members of SHW, Inc. in good standing who are not the owners, winemakers or employees of licensed commercial winemaking concerns, except as set forth below. Members who are owners, winemakers or employees of commercial winemaking concerns, but who are otherwise qualified, may submit wines for competition provided that such wines were made and bottled prior to the effective date of their wine maker's license.

How to Enter - Entry Dates

1. You may enter as many wines as you like. An entry is defined as one (1) 750 milliliter bottle. For sparkling wines, an additional bottle (at least 375 ml) is recommended to maintain sparkle for later judging rounds.
2. **Do not use capsules of any form on bottles.**
3. Complete the June Jubilee registration form with your information and list each wine entered. Please refer to the Wine Classification table for divisions and classes. Make copies of the registration form as needed. **Please spell your name clearly so we can read it!!** These forms are included in this newsletter and also available at the SHW website at www.sachomewine.org.
4. Each bottle must have an entry label/wine bottle label (the bottom half of registration form) attached by glue or tape. Make copies of wine bottle labels as needed. If entering several wines of same year and varietal, designate a different lot number for each wine (i.e., 2001 Syrah Lot A, 2001 Syrah Lot B). Ensure that information on the registration form and the wine bottle labels match.
5. Entry fee is **\$8.00** for **each bottle** submitted. Registration forms, fees and entry-labeled wine must be received together. (Please use appropriate packaging). Make one check for all entries payable to: Sacramento Home Winemakers Club. **All wines must be received by May 20, 2012.**

Where to Enter

A simple way is to bring your wines, paperwork and fees to the April 18, 2012 or May 16, 2012 regular meeting of the SHW. Wines, bottle labels attached, may also be shipped or hand-delivered with entry forms and fees. To arrange for delivery, please contact: Henry Wilkinson, Cellar Master at 916 446-6276.

Awards and Results

The Danish System of Judging will be used. Results will be announced and Best of Show Metals will be awarded the day of the June Jubilee and also will be published in the SHW newsletter/webpage. Metals on Neck Ribbons and Rosettes will be awarded to the seven "Best of" Categories on the day of the competition.

All other Rosettes will be ordered AFTER the competition including: Gold; Silver; and Bronze awards. Procuring the rosettes after the competition provides for exact numbers and in turn, minimizes costs. Members will be able to order additional rosettes at cost; the order is placed quickly so please advise Judy Pinegar ASAP after the judging.

Wine Classification (for use on attached Entry Form)

Classify your wine according to the division and classes listed. Improperly classified wines will be reclassified per the discretion of the Chief Judge. **Rules:** 1. To be entered as a varietal wine at least 75% of the wine must be made from that varietal. 2. Miscellaneous varietals and/or blends will be grouped in like flights.

DIVISION 1 - White Wine

Class 1 Chenin Blanc

Class 2 Sauvignon Blanc

Class 3 Chardonnay

Class 4 Viognier

Class 5 Bordeaux Blend (see footnote #1)

Class 6 Rhone Blend (see footnote #2)

Class 7 Misc. White (dry) – specify varietal and/or blend

Class 8 Misc. White (semi-sweet) specify varietal/blend and residual sugar level

Class 9 Misc. White (sweet) – specify varietal and/or blend and residual sugar level

DIVISION 2 - Red Wine

Class 1 Pinot Noir

Class 2 Sangiovese

Class 3 Merlot

Class 4 Zinfandel

Class 5 Petite Sirah

Class 6 Cabernet Franc

Class 7 Barbera

Class 8 Syrah

Class 9 Cabernet Sauvignon

Class 10 Bordeaux Blend (see footnote#1)

Class 11 Rhone Blend (see footnote #2)

Class 12 Italian Blend (see footnote #3)

Class 13 Misc. Red (dry) – specify varietal and/or blend

Class 14 Misc. Red (semi-sweet) – specify varietal and/or blend and residual sugar level

Class 15 Misc. Red (sweet) – specify varietal and/or blend, and residual sugar level

DIVISION 3 – Blush/Rose Wine

Class 1 Rose (dry) – specify varietal and/or blend

Class 2 Rose (semi-sweet) – specify varietal and/or blend and residual sugar level

DIVISION 4 - Sparkling Wine

Class 1 Sparkling Wine – specify varietal and/or blend and residual sugar level

DIVISION 5 - Fruit/Exotic Wines

Class 1 Seed Fruit - specify variety, blend and residual sugar level

Class 2 Stone Fruit - specify variety, blend and residual sugar level

Class 3 Berry – specify variety, blend and residual sugar level

Class 4 Other – specify variety, blend and residual sugar level

DIVISION 6 - Dessert Wines

Class 1 Greater than 3% Residual Sugar - non-fortified – specify varietal and/or type and R.S. level

Class 2 Fortified Wine -specify varietal and/or type and residual sugar level

FOOTNOTES

- #1 A Bordeaux blend must consist ONLY of traditional Bordeaux grape varietals (Reds – Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Malbec, Petit Verdot. Whites – Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon)
- #2 A Rhone blend must consist ONLY of grapes accepted in California as Rhone varietals (Reds Carignane, Cinsault, Counoise, Petite Sirah. Whites – Viognier, Marsanne & Roussanne)
- #3 An Italian blend must consist ONLY of two or more of the following varietals: Primitivo, Barbera, Sangiovese/Sangiovetto, Dolcetto, Nebbiolo or other Italian varieties.

2011 June Jubilee - Registration

Name _____ Phone _____ I have read all the rules of the competition
 Address _____ E-Mail _____ and agree to abide by them.
 City _____ ZIP _____ Signature _____

Wine Entry Information

Entry #	Name of Wine: Varietal / Blend (indicate %) / Fruit / Appellation (if known)	Division #	Class #	Vintage	Dry	Sweet % RS
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						

Wine Bottle Labels

Affix this label to bottle

Name _____

Name of Wine _____

Division# _____ Class# _____ Vintage _____

Entry # _____ of _____ Total Entries

Affix this label to bottle

Name _____

Name of Wine _____

Division# _____ Class# _____ Vintage _____

Entry # _____ of _____ Total Entries

Affix this label to bottle

Name _____

Name of Wine _____

Division# _____ Class# _____ Vintage _____

Entry # _____ of _____ Total Entries

Affix this label to bottle

Name _____

Name of Wine _____

Division# _____ Class# _____ Vintage _____

Entry # _____ of _____ Total Entries

Affix this label to bottle

Name _____

Name of Wine _____

Division# _____ Class# _____ Vintage _____

Entry # _____ of _____ Total Entries

Affix this label to bottle

Name _____

Name of Wine _____

Division# _____ Class# _____ Vintage _____

Entry # _____ of _____ Total Entries

**Picnic reservation form for SHW June Jubilee on Saturday, June 2, 2012
Please Reserve before May 28, 2012 (if you want a steak ordered for you!)**

Name _____ Telephone _____

Please save me _____ spaces for the June Jubilee Wine Judging and Picnic Event

SHW Member Adults _____ x \$10 = _____ (After May 28, \$20 for Members)

Non SHW Adults _____ x \$15 = _____ (After May 28, \$25 for Guests)

**Make checks payable to: SHW
Mail to: Mike Touchette, SHW Treasurer
P.O. Box 894
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741**



Winemaking 101 Class – June 30, 2012

New to wine making?? Need a “from scratch” class?? Then this is the class for you. This four-hour class covers winemaking information and provides hands-on experience with wine making equipment. The equipment training provided qualifies the SHW member to borrow Club equipment.

Please bring a lawn chair, wine glass, pen/pencil to write with, and bottle of wine and a snack to share with fellow classmates.

Cost to 2012 club members is free; cost to non-members is \$20 per person. The class fee is waived for those joining SHW on the day of the class (\$45 for a household membership).

The class starts on Saturday morning, June 30 and is in Loomis. More specific information and location/directions will be forthcoming. Please contact Judy Pinegar at 916 652-5198 or jpinegar@calwisp.com.

Register early. Space is limited.



Please sign me up for Winemaking 101 on June 30, 2012

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Number of people attending (non-SHW member) _____ X \$20 = _____

Or 2012 membership fee: \$45 _____ (please submit membership fee with Membership Form available at www.sachomewine.org)

Or if already a SHW member, indicate number attending 1 _____ or 2 _____ (class is no cost to members)

**Make checks payable to: SHW
Mail to: Mike Touchette, SHW Treasurer
P.O. Box 894
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741**

Club Resources

- Oak Cubes** Vice President Bill Staehlin volunteers to coordinate the purchase of oak cubes (beans) for the Club. He can be reached at (916) 216-1753 or bill.staehlin@sbcglobal.net.
- Mentors** Looking for wine making help? Judy Pinegar is the Club's mentor coordinator - jpinegar@calwisp.com or 916 652-5198.
- Logo Glassware** Large clear wine glasses deep-etched with the SHW logo are available for purchase. Contact Sue Summersett, 916 354-205 or sbsummer2002@yahoo.com to place your order.
- Logowear** Get your own SHW polo shirt and baseball cap. Please contact Sue Summersett (see above for contact info).

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Your input is welcome! Please send your comments and letters to ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com.

-- **Gin Yang, *The Grapevine* Editor**