

The Grapevine

May Program
May 15, 2013

Non-Bordeaux varietal
evaluations

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

Join fellow members at the May 15th monthly SHW program for the annual Non-Bordeaux home wine evaluations.

Our evaluators will be Jonathan Pack and Tony Feist. Jonathan is a UC Davis graduate in Viticulture and Enology, and the viticulturist and consulting winemaker for Gwinllan Estate Winery in Fair Play, California. Tony is a UC Berkeley graduate and the current winemaker for Feist Wines, Amador City, California.

Non-Bordeaux wines are any red wines that are NOT one of the five major Bordeaux varietals—Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot, Merlot, and Malbec. That leaves a lot of room! The evaluations are designed to give you valuable feedback on your 2012 homewines. These are wines that have not yet been bottled. Bring two bottles and be prepared to offer a 2-3 minute summary of your winemaking process for your wine, including harvest date, fermentation and pressing details, yeast, additives, etc. If you are not bringing a wine for evaluation, take lots of notes as chances are you will one day make one of the varietals presented and will benefit from the helpful hints and pitfalls in making that varietal. And, remember to bring two wine glasses as you will be tasting these wines along with the evaluators.

We are also asking members to bring a bottle of their finest home wine for pouring at the Winemaker Magazine Conference in Monterrey. We are the reigning International Home Wine Club of 2012 and we will be pouring at a special evening event.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

May Program	1
President's Message	2
2013 June Jubilee	3-4
SHW Club Leadership	4
2013 Program Calendar & Website Updates	5
Review of UCD Brewery, Winery, and Food Science	6
Member Resources & Home Wine Competition Calendar	8



President's Message
By Gary Young
SHW President



Dear Fellow Members,

40+!! Another milestone for the SHW Club has come and gone.

Our April 17th celebration proved to be a great get-together: the meeting and mixing of current and past club members; trading tales of home winemaking; good wines to be shared (thank-you John Lewis for sharing with us a Nebuchadnezzar Bottle (20 - 750 ml bottles) of your delicious 2007 French Colombard; the older wine competition which demonstrated both the good and the bad possibilities of cellaring wines for an extended time; and, the particularly delicious potluck buffet contributed by you all.

The "Older Wines" Tasting (6 years plus) featured in excess of 40 wines (30+ red / 10+ white). The "Peoples Choice" Awards (\$50. Corti Brothers Market Gift Certificates) were won by:

Red Wine

Neal Shleffar & Donna Brown: "2002 Cabernet Sauvignon, Alexander Valley"

White Wine

Rex Johnston & Barbara Bentley: "Bentley Cellars, Screaming Chicken - Alexander Valley - 2006 Semillon".

The JUNE JUBILEE (June 1st) is fast approaching. I trust you are all preparing your wine entries for submission. The best time to get them in to the competition coordinators is at next week's (May 15th) monthly meeting. Please contact Henry Wilkinson, our esteemed Cellarmaster at (916) 997-3056 if you would like to make other arrangements to drop off your wine for the competition.

Remember: it is OKAY to open, taste, top off, & re-cork. That way you can be certain of not entering a truly flawed wine. Good Luck to you all.

At the JUBILEE we will have a display of "older" wine making paraphernalia. Recently, the family of Ralph Stellrecht [a Founding Member (1973) and the Club's 3rd President (1975)] fulfilled Ralph's wishes by donating his old wine-making equipment to the Club. Included in the gifts were a Mechanical (You Turn the Crank) Stemmer/Crusher, as well as a large (older) Basket Press. Stop by the display and see how wine was made in Our Pre-Motorized Past!

NOTE: The next SHW Executive Board Meeting Wednesday, June 5th is scheduled for the home of John Avila in South Land Park, Sacramento. (Gathering @ 6:00pm - Meeting to commence promptly (probably) at 6:30pm. Club members are welcome. (Please call John at 916/997-7554 for information and directions.)

Cheers,

Gary Young
SHW President

June Jubilee competition June 1, 2013

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, 2013, Monday! 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, 2013 using the form below.

Wine Judging Event:

The 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. We probably have enough volunteers already, but Contact Cellar Master Henry Wilkinson. **Do NOT expect to just show up and work** – Please call ahead.

Judging Clerks (4) help manage the judging panels and tabulate the judging results. No experience is necessary; ability to add correctly is a plus. Please contact Gin Yang at ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com or 916-217-0294.

Attendees may begin assembling on the yard around 1 PM. **Please do NOT interrupt the wine judging, or come into the Barn.** The actual picnic/BBQ will begin at 2 PM or when the judging is complete. Joe McGillivray has volunteered to fire up the BBQ! We need *a volunteer to coordinate the clean-up?* and clean up before? Please lend a hand call Judy 916-224-6742.

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

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. DO NOT USE Club Judging glasses, Please. 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!

2013 JUNE JUBILEE—Continued from Page 3

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 cell for Judy.

Picnic Cost:

The cost is \$10 per SHW member and \$15 per non-SHW member if you reserve by Monday May 28, 2013. 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 below.

Cut Here: - - - - -

I will attend the Picnic:

Name(s) _____

Number of Members _____ @ \$10 per person

Non-members _____ @\$15 per person.....Children (free)_____

Send to: Mike Touchette, SHW Treasurer, PO Box 894, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741

SHW CLUB LEADERSHIP

EXECUTIVE BOARD
President—Gary Young, gycats@earthlink.net
Co-Vice Presidents—Sonia Baron, sonia-baron@hotmail.com, and John Avila, mail@john-avila.com
Secretary—JD Phelps, jd.phelps@gmail.com
Treasurer—Mike Touchette, pinotsyrah@yahoo.com
Past President—Donna Bettencourt, bettencourt1045@softcom.net
Membership Co-Chairs—Gin Yang-Staehlin, ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com, and Fed Millar, fred.millar1@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE BOARD APPOINTEES
Chief Judge—Mike Touchette, pinotsyrah@yahoo.com
Cellarmaster—Henry Wilkinson, hbwilkinson@jps.net
Hospitality—Holly Heggli, galstealth@hotmail.com
Webmaster/Club Competition Coordinator—Judy Pinegar judypinegar@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor—Donna Bettencourt, bettencourt1045@softcom.net
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Mike Touchette, Chair
Fred Millar
Lynn Keay
Donna Bettencourt

2013 SHW PROGRAM CALENDAR

May 15—2012 Non-Bordeaux Varietal Evaluations

June 1—June Jubilee Competition/Picnic

June 19—Bordeaux varietal Evaluations with Chik Brennerman, UC Davis Enology Department, and Craig Haarmeyer of Revolution Winery, Sacramento, California.

July 17—To be determined

August 3—Winemaking 101 Class

August 21—Tim Osson, Guzmer Enterprises on yeast and yeast nutrients, and filtration techniques

September 18—John Hyde, Restaurant and Winery Consultant, 26 Brix Restaurant, "Making the Transition from Home winemaking to the Commercial Market", AND Barbara Bentley, award winning home wine and label maker, "Designing and Printing Labels for Home Wine"

October 16— Presentation of gold medal home wines, travelogue, and 2012 Varietal Focus Group presentation

November—Harvest Dinner

November 13th—Annual Meeting, travelogue, and dessert/sparkling and fruit wine evaluations

December 15—Holiday Party

New Features on Club Web Site – Grapes for Sale, Food and Wine Pairings, Business Directory

A couple of new features have been added to the Club web site, www.sachomewine.com, to help you find things easier.

Grapes for Sale – these "ads" will continue to be added to the blog. They can be located by clicking on "Blog" (on right column of [Home](#) page), and then clicking on "2013 Grapes for Sale."

Another way to locate them is to go to the [Member Resources](#) tab, "Classified Ads" will show as an option on the drop-down dialog box and click on "2013 Grapes for Sale." This option provides a listing of current *grapes for sale* and clicking on the link takes you to more information. The previous year's grapes for sale are also listed.

Also new on the [Member Resources](#) tab is "Food and Wine – Recipes and Pairings." We invite you to submit your recipes and wine pairings to add to this collection. Please send them to Gin at ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com.

Our membership has many talents (in addition to making good wine) and the board recently approved the addition of a "Member Business Directory" where you can "advertise" your services in the Club's business directory. If you'd like to be included, please email Gin and she'll send you a short form to complete. The services you offer do not have to be related to wine making. You do need to be a current member to be included in the directory.

And, if you're not receiving the monthly edition of *The Grapevine* in your email box (should arrive by the end of the second week of the month), you might also be missing out on other Club news. Please check your spam folder and to prevent future notices from going to your spam folder add "webmaster@sachomewine.com" to your email contacts. If these measures don't work, contact Gin.

May 4th UC Davis FIELD TRIP

Last Saturday, a group of 20 SHW members embarked on a tour of the UC Davis' *Teaching and Research Winery and August A. Busch III Brewing and Food Science Laboratory*, more commonly known as the campus' winery, brewery and food science building. SHW member Julie Nola, who was also the construction project manager for building, led the group through the multiple functions of the building.

We toured the fermentation room that was equipped with 152 technologically advanced containers that wirelessly communicates the wine's vitals plus manages the wine's temperature and pump overs independently. Adjacent to the fermentation room were the crush pad, innovative wine storage space, and control room.

In the next few years, the building hopes that its carbon footprint is "net zero" and several innovative energy-saving and environmentally-friendly innovations were viewed and discussed.

Many thanks to Julie for an in-depth look at this exciting teaching and research facility.

Additional photos are posted on Sacramento Home Winemakers facebook page and soon to be posted on www.sachomewine.com.



2013 Harvest Varietal Focus Groups

Interested in making a different wine in the upcoming harvest?

SHW is looking for members to coordinate varietal focus groups. These groups are opportunities for members to secure grapes as a group, make wines individually, and collaborate on any issues that might be specific to the "focus" varietal.

Donna Bettencourt is planning to lead a foothill merlot varietal focus group where participants will have a chance to walk the vineyard from summer to harvest. This is open only to new home wine makers. Participants will be learning about this delightful varietal, and sampling wonderful commercial and home made examples of this varietal together prior to the harvest. During the harvest they will pick up to 200 lbs of Merlot by hand, crush and destem on site, and press together. Guidance will be made available throughout the process, up to bottling.

If you have ideas for a varietal focus group, would like to coordinate/mentor a group or participate in one, please contact Gin at ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com or 916 217-0294.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SHW NEWSLETTER
EDITOR!

As your newly appointed Newsletter Editor, and recovering past President, I would like to introduce myself to you and to ask for your help.

I was an English major and an elementary school teacher. I pride myself in following the rules of grammar, punctuation, and spelling. I also have my Master's Degree in Social Work. So, I like to connect people and improve lives. We learn from each other by connecting. We all have stories to share, i.e. "My Worst Winemaking Disaster", or "My Favorite Books About Wine Travel", or "How I Learned to Stop Fiddling with my Wine", or "My Winemaking Toys", etc., and etc. Don't worry about grammar, or spelling, or punctuation (I've got your back).

If you would like to contribute an article to the monthly SHW newsletter, please send the article, and photos (if you have) them to me by the deadline of the 5th of every month. You can e-mail them to me at betten-court1045@softcom.net

Donna Bettencourt

2013 SHW Newsletter Editor

MEMBER 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 Age-	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 LogoWear Polo Shirts & Caps	Contact Fred Millar for more information. Fredmillar1@gmail.com; 915 576-9596
Club's Web Site	www.SacHomeWine.org

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

Basket Press

Contact:

Lynn Keay, 916 969-4924
lynn.keay@gmail

Filter

Contact:

Donna Bettencourt, 916 454-5487, betten-
court1045@softcom.net
betten-
court1045@softcom.net

Please note that there is a \$5 per use fee for the filter, and a \$10 fee for the crusher-destemmer. No fee for the club press.

Upcoming home wine competitions and events

May 17-18- International Winemaking Magazine Home Wine Competition and Conference, Monterrey, CA

June 1—Sacramento Home Winemakers June Jubilee

June 8—Orange County Home Wine Competition—Entry Deadline May 18. <http://competition.ocws.org>

June 22—ART AND WINE IN THE PARK. Arts and craft vendors, food, live music and a silent auction. Library Park in Lakeport, 1-5pm. Contact Ed Bublitz, edandcharb1@att.net